## ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL BUSINESS INCUBATORS IN INDIA: LITERATURE REVIEW

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### **ABSTRACT**

Entrepreneurship is a well-defined discipline with autonomy that can operate independently and as a separate entity. It refers to the development of an entirely new organization. Entrepreneurship is a major factor and key to success for any individual who intends to develop an entirely novel and new business organization which is an entirely disciplined and independent entity. Business incubation is an economic development tool primarily designed to help create and grow new businesses in a community. Business Incubators help emerging businesses by providing various support services such as assistance in developing business and marketing plans, building management teams, obtaining capital, and access to a range of other more specialized professional services. Sherman and Chappell (1998). A Technology business incubator (TBI) is typically an organizational setup that promotes the setting up of an ecosystem to nurture various enterprises by providing support to them during their incubation period. The support may include providing state of the art facility for workspace, shared office services, and access to specialized equipment, labs, and workshops along with value-added services like fundraising, legal services, business planning, technical assistance, and networking support. The major aims and objectives of the technology business incubators are to produce profitable business enterprises that can create employment in the region. Technology Business Incubators: An Indian Perspective & Implementation Guidance Report by e-Centre for Internet and Society, India. This Review paper is focused on exploring various aspects which include the evolution and Functioning of Business Incubators in the Indian context, the role and support of government and nongovernment agencies involved in supporting and developing an ecosystem for business incubation, and exploration of various performance measures of Successful Business Incubator to foster Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and startup culture among the youth. This review will be useful in exploring various aspects of low performance of Business Incubators and will be useful in developing policies and strategies by the agencies involved to boost enterprise development locally and globally with the support of Technology Business Incubators.

Keywords: Business Incubator, Innovation, Incubation, Entrepreneurship, Technology

### INTRODUCTION

The word "entrepreneur" is derived from the French word "entrepreneur" which means "to undertake." During the starting phase of the 16th century, the persons who were.

involved in the organization of military operations were observed as "entrepreneurs". Schumpeter (1934) stated that "an entrepreneur is a person who carries out new combinations.

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He further stated that "The entrepreneur in any emerging country is a person who is capable of evolving innovative products within the emerging economy which includes a novel process of manufacturing which has not been tested and experienced in the related field of production, a process of offering a product with which consumers are not yet familiar, a novel form of raw material or new markets and the like Hoselitz (1960) believed that the innovator or entrepreneur purchases the products at a fixed price and after some innovation sells at a higher price.

### **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship & innovation are vital in managing the international business environment which can enhance sustainability and competitiveness in business growth as a major economic phenomenon responsible for the wealth creation of nations. Crossan & Apaydin, (2010). The area of entrepreneurship, innovation-based education, and training is a challenge. These disciplines have complementarity and connection which in combination can yield tremendous positive results in terms of wealth creation and growth in the economy concerned. Maritz and Brown(2013)

# **Business Incubator: Key agent to boost Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

Business incubation is an economic development tool primarily designed to help create and grow new businesses in a community. Technical Business Incubators and accelerators extend their support in establishing novel business enterprises which includes the provision of professional support for developing business plans, establishing management teams, fetching funds, and a lot more support and handholding for emerging firms. Sherman and Chappell(1998).

## Conceptual/ Theoretical Framework of the Proposed Research Area/ Topic

Traditionally the concept of entrepreneurship & innovation has been briefed about innovative products, but gradually it converted to service-based entrepreneurship and enterprise management, presently, it is majorly technology-based which has almost captured the latest scenario. Montiel-Campos & Palma Chorres (2016). Accepting the important

The term 'Incubation' is derived from the Latin word incubation, which observes a practice by the Roman people who are with some elementary innovative ideas which can further be converted into reality over a certain period. The elementary idea of incubation for business start-ups is primarily taken from the field of medicine and refers to organizations that play a major role during the starting phase of novel business enterprise with the provision of various physical infrastructure, other facilities including state-of-the-art office space, handholding, and social networking to fetch fund and stability in the market. Smilor & Gill(1986) Aernoud(2004; Bollingtoft & Ulhoi 2005).

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Technical Business incubators play a very vital role in boosting entrepreneurship, and innovation culture and in giving multi-fold acceleration in establishing new startups and ventures. Most business incubators are not yielding perceived results due to a lack of services offered or functioning policies. So, in this scenario finding critical factors and a successful model business incubator that can ensure success stories is very much required.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To identify and describe the various factors responsible for the performance of Technical Business Incubators and accelerators in the Indian Context.
- To Identify and describe the infrastructure and funding requirements for a performance-oriented business incubator.
- To elaborate and examine the role, policy, and involvement of the Government in the establishment and functioning of a performance-oriented Business Incubator.
- Development of a model for a successful business Incubator in Indian Context

role, importance, and significant beneficiation of science and technology-driven novel enterprises and startups with attractive economic outcomes. Business Incubators whether it is Private, Public, or university-based incubators aim to promote technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship. Ian et al. (2016).

The role played by the business incubators to boost acceleration for the rapid growth of innovative novel business enterprises during the initial phase of entrepreneurship-driven concepts was recognized first in the 1950s.Schwartz & Hornych (2010). Batavia Industrial Canter, located in Batavia City, New York, USA was the very initial phase business incubator established in 1959.Allen and Bazan (1990). The major focus was to provide infrastructure facilities to the upcoming entrepreneurs during the 1980s, and the focus was transformed by providing business as well as technical expertise to the upcoming enterprises in the 1990s. Business networking, which is one of the most essential requirements to commercialize any business entity is very much recognized in the year 2000. Bruneel (2012) &Mian(2016).

### **Technology Business Incubator**

A Technology business incubator or accelerator is typically an organizational setup that promotes the setting up of an ecosystem to nurture various enterprises by providing support to them during their incubation period. The support may include providing state of the art facility for workspace, shared office services, and access to specialized equipment, labs, and workshops along with value-added services like fundraising, legal services, business planning, technical assistance, and networking support. Technology Business Incubators: An Indian Perspective & Implementation Guidance Report by e-Centre for Internet and Society, India.

The National Business Incubator Association (NBIA) is a well-recognized organization that promotes business incubation & entrepreneurship. It provides the support and services of thousands of professionals regarding the establishment of novel business enterprises. NBIA (2000). Business incubators are key to securing higher rates of revenues from tenant employment, which may include a considerably large number of intellectual property applications per tenant firm. Phillips (2002).In the study with the context of the emerging economy of 31 Business Incubators and several organizations in Sao Paulo, Brazil, it has been found a very close connection between the number of new product launches and formal agreements with research centers, and also between the number of new product launches and funding received from external entities, especially the funding agencies, underlining the significant role of knowledge and relationship facility and support provided by Business Incubators. Fernandes et al. (2017).

Government Initiatives: Entrepreneurship, Incubation, and Innovation an Indian Perspective

**National Education Policy (2020)** 

In the current scenario of National Education Policy 2020, the Role of incubation in the Indian Higher Education system plays an important role in boosting the rate of novel enterprise establishment. The NEP emphasized that higher educational institutes must focus on enterprise development through innovation and incubation centers.

### An Overview of Incubation Centres in India

The incubator establishment process started in the late 1980s because of a policy for promoting entrepreneurship, innovation & new business venture development. The process started with the vision and handholding of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology (UNF&ST) during (1987-1990). In 2000 India again started its innovation program with the vision to establish Technology Business Incubator. By the end of 2004, 15 business incubators were set up in India by the intervention and support of National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) at the institutions of excellence, majorly at IIT and IIM. By the end of 2009, the number has jumped to 120.

### **Business Incubator Models**

The establishment of various Business Incubators based on the three types of revenue generation models:

- 1. **Landlord Model:** This model suggests that majorly the income generation source of the business incubator income is leasing activity& the other source of income is in terms of client fees for consulting and other services. This "landlord" model can be financially self-sufficient but renders low economies of scale.
- 2. **Equity-based Model:** This model suggests that the revenue comes from the equity position in the incubated enterprises. This method requires sufficient initial investment and great patience, as it may take up to a longer period of more than 10 years to generate revenues.
- 3. **Sponsor Funding-based Model:** Itis based on sponsor funding from the university, or from the government side, and maybe through the industry side. The most common form of incubator model is found in University-Based Incubators. Hemalata Radhakrishna &Patel Nagaraj Goud (2017).

Functions & Services Offered by Business Incubators

Business incubators expressed their value proposition by offering state-of-the-art infrastructure and providing business support services like mentoring support, and handholding support for upcoming enterprises. Johan Bruneel, Tiago Ratinho, Bart Clarysse & Aard Groen (2012).

A Business Incubator is a unique support & facility that is essential for the early-stage growth of business ventures by ensuring various services such as working space, shared office space with shared services, and | JOURNAL OF IPEM Vol. 18, July 2024 technical as well as managerial. Gissy (1984).

Business incubators are also identified as effective tools for identifying talent, technology generation,

The business incubator generally offers a variety of services which are as follows described by Bergek and Norman (2008)

- (a) Shared office space, on a rental basis with favourable terms and conditions for Incubates
- (b) Professional business support, advice, and training programs for new entrepreneurs.
- (c) Handholding and Networking support whether internal or external.

Johnston, Brignall, and Fitzgerald 2002

The performance of a business incubator can be assessed through the assessment of parameters.

- (a) The incubate is surviving and growing profitably.
- (b) Incubation operations were terminated if there was a loss in operating the services of the business incubator

Hackett and Dilts 2008

fund mobilization, and technical know-how providers for nurturing entrepreneurial as well as innovative talent to accelerate the development of new ventures in the region. Hanadi Mubarak Al-Mubaraki & Michael Busler(2017).

### **Performance Indicators of Business Incubators**

The performance indicator of the successful business incubator is based on the number of patents granted, support services offered by the incubator, selection criteria to incubate, exit policy and criteria for the incubated innovator, academia, and corporate linkage. Vishal Gandhi, Asif Ali Syed & Sudhir Kumar

Jain(2021).

## Business incubation constructs with their definitions (Hackett and Dilts 2008)

**Selection criterion and performance:** It refers to the extent by which the business incubator behaves like an "ideal type" venture capitalist during the selection of budding startups for mentoring and resource allocation.

**Monitoring and business assistance intensity:** Monitoring and business assistance intensity refers to the extent to of the business incubator assists the incubate firms.

**Resource munificence:** Resource munificence means the availability of the incubator resource availability, quality, and rate of utilization

Table- 1	Author.	Year of study	regarding	Performance	Management system.

S.N.	Author	Year	of		
		Study			
1	Allen and McCluskey	1990		1. Occupation	
				2. Jobs created	
				3. Graduated companies	
2	Udell	1990		Establishing business by incubating	
				Completion of the prototype by incubated.	
				• Finishing of business plan	
			Starting of production		
				Reaching BEP	
3	Weinberg et al.	1991	• Firm Survival		
	_			• Turnover	
				Employment	
4	Bearse	1998		Meeting goals and objectives	
5	Adegbite	2001		Survivability of tenant and Graduate Companies	
6	Aernoudt	2004		• Space (sq. feet)	

			Survival rate of graduates	
			•	
7	Author	1005		
7	Author Allen (1985) Allen & Rehman (1985)	1985	• Employment generated  Shared Services:  1. Logistical & Physical Services a. Security Services b. Computer Facility c. Conference Room Facility d. Custodial Service e. Photocopier f. Furniture & Equipment g. Library h. Telephone Equipment 2. Shared Business Support Services a. Receptionist b. Typing c. Clerical d. Filing e. Mail Services f. Word Processing g. Off-Hours Answering Machine h. Audio Visual Equipment i. Shipping & Receiving  3. Business Consulting Assistance or Expertise (Financial Consulting) a. Business Taxes b. Risk Management and Insurance c. Government Grants & Loans d. Government Procurement Process e. Equity & Debt Finance Arrangement f. Export Development Assistance  4. Business Consulting Assistance or Expertise (Management Assistance) a. Business Plan Preparation b. Employee Relations	
			a. Business Plan Preparation	
			a. Legal Counselling	
			b. Patent Assistance	
			c. Accounting	
0	AH (1007)	1007	d. Book-Keeping	
8	Allen(1987)	1987	Incubator Governance 1. An Experienced Incubation Manager 2. A Keyboard of Directors 3. A Noted Advisory Council	
9	Allen(1985) Smilor (1987)	1985	Tenant Entry & Exit Criteria a. Ability to create jobs. b. Present a written business plan.	
			c. Have a unique opportunity.     d. Locally owned firm	

			<ul> <li>e. Space Requirements</li> <li>f. New Start-up Firm</li> <li>g. Affiliated with the University and be able to pay operating expenses.</li> <li>h. Time Limit on Tenancy</li> </ul>	
10	Smilor(1987) Allen (1985)	1987	Mentoring & Networking	
			a. Entrepreneurial Network	
			b. Entrepreneurial Education	
			c. Tie to a University	
			d. Community Support	

### **Performance Challenges of Business Incubators**

There are various problems and challenges related to finance have been faced by Startups in India. Sharifi & Hossain (2015). However, sooner or later, they had to realize their roles as providers of support for the start-up period of the firm's formation, and not as an extended low-cost facility. InBIA, 2017.

The stability and sustainability of the business incubator can be ensured through essential and prudent investments in developing facilities required for incubation as well as very careful monitoring of

various operating expenses and innovative methods of maintaining and raising income. Lalkaka (1990).

There are various problems existing in the Construction of Chinese Business Incubators the development between various regions is unbalanced as well as the incubation function is not perfect, the financing facility is lacking, and the quality of incubator personnel is poor. There is a considerable lack of cooperation between incubators on resource sharing and complementary advantages to each other. Xianmin Zhang1, Yang Xiao & Peijian Wu (2021)

### **Number of Research Articles Reviewed**

Total no of Research Articles Reviewed =75

Total No of Reports Reviewed=02

S.NO.	Variable	No. of Research Articles Reviewed
1	Present Eco-System of Business Incubators	31
2	Functions & Services offered by Business Incubators	27
3	Performance Indicators of Business Incubator	18
TOTAL		76

Summary of the Variables/Parameters identified in Research Article Reviewed

**Present Eco-System of Business Incubators** 

S.No.	Variables	No. of Articles
1	Business Incubators Worldwide	8
2	Business Incubators In India	6
3	Business Incubators In Emerging Economies	6
4	Government Initiative	8
5	Business Incubation Model	3
	Total	31

### Function & Services offered by Business Incubators

S. No.	Variables	No. of Articles
1	Preincubation	4
2	Incubation	3
3	Facilities: Financial Services, Infrastructure Support, Managerial & Technical Support Services	8
	Total	15

## **Performance Indicators of Business Incubator**

S. No.	Variables	No. of Articles
1	Business Incubation Constructs	7
2	Performance Management System	12
3	Performance Challenges	7
4	Perceived Performance at Various Levels of Society	4
	Total	30

#### RESEARCH GAPS

- It has been identified that very little research has been done on the development of a Successful Business Incubator model in Indian Concern.
- It has been identified that very few research are available to identify the exact performance measures of Business Incubators in the Indian Context.
- It has been identified that a very low number of studies have been done on the establishment of Business Incubators in Academic Institutions.
- Very Few studies have been done the handholding and networking among Business incubators in India and abroad.
- Research does not show the well-defined policy and measures of entry and exit of incubates in any business incubators.

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this research is to systematically observe and analyze the relationship between the facilities, services offered, functioning and operating policy, and performance of business incubators in the Indian context. Further, the research is focused on finding critical performance factors for successful and result-oriented business incubators. This will help to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the variables influencing the choice of business incubators by innovators.

### **Expected Contributions of the Study**

The contribution of the proposed research is focused and beneficial towards the following aspects:

- 1. By finding the critical performance factors of the Business incubator will be helpful for the innovator to choose the right business incubator for them.
- 2. The research will be beneficial for business incubators in identifying optimum facilities and services offered to the incubates.
- 3. The research will be beneficial in identifying the robust policy and strategy for successful result-oriented functioning of the business incubators.

### **CONCLUSION**

In the recent scenario, the role and importance of a business incubator is vital in boosting the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth studying science and technology. The business incubators or accelerators are the economy-driving agents as these are responsible for establishing innovation-based novel business enterprises and employment generation in place of seeking employment from other sources at large.

The proposed research revolves around the present ecosystem, services offered, and performance indicators of business incubators and finding an appropriate functional model for a successful business incubator.

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