A SYNERGISTIC INDUSTRY - ACADEMIA INTEGRATION IN INDIA

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Abstract:

The Industry –Academia interaction is a system which requires the stakeholders' active participation in a developing country like India. The introduction of globalization in India has resulted in free market operation which in turn has increased the competition in the industry. A synergistic collaboration and interdependence between the industry and academia would lead to innovation and growth in the education system and welfare of the country. It is evident that there exists a gap between the educational credentials and industry requirements. Bridging the gap between industry and academia is the need of the hour. To enhance the employability which would match the industry requirements the proper planning of the academic framework with the collaboration from industry may be worked on. The industry and academia interface should be strengthened so that it results in a efficient and productive human resource capital for the country. The present study concentrates on the advantages of industry- academia collaboration, the drawbacks of it and the methodology and framework that can be adopted to overcome the limitations.

Keywords: Industry –Academia, Synergistic, Collaboration, Integration

Introduction

The world is witnessing the movement from industrial economy to knowledge economy. Knowledge economy is that economy which comprises of well trained, efficient, productive individuals which forms the human capital of any country. Nowadays, a vast majority of higher education planner's and academics, throughout the world, has been trying to link universities and other research institutions with industries. Studies of industry academia integration have been discussed from different viewpoints over the years. This phenomenon is subjective to different factors like supply, demand, culture, tradition, market, climate, political, demographics, technology, regulations, financing, taxes, policies etc. at macro level and at micro and meso level research and modernization performance, transfer and absorptive capability and technology, developed institutional arrangements, communication networks, localand indigenous rules and others.

Specifically, the literature review suggests that the methods and systems currently available and possibility to calculate a fair Industry -Academia Integration worth, and provide recommendations for improving Industry -Academia partnerships. This study tries to find the gap by analyzing some of the existing measures, methods and identifying opportunities for improving the effectiveness of the approaches towards Industry -Academia Integration evaluation.

The priorities and scope of university-industry collaboration differ significantly between developed and developing countries. In developing countries there is a need for research based and innovation related projects. Existing collaboration inclines to be more informal and to concentrates on the firms' recruitment of university graduates for staffing

Inspiration for Alliance

The academic institutions, industry and government who are the stakeholders for successful industry academia integration have to potentially and optimally use their resources.

- Prolific industry-university collaboration should sustain the mission of each. Any effort in conflict with the mission of either will ultimately be unsuccessful.
- Industry -Universities should emphasis on the welfares to each party that will result from collaborations by rationalized negotiations to ensure timely conduct of the research and the development of the findings.
- Provide for regular negotiations in the form of seminars, lectures, etc. that will bring both sides together for cordial associations.
- Corporates and industry groups bank on mostly on their own research rather than reaching out to academia.
- Lack of awareness about scholarships.
- stereotyped images of pure science projects and the approach of corporates towards scholars

Blocks for Collaboration

In spite of the fact that the opinion of academia-industry interface has been adopted by concerned actions in the pastdecade, its full potential is far from being utilized due to the basic 'attitudinal changes' and insight oftechnology development among the participants.

- Industries are much dependent on easily obtainable foreign know-how.
- The number of participants in the experiment is trivial.
- Inherent disparity between the research orientations of firms and universities, with an excessive focus on fast commercial results in firms and on basic research in universities.
- In relation of outputs, businesses are usually interested in how quickly new products or new patents can be obtained, and want to delay publications to avoid disclosing information.
- Other difficulties in conveying a alliance include lack of information, difficulties in finding contact persons, and transaction costs of finding the right partner.

Measures for Industry - Academia Integration

Academia-industry alliance has always been a matter of discussion on both the sides. Regular University-Industry interaction, which is critical to raising funds from corporate sources as well as restructuring the curriculum in tandem with the changing needs of the industry, is missing in India. There is huge gap between the rapidly evolving skill need of Indian businesses and those provided by our higher education system, there is a growing realization amongst the government, academic institutions and the industry, of the urgent need to bridge these skill gaps.

Reinforcement of Capable Work Stream

- To encourage academia-industry collaboration tax exemption for all expenditure on R&D.
- Formation of centers for excellence in identified areas ofuniversities/institutions under science and technology.
- Students' exposures to industrial practices through internships are to be made compulsory.
- Conducting of Science and Technology exhibitions. It will stimulate the curiosity of students about S&T and open their young minds to new information by encouraging awareness in science and learning among the students, it will open them to a treasure of opportunities in the future.

Development of Interface Configurations

- Establishment of Center of Applied Research & Interface.
- Academia-Industry Research & Development lab associations.
- Establishment of Industry and Academia shared Research Centre funded by government and other organization for mutual benefit.
- Chamber for Entrepreneurship Development and Technology Development.
- Common Certification Program to check the skill level and technical proficiency of the personnel.

Strengthening Collaboration in Research

- Increasing research on applied sciences.
- Skill oriented activities.
- Speeding up of Research Interaction between Industry and Academia.
- Identifying, Participating and communicating International Research collaboration, consultancy service, and extension program.

Conclusion

The bureaucrats in the academic institutions should give significance to enhance the Industry Academia interactions for skill enhancement, research to enhance the employability and improve competitiveness of industry. The regulatory agencies need to develop a supportive framework and incentives for the faculties to take active interest in industry academia collaboration.

The challenge for administrations is to select policy mechanisms that best serve national needs, in consultation with vital stakeholders. Fronting limited budgets, governments along with firms and universities must make complex selections between collaboration in education or in research, between university alliances.

Even though cooperative research is the key word to fill the gaps existing in the present structure, there is a remarkable need to create other possibilities that need to be strengthened, stimulated, and above all integrated, for a close academia and industry interaction through all the stages of technology development, starting from conceptualization to commercialization.

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