

**NIRMALA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, COIMBATORE
INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT OF INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL - IIC 2020-21

Activities of Quarter III (January to March)

IIC Calendar Activities:

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India has established "MHRD's Innovation Cell (MIC)" to systematically foster the culture of Innovation amongst all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). MIC has envisioned encouraging creation of "Institution's Innovation Council" (IICs) across selected HEIs. A network of these IICs was established to promote innovation in the Institution through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in the campus.

The primary mandate of Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work with new ideas, while they are in formative years. The Institution Innovation Council (IIC) of Nirmala College for Women was established on 06th March 2021 under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The **council of Institution's Innovation Council** was formed on 15th March 2021, with Rev. Sr. Dr. M. Helen, Principal, Nirmala College for Women as the President of IIC, Nirmala College for Women and Dr. A. Sahaya Sudha, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics as the Convener of IIC, Nirmala College for Women. Seven faculty members were assigned key positions/roles as co-ordinators pertaining to various aspects which includes Innovation, Startups, Internships, IPR, Social Media, ARIIA and NIRF. The council also includes three external members as experts from Ecosystem Enablers, Angel Investors and Alumni entrepreneurs. The council also constitutes student representatives from different disciplines.

The Innovation Cell promotes interaction of the young budding minds with renowned innovators/ entrepreneurs around the nation by inviting experts / innovators of different disciplines to share their experience and expertise.

To instill passion and spirit among the young blooming minds to start up initiatives, a session was organized on "**How to plan for Startup and legal and ethical steps**" on 18th March 2021, presided over by Mr. Arun M Ganapathy, Chief Financial Officer, House of Anita Dongre Private Limited, Mumbai. He enlightened the young entrepreneurs on basics of startups, including its initiation, raising funds, legal and ethical aspects of startups.

To create awareness about the rights given to person's creation of their minds, a workshop was arranged on "**Intellectual Property Rights and IP Management for Startup**". Dr. T. Parimelazhagan, Director, IPR Cell, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore took great efforts in explaining the advantages of patent and its process. Importance of IPR and its types were also explained to the young minds.

An orientation session was organised for all the students and faculties of IIC on “**Design Thinking**” for inculcating in the students about various techniques used in improving cognitive power was organised on 30th March 2021. The session was handled by Dr. K. Vinayagar, Associate Professor, Sethu Institute of Technology, Virudhunagar, who elaborated on the topic of various methods and innovation in design thinking. These activities marked the end of Quarter III of Semester II, as prescribed in the activity calendar of IIC.

Activities of Quarter IV (April to August)

IIC Calendar Activities:

The activities of Quarter IV of Semester kick started with the **Council Meeting** under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Dr. M. Helen, Principal, Nirmala College for Women cum the President of IIC, Nirmala College for Women, by reviewing the progress of Quarter III and to plan the activities of Quarter IV.

A boot camp on “**Lean Start-up Minimum Viable Business**” was organised on 01st May 2021. Mr. Palaniappan, Director, Startworks Consulting Coimbatore, K. Senthil Kumar Business Head, Apex Info-Comm Technologies, Coimbatore, Sreevidya Ethiraj Managing Director, Bamboo Events. Coimbatore and Shanmathy Karthik, Founder and CEO, WITTY WISE, Coimbatore mentored over the session. The mentors and mentees were engaged one-on-one to understand on-the-ground effectiveness of the program. Students presented their ideas on start-up through PPT slides, it was mentored and was given appropriate corrective actions.

Two days Start Up workshop cum virtual hands on Training Programme on “**Cold Process Soap Making**” was conducted on 27th and 28th May 2021. Mrs. J. Josephine Hope Hailma, M.Tech, Proprietor of ‘Hail & Hearty’ (Handmade Soaps) served as Resource Person. Mrs. Hailma showed all these process involved in making a soap virtually, which would be an accelerating opportunity for startup for young entrepreneurs.

An orientation session on “**Instilling Creativity and Critical Thinking by Innovation Ambassador**” presided over by Dr. S. Balasubramanian, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kumaraguru College of Technology Coimbatore was organised on 29th May 2021. He stressed on three reasons why people should be motivated to be creative. They are need for novel, varied, and complex stimulation, need to communicate ideas and values and need to solve problems.

An International Panel Discussion with innovation and startup Ecosystem Enablers from the region/ state/national level – “**Opportunities, Issues & Challenges in Start-ups**” was organised on 11th June 2021. Mr. Sam Prabhu Jesu Rajendran, Customer Success Manager, SimScale GmbH, Munich, Germany and Dr. P. Mosae Selvakumar, Assistant Professor, Science & Math Program, Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh were the guest speakers. The two sessions were eye openers and gave a gist on how we can turn our abilities for our betterment as well as the society’s development.

An **Internship Drive** was organised virtually on 24th June 2021. The students participated actively in the internship drive organised by Institution’s Innovation Council with an aim to explore career alternatives prior to graduation, integrate theory and practice and assess interests and

abilities in their field of study.

MIC Driven Activities:

MIC driven activities were carried out as per the guidelines. The members of Institution's Innovation Council – IIC, Entrepreneur Development Cell - EDC and National Innovation and Startup Policy NISP actively took part in the National Webinar on “**Research, Innovation and Ranking**” – Celebrating First Year of National Educational Policy 2020, which was live streamed through YouTube on 11th August 2021. To signify the role of women in the Entrepreneurship, a session on Empowering Women: Emboldening Entrepreneurship was organised. Mr. Sathish Raj, CEO, E-Cursaders, Chennai, a renowned speaker addressed the students. His speech motivated the students to lead a focused life to attain the goals.

Another significant aim of the council is the celebration of important days. In commemoration with World's Entrepreneur day which was celebrated nationwide on 21st August 2021, the week was celebrated by the Institution's Innovation Council. A poster making competition on “**Startups: Radiance of Tomorrow**”, Essay Writing Competition on – “**Change India with Innovation and Entrepreneurship**” and a contest on case analysis – “**Critical Evaluation Topic: Successful/ Failed Start-ups**” and a video making contest on “**Campus Entrepreneurs**”.

Self-Driven Activities:

As decided unanimously in the second council meeting, each department of the institution in association with the Institution's Innovation Council carried out an activity which includes Seminar/ Workshop/ Guest Lecture/ competitions involving expertise in the particular domains. A total of twenty four self-driven activities were carried out in Quarter IV of Semester II – 2020-21.

On behalf of IIC, two self-driven activities were carried out – A workshop on “**Entrepreneurship & Innovation as Career Opportunity**” was organised on 05th August 2021. Dr. B. Balamurugan, Assistant Professor, Research Department of Economics, Periyar EVR Govt. College, Trichy was the resource person. He explained the young minds on the path of interpersonal skills and entrepreneurial avenues for women.

A motivational session on “**Motivational Session by Successful Entrepreneurs**” was organised for the students on 12th August 2021 as a self-driven activity. Mr. Shankar Suresh, Chief Executive Officer, Sindhiya Plastic Industries, Mr. A. Mahesh, Managing Director of Cascade Electro Thermic & Cascade Helio Thermics Ltd, Mr. Hareesh Sakthivel, Social Worker and Entrepreneur, Team Think, Coimbatore shared their success stories, and the hurdles faced by them to reach their goal.

Thus, the series of programmes to illuminate young thoughts and creative ideas of innovation and entrepreneurship marked the successful completion of activities of the IIC Calendar Year 2020-21.