

A Study on the Impact of IEDC in Fostering Student Entrepreneurs in Kerala

Mr. Rafeeqe MT¹ and Dr. Sirajudheen KC²

Part-Time Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Commerce¹

MES Mampad College (Autonomous), Mampad PO, Malappuram – Kerala

Assistant Professor, MES Ponnani College, Ponnani, Malappuram - Kerala

Assistant Professor and Research Supervisor, PG & Research Department of Commerce²

MES Mampad College, (Autonomous), Mampad PO, Malappuram – Kerala

Affiliated to University of Calicut

mtrafeeque86@gmail.com and sirajkca@gmail.com

Abstract: *This research investigates the role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs), an initiative under the Kerala Start-up Mission, in developing student entrepreneurship among arts and science colleges in Kerala. It investigates students' knowledge about IEDC initiatives and the success of these centres in developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes. The data collected from 120 students from three colleges indicated that IEDC experience enhanced students' knowledge on entrepreneurship considerably with entrepreneurial attitude, creativity and communication being the most developed skills. Seminars and workshops were the most well-recognized and effective activities although other activities such as hackathons and visits to Fab Lab remained low in awareness. Statistical tests revealed significant differences in awareness and perceived usefulness of IEDC programs across colleges but not departments or gender. It was also observed that more than half of the respondents had started business enterprises because of IEDC influence, highlighting their contribution towards student-initiated start-ups. These results present useful information to policymakers and education institutions to ensure institutional support to student entrepreneurship and raise the level of visibility and influence of IEDC activity..*

Keywords: Entrepreneurial mindset, Entrepreneurship education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC), Student entrepreneurship, Startup ecosystem, Value-added courses

