

Project Proposal

Title: To identify Entrepreneurial intention and Skills of Physically Disabled Students

Principle Investigator:

Dr. Santosh Kumar Sharma

Assistant Professor, Department of Management and Humanities

National Institute of Technology Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), India

Co-Investigator:

Dr. Neeraj Gupta

Lecturer, Department of Electrical Engineering

National Institute of Technology Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), India

Summary:

In the long span of Indian independence since 1947 a lot of measures have been taken by the different governments for the welfare of its citizens. However, it is unfortunate that till date unemployment is a big concern. This concern has been discussed through a number of written articles and discussions at many intellectual forums and it has been concluded that entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial environment are the ways to reduce unemployment in the country. This is the potential reason that Government of India and associated stakeholders like Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII, Ahmedabad), The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD, Noida), National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development are continually working towards creating an entrepreneurial environment in the local communities, state level technical and management institutions, and country at large. However, if we scan the unemployment situations across the socio-demographic fronts we find it unsatisfactory. More specifically, if we think about the marginal section of the academic aspirants we can observe that unemployment problem is a major concern for the physically disabled students. In this context it is worthwhile to note that there are some special legal acts like which govern the employment of disabled students. However, based on some initial findings during our focus group discussions with the psychically disabled professionals and students we have observed that the realities are different. Moreover, in the existing realities of professional organizations, we find that these organizations are in full swing to compete in the globalized economy and therefore there is always a talent war. In this war, these organizations focus on attracting multitalented human

resources who can outperform on fast track. In this process, it has been observed that government organizations generally follow the rules as laid down in the PwD Act-1995 (Government of India). However, the scenario is not satisfactory in private organizations where physically disabled human resources are generally neglected. These organizations argue that the physically disabled human resources may be problematic in their competitive performance and business growth (Co-Investigator's Experience). In this context, it is imperative to think alternative ways so that physically disabled human resources can live their social and economic life with happiness. One of these alternative ways which seems to be difficult due to social complexities may be the introduction of Special Legal Act by the government of India to bound private sector organizations to employ a certain number of physically disabled employees in their workforce. Another option may be to provide special facilities to these physically disabled human resources to start their enterprises and follow the entrepreneurial career. However, before implementing this option it is better to probe the entrepreneurial intention and skills of these human resources. With this backdrop, the present research proposal is a novel attempt to explore the entrepreneurial intention and skills of students who are physically disabled and studying various courses (B.Tech., B.Arch., MBA, M.Tech., etc.) at in the state of Himachal Pradesh and its adjoining ones.

Note: Details regarding methodology, sample, and other relevant requirements will be provided as and when required.