Proposals
for the post of Vice President,

Technology Students' Gymkhana,

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Proposal 1

Opportunity Portal:

*Providing part-time, full time & freelancing opportunities
to students through Alumni*

Overview:
The reputation of any renowned institution is only as good as its alumni; the stature of the alumni of an institute directly affects the Institution's reputation. IIT Kharagpur has always been known to produce some of the finest talents throughout the nation, but a lot of the potential of this vast talent pool is currently going untapped.
The opportunity portal will act as a channel that supplies our vast talent pool of students and alumni to those who require it, thereby boosting the stature of the institute and its ability to provide employers with requirements and benefit our student and alumni community.

Proposal:

This Portal aims to create a platform where students and alumni can avail of jobs and internship opportunities outside the CDC process. Even though there is tremendous demand for web development and application development skills inside and outside of IIT Kharagpur, there is no channel to find an exhaustive list of such opportunities. Often, they are posted on LinkedIn or can be found in the PR Chair's emails. Similarly, the Opportunity for alumni to list their requirements for employment, i.e., stating whether they require part-time, full time or freelancing opportunities on this platform, will give them job prospects and strengthen the alumni community and their affinity towards the institute. We are creating a pipeline amongst employers, alumni, and students in their respective fields through various programs and initiatives in this Portal. It will also be the perfect place to get new opportunities for those trying to shift their roles and start fresh in a new field.
Keeping in mind the factors mentioned above, I propose to execute the opportunity portal as follows:

- The first step is to set up a web-based portal on which alumni, students, and employers can register for the process; this Portal shall be dubbed Opportunity Portal.
- Technology Coordinators shall be responsible for the entire construction and maintenance of the opportunity portal.
- Any eligible student for CDC internships or placements will be ineligible to access the Opportunity Portal.

- The Students with CDC internships or placements will be ineligible for the Opportunity Portal.

Functioning:

- Students and alumni can access this Portal through the Institute's Mail ID (Students) and Alumni Mail ID (Alumni). We will also take roll no, LinkedIn , and contact details as registration details to ensure the connection and data for the database.
- When they register on this Portal, a specific set of questions about their skill set, interests etc., will be presented to both students and alumni.
- Employers will be given a login portal in which they will be required to register. A company email ID will be a critical criterion for this registration.
- Employers can state their requirements along with certain criteria they require on the Portal to make it as specific as possible.
- The students and alumni will receive opportunities relevant to them on their dashboards.

Publicity plan:

- Publicity of the Opportunity Portal shall be an essential factor as the initiative shall be introduced in the interest of students and alumni. In order to reach its full potential as an initiative, the same should be known to a maximum number of students and alumni along with employers in general.
- At the start of every academic session, information regarding the opportunity portal shall be circulated throughout the various social media handles of IIT Kharagpur and Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- The Opportunity Portal shall be featured on the websites of both IIT Kharagpur and Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- Periodic emails shall be sent regarding the opportunity portal to the student and alumni base of IIT Kharagpur from the Dean of Student Affairs and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Branding.

Impact:

The benefits of initiating the opportunity portal are:

- Opportunity Portal will increase the reputation of the Institution amongst employers.
- It will provide an enormous opportunity for the students of IIT Kharagpur to connect with the Alumni as well as gain experience and build their professional portfolio before sitting for CDC internships/placements.
- Such a portal can streamline the process of finding jobs, internships or freelancing opportunities for both students and alumni.

- The Portal shall help strengthen student-alumni relations and increase the the affinity of the alumni towards the institute.

Proposal 2

Digitization of BC Roy:

*Streamline the Specialist Doctor Appointment Scheduling
the process at BC Roy Technology*

Overview:
At the moment, expert doctors are only available on specified days. Because there is only one offline counter for booking appointments, students must go prior to the time and wait in long queues. There is no certainty of securing an appointment due to the restricted availability. As a result, the student community has difficulty obtaining specialized medical facilities, depriving them of timely and adequate medical care. Therefore, our objective is to digitize this appointment system through an online portal so that students can book appointments ahead of time and verify the availability of appointments and the Specialist Doctors' upcoming schedules.

Proposal:
I propose the creation of an online portal for BC Roy Technology Hospital where students and staff can access the following data -
- Availability of specialist doctor appointments.
- The monthly schedule of Specialist doctors.
- Scheduling appointments and follow-up appointments.

Execution:
- Creation of an app containing the facilities mentioned above.
- Providing Log-in IDs to every student and staff of the institute.
- The dynamic availability of the doctors will be shown in the portal.
- Students and staff can log in and check for availability.
- They can book and cancel appointments accordingly.

Impact:
- Students will be aware of the availability status and doctor visit timing in order to plan their schedules accordingly.
- Lowering the student annoyance of waiting in line over long periods of time
- That will significantly simplify the appointment scheduling process.
- It will assist in managing space on hospital premises by minimizing lines at each counter.

Background:

According to the testimonies of BC Roy staff, there is a shortage of specialist doctors, and their schedules keep changing frequently. This results in minimal appointments being available, which creates long queues at the counter, causing problems for students and staff who need to move around the facility. Due to the limited number of appointments, there is uncertainty regarding getting an appointment in specialized departments, leading to a waste of time and frustration among the patients. The insufficient number of counters for taking appointments further exacerbates the problem of long queues and waiting times. With limited counters available, patients have to wait in long queues to book appointments, which can cause inconvenience and frustration.

Proposal 3

Uplifting Mental Health at IIT Kharagpur:

Initiatives to ensure a good and healthy mental status of every boarder

Overview:
After the covid pandemic and the switching from online to offline classes, many students face issues managing academic and non-academic loads. Though counseling center facility is available, many students still face mental health problems that remain unaddressed, making their case worse. So, adequate initiatives should be taken to fill those gap areas and spread awareness regarding this vital issue of mental health. This will create a huge impact and our KGP family members will be relieved from stress and anxiety. The significant concerns regarding the same are the meager student-counselor ratio and lack of awareness about the facilities available on the campus.

Proposal:
- Enhancing the facilities provided by the counseling center by increasing the number of counselors
- Organizing more awareness and sensitization programs on different topics related to mental health, based on the needs of the students, like dealing with stress, time management, personal issues, etc.
- Conducting awareness programs on special occasions like Mental Health Day, International Happiness Day, and World Suicide Prevention Day.
- The faculty advisor should have continuous offline interaction meetings addressing the academic issues faced by students. They should take some initiatives to reduce the students' pain points in their department. Such sessions must be conducted beginning of each semester and at the end of the mid-semester exam
- The data corresponding to the students who are red-flagged by the counselor should be shared with the warden and the concerned hall council to ensure regular checks on the activities of those students. Appropriate confidentiality should be maintained in this process so that it will not affect the mental health of the students concerned
- The number of visiting psychiatrists should be increased to avoid delays in scheduling appointments for students referred for psychotherapy

Impact:
- The mental health facilities will be more accessible to the students which will ensure timely help to the needy
- By interacting with the faculty advisor, students will get valuable insights and will be more focused on their studies, and will perform well

- Putting more emphasis on the students with a red flag and involving the wardens in the loop certainly avoids further aggravation of the issue and harm to the student

Background:
According to the data provided by the counseling center, there is a 10% depression rate among students who were already depressed before coming to campus. Testimonies from counselors reveal that rejection from society and CDC, academic stress, relationship breakups, and assimilation programs are the leading causes of depression among students. The campus has a total of seven counselors and two outsourced ones, which is very few considering the number of students on campus, which causes delays in scheduling a follow-up appointment. There is also a lack of events aimed at spreading awareness about depression on campus. They also added that the amount of time per student in an appointment goes around 45mins - 1hr.

Proposal 4

Developing the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the campus:

Overview:
Institutions have started promoting entrepreneurship ecosystems on their campuses. Real-world problems have been passionately approached by young minds, and a platform to channel their endeavors. There is a lack of proper mentorship and industry support for budding startup founders on campus and hampering the entrepreneurship ecosystem, in comparison to other IITs.

Solution: Provide the deserving students with expert sessions from startup founder alumni or experts in particular fields and get in touch with incubators, accelerators, and mentors based on different sectors.

Proposal:
- Conduct expert sessions with startup founder alumni or experts in a particular field
- Identify and provide possible locations on campus for office spaces and technical facilities like lab equipment which can be provided for startup founders
- Create a committee consisting of professors that will keep a check on the progress of the startup and give a confirmation if the startup is ready for the incubation
- Contact incubators and accelerators who will be willing to provide incubation and mentorship facilities to these startups
- Once a prototype/minimum viable product has been created, the admin (STEP), based on whether the solution is effective, can provide the initial investment per their schemes like PRISM, etc.
- If the final solution is approved by the incubators they will provide the initial seed round of investment

Impact:
- Most incubators and accelerators need access to early-stage startups, so they will be more than willing to participate in this program
- This program will help promote an entrepreneurial culture on campus as it will help the young entrepreneurs start their own businesses and get to the next level by getting working spaces, technical facilities, and mentorship
- This will also encourage other students on campus to create innovative solutions for the problems ailing the people not just on campus but also in the real world, developing the entrepreneurship ecosystem