TECH INNOVATION AND INCUBATION FROM ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

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Across India, academic institutions are increasingly becoming launchpads for innovation. Traditionally, research findings remain within laboratories or academic journals, but today there is a strong push towards technology transfer—moving ideas from classrooms and research labs into the hands of people who can benefit from them.

Technology Transfer: From Lab to Market

Technology transfer is the process by which innovations through research and development developed at universities/ academic /research institutes are taken forward for public use via commercialization. This can happen either through licensing to an established company or by faculty/students starting a company that develops and markets the product. For India, where academic research output is high, this is a significant shift.

Incubation Models in India

India is now home to several incubators that support such transfer of technology and ideas. Incubators are run predominantly by governments and academic institutions. They support innovators in business development, compliance, funding, and mentorship. These centers reflect how India is building a structured pipeline for tech transfer, ensuring that academic research translates into products with real-world value.

TECH UPDATE

Asphear- an example of technology transfer from academia-industry

Asphear Technologies & Services Pvt Ltd is a startup founded by an academic researcher Prof. Vidya Ramkumar at Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology, SRIHER (DU) Chennai. Dr. Deepashri Joshi and Mr. Vishnu Saravana (Research scholars) from her lab, who worked on the R&D, are directors in the company. The first product launched through the company is the SRESHT Hearing Screener.

Image-1: SRESHT Hearing Screener

The technology was originally developed through a DBT/Wellcome-funded grant and fellowship awarded to the founder. The tool is a mobile-based, low-cost hearing screener for children aged 3 months to 6 years, designed for use by any health care professional.

The technology was transferred to Asphear for scaling and integration with a secure cloud-based data management system. To accelerate this journey, the company is incubated in IIT Madras Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI) (Entrepreneurial and business acumen support), Immersive Technology and Entrepreneurship Lab (ITEL) (industry mentoring and technological support), and is also in the process of being incubated in Sri Ramachandra Innovation and Incubation Centre (SRIIC), Chennai (academic mentorship and clinical validation). Therefore, the momentum for technology transfer from academic institutions is building rapidly. With structured incubators, supportive policies (National Innovation and Start-up Policy) the country is steadily building a sustainable ecosystem where research reaches the stakeholders and creates a new avenue for entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation.