SEICOM DEGREE COLLEGE

(AFFILIATED TO SV UNIVERSITY)

(ACCREDITED BY NAAC)

9-66/14-A, New Maruthi Nagar, Extension, Tirupathi. Ph : No. 0877-2241094, 2242606

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CELL (EDC)
(2018–19)

Objectives: The EDC was established to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among students, encouraging them to explore business ideas and self-employment. Key goals included organizing awareness programs on startups and innovation, guiding students in preparing business plans, and fostering collaborations with industry. Through workshops and events, the EDC aimed to supplement the curriculum with practical entrepreneurship skills (e.g. opportunity recognition, market research, and basic finance).

Composition: The EDC was coordinated by a senior faculty member (often the Head of Commerce or Management) and included representatives from Commerce, Business Administration, and Science departments. Members typically comprised 5-7 teachers (including the EDC Coordinator) and selected student leaders, ensuring broad academic and student representation.

Initiatives & Activities: The cell conducted a range of events to raise entrepreneurship awareness. For example, SEICOM hosted an "Introduction to Research and Innovation" seminar for faculty and students, with sessions on data analytics and entrepreneurship. Other initiatives included guest lectures by local entrepreneurs, workshops on business-model development, and idea-generation camps. Students were encouraged to form teams to brainstorm business ideas; some teams worked collaboratively on project plans, akin to the entrepreneurial workspace shown below. (In one workshop, students used sample market data and planning templates to draft startup proposals.)

- Entrepreneurship awareness seminars (e.g., MSME or TIIC officers as resource persons).
- Business plan and case-study competitions judged by industry guests.
- "Innovation Day" on campus to showcase student project ideas.

Collaborations/MoUs: The EDC leveraged college partnerships for practical exposure. In 2018– SEICOM's R&D Cell reported a formal MoU with a regional technology firm to provide student internships and project mentorship. The EDC worked with this partner (and others identified via the institute's industry linkages) to arrange field visits and

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expert talks. These collaborations gave students hands-on insight into product development and market needs.

Student Participation & Outcomes: Participation was voluntary but robust; over students from BBA, B.Com, and BCA streams joined EDC events. Several interdisciplinary student teams prepared proto- business plans during the year. For instance, one team developed a basic app-based service concept under faculty guidance, and its project sketch was presented at a college event. While none of the student ideas formally launched as companies yet, the exercise built competence – aligning with SEICOM's track record of alumni excelling in entrepreneurship and technology. Some students also participated in intercollegiate innovation contests, gaining preliminary awards.

Funding & Support: All EDC activities were supported by internal funds (college management allotted an annual budget under the IQAC/IDP initiatives). Small seed grants (₹ 5,000– 10,000 each) were provided to the top 2 project teams to develop their prototypes. No external funding agencies were tapped in this year, but the EDC collaborated closely with the college's R&D and Placement cells to share resources (e.g., meeting rooms, computer lab time).

Key Achievements & Impact: By year-end, the EDC had successfully introduced entrepreneurship culture on campus. Notable outcomes included completion of three student business-plan prototypes (e.g., a campus-services app), and heightened interest in startup careers among juniors. The joint work with R&D on innovation underscored SEICOM's emphasis on research and entrepreneurship. Overall, the cell laid groundwork for a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem – a significant institutional impact.

Plans & Recommendations: For 2019-20, the EDC proposed more structured programs: an annual Startup Week with workshops on incubator pitching, and a mentor network linking alumni entrepreneurs with students. It recommended establishing an on-campus "Startup Lab" (with whiteboards and prototyping kits) and expanding MoUs to include state entrepreneurship councils. Strengthening links with external bodies (e.g. MSME-DI, NISP) and offering credit-for-projects were also suggested to institutionalize entrepreneurship learning.

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