



Sardar Patel Institute Of Technology
Autonomous Institution affiliated to Mumbai University
Institution's Innovation Council

Bhavans Campus, Old D N Nagar, Munshi Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400058

Event Summary Report

Program driven by: IIC Activity

Program /Activity Name: IIC Online Session 16 - Frugal Innovations and Social Entrepreneurship

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Venue: Home

Date: 21st May 2020

Session - 16 of the MHRD's Innovation Cell online series was attended by the students and the faculty of Sardar Patel Institute of Technology with great vigour and enthusiasm. The speaker for this session was Dr Raman Gujral, Professor, EDII, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Dr Gujral described innovation as the key to being a successful entrepreneur. Frugal Engineering refers to using local resources innovatively and in a cost-effective way to meet the needs of the poor people, which are not being satisfied by the conventional products in the market. He spoke about identifying the need, then identifying a solution and then doing market research before zeroing down on an idea. The desirability of the users, the viability in the market and the limitations of technology must be kept in mind before converting an idea to an innovation. He spoke about the risks associated with an innovation. Innovation can be simply adding something to the existing features of a product or the enhancement of a product. Frugal innovation means making clever products from limited resources and seeing poorer populations as a market to be served. Frugal engineering addresses the concerns such as purchasing power, product development efficiency, capital efficiency, manufacturing simplicity and eliminating additional features which do not add value. Dr Saji Varghese, a social entrepreneur, spoke about his company's focus on agri-waste and converting it into useful products. He further elaborated on his innovation, a biodegradable drinking straw made from dried fallen coconut leaves. The manufacturing process eliminates the need for chemicals and reduces dependence on plastic. At the same time, the carbon emissions from the burning of coconut leaves are eliminated. Dr Varghese spoke about how his idea progressed to a company that was aimed at improving the society. Some of his new innovations include a

dishwashing scrub made from the mesh of coconuts and table mats made from leaves. He concluded by stressing on the need for intellectual property rights for any product or innovation.