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A Study On Awareness Of Academicians On ATAL TINKERING LABS – ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

CH. KAVYA
M.com(Finance),UGC-NET,TS-SET
Assistant Professor
Kavyaach94@gmail.com
M.RISHINATH
BBA-2 YEAR Student
St. Joseph Degree and PG College
Hyderabad

ABSTRACT

NarendraModi led government has taken many initiatives to encourage Start-ups and Entrepreneurship in India from 2015. In order to encourage Entrepreneurship in students they have started Atal Tinkering Labs under ATAL INNOVATION MISSION. The present study finds the awareness of academicians on Atal Tinkering Labs under Atal Innovation Mission.The study also focuses on finding out the association between academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering Labs Establishment through Chi – Square Test (Goodness of Fit).The data were analysed using descriptive statistics & inferential statistics and was presented using charts and tables. The responses were drawn from 100 Academicians of different schools situated in South India. It was found that there is less awareness of the AIM opportunity among students and teachers in our country and there is a need for awareness of this scheme.

Keywords: Atal Tinkering Labs, Academicians, Awareness, AIM, Innovation,

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INTRODUCTION:

Innovative start-ups in India play a crucial role in development of the country. Government of India has realised the importance of this through Shri.NarendraModiJi Currently, government of India is focusing much on emerging start-ups by bringing in new programs and opportunities. One of those programs in promoting Entrepreneurship and start-ups in the country is through **ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM).** AIM promotes innovation and entrepreneurship in students across country at a very small age.

Under AIM scheme government has launched ATAL TINKERING LABS (ATL) to encourageschool going students for new innovations and creativity. These labs are established with a budget of 20 lakhs from the Government.These ATLs are for students to innovate using workspacesof 1200-1500 square feet. In these labs the students are given well advanced equipment to enhance with creativity and to uplift their development. Students from Grade 6 to Grade 12 can take part in these labs and can learn to create innovative solutions usingthese technologies. This will encourage students to acquire knowledge upon concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

AIM was started on 1st January 2015 with a mission to cultivate 1 Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators. To accomplish this mission government has selected a total of 8878 Schools across India and 3020 schools have been given a grant for ATAL TINKERING LABS. Out of selected, 2071 Tinkering Labs have a Grant-in-Aid of INR 12 Lakh each as per the current statistical data.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

The study is taken up with the following objectives in view:

1. The prime objective of the research is to know the awareness of academicians on Atal Tinkering Labs under Atal Innovation Mission.
2. To understand whether AIM will really help students become innovators through Academicians Perspective.
3. To know the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs Establishment on Academic performances of students.

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SCOPE OF STUDY:

The study aims to evaluate theawareness of academicians on Atal Tinkering Labs under Atal Innovation Mission. This scope of study is limited to teachers from Government, Private, Trust based or Society Related Schools around South India.

NEED FOR STUDY:

The government of India has launched many schemes regarding Start-upsand Entrepreneurship in the recent years. This study helps to understand the awareness of Teachers and students regarding these schemes and how far the government is successfulin implementing schemes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on primary data which is produced by sending questionnaires to respondents..

a) **Analysis and presentation of data:**The data is analysed and presented in the form of tables with the help of simple percentages.
b) **The sample:**The sampling method adopted is the convenience sampling method. The sample size is 100. The sample is drawn from teachers of different schools by administering the questionnaire.
c) **Statistical tool:** For analysing the collected data and to draw conclusions efficiently, chi-square (goodness of fit) have been used for testing the hypothesis.

HYPOTHESIS:

Null Hypothesis: Ho = There is no association between academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering labs establishment

Alternative Hypothesis: H_1 = There is an association between academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering labs establishment.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

1. The present research is restricted to teachers from South India.
2. Data collected to analyse the awareness of academicians on ATL was confined only to a sample size of 100. A bigger sample would have thrown more light on the study. A bigger sample couldn't be collected because of time constraint.

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1) Dr.HimaniSardar (2019) stated that so many schemes are initiated by the Government but they lack in creation of awareness among public and 72 % of respondents are seriously interested in becoming Entrepreneurs.
2) Dr. Rajesh Chatterjee (2017) opines in his article that since 1952 the state and central government have come up with so many schemes but significant changes can be observed in the socio – economic life of Entrepreneurs of Tripura. He also found that the rural entrepreneurs income is quite low comparatively.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTREPRETATION:

Demographic Information of the study is with regards to their gender, age and category of school.

Table 1.1 Demographic Information

PROFILE	TOTAL
Gender	
a) Male	74
b) Female	26
Age	
a) 20- 30 Years	47
b) 30 – 40 Years	27
c) 40 – 50 Years and Above	26
Category Of School	
a) Government	18
b) Private	68
c) Trust / Society based school	14
d) Others	Nil

(Source: Primary Data)

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From the above data we can observe that out of 100 respondents 74% are male respondents and 26% are of female. Majority of the respondents (47%) fall under the age group of 20 – 30 Years. More than 50% of the respondents belong to Private schools.

- **AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS :**

Table 1. 2 Awareness of Academicians upon ATAL TINKERINGS LABS

	YES	NO	MAYBE
Is your school or institution aware of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)?	71	28	-
Do you think ATL can promote the Innovation and Entrepreneurship in our country?	74	9	17
Do you think people in India especially schools are aware of this opportunity AIM?	27	44	30
Are you aware of latest technologies used in ATL?	50	365	13
Do you think more awareness is needed for students and teachers on ATL?	100	-	-
Do you think these kind of Missions are only for the sake of Political strength and gain?	56	27	17

(Source: Primary Data)

The above table reveals the awareness of respondents on Atal Tinkering Labs. Almost 71% of institutions are aware of AIM. 74% of respondents think that ATL can promote entrepreneurship and Innovative Culture in our Country. 44% respondents feel there is no awareness of AIM. Only 50% of teachers are aware of latest technology used in ATL. Everyone i.e., 100% of the respondents feel there is a need for awareness on ATL. More than half (56%) of teachers think these missions are only for the sake of Political strength and gain.

It can be conclude from the statistics that on the whole awareness upon AIM – ATL is quite less.

- **ACADEMICIANS PERSPECTIVE:**

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Table 1. 2 Academicians Perspective upon ATAL TINKERINGS LABS

	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do you think being associated with Atal Innovation Mission can make students Innovators?	56	2	42
According to you does Atal Tinkering Labs really provide space for Thinking out of box for students?	53	2	45
At a very young age do you think students can catch the fast pace of innovation and become innovators through ATL?	53	2	45
Do you think Highly Qualified teachers/ Academicians are required to be part of AIM?	56	12	32
Will ATL have a good effect on students' academic performance?	71	9	20

The above table reveals theAcademicians Perspective upon Atal Tinkering Labs. 56% respondents feel being associated with Atal Innovation Mission can make students Innovators at a very young age. Morethan half of respondents i.e 53% think ATL provides space for thinking out of box, also they can catch the fast pace of innovation and become innovators. 56% think there is a requirement for high quality teachers in AIM. 71% academicians believe ATL will have a good effect on academic performance of students.

The above statement is verified by using Chi – Square Test (Goodness of Fit) as follows.

- **CHI-SQUARE TEST (GOODNESS OF FIT)**

H_0=There is no association between academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering labs establishment.
H_1 = There is an association between academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering labs establishment
.

$$\text{Chi-square} = \sum (O_i - E_i)^2 / E_i$$

TABLE 1.3 (Association of Students Academic Performance with ATL)

Opinion of Employees	O_i	E_i	$(O_i-E_i)^2$	$(O_i-E_i)^2/E_i$

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YES	71	20	2601	130.05
NO	9	20	121	6.05
MAY BE	20	20	0	0
Total	**100**	-	-	**136.1**

(Source: Primary Data)

Where O_i = observed frequency;

E_i= expected frequency.

$$E_i = \frac{71+9+20}{5} = 100$$

Level of significance=0.05

Degrees of freedom: (n-1) = (3-1) = 2d.f.

Calculated value = **136.1**

Table value = **5.99**

Hence, calculated value is greater than the tabulated value.

Therefore, Reject H_0.

RESULT: There is an association between academic performancesof students with Atal Tinkering labs establishment.

- **BENEFITS/ REJECTION AREAS OF ATL**

Table 1. 2 Benefits/Rejection Areas Of ATAL TINKERINGS LABS

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
To get grants from AIM to schools is really beneficial to uplift the name and fame of the school.	0	3	30	27	40

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Infrastructure plays a major role in setting up the Atal Tinkers Lab in schools. Without proper infrastructure it is highly impossible to be a part of AIM.	3	9	18	50	20

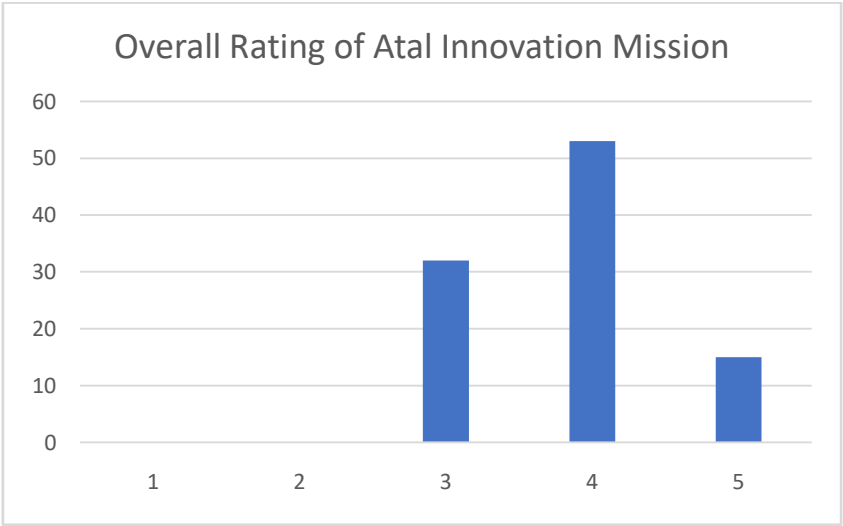
(Source: Primary Data)

Majority of the respondents feel that by getting grants from AIM to schools is really beneficial for the school and without proper infrastructure it is impossible to be a part of AIM. It can be concluded that Infrastructure plays a major role in getting the grants from the school.

It is clear that it is not going to be an easy task to get the benefits of AIM and ATL just like that.

- **OVER ALL RATING OF THE MISSION – ACADEMICIANS PERSPECTIVE**

Chart 1(a) – Overall Rating of the Mission



(Source: Primary Data)

From the above chart it is clear that the overall rating for the mission given by Academicians is 4 out of 5. It can be concluded that the academicians have a very positive attitude and thoughts towards Atal Innovation Mission.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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- Out of 100 respondents 74% are male respondents and 26% are of female. More than 40% of the respondents (47%) fall under the young age group of 20 – 30 Years. More than 50% of the respondents belong to Private schools.
- Most of them feel there is less awareness of the AIM opportunity and 100% of the respondents think there is a need for more awareness among students and teachers.
- It's a very strong opinion of the respondents that that Infrastructure plays a major role in getting the grants and benefits under AIM Scheme.
- On a scale of 5 – The respondents have opine that AIM ideology stands at 4. (rating)
- There is an association of Academic performance of students with Atal Tinkering Labs establishment ins school.

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