

Are Incubators Irrelevant?

Role of Incubators in a Fast-Evolving Ecosystem: Have/Should they become Irrelevant?

When startup ecosystems tend to mature, services comprising 'incubation' begin to be offered by other non-incubator entities (co-working spaces, mentor networks etc.). As more startups move into a scale-up stage, expectations from incubators also change. Witnessing such an evolution in the Indian startup ecosystem, we ponder on the relevance and role of incubators. We bring together different perspectives from India's rapidly evolving startup ecosystem. Some focal points of this discussion would include evolution in incubation in a changing market, academic incubators in an emerging economy, hybrid incubator-accelerator models, and corporate incubation. We believe this conversation will be relevant to researchers from various countries in different stages of a maturing incubation support. We expect it to also inform practice related to various models of startup support.

Keywords: startups, incubators, innovation, startup ecosystem

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