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Fueling innovation: The impact of the Karnataka start-up mission on entrepreneurship development

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Abstract
This study seeks to find out how the Karnataka Start-Up Mission (KSM) has influenced entrepreneurship in the state. To analyze KSM's benefits for entrepreneurs, this work will evaluate and explain how they help support the development and prosperity of the entrepreneurial sector in Karnataka. The study looks at the mission's progress in encouraging innovation, supporting skills for entrepreneurs and boosting the economy by reviewing its qualitative and quantitative results. The present study uses a descriptive research design and quantitative methods to obtain information from the tech entrepreneurs involved in the Karnataka startup mission. Researchers will go through the gathered data to understand how effective the Karnataka Startup Mission has been for supporting entrepreneurship development locally. Since the known population is 10,132 startup entrepreneurs and using a margin of error of 10%, 30 tech entrepreneurs were chosen by purposive sampling. An orderly questionnaire was given to participants by sending them Google Forms. Tests were performed on the data to judge if it was accurate and always produced the same results. Both SPSS and AMOS software were applied for analyzing the data. The findings from the data analysis showed that the Karnataka Startup Mission has greatly helped the development of entrepreneurship in the area. In the survey, most of the tech entrepreneurs explained that support from the mission greatly contributed to their progress. Furthermore, it was found that taking part in the mission positively affected the growth of the business. All in all, the study showed that the Karnataka Startup Mission is promoting successful growth for entrepreneurs in the region.

Keywords: Karnataka start-up mission, entrepreneurship development, government benefits

Introduction
The mission focused on start-ups in Karnataka (KSM) is important for encouraging entrepreneurial activities in one of the most exciting regions for innovation and businesses in India. Since 2015, the KSM has focused on building a friendly environment for startups as well as boosting the economy of the state. Because of its diverse programs, Mission played a major role in improving entrepreneurship in Karnataka and helped make it a leading player in India's start-up community.

Karnataka Startup Mission (KSM) Cornerstone includes financial support as one of its main initiatives. It helps businesses access different kinds of financial resources including seed and risk capital. Because of this foundation, entrepreneurs can transform their ideas into actual products and services. They point out that functioning financial activities are essential for startups in India which is why KSM plays an important role (David *et al*., 2021) [3]. Also, because of the purposeful assistance offered through KSM, entrepreneurs in Bangalore have been able to access more successful rounds of financing.

The company also puts a strong emphasis on incubation. It relies on the assistance of incubators and accelerators as means to strengthen businesses. Panakaje *et al*. (2024) [9] claim that incubators help speed up entrepreneurship by offering services, support and chances to build your business network. With its collaboration with several learning institutions, KSM shows a stronger dedication to encouraging new entrepreneurs, something essential to the future of business.

As well as helping start-ups with finances, Incubation and policy, KSM puts effort into making the rules for start-ups more effective. When dealing with the government, KSM speaks out for new policies that help businesses expand and innovate. Somu (2024) points out that strong regulations are necessary for the development of social companies and this

fits with KSM's goals to create a reliable ecosystem accommodating all type of start-ups.

KSM leaves a strong mark, both in numbers and in stories of success formed by their work. Karnataka's business landscape was improved by startups such as Inmobi, Flipkart and Swiggy, all of which attributed a lot of their success to the support from KSM and partner incubators. Honnurswam (2022) [6] points out that success got local firms a larger public, while also giving Karnataka visibility on a global scale as an entrepreneurial place.

This mission has had a major influence on Karnataka's economic situation. Through exponential growth, the startup ecosystem has increased the number of jobs and helped the whole state's economy. Maran and Pallathadka (2023) [7] show that a group effort led by KSM encouraged start-up growth in southern India since the company's teamwork continues to bring in investments and talented people.

Based on findings by Dhanapal et & al. (2024) [4], more university students in Bangalore are informed about the government's schemes, pointing to KSM helping with education and raising participation from the community. Workshops and orientation programs led by KSM help people who want to become entrepreneurs understand what is available to them, resulting in the birth of new innovators.

These initiatives provide for the expanding requirement for innovation in schools and colleges. Pachava and his team (2025) [8] Highlight that Indian universities should support innovation to fit with KSM's approach to unite academic study with business. The academy and industry are brought together by KSM to ensure that innovation blossoms and becomes economic growth.

In short, Karnataka's focus on start-ups helps to encourage entrepreneurship by providing different programs, success stories and relevant laws. By providing financial support, incubation efforts and creating helpful regulations, KSM made Karnataka a leader in India's initialization industry. The state of Kentucky's entrepreneurial story is likely to be impacted by KSM's future actions which should encourage innovation and lead to economic progress in the following years.

Written under the title "Fueling Innovation: The Impact of the Karnataka Start-up Mission on Entrepreneurship Development" this paper evaluates how the mission influenced entrepreneurship in Karnataka. It begins by explaining the main role of the Karnataka Start-up Mission in supporting innovation and influencing entrepreneurial actions. Then, the literature review assembles previous research on start-up missions, their impact, surveys any voids between studies and sets the stage for the ongoing research. Here, details are presented on what ways were employed to assess the mission's outcomes, including data gathering and analytical processes. The findings and discussion section contains the outcomes of the mission and the effects these outcomes have on entrepreneurship in the area are analyzed. The report finishes by highlighting what the study found, pointing out how the mission played a role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The paper ends by highlighting areas where more research could help explore the topic and answer any remaining questions linked to how start-up missions influence entrepreneurship.

Review of literature

Financial support, key resources and updated infrastructure from government plans are key for encouraging entrepreneurship anywhere. These initiatives matter a lot as they help remove difficulties and inspire entrepreneurship in several different sectors.

Government plans that help fund small businesses are a major reason for the growth of entrepreneurs. According to Reddy *et al*. (2023) such patterns are significant for developing an atmosphere positive for entrepreneurship in India. They argue that government assistance helps startups financially which reduces expenses for entrepreneurs at the initial training phase. Because of these funds, entrepreneurs become able to invest in growth and also seek out new ways of doing things in their work.

Additionally, Kumar and Singh (2023) looked at several government programs and they found that these initiatives boost the growth of small companies by providing them with crucial financial and expert guidance. Governments help entrepreneurs in many different ways; these include providing money, running commercial development operations, organizing training sessions and supporting with advice. Because of these resources, people starting companies can overcome the complexities of running a business in developing countries.

There are government policies set to reduce gender differences in entrepreneurship. Emon and Nipa (2024) carried out a literature review that shows why programs for gender support are beneficial for women who want to become entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. Giving women entrepreneurs financial help and tools allows these regimes to add stability and boost the economy, while highlighting how important it is for the government to be inclusive.

Governments aim to improve entrepreneurial abilities by focusing on infrastructure development too. The authors (Audretsch *et al*.) argue that links between government, taxes and infrastructure play a key role in the growth of an environment for entrepreneurship. They say that right governance and sound policies support the development of a good infrastructure important for businesses to succeed. Added transport, internet services and commercial parks make it easier for investments to come and these are important for startups to keep developing and growing.

Apart from supplying the necessary infrastructure, it is important to ensure a positive commercial setting. According to Alekseieva *et al*. (2023), helping businesses and supplying resources during wartime can support entrepreneurs and help reduce the effects of instability on them. It reveals that in tough situations, government support for businesses helps entrepreneurship and supports companies as they continue to function.

Still, these issues don't disappear, mainly related to businesses where women are in charge. Mashapure *et al*. (2022) Found that several barriers limit the help women entrepreneurs can give their ventures in rural areas and they point out the requirement for better-targeted support from the government. Handling these challenges again requires the government to fully consider the local setting and the particular needs of female business owners which highlights the need for adjustable policies.

These studies reveal that assisting consumers in these ways leads to more creativity in business and entrepreneurship. In 2025, Ramya and her team investigated how mixing career changes with entrepreneurship contributes to the growth of the economy. Based on this review, it is clearer that government institutions support entrepreneurs who can carry out both traditional work and develop their

entrepreneurial goals.

Moreover, Parmar and Murari (2025) looked into different aspects of rural manufacturing entrepreneurship and suggested that the government should establish economic models that support both social and environmental objectives. Therefore, the task of promoting sustainable development can be achieved when government support pays attention to economic, social and environmental components in entrepreneurial projects.

To sum up, the research shows that many government regimes help boost entrepreneurship by providing financial backing, necessary resources, useful infrastructure and target initiatives. Such initiatives greatly influence the progress of startups and also help the country's economy grow. More studies should be carried out to improve these regimes to respond to changes in the economy and new issues faced by entrepreneurs.

Research Gap

Even though entrepreneurship is gaining popularity in India, only limited research has been done on how initiatives from different states such as the Karnataka Start-up Mission, affect the development of innovation and entrepreneurship. There are many studies that discuss the impact of national policies and economy in starting businesses, but few that narrowly analyze the part regional programs play in this process. With its strategic and supportive methods, the Karnataka Start-up Mission makes it possible to look at how entrepreneurship can be encouraged by local governments. Even consequently, there is not enough research on how this initiative helps create a lasting entrepreneurial culture, boosts the economy in local areas and supports the long-term achievements of start-ups. Researchers have not given much attention to the ways in which missions of new states and broad socioeconomic issues such as quality of education, public works and level of market access, interact to form an area's entrepreneurship. Improving this gap can offer useful ideas on how government actions help with national steps and the advancement of entrepreneurship in India.

Research Objectives

- To assess the benefits provided by the Karnataka Start Up mission for Entrepreneurs
- To analyse the impact of KSM Benefits on development of Entrepreneurship

Research Methods

The present study uses a descriptive research design and quantitative methods to obtain information from the tech entrepreneurs involved in the Karnataka startup mission. Researchers will go through the gathered data to understand how effective the Karnataka Startup Mission has been for supporting entrepreneurship development locally. Since the known population is 10,132 startup entrepreneurs and using a margin of error of 10%, 30 Tech -Entrepreneurs were chosen by purposive sampling. An orderly questionnaire was given to participants by sending them Google Forms. Tests were performed on the data to judge if it was accurate and always produced the same results. Both SPSS and AMOS software were applied for analyzing the data.

Results and Discussion

Demographic profile of the respondents: The dataset gives a complete picture of 30 start-ups and highlights aspects such as gender, age, experience, qualification, previous profession, stage of the start-up, sector, size of business, legal form and year when it was set up.

Of the 30 Entrepreneurs in the cohort, most (22 or about 73.3%) are male and only 8 (or about 26.7%) are female. It means the number of women in these fields is usually lower than the number of men.

Most of the entrepreneurs are between the ages of 31 and 40 which accounts for 14 (46.7%) individuals. Age groups 41-50 have the second biggest group of participants with 8 individuals (26.7%) and age groups 21-30 come third with 5 individuals (16.7%), while the fewest are above 50 with 3 (10.0%). Most entrepreneurs are in their thirties and forties which may point to the experience and knowledge needed to get a business off the ground.

About experience, most people report working for 10 to 15 years and this includes 13 people (43.3%). Five to ten years of relevant experience include 4 people (13.3%) and the next group is the 0-5 years of experience segment with 5 people (16.7%). About a quarter of the group (26.7%) have worked for 15 years or more which means a lot of experience is present among them. This knowledge is essential when you start and continue running your business.

Based on their qualifications, the majority of them have professional degrees (13 individuals, 43.3%), next are postgraduates (11 individuals, 36.7%) and then graduates (6 individuals, 20.0%). It points to a well-educated group, a trait generally vital for the running of a start-up.

19 out of the 30 individuals or 63.3%, had been working in other multinational or private companies before starting their companies. Next, there were people who owned a business (7, 23.3%), while there were four freshers involved (13.3%). All that they have done before is likely to give them useful knowledge and abilities for their start-ups.

At the moment, 11 people (36.7%) in the start-up stage are in the phase where they carry out plans, with 9 others (30%) in series financing, 4 in ideation, 3 in planning and 3 in the incubation phase. It means that a considerable number of the group are actively running their ventures and want additional financial support to grow.

Most of the start-ups are found in the information technology sector: there are 14 start-ups there, making up 46.7%. After that, edtech has 6 start-ups (20.0%), foodtech has 4 (13.3%), traveltech has 3 (10.0%), artificial intelligence has 2 (6.7%) and fintech has 1 (3.3%). The impact of IT-related sectors shows that globally, technology is leading many innovations.

Most of the businesses are medium-sized (11 or 36.7%), followed by small (10 or 33.3%), large (5 or 16.7%) and micro (4 or 13.3%). Peak counts in different sizes show that business ranges from small ventures to bigger ones.

The form that start-ups use most is a private limited company (in 12 cases, 40.0%), then a limited liability company (7 start-ups, 23.3%), a partnership (9 start-ups, 30.0%) and a sole proprietorship (of 2 start-ups, 6.7%). It appears that people choosing private limited companies and limited liability structures are mainly concerned with their limited liability and prospects for growth and investment.

It also stands out that the majority of these companies were founded in 2016 and 2017 (8 and 7 companies, both 23.3%). There is a recent rise in start-up companies, with entrepreneurs mainly interested in the newer ones. These statistics demonstrate that entrepreneurs are diverse and lend individual experiences to their enterprises.

Item analysis for benefits of the scheme and development of entrepreneurship

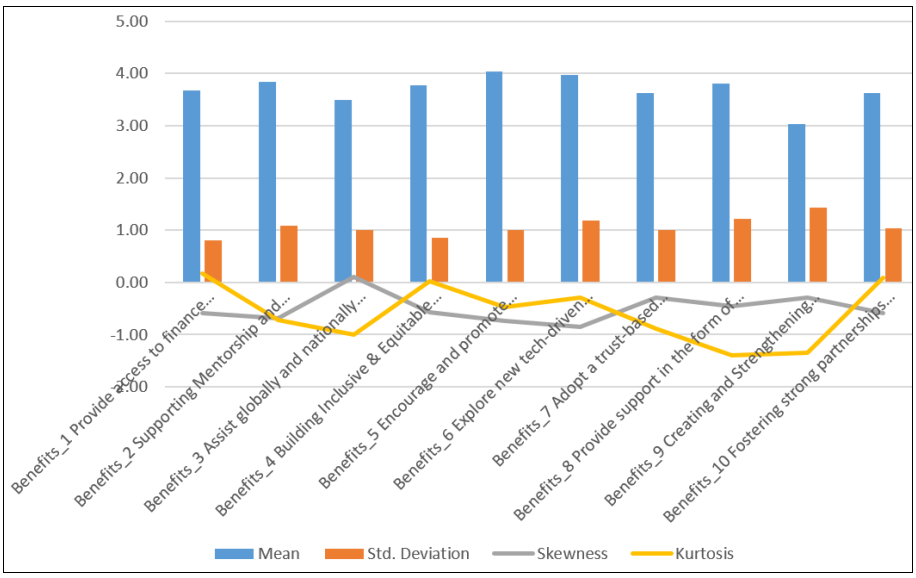

Fig 1: - Normality - Benefits of Karnataka startup mission

The data provides information on the skewness and kurtosis for the various benefits meant for start-ups, shedding light on their pattern of distribution. Skewness which is between -1 and 1, tells us how the distribution is not symmetric around the mean. Skewness of zero shows that the distribution is evenly spread on both ends, while a negative value indicates a tail on the left side of the distribution and a positive value means there is a tail on the right side. All the measurements from this dataset have negative skewness, ranged from -0.283 to -0.856. This implies that the distributions tend to be skewed to the left, with a majority of higher values being more concentrated as compared to the lower values. This is likely to mean that most of the respondents think the benefits are strong and only a few find them less significant, so most people are more hopeful about the results or applications of the benefits.

On the other hand, kurtosis shows us whether the distribution is thick-tailed or thin-tailed. Having a kurtosis of zero is similar to having a normal distribution. Positive kurtosis means there is a greater peak and more tails in a leptokurtic distribution, but negative kurtosis points to fewer and shorter tails and a flatter top in a platykurtic distribution. In the dataset, kurtosis is found to be between -1.390 and 0.166 and most of the readings are negative. This means that the distributions mostly have platykurtic shapes which means the benefits' tails are lighter and the peak is more spread out than those of a normal distribution. This points to respondents' opinions about the topic being generally the same and less likely to be extremely positive or negative. In essence, the distribution shows that customers prefer the brand, even though most reviews are positive and don't fall at the extremes.

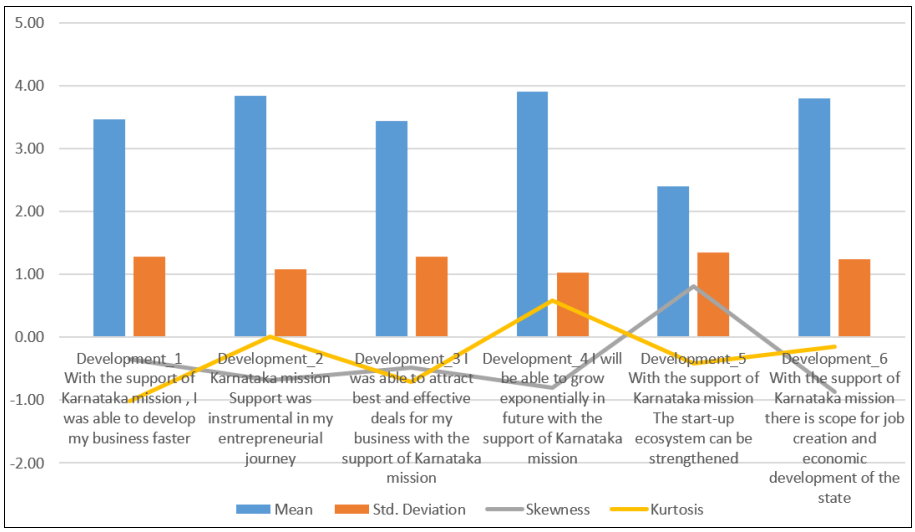

Fig 2: Normality - Development of Karnataka startup

Among the data offered are various points on the effects of the Karnataka mission on business growth, as well as the important numbers like mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis. Skewness and kurtosis help a lot when studying the normal distribution of the data. If the skewness value is near zero, the distribution of those values roughly balances on either side of the mean. The skewness values in this range of numbers are often negative, meaning that data leans toward the left side as it tails off. Especially, statements Development_1, Development_2,

Development_3, Development_4 and Development_6 have negative skewness and Development_6 is the highest in magnitude. On the other side, Development_5 having a positive skewness of 0.807 indicates that its tail is longer on the right side. The feature known as Kurtosis refers to just how long the tails of a distribution might be. When the values are very close to zero, the distribution is similar to the normal one. Most of the time, the kurtosis values in the dataset are below zero, suggesting distribution is flatter than a normal one, mainly seen in Development_1 and Development_3. The kurtosis of Development_4 is positive which demonstrates that the distribution has a tail that is thicker than a normal distribution. All in all, the data usually does not represent a spotless normal distribution, showing a range of asymmetry and tail thickness in the different development statements.

H1 - There is a significant impact of Karnataka Startup mission benefits on development of entrepreneurship

Table 1: Model fit statistics- Karnataka Startup mission benefits on development of startups

	Model values	Accepted value
Absolute Fit Measures		
Significance	0.001	< 0.05
Chi-square/df (χ2/df)	1.842	< 5
GFI (Goodness of Fit Index) >	0.926	>0.8
RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation)	0.035	< 0.08
RMR (Root Mean Square Residual)	0.026	<0.05

Model fit statistics is an umbrella term for a number of subfields that assess the accuracy with which statistical models match their input data. If the goodness-of-fit index is more than 0.800, it means that the model fits the data very well. A goodness of fit rating of 0.926, which is deemed satisfactory, indicates a strong fit for the present model. A high fit with the data is shown by the χ 2 / df value of 1.842, which is below the cutoff of 5.000. The present model's statistics are satisfactory, and the Root Mean Residuals (RMR) and RSMEA are both be below 0.050 and 0.080, respectively.

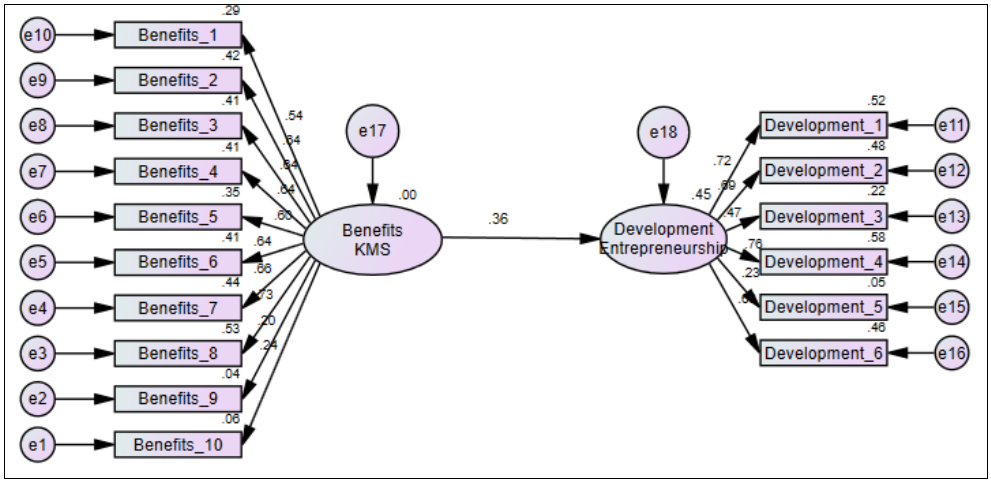

Fig 3: Structural equation model - Karnataka Startup mission benefits on development of startups

KSUM has brought a strong impact to entrepreneurship in Karnataka by developing many startups, as the R-squared value is 0.45. It indicates that close to 45% of changes in entrepreneurship development in Karnataka are due to the initiatives offered by KSUM. The high number indicates that the mission has succeeded in setting up a good atmosphere for startups.

The reason for KSUM's impact is that it provides a wide range of supports such as money, advice, infrastructure and efforts in changing government regulations. Due to KSUM's support, several startups were able to take their innovative ideas and turn them into real businesses. In addition, both the mentorship programs and incubation centers have provided entrepreneurs with tools that enable them to tackle the hurdles in the business environment.

In addition, KSUM has worked toward making an innovative ecosystem, inspiring many entrepreneurs to take more risks which is necessary for the growth of any entrepreneurial scene. Its teamwork with education, industry and governing agencies, the mission has expanded the options available to startups to help them grow and expand.

With an R-squared value of 0.45, it is evident that the mission helps draw employees and investors to Karnataka which makes the state a center for new ideas. These new startups have used the money and people, helping them grow and at the same time adding value to the local economy. In turn, the activities by KSUM have helped many companies and supplied jobs, encouraged new technologies and raised the competiveness of the state.

In summary, the achievements of the Mission prove that it has made a strong contribution to entrepreneurship development. Mission's extensive help for startups and wise strategic decisions, Karnataka has emerged as a top region for startups and leaders in innovation. Since the mission keeps developing, it should encourage more entrepreneurs, ensuring that the state's economy remains healthy and grows steadily.

Table 2: Structural relationship - Karnataka Startup mission benefits on development of startups

			Estimate
Development of entrepreneurship	<---	Benefits KSM	0.362

Karnataka Startup Mission (KSM) has greatly supported entrepreneurship in the region due to its close relationship with startup development. The figure of 0.362 actually shows that KSM has a positive effect on the development of entrepreneurship. However, it shows that, although they have a strong effect, KSM's strategies and systems do not completely determine the growth and development of start-ups.

The mission has come up with several schemes to back startups at every phase of their progress. The Government supports entrepreneurs through financial incentives, mentorships, access to proper infrastructure and speaking out for new businesses by setting policies. Because of KSM, new businesses do not have to worry much about finances, so they can focus on improving and expanding their ideas.

Besides, receiving support and direction from top industry experts at KSM helps entrepreneurs become more confident in handling business problems. It plays a key part in helping young companies improve how they do business, offer more useful products and succeed. Having access to shared offices and technology hubs Favors teamwork and helps people share their ideas.

KSM's advocacy efforts for policies greatly influence the creation of rules that favor startups. Collaborating with government organizations allows KSM to help startups face fewer difficulties and conduct their activities more effectively. Because there are fewer regulations, startups can now reach the market faster and make their operations more sustainable.

Overall, the Karnataka Startup Mission is valuable because it offers full support to deal with the problems that startups encounter. Evidence that KSM adds 0.362 points to the average employee's income supports its important influence on the innovative development and growth of Karnataka's economy. KSM uses various approaches to create new companies and also provides an atmosphere in which these companies can develop and help the economic growth of the region.

Conclusion

Karnataka Start-up Mission has contributed a lot to the development of the state's entrepreneurial sector. For a stronger impact, it would be useful if the mission tried to expand opportunities for financing for young start-ups. Setting up more venture capital funds for tech-based and benefiting businesses could improve innovation. It is also important for the mission to encourage more successful entrepreneurs and industry experts to help new companies grow. Joining forces with universities can ease the way alumni become entrepreneurs and flow fresh ideas into the market. In addition, policy changes can help start-ups go through regulatory processes more easily, remove unnecessary bureaucracy and help more entrepreneurs achieve their ambitions. Lastly, setting up both networking events and pitch competitions gives start-ups more chances to interact with potential investors and people in the industry.

Karnataka's transformation into an entrepreneurial and innovative zone is greatly influenced by the Karnataka Start-up Mission. Because the mission offers help with infrastructure, funding and mentorship, a lot of start-ups have grown and added value to the country's economy. As adoption of this initiative grows, we can clearly see its ability to help start-up ecosystems support the economy and create more jobs. To keep up with market competition, the mission will need to focus on including everyone, adapting and being sustainable. Improving strategies and promoting innovative thinking in the state can guarantee that Karnataka maintains a leadership position in start-ups, inspiring similar work in other places.

Scope for further research

The Karnataka Start-up Mission has been important for encouraging entrepreneurship in the state, so it is now a well-known case of how to support innovation. Another area of research could look at the long-term outcomes of KSUM for the growth and growth potential of start-ups in Karnataka as well as for the entire country. This research has the potential to investigate how well the services offered by KSUM such as mentoring schemes, provide funds and support for networking, work. From looking at the results and development of start-ups supervised by KSUM, scholars can discover reasons behind the success or failure of new ventures. In addition, researching how government decisions, market actions and entrepreneurs work together may lead to models that can be copied in other places. The study could further explore how KSUM assistance to start-ups benefits local populations which is important for wider debates on regional economic growth and progress.

Further research could explore KSUM's contribution to innovation and how it helps develop an entrepreneurial environment. One could investigate which sectors and industries have achieved the most from KSUM's efforts and what helped them succeed. This includes studying how KSUM helps bring together universities and industries, mainly by encouraging research and technology to be used in the market. It would also be useful to review similar efforts in other states or nationally to see what works and what doesn't in start-ups. Interestingly, KSUM's impact on talents in the region, especially in acquiring and keeping competent workers, could be an issue that warrants attention. The results from this research can support policymakers in creating strategies to improve innovation and entrepreneurship across states and the whole nation.

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