

EDI to help develop women scientists' business skills

Offers courses that will help women ideators to turn into successful businesswomen

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Looking at the success of the entrepreneurship development and management course for male scientists in past three years, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is set to offer similar programme for female scientists. The objective is to encourage more women to take their innovative ideas and convert it into thriving businesses.

Programme Director P Ganesh said there is an urgent need to enlighten scientists about the importance of presenting and selling their ideas to the world.

"An estimate says that 50 pc of the nation's economy is going to be driven by women. So, it is important to encourage women ideators to turn into entrepreneurs. Engaging more wom-

en in the process will be a boost to the economy," he said.

Stressing on how important it is for a scientist learning entrepreneurial skills, he said, "Scientists are engaged in research and development but they are not inclined towards entrepreneurial work. We take their ideas and encourage them to bring it on to a commercial platform. We also teach them about intellectual property rights."

The programme includes interactions with women entrepreneurs. "These interactions will help the participants realise the challenges and benefits of having their own businesses," said Ganesh.

The programme has been specially designed for women working in government organisations as well as female scientists and academicians from government varsties are eligible to apply. The programme will commence in February 2015.