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IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION AMONG ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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Abstract

In developing countries like India policy disclosure centers on the issue of how to support the creation of new firms which are spin offs from the university or the research center. Characteristics of successful entrepreneurs are not so different from those of successful engineers. Entrepreneurial environment is a closely associated with the entrepreneurial intention and skills like. Hence, the present study has made an attempt to measure the impact of the entrepreneurial environment on entrepreneurial intention and skills among the final year engineering students.

INTRODUCTION

In developing countries like India policy disclosure centers on the issue of how to support the creation of new firms which are spin offs from the university or the research center. Combined with a capability to develop technology, the new firms contribute not only to the economic growth, but also to innovation. On the other hand, endorsing academic entrepreneurship has recently started as a subject of discussion for policy makers in the developing countries. Various steps have been taken to stimulate the growth of entrepreneurship in colleges and universities. Educating young people to embrace entrepreneurial traits and environment will also help to prepare them for productive careers as leaders in the engineering profession. Education encourages students to make ambitious efforts and learn from failures, while entrepreneurs must be cautious to match their effort to what marketer are ready to accept. Most engineering graduates do not possess the skills needed to compete in the economy, and industries have been facing a consistent skills deficit. In this situation, raising standards of entrepreneurial environment and promoting excellence in engineering education should be adopted in such a way to develop entrepreneurial intention, behavior and skills of students and prepare them for their future. There is a need for the providing a range of activities with primarily educational focus from entrepreneurial courses and in-class projects aimed at firming e-teams to ingenious solutions, a unique student- managed organization to promote the commercialization of student developed ideas. Hence, the present study has made an attempt to measure the various entrepreneurial environment, entrepreneurial skills, entrepreneurial behaviour and intention and the various factors influencing it for promoting entrepreneurial engineering.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

An entrepreneurial environment refers to the combination of external factors that influence entrepreneurial behaviour (Barney, 1991). It subsumes the gamut of overall cultural, economic, political and social factors that enhance or undermine an individual propensity to undertake entrepreneurial activities and also the training assistance and non-financial support available to the entrepreneurs (Carter, 1996). Gnyawali and Foget (1994) grouped the entrepreneurial environment into five dimensions—government policies and procedures, socio-economic conditions, entrepreneurial and business skills, financial support to business and non-financial support to business. In the present study, the variables related to entrepreneurial environment are drawn from previous studies (Luk, 1996; Collinson and Shaw, 2001; Morris and Lewis, 1995). The entrepreneurial intention represents the willingness to start the enterprises after their education (McClelland 1965). The self-efficiency is the factor influence on the entrepreneurial intention (Bandura, 1986). Some times business background may lead to entrepreneurial intention among the students (Storey, 1994). In the present study, the entrepreneurial intention among the students has been measured with the help of five related statements drawn from the reviews (Vesper and McMullan, 1988; Lockett et al., 2003 and Cromie, 1988).

OBJECTIVE

- To examine the entrepreneurial environment on entrepreneurial Intention and skills among final year engineering students in Madurai district.

METHODOLOGY

The applied research design of the present study is purely descriptive in nature because of the following reasons namely it has its own confined objectives and also predetermined methodology. It is portraying the profile of Students, various factors leading to entrepreneurial intention, behavior and skills, impact of entrepreneurial environment on the entrepreneurial intention, behavior and skills among the students. The questionnaire has been sent to 700 final year engineering students in Madurai district. The response rate on the questionnaire among the final year engineering students is only 81 per cent. Hence,

these 569 Students had been taken as a sample for the present study. The present study is completely based on the primary data. The secondary data collected from the books, journals and magazines were used to write the conceptual framework of the study and also the review of literature. The primary data are collected with the help of structured questionnaire. The questionnaire had been prepared on the basis of the objectives of the study. The questionnaire includes entrepreneurial environment and entrepreneurial intention and skills namely social skills, self-regulation, social awareness, self-motivation and self-awareness among the final year engineering students.

IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

Since the entrepreneurial environment has its own influence on the entrepreneurial skills, the present study has made an attempt to analyze the impact of entrepreneurial environment on entrepreneurial skills with the help of multiple regression analysis. The impact analysis has been examined among the male and female students separately and also for pooled data. The results are shown in Table -1.

Table -1, Impact of Entrepreneurial Environment on Entrepreneurial Skills

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Regression co-efficient among		
		Male	Female	Pooled
1.	Entrepreneurial environment	0.1716*	0.1819*	0.1802*
2.	Constant	1.2443	0.9414	1.0917
3.	R ²	0.7887	0.7336	0.7904
4.	F Statistics	8.6881*	8.0442*	8.9617*

* Significant at five per cent level.

The entrepreneurial environment has a significant and positive impact on the entrepreneurial skills among the male and female students since the regression co-efficients are 0.1716 and 0.1819. A unit increase in the entrepreneurial environment results in an increase in the entrepreneurial skills by 0.1716 and 0.1819 units respectively. The changes in the entrepreneurial environment explain the changes in entrepreneurial skills among the male students to a higher extent among the male students than among the female students.

IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR

The impact of entrepreneurial environment on entrepreneurial behaviour among the students has been examined with the help of multiple regression analysis. The included dependent variables is entrepreneurial behaviour and independent variables are entrepreneurial environments respectively. The result of multiple regression analysis is illustrated in Table - 2.

Table-2, Impact of Entrepreneurial Environments on Entrepreneurial Behaviour

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Regression co-efficient among		
		Male	Female	Pooled
1.	Entrepreneurial environment	0.2465*	0.2139*	0.2271*
2.	Constant	1.0911	0.8446	0.9942
3.	R ²	0.8029	0.7524	0.8246
4.	F Statistics	7.1446*	8.0433*	9.5693*

* Significant at five per cent level.

The regression co-efficient of entrepreneurial environment on the entrepreneurial behaviour among the male and female students are 0.2465 and 0.2139 which are significant at five per cent level. A unit increase in the entrepreneurial environment results in an increase in the entrepreneurial behaviour among the male and female students by 0.2465 and 0.2139 units respectively. The co-efficient of variation reveals that the changes in the entrepreneurial environment explain the changes in the entrepreneurial behaviour among the male students to a higher extent than the behaviour among the female students.

IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION

The impact of entrepreneurial environment on the entrepreneurial intention has been examined with the help of multiple regression analysis. The impact analysis has been examined among the male and female students and also for the pooled data. The results are presented in Table-3.

Table – 3, Impact of Entrepreneurial Environment on Entrepreneurial Intention

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Regression co-efficient among		
		Male	Female	Pooled
1.	Entrepreneurial environment	0.1686*	0.0965	0.1403*
2.	Constant	0.4511	0.2914	0.3919
3.	R ²	0.6562	0.6039	0.6773
4.	F Statistics	7.8991*	7.0342*	8.1014*

* Significant at five per cent level.

The entrepreneurial environment has a significant and positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention among the male students since its regression co-efficient is significant at five per cent level. There is no significant impact of entrepreneurial environment on entrepreneurial intention among the female students. The analysis of the pooled data reveals that a unit increase in the entrepreneurial environment results in an increase in entrepreneurial intention to the extent of 0.1403 units.

CONCLUSION

In order to promote the entrepreneurship among the students, they expect some important aspects from their entrepreneurial environment. These are practical knowledge, competency development and engineering enterprise programme. The level of entrepreneurial skills, behaviour and intention among the male students is higher among the female students but the level is far behind among the female students. If the higher education authorities especially the authority in technical education take some appropriate measures to improve the entrepreneurial environment and enrich the entrepreneurship especially the development of entrepreneurial intention, behavior and skills. This study infers that entrepreneurial environment improves the entrepreneurial intention, behaviour and skills among the final year engineering students. The successful entrepreneur can generate so many job providers in India which is highly essential for our economic development.

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