

Coping with and Analysing Factors Impacting Omani Colleges Students' Entrepreneurial Intent during Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract: Past Research studies analyzed the impact of entrepreneurship education programs and its efficiency. Oman is known as an emerging country with high unemployment among fresh graduates from educational institutions. This issue set off the policies of the Omani government to reshape the state towards a knowledge-based economy, where the main element was described as 'entrepreneur.' The challenges facing the government is to shift students' attitudes towards entrepreneurship rather than jobs. This research will present the elements of the entrepreneurial intention and proposed model information system and factors that affect student perceptions of entrepreneurship education. Quantitative method used to collect data which included 325 Oman students between 20 to 40 years from private institutions. Results have shown that entrepreneurship education, experience and the external setting have an overall impact on students' a positive outlook to entrepreneurship. In contrast, personal attributes and perceived feasibility have a real effect on unfavourable perceptions.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship education, Personal Traits, entrepreneurship experience, Perceived Feasibility, Covid-19.

1. Introduction

Entrepreneur visionaries seek opportunities to create values (Henry, Hill and Leitch, 2017; Dahlstedt and Fejes, 2019). This interest, known as an enterprising movement, incorporate the exploitation of new products, markets or processes and incorporate significant parts in supporting economic and social growth.

This interest accompanies numerous challenges and high risks that anticipate many would-be business visionaries to venture. Hence, researchers and policymakers pay close consideration to the issue and challenges of entrepreneurship. In certain country, the administrations and job by entrepreneur is elevated principally to alleviate their nations of the major issue of unemployment of university graduates as a result of the development of mass higher education. In China, for example, university graduates who build up their business and start-ups were encouraged as well as supported by the government (Acheampong & Tweneboah-Koduah, 2018 & Elliott, Mavriplis & Anis 2020).

Job by business enterprise was the main priority choice of Chinese college graduates. Therefore, in any case, a low extent of these graduates was found to be engaged in it (Dahlstedt and Fejes, 2019). To inspire graduates to choose entrepreneurship and push job employment by business entrepreneurs. Hence, basic to explore the entrepreneurial aims of university students and their influencing factors (Walter and Block, 2016; Kyrö, 2018).

2. Related Work

The United Kingdom and the United States utilized two unique terms in this field - enterprise education and entrepreneurship education. Enterprise education, which is utilized in the United Kingdom, focus about person's mindset, skills, abilities and personal development. However, entrepreneurship education, which is prioritized and utilized in the United States (Erkkilä, 2000), has its attention on the particular context of setting up a venture and turning out to be self-employed (Raposo, and Do Paço, 2011; QAA, 2012 & Marire, E., & Dhurup 2018).

Few academic researchers ((Aure 2018; Naushad, Faridi, & Malik 2018 & Phong, Thao, & Nguyen 2020), utilize longer-term enterprise and entrepreneurship education , which might be impractical but deliver clearer

perspective. At times, enterprise and entrepreneurship education is discussed with reference concerning the term entrepreneurship education only, which causes some misconception. In this investigation, the required term, innovative entrepreneurial education proposed by Erkkilä (2000) and Laudano, Zollo, Ciappei, & Zampi (2019) will be utilized widely as this incorporates both enterprise and entrepreneurship education. Therefore, learners in all levels of education will be referred to as “students” in this report.

Bandura (1986) expressed that impacts exist among individual, environment, and behaviour; that there exists a functioning trade of impact among them (Magnusson and Endler, 1977). In most literature in the field of psychology, conduct is constrained by both interior and external elements of interactionism and that circumstances are made by these interactions (Bowers, 1973; Schneider, 1983).

Therefore, Individuals are responsive against environmental forces (Buss 1987) as their environment condition is influenced by them in three (3) ways: (1) manipulation, where people alter and change their interpersonal environment intentionally (Buss, 1987; Buss, et al., 1987); (2) evocation, where people react against the behaviour of others (Buss, 1987; Scarr and McCartney, 1983); (3) cognitive, where people recognise and make their interpretations of their environments. These are the essence of proactive behaviour, the dimension of which has its resources in man’s need to control his condition environment (White, 1959; Langer, 1983).

Researchers detected that prior entrepreneurial experiences encounters impact the innovative expectation of an individual (Krueger, 1993). Not only are entrepreneurial aims created by past entrepreneurial encounters, however experiences and skills for future pioneering adventures are likewise obtained. It is meant by certain researches, that former innovative encounters have slight effect on a person's comprehension of enterprise and have no significant contribution to their entrepreneurial perspectives (Davidsson, 1995).

External environmental scanning and forecasting is “trend spotting,” which can be used to figure the key arrangement of an association and subsequently permit the association to layout its imagined future as opposed to reacting to a future upheld on them (Darling, Keefe and Ross, 2007 & Menke 2018). The future is never certain and so it is difficult to predicted, however, this can be made possible through external environmental scanning and forecasting. At the point when this is done, vulnerabilities in authoritative planning are reduced, which permits an organisation to decrease its weakness to unexpected changes. With a “advanced warning system” for changes, associations have a serious edge and are allowed a chance to exploit given opportunity (Barba-Sánchez, & Atienza-Sahuquillo 2018; Gilmartin, Thompson, Morton, Jin, Chen, Colby, & Sheppard 2019 & Lacap, Mulyaningsih, & Ramadani 2018)

Human working, as social psychology literature suggests, it resolved generally without anyone else adequacy principles. Most people's thinking, feeling and conduct and even the manner in which they inspire themselves depends for the most part on what they accept instead of on what might be unbiasedly true (Bandura, 1986). People’s belief in their capacity impacts the manner in which they perform a task. Those who have a high consciousness of their capacity to achieve a given assignment are bound to complete and continue performing the task until progress is acquired. In this manner, a significant level of trust in achieving entrepreneurial tasks can prompt an improve in one's probability to focus on such a pioneering attempt.

This research took a glimpse at the manner of Omani students regarding entrepreneurship. This demeanour factor of students toward entrepreneurship is then applied as an intervening element to dissect the probability of a relationship between free factors and entrepreneurship intention. As recently stated, the benefits and advantages one expects to get from what the individual is going to do is higher or more prominent than different other options, then it is most likely that he or she would choose to do what it is that he or she intends to do (Naushad 2018; Overall, Gedeon, & Valliere 2018; Zisser, Johnson, Freeman, & Staudenmaier 2019 & Rätty, H., Komulainen, K., Hytti, U., Kasanen, K., Siivonen, P., & Kozlinska 2019)

An inspirational demeanour towards work emerges if the review respondents feel that they can accomplish more advantage from carrying out a specific behaviour. Oppositely, in the event that they endure misfortune, they obviously have a negative view concerning entrepreneurship (Shane and Venkataraman, 2000). Attitude perception, could be a positive or a negative observation toward entrepreneurship (Torres Velásquez, Valencia Arias, Bermúdez Hernández, Díez Echavarría, Urrego Marín, & Maussa Pérez 2018).

Katz and Gartner (1988) characterized the entrepreneurship goals as the developing cognizant perspective that an individual wants to start another new enterprise or create new core value in the current organisation. At the point when individuals establish another business, it is obviously on the intention that they have the goal to do as such. At the end of the day, they chose to become entrepreneurs (Remeikiene, Startiene, and Dumciuviene,

2013;Rapp-Ricciardi, Widh, Barbieri, Amato & Archer 2018; Vracheva, Abu-Rahma & Jacques 2019). Various psychology processes control research forms control human mind and direct it to get entrepreneurship goals and further behaviour conduct.

3. Research Problem

Oman is a developed nation in the Middle East that has been encountering quick development in business growth in entrepreneurship since 2012 (Kyrö, 2018; Moloney, et al., 2018). Hence numerous researchers (Hameed, et al., 2017; Nowiński, et al., 2019) perceived the absenteeism of studies that concentrated on the enterprising aim of Omani students. For example, Barba-Sánchez and Atienza-Sahuquillo (2018) expressed that up to 2010, only very few studies had been conducted on this subject. This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic and there is still a limited literature and the study during the Covid-19 Pandemic on grappling with and evaluating factors affecting the entrepreneurial intention of students from Omani Colleges. In addition, it is demonstrated that, overcome the issue of government facing difficulties in changing the attitudes of students to entrepreneurship rather than employment during Covid-19 Pandemic (Alla, & RAJĀA 2019 & Elliott, Mavriplis & Anis 2020).

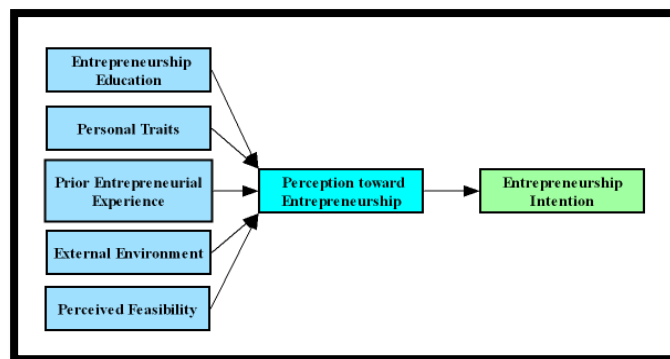
The model proposed in this research will assist significant gatherings with understanding how the factors leave an impact on the innovative goal of the students of Omani private schools by dissecting the intervening impact of the understudies' observation towards entrepreneurship This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic.

This will assume a critical role in expanding the level of the innovative aim of the students of Omani private universities This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic. When the circumstance of the developing nation concerned is altogether analysed, this model will be developed accordingly and this model is seen as an additionally fitting for developing nations, such as Oman.

4. Proposed Research Model and Hypothesis

This research model utilized numerous factors and shows the impacts of these variables. Example, entrepreneurship education, personal traits, entrepreneurial experience, external environment and perceived feasibility as free factors; positive perception toward entrepreneurship and negative perception toward entrepreneurship as interceding factors; and entrepreneurial Intention as a dependent variable. From past conversations and surveys of some relevant literature, the following research model (Figure 1) is prescribed.

Figure 1: Research model



Research Methodology of the study

4.1 Data Collection Method and Framework

An examination analysis approach, wherein a quantitative strategy was utilized to gather the fundamental information, is received in this study. Students of private universities in Oman are included in the study population through an appropriate sampling technique system. Three hundred thirty-four (334) questionnaires were distributed and from these, three hundred twenty-five (325) were analysed. The example attributes are then outlined out in Table 1.

4.2 Instrument Design

A poll of questionnaire survey, that endured face and contents validity, was developed for this study case. For simplicity of translation of the Likert scale five-point. The survey is separated into two sections: the first part relates to personal information with four (4) items, and the second part relates to the research variables with fifty (50) items. Smart PLS software was applied for the selected Partial Least Square modelling method applied for this study, in a two-stage approach – measurement and structural model testing.

5. Research Findings

5.1 Validity and Reliability of Measurement Model

By researching the reliability quality, which explicitly refers to interior consistency, united legitimacy just as discriminative validity, the measurement model can be evaluated and assessed (See table 1).

Table 1: Sample characteristics

Measure	Frequency (%)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	147	45.2%
Female	178	54.8%
Age		
<25	120	38.4
25-35	90	27.7
More than 35	115	33.9
Educational level		
Secondary Level	65	20
Diploma Degree	95	29.2
Bachelor's Degree	101	31.1
Higher Degree	64	19.7
Experience		
<4 Years	108	33.2
4-9 Years	83	25.5
10-15 Years	88	27.1
More than 15 Years	46	14.2
Total	325	100%

Table 2: Result of the Reliabilities of the Scales

Variables	Dimensions	Factor loading (FL)	Mean±SD
(EntE)	EntE1	0.785	3.745±0.926
	EntE2	0.732	3.717±0.921
	EntE3	0.743	3.718±0.936
	EntE3	0.875	3.716±0.826
	EntE4	0.832	3.713±0.976
	EntE5	0.846	3.756±0.926
(PT)	PT1	0.783	3.787±1.081
	PT2	0.735	3.753±1.031

	PT3	0.783	3.757±1.01 9
(PEE)	PEE1	0.735	3.787±1.03 1
	PEE2	0.769	3.742±1.07 1
	PEE3	0.847	3.724±1.02 1
	PEE4	0.836	3.756±1.05 2
	PEE5	0.748	3.723±1.06 7
(EE)	EE1	0.834	3.865±0.97 1
	EE2	0.794	3.721±0.83 5
	EE3	0.762	3.754±0.97 5
	EE4	0.751	3.756±0.94 3
	EE5	0.865	3.734±1.07 2
(PerFea)	PerFea 1	0.769	3.834±1.05 2
	PerFea 2	0.764	3.824±0.72 1
	PerFea 3	0.856	3.815±0.87 9
	PerFea 4	0.836	3.754±0.85 5
	PerFea 5	0.853	3.817±0.72 2
	PerFea 6	0.849	3.821±0.86 5
	PerFea 7	0.861	3.841±0.91 1
	PerFea 8	0.753	3.716±0.87 2
	PerFea 9	0.885	3.714±0.87 3
	PerFea 10	0.774	3.853±0.87 6
	PerFea 11	0.783	3.751±1.07 3
	PerFea 12	0.887	3.732±1.07 4
	PerFea 13	0.769	3.761±1.06 1
	PerFea 14	0.865	3.726±1.08 7
	PerFea 15	0.871	3.751±1.04 5
	PerFea 16	0.756	3.728±1.03 6
	PerFea 17	0.765	3.721±1.07 5
(PPTE)	PPTE1	0.785	3.763±1.04 4

	PPTE2	0.743	3.871±0.984
	PPTE3	0.762	3.814±0.763
	PPTE4	0.785	3.811±0.863
	PPTE5	0.761	3.825±0.873
	PPTE6	0.793	3.667±1.845
(NPTE)	NPTE1	0.865	3.774±1.041
	NPTE2	0.769	3.729±0.784
	NPTE3	0.741	3.734±0.784
	NPTE4	0.752	3.862±0.864
(EI)	EI1	0.875	3.843±0.785
	EI2	0.845	3.865±0.845
	EI3	0.864	3.766±0.824
	EI4	0.716	3.743±0.713

Table 3: Result of Measurement Model

Variables	Composite Reliability (CR)	Cronbach's Alpha	Average variance extracted (AVE)
(EntE)	0.873	0.716	0.631
(PT)	0.863	0.857	0.654
(PEE)	0.769	0.768	0.673
(EE)	0.728	0.957	0.583

(PerFea)	0.875	0.854	0.642
(PPTE)	0.784	0.834	0.652
(NPTE)	0.845	0.763	0.647
(EI)	0.875	0.756	0.512

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5.2 Structural Model

In view of PLS analysis, the basic model and conjectured associations were reviewed by strategies methods for bootstrapping philosophy with 5,000 iterations, the quantifiable centrality and the way coefficients were assessed.

Path Diagram of Entrepreneurship Intention

Based on the total causal impacts result, all the reviewed factors altogether influence the EI of Jordanian Private Universities students. In any case, EE ($\beta=.291, p=.000$), is the main independent factor that directly affects the dependent variable and therefore becomes the strongest for EI. By conducting path analysis, the indirect impacts of independent factors are also determined. The autonomous variables factors include ExtEvn, PEE, PF, EE and PT with β file rises to .354, .187, .174, .163, and - .584 individually by implication influence the stream, based from the order direction from strongest to the most vulnerable impacts (See table 4).

Table 4: show the outline of the outcomes.

<u>Variables</u>	<u>Causal Effects</u>		
	Direct Effect (DE)	Indirect Effect (InE)	Total
Entrepreneurship Education	0.368	0.163	0.531
Prior Entrepreneurial Experience		0.187	0.187
External Environment		0.354	0.354
Perceived Feasibility		0.174	0.174
Personal Trait		-0.584	-0.584
Positive Perception	0.248		0.248
Negative Perception	-0.381		-0.381
Total	0.235	0.294	0.529

Attitude toward entrepreneurship (ATE) and mediating variable which was isolated into PPTE ($\beta=.248, p=.000$), and NPTE ($\beta=-.381, p=.000$) is demonstrated to significantly affect the entrepreneurship intention. The total effect of these factors on EI is .529 (See Figure 2)

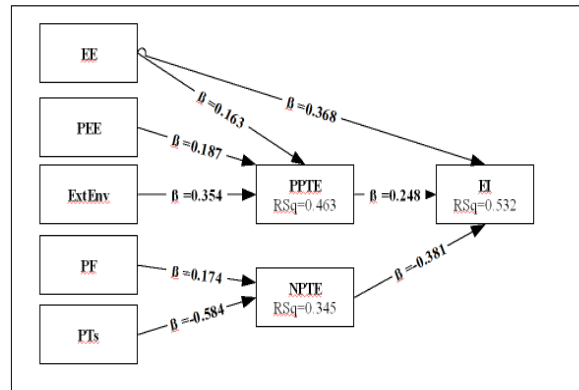


Figure 2. Show the outline of the Path coefficients outcomes

The model legitimizes a distinction of 46.3% in positive perception towards entrepreneurship, 34.5% in negative perception towards entrepreneurship and 53.2% in entrepreneurship intention, as meant by the outcomes.

6. Implications and Recommendation

Connections between task environment and independent variables exist as additionally shown by the consequences of this study. A few youths' expectations to start up aren't influenced by the general environment, which includes, but are not limited to, regulatory environments, economic indicator, the political stability or legal system, as revealed by the survey results on start-up intention. Their difficulties were brought about by their absence of data on the best way to access capital and financing for their endeavour, which is a common challenge to all new-born firms.

Furthermore, regular information that it is limited, both scale and quantity, profit and non-profit organisations that are ready to support young entrepreneurs. Discovering accomplices and supporting staff is not as simple as human and intellectual capital which is inadequate.

Thus, these youths will be clearer of their main goal when they need to do everything without anyone else - from finding suitable locations and lucrative products items to fulfilling clients and providers and so on. For the most part, policies that support entrepreneurship for young people are unreceptive to their needs and are quite basic. Therefore policymakers, should observe the practical recommendations which are drawn from this study, as follows:

- Provide students with the means to get information about start-up, specifically access on most proficient method to get capital and practical support for their business plans.
- Set up a centre that develops business ideas where youngsters meet for opportunities and discuss their intention in starting a new business venture. This inside may likewise be a spot for sharing stories, getting inspirations and finding business partners or staff support.
- Organise more training and competitions on business start-ups at the national level to stimulate the enthusiasm of investors and benefactors and for business ideas as well as innovations to be transformed from ideas into reality.

7. Major Contribution

Various relevant issues that require the utilization of reasonable improved effect factors that influence the entrepreneurial aim of the students of Omani private schools have been featured and discussed about in this investigation, the input contribution of which is triple:

- to the ongoing debate on the factors that influence the entrepreneurial intention of students in developing nations This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic.;
- to the information concerning the advantages and conditions for the entrepreneurial intention of students This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- A model on how these components impact the entrepreneurial expectation of Omani students.

One of the primary contributions of this study is the assessment of the elements that impact the entrepreneurial innovative goal of student in Omani private schools. Furthermore, the model for this research is the intervention

investigation analysis of students' perception toward entrepreneurship in developing countries This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic., such as the Sultanate of Oman.

7.1 Contributions to knowledge

The contribution of this research study to the field of entrepreneurship is significant crucial and inventive. At a key level perspective, providing the hypothetical data to propel business undertakings, such as the proposed model was the focal point of this research study. Distinctive and important concerns that are significant in strengthening the entrepreneurial intention of students is featured. Example, I have accomplished an overall understanding of the field of entrepreneurship in Jordan country as well as identified which factors in Jordan are affecting entrepreneurship purpose. The measurements and the applied framework that describe the relationship among character attributes, earlier enterprising experience, outside condition, obvious reasonableness factor of Ajzen's model with entrepreneurship through the intervention of disposition observation toward entrepreneurship is also being developed This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic.

7.2 Model contribution and Research outcome

This study focuses around the proposed model as a significant contribution to entrepreneurship. The proposed model grants consistency for improved efficiency in received ideas thoughts of entrepreneurship that inevitably experience numerous difficulties.

After implementation, testing of the confirmation proof-of-concept and assessment of the model, it was discovered that demand for the study on the components factors that impact the entrepreneurial intention of the students of Omani private colleges exists The measurements and the applied framework that describe the relationship among character attributes, earlier enterprising experience, outside condition, obvious reasonableness factor of Ajzen's model with entrepreneurship through the intervention of disposition observation toward entrepreneurship is also being developed This have spurs the researchers to conduct this study as a contribution to this topic area during Covid-19 Pandemic.

8. Conclusion

This research has achieved a knowledge of entrepreneurship and classification of the factors that influence Oman's market intention. This study, the theoretical framework defines the relationship between the attributes of character, experience, external factors and feasibility element of Ajzen 's model, mediation of perceived attitude among entrepreneurship. Also, a significant effect of the variables examined on entrepreneurial intention of Omani students. This research has significant consequences of implementing the educational system and political change for enhancement of entrepreneurship in order of quantity and quality for those who have ideas for business start-ups. Association formed with the study of entrepreneurs across the globe, also the available literature by offering additional knowledge on the aspects which influence the revolutionary goals of students in Omani private colleges for entrepreneurial purpose. Suggestions for policymakers to analyze, confirm and accept this research study to strengthen the new company founders, entrepreneurship development and supporting mechanism system.

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