

Factors Affecting Entrepreneurial Intention Levels of Graduating Students in Pakistan

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Abstract:

The objective of the paper is to identify students' attitudes and intentions toward entrepreneurship and their future plans in connection with starting their own business. This paper tests Entrepreneurial Intention - which is adapted from the Theory of Planned Behavior - on a sample of 300 potential entrepreneurs. The seven point Likert scale is used for measurement of students' attitudes based on their own opinions about motivations to start a business, the statements about their entrepreneurial characteristics and behavioral habits connected with business relations and organizations. This is necessary in order to confirm (or disconfirm) conventional wisdom that young people who are about to graduate from different programs in business,

science and engineering have intention to start a business. The results show that the conventional programs do not have the intended effects: the effect on students' self-assessed entrepreneurial skills is insignificant and the effect on the intention to become an entrepreneur is even significantly negative.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, entrepreneur competencies, entrepreneur intentions, startups, attitudes, entrepreneurship education

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