

**FACTORS AFFECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL
INTENTION AMONG POSTGRADUATES**

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MSc 2015

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurial intention among students has been getting attention from numerous of researchers. It has been considered as an important phenomenon that becomes very famous among today's youth and students in most countries across the globe. This study aims to revisiting the effect of a number of internal and external factors revealed in previous studies on entrepreneurial intention, and examining the importance of conducive business environment at the university that affecting the entrepreneurial intention among postgraduate students. The total number of respondents chosen randomly to participate in this study was 357 postgraduate students from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). Using questionnaires, the data is collected from students in classes, in the library, and online. The Smart-PLS 3 as one of the leading software tools for partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) was utilized to test the hypotheses. The study results display that self-efficacy is the only factor from internal factors that has a positive and significant effect; while, in term of the external factors, financial support, family support; likewise, role model and entrepreneurial education, as the dimensions of the university environment, have positive and significant relationships with entrepreneurial intention. The results suggest that entrepreneurial intention has the potential to be supported more in the universities to create the supportive environment that promotes intention of postgraduates to choose their future career in entrepreneurship sectors.

Key words: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Intention, University Environment, Postgraduate Students.

ABSTRAK

Niat keusahawanan dalam kalangan pelajar sering kali mendapat perhatian dari pelbagai penyelidik dan ia dianggap satu fenomena yang harus diberi perhatian oleh generasi belia dan pelajar hari ini dari serata dunia. Tujuan kajian ini dilaksanakan adalah untuk mengkaji semula kesan faktor dalaman dan luaran terhadap niat keusahawanan dan mengetahui kepentingan persekitaran universiti yang kondusif dalam mempengaruhi niat dalam kalangan pelajar pasca siswazah untuk menjadi usahawan. 357 pelajar pasca siswazah dari Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) telah dipilih untuk terlibat dalam kajian ini. Instrumen soal selidik digunakan sebagai pengumpulan data dan ia diedarkan ke kelas, perpustakaan dan secara atas talian. Hipotesis telah diuji menggunakan perisian SMARTPLS 3 untuk “partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM)”. Hasil kajian mendapati bahawa terdapat signifikasi dan hasil positif terhadap keyakinan diri yang merupakan satu-satunya faktor dalaman. Selain itu, hasil kajian juga menunjukkan terdapat hubungan yang positif dan signifikan di antara faktor luaran, sokongan kewangan, sokongan keluarga, begitu juga peranan dan pendidikan keusahawanan sebagai universiti yang mempunyai persekitaran dua dimensi dengan niat keusahawanan. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan niat keusahawanan mempunyai potensi untuk diberi perhatian di universiti untuk mewujudkan persekitaran yang memberangsangkan di mana ia mampu menggalakkan niat pelajar pasca siswazah untuk memilih bidang keusahawanan sebagai kerjaya pada masa hadapan. Di samping itu, implikasi dapatan kajian, saranan dan cadangan untuk kajian pada masa hadapan dan batasan kajian turut ditekankan dalam kajian ini.

Kata kunci: Keusahawanan, Niat Keusahawanan, Persekitaran Universiti, Pelajar Pasca Siswazah

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

This introductory chapter deals with a general idea and background relating to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intention. It then discusses on the problematic issues, which leads to this study, as well as its scope and significance.

A considerable interest about entrepreneurship around the globe has been growing since the last 80's century (Klofsten, 2000). This domain becomes a very interesting topic by academicians, researchers, policymakers, economists, and likewise students. This is due to its reputation and importance in economic development, its dramatic impact on the society, and the active roles displayed by the entrepreneurs who indicate its dynamic force on the economic as well as the growth of nations.

In today's world, entrepreneurship is the most preferable strategies to develop the national economy. This comes together with the sustainability and development of the competitiveness level of the countries in confrontation the globalisation and its trade increasing (Amorós, Fernández & Tapia, 2012; Keat, Selvarajah, & Meyer, 2011; Venkatachalam & Waqif, 2005). Thus, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship have been announced to be extremely significant (Mat, Maat, & Mohd, 2015). For instance, Kelley, Bosma, and Amorós (2011) surveyed that people aged between 18 and 65 years who are involved in starting a business is very high in Brazil and China with 17.5 and 14.4 per cent, respectively.

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