

# Role Of Higher Education Commission In Developing Entrepreneurship Education In Pakistan

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## Abstract

This research was intended to explore the characteristics of entrepreneurs in higher education in Pakistan. The study was descriptive in nature. It would utilize quantitative research techniques. Data was obtained through questionnaire on five point Likert scale. The population of the study was all the 152 teachers of BICs and 1240 Students who were getting entrepreneurship education in the 30 Business Incubation Centre's (BIC) supported by HEC in universities of the public sector providing education on entrepreneurship degree programs in Pakistan. 20 Business Incubation Centre's (BIC) supported by HEC were selected through convenient sampling technique. From each of 20 centers, two teachers and ten students were selected through simple random sampling technique. So 40 teachers and 200 students were the sample of the research. The findings of the study showed that Creativity and innovativeness; Flexibility; Initiative taking ability; Problem facing attitude; Adaptability; Knowledge for commercial aspect of business; Curiosity about achievement; Optimism about success; Strong willpower; Knowledge for legal aspect of business and Problem solving attitude are considered the important characteristics.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Higher Education, Business Incubation Centres,

## Introduction

For the inclusive development of soul, mind and body, to get knowledge from the reliable and accessible resource is necessary. Education is just like an engine which accelerates the progress and growth of any society. It imparts not only knowledge and skills but also it develops attitude and values. It is responsible for creating human capital which raises, stimulates and exaggerate technology improvement and financial development(Ajzen, and Madden2015). For the promotion of the economy of the country, the major alternative suggested by the economists is an entrepreneurship or self-employment which acts just

likes an engine for the growth of the economic sector, creation of new jobs as well as manipulates adjustment in social perspective (Ajzen&Fishbein,2014). Entrepreneurship and Self-employment are liable to create value and increase output not only in our country Pakistan but also in the whole world.

For the promotion of the economy of the country, the major alternative suggested by the economists is an entrepreneurship or self-employment which acts just likes an engine for the growth of the economic sector, creation of new jobs as well as manipulates adjustment in social perspective. Entrepreneurship and Self-employment are reliable to create value and increase output not only in our country Pakistan but also in the whole world. In the present day of hard struggle and competition general education cannot fulfill the demands of the people (Miner, 2008). To become a competent and well versed citizen of the society, it is necessary to equip the learners with technical knowledge to equip them with necessary abilities and skills which are necessary for development in this competitive atmosphere. It is said by the experts that a person who is influenced by entrepreneurship education has the chance of great progress in economic field. It offers greater freedom to earn bigger financial payback and value added towards on the whole economy by contributing toward novelty, jobs enhancement and economic growth & development (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2014).

Technical education has become an important factor in modern age. It helps us to meet the needs of industrial age. It also opens the new avenues for the learners and higher education graduates. This education produces engineers, doctors, builders, mechanics and technicians who may be very useful for industrial society. In our country there is lack of education related to vocation & technical. People don't consider this field or feel ashamed of adopting this field. Young people of Pakistan having tendency of office work / jobs and they do not like to start their own business or be their own boss (ACS & Audretsch, 2013). So it is compulsory that technical / vocational institutes should be developed and dignity of labor should be acknowledged throughout the nation. Technical education is the only way toward the progress. It is need of the hour that we should take more interest in seeking technical education. It will help us to make our country developed & strong economically (Audretsch, 2012).

The research made by Cox Business, explores that there are three important reasons of entrepreneurship instead of being employed in companies. The first reason is of 100% control of venture and be their own boss. The second reason is ambition and to achieve our goals we start from scratch and third are of financial independence and opportunity to earn more money from new business opportunity. Kuratko & Hodgetts, (2004) suggested that if we give education about entrepreneurship, we can increase the estimated practicability for promoting entrepreneurial industry. We can provide relevant information and knowledge to students. We can build confidence and can promote self-efficacy among students (Qureshi & Mian, 2012).

There is a big requirement to find out opportunities in existing market and to fill it at the core of entrepreneurship for the success of small business. It doesn't mean that already existing business similar to your business cannot be successful in market, it is important that the nature of business you are initiating should consists of your will and interest, your business background and the experiences, your financial resources of finance, the needs of market, your stamina to tackle any problem, one's social circle and networks along with connections (Barreto& Humberto 2009). There are many odds and probabilities in the market and due to this about 50% of the new business gets unsuccessful during the start of five years and to make it successful, commitment of entrepreneur along with determination, purposeful, versatile and adaptability.

A lot of research is being conducted about entrepreneurship at the international level and in international scenario. But there are many differences in socio-economic conditions of the every country. Moreover different educational context of Pakistan and teachers and students with different attitude towards entrepreneurship also create problems. So having different scenario and different socioeconomic factors, it is difficult to generalize the research results and outcomes of these studies in Pakistan (Audretsch & Thurik, 2014). This study is going to be conducted to explore the major characteristics of entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Realizing the critical situation regarding entrepreneurship education in Pakistan, it can be said that it is not an easy task to make it functional and effective for economic and social development of the country. It demands a stable and consistent attitude as a part of personality. Therefore the researcher intended to conduct the study to developing entrepreneurship education in Pakistan through higher education commission and also put forward deficits and strategies regarding improvement in entrepreneurship education in Pakistan.

### **Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study was to identify the major characteristics of entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

### **Research Question**

The following research question was answered in the field of entrepreneurship in Pakistan. What are the main characteristics of entrepreneur?

### **Method and Procedure of the Study**

The study was descriptive in nature. It would utilize quantitative research techniques. Data was obtained through questionnaires develop on five point Likert scale. Population of the

study was all the 152 teachers of BICs and 1240 Students who were getting entrepreneurship education in the 30 Business Incubation Centre's (BIC) supported by HEC in universities of the public sector providing education on entrepreneurship degree programs in Pakistan. 20 Business Incubation Centre's (BIC) supported by HEC were selected through convenient sampling technique. From each of 20 centers, two teachers and ten students were selected through simple random sampling technique. So 40 teachers and 200 students were the sample of the research.

A questionnaire on five point Likert scale was developed to get information from teachers and students. It had designed in two parts; Part one was designed to obtain participants' personal data; Part two was about the characteristics of entrepreneur in Pakistan. A test-retest method of finding reliability was used to find out the reliability of the research instruments. The questionnaire was first, in person, administered to five (5) students and five (5) teachers of BICs from the population not included in the sample. The scores were recorded after collecting data. Questionnaire was evaluated through pilot testing and through SPSS software and for validation, expert opinions were taken by scholars and experts.

### **Data Collection**

Data was gathered through survey questionnaires. The researcher took appointments by contacting the Heads of Business Incubation Centers (BIC) from where the participants were drawn. Before admitting the questionnaires the researcher took permission from the concerned authorities. The researcher also obtained prior permission from Higher Authorities. In this study the researcher trained research assistant to collect data from Business Incubation Centers (BIC) and the researcher also collected data personally.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation of Data**

Questionnaire data was calculated according to the five point scale. Frequencies were calculated and arithmetic means were found out. All the statements having mean score higher than 3.50 showed that respondents are agree with that aspect and the statements having score below 2.5 are indicating that participants are least agree with the statements. To understand the calculations more accurately, graph were made to show the statements having highest agreement and the statements having disagreement and then a percentage summary for each item was made.

### **Findings and Conclusion**

Teachers categorize the characteristic of entrepreneurs in the following order: Creativity and innovativeness; Flexibility; Initiative taking ability; Problem facing attitude; Adaptability; Knowledge for commercial aspect of business; Curiosity about achievement; Optimism about success; Strong willpower; Knowledge for legal aspect of business and

Problem solving attitude are considered the important characteristics which an entrepreneur should have for success business, whereas Risk taking ability; Dignity for labor and Time management etc. are not considered as much important as the above mentioned characteristics for successful entrepreneurship. 78% students are agreed about the mentioned characteristics that these are rudimentary for entrepreneurship education. 12 % remained uncertain and just 10% students expressed their disagreement. Teachers as well as students both were of the view that handling of difficult situation; observational skills, intellectual, communication and basic knowledge of business; innovativeness; risk taking ability, building confidence and developing proper curriculum which can compete with international market and need of business society etc. are necessary for entrepreneurship ventures.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended for the policy makers to promote good entrepreneurial framework conditions on the macro-economic environment level. This will inevitably encourage a greater amount of students, people and foreign investors to create new businesses thereby fostering sustainable economic growth in the country.

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