

## **University Students' Future Career Options In Relation To Their Entrepreneurial Attitude And Attitude Towards Self-Employment**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*There are multiple career options for every learner and as the education qualification of an individual grow as their career options and chances for better career options are increased. At a broad level we can divide career options into different parts like jobs, professions, self-employment and further study. This research study was become interested because this study analysed the university students career choices in relation to their entrepreneurial attitude and preference to self-employment as a career option. For the collection of data two standardised tests were used. It can be inferred from the results of the study that majority of the students want secure future after completion of their education, as more than eighty percent of all university students want to go for secure jobs in their future life. Results of the study further showed that noticed that the university students who had higher entrepreneurial attitudes and preference to self-employment, most of them would like to go their own profession or would like to establish their own business and the percentage of the university students had been increasing with the increase of the level of entrepreneurial attitudes and preference to self-employment as a career option. The findings of the study suggested that the policy-makers that whenever they prepare any policy related with the self-employment and entrepreneurship, they must ensure that the university students who have higher level of attitude towards self-employment and entrepreneurship, get priorities for to go for self-employment and entrepreneurship as a career option. There should be organised higher level of subsidies and flexibility in the process to open any business.*

**Key Words:** University Students, Career options, Entrepreneurial attitude. Attitude towards Self-employment.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The human being, through his life, is continuously involved in decision-making or a selection process from available/created options. Decision-making is making a kind of trade-off, because a most suitable option of an alternative that perfectly satisfies all the appropriate criteria is rarely given (Ozlen, & Arnaut 2013). Every year, millions of youth are completed their study according to their own interest & requirements and get ready to get jobs in various sectors of economy, but hardly a few thousand of them are able to get jobs. The number of these unemployed youths is in millions. Therefore, the others who are not able to get jobs anywhere they have to face unemployment. The high rate of unemployment and lack of new job opportunities, at which the economy is shedding jobs, may threaten hope of peace and prosperity of any country in many ways. For any country it is a great challenge to generate required job opportunities for these youths. Thus, there is a great need for increasing capacity and capability of skill development programmes. In this context, many scholars of the world suggested that entrepreneurship is the best possible solution to this critical problem (Gure, 2017b). There is a growing belief that entrepreneurship, innovation and new risks provide necessary fuel for modern development engines. Economists and entrepreneurship scholars consider entrepreneurial behaviour as an entrepreneurial discovery existing in all economic and human activities (Analoui, Moghimi and Khanifar, 2009; Gorji, & Rahimian, 2011, Gure, 2018b). Many problems related to unemployment, poverty, inequality, regional imbalances and other sociological issues can be tackled with the help of entrepreneurship. Moreover, the youths from the third world and particularly rural areas are more affected by unemployment. Basically, the main reason behind it is that the current education system of the developing countries does not deliberate and inculcates entrepreneurial tendencies among the students (Gure, 2017a). Moreover, Therefore, in the present era, where the growth of the economy depends upon the people attached with the self-employment or business, it is felt by the policy maker that they have evaluate, examine and developed the interest of the people towards the self-employment activities. In the present era, self-employment and the culture for generating own income is receiving well attention in both academic research and practice (Gure, 2012b & Gure 2017b). There is no exaggeration in reiterating that, for a country, entrepreneurship has eternal paybacks in this competitive emerging world economy. Thus, the biggest challenge for a country is to prepare students for productive employment or skill based jobs or self-employment or entrepreneurship. Moreover, to enhance the knowledge and skills for entrepreneurship, scholars explored entrepreneurial attitude of individuals (Gure,

2017a). Although, there are multiple career options for every learner and as the education qualification of an individual grow as their career options and chances for better career options are increased. At a broad level we can divide career options into different ways like jobs, professions, self-employment & entrepreneurship etc. The studies in the field of entrepreneurship have been conducted to determine the demographics and personality characteristics of entrepreneurs. The scholars of the entrepreneurship field yet not described that the students' future career options in relation to their entrepreneurial attitude and attitude towards self-employment. Thus, this is an expository study in this context. The research findings further can help the Government and policy makers to develop all the better strategies to promote entrepreneurial behaviours among the citizens of nation.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The presented study was focused on the following objective:

- To analysis the university students' future career options in relation to their entrepreneurial attitude and attitude towards self-employment (high, middle and low).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

For the collection of data survey method was used because the presented study was descriptive in nature. For this three self-made standardized Likert-type questionnaires (General Entrepreneurial Tendencies, Attitude toward Self-Employment & Attitude Towards Entrepreneurship Education) were administered on 475 undergraduate university students of the Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana. By using multi-stage sampling the undergraduate university students of various demographical backgrounds as well as from various academic streams- *Humanities/Social Sciences, Commerce & Managements and Science & Technology* of sixteen various bachelor professional & technical courses were taken. For the analysis of data of the study overall, 368 students' responses were found appropriate for taken into consideration. The data was analysed with the help of percentage.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The main objective of the study is to find out, the university students' choice (who had shown high, moderate and low entrepreneurial attitude and high preference to self-employment as a career option) after completion their degrees and to know about the sector

in which they would like to go. The data was analysed with the help of percentage to derive associated information.

**Table: 1**

**University Students' Future Career Options in Relation to Their Entrepreneurial Attitude and Attitude Towards Self-Employment**

| <b>Entrepreneurial Attitude and Attitude Towards Self-Employment</b> | <b>Options That University Students Would Like to opt After Completing Their Degree</b> |                     |                   |                                      |                                             | <b>Total</b>   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                                                                      | <b>Own Profession</b>                                                                   | <b>Own Business</b> | <b>Go for Job</b> | <b>Further Study for Better Jobs</b> | <b>Any Others/ Competitions Examination</b> |                |
| <b>High</b>                                                          | 26<br>(29.9)                                                                            | 19<br>(21.8)        | 18<br>(20.7)      | 16<br>(18.4)                         | 8<br>(9.2)                                  | 87<br>(100.0)  |
| <b>Moderate</b>                                                      | 10<br>(8.1)                                                                             | 5<br>(4.0)          | 67<br>(54.0)      | 32<br>(25.8)                         | 10<br>(8.1)                                 | 124<br>(100.0) |
| <b>Low</b>                                                           | 2<br>(1.3)                                                                              | 2<br>(1.3)          | 100<br>(63.7)     | 41<br>(26.1)                         | 12<br>(7.6)                                 | 157<br>(100.0) |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | 39<br>(10.5)                                                                            | 26<br>(7.1)         | 185<br>(50.3)     | 89<br>(24.2)                         | 30<br>(8.2)                                 | 368<br>(100.0) |

Table 1, presents the information about the university students who have high entrepreneurial attitude and high preference to self-employment as a career option after completion of their degree and choice of activity (or sector) in which they would like to entre. The researcher has chosen six main areas so that the complete picture about the university students' prospects regarding their future prospective may be clearly grasped. Overall, majority of the university students *i.e.*, fifty percent opted to go for jobs. Further, it is evident that, twenty-four percent of the university students wanted to go for further study. Again, it is noticed that, eleven percent students wanted to entre in their respective profession such as lawyer, pharmacist etc., followed by eight percent who wanted to work for any other areas *i.e.*, competition preparation, going to aboard, take a break from study etc. and seven percent who wanted to join their own business. Again, it is also observed that among those who have moderate and low entrepreneurial attitude and preference to self-employment as a career option, majority of them, wanted to go for job. But among those who have high entrepreneurial attitude and preference to self-employment as a career option, majority of them, near about thirty percent, wanted to go for their own profession, followed by twenty-two percent for those who wanted to go for their own business, almost equal percentage, near

about twenty-two percent opted to go for job and nineteen percent wanted to go for further study. Further, it is also noticed that out of university students who have higher entrepreneurial attitudes and preference to self-employment, thirty-nine percent of them wanted to go for jobs or further education, it may be due to that the students wanted to gain more knowledge, skills through further education and job experiences before venturing into self-employment or establishing their own business activities.

### **Final Words**

Thus, it can be inferred that majority of the students want security after completion of their education. It is clearly visible from the table that out of the university students who have higher entrepreneurial attitudes and preference to self-employment, most of them would like to go their own profession or would like to establish their own business and the percentage of the university students has been increasing with the increase of the level of entrepreneurial attitudes and preference to self-employment as a career option. Thus, the policy-makers must be designed new advanced guidance programmes & provide sufficient facilities (like loans, tools/equipments) to all of the students from various demographical backgrounds and at every level of education. Moreover, it is also recommended to the policy-makers that they must design new advanced entrepreneurial development academic and training programmes for the students studying at higher education level (Gure, 2018). Overall, the findings of the study suggested that the policy-makers that whenever they prepare any policy related with the self-employment and entrepreneurship, they must ensure that the university students who have higher level of attitude towards self-employment and entrepreneurship, get priorities for to go for self-employment and entrepreneurship as a career option. There should be organised higher level of subsidies and flexibility in the process to open any business.

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