

Attitudes of the UAE youths towards entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship: an exploratory study

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Abstract

Research on entrepreneurial area has increased since its influence on the economic and the social development has been acknowledged. Identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial potential among youth can have long-term implications for the overall economic development. It is argued that attitudes towards entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship are important determinants for future entrepreneurial activity. These attitudes would be impacted by the familial occupational background of an individual and entrepreneurial development of the region which he/she comes from. 242 students in United Arab Emirates from Abu Dhabi region were tested for their attitudes towards entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. It was hypothesized that Positive attitude towards entrepreneurship is independent of the socioeconomic status and familial background and there is no effect of personality traits in influencing the career choice of youth towards entrepreneurship. Findings suggest that socioeconomic status influences attitudes towards entrepreneurship and were well supported in both males and females. There is an interaction between the personality traits of youth female respondents on their choice of career. Respondents who chose business as their career were found to have activity levels average, enthusiastic levels above average, assertiveness above average, trusting at below average levels, depressive at average levels and emotional instability at below average levels. The results could provide insights for both entrepreneurship educators as well as economic development policy makers in identifying the maximum leverage and critical success and failure factors influencing educational programs as well as economic incentives targeted on the development of sustainable entrepreneurial culture and ventures in United Arab Emirates and GCC as a whole.