

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
ENTREPRENEURIAL CHARACTERISTICS
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION
AMONG COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS:
MEDIATING ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL
KNOWLEDGE**

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RASAMMAH**

**ASIA e UNIVERSITY
2023**

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COLLEGE STUDENTS: MEDIATING ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL
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KASTUREE BHAI A/P ARUMUGAM RASAMMAH

A Thesis Submitted to Asia e University in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

September 2023

ABSTRACT

The low rate of community college graduates' involvement in entrepreneurship in Selangor has prompted this research to investigate the factors influencing their entrepreneurial intentions. This research is particularly important given the pressing need to generate economic growth through younger generations amidst an aging population, which presents a critical challenge to Selangor, and Malaysia. Moreover, Selangor's strong government support for entrepreneurship, exemplified by initiatives like the Selangor Youth Community and Entrepreneurship Selangor, plays a crucial role in fostering the entrepreneurial ecosystem. By conducting a detailed analysis of entrepreneurial intentions in Selangor, we aim to identify the factors impacting community college students and inform targeted interventions and policy measures. To achieve this, present study assesses the relationship between entrepreneurial characteristic dimensions (risk-taking and fear of failure) and community college student's entrepreneurial intention. The study also examined the mediating role of entrepreneurial knowledge in the relationship. In order to gather data, a sample of 580 respondents was selected from ten community colleges in Selangor. Final data analysis was conducted on 358 respondents using simple random sampling, and adopted questionnaires were employed for data collection. Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis techniques were employed to examine a total of seven hypotheses, comprising five direct relationship hypotheses and two indirect relationship hypotheses. Four out of the five direct relationships were supported, with one being unsupported. Regarding the indirect relationship, the study found that entrepreneurial knowledge partially mediates the relationship between risk-taking and entrepreneurial intention. However, no mediation was observed in the relationship between fear of failure and entrepreneurial intention. The findings offer partial support for the Theory of Planned Behaviour, aligning with the theory's predictions on risk taking and entrepreneurial knowledge while revealing a contradiction in relation to the fear of failure. The study underscores the significance of promoting entrepreneurial knowledge among community college students as a means to cultivate their intentions and behaviours pertaining to entrepreneurship. Additionally, it offers practical contributions and implications. Furthermore, it acknowledges limitations and provides recommendations and suggestions for future research, which can benefit the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, community college management, lecturers and teachers, students, and society.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intention, entrepreneurial characteristic dimensions':risk taking and fear of failure, entrepreneurial knowledge

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this thesis conforms to acceptable of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in quality and scope, for the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis submitted in fulfilment of the PhD degree is my own work and that all contributions from any other persons or sources are properly and duly cited. I further declare that the material has not been submitted either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university. In making this declaration, I understand and acknowledge any breaches in this declaration constitute academic misconduct, which may result in my expulsion from the programme and/or exclusion from the award of the degree.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Signature of Candidate:

Date: 21 September 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I am extended my gratitude to the Supreme Lord and Universe for granting me the courage, strength, and persistence to successfully complete my PhD thesis. My heartfelt gratitude to my late parents Mr Arumugam and Mrs Rasammah, and to my supportive sister Ms Shanty.

I extend the sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Sabri Yusuff, for his attention, kindness, commentary and guidance. I would also like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Baharu Kemat for his earlier supervision. I am deeply grateful to Prof. Dr. Balakrishnan Parasurama, Prof. Dr. Norzaidi Mohd Daud, and the late Prof. Dr. Wan Sabri for their invaluable comments and advices during the viva voce and proposal defense. Their expertise and guidance played a pivotal role in significantly enhancing the quality of my thesis.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Mohamad Ali Bin Hamzah, Assistant Director of EAU, ASDD, DPCC, MOHE, and the directors and assistant directors of Selangor Community Colleges: Puan Sazuan Nazleen, Tuan Zaidi, Tuan Ahmad Arman, Director of CC Kelana Jaya, Tuan Ts. Rahizam, Tuan Suhairi, Puan Rahayu, Tuan Muhapis, Puan Fairuz, Tuan Abu Bakar, and Tuan Muhammad Andie, for granting permission to conduct this research. I am also thankful for the assistance provided by lecturers: Puan Rozaimi, Puan Siti Azura, Puan Tilkavathi, Puan Maslina, Puan Zulaiha, Puan Najwa, Puan Aishah, Encik Mohd Hyrul, Puan Rohayu, and Puan Suriati. Lastly, my sincere appreciation goes to the participants from the Selangor community college session 2022.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ANOVA	Univariate Analysis of Variance
ASDD	Admissions and Student Development Division
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDev	Centre of Entrepreneurship Development for Polytechnic and Community Colleges
CFA	Confirmatory Factor Analysis
DEB	Dasar Ekonomi Baru
DPCC	Department of Polytechnic and Community College Education
DOSM	Department of Statistics Malaysia
DKN	Dasar Keusahawanan Negara 2030
DPK	Dasar Pembangunan Keusahawanan
EAP	Entrepreneurship Action Plan
EAU	Entrepreneurship and Alumni Unit
EEM	Entrepreneurial Event Model
EFA	Exploratory Factor Analysis
EIE	Entrepreneurship Integrated Education
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
GEM-APS	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor- Adults Population Survey
IBM-AMOS	IBM Analysis of Moment Structured
IBM-SPSS	IBM Statistical Package of the Social Science
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDRISS	Integrated Development Region in South Selangor
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPM	The Industrial Park Manager

KLIA	Kuala Lumpur International Airport
LUS	Selangor Entrepreneurship League
LUWS	Liga Usahawan Wanita Selangor
MIP	Managed Industrial Park
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MSMEs	Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises
PKNS	Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor
PLS-SEM	Partial Least Square Structural Modeling
PUSKOM	Pusat Pembangunan Keusahawanan Kolej Komuniti
SABDA	Sabak Bernam Development Area
SAS	Selangor Aviation Show
SAY	Selangor Youth Community
SAY LEAD	Leadership Entrepreneurship Acceleration and Development League
SEM	Structural Equation Modeling
SIBS	Selangor International Business Summit
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ZPE SMG	Selangor Maritime Gateway Economic Development Zone

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

The section encompasses the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the research, research questions, and hypotheses to be tested. Additionally, the study's justification and significance, as well as its methodological, practical, and theoretical contributions, are outlined. Then, study's scope, as well as key terms are identified and explained. Lastly, the structure of the thesis is presented.

Over the past few years, entrepreneurial intention has gained significant attention in the realm of entrepreneurship. Many scholars and researchers have dedicated their attention to studying the entrepreneurial mindset and uncovering the complex factors that drive individuals to venture into starting their own businesses. Specifically, entrepreneurial intention, which indicates a person's desire and motivation to establish and operate their own business, is a crucial variable when it comes to predicting the success and growth of private enterprises (Ahmed et al., 2020). A significant amount of attention in the entrepreneurship literature has been dedicated to conducting extensive studies on the various factors and predictors that affect the entrepreneurial intentions of graduates (Abd Rahman et al., 2020; Mengesha, 2020; Usman, 2019). Therefore, without this intention, the prospects for future ventures would be limited (Nowiski, Haddoud et al., 2019).

Entrepreneurial intention among students has been a prominent research topic, especially in the context of crises and ambiguity, for example, the COVID-19 pandemic (Krichen and Chaabouni, 2022; Hernández-Sánchez et al., 2020). These students are key drivers of entrepreneurship, as they bring innovative ideas to the