

Entrepreneurial Competencies among Outgoing Post Graduate Students

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Abstract

Gone are the days when everyone aspired to work for the government. Recently, the pandemic scenario has wreaked havoc on society, causing significant job losses and opening the door to entrepreneurship. The majority of educational systems provide students with training in order for them to take advantage of this opportunity, as well as actively offering them with ideas for entrepreneurship abilities. The goal of the research is to see if the graduating students are prepared to enter the competitive world in the face of the epidemic. The study aims to know whether the outgoing students are capable of entering the competitive world in this pandemic situation. We have collected the data through a framed questionnaire among 100 students. They were assessed in ten core competencies along with the demographic factors among outgoing students from Madurai District.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Competencies, Outgoing Students, Entrepreneurial Opportunity, Skills, Educational Systems

Introduction

Entrepreneurs play a critical role in the economic development of a developing country like India. Many entrepreneurial educational schemes and programmes are being implemented in most nations to encourage the development of entrepreneurial abilities in their youth. In this area, India is also mindful enough to promote its youth and to lead the way globally in developing a strong entrepreneurial workforce.

For the progressive development in demand for such education, students are trained in various Entrepreneurship courses that are provided in all educational institutions in India, whether in higher education or technical colleges. Various courses under the All India Council of Technical Education are actively working to introduce entrepreneurship skills to all of its students. The purpose of this research was to see the entrepreneurial competencies among students in Madurai District.

Entrepreneurial Competencies Identified by the EDI

Entrepreneurial competence is a personality trait that results in effective and/or credible job performance. A body of knowledge, set of skills, and cluster of appropriate motives/ traits that an individual possess to perform a given job competence is an underlying characteristic of a person, in that it may be motive, traits, skills, aspect of one's self-image, a body of knowledge, set of skills, and cluster of appropriate motives/ traits that an individual possess to perform a given job. Task. A list of major competencies that lead to great performance is provided below.

- **Initiative:** The ability to see a problem and solve it rather than waiting for others to do so.
- **Opportunity:** A person who has been taught to look for business chances in everyday situations.
- **Persistence:** A “never say die” attitude, a refusal to give up easily, and a relentless pursuit of information until achievement is attained.
- **Knowing:** Knowing who knows, consulting experts, reading relevant material and an overall openness to ideas and information.
- **Concern for High-Quality Work:** Paying close attention to the smallest details and adhering to established standards and norms.
- **Work Contract Commitment:** Taking personal pains to execute a task on time.
- **Efficiency Orientation:** Concern for time, money, and effort conservation.
- **Systematic Planning:** Breaking down the complex whole into parts, closely inspecting the parts, and formulating a plan.

Objectives of Research

- To explain the concept of entrepreneurial competencies
- To determine the association between demographic characteristics and entrepreneurial competencies among final year students in a specific region.
- Recognize the link between specific facts about a field of interest and entrepreneurial abilities.

Methodology

To investigate the entrepreneurship abilities of Madurai District graduates. The researchers conducted a survey about pupils’ entrepreneurial skills. In terms of methodology, the researchers used final-year students as a stand-in for research respondents.

Data Collection

The primary data collection approach utilised by the researchers was a direct survey. The self-administered questionnaire had ten questions that tested ten competencies in respondents, including initiative, taking advantage of opportunities, persistence, information seeking, quality of work, contract commitment, efficiency, systematic planning, problem-solving, and self-confidence.

The respondents were asked to complete the survey on a Likert scale of 1 to 5, with 1 denoting not at all, 2 denoting very little, 3 denoting somewhat, 4 denoting well, and 5 denoting extremely well. The results were then evaluated and tested using a database. The following formulae were used to correct inflated scores for scores calculated to be greater than 20. Each component’s score was reduced by three points for scores 20 to 21, five points for scores 22 to 23, and seven points for scores 24 to 25, respectively.

Results of the Study

The results of the survey are as follows

Table 1 Profile of the Respondents

Characteristic	Category	Nos	%
Gender	Female	45	45
	Male	55	55
Age	Less than – 21(UG)	24	24
	21 to 23 (PG)	60	60
	More than 23	16	16
Parents Occupation	Self – Employed	20	20
	Government Employee	30	30
	Private Employee	50	50
Percentage of Marks in Degree	Less than 55%	12	12
	55% to 60%	44	44
	61% to 75%	38	38
	More than 75%	06	06
Area of Interest	Fast Food / Restaurant	35	35
	Boutique	33	33
	Parlours	25	25
	Others	07	07

Out of 110 questionnaires distributed, 100 students answered to the survey. 97.0 percent of people responded. Males made up 55 percent of the responders, while females made up 45 percent. The age distribution revealed a mean age of 22.4 years, with less than a quarter (24%) under the age

of 21, 60 percent between the ages of 21 and 23, and the remaining 16 percent older than 23 years. Parental employment was distributed as follows: 50% in private employment, 30% in government employment, and 20% in self-employment. With 100 students responding, 35 percent said they were interested in fast food, 33 percent said they were interested in boutiques, 25 percent said they were interested in parlours, and 7% said they were interested in something else.

Table 2 Competencies Level of Respondents

Competency	Low	High	Mean	S.d
Initiative	27	73	17.37	3.01
Opportunities	37	63	17.03	2.86
Persistence	35	65	17.10	2.21
Information seeking	13	87	18.93	2.63
Quality of work	14	86	18.58	2.31
Commitment to work	24	76	17.01	2.23
Efficiency	42	58	17.20	3.11
Systematic planning	38	62	17.12	2.26
Problem solving	25	75	17.31	2.41
Self confidence	56	44	14.90	3.10

Following are the inferences from the above table. In the category of initiative, 27% of respondents were evaluated to have a poor degree of competency and 73% to have a high level of initiative. This competency had a mean score of 17 and a standard deviation of 3.01. 37 percent of respondents reported a poor level of skill in taking advantage of opportunities, while 63 percent had a high level of competency. The average score was 17.03, with a standard deviation of 2.86. In terms of persistence, more than 35% showed low competence, while somewhat less than 65% appeared to have a high level of competence. The average score was 17.1, with a standard deviation of 2.21, as for the information seeking behaviour, 13 % respondents showed low competency while a large number 87 % displayed high level of competence. The mean score was 18.93 with a SD of 2.63. For the competency of appreciating quality of work, 14% of respondents had low level of competency while a large number 86 % displayed high level of competence. The mean

score was 18.58 and SD of 2.31. For the competency of commitment to work contract, a quarter 24 % of respondents seemed to have low competency while three fourth 76 % had a high level of competence. The mean score was 17.01 with a SD of 2.23. In case of efficiency orientation, 42% of respondents had low competence, while 58% had high competency. The mean score was 17.2 and a SD of 3.11.

In systematic planning, 38% of respondents demonstrated low levels of competency, while 62% demonstrated high levels of competency. The mean score was 17.12, with a standard deviation of 2.62. In problem solving, 25% of respondents were rated as having low skill, while 75% were rated as having good competency. The mean score was 17.31, with a standard deviation of 2.41. More than half (56%) of those surveyed had a low degree of competence, while less than half (44.0%) had a high level of competence. The average score was 14.93, with a standard deviation of 3.10.

Table 3 Cross-Tabulation of Competency by Age

Competency	Chi-Square	p Value
Initiative	1.590	0.475
Availing Opportunities	0.725	0.731
Persistence	18.775	0.000*
Information seeking	5.175	0.068
Quality of Work	0.606	0.776
Commitment to work contract	1.907	0.349
Efficiency Orientation	1.580	0.477
Systematic Planning	3.729	0.147
Problem Solving	2.493	0.302
Self-Confidence	1.895	0.408

When examining for a correlation between age and the competencies under investigation, it was discovered that there is a statistically significant correlation between age and persistence, with a pValue of 0.001. Meanwhile, no statistically significant relationship could be found between age and initiative, taking advantage of chances, seeking knowledge, quality of work, contract commitment, efficiency focused, systematic planning, problem resolution, and self-confidence.

Table 4 Cross Tabulation of Competency by Parents Occupation

Competency	Chi-Square	P value
Initiative	0.215	0.975
Advantage of opportunities	1.903	0.593
Persistence	24.091	0.000*
Information seeking	15.774	0.001*
Quality of work	3.464	0.326
Commitment to work contract	4.226	0.238
Efficiency orientation	20.601	0.000*
Systematic planning	3.050	0.384
Problem solving	7.455	0.059
Self confidence	6.203	0.102

When examining for a link between parent's occupation and the competences under investigation, it was discovered that there is a statistically significant link between parent's occupation and perseverance, with a P value of 0.001. Similarly, with a P Value of 0.001, a statistically significant relationship was discovered between Parents Occupation and Information Seeking Competency. With a P Value of 0.001, a statistically significant relationship was discovered between Parents Occupation and Competency of Efficiency Orientation.

Conclusion

According to the survey's findings, Madurai District final year students possess a high level of skills as defined by the Entrepreneurial Development Institute. Various forms of entrepreneurial qualities have been proposed and their links with business performance have been investigated. Demographic variables such as gender, age, ethnicity, and family history are one type of characteristic. The question of whether certain features make a firm more successful or less successful entrepreneur is a recurring issue in various literatures.

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