



THE ROLE OF GENDER ON INCLINATION TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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Abstract

Today, there is a rising phenomenon of female entrepreneurship worldwide. However, many researchers confirm feminine entrepreneurship remains limited than masculine in the globe which is not explored in Sri Lankan context hitherto. This study has focused to identify the role of gender in entrepreneurship inclination with the determinant for feminine entrepreneurship development in Sri Lanka and provide new directions in policymaking. The investigation was conducted in Advanced Technological Institute, *Gampaha* which is under Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education. We focused the stream of Agriculture for the study. All the students (133) who followed 'Higher National Diploma Technology in Agriculture' diploma program were considered for the study. Mainly, primary data was considered for the study. A pre-tested survey questionnaire was used to collect data, which consisted with two parts; first, socio-demographic variables of the respondents; next, fifteen statements to explore entrepreneurial inclination focusing three dimensions of Attitude towards behaviour, Subjective norms and Perceived behavioural control in accordance with the Theory of Planned Behaviour. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were employed to analyze data. Among the respondents, there were only 32.3 per cent males while one-third of were having self-employed parents. The descriptive statistics demonstrated all three dimensions of Attitude towards behaviour, Subjective norms and Perceived behavioural control were quite similar and at a high level between male and female students. Mean separation results showed subjective norms impact the most on entrepreneurial inclination. The results of independent sample t-test between male and female confirmed a significant difference between males and females towards entrepreneurship where compared to males, female students were less willing to start their own businesses ($t=0.325$, $p<0.05$). Further, entrepreneurial attitude, experience, income, education, female network were found as determinants of entrepreneurship according with the results of Pearson correlation coefficient. These findings could be utilized by educators and policymakers to design effective entrepreneurship programmes and understand gender-specific needs and empowerment for removing obstacles related to stereotyping.

Keywords: K Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship inclination, Female, Gender