

Exploring the Influence of Environmental, Social, and Individual Factors on the Entrepreneurial Intentions of Emirati University Students.

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The research paper provides an analysis of factors that affect entrepreneurial intentions among Emirati university students. The purpose is to understand the elements that motivate entrepreneurship within the UAE context, which is crucial for the country's economic diversification. A structural equation modeling methodology is used to test hypotheses related to attitudes, subjective norms, and self-efficacy towards entrepreneurship. The study finds that these factors, along with university and country support, have a significant positive influence on students' entrepreneurial intentions. Recommendations include promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career path and enhancing practical educational experiences to increase self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intentions.

Purpose and Importance of the Study for the UAE: The study aims to understand the factors influencing Emirati university students' intentions to engage in entrepreneurship. This is important for the UAE's economic diversification efforts, reducing reliance on oil, and fostering a dynamic private sector.

Methodology: The study employed a cross-sectional survey design with structural equation modeling to analyze responses from 324 Emirati students regarding their attitudes, subjective norms, self-efficacy, and perceived support for entrepreneurship.

Study Key Points: The research focused on various predictive factors of entrepreneurial intentions, drawing from the Theory of Planned Behavior as a framework for understanding the students' motivations and potential for starting new ventures.

Main Findings: Positive attitudes, high self-efficacy, and perceived support at university and country levels are significant predictors of entrepreneurial intentions among students. The study, however, found mixed results for the impact of subjective norms.

Recommendations: The study suggests that to increase student entrepreneurial intentions, there should be greater emphasis on developing entrepreneurial skills and self-belief through practical education. Also, enhancing the support system at universities and national levels can facilitate this process.