

THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTIONS

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Abstract: Entrepreneurial intention is a key factor influencing an individual's likelihood of engaging in entrepreneurial activities. Understanding the factors that shape these intentions is essential for fostering entrepreneurship and developing an entrepreneurial mindset. This study examines the impact of parental involvement on the formation of entrepreneurial intentions, aiming to extend existing models of entrepreneurial behavior. By analyzing the roles of family support, parental role modeling, and individual confidence in one's abilities, the research highlights how early socialization and psychological factors interact to influence the decision to pursue entrepreneurship. This study provides a deeper understanding of the developmental and social processes underlying entrepreneurial intention and highlights the role of parental involvement and self-efficacy in shaping entrepreneurial intentions, offering insights for educators, policymakers, and family-based initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intention, Parental involvement, intention, Family support, Entrepreneurial mindset, Entrepreneurship development, Theory of Planned Behavior, Cultural and social environment, Entrepreneurship development

1. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship intention plays a vital role in shaping the future of our economy and society. It is a driving force behind innovation, job creation, and economic growth. Understanding the importance of entrepreneurship intention is essential for individuals looking to make a positive impact through their business ventures. By exploring the motivations and mindset behind entrepreneurial intentions, we can gain valuable insights into how aspiring entrepreneurs can contribute to building a more dynamic and resilient economy.

Research on the impact of parental involvement on the development of entrepreneurial intentions yields mixed results. While Rachmawan (2015) found no significant influence of parental influence, Polin (2016) identified a positive impact, with self-employed mothers having a particularly strong influence. Bloemen-Bekx (2019) further explored this, highlighting the role of learning experiences and parental preference, which mediate the relationship between gender and entrepreneurial intentions. These findings suggest that while parental involvement can play a role in shaping entrepreneurial intentions, the specific nature of this influence is complex and multifaceted.

The significance of entrepreneurial attributes in comprehending and promoting entrepreneurship has been acknowledged. While it has been debated in scholarly works that entrepreneurial traits are stable, there are some researchers who oppose this notion by claiming that entrepreneurial attributes can be modified. They argue that individuals who were previously thought to lack certain attributes could acquire them through external influences, with government policies being a probable factor in triggering such transformations in the individuals targeted by these policies.

Individuals participating in these programs typically have a pre-existing desire to establish their own businesses which may have originated during their childhood. Research indicates that individuals who come from families with entrepreneurial backgrounds are more inclined to pursue entrepreneurship.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the journey towards entrepreneurship, which involves starting a business, this study delves into the factors that influence entrepreneurial intentions. More specifically, it examines how parental involvement can shape individuals' attitudes towards starting a business.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employs a **conceptual and analytical methodology** based on a comprehensive review of primary and secondary literature on entrepreneurship, parental involvement and socio-cultural influences. Sources include empirical studies, theoretical models, and policy documents published by researchers and institutions in the field of entrepreneurship, business, and social sciences. Data were collected and synthesized from peer-reviewed journals, books, and credible online repositories to identify patterns, mechanisms, and relationships relevant to the formation of entrepreneurial intentions.

The methodology combines descriptive and interpretive approaches, analyzing phenomena by integrating findings across multiple studies to develop **a conceptual framework**. This approach allows the study to examine entrepreneurial intention as a socially and developmentally embedded process while identifying gaps in the existing literature and providing directions for future empirical research.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Entrepreneurial Intention

A review of literature on the relationship between childhood experiences and entrepreneurial intention reveals several key factors. Personal traits, contextual factors, and family support influence entrepreneurial intention. Psychosocial influences, the entrepreneurial mindset, and the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem further shape entrepreneurial action (Rohanaraj, 2023). Upadhaya (2019) emphasized the importance of identifying determinants of entrepreneurial intention, particularly among students, to foster entrepreneurship effectively. These studies collectively indicate that family support, childhood experiences, and personal traits significantly influence entrepreneurial intention.

3.2 Entrepreneurial Models

From the 1980s onward, several models have been developed to explain entrepreneurial intention. These include the Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero and Sokol, 1982), the Entrepreneurial Potential Model (Krueger and Brazeal, 1994), and the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991). The Theory of Planned Behavior refines the Theory of Reasoned Action by incorporating perceived behavioral control alongside attitudes and subjective norms. It posits that these three factors influence intention, which in turn affects behavior, although external factors may still facilitate or inhibit action. Shapero's model highlights perceived feasibility and desirability, and studies show these perceptions strongly affect entrepreneurial intentions.

3.3 Parental Involvement

Parental involvement can shape entrepreneurial intention by providing support, mentoring, and early exposure to entrepreneurial role models. Family support and the desire to invest resources in entrepreneurship are positively associated with intention formation, whereas constraints such as time, capital, and risk tolerance may limit entrepreneurial engagement.

3.4 Family Business Background

A family business background significantly influences entrepreneurial intention by enhancing knowledge, skills, confidence, and positive attitudes toward entrepreneurship (Kumar, 2022;). Individual characteristics such as education and risk tolerance also mediate the preference for working in or starting a family business. Family business exposure provides critical socialization mechanisms, transmitting entrepreneurial values across generations.

3.5 Role of Parents

Parents act as primary socialization agents, influencing entrepreneurial intention through role modeling, reinforcement of entrepreneurial norms, and support for risk-taking. Evidence shows that parental influence is strongest when children are intensely socialized with entrepreneurial role models (Soares, 2023; Hopp, 2019). Early exposure to entrepreneurship within the family, combined with parental attitudes and beliefs, shapes future entrepreneurial aspirations.

3.6 Social and Cultural Environments

Social and cultural contexts shape entrepreneurial intention by influencing norms, values, and perceptions of entrepreneurship's legitimacy. Cultures emphasizing independence, innovation, achievement, and risk-taking produce higher levels of entrepreneurial intention, while cultures prioritizing stability and conformity tend to produce lower intention levels. Social norms, cultural capital, and social networks provide access to resources, emotional support, and opportunities, reducing perceived risk and enhancing feasibility. Education systems, media narratives, and institutional support further normalize entrepreneurship, strengthening entrepreneurial identity and intention.

4. DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that entrepreneurial intention is shaped through a complex interaction of psychological, familial, and socio-cultural factors. Parental involvement influences early attitudes toward entrepreneurship, exposure to role models, and perceptions of business as a viable career, while self-efficacy mediates the internalization of these influences into concrete entrepreneurial intention. Family business background functions as a socialization mechanism, enhancing skills, knowledge, and confidence that reinforce the intention to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

Social and cultural environments interact with family and individual factors to influence entrepreneurial intention, with cultural values, social norms, networks, and educational systems providing legitimacy and feasibility cues.

These findings suggest that entrepreneurial intention should not be viewed solely as an individual cognitive process but as a socially embedded and culturally constructed phenomenon.

From a theoretical perspective, integrating parental involvement, self-efficacy, and socio-cultural factors extends existing models of entrepreneurial intention, such as the Theory of Planned Behavior, by emphasizing the developmental and social context. Practically, the results highlight the importance of family engagement, early socialization, and supportive educational and community environments in fostering entrepreneurial mindsets. Programs targeting entrepreneurship development should focus on enhancing self-efficacy, parental involvement, and supportive social networks rather than solely providing skills training.

Future research should adopt longitudinal and cross-cultural approaches to better capture the developmental trajectory of entrepreneurial intention and explore variations in parental influence, self-efficacy, and cultural context across different populations. Such studies would provide deeper insights into the mechanisms through which entrepreneurial identities and intentions are formed.

5. CONCLUSION

This study contributes to the growing body of literature on entrepreneurial intention by examining the combined influence of parental involvement and self-efficacy on the development of entrepreneurial intentions. The findings underscore that entrepreneurial intention is not formed in isolation but emerges through a complex interaction of psychological, familial, and socio-cultural factors. In particular, parental involvement plays a formative role in shaping individuals' early attitudes toward entrepreneurship, exposure to entrepreneurial role models, and perceptions of business as a viable career path.

Self-efficacy emerges as a central psychological mechanism through which these influences are internalized and transformed into entrepreneurial intention. Individuals who develop stronger beliefs in their own capabilities are more likely to perceive entrepreneurship as feasible and attainable, reinforcing intention formation. This supports theoretical models that position self-efficacy as a core determinant of entrepreneurial cognition and behavior.

Furthermore, the study demonstrates that family business background and parental role modeling function as critical socialization mechanisms that transmit entrepreneurial values, skills, and aspirations across generations. These familial influences are further embedded within broader social and cultural environments that shape norms, expectations, and legitimacy perceptions surrounding entrepreneurship. As such, entrepreneurial intention should be understood as a socially embedded and developmentally constructed process rather than a purely individual decision.

The integration of psychological constructs, family dynamics, and socio-cultural contexts provides a more comprehensive framework for understanding how entrepreneurial intentions are formed. This multidimensional perspective contributes theoretically by extending intention models beyond individual cognition and practically by highlighting the importance of early socialization, education, and family engagement in entrepreneurship development.

From a policy and educational perspective, the findings suggest that entrepreneurship promotion strategies should not focus solely on skills training but also on strengthening self-efficacy, family engagement, and supportive social environments. Programs that involve parents, communities, and educational institutions can play a critical role in fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Future research should adopt longitudinal designs to better capture the developmental nature of entrepreneurial intention formation and explore cross-cultural variations in parental influence and self-efficacy processes. Such approaches would further deepen understanding of how entrepreneurial identities and intentions evolve across the life course.

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