



Technical Report

University of Zabol

Title: Effect of Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Dimensions on the Entrepreneurship Skills of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Students with Mediating Role of Emotional and Social Intelligences (Case Study: University of Zabol)

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Introduction

The importance of entrepreneurship ecosystem and entrepreneurial skills students need to do research to identify the relationships between them and identify the mediating factors. Entrepreneurship ecosystem refers to elements, individuals, organizations, or institutions that can stimulate individuals or inhibit them from becoming an entrepreneur. This ecosystem encompasses a plethora of components categorized in six primary domains including market, policy, financial capital, culture, supports, and human capital. The entrepreneurship ecosystem emerged as a basis for designing entrepreneurship policies, especially for technology-oriented start-ups. Research on the entrepreneurship ecosystem focuses on the close relationships of people, government, and relevant agencies and other effective factors for the support of entrepreneurial activities defined in a certain geographical region. This ecosystem may be formed at the regional, national, or even university level. The prerequisite for entrepreneurship is to acquire different skills such as the ability of planning, the appropriate exploitation of opportunities, negotiation skills, marketing, motivating, the knowledge of business plan, communication, familiarity with legal and commercial rules and regulations, planning, team-building and so on. Also, some scholars believed that the two psychological components of social intelligence and emotional intelligence contribute to the entrepreneurial process. People with higher social intelligence and emotional intelligence are more likely to be an entrepreneur because they can cope with negative and vexing emotions and the stress caused by the work and environment during launching and managing a new business. These people usually analyze and interpret issues positively, identify opportunities, and are very optimistic about the prospect and viability of the new business. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine effect of entrepreneurship ecosystem dimensions on the entrepreneurship skills of the agriculture and natural resources students with mediating role of emotional and social intelligences in University of Zabol.

Methods

The study of the nature of quantitative-qualitative research, in terms of non-experimental variable control of the aim of research is applied. The population was included experts in the field of entrepreneurship and students of faculties of Agriculture, Water & Soil, and Natural Resources at University of Zabol in the qualitative and quantitative sections, respectively. According to the study population, purposeful sampling and stratified random sampling was used in the qualitative and quantitative sections, respectively. The sample size was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan's table. Standard questionnaires were used for data collection. To test research hypotheses, Delphi technique, compare mean, and structural equation modeling were used.

Results

The qualitative results showed that experts agreed on six skills of writing a business plan, marketing, familiarity with the legal and commercial rules, team building, planning, and communications. The results of the current situation of the entrepreneurial skills showed that the planning skill is in ranked first. The results showed that in the desired situation of the entrepreneurial skills, the team building skill is in the first rank. The results showed that the deepest the gap between the desired and the current situation belongs to the skills of familiarity with the legal and commercial rules, writing a business plan, and communications, respectively. The findings revealed that the entrepreneurship ecosystem, emotional and social intelligences had a significant and positive effect on students' entrepreneurship skills. Furthermore, the variables of entrepreneurship ecosystem, emotional and social intelligences could account for 59 percent of the variance in students' entrepreneurship skills.