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ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTENTION AMONG AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS OF RAZI UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this descriptive-correlative study was comparison of entrepreneurship intention among agricultural student of Razi University. Population of this study were undergraduate students in 1390 at faculty of agriculture (N= 1128). 285 of them were selected by stratified random sampling and proportionate as sample. Data collection tools of this research was a structured questionnaire that its validity confirmed by panel of experts. In order to measure reliability of research tool, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was calculated, this calculated Alfa was 0.71 which shows its acceptable credit. For data analysis, descriptive statistics, ANOVA, independent t-test and Pearson correlation were used. Results indicated, there isn't significant relation between educational disciplines and student gender with entrepreneurship intention, while the relation between attitude towards entrepreneurship, social norms, self-efficacy and student's entrepreneurship intention is positive and significant.

KEYWORDS

entrepreneurship intention, self-efficacy, attitude, social norms.

INTRODUCTION

Since manpower is considered as finite resource and development center, training skilled and efficient people is essential to achieve sustainable development. Several studies have shown that, job creation is one of the most important approaches of economic development, and entrepreneurship is its tool and procedure. In modern economy unlike traditional structures, due to significant growth in labor supply and slight growth in labor demand, job creation is not government task. The role of government is only spread enterprise culture and developed public and legal infrastructure for appropriate employment opportunities. Discovery and exploitation of these opportunities is entrepreneur's responsibility (Hezarjaribi, 2006).

Since today, graduated people comprise the main part of unemployed and one of the different communities challenges is graduated people who don't have individual abilities and skills, to set up a proper business also as regards unemployment in various disciplines University graduates will make irreversible Social, economic, and political consequences; One of the main problems of Iran's higher education system and especially Agriculture is development of entrepreneurship among students and graduates.

Entrepreneurship reduces unemployment, increase people and resources productivity and ultimately increase people income. So paying attention to student's intention and willingness to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activities is important in Survey their current situation and make necessary recommendations to improve the entrepreneurial development.

Entrepreneurship intention can be known as introduction and effective factor on entrepreneurship behavior or decision to be entrepreneur. Based on Ajzen planned model, attitude, social norms and self-efficacy belief are entrepreneurship intention Predictors. So in present study, Ajzen model has been used for assessment of student's entrepreneurship intention.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The entrepreneurship word is derived from "entreprendre" the French word that means "committing". According to Webster dictionary, entrepreneur is someone who committed to organize, manage and accept the risks of an economic activity (Rezvani & Najarzade, 2009).

According to Timonz (1990), entrepreneurship is creating a valuable thing from nothing and entrepreneur is a person who has high power of understanding and ability for opportunity finding, also by training his own thought, idea and convert it to a new product or service, he can make a value from nothing (Samadi & Shirzadi Esfahani, 2008).

Pooratashi (2009) quoted from Merdit et al., the entrepreneur as a person with ability to see business opportunities, evaluate them, gather necessary resources and exploit them and plan appropriate operations for reaching success.

Entrepreneur is a Self-employed person who has good economic forecasting power, willingness to risk and through this make profit or loss. As result, help to balance and stability of market economy (Alibeigi et al., 2009).

Extensive studies have been done on factors affecting entrepreneurship, some of them have studied gender effect on entrepreneurial behavior and others considered educational field as a factor that can be effective on entrepreneurship tendency, so for desired goals of this study, some of these researches have examined.

Abarghuee and Bitaraf Sani (2009) in their own research concluded, gender has an impact on student entrepreneurship and its rate among male students is more than female students. In a study that was done by Hosseini and Azizi (2008), results of Mann Whitney test indicate that male student's entrepreneurial spirit is higher than female ones. Also, Qavami and Lotfalipour (2009), in their study, concluded that there is a significant relation between entrepreneurship and

gender so that entrepreneurship among men is more than women, while investigations of Raeesi et al. (2008), AkbarSadat (2007) and Jahanghiri and Kalantari (2008) indicated that there is not a significant relation between gender and entrepreneurship rate.

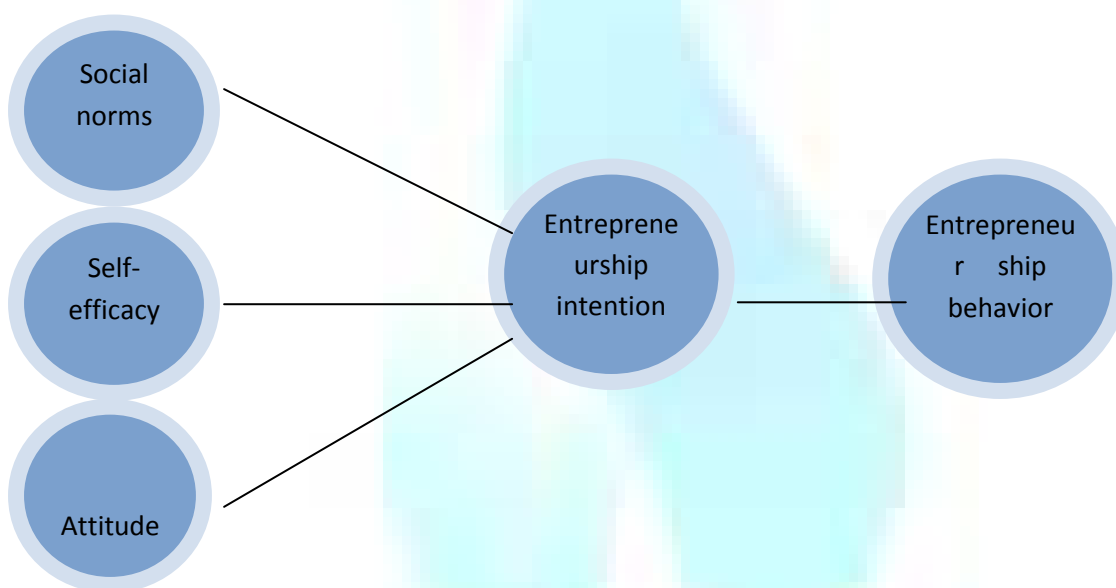
Alibeigi et al. (2009), express this subject that there isn't a significant difference between students of various fields in entrepreneurship spirit, also another research that has been done by Alibeigi(2009) about entrepreneurship spirit analysis among Razi university's students indicated that there isn't significant difference about entrepreneurship abilities among students of different colleges. Results of Saljooghi's study (2009), indicating the rate of entrepreneurship among scientific-applied students is not much different in terms of gender and educational degree, while there are differences between students of different academic disciplines and institutions.

Researches of Zarifian et al. (2009), Showed that there is no statistically significant differences among entrepreneurship of various disciplines students of Tabriz agricultural university, while the relationship between gender and desire entrepreneurship has been a positive and meaningful so that, the amount of male students entrepreneurship evaluated more than female students.

Rajabi et al. (2009), in investigation of effective factors on entrepreneurship behavior among scientific-applied students, concluded that there is a significant difference among students of different disciplines while the relation between gender and entrepreneurship attitude is not meaningful.

In order to measure entrepreneurship intention, many models have been revealed that among these, Ajzen's planes behavior theory (1991) used as the theoretical framework in many studies. This theory has a critical difference with other patterns that is social norms variable that in other patterns has not been pointed. According to Ajzen model, attitude to behavior, society norms and belief to self-efficacy are entrepreneurship intention predictors. Application of attitude variable in entrepreneurship intention studies is that, how much business is attractive in person's view. Society norm reflects social pressure and self-efficacy is person's believes about his own ability to perform roles and tasks of entrepreneurship (barani, 2009).

FIGURE 1- AJZEN'S PLANES BEHAVIOR MODEL



From the perspective of Bandura (1997), self-efficacy is believes that a person knows from his ability to deal with challenging situations. Boyd and Vozikis (1994), believe that the self-efficacy, influence on identifying opportunities, risk taking and entrepreneurial ideas development. Also based on social cognitive theory Lent et al. (2002), believe self-efficacy effects on items such as job selection, career development activities, professional abilities and job performance. Findings of Moriano and Gorgievski (2007), also indicate the positive and significant relation between self-efficacy and entrepreneurship intention.

Other factors affecting the willingness of the entrepreneurship, is society's norms. Society norms, insert in the societies culture. Dominant culture also influence on entrepreneurship (Barani et al., 1387). Results of Degeorge and Fayolle(2005), Moriano et al. (2006) also confirm positive and meaningful relation between social norms and entrepreneurship intention, while Linan's findings(2005), indicate negative and significant relation between social norms and entrepreneurship intention.

Drnovsek and Erikson (2005), believe when people understand entrepreneurship as a possible affair, it is more likely that their entrepreneurship intention be more stable, that indicate importance of attitude in entrepreneurship intention. The study of Barani et al. (1387), reveales positive relation between attitude toward entrepreneurship, social norms and belief to self-efficacy with entrepreneurship intention.

The main purpose of this study is, assessment of entrepreneurship intention among agricultural students of Razi University. According to this aim, the following purposes were considered:

1. Assessment of relation between gender and entrepreneurship intention
2. Assessment of relation between educational field and entrepreneurship intention
3. Assessment of relation between society norms and entrepreneurship intention
4. Assessment of relation between believe to self-efficacy and entrepreneurship intention
5. Assessment of relation between students attitude and entrepreneurship intention

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This quantitative study has been done by descriptive-correlative approach. The study population consisted of all undergraduate students of Agricultural College of Razi University, which included 1128 student. In this study stratified random sampling techniques has been used. So that students have been selected based on their educational field by proportionate way (table 1). Sample size was determined 285 by means of Morgan table.

In order to data collection, structured questionnaires based on Ajzen model that include four parts: personal characteristics of respondents, Attitude towards entrepreneurship, social norms and believe in the self-efficacy was used. This study's variables was measured by 20 questions in the form of Likert range that including 7 ordinal scale (from completely agree to completely disagree).

To determine the validity of research tools the questionnaire was revealed to specialists and subject experts. In order to reliability check, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was calculated. Since the calculated Alfa, for each part of questionnaire was higher than 0.71, so it has a good reliability. The collected data were analyzed by using SPSS11.5 and descriptive statistics (frequency, mean), Pearson correlation, ANOVA and independent t-test.

TABLE 1- NUMBER OF SAMPLE BASED ON EDUCATIONAL DISCIPLINE

Educational discipline	Frequency	Percent
Plant protection	43	15.1
Agricultural machinery	43	15.1
Agricultural extension	43	15.1
Natural resource	21	7.4
Cultivation	36	12.6
Soil science	32	11.2
Animal husbandry	34	11.9
Water engineering	33	11.6
Total	285	100

FINDINGS

Results of this study indicated that the mean age of under study students is 21.46 year. 35.1 percent of students were male and 64.9 percent of them were female. Plant protection, Agricultural machinery and Agricultural extension with 43% allocated themselves, the largest number of respondents, while natural resource with 21% had included the lowest number of respondents.

In order to compare entrepreneurship intention among male and female students independent t-test and among students of different disciplines ANOVA test were used. F-test result showed that in regard to entrepreneurship intention among students of various field, there isn't significant difference ($F= 0.383$, $sig= 0.912$), also t-test result indicated there isn't significant difference between male and female students in regard to entrepreneurship intention. But comparison of mean of two groups showed, entrepreneurship intention among male students (79.65) is more than female ones (78.36).

TABLE 2- MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION

	mean	Standard deviation
Attitude toward entrepreneurship	4.23	1.10
Self-efficacy belief	5.02	0.99
Social norms	4.70	0.85

The results listed in Table 2, indicate that the mean of under studied variables in students of agricultural college of Razi university was calculated higher than average. But believe to self-efficacy (mean= 5.02) among other variables, allocated the highest degree.

According to obtained results, between entrepreneurship intention with attitude to entrepreneurship, society norms and believe to self-efficacy, there is a positive and significant relation. It means that, whatever one's attitude towards entrepreneurship was more favorable and more positive, *e in accordance and person' parallel with entrepreneurship activities and social norms* as self-efficacy be higher, he is more decisive and more interested in do an enterprising activities.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Findings indicate that, there is no significant relationship between gender and entrepreneurship intention that is in accordance and parallel with findings of Raeesi et al. (2008), Akbarsadat (1997), Rajabi et al. (2009) and Jahangiri and Kalantari (2008). While results of Abarguei and Bitaraf Sani (2009), Hosseini and Azizi (2008), Zarifian et.al (2009) and Qavami and Lotfalipour's studies (2009) are in contrast to this result.

The second finding of this study indicates that, there isn't significant relation between educational field of students and entrepreneurship intention. This result is confirmed by the findings of Alibaigy et al. (1387), Saljooghi (2009), Alibaigy (2009) and Zarifian et al. (2009), while it is in contrast with result of Rajabi et al. (2009) study.

Self-efficacy is one of the most important factors in entrepreneurship intention that in this research, it's role and importance has been studied. Obtained results express positive and significant relation between self-efficacy and entrepreneurship intention, findings of Boyd and Vozikis (1994), Lent et al. (2002), also confirms this.

Social norms are one of the other factors that in this research was considered to measure entrepreneurship intention *and* it's effect is confirmed. This finding is in accordance with results of Barani et al. (2009), Degeorge and Fayolle (2005) and Moriano et al (2006). While Linan's investigation (2005), indicates the opposite of this.

Another factor that based on current study has positive effect on entrepreneurship is person's attitude. Studies of Drnovsek and Erikson (2005) and Barani et al. (2009), is in agreement with expressed result.

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