

HCRC RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: FINDINGS AND INSIGHTS

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETENCY AND MINDSET: EXAMINING THE INFLUENCE OF EDUCATION, ROLE MODELS, AND GENDER

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SUMMARY

This research aims to explore how entrepreneurial education, role models, and gender influence students' entrepreneurial competence and mindset. A survey of 306 participants revealed that entrepreneurial role models enhance competence and foster a growth mindset, while active engagement in entrepreneurship courses improves innovation and networking. Gender differences showed minimal impact on generating novel business ideas. The study contributes insights into entrepreneurship education and offers practical implications for educators and institutions.

METHODS AND FINDINGS

The study involved 306 participants enrolled in entrepreneurship and innovation-related courses at UAEU. Data collection utilized an online survey and employed statistical analyses including Spearman's Rank Correlations, Cramer's V correlation, Mann-Whitney U, and multiple linear regression. Key findings include:

- **Role of Entrepreneurial Role Models:** Access to entrepreneurial role models significantly enhances students' competence and mindset, particularly in resource mobilization and fostering a growth mindset.
- **Impact of Entrepreneurship Courses:** Active engagement in entrepreneurship courses correlates with improved innovative thinking and networking skills among students.

Gender Differences: While gender showed no significant impact overall, female students exhibited strengths in generating creative ideas and spotting opportunities, challenging stereotypes about gender differences in entrepreneurship.

STATISTICAL INSIGHTS

A multiple linear regression analysis revealed that the number of entrepreneurial role models (NERM), number of innovation and entrepreneurship courses (NIEC), and gender collectively accounted for 10.3% of the variance in students' ability to generate business ideas and identify opportunities (IO). NERM ($p = 0.028$) and NIEC ($p = 0.000$) were statistically significant predictors, highlighting their positive influence.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

In conclusion, this research underlines the importance of educational initiatives and mentorship programs in nurturing entrepreneurial competencies among students. It provides actionable insights for policymakers and educators to enhance entrepreneurship education curricula. Despite gender-based stereotypes, the study shows that both male and female students can excel in entrepreneurial skills given the right educational support and role models.

Citation:

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