

# THE IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION ON INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION IN SRI LANKA

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## 1. Introduction

Based on empirical investigations, most previous academic studies agree that entrepreneurship education (EE) has a significant impact on entrepreneurial intention (EI). However, this finding has been contradicted in some other contexts. EE is not only important for EI but also for the international entrepreneurial intentions (IEI) of potential entrepreneurs. Despite this, limited academic studies have examined the impact of EE on IEI. Recognizing this research gap, the study aimed to examine the impact of EE on IEI in Sri Lanka based on the theory of planned behavior (TPB).

## 2. Research Methodology

The research study was designed as quantitative research following the positivism approach, and used 104 survey responses from business and management undergraduates who followed entrepreneurship courses adopting the convenience sampling method. The data were analyzed through conducting regression analysis and mediator analysis.

## 3. Findings and Discussion

The study-related results revealed that EE has a significant positive influence on the IEI of potential entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the attitude towards behavior (ATB), subjective norms (SN), and perceived behavioral control (PBC), which were the mediators of the study, have a partial mediating impact on the relationship between EE and IEI in the Sri Lankan context.

## 4. Conclusion and Implications

EE has become a key positive influencer of IEI of Sri Lankan potential entrepreneurs, and ATB, SN, and PBC have also had a partially positive influence on IEI. The study suggests some practical implications for the Sri Lankan government and entrepreneurship education-providing institutions through these findings. In accordance with that policymakers, the Sri Lankan government need to develop and maintain effective entrepreneurship education connecting with academic institutions collaboratively to attain the direct positive impact EE on IEI and utilizing the mediating positive impact of ATB, SN, and PBC on the relationship between EE and IEI.

**Keywords:** Attitude towards behavior, Entrepreneurship education, International entrepreneurial intention, Perceived behavioral control, Subjective norms.