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The Role of Self-Efficacy in Creating an Entrepreneurial Intention among the People with Disability with Special Reference to Entrepreneurs with Disability in Muscat

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Abstract:

Self-efficacy is a person's belief in his or her abilities to achieve success in a given situation. Various studies done previously revealed that self-efficacy has a positive impact on the behavior of a person. As the self-efficacy beliefs increases, even entrepreneurs were able to perform much better in businesses. This study is an empirically designed research which focuses on exploring the impact of self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention among the persons with disability. Survey data was collected from 79 disabled entrepreneurs selected randomly who are operating their business in Muscat Governorate in Sultanate of Oman. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. The findings of the research indicate that self-efficacy has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention among the disabled persons.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurs, Disability, Self-Efficacy, Entrepreneurial intention*

Introduction

According to the National Centre for Statistics and information, 2020, there are around 42,304 persons living with disability in the Sultanate of Oman. This means that in every 1000 Omani citizens, 15 persons live with some disability. Al Dhahirah Governorate has the highest number of persons living with disability, while Al Wusta Governorate has recorded the least. Around 15.9 percent of the total number of people with disability are from the Governorate of Muscat. Out of the total populations living with disabilities at least 20% suffer from severe mobility, cognitive, mental and sensory diminishment which results in limiting their ability to sustain

themselves financially without the proper rehabilitation and training. These vulnerable yet most resilient people are excluded from the main stream. They face a high level of discrimination and experience, adverse socio-economic position compared to the people without disabilities like poor health condition, less education, very low chances of employment and living below the minimum income category which is known as borderline poverty (Grammenos 2011). There is a need for their rehabilitation, and self-employment or entrepreneurship is one possible solution to end this problem. Self-employment is acknowledged as a potential rehabilitation vocational tool which can help the disabled

people to integrate better into the labour market (Arnold and Seekins 2002)

The purpose of this paper was to explore the level of self-efficacy among the persons with disability in Oman and its impact on their entrepreneurial intention. More specifically the objective is to identify the impact of changes made by the self-efficacy on entrepreneurial intention among the disabled.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Pagan (2009) Persons with disability face the discrimination by the employers. The highest discrimination is with the persons who are suffering from mental and physical disabilities. Self-employment is the best option for these people for earning incomes and increasing the standard of living. They will not only find employment for themselves, but will be able to create more jobs. For tackling the labour market disadvantages and social exclusion, Policy makers in various countries have perceived Entrepreneurship the best option (De Clerq & Honig 2011)

Various studies have been made on self-efficacy Bandura (2005) defines self-efficacy as the self-belief that help a person to successful fulfill a certain task by organizing the various action to demonstrate such performance. Pajares (2002) discusses that self-efficacy is the pivotal factor of success through self-encouragement. Accordingly, he stresses on the fact that self-efficacy is the self-belief that one can achieve success and is not related to the self-ability.

Studies made on the impact of self-efficacy on entrepreneurial intention revealed that there was a positive relation between the two. Restrepo et.al.(2018) examined the self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention among university students and found out that positive self-efficacy perception has a positive influence on the entrepreneurial intention. Another study made by Chen et.al. (1998) acknowledged that self-efficacy plays a vital

role in determining whether individuals can pursue entrepreneurship as career. Li-Yu & Jian-Hao (2019) states that Entrepreneurial self-efficacy means confidence in one's self abilities which has a very influential role in shaping entrepreneurial intention

RESEARCH DESIGN

Population and Sample:

The population is composed of the people living with Disabilities, more specifically the entrepreneurs who are disabled. Data was collected from 79 disabled entrepreneurs from Muscat Governorate.

Data and Sources of Data:

The research used data from both primary and secondary sources. A well-structured questionnaire was used to collect the Primary data. The secondary data was gathered from research journals, reports and books.

Theoretical Framework:

This research paper is quantitative. Entrepreneurial intention among the persons with disability is the dependent variable and Self efficacy is chosen as the independent variable. The variables are measured using the five point Likert's scale technique.

Methodology and Tools:

Raw data was collected through google forms which was analyzed using SPSS software. The reliability of the items in the questionnaire was tested using Cronbach's Alpha. Descriptive Statistics was applied to know the level of self-efficacy of the entrepreneurs who are disabled. Correlation analysis was applied to identify the factors determining entrepreneurial intention among the disabled entrepreneurs.

Research Objectives:

- To investigate the level of self-efficacy of the disabled entrepreneurs
- To analyze the impact of self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention of the disabled entrepreneurs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for Self-Efficacy

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I can remain calm focused stressful situation	79	3.86	0.327
I believe I can establish a successful business	79	3.78	0.39
I can always solve difficult problems if I try hard	79	3.69	0.273
In cases someone oppose I can find means to get what i want	79	3.43	0.375
I am optimistic and I am sure that I will be able to deal all unforeseen events efficiently	79	3.63	0.311
I can find several solutions when confronted with problem	79	3.76	0.176
I can confidently handle situations at ease	79	3.63	0.232

Source: Computed data

Table 1 gives the descriptive statistics for Self Efficacy. Of the seven constructs used for understanding the self-efficacy of the disabled people leading to Entrepreneurial drive, “I can remain calm and focused in stressful situation has the highest mean and standard deviation of 3.86 and 0.327 respectively. The next highest quality showing the self-efficacy of the disabled people is that “I believe I can establish a successful business”. Having mean of 3.78 and standard deviation of 0.390 followed by the “I can find several solutions when confronted with problem” having a mean of 3.76 and standard deviation of 0.176. In all the standard deviation are below value 1 and hence there is no much deviations in the responses from the respondents.

Table 2: Correlation analysis between various constructs of Self Efficacy and Entrepreneurial Intention

Particulars		Entrepreneurial Intention
I can remain calm and focused in stressful situation	Pearson Correlation	0.694
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0
I believe I can establish a successful business	Pearson Correlation	0.623
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0
I can always solve difficult problems if I try hard	Pearson Correlation	0.534
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.017
In case someone oppose, I can find means to get what I want	Pearson Correlation	0.491
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.021
I am optimistic and I am sure that I will be able to deal all unforeseen events efficiently	Pearson Correlation	0.503
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0
I can find several solutions when confronted with problems	Pearson Correlation	0.661
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0
I can confidently handle situations at ease	Pearson Correlation	0.506
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0

Source: Computed data

Table 2 gives the details of the correlation between the dependent variable Entrepreneurial intention with the independent variables denoting self-efficacy which are I can remain calm and focused in stressful situation, I believe I can establish a successful business, I can always solve difficult problems if I try hard, in cases someone oppose I can find means to get what I want, I am optimistic and I am sure that I will be able to deal all unforeseen events efficiently. I can find several solutions when confronted with problem. I can confidently handle situations at ease. The highest correlation is with the intention to become an entrepreneur with self-efficacy of people with disability is “I can remain calm and focused in stressful situation” with a correlation value of 0.694, followed by “I can find several solutions when confronted with problems” with correlation value of 0.661 there after “I believe I can establish a successful business” with a correlation value of 0.623.

FINDINGS:

The findings other than the ones mentioned above are that the persons with disability were attracted towards entrepreneurship for other reasons excluding their self-efficacy. The reasons are the flexible working hours, more free time, being their own boss, pursuing their passion and interest towards creating something new.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

The focus of this research was on the impact of self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention among the disabled entrepreneurs. It was observed that various studies were made on the relationship between the self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention among abled

persons by other researchers. However there were no studies on exploring the relationship between the self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention among the disabled entrepreneurs in Oman.

This research has revealed that there is a positive impact of self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention among the disabled entrepreneurs. The disabled people are strong in emotions and show qualities of self-efficacy. The Government should try to support these people by providing customized skill based training programs and advise them on different aspects of business operations so that they become more confident and more positive. Government monitored Self Help Groups can be formed to provide continuous support through advice and consultation to the disabled people in their journey of entrepreneurship till they are experienced and are able to conduct business independently without the help of others.

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