

## **An Assessment on the Entrepreneurial Inclination of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students of Kerala**

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**Abstract:** *The paper explores the level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School business and commerce branch students of Kerala and tests whether significant difference exists in the Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students based on Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order. For this purpose, 350 Vocational Higher Secondary School Students from 10 schools of Kerala were selected through stratified sampling method and a Scale on Attitude towards Entrepreneurship for Vocational Higher Secondary School Students was administered to them. The study revealed that a low level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship exists among the Vocational Higher Secondary School business and commerce branch students of Kerala and Gender-wise, Parental Occupation-wise and Birth Order-wise Vocational Higher Secondary School Students differed significantly in their Attitude towards Entrepreneurship.*

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurial inclination., Vocational Higher Secondary School Students*

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### **I. Introduction**

An Entrepreneur is a person who brings together the three factors of production namely land, labour and capital, organizes it, innovates new products or services, undertakes risks, designs new strategies to face competition, captures the market and enjoys the profit. Countries across the world have realized that it is the Entrepreneurs activities which decide the success and growth of an economy. Entrepreneurship has wider aims like generating employment opportunities, bringing innovation, increasing the productivity, promoting balanced regional development, boosting export trade, reducing the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few, making people self-sufficient, bringing tourists to a nation and earning foreign currency. So entrepreneurs are nations treasure that must be nourished, guarded, emboldened and promoted as much as possible.

### **II. Need And Significance**

Entrepreneurship is an engine for economic progress, job creation, social adjustment and personal fulfillment. Entrepreneurship is the attitude of the mind to seek opportunities, to take calculated risks and derive benefits by setting up a venture. Inculcating entrepreneurial spirit among youth right from their childhood helps them to make all walks of life entrepreneurial.

It is found that a positive relationship exists between education and business creation (Luthje and Frank, 2002). [1]. This requires inculcating entrepreneurial values and skills in the students at a younger age by introducing entrepreneurship in the education system. As such Entrepreneurship is included in the Kerala Vocational Higher Secondary School curriculum named as ‘General Foundation Course-Entrepreneurship and Management’ as a compulsory subject for all the second year students as they are close to entering working life and self-employment is a valuable option for them.

The main objective of Entrepreneurship Education is aimed in changing students’ mind state to become entrepreneurial and results in the formation of new businesses. In achieving this, the design of entrepreneurship education curriculum need to be creative, innovative, imaginative and most importantly ‘tying academic learning to the real world’ (Robinson and Haynes, 1991).[2].

### **III. Statement Of The Problem**

The investigator made an effort to find out how effective is the existing Entrepreneurship Education in developing the Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational higher secondary business and commerce branch students who are found to have the highest probability of becoming businessmen of tomorrow. Hence the study entitled as “An Assessment on the Entrepreneurial Inclination of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students of Kerala”.

### Objectives Of The Study

- To assess the level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students.
- To test whether significant difference exists in the Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students based on Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order.

### Hypotheses Of The Study

The hypotheses of the study were formulated as follows:

- The Vocational Higher Secondary School Students have moderate level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship.
- There exists significant difference in Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students on the basis of Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order.

## IV. Methodology

**Sample:** The sample for the study consisted of 350 Vocational Higher Secondary School business and commerce branch students from 10 schools of Kerala selected through stratified sampling method.

### Tools Used

A five point likert type Scale on Attitude towards Entrepreneurship for Vocational Higher Secondary School Students prepared by the investigator (Menon & Meera, 2011) was used for obtaining primary data from the second year students studying in Vocational Higher Secondary Schools of Kerala. There were 37 statements in the final scale containing 20 positive statements and 17 negative statements.

## V. Analysis And Interpretation

The collected data was subjected to statistical treatment. The level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship was assessed using one sample t-test and comparison of the mean scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship based on Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order was done by using t-test and analysis of variance. The result of the analysis is given below:

### V.1. Assessing the Level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students for the Total Sample

One sample t-test was conducted on the Attitude scores to assess the level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School students for the Total Sample. For this the hypothesized mean is considered to be '111' (37\*3), (37, being the number of items in the final tool and 3 being the middle most score of the 5 point scale). The one sample t-statistic together with p-values ( $p < 0.05$ ), are used to evaluate whether the mean of the Total Samples significantly differ from the hypothesized mean ' $\mu = 111$ '. If there is significant difference the hypothesis ' $\mu = 111$ ' is rejected and if there is no significant difference between t-statistic and hypothesized mean, ( $p > 0.05$ ), the null hypothesis ' $\mu = 111$ ' is accepted.

**Table 1. Data and Results of One sample t-test of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship for the Total Sample**

Total	M	SD	N	df	Comparison Value	95% CI for Mean Difference	t	p-value
Attitude towards Entrepreneurship	103.20	12.3	350	349	111	-9.093 to -6.507	11.86	0.000

The TABLE 1, shows that the sample mean 103.20 (SD=12.3) is significantly different from the hypothesized mean 111, with a t value 11.86, and p-value is 0.000. The 95% confidence interval for the Total Sample mean ranged from -9.093 to -6.507. The results support the conclusion that the level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship for the Total Sample is significantly lower than the moderate position.

### V.2. Comparison of the Mean Scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship Based on Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order.

The significance of difference in the Attitude of Vocational Higher Secondary School Students towards Entrepreneurship based on the independent variables is tested by using t test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The t value, F value and p-value obtained is used to find out the level of significance of difference.

**Table 2. Comparison of the Mean Scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship Based on Gender**

Gender	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	p-value
Boys	170	108.8	10.8	9.12**	0.000
Girls	180	98	11.3		

\*\* indicates difference significant at 0.01 level

From the TABLE 2, it is clear that Attitude towards Entrepreneurship possessed by the Vocational Higher Secondary School Boys (Mean Score =108.8) is greater when compared to the Girls. (Mean Score=98). Since test of statistical significance shows  $t=9.12$  with a p-value 0.000 it can be concluded that there exist significant difference in the Attitude towards Entrepreneurship between the Boys and Girls of the Vocational Higher Secondary Schools of Kerala.

**Table 3. Comparison of the Mean Scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship based on Parental Occupation (Classified as Non Business and Business Parents)**

Parental Occupation	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	p-value
Non Business	304	102.1	12.0	4.37**	0.000
Business	46	110.4	11.7		

\*\* indicates difference significant at 0.01 level

The highest mean score of 110.4 is shown for Vocational Higher Secondary School students having Business as their Parental Occupation and the least score with regard to the Attitude towards Entrepreneurship is for students with Parental Occupation as Non Business (mean score=102.1) as per the TABLE 3. Test of statistical significance shows that the  $t$  is 4.37 with a p-value 0.000 which is significant at one percent level. Hence it can be concluded that Attitude towards Entrepreneurship of the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students varies with the Parental Occupation.

**Table 4. Comparison of the Mean Scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship based on Birth Order (Classified as Eldest, Middle and Youngest Children)**

Birth Order	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	p-value
Eldest	153	112.8	9.2	240.61**	0.000
Middle	111	100.5	6.8		
Youngest	86	89.7	7.0		

\*\* indicates difference significant at 0.01 level

In TABLE 4, Birth Order of the students studying in the Vocational Higher Secondary Schools of Kerala is used as one of the independent variable for the analysis of the data relating to Attitude towards Entrepreneurship. It is clear that the students having Birth Order as Eldest are having higher Attitude towards Entrepreneurship (Mean Score=112.8) followed by students having Middle Birth Order (Mean Score=100.5). The lowest mean score of 89.7 is shown against Vocational Higher Secondary Students falling in the Birth Order as Youngest. Test of statistical significance shows that ( $F=240.61$ ) with a p-value 0.000 is significant at one percent level. Hence it can be concluded that Attitude towards Entrepreneurship differ significantly based on the Birth Order.

### Findings of the Study

- There exists statistically significant difference in the Total Sample. This indicates that a low level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship exists among the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students of Kerala.
- The comparison of the mean scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship is found to be significant in the case of all independent variables namely, Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order.

### Educational Implications

- The time allotted for teaching 'General Foundation Course- Entrepreneurship and Management' in the Vocational Higher Secondary School time table is very limited. The time provided for teaching the subject and for on the job trainings should be increased.
- Curriculum of 'General Foundation Course- Entrepreneurship and Management' taught in Vocational Higher Secondary Schools should be reformed and it should be specially designed for Vocational stream of students for developing the spirit of Entrepreneurship among them by considering the views teachers, students, alumni, Business practitioners, local communities and researchers in Entrepreneurship.
- Although there are a wide range of methodologies for teaching Entrepreneurship lecture is primarily used by General Foundation Course Teachers due to lack of time. Methods such as case studies, business planning workshops, frequent field visits together with interactions with successful Entrepreneurs etc. should be promoted in Vocational Schools.

- Strong links between the formal school system and the labour market are critical. This will help in identifying and actively engaging local and national Entrepreneurs in the learning process.
- Entrepreneurship clubs should compulsorily formed in schools and activities such as organising business plan competitions, showcasing the innovative business ideas of students and conducting exhibitions of products produced by the students will help to promote Entrepreneurship.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The study found out that there exist a low level of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship among the Vocational Higher Secondary School Students of Kerala and hence the first hypothesis is rejected. The second hypothesis is accepted since comparison of mean scores of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship is found to be significant in the case of all independent variables namely Gender, Parental Occupation and Birth Order. So it can be concluded that Entrepreneurial Attitude cannot be built up in a short span of time. It should be imbibed in the students right from their younger school stages for increasing their confidence in entrepreneurial abilities and to use these skills to start new ventures in future.

## **References**

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