



# Influence of Education on Entrepreneurial Spirit Development

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ABSTRACT

In the global competition of the economy, the entrepreneurship education is regarded as one of the most important sources of competitive advantage, for both individuals and countries. This study examines how school education has an impact on development of entrepreneurial spirit. The Study is confined to Small scale. A sample of 110 entrepreneurs were selected in Brasov region, Romania. For this study primary data was collected through questionnaire method. On the basis of the analysis were drawn the interesting conclusions on the role of education in development of entrepreneurial spirit. The findings indicate that school education has increased the interest to become an entrepreneur. Most respondents have the opinion that the education helps in understanding the role of entrepreneurs in society. Also, a majority of respondents tend to agree that their education gave them the skills and know-how to enable them to begin a business

KEYWORDS

education, entrepreneurship education, entrepreneurial spirit, Brasov region, Romania

INTRODUCTION

The educational system needs to permanently adapt to the demands of the labor market to develop the competencies required by a very dynamic business environment. Entrepreneurship education represents an important step for economic development and competitiveness. Entrepreneurship education is being promoted in most European countries. These states promotes and facilitate entrepreneurial education in schools to provide the knowledge and skills that are required to developing an entrepreneurial culture.

The purpose of entrepreneurship education is to form those competencies necessary for obtaining a job, for developing the entrepreneurial spirit and the business initiatives. The education in entrepreneurship can be successfully developed by the involvement of the education system in partnership with business environment and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship. Therefore, school education can to contribute to the developing entrepreneurship skills and to the knowledge about business and about the role of entrepreneurs in society. Also, education can to contribute to the encouraging entrepreneurial initiative and to the development of entrepreneurial attitude.

There are several ways of delivering entrepreneurship education in schools. Thus, entrepreneurship education is being incorporated in schools at primary, secondary or tertiary level. Also, entrepreneurship education may be offered as a separate subject, as a compulsory subject or optional subjects (European Comisia, 2012).

Based on the aspects highlighted above, this research provides a analysis on the influence of school education on entrepreneurial spirit development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Entrepreneurial education implies a strong motivation for succeeding, the initiative in front of real issues of society, the accountability in risk taking. It is argued that educated individuals may have an increased ability to run a business. In opinion of Plaschka and Welsh (1990) a higher educational attainment can influence entrepreneurship by making individuals more creative.

The relationship between entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intentions is demonstrated by many empirical studies. Kolvereid and Moen (1997), Lee et al. (2005), Sánchez (2011) have shown that entrepreneurship education influences individuals' intentions to start a business. It is found that the probability of being entrepreneur is higher among those who have participated in an entrepreneurship course. Also, Peterman and Kennedy (2003), Davidsson and Honig (2003), Menzies and Paradi (2003), Gibcus et al. (2012) find that individuals who have participated in an entrepreneurship course are much more likely to have started a business, have more knowledge about new jobs creation and have a lower aversion to risk than individuals who did not take an entrepreneurship course. Hence, the probability of being entrepreneur is higher among those who agree that their school education helped them to develop entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Nowadays, to reach a economic progress it is necessary to acquire knowledge about the entrepreneurship. The education system is important for develop the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, required by a very dynamic society.

The study was designed to explore the relationship between education and entrepreneurial spirit development.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to investigate influence of education on entrepreneurial spirit development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as follows

- 1. To study whether the school education helps in understanding the role of entrepreneurs in society.
- 2. To find out whether the school education increases interest in becoming an entrepreneur.
- 3. To ascertain whether the school education helps to develop entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.

METHODOLOGY

This study investigated the influence of education on entrepreneurial spirit development among entrepreneurs from Brasov region in Romania.

The sample for the study was limited to 110 respondents. Of these were 77 male and 33 female. Both primary data and secondary data were used in the study. Primary data was collected from the field survey by using a questionnaire. It was designed on the five point scale: strongly agree (5), tend to agree (4), neutral (3) tend to disagree (2) and strongly disagree (1). Secondary sources of data relates to the journals, books, Eurobarometer polls, internet, etc .

The data were analyzed and interpreted by applying the weighted average method.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Based on above stated objectives the collected data have been analyzed in appropriate chapters.

1. Influence of school education in understanding the role of entrepreneurs in society

Table 1: Opinion on the influence of school education in understanding the role of entrepreneurs in society

Opinion	FREQUENCY(F)	POINTS(P)	FP
Strongly Agree	39	5	195
Tend to Agree	48	4	192
Neutral	13	3	39
Tend to Disagree	8	2	16
Strongly Disagree	2	1	2
TOTAL	110		444

Weighted average =  $\Sigma fp / \Sigma f = 444 / 110 = 4.03$

The above table represents the influence of school education in understanding the role of entrepreneurs in society. The value of weighted average is 4.03. Therefore, we conclude that majority of the respondents agree that their school education helped them to better understand the role of entrepreneurs in society.

2. Role of school education in increased interest in becoming entrepreneur

Table 2: Opinion on the role of school education in increased interest in becoming entrepreneur

Opinion	FREQUENCY(F)	POINTS(P)	FP
Strongly Agree	33	5	165
Tend to Agree	41	4	164
Neutral	18	3	54
Tend to Disagree	14	2	28
Strongly Disagree	4	1	4
TOTAL	110		415

Weighted average =  $\Sigma fp / \Sigma f = 415 / 110 = 3.77$

From the above table, it can be observed that the value of weighted average is 3.77 and it is nearer to the score of “tend to agree” factor. The dates show that is a connection between entrepreneurship education and the probability of being entrepreneur. So, majority of the respondents agree that their school education has increased their interest to become an entrepreneur.

3. Influence of school education in developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge

Table 3: Opinion on the influence of school education in developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge

Opinion	FREQUENCY(F)	POINTS(P)	FP
Strongly Agree	29	5	145
Tend to Agree	37	4	148
Neutral	14	3	42
Tend to Disagree	24	2	48
Strongly Disagree	6	1	6
TOTAL	110		389

Weighted average =  $\Sigma fp / \Sigma f = 389 / 110 = 3.53$

The value of weighted average is 3.53. It is interesting to note that there was a negative change in the opinions of respondents on influence of education in developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. 30 of respondents disagree that their school education helped them to develop entrepreneurial skills (24 tend to disagree and 6 totally disagree). However, it should be noted that most of the respondents agreed that their school education helped them to develop entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.

CONCLUSIONS

The dates and the analysis from the previous paragraphs allow us to formulate certain conclusions regarding the role of education in development of entrepreneurial spirit. The research reveals that there is significant relationship between education and entrepreneurial spirit development. Based on the aspects highlighted above, it turns that the most respondents agree that their education helped them to better understand the role of entrepreneurs in society. Also, this research suggest that the interest for the status of entrepreneur is stimulated by education. The respondents are optimistic about the effects that education had in the development of a sense of entrepreneurial initiative. With respect to the influence of school education in developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, the respondents were more critical. This is explained by the fact that it was found out that the education system in Romania is still more focused on the transfer of information and less on developing skills, creativity and entrepreneurial practical competences.

However, in recent years, there has been a growing focus on learning about entrepreneurship at school and promoting an entrepreneurship culture.

Romania’s entrepreneurs are more interested in the development of the educational and training programs that are able to develop the competencies required by a active business environment. Also, the number of courses about entrepreneurship at school has increased. Now a special importance is given to the promoting the development of entrepreneurial attitudes by students and offering support in order to start up their own businesses. Therefore, promoting the learning about entrepreneurship at school requires a strong collaboration between educational institutions and businesses in order to making entrepreneurship education efficient.

In conclusion, the study found that majority of the respondents think that their school education helped to develop their entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, and attitude. Most of the respondents have developed their interest to start a business and have more knowledge about the role of entrepreneurs in society and entrepreneurial career. Consequently, the findings indicate that education can to contribute to the development of entrepreneurial spirit.

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