
Editorial

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1 Introduction

“Innovation is the specific tool of entrepreneurs, the means by which they exploit change as an opportunity for a different business or a different service. It is capable of being presented as a discipline, capable of being learned, capable of being practiced. Entrepreneurs need to search purposefully for the sources of innovation, the changes and their symptoms that indicate opportunities for successful innovation. And they need to know and to apply the principles of successful innovation.”

[Drucker, (2006), p.19]

Entrepreneurship and innovation, as continuous and complementary processes (Schmitz et al., 2016), share the same roots (Schumpeter, 1934) but in different scientific directions (Landström et al., 2015). According to Drucker (2006), entrepreneurship is defined as “A systematic innovation, which involves purposeful and organised search for changes, and it is the systematic analysis of the opportunities such changes might offer for economic and social innovation”. Therefore, innovation is the source of entrepreneurship which develops business capacity and boosts growth [Brem, (2008), p.14]. Mutually, entrepreneurship allows innovation to flourish and to realise its economic and social value (Zhao, 2005). Accordingly, they appear as critical success factor for any firms (Dana, 1992, 1997).

Organisations today are faced with different challenges to be at par or even better than their counterparts to obtain competitive advantage (Zaei and Kapil, 2016). As a result, leading organisations take into account a framework for developing a future-based business. It identifies the frontiers where growth opportunities, enhanced business decisions and sustainable competitive advantage intersect and create measurable short-term effects. This in turn leads to long-term prospects which is termed ‘strategic innovation’. Therefore, strategic innovation appears as a pure competitive initiative taken by any organisation (Roy and Yami, 2009). It is a focal point in the framework of development of businesses in the future. It takes into account growth opportunities and successful development and therefore, becomes the ground for accelerated decision-making process involving commercial procedures. Strategic innovation also has a significant impact on the stability of competitive advantage in business. In advanced organisations, an amalgamation of creative, non-traditional processes and traditional methods create a framework for operational teams that are driven by strategic innovation. This movement modifies the progress mechanism of the organisation and encourages them to recognise new revenue streams, create a platform for achieving success, innovative innovations in products and services and enhanced business models.

The theme of this special issue for the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* is ‘Entrepreneurship and strategic innovation’. Our goal is to develop and share knowledge and experience in entrepreneurship and innovation to pave new ways for business growth in developing economies. Hence, in this special issue, the selected papers would contribute to a growing body of knowledge on entrepreneurship and strategic innovation. It would provide useful insights for entrepreneurs and managers on ways to approach public, private and strategy-driven organisations.

2 Articles in this special issue

The first paper is titled 'The big five personality dimensions as a predictor of entrepreneurial status in Egypt'. This paper investigates the correlation between five factor model of personality and the entrepreneurial status. The analysis explores the impact of factors of the big five model on predicting entrepreneurial status in Egypt by differentiating entrepreneurs from non-entrepreneurial managers. Using a sample of 109 entrepreneurs and 117 managers, they find that entrepreneurs score higher than managers on extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness dimensions. It means thereby that these personality dimensions significantly contribute in predicting entrepreneurial status in Egypt. In contrast, the findings prove that managers score higher than entrepreneurs on neuroticism which means that this personality factor could not contribute to predict entrepreneurial status in Egypt. For future research, this article suggests that cultural factors could be considered as moderating into the relationship between big five personality factors and entrepreneurial status.

The second paper is titled 'Selection of preference order entrepreneurial skills by using fuzzy analytical hierarchy process (the case study of entrepreneurs in Iran and Malaysia)'. This paper aims to identify and rank the main factors of entrepreneurship which significantly develops entrepreneur's entrepreneurial skills. The method used in the paper is FAHP and the study is conducted in the SMEs of Iran and Malaysia. The research takes into account three groups of variables, namely, personal, business management and technical skills and its reflection on entrepreneurial skills. The results show that the maximum relative weight and preference order for sub-criteria of three groups are innovativeness, technical business management and decision making, respectively.

The third paper is entitled 'Identification and ranking challenges facing the growth of small and medium-sized firms using DEMATEL, ANP and VIKOR (case study: administrative and official furniture manufacturing industry)'. This article focuses on the identifying and ranking the main challenges of furniture and wooden artificial production industry in growth stage in Iran. Adopting a multi-criteria decision-making approach, firstly, the relationship between main challenges, criteria, and sub-criteria of conceptual model based on Decision Making Trial and Evaluation of Laboratory (DEMATEL) approach analysed, secondly, prioritising of each challenge conducted by multi-criteria optimisation and compromise solution (VIKOR) method and data analysed with the help of analytical network processing (ANP). The research considered four categories of main challenges namely, government, human resource, production, and final costs. Its results contribute to the discussion about the effectiveness of enterprise management in terms of strategy, short-term, and long-term planning to set a clear vision and solution about main problems faced by SMEs.

The fourth paper is titled 'Investigate and analyse of the extent of considering entrepreneurship concept components in the context of professional and technical textbooks of high school first grade in the academic year 2013–2014'. This study focuses on the contents of entrepreneurship in high school professional and technical textbooks in Iran. The research takes into account five variables including creativity, risk-taking, internal control, independence, and achievement motivation. By adopting a descriptive-analytical approach and content analysis, the researchers explored that creativity component had the highest frequency (630 cases) and risk-taking had the

lowest frequency (92 cases) in vocational and technical textbook of junior high school. The results also show that the maximum frequency for all entrepreneurship components belongs to seventh, eighth and ninth grade, respectively, of junior high school in Iran.

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