

ABSTRACT

The nature of study is qualitative and the key objective achieved by this research is the analysis of entrepreneurial character of the Government College University Lahore. The research also reveals the main drivers of and barriers to the prevalence of an entrepreneurial university in the context of Pakistani higher educational institutions. It is based on a case study design and equally primary and secondary data is utilized, which are thematically analyzed. The information is gathered through semi-structured in depth interviews.

The concept of entrepreneurial has emerged over the time and different authors have contributed towards the literature. All demonstrates that in today's world, the responsibility of higher educational institutions towards the society has been increased. This has driven the universities to transform themselves into entrepreneurial universities. Study presents various drivers and barriers of entrepreneurial universities in Pakistan highlighting the literature gap and setting the research agenda and afterwards the theoretical framework to achieve the objectives.

Worldwide competition is the most important driver of emergence of entrepreneurial universities. The main factors are the university itself, and then there is the workforce of the university. After that what counts the most is the collaboration of the university with the external environment. The main leading drivers include students, professors, parents, councils and boards, schools and colleges. The alumni of the university, the international agencies, the development agencies, local government and community, the associations or non-governmental organizations, other academic institutions, media and business are the most prominent drivers of higher educational institutions in Pakistan to become entrepreneurial. The study also reveals the basic barriers that restricts the educational institutions in Pakistan to become entrepreneurial. The lack of help by the government of Pakistan is a major barrier for the growth of entrepreneurial universities. There is lack of funds and workforce trainings. The lack of funding and training has declined not only the entrepreneurial but also the traditional impact of the universities. Cultural and social factors also play a significant role which can urge or stop a university from being entrepreneurial. For example, Government College University has set some standards, qualities, practices and convictions that the individuals of GCU receive and act likewise. Pakistani universities are also affected by the economic and legal

conditions such as the loan charges, the taxes, trade rates, recession, depression, the unemployment rate etc. Well, there is a need for the government of Pakistan to assist the higher educational institutes so that they can cope up with the monetary burdens and improve the teaching standards. It is also the responsibility of government to provide legal structures to run the system and also to provide grants and legal recognition to all higher educational institutions.

Thus, the educational institutions should have proper measures to find the strong and weak areas so that, strategies can be made to strengthen the weak points. With the help of this research, some policies are recommended i.e. there is a need of proper entrepreneurial agenda and then a model to implement that agenda. There should be appropriate policies and strategies to support the entrepreneurial mindset. There is a need to utilize the dedication of resources. Committed and enthusiastic people should be given platforms by which they may contribute to the entrepreneurial agenda. Collaboration is very important. It is essential that all the units and departments of the university to work as one proper entrepreneurial channel. Only then, the ongoing activities can have a proper impact and influence. There is a severe need to overcome such financial constraints. It is necessary to enhance interaction with external world for entrepreneurial gains.

Well, due to time constraints the research has been limited to just one university of Pakistan. The other important thing is that the university is very well reputed and has its roots in the history. The research conducted on this university can be implemented in each and every university of Pakistan with maybe, some slight differences. Moreover, the study covers a public sector university and does not capture the perspective of private sector universities in Pakistan. The limitation of this study provides a track to the interested researchers for future. Study should be conducted on vast scale so that its impact could be maximized. It can be steered on the universities in public and private sector in any of the cities in Pakistan. A better approach could be a comparative study of two universities of government and private sector.