

Abstract

Entrepreneurship has played an integral part in economic development. This is why it continues to occupy a central position in research. Entrepreneurship research has been explored through various angles but the emotional aspects have remained underexplored. This research study investigates this emotional perspective of entrepreneurship in order to find important emotional precursors of intentions to start one's own business. This research seeks to evaluate hypothesized direct and indirect relationships between emotional intelligence, creativity, attitude towards entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intention.

This research study examines the impact of trait emotional intelligence on entrepreneurial intentions of public sector university students of Lahore. For this purpose, a survey instrument was developed by adopting various items of constructs measuring trait emotional intelligence, creativity, attitudes towards entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intentions from various valid and reliable researches studies. Data was collected from a sample of 400 students of 8 public sector universities of Lahore. The data collected was then analyzed through five sequential steps of Structural Equational Modeling (SEM).

Results provided strong support for the hypothesized model and relationships among the variables. It was found that emotional intelligence of students positively impacted their entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions. Results also provided evidence that creative dispositions of students mediated the relationships between emotional intelligence and entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions. Emotional intelligence was found to enhance student's creativity and these enhanced creative abilities were found to be directly influencing attitudes towards entrepreneurship and intentions to start business.

This study provides valuable and unique insights to educators, policy makers (institutional and government level), career counselors and students or potential entrepreneurs. Along with these practical implications, this research study also contributes to entrepreneurship and trait emotional intelligence research. This study also opens doors to new arenas and crossovers of entrepreneurship and emotional dispositions.