

External Factors Towards Entrepreneurship as a Career Choice for Students in Community Colleges

Chai Siew Ling ^{1*}, Mohamad Abdillah Bin Royo ²

1 School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, 81310 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia. +60127366529. Email: chai@graduate.utm.my

2 School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, 81310 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia. +60197580802. Email: abdillah@utm.my

*Corresponding Author

Abstract

Organizational business ventures are closely related to the field of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs are responsible for developing a business plan to obtain financial and human resources available in the market. The field of entrepreneurship plays an important role in the economic development of a country by creating various job opportunities for the people. Malaysia always strives to foster an interest in entrepreneurship among students, especially students in higher education institutes, so that they can pursue entrepreneurial careers after graduation. However, the efforts have shown that the lack of success is due to the low number of graduates in entrepreneurial careers. This study examined external factors towards entrepreneurship as a career choice for students from 103 community colleges in Malaysia. Three hundred eighty-one community college students participated in the study through analysis of interviews and survey data collected through online questionnaires distributed to respondents. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to obtain analytical, descriptive and regression data. The analysis of the survey data found that the external factors driving the students' wishes were at a high level, and the level of students' entrepreneurial career selection was at a moderately high level. Therefore, the Malaysian government must take solutions and provide appropriate measures to increase the selection rate for entrepreneurial careers among community college students.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship; Student Career Selection; Community College Malaysia; External Factors.s*

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: 07 Apr 2024

Revised: 08 Jun 2024

Accepted: 10 Jun 2024

Published: 01 Jul 2024

1.0. INTRODUCTION

In the current era of globalization, entrepreneurship is essential to productivity, providing job opportunities and information to develop a country's economy. A country's social and economic transformation depends on entrepreneurs' role regardless of race and ethnicity. The Malaysian Ministry of Education (KPM) has introduced the Malaysian National Higher Education Strategic Plan 2030 with the support of the People's Trust Council (MARA) to plan and provide an effective initiative strategy in holding an entrepreneurial skills development program for students (Annual Report 2022 MARA, 2023). This plan aims to stimulate the tendency and desire of students to engage in entrepreneurship more often so that they can successfully achieve their commercial progress in the country or abroad. The aspiration of progress is something important that has a close

relationship between people to inspire imagination in the daily life of their choice of progress. The element of career choice is one of the operations that take place from the sensitivity of the new generation towards the level of world development as the result of the sweat of early adulthood and youth (Stanly, 2023).

This study analyses interviews and survey data collected through online questionnaires, focusing on external factors influencing the choice of entrepreneurship as a career among community college students. External factors are elements outside the control of individual students that significantly impact their decision to pursue entrepreneurship. These factors include economic conditions, educational support, resource access, societal attitudes, and technological advancements. Economic conditions are a major external factor, as they dictate the overall health of the job market

and influence students' career choices. Students might opt for traditional employment in a thriving economy with ample job opportunities. Conversely, in challenging economic times with high unemployment rates, entrepreneurship may become a more attractive option to create self-employment and financial stability.

Educational support from community colleges plays a crucial role in shaping students' entrepreneurial aspirations. Institutions that offer entrepreneurship courses, mentorship programs, and business incubators can provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and support to start their ventures. Community colleges with solid ties to the local business community can also facilitate internships and networking opportunities, enhancing students' practical experience and confidence in pursuing entrepreneurship. Access to resources, such as funding, business networks, and technological tools, is another critical external factor. Community college students often face financial constraints, making it essential to have access to grants, loans, or investor networks to support their entrepreneurial endeavours. Additionally, access to business incubators, co-working spaces, and professional networks can provide valuable support and resources.

Societal attitudes towards entrepreneurship significantly influence students' career choices. Positive societal perceptions of entrepreneurship, including recognition of entrepreneurial success and support for innovation, can motivate students to consider this path. Conversely, negative attitudes or a lack of role models can deter students from pursuing entrepreneurial careers. Technological advancements offer both opportunities and challenges. Access to digital tools, online platforms, and emerging technologies can empower students to develop innovative business models and reach broader markets. However, keeping pace with rapid technological changes requires continuous learning and adaptation. By analyzing the survey data, this study aims to identify the key external factors affecting the choice of entrepreneurship as a career among community college students and provide insights into how these factors can be leveraged or mitigated to support their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Desires are the main driving force to want to grow to a certain level of an effective career field (Marsa et al., 2021). Our country is trying to change the phenomenon from a society that still works with the government to one that works privately. According to Noorizda, Mohd Aziz,

Norazman Harun, Maryam et al., Yaacob et al. and Anis Amira et al. (2018), the public always gives suggestions so that the people are willing to work on their own without help from others to support themselves and family members. This government support can directly encourage the community to start business activities by being willing to create their products to unearth talents as entrepreneurs. The activities of entrepreneurs in the field of business can improve the level of individual life and contribute to the development of the Malaysian economy (Yusof et al. and Tahir et al., 2021). In addition, the unemployment rate can be reduced among the people of our country due to the job opportunities offered by entrepreneurs (Hanafi et al. and Abdullah et al., 2022). According to Norasmah, Hariyaty and Armanurah et al. (2019), the culture of eating salary as a custom for the Bumiputra group can be reduced after more people choose a trade to become entrepreneurs.

Individuals who wish to become entrepreneurs need to know the elements of being an effective and efficient entrepreneur before engaging in trade and entrepreneurial activities. Entrepreneurs must have natural personality elements or be trained through various influential factors (Zakaria et al., 2021). According to them, natural personality elements are individuals' inherent traits and characteristics, which are relatively stable over time and influence their behaviour, thoughts, and emotions. These elements are often considered innate and can include resilience, creativity, risk-taking propensity, emotional stability, and conscientiousness. For entrepreneurs, possessing certain natural personality elements can be particularly advantageous in navigating the uncertainties and challenges of entrepreneurial ventures. These traits are crucial because they shape how entrepreneurs approach problems, make decisions, and interact with others. Understanding and leveraging these natural personality elements can enhance an entrepreneur's effectiveness and success.

According to Hisrich et al. (2021), the work background of the entrepreneur's mother and father and family members play an essential role in the entrepreneur's career by encouraging the credibility of the entrepreneur's skills towards their children. Wan et al., Lee et al. and Mahfood (2022) support the idea that the career of family members is related to the career choice of entrepreneurs. Encouragement is given to potential students towards the choice of entrepreneurial skills capable of producing professional entrepreneurs in the

future (Noorizda et al. and Mohd Aziz, 2023). According to Yaacob et al. (2020), providing early exposure to students to get involved in entrepreneurship is essential. The behaviour and image of the young generation towards the career of entrepreneurs must be correct. Awareness is applied to them starting at a young age so that entrepreneurial activity is a choice opportunity to earn a living from students who graduate at a higher level in the future (Amir et al. and Radzi et al., 2021).

2.0. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Although many studies on learning in entrepreneurship and selecting an entrepreneur's career have been conducted, those studies only focus on school students, polytechnic students, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) students, graduates of HEI and lecturers (Muhamad, 2022). Meanwhile, detailed studies on learning in entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial career selection involving community college students taking automotive courses in Malaysia need to be more detailed and extensive. This study is essential to create awareness for community college students taking automotive courses about the importance of entrepreneurship. A persistent research gap is due to the need for more desire among community college students taking automotive courses to engage in business activities. Because of this, this field should be reviewed by researching the factors contributing to the desire to learn entrepreneurship among community college students taking automotive courses, especially gap students attending entrepreneurship courses. Thus, the issues involving community college graduates taking automotive courses in Malaysia are essential matters that have become grievances among community college students and are also being discussed in this research.

Entrepreneurs' activities have opened so many opportunities for our country's people who desire a luxurious source of sustenance regardless of ethnicity and religion (Talib, 2019). A rapidly growing economy correlates with the country's entrepreneurial activity. Abd Aziz (2018) reports that a country can achieve progress and prosperity by having many entrepreneurs. The activities of entrepreneurs create more jobs for the people of our country. Entrepreneurship business activities of the organization are related to the activities of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs are responsible for developing their respective business plans to gain profit, source of income and human resources from the existing market.

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in developing the national economy by creating many job opportunities for the people.

Entrepreneurship is a crucial element emphasized in Technical and Vocational Education to produce more quality students by meeting the needs of the industry towards a highly skilled workforce after completing their studies. The private sector and the Malaysian government often try to unearth students' talents, including community college students, so they can continue entrepreneurial activities before completing further studies. The number of graduates who venture into entrepreneurial careers still needs to grow. Educational institutions produce more graduates multiple times, increasing the number of graduates in consecutive years. For example, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (2022) reported that the unemployment status among graduates in 2021 reached the highest rate since ten years ago, which is 33.7 per cent of 768,700 people (Alias, 2022). The number of unemployed graduates increased to 202,400 people last year; the unemployment growth rate is 22.5 per cent compared to 165,200 people recorded in 2021 based on the 2021 Graduate Statistics published by the Malaysian Statistics Department.

The high unemployment rate is a serious concern to the community, especially as our country still faces economic crises such as COVID-19, scorching weather and floods. After the COVID-19 crisis, job opportunities are increasingly limited, and many agencies or companies often need help with sources of revenue until they go bankrupt this quarter. In this scenario, the graduates who participated to find job opportunities had to compete with experienced members. Unstable economic changes limit job opportunities for graduates, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic. All colleges, polytechnics and institutions should take immediate action so that the issue of unemployment can be effectively overcome. The issue of unemployment can be overcome by changing the perception of students and graduates about the activities of entrepreneurs. Norasmah and Salmah (2019) hope that students and graduates can have a high view of entrepreneurship and choose a career after completing their studies. The relevant parties must strive to produce students and graduates who are brave and willing to take risks. All colleges, polytechnics and universities should conduct courses based on entrepreneurship criteria for all students to choose this subject (Rahman, 2023).

In addition, the National Institute of Higher Education Research (NIHER) has conducted a study on students consisting of technical and vocational sections in 2023, with results showing a lack of specific knowledge and skills in their field of study after graduating from university (Mazni et al., 2023). The government has assisted by ensuring that the colleges provide a strategic plan for graduate marketability to be a starting method and the act of providing students to experience the work environment for the graduates so that they can make the primary career choice in the field of entrepreneurship (Daily News, 2023). The main purpose of this plan provided to graduates is to solve the unemployment problem after graduation for graduates by choosing and venturing into entrepreneurial careers. According to Norasmah (2019), it is still moderate among our country's entrepreneurs who involve themselves in entrepreneurial activities and are highly competitive compared to other increasingly developing fields. Graduates face financial restrictions as a severe barrier to starting a new business (Nawi et al., 2023).

Various issues and challenges can be resolved once the graduates are interested and able to venture into business and entrepreneurship, which is considered to have high career potential in our world (Roslan, 2022). Entrepreneurship skills education that is effectively implemented in all HEI is the main desire and goal of the government to create a Malaysian society with a developed entrepreneurial career culture (Dawood et al., 2020). According to Kamaruddin (2021), the objective of providing various support and assistance to graduates so that they can start running their businesses after graduation is to provide enlightenment and entrepreneurial skills among community college students in entering the field of entrepreneurship more effectively and advanced in addition to being able to compete with other developed country entrepreneurs. This is the case. To what extent are there internal or external factors such as attitude, interest, the influence of family or friends, thinking, behaviour and economy for students choosing a career in entrepreneurship at the Malaysia community college level? According to Ab Omar (2021), studies on graduates' desire to get involved in entrepreneurship are rare and limited. Therefore, the researcher conducted this study on students at the community college level in the state of Johor, Malaysia, to identify external factors on the chosen career for the students after completing their studies at the community college, which consisted of the entrepreneurial skills section.

3.0. OBJECTIVE

This study aims to identify external factors that influence the selection of an entrepreneurial career as a career choice for students after graduating from a community college. The objective is to identify external factors such as environmental influences, family, peers, teachers, resources, and culture that influence the selection of an entrepreneurial career as a student's career choice after graduating from a community college.

4.0. METHODOLOGY

Methodology is a research method that plays an important role in obtaining results that can achieve a high level of reliability and validity in the research study (Purwati et al., 2020). Researchers must identify and use appropriate sampling and data analysis methods and match the objectives set in a study (Sulaiman, 2023). Furthermore, Cahyani (2024) stated that failure to implement the method can affect the accuracy of a research result. The research methodology used by the researcher is to identify internal and external factors and propose a learning framework for selecting an entrepreneurial career as a student's career choice after graduating from community college. This research is a research study that uses a qualitative and quantitative approach. According to Apandi and Merman (2023), strength can be obtained through combined research methods in a research study. This study method contains study design, population and sample, study instruments, data collection methods, data analysis methods, expected study findings and conclusions.

4.1. Research Design

A combined study using qualitative and quantitative approaches as the primary approach of the study is designed to identify external factors that influence students' preference for entrepreneurship as the primary career choice after graduating from a community college in Malaysia. Using interviews as a qualitative method and questionnaires as a survey method to obtain data is the best way (Noor, 2021). This method has the strength of allowing the researcher to identify how to measure variables from various information obtained in interviews and research questionnaires (Mageswaran, 2022). Many researchers, namely Othman (2020), Idrus (2021) and Kamaruddin et al. (2021), the use of survey research is more effective for researchers to analyze data from

respondents as well as statistically many variables in a short time. The use of combined research with interviews and questionnaires can obtain an overview of the problems obtained by the researcher in the study from qualitative data and quickly see quantitative data more effectively (Hussain, 2021).

According to Cahyani (2024), he has stated that failure to implement the method can affect the accuracy of a research result. Researchers can use the methodology to identify external factors that influence the selection of an entrepreneurial career as the main career choice of students after graduating from a Malaysian community college to choose their career field in entrepreneurship. This research is a research study that uses a combined approach. According to Apandi and Merman (2023), strength can be obtained through a study's combined research methods.

Apart from the qualitative approach, the quantitative approach also plays an important role in achieving validity in a study. Interviews conducted with respondents can help them appreciate what is said to be a career in their lives and obtain more complete data from the study conducted. The sample size of the qualitative approach is smaller than that of the quantitative approach. Qualitative approach data findings are formed from views recorded through interviews. The researcher conducted interviews with the participants as the main instrument in collecting qualitative approach research data. The role of the researcher is to observe and listen personally to the question to be assessed. The design of the qualitative approach is easily adapted according to the situation or easily flexible and easily modified according to the needs of the study. Researchers can be part of the participants by obtaining research data. Qualitative studies with a controlled sample size are selected based on the purpose that the researcher wants to study the study and not based on probability.

4.2. Population and Sample

Data collection is done through interviews and questionnaires. The population consists of students in community colleges in Malaysia, as many as 51245 students. According to the Krejcie and Morgan Table (1970), the correct sample size is 381 participants—the students in Malaysian public community colleges as the research population. Researchers took from account

students from one hundred and two public community colleges in Malaysia. Permission is also required to carry out a research study on garage owners who are entrepreneurs who have taken in the automotive program to appreciate what is said to be a career in the field of entrepreneurship through the interview method. Support and cooperation from various parties are essential, prioritized, and appreciated so the research study can be carried out successfully.

Apart from a qualitative approach, a quantitative approach with questionnaires was conducted on students for automotive programs at Malaysian community colleges who are entrepreneurs and not entrepreneurs willing to go through what is stated as the desire and career choice in entrepreneurship. Study students from an automotive program based on entrepreneurs are expected to be able to pursue a career in the field of entrepreneurship that focuses on business. Based on the study's findings, this is clear from their knowledge and experience. A reasonable choice for a research design allows a researcher to present the study's findings to facilitate the readers' understanding (Hassan, 2019).

4.2.1. Sampling Procedures

Graduate students at Malaysian Community College are a sample of the population in this study. Simple random sampling is the procedure used to measure the sample for the study. Respondents can be given equal opportunities for the desire to conduct a study with random sampling based on the population in question (Chua, 2021). Determining sample size plays a vital role in all types of research. Krejcie and Morgan (1970), used by Faridah Hanim (2019), can determine the sample size table based on Krejcie and Morgan; all samples have a significant relationship with the population.

4.2.2. Study Instrument

Interviews were implemented using qualitative methods, and questionnaires were used as a quantitative method for this study. According to Sathiyabama (2023), interview methods and slide questions are the most important instruments for every researcher in implementing one of the studies. Quality and effective instruments obtained by the researcher from the questionnaire can determine the value of the research and

simplify the process. Each element in the questionnaire has several important questions involving various positive statements and answers based on the study's Likert scale format (1976).

Thirty students who followed the program from public community colleges in other states in Malaysia were used to test the validity and reliability of the survey instrument as a pilot study because those community colleges were not selected in the study. The validity of the questionnaire should be greater than 0.30 and the reliability (Cronbach's alpha) greater than 0.70, which shows that the questionnaire is valid and reliable. The mean score can be calculated to interpret the results of the study analysis (Othman, 2020).

SPSS version 25 was used to analyze data based on descriptive statistical methods such as mean and standard deviation. Methods such as questionnaires are used to study students' internal and external factors in the selection of entrepreneurial careers in the college Malaysian community. A set of questionnaires can be distributed to respondents online to analyze survey data. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to obtain analytical data; descriptive analysis and regression could also be performed.

4.2.3. Data Collection

The researcher will conduct the questionnaire on the respondents at one hundred and two Malaysian Community Colleges using an application through the higher education system service to conduct online research. This method saves the researcher's time, energy, and expenses as much as possible, including the respondents involved in the research.

4.3. Analysis of Study Data

According to Yaakob et al. and Shuib et al. (2020), selecting an appropriate statistical test should consider the type of data scale, the number of samples, the type of measurement and the parametric and non-parametric data. Quantitative research and data analysis of student questionnaires used statistical regression tests to see the influence between dependent and independent variables. The purpose of this statistical test is to see the following:

- **Descriptive statistics** - Find the mean value, percentage and standard deviation to report background and level information.
- **Pearson Correlation** - Determine and explain the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable.
- **T-test** - Explain the differences in the level of internal factors and external factors of students taking automotive courses between genders at community colleges.
- **Regression Testing** - Predict and explain the value of the dependent variable based on the independent variable. This analysis explains the influence of internal and external factors and the proposed framework of student entrepreneurship learning by taking an automotive course. Take an automotive course at a community college.
- **Manova Test** - Explain the difference in the level of external factors and the proposed entrepreneurship learning framework.

Qualitative data in the form of views recorded from interviews in the form of notes. The researcher is the first instrument used to collect research findings. The researcher should observe and listen in detail about the phenomenon in question. Qualitative research design is flexible and can be modified according to research needs.

The researcher uses quantitative descriptive analysis to obtain data analysis. Various statistical analysis methods were used through the "IBM Statistical Package For Social Science" (SPSS) version 25 software to analyze the data obtained. The researcher can determine the relationship between the variables using the statistical means of the research variables. Statistical analysis methods such as frequency, mean, correlation, and regression from the researcher's collection were also tested once. The main purpose is to achieve the research objectives set so that the research results have validity and reliability based on the validity of the theories.

Thus, regarding career selection, all findings can be combined into "Yes" and "No" based only on a Likert scale. Furthermore, the scale of 1 and 2 is used as a "No" answer and the scale of 3, 4 and 5 is used as a "Yes" answer so that the researcher can identify the respondent's

desire to become an entrepreneur. The researcher wants to classify each score acquisition by the following score groups: at the low level, the mean is 1.00 to 3.00, and at the high level, the mean is 3.01 to 5.00 (Norasmah, 2019).

5.0. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

5.1. Qualitative Approach

Qualitative approaches such as interviews were conducted with successful automotive entrepreneurs to identify important points expressed as well as the importance of making a career choice in the field of entrepreneurship. The data analysis obtained is more effective with qualitative and quantitative descriptive analysis. The experience and knowledge of the study respondents show that choosing a career in the entrepreneurial automotive field is their business desire.

5.2. First Automotive Entrepreneur

The first automotive entrepreneur saw its importance and desired to choose an entrepreneurial career. He was satisfied because he could be respected by many people and earn a luxurious livelihood in daily life.

"An entrepreneurial career is important in my life because it will allow me to gain a wide range of knowledge and experience. I feel honored by fulfilling my heart's satisfaction... in addition to getting a luxurious sustenance..."

The external factor that drove the first automotive entrepreneur to venture into business was having a supportive family. He was exposed to entrepreneurship as a child and chose a job based on the opinion and support of friends. He wanted to choose a career in entrepreneurship to help his family in business matters. He inherited the family business.

5.3. Second Automotive Entrepreneur

The second automotive entrepreneur states that the real profession is starting a business by choosing an entrepreneurial career. An entrepreneurial career is important for every individual so that they are willing to work independently without being bound to work from other people's subordinates.

...the real profession is an entrepreneurial career by choosing a business... willing to work on your own... without getting paid by others...

Family support is an external factor that encourages the second automotive entrepreneur to venture into entrepreneurship. The second automotive entrepreneur was exposed to entrepreneurship since he was a child. He also chose an automotive job to open a workshop, using the advice and support of a friend to inherit the family business more effectively while helping family members in entrepreneurial matters.

5.4. Third Automotive Entrepreneur

The third automotive entrepreneur stated that the desire to choose an entrepreneurial career is important from the early stages of running one's own business. This not only allows us to carry out our social responsibility in the development of our living standards as well as that of others to help improve and grow the country's economy. Furthermore, choosing an entrepreneurial career can produce a young generation as human capital who successfully takes high risks so that they are willing to compete with other technologically advanced countries that can be compared to the rest of the world.

... this career is the result of my hard work with my own efforts... we all play an important role in the economic development of our country... able to take risks with peace of mind... willing to compete with other technologically advanced countries...

The encouragement and support of the third automotive entrepreneur from family members convinced him to dare to inherit and venture into the family business. Both parents of the third automotive entrepreneur often disclosed entrepreneurial matters to him since he was still a child at home. Another external factor that prompted him to choose a career in entrepreneurship was the opinion and support of friends. He wants to choose a career in the field of entrepreneurship so that he can help family members in daily business affairs.

5.5. Quantitative Approach

The findings of this study have shown that external factors (EF) drive students' choice of a career in entrepreneurship at a moderately high level. EF4 has a

higher average (M = 3.95) compared to other external factors of students, namely EF1 (M = 3.51), EF2 (M = 3.56), EF3 (M = 3.68) and EF5 (M = 3.82), which are also on moderately high level. This study found that many students chose items such as "I want to choose a career in entrepreneurship to help my family in business matters." "I inherited my family's business." and "I chose a job based on the opinion and support of my friends." on a disagree or uncertain score. This is because the student is not confident or is still not ready to inherit the family business, and it is against the characteristics of an entrepreneur who wants to expand their influence and obtain more business opportunities. Norasmah and Eksan (2022) hope that graduates do not look down on entrepreneurial careers but instead choose it as a career. Rahim's study (2021) reports that external factors involve the level of student entrepreneurial career selection at a moderately high level among university students. This is because students are less exposed to education and entrepreneurship programs from the government or private agencies.

The findings of this researcher's study differ from those of Te et al. (2019), who found that more students at community colleges make their career choices in entrepreneurship. This is because early exposure to entrepreneurship education and the encouragement of family members can influence students to choose a career in entrepreneurship. The study of Norasmah and Eksan (2022) shows that the initial exposure to entrepreneurship education for the participants of the Graduate Entrepreneur Scheme has a positive perception that it can change the graduates' perception towards choosing a career in entrepreneurship. This is in line with the findings of Mohamed's study (2022), which reported that excellence in an individual's life is a factor that significantly influences students' choice of a career in the

field of entrepreneurship. This is because the entrepreneurial characteristics possessed by every student towards an entrepreneurial career are intended to achieve excellence and success in our lives.

6.0. CONCLUSION

A myriad of external factors significantly shape entrepreneurs' success. Environmental influences, such as the economic climate and regulatory frameworks, play a pivotal role in determining the feasibility and sustainability of entrepreneurial ventures. Family support provides emotional backing and sometimes financial assistance, creating a stable foundation for entrepreneurs to take risks and innovate. Peers and social networks offer valuable connections, advice, and opportunities for collaboration, fostering a supportive ecosystem for business growth.

Teachers and mentors impart essential knowledge and skills, guiding entrepreneurs through the complexities of starting and managing a business. Access to resources, including capital, technology, and information, is crucial for developing and scaling entrepreneurial initiatives. Lastly, cultural factors influence entrepreneurial attitudes, behaviours, and the societal perception of entrepreneurship, shaping the aspirations and ambitions of potential entrepreneurs. Understanding these external influences is critical for creating supportive environments that nurture entrepreneurial talent and drive economic development. By recognizing and leveraging these factors, policymakers, educators, and communities can foster a more vibrant and resilient entrepreneurial landscape.

Learning plays an important role in producing more confident students with a high desire and interest in

Table 1 External Factors That Encourage The Selection Of An Entrepreneurial Career

External Factors	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
EF 1	3.51	.63	Medium High
EF 2	3.56	.61	Medium High
EF 3	3.68	.69	Medium High
EF 4	3.95	.65	Medium High
EF 5	3.82	.68	Medium High
Average	3.70	.65	Medium High

entrepreneurship. Students' experience and knowledge of entrepreneurial careers are closely related to a student's success in becoming a successful entrepreneur. Graduates with high knowledge are considered human capital with the potential to become successful future entrepreneurs by being willing to explore entrepreneurial career opportunities and be competitive in the global market, which is becoming increasingly challenging (Radzi et al., 2021). The number of graduates who have ventured into the field of entrepreneurship is not enough anymore because there are only a few graduates who consider choosing entrepreneurship as their career (Sahid et al., 2020).

Therefore, successful entrepreneurship education for students in Malaysian educational institutes, including public community colleges, is essential. Entrepreneurship course proposals should continue to be given to all community college and university students to attract more students to venture into entrepreneurship, technical and vocational fields to achieve the government's desire to produce more successful entrepreneurs in the future. On average, the selection of entrepreneurial careers for students at public community colleges is still satisfactory. This is contrary to the desire of the Ministry of Higher Education to produce graduates of public community colleges and universities who work independently rather than as a traditional career assumption of working for a salary only. The field of entrepreneurship is an important part of Malaysia's efforts to increase the people's income and further develop our country's economy.

In addition, individuals who have the will and are interested in an entrepreneurial career are more likely to control their own life goals. Other factors for students who desire and choose an entrepreneurial career are that they are more willing to obtain satisfaction, freedom, and self-sufficiency in doing all work activities without asking permission from others. The authorities are encouraged to provide formal entrepreneurship education programs to all Malaysians, especially graduates from public community colleges so that they can become successful entrepreneurs before or after graduation.

In general, this study is an initial scenario that researchers can see to design efforts at the public community college level to produce more entrepreneurs. The educational approach is a continuous effort to attract the interest and desire of students to venture into the field of entrepreneurship (Othman, 2020). Graders are

encouraged to carry out entrepreneurial activities at the public community college level to produce more students with the skills to become successful entrepreneurs. The government and the private sector play a role in providing training, courses, and loans and providing appropriate advice to graduates who have the potential to become entrepreneurs. This practical way can help Malaysia's efforts to reduce the dependence of graduates on the government. In addition, this effective way can also reduce the unemployment rate and assist the government in developing, growing, and expanding our country's economy.

Author Contributions: Chai Siew Ling and Mohamad Abdillah Bin Royo conceived and planned the research. Chai Siew Ling contributed to interpreting the results and took the lead in writing the manuscript. All authors provided critical feedback and helped shape the research, analysis, and manuscript.

Funding: This research received no funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Reference

- Ab Ghani, S. R., Omar, R., Enh, A. M., & Kamaruddin, R. (2021). Sumbangan Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) Terhadap Masyarakat Melayu Di Malaysia Dalam Menangani Isu-Isu Sosioekonomi, 1971-2000: The Contribution Of The Muslim Youth Movement Of Malaysia (ABIM) To Malay Community In Malaysia In Addressing Socio-Economic Issues, 1971-2000. *Abqari Journal*, 24(1), 171-191.
- Ahmad, J., & Siew, N. M. (2022). Modul Pemikiran Sains Keusahawanan Untuk Pelajar Tahun Lima Dalam Pendidikan STEM. *Malaysian Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanities (MJSSH)*, 7(1), 99-117.
- Amir, N. A., & Radzi, M. S. N. M. (2021). COVID 19: *Ruang Untuk Pengembangan Potensi Diri Remaja*.
- Anuar, A. S., & Sahid, S. (2020). Kerangka Konseptual Set Minda Keusahawanan, Inspirasi Keusahawanan Dan Faktor Kognitif. In *Proceeding: International Conference Of Future Education And Advances* (pp. 44-49).
- Apandi, W. N. W. M., Merman, H., Bakar, S. A. S. A., & Razali, R. (2023). Adaptasi Metafora Dalam Menyampaikan Makna Melalui Kajian Visual Bagi Karya Seni Kontemporari Terpilih Oleh Jalaini Abu Hassan Siri Pameran 'Re-Found Object' Dalam Konteks Sosiobudaya. *Kupas Seni*, 11(3), 8-21.

- Ashaye, O. R., Mahmoud, A. B., Munna, A. S., & Ali, N. (2023). The Role Of Social Media Engagement And Emotional Intelligence In Successful Employment. *Higher Education, Skills And Work-Based Learning*, 13(2), 315-337.
- Aziz, A. R. A. (2020). Pengangguran Dalam Kalangan Tenaga Kerja Semasa Wabak Covid-19. *Malaysian Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanities (MJSSH)*, 5(11), 1-9.
- Aziz, A. R. A., Mahyuddin, M. K., Wahab, M. N. A., Sungkar, H., Musa, N. N., & Mustafar, N. A. I. (2023). Kerangka Konsep Keluarga Malaysia Dalam Mencapai Kesejahteraan. *Malaysian Journal of Social Sciences And Humanities (MJSSH)*, 8(1), e002196-e002196.
- Aziz, N. E. M., Harun, N., Esa, M. M., Yaacob, M. R., & Rahman, A. A. A. (2018). Pendidikan Keusahawanan Di Institusi Pengajian Tinggi (IPT) Dalam Melahirkan Usahawan Berjaya Di Malaysia. *Journal Of Business Innovation*, 3(1), 73.
- Cahyani, K. S. I., Yuniasih, N. W., & Andayani, R. D. (2024). Pengaruh Firm Size, Profitabilitas, Komite Audit Dan Leverage Terhadap Tax Avoidance. *Hita Akuntansi Dan Keuangan*, 5(1), 162-175.
- Cui, J., & Bell, R. (2022). Behavioural Entrepreneurial Mindset: How Entrepreneurial Education Activity Impacts Entrepreneurial Intention And Behaviour. *The International Journal Of Management Education*, 20(2), 100639.
- Eksan, S. H. R., Bakar, N. R. A., Ahmad, N., & Shahwahid, F. M. (2022). Kesenjangan Teknologi Penggunaan Telefon Pintar Dalam Kalangan Wanita Di Selangor: Technology Gap In Smartphone Usage Among Women In Selangor. *Journal Of Management And Muamalah*, 12(1), 1-24.
- Hanafe, N., & Abdullah, B. (2022). Faktor-Faktor Peningkatan Kadar Pengangguran Di Malaysia Ketika Pandemi Covid-19.
- Hisrich, R. D., & Soltanifar, M. (2021). Unleashing The Creativity Of Entrepreneurs With Digital Technologies. *Digital Entrepreneurship: Impact On Business And Society*, 23-49.
- Hussain, F., & Ihwani, S. S. (2021). Hubungan Keagamaan Dan Kerohanian Terhadap Daya Tahan Pekerja Tamat Kontrak Perkhidmatan. In *Seminar Inovasi Pendidikan Islam Dan Bahasa Arab 2021* (p. 187).
- Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia. (2022). Siaran Akhbar. Statistik Utama Tenaga Buruh, Malaysia, Siku Pertama (S1).
- Kamaruddin, N., & Amir, R. (2021). Kesediaan Guru Terhadap Pembelajaran Dan Pengajaran Di Rumah Dalam Mendepani Norma Baharu. *Jurnal Dunia Pendidikan*, 3(3), 308-319.
- Lubis, R., Murtopo, K. A., & Frianto, H. T. (2022, December). Work Uniform Model Design With North Sumatra Local Cultural Motivations In CV Syafri, Indonesia. *Jakarta, Indonesia: JICOMS 2022* (p. 416). *European Alliance For Innovation*.
- Mageswaran, K., & Othman, N. (2022). Minat Guru Perniagaan Dan Ciri Keusahawanan Murid Jurusan Perniagaan. *Malaysian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (MJSSH)*, 7(5), e001606-e001606.
- Marsa, Y. J. (2021). *Diktat Sosiologi Pendidikan*.
- Mazni, M. M., Ahyan, N. A. M., Jambari, H., Noh, N. H., & Pairan, M. R. (2023). Persepsi Pelajar Tahun Akhir Bidang TVET Terhadap Penggunaan Media Sosial Dalam Pengajaran Dan Pembelajaran. *Innovative Teaching And Learning Journal*, 7(1), 28-41.
- Mohd Rosli, F. (2018). Pembudayaan Keusahawanan Ke Arah Mempengaruhi Kecenderungan Menceburi Bidang Keusahawanan Dalam Kalangan Bakal Graduan Di UTHM (Doctoral Dissertation, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia).
- Mohamed, Z., Saad, S., & Ismail, H. (2022). Amalan Etika Perniagaan Di Kalangan Usahawan: Satu Sorotan Literatur. *International Journal*, 5(20), 1-12.
- Nawi, M. Z. M., & Anuar, M. H. M. (2023). Pengaruh Peranan Ibu Bapa Terhadap Kemasukan Pelajar Ke Institusi Teknikal Dan Vokasional: Satu Kajian Tinjauan Sistematis: The Influence Of Parents' Roles On Student Admission To Technical And Vocational Institutions: A Systematic Review Study. *Online Journal For TVET Practitioners*, 8(1), 67-74.
- Noor, S. S. M., Osman, N., Rouyan, N. M., Hat, N. C., & Saad, K. N. M. (2021). Kemahiran Bertutur Bahasa Arab Luar Kelas Dalam Kalangan Penutur Bukan Asli Bahasa Arab [Arabic Speaking Skills Outside The Classroom Among Non-Native Speakers Of Arabic]. *BITARA International Journal of Civilizational Studies and Human Sciences (e-ISSN: 2600-9080)*, 4(2), 59-69.
- Nurfuadi, N., Muhamad, S. Y., & Rahman, A. (2022). Dasar-Dasar Dan Teori Pendidikan Upaya Civitas Akademika Dalam Memahami Dasar dan Teori Pendidikan.
- Othman, A. S. H., & Dawood, S. R. S. (2020). Keusahawanan Wanita Di Kelantan Berteraskan Model Ekonomi Baru: Hala Tuju Dan Cabaran. *e-BANGI*, 17(4), 124-148.

- Othman, N. (2021). Sikap Pengaruh Norma Dan Kawalan Tingkah Laku Dalam Kalangan Peserta Protune Negeri Selangor Berdasarkan Demografi: Satu Tinjauan Awal. *Journal of Global Business and Social Entrepreneurship (GBSE)*, 7(22).
- Othman, N. H., Ab Wahid, H., & Mohamad, A. (2019). Pendidikan Keusahawanan Di Institut Pengajian Tinggi. Perak: Penerbit Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris Tanjung Malim.
- Othman, N. H., Hassan, R., & Zaki, W. M. (2019). Pendidikan Asas Keusahawanan. Bangi: Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
- Purwati, A. (2020). Metode Penelitian Hukum Teori Dan Praktek.
- Rahim, I. H. A., & Mukhtar, D. (2021). Perception Of Students On Entrepreneurship Education. *International Journal Of Business And Social Science*.
- Rahman, A. S. A., & Nasrifan, M. N. (2023). Pewarisan Budaya Melalui Aktiviti Kokurikulum Di Sekolah: Ensembel Muzik Tumbuk Kalang Negeri Sembilan: Cultural Inheritance Through Co-curricular Activities At School: Tumbuk Kalang Music Ensemble Negeri Sembilan. *Jurnal Peradaban Melayu*, 18(1), 33-47.
- Roslan, A. H. D. H. (2022). Kesan Kurikulum Pelajaran Uagama Terhadap Pembangunan Sahsiah Pelajar Institusi Pengajian Tinggi (Ipt) Islam Negara Brunei Darussalam (Doctoral Dissertation).
- Stenly, A. S. (2023). Analisis Teguran Politik Semasa Berdasarkan Novel Naratif Ogonshoto Karya Anwar Ridhwan: Satu Kajian Penelitian Melalui Teori Sosiologi (Doctoral Dissertation, UMK).
- Sulaiman, J. B. (2023). Pengaruh Pembangunan Profesionalisme Berterusan Sebagai Mediator Terhadap hubungan Antara Kompetensi Profesional Guru Dan Kemahiran Abad Ke-21 Guru Sekolah Menengah TS25.
- Talib, A. (2019). Isu Kontemporari Dalam Pembangunan Dan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat (UUM Press). UUM Press.
- Te, T. S., Abdullah, A., & Rashid, A. M. (2019). Pengaruh Faktor Terpilih Terhadap Aspirasi Kerjaya Keusahawanan Dalam Kalangan Pelajar Kolej Komuniti (The Influence Of Selected Factors Toward Entrepreneurial Career Aspirations Among Students Of Community Colleges). *Akademika*, 89(3).
- Tinggi, K. P. (2022). Statistik Pendidikan Tinggi 2022.
- Uno, H. B., & Umar, M. K. (2023). Mengelola Kecerdasan Dalam Pembelajaran: Sebuah Konsep Pembelajaran Berbasis Kecerdasan. Bumi Aksara.
- Yaakob, M. N., Yaakob, S. B., & Shuib, A. S. (2020). Pembangunan Model Kurikulum M-Pembelajaran Kursus Teknologi Dalam Pengajaran Dan Pembelajaran Di IPG.
- Yaacob, Z. (2023). Keusahawanan: Ekosistem Dan Prestasi. Penerbit USM.
- Yasid, A. F. M., Zulkifli, N., & Kamaruddin, S. (2021). Penyeludupan Dadah Dari Kawasan Segi Tiga Emas Thailand Serta Kesan Terhadap Keselamatan Sosial Negara Malaysia. *Jurnal Dunia Pengurusan*, 3(3), 41-54.
- Yusof, M. Z. M., & Tahir, Z. (2021). Faktor Kejayaan Usahawan Muda Dalam Perniagaan Industri Kecil Dan Sederhana (EKS) Di Malaysia. *Jurnal Wacana Sarjana*, 5(1), 1-13.
- Zakaria, S. K., & Daud, M. N. (2021). Penjanaan Kemahiran Insaniah Melalui Gaya Pembelajaran Dan Kecerdasan Pelbagai. *Jurnal Dunia Pendidikan*, 3(4), 65-76