Entrepreneurship Research in Indian Universities

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Abstract
This paper presents a critical study of the trends in the growth and development of entrepreneurship research in Indian Universities during the last four and a half years. This study reveals the number and percentage of PhD programmes in entrepreneurship carried out in various Indian universities in comparison to that of Social Sciences. The distribution of research in entrepreneurship, university wise, gender wise and language wise has been examined. Implications on the status of entrepreneurship research in Indian universities are also drawn.

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This paper has been presented at the Sixth Biennial Conference on Advances and Trends in Entrepreneurship Research organized by EDI, Ahmedabad during February, 2005.
Introduction
Research is a systematic activity directed towards the discovery and development of an organised body of knowledge. The human urge for new areas of knowledge has developed a faculty for search or research in him. Research has now become an integral part, not only for academic pursuits but also for practical achievements in several facets of modern society. Administrators, managers, businessmen, industrialists, sociologists, economists, physical scientists, natural scientists and nuclear scientists would all advocate an extensive use of research for academic advancement. On the other hand practitioners like industrial engineers, physicians, surgeons, managers, salesmen and shareholders also emphasise on the great utility of research in their day-to-day work. It is a fact that no academic organization can progress without sufficient advancement in terms of latest research activities1.

All subjects require continuous research support to develop as a discipline. Entrepreneurship, which has developed as an independent and vital discipline, needs constant improvement and development through research. Research in entrepreneurship, like in any other discipline, has been with an aim to advance the frontiers of knowledge and open up new avenues.

Various universities, in the mid of 20th century, began research in entrepreneurship, Western research on entrepreneurship started during 1961 and Indian research on entrepreneurship during 1970s2.

Objectives of the Study

The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:
1 To identify the nature and direction of entrepreneurship research during January 2000 to June 2004;
2 To identify quantitative growth of research in entrepreneurship as compared to social sciences;
3 To identify the contribution of universities in awarding doctoral degrees in entrepreneurship; and
4 To find out state wise, gender wise and language wise distribution of research in entrepreneurship.

Source of Data and Limitations
The study has been taken up to highlight the research trends in entrepreneurship during January 2000 to June 2004 in Indian universities. Data has been collected from University News4. This newsletter publishes periodically the data on theses accepted for the award of PhD degree.

The entire analysis and interpretation of the study is based on the data available in this newsletter. Also, the study does not consider research work in
entrepreneurship registered in Indian universities and the research done by Indian researchers but submitted to foreign universities.

The study covers the period January 2000 to June 2004 i.e., a period of four and a half years.

**Methodology**
As indicated earlier, the main source of data is *University News*, a weekly official publication of Association of Indian University, New Delhi. It publishes the list of doctoral theses accepted by Indian universities in different disciplines. During the said period, 5192 PhD theses have been awarded in various disciplines of Social Sciences; out of which 47 doctoral theses have been awarded on entrepreneurship by Indian universities (see Appendix I).

**Analysis and Findings**
The research titles of theses form the primary database of this study. To get the possible view of the domain of entrepreneurship research over a period of four and a half years, the data has been analysed as follows.

**Year Wise Distribution of PhD Theses on Entrepreneurship**
Table 1 below represents the year wise distribution of theses, which shows a total of 47 theses that have been awarded in entrepreneurship during the last four and a half years. The highest number of theses, i.e., 12 (25.53%) was awarded in the year 2002, while the lowest number of six (12.77%) theses was awarded in the year 2000. During 2003 the number of theses awarded is 11 (23.40%). It is interesting to note that 11 (23.40%) PhD theses were awarded within six months i.e., January to June 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Theses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2004 (Up to June)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution of Theses on Entrepreneurship as Compared to Theses on Social Sciences**
Table 2 shows a comparative analysis of distribution of theses in entrepreneurship as compared to theses in Social Sciences. It compares the number of PhD theses in entrepreneurship to the number of PhD theses in social science in a particular year. 2004 saw the highest percentage of theses (1.60%) in entrepreneurship being awarded (up to June) whereas the lowest i.e., 0.65% was in 2000. It can be observed that during the last four and a half years the percentage of PhD theses awarded in entrepreneurship to that of social science is 0.91.
### TABLE 2

**Comparison of PhD Theses on Entrepreneurship and Social Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. Theses in Social Sciences</th>
<th>No. of Theses in Entrepreneurship</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1519</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2004 (Up to June)</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5192</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### University Wise Distribution of PhD Theses on Entrepreneurship

In order to ascertain the contribution of universities in India awarding PhD theses in entrepreneurship during the last four and a half years, an analysis has been made in Table 3. Out of 277 recognized universities in India only 34 universities have awarded PhD in entrepreneurship. It shows that only 12.27 percentages of universities have contributed towards the research in entrepreneurship. The university names are given in alphabetical order.

Five universities i.e. Andhra University, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Karnatak University, Osmania University and Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya have awarded equal number of three theses (6.38%) on entrepreneurship, which is the highest. Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia University and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University have awarded two theses (4.26%) each on entrepreneurship. 26 universities have awarded only one PhD each.

### TABLE 3

**University Wise Distribution of PhD Theses on Entrepreneurship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>No. of Theses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aligarh Muslim University</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andhra University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assam University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Awadesh Pratap Singh University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Banaras Hindu University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Barkatullah Viswavidyalaya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cochin University of Science and Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 shows the state wise distribution of theses on entrepreneurship. Out of 28 states in India only 14 states have awarded PhD in entrepreneurship. It shows that 50% of states are encouraging research in entrepreneurship. The states are arranged in alphabetical order. It can be observed that the universities of Andhra Pradesh have awarded the highest number of nine PhDs (19.15%), while the universities of Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur and Orissa have awarded one PhD each which is the lowest. States like Maharashtra (Eight), Madhya Pradesh (Six), Karnataka (Four) and Uttar Pradesh (Four) have also awarded good number of PhDs on entrepreneurship.

**TABLE 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the State</th>
<th>No. of Theses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Wise Distribution of PhD Theses on Entrepreneurship

Table 5 shows the gender wise distribution of theses on entrepreneurship in various Indian universities. The table reveals that 76.60 percentage of entrepreneurship research has been done by male researchers and whereas 23.40 percentage by female researchers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Sex of Researcher</th>
<th>No. of Theses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>76.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language Wise Distribution of PhD Theses

It can be observed in Table 6 that research work has been done in different languages. However most of the theses in entrepreneurship have been carried out in English language (93.62%) while only three doctoral theses (6.38%) have been done in national language i.e., Hindi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Language of Theses</th>
<th>No. of Theses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>93.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>06.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations and Conclusion

The following observations can be made on the basis of findings of the study.

- The distribution of PhD theses indicates that there is an increase in theses submission during 2000 to 2002. It is quite interesting to note that in 2004 in a span of six months (January-June) 11 researchers submitted their theses on entrepreneurship. The study reveals that entrepreneurship research is showing an upward trend over the years.
• The percentage of PhD theses in entrepreneurship as compared to social science disciplines is very discouraging. Research in entrepreneurship is less than one percent of those that have been submitted in social sciences during the last four and a half years. Entrepreneurship research is not progressing as other disciplines of social science. Much more concentration needs to be given to ensure development of the subject.
• Out of 277 universities in India only 34 universities have awarded PhD in entrepreneurship. Eight universities each have awarded PhD to more than one thesis whereas 26 universities have awarded to one each.
• The PhD theses submission across the states reflects that Andhra Pradesh has contributed much towards the research in entrepreneurship, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur and Orissa show less attention to entrepreneurship research.
• Although entrepreneurship movement began in Gujarat, it is unfortunate that the universities of Gujarat are not encouraging research on entrepreneurship.
• From the primary data, it has been observed that more research on women entrepreneurship (21 PhD theses) has been carried out.

References
Appendix - I

A List of Doctoral Theses on Entrepreneurship
Accepted by Indian Universities during January 2000 to June 2004

Year: 2000

1. Ashok Kumar, S. **Entrepreneurial success in small scale industries.** (Prof E.G. Parameswaran), Department of Commerce, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
2. Deolankar, Vivek Shankarrao. **Small scale entrepreneurship in India: retrospect and prospects.** Department of Commerce, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.
3. Panda, Nagari Mohan. **Development of entrepreneurship in Nagaland with a special reference to hotel enterprises.** (Dr B.B. Pradhan), Department of Commerce, Manipur University, Imphal.
4. Babu Rao, Gangaraju. **Support systems for accelerating entrepreneurship among technically qualified persons with reference to Andhra Pradesh.** (Prof V. Madan Mohan Reddy), Department of Management, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
5. Ongon’ga, Jared Opiyo. **Kenyan entrepreneurship.** (Dr M.U. Deshpande), Department of Management, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.
6. Deshpande, M.S. **Study of women entrepreneurship in Marathwada.** (Dr J.V. Joshi), Department of Management, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.

Year: 2001

7. Hothur Mohammad, P. **Entrepreneurship and structural dynamics among handlooms weavers in Andhra Pradesh.** (Dr Siva Prasad), Department of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.
8. Kasi Reddy, M. **The role of institutional agencies in promoting entrepreneurship development among Scheduled Caste and ST in Andhra Pradesh.** (Prof D.Obul Reddy), Department of Commerce, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
10. Dhameja, Suresh Kumar. **A study of entrepreneurial performance and problems of women in business in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh** (Dr B.S. Bhatia and Dr J.S. Saini), Department of Management, Punjabi University, Patiala.


13. Borkakoty, Aparajeeta. *Institutional marketing of entrepreneurship programmes: a study of its impact on women entrepreneurs of Assam.* (Dr Nayan Barua), Department of Commerce, Gauhati University, Guwahati.

**Year: 2002**


16. Saraswathi Amma, K.P. *A study of the impact of entrepreneurship development programme on women entrepreneurs in Kerala.* (Dr P. Sudarshan Pillai), Department of Management, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi.

17. Vijay, R. *Women entrepreneurship in Andhra Pradesh: a case study of Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad.* (Prof J.V. Prabhakara Rao), Department of Management, Andhra University, Waltair.

18. Devie, Sameer. *Indore Jile kee mahila udyamiyon ka ek samajshastriya adhyayan.* (Dr Yashpal Vyas), Department of Sociology, Devi Ahalya Viswavidyalaya, Indore.

19. Chandokar, Anuya Ajay. *Women entrepreneurship: its emergence and development.* (Dr M.U. Deshpande), Department of Commerce, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.


21. Dekate, M.K. *An evaluation of entrepreneurial participation of backward classes in Latur district.* (Dr J.V. Joshi), Department of Commerce, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.

22. Laxmisa, A.S. *The role of Karnataka state financial corporation in promoting and developing entrepreneurship in Karnataka State: a case study of Simoga district.* (Dr H.S. Anitha), Department of Commerce, Kuvempu University, Shimoga.
23. Mulgund, Laxman Channaveerappa. *Entrepreneurship development in small scale industrial sector with special reference to Gadag district.* (Dr S.G. Mundekar), Department of Commerce, Karnataka University, Dharwad.


25. Prabhath, S.V. *Dynamics of entrepreneurship development and the state intervention: a study in Andhra Pradesh.* (Prof C.V. Raghavulu), Department of Political Science, Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar.

Year: 2003


28. Jatain, Ram Dhari. *The role of contribution of development banks in entrepreneurship promotion in India.* (Dr S.S.Chahal), Department of Commerce, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak.


30. Arvind Kumar. *A study of impact of entrepreneurship development programmes in Bhopal division.* (Dr Snehlata Srivastava), Department of Economics, Barkatullah Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal.

31. Kapase, Gokul Pandharinath. *An analytical study of women entrepreneurship in Marathwada region.* (Dr B.B.Ekshinge), Department of Commerce, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

32. Ganesan, R. *Psychosocial profile of women entrepreneurs in food processing enterprises.* (Dr Dilbagh Kaur and Prof R.C.Maheswari), Centre for Rural Development and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi.


35. Jadav, Rekha Kashinath. *Women entrepreneurs: a sociological study on self employed women.* (Dr A.G.Mudbidri), Department of Sociology, Karnataka University, Dharwad.
36. Singh, Shikha. **Madhya Pradesh sarkar kee mahila udyamita vikas niti evam Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana ka mahilayon kee arthik sthiti per prabhav: Rewa Jile ke vishesh sandarbh mein.** (Dr Deepa Shrivastav), Department of Economics, Awadesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa.

**Year: 2004**

37. Asawa, Rani. **A critical study of women entrepreneur’s role in development of small scale industries in Madhya Pradesh with special reference to Jabalpur district.** (Dr G.M. Shukla), Department of Commerce, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur.

38. Ghosh, Poonam. **Madhya Pradesh mein mahila udyamita: ek adhyayan.** (Dr N.C. Tripathi), Department of Economics, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur.

39. Arora, Kapil. **Entrepreneurial profile, success and failures: a case study on science and technology entrepreneurs in South Gujarat region.** (Dr S.S. Srivastava), Department of Management, South Gujarat University, Surat.

40. Bhalla, Gurdeep Singh. **Entrepreneurship development programmes (EDPs): role of developing small scale industries in India with special reference to Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.** (Prof S.C. Vaidya), Department of Management, Panjab University.

41. Sharma, Shivani. **Prospects and problems of women entrepreneurs of Punjab.** Department of Family Resource Management, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

42. Vara Prasad, C. **Entrepreneurship in small scale industries: a case study of selected districts in Coastal Andhra Pradesh.** (Prof J.V. Prabhakara Rao), Department of Management, Andhra University, Waltair.

43. Dey, Chandan. **Cooperative entrepreneurship in South Assam: a study of procedures cooperatives in the three plains districts-Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.** (Dr A. Mazumdar), Department of Commerce, Assam University, Silchar.

44. Thapa, Chandra Bahadur. **A critical study on marketing of financial and entrepreneurial promotional services: a case study on Picup.** (Dr Matin Khan), Department of Business Administration, University of Lucknow, Lucknow.

45. Thangamoney Amma, V S. **Effectiveness of bank finance to women entrepreneurs in Kerala.** (Dr C.N. Purushothaman Nair), Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

46. Chakraborty, Sujata. **Entrepreneurship development among women in the low income group: scope and constraints.** (Prof Ratna Naik), Department of Sociology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

47. Sinha, Randhir Prasad. **A critical study of the women entrepreneurs in India since independence.** (Dr N.P. Yadav), Department of Economics, Bhupendra Naryan Mandal University, Madhipura.