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The Student Entrepreneurial Intention Cloud: A Review of Reviews

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Full reference

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Abstract

It is widely recognised that student entrepreneurs play an important role in both developing and developed countries and that the initial phase of the entrepreneurial process, “entrepreneurial intention”, is crucial as it could lead to entrepreneurial behaviour. Based on a systematic literature review of 23 review articles, we initially provided an overview of the factors influencing SEI and outlined how they are interrelated, unravelling much-needed research avenues in this study domain. It identified 63 factors affecting SEI, categorised into seven groups, with notable interrelations within and across them. One of these factors is a supportive university environment. Recognising their role in fostering entrepreneurship among students, higher education institutions (HEI) have started establishing Centres for Entrepreneurship (CfEs) to merge theoretical knowledge with practical application, offering a broad array of services like mentorship, training, and financial aid to address the complex demands of student entrepreneurs. Despite their significance, there remains a lack of clarity on whether CfEs effectively align their offerings with the resources student entrepreneurs require. Acknowledging the importance of alignment between supply and demand to create impact effectively, we aim to investigate the alignment between resources offered by CfEs and those demanded by student entrepreneurs (based on the challenges they experience), utilising the resource-based view (RBV) as the underlying theory. Using a qualitative, multi-case study methodology, HEI CfEs are selected as cases, and semi-structured interviews are conducted with CfE staff members and student entrepreneurs. The study aspires to make significant theoretical and practical contributions by applying the RBV to the CfE context for a deeper insight into entrepreneurial support mechanisms and providing actionable recommendations for enhancing CfE designs and operations to better meet student entrepreneurs’ expectations. Such enhancements are anticipated to foster a more dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem within academic settings, potentially amplifying the economic and social benefits of student-initiated ventures and reinforcing the pivotal role of educational institutions in cultivating the next generation of business leaders.