

Belgian Entrepreneurship Research Day (BERD) 2023 Conference
Manuscript Abstract

Factors influencing student entrepreneurial intentions: A review of reviews

Ismail, R., Vanderstraeten, J. & Slabbinck, H.

Full reference

Ismail, R., Vanderstraeten, J. & Slabbinck, H. (2023). Factors influencing student entrepreneurial intentions: A review of reviews. *Belgian Entrepreneurship Research Day (BERD)*, Ghent, 2 May 2023.

Abstract

It is widely recognized that student entrepreneurs play an important role in both developing and developed countries. The initial phase of the entrepreneurial process, “entrepreneurial intention”, is crucial as it could lead to entrepreneurial behaviour and, ultimately, entrepreneurial action. However, there are numerous factors that could influence student entrepreneurial intentions (SEI), and several review articles have been conducted to provide an overview of these factors. Nevertheless, it is still argued that the theories used to investigate and predict entrepreneurial intentions and behaviour, results of the factors influencing SEI, as well as their interrelatedness is scattered. Furthermore, it was found that the current review articles that exist adopt different theories to conduct their research and present their finding, making it more difficult to create a comparative overview among these existing review articles. Thus, this paper aims to investigate the factors influencing SEI, and how they are interrelated. This was achieved by conducting a systematic literature review on 23 review articles focusing on antecedents of SEI. It was found that the most common theories adopted to investigate and predict entrepreneurial intention and behaviour is the theory of planned behaviour and the entrepreneurial event theory. Several review articles also used these theories to formulate and present their overall findings for their review studies. The factors influencing SEI were grouped according to seven overarching factors, namely contextual factors, demographical factors, social factors, environmental factors, educational factors, cognitive factors, and personality factors. These factor groups each consist of several variables believed to influence SEI, and numerous interrelated relationships exist between certain variables within a factor group, as well as across factor groups. Based on the gaps and trends identified in this review of reviews, future recommendations are put forward, and the findings can guide both researchers in terms of theories and variables to use to investigate entrepreneurial intentions and behaviour, as well as entrepreneurship policymakers to ensure that they effectively develop an entrepreneurial environment to cultivate entrepreneurial intentions among students.