

A Standardized Marketing Audit Model for Entrepreneurship Education in Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship education (EPE) plays a vital role to enhance employment creation and reduce poverty. Marketing audit is a main tool for evaluating and improving the marketing performance in a manufacturing or service sector. Despite the vast amount of literature which emphasizes entrepreneurship education, no empirical studies address the marketing audit model for EPE in the higher education sector. This study aims to develop a standardized marketing audit model for the EPE at higher education generally, business schools specially. A total of 200 participants were chosen by a purposive judgmental sampling technique from the only two universities which took steps towards establishing EPE in Egypt. A descriptive survey method using a questionnaire, focus group, semi-structured interviews and workshops were employed to develop a standardized model. The results showed the importance of the six dimensions in a standardized marketing audit model for EPE at business schools in Egypt.

Keywords: Egypt, Entrepreneurship Education, Evaluation, Marketing Audit, Marketing Strategy, Standardized Model, Universities

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's knowledge-intensive economy, the service sector and service innovation for business and society represent the fastest growing portion of the world economy (Al-Badarneh, Spohrer, & Al-Duwairi, 2013). The service economy refers to the service sector, which has become the most important economic sector, surpassing traditional sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing (Dinh & Thi, 2012). Consequently, effectiveness of services, service processes and service production has become vital in modern economies (Tinnilä, 2013). Services generally, and services offered

by education specially, are intangible, heterogeneous, inseparable, and perishable; therefore, "Education" being a very unique service in every form has been of interest to many researchers (Agrawal & Sharma, 2014).

Entrepreneurship Education (EPE) is a major educational service to address the problem of university students' employment, economic growth, innovation, economic flexibility, aiding culture formation, population integration, and social mobility (Hisrich, Langan-Fox & Grant, 2007). The importance of this education comes from three major themes: a solid demand for more entrepreneurship programs in the schools; Educational access to the "Make-a-

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Job” option; and Economic growth (Kourilsky, 1995). Generally, the main objectives of the entrepreneurship education are: (1) to promote better understanding of entrepreneurship, (2) to enhance entrepreneurial skills, and (3) to create more entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship Education may take the form of an academic program, entrepreneurship training, and individual or peer coaching (Katz, 2007). Entrepreneurship Education Programmes prepare students to be entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contributes to economic development and sustainable communities. It focuses on innovation and enterprise as well as the drive towards “Teach Less and Learn More” initiative. Specifically, the objectives of entrepreneurship education programmes are (1) to nurture and strengthen the values and culture of entrepreneurship among students, (2) to provide exposure and knowledge about business management, (3) to provide insights into business potential and entrepreneurial opportunities, and (4) to encourage students to pursue entrepreneurship after graduation (Mohamed, 2011).

EPE has emerged strongly in United States, Europe and China. In the United States alone, there has been a substantial increase in the number of courses offered in the past 20 years - over 2,000 courses 1,500 schools, and 100 funded centres (Kuratko, 2003); German government recently funded 25 chairs in entrepreneurship, and in China courses are taught in many higher education institutions (Hisrich, 2005).

Egypt took steps towards establishing entrepreneurship education; it is already co-operating with the OECD and the European Union in promoting SME’s development and related entrepreneurship education (European Commission, OECD & ETF, 2008). The results of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) for Egypt (2008) have identified education and training as one of the main constraining factors to entrepreneurship development (Hattab, 2008). An important OECD report (2008) also calls for attention for appropriate action on entrepreneurship education, not only in Egypt but also in other Mediterranean (MED) countries (OECD-EU & ETF, 2008: p.17). UNESCO

program was developed to support the creation of a number of science and technology parks and link researches at Egyptian universities to the industrial sector with the aim of establishing small and medium enterprises (SME’s) (UNESCO report on Science and Technology Parks in Egypt, 2007: p.7). Some Egyptian Ministries and several other main actors issue the necessary “regulations” to promote, support and provide financing to entrepreneurs (Abou-Warda, 2014a). Also, most educational policies have been developed towards supporting entrepreneurship (Abou-Warda, 2014b). These efforts encouraged some universities in Egypt to establishing entrepreneurship education as a formalized structured programme.

The American University in Cairo (AUC) is the only foreign university in Egypt which has established Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP) since 2010 within the School of Business. The programme is based on the school’s mission of creating an environment that fosters the development of principled and innovative business leaders and entrepreneurs who can make a difference. As part of EIP’s development, in 2013 the University launched the AUC Venture Lab, a startup accelerator and incubator located in the School of Business that serves both the university and external actors. On the other side, Cairo University is the only public university in Egypt where a business school was established, the International Business School of Cairo (IBSCU), through cooperation between Aalto and Cairo University. Within the school, the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises Management was established for Entrepreneurship Programme (Kortam & Abbas, 2012). Very recently, the perceptions of entrepreneurial orientation have emerged in the four main kinds of business schools (private; internationally affiliated; public with local programs; and public with international programs) in Egypt (Abou-Warda, 2015).

In general, entrepreneurship education takes place in public and private universities, technical training institutes, institutes of technology, national polytechnics and youth

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