

## **Socio-Demographic Factors Affecting Entrepreneurial Intentions of Undergraduates**

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In economics, entrepreneurship is considered one of the important factors of production. Moreover, it is a significant factor influencing growth and development of a country. Furthermore, higher start-up rates will contribute to the economic prosperity of a country. Graduate entrepreneurship - around the globe - is increasingly being seen as a vital source of competitiveness and the engine for economic growth and development. Many authors have identified entrepreneurial intentions as a means to better explain and predict entrepreneurship. Based on the idea that entrepreneurial intention is one of the key elements in explaining firm-creation activity, this paper attempts to investigate various socio-demographic factors affecting entrepreneurial intentions of Sri-Lankan-state-university undergraduates. A tool developed by Linan & Chen (2006) has been employed to measure entrepreneurial intention levels. A joint sampling technique comprising of quota sampling, judgmental sampling, and convenient sampling was used to select 486 final year undergraduates of the universities of Colombo, Peradeniya, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kelaniya, Ruhuna, Jaffna, and Moratuwa and Uva Wellassa have been selected to be included in the sampling frame. One way ANOVA and robust tests of Welch and Brown-Forsythe have been conducted to see whether there are significant mean differences between the groups. Aligning with most of the previous studies, males displayed a higher level of entrepreneurial intentions. However, ethnicity and religion did not appear as significant variables. Parents' involvement in entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurial education at the university emerged as significant variables.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial intention, State sector university undergraduate