



3rd Global Conference on Business and Social Science-2015, GCBSS-2015, 16-17 December  
2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Teaching Entrepreneurship in Oman: Successful Approaches

Eric V. Bindah<sup>a\*</sup>, Hesham A. E. Magd<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> College of Business, University of Buraimi, P.O Box 890, PC 512 Al Buraimi, Sultanate of Oman

---

### Abstract

One important responsibility of education providers is to prepare today's students for a successful career in the global market. Many nations have started inculcating entrepreneurial spirit into their citizens through entrepreneurial education to help them manage and handle their future business activities. However, the implementation of entrepreneurial education in higher education systems is not without challenges. In Oman, researchers have assessed the macro-economic environment in which entrepreneurship education takes place and have identified challenges faced by education providers. The aim of this paper is to recommend structural conditions necessary and successful approaches in teaching entrepreneurship in the context of Oman.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd GCBSS-2015

*Keywords: Entrepreneurship Education; Education Systems and Structure; Learning Models and Approaches*

---

### 1. Introduction

Entrepreneurs are believed to share some common traits such as for instance, confidence, personal leadership and force, and they can foresee uncertain events in pursuit of profit rather than bringing about a change in the economy (Okojie, 2009). Since starting one's own business involves several risks entrepreneurship education becomes essential in preparing would-be entrepreneurs to venture into new businesses. Entrepreneurial education is a specialized training given to students of vocational and technical education to acquire skills, ideas and managerial abilities and capacities for self-employment rather than being employed for pay (Owoseni, 2009).

---

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: (+968) 9462 9950.

E-mail address: [bindahe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bindahe@yahoo.co.uk)

## 2. Oman Entrepreneurial landscape

The Sultanate of Oman is an Arab oil rich nation located on the eastern side of the Middle East, and has a population of approximately 2.8 million, and covers 309,500 square kilometres. Following the 1970s, investment in infrastructure developments across all sectors, positioned Oman as one of the most progressive countries in the Middle East. As the population grew faster than the economy could sustained, major economic challenges remain for the government-unemployment and provision of opportunities for higher education (Al-Moharby and Khan, 2007). As a mean to address these issues, the government looks at entrepreneurship and self-employment, especially among the young, as key components in tackling these challenges and diversifying the economy (Al-Moharby and Khan, 2007).

However, as in any other nations, the implementation of entrepreneurial activities is not an easy task, and Oman in particular, has a rather small private sector with low national entrepreneurial activity (Al-Moharby and Khan, 2007). Looking back at historical data, it was reported that in 2003, fewer than 2 in 100 were starting a new business, compared to 1 in 10 in the US (Al-Moharby and Khan, 2007; Ministry of Manpower, 2005). Studies have identified and documented objectively certain weak areas in the Omani macro environment that are hindering entrepreneurship development, and one of these areas is in relation to the education and training (see Al-Shanfari, 2012).

Oman faces a number of challenges that can only be met if it has innovative, well- educated, and entrepreneurial citizens who, whatever their walk of life, have the spirit and inquisitiveness to think in new ways, and the courage to meet and adapt to the challenges facing them(Al-Shanfari, 2012). Moreover, a dynamic economy, which is innovative and able to create the jobs that are needed, will require a greater number of people who are willing and able to become entrepreneurs. Because education is key to shaping young people's attitudes, skills and culture, it is vital that entrepreneurship education be addressed. Entrepreneurship education is essential not only to shape the mindsets of young people but also to provide the skills and knowledge that are central to developing an entrepreneurial culture.

### *2.1. Challenges for Entrepreneurship Education in Oman.*

This section describes some of the major challenges faced by policy makers, educators in providing entrepreneurship education in the context of Oman. Four major challenges were identified and are centred towards the education systems, the availability of courses and programmes which are relevant to the market, quality of educators and the curricula, and faulty foundation.

#### *2.1.1. Education System.*

It has been reported that there is no sufficient specific strategies to encourage creative methods of teaching among academics and very few small business or entrepreneurship development centre in the public or private colleges (Porter, 2004; Al-Shanfari,2012).

#### *2.1.2. Availability of training courses and programmes.*

It has also been reported that there is not enough access to quality formal pre-start-up entrepreneurship training programmes, with most initiatives made by the government alone under the supervision of the Ministry of Manpower to train young unemployed nationals in starting and running a micro-business.

#### *2.1.3. Qualify Educators and Curricula*

Another challenge confronting entrepreneurship education in Oman is identifying and recruiting the qualified educators and trainers who have the appropriate knowledge and pedagogy to impart entrepreneurial skills and competences on students. Nevin and Stumpf (1999) noted that the 'traditional models of education fall short in their ability to link the knowledge and concepts covered in the classroom to the skills and practice of entrepreneurship.'

#### *2.1.4. Faulty Foundation*

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1108006>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1108006>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)