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# AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON ENTREPRENEURIAL STATUS, SCOPE AND MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT BY USING STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODEL

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## ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is an important source of economic development, job creation, innovation and social change. The knowledge of the status of entrepreneurs, scope of entrepreneurial activities and motivational factors of entrepreneurial development is essential in the modern business environment for sustainable economic development. The present study is aimed at examining the entrepreneurial status, scope and opportunities available for entrepreneurial growth and to analyse the motivational factors that influence entrepreneurial development. The research concerns different aspects that stimulate people to pursue entrepreneurial activities, including economic motivation, personal achievement, social recognition, financial independence, government support, risk-taking ability, innovation, and market opportunities. The study is empirical and has been conducted with the primary data gathered from entrepreneurs by using structured questionnaire. The study used descriptive and analytical research design. To analyze the relationships among the variables, statistical techniques like percentage analysis, mean and standard deviation, correlation analysis and SEM are used. The direct and indirect effects of the motivational factors on entrepreneurial development and the conceptual framework of the study are evaluated using SEM. The results of the study show that there is a significant influence of motivational factors on entrepreneurial development and business growth. The study also reveals that the entrepreneurial scope and opportunities have positive influence on the sustainability and growth of entrepreneurial activities. The results show that financial independence, achievement motivation, government initiatives and market potential are key factors that determine entrepreneurial development. The study ends that beefing up motivational support systems, entrepreneurial training, financial aids, and policy measures can assist in improving entrepreneurial development and foster overall economic growth. The study gives interesting inputs to the policymakers, financial institutions, entrepreneurship development agencies, researchers and would be entrepreneurs for effective promotion of entrepreneurship.

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**KEYWORDS:** Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Development, Entrepreneurial Status, Entrepreneurial Scope, Motivational Factors, Business Growth, Entrepreneurial Opportunities.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is regarded as one of the most important factors contributing to economic advancement, industrial development, innovation and employment creation in the contemporary global economy (Meyer et al., 2018). Entrepreneurs are the agents of economic change in the areas of opportunity identification, efficient use of resources, new products and services and innovative competitive business environments (Esmail et al., 2025). In recent years, entrepreneurship has come into focus, as it can be regarded as one of the most effective ways to stimulate economic activities, to reduce the unemployment rate, to enhance the standard of living and to promote balanced regional growth. Entrepreneurship has gained importance in different areas of the economy due to the changing technology, globalization, market competition and consumer expectations (Gangele et al., 2025). Consequently, entrepreneurial development is a key topic of research and policy in developed and developing countries alike. Entrepreneurship is not limited to the conventional business activities. It has branched out to various sectors like information technology, manufacturing, retail, agriculture, healthcare, education, tourism, digital marketing, and services. To remain competitive in the highly competitive market, the entrepreneurs are shifting towards innovative strategies, digital tools and modern business models. These opportunities have been expanded due to the changing business environment and the creation of various opportunities for people to start and expand their businesses. Further, the growing ease of access to technology, online business platforms, financial support, government support schemes, start-up initiatives, and entrepreneurial training programmes have also contributed to the growth of entrepreneurship. Thus, entrepreneurship has been expanded and dynamic in these economic times (Kumar et al., 2026).

Entrepreneurial status is about where an entrepreneur stands in society, his/her recognition and performance in the society at large and in the business world and his/her growth in these two aspects (Njemanze et al., 2023). Entrepreneurs' status is affected by a number of socio-economic, financial, psychological and environmental factors. Entrepreneurs play a crucial role in creating jobs, raising funds and resources, generating wealth, and promoting social welfare. Their role is of a great importance to enhance economic stability and sustainable development. Entrepreneurs' success and status rely on their ability to change to vary market

conditions, recognize opportunities for profit, to handle risks successfully, and keep innovative business practices (Orlando et al., 2022). Hence, studying entrepreneurial status becomes important in understanding the developmental aspects and performance of entrepreneurial activities. Motivation is one of the most important factors that affect the entrepreneurial behavior and entrepreneurial development. Motivations drive the process of starting business activities and continuing them (Kuvshinikov et al., 2024). Motivations are factors which motivate the process of starting and continuing business activities. There are various motivations for people to become entrepreneurs, including: economic independence, achievement-related motives, social recognition, motives related to self-employment, wealth creation, family support, innovation, market opportunities, and personal fulfillment. Motivational factors affect entrepreneurial decision making, risk taking, commitment, creativity and sustainability of the entrepreneur's business. Business owners who are driven can be more resilient in dealing with business problems, implement innovative strategies, and achieve a long-term success. Hence, the study of entrepreneurial development motivators is very vital to bolstering entrepreneurial ecosystem and business performance (Caliendo et al., 2023).

Entrepreneurial development is now an important way to take economic and social development in the current competitive environment (Gobena et al., 2022). There are policies, schemes, training programmes, subsidies and financial support mechanisms that have been started by the government, financial institutions, educational institutions and entrepreneurship development agencies to promote entrepreneurship (Ahmad et al., 2024). The promotion initiatives of startups, skills training, incubation centres, digital financing facilities and support systems based on innovation are becoming increasingly important in boosting entrepreneurial development. However, various issues still hinder the entrepreneurs, including financial problems, managerial issues, competitive markets, problem of adaptation to technology and a lack of resources. Hence, study of major factors affecting entrepreneurial development and its examination systematically becomes necessary. The present study aims at analyzing the entrepreneurial status, examining the scope and opportunities available for entrepreneurs and finally analysing the motivational factors influencing entrepreneurial development. This study intends to comprehend the roles of various motivational dimensions in achieving

entrepreneurial growth and sustainability. It also tries to assess the correlation between entrepreneurial status, business opportunities and motivational factors in the frame of entrepreneurial development. Descriptive and empirical research design has been used in the study using primary data obtained using a structured questionnaire from the entrepreneurs (Kayalvili et al. 2025).

In the research, the main analysis tool used is Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to obtain scientific analysis and accurate interpretation. SEM is used to analyze the relationship between variables in the conceptual framework of the study in direct and indirect ways. The use of SEM allows a holistic understanding of the role of motivational elements in entrepreneurial development and business growth. The study should provide significant information for stakeholders such as the policy makers, entrepreneurship development agencies, financial institutions, researchers, academicians and prospective entrepreneurs to promote entrepreneurship in an effective manner and boost the economic development. The outcomes of the study could also be useful for the existing literature on entrepreneurship because it has successfully provided empirical evidence on the role of entrepreneurial status, scope and entrepreneurial motivations in entrepreneurial development.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the study conducted by *Otache et al. (2021)*, the entrepreneurial attitude on entrepreneurial intention among students of the University was examined, and the results showed that entrepreneurial attitude has a positive and significant effect on entrepreneurial intention. The study highlighted that students with a positive entrepreneurial attitude have high interest in creating business and developing entrepreneurial career. The study revealed that positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship drive students to become independent, innovative and achievement-oriented individuals. The study also shows that entrepreneurial attitude is one of the factors which allows people to deal with the fear of failure and uncertainty in doing business. The results indicated that school-based education should give emphasis on improving entrepreneurial attitude through entrepreneurship training, motivational programmes and hands-on training in entrepreneurial activities to boost students' entrepreneurial intention.

According to the results of the study carried out by *Wijayati et al. (2021)* about the influence of entrepreneurial attitude on entrepreneurial intention, the two variables are supported each other with a strong positive relationship. The study noted that the

students who had positive entrepreneurial attitudes were more likely to have a positive intention to become entrepreneurs in the future. The scientists reported that entrepreneurial attitude increases the confidence, creativity, innovation, and risk taking tendency of the individuals which are important traits for a successful entrepreneur. The present research also revealed that entrepreneurial education, family support and exposure to entrepreneurial role models positively impact entrepreneurial attitudes among students. The results showed that entrepreneurial attitude is a key psychological factor affecting entrepreneurial intention and entrepreneurial development.

*Neck and Greene (2011)* pointed out that entrepreneurship is a phenomenon of uncertainty, ambiguity, dynamism, innovation, and change, and hence traditional teaching methods are inadequate for teaching entrepreneurship. According to the researchers, experiential pedagogy is one of the most suitable approaches to teaching entrepreneurship in university because it enables students to learn from their experiences, active participation, experimentation and through problem solving. The authors have found that it is not possible to comprehend entrepreneurship entirely using theoretical concepts because entrepreneurial activities include practical decisions, risk taking, identifying opportunities and adapting to situations. Thus, experiential learning allows students to gain entrepreneurial competencies, creativity, confidence and innovative thinking through direct experiences of entrepreneurial situations and business-related activities.

*Fiet (2001)* also concluded that experiential pedagogy has an important role to play in entrepreneurship education, and pointed out that entrepreneurship learning should not be limited to the traditional lecture method, but rather to the method of action and practice. The study described how experiential pedagogy empowers students to take the learning outside the classroom and use theory at various points in the entrepreneurial process. Students are encouraged to engage in a variety of activities including business simulations, business project development, market analysis, business planning, business internships and problem solving activities related to entrepreneurship. This hands-on experience gives students an insight into the challenges and uncertainties of being an entrepreneur and enhances their effective identification of business opportunities, decision making and risk management skills. Based on the results of the researcher, it may be concluded that

experiential learning is able to produce entrepreneurial mindset, self-confidence, leadership ability and innovation ability in students.

*Olsson and Bernhard (2021)* explained that entrepreneurship has become an important platform for individuals to express creativity and leadership abilities. The study found that entrepreneurs achieve professional growth through innovative business practices. Entrepreneurship provides opportunities for financial security and social recognition. The researchers highlighted that entrepreneurial activities encourage independence and business expansion. Adaptability and innovation were identified as essential for entrepreneurial success. The study concluded that entrepreneurship positively contributes to economic and social development.

*Tegtmeier, Kurczewska, and Halberstadt (2016)* observed that entrepreneurship is strongly influenced by creativity, innovation, and personal interests. The researchers explained that many business ideas originate from individual talents and hobbies. Entrepreneurship enables individuals to convert creative ideas into profitable ventures. The study highlighted that innovative thinking is essential for business growth and sustainability. Entrepreneurs use their skills to introduce unique products and services in the market. The findings emphasized the importance of creativity in entrepreneurial success.

*Kuppinger (2017)* explained that creativity and artistic skills play a significant role in entrepreneurial activities. The study highlighted that entrepreneurs develop business ideas based on cultural trends and consumer preferences. Creative entrepreneurship supports the production of innovative and valuable products. The researcher observed that entrepreneurial activities provide self-employment opportunities and income generation. Creativity helps entrepreneurs attract customers and create competitive advantages in the market. The study concluded that innovation and artistic skills strengthen entrepreneurial development.

*Mensitieri (2020)* reported that entrepreneurship in fashion, food production, and handmade products has grown rapidly in recent years. The study found that entrepreneurs use creativity and innovation to satisfy changing customer demands. Entrepreneurship enables individuals to introduce differentiated products and services in competitive markets. The researcher highlighted that digital platforms and market accessibility support entrepreneurial expansion. Innovative products contribute to customer attraction and business

sustainability. The study concluded that creativity-based entrepreneurship promotes economic growth and business opportunities.

*Fahrurrozi (2023)* identified that lack of optimism, creativity, and innovation are major challenges affecting entrepreneurs. The study explained that businesses often fail due to the inability to adapt to changing market trends. Entrepreneurs with limited fresh ideas face difficulties in sustaining their business activities. The researcher observed that market competition requires continuous innovation and strategic thinking. Lack of confidence and motivation negatively influence entrepreneurial performance and growth. The study concluded that innovation and adaptability are essential for long-term entrepreneurial sustainability.

The high prevalence of entrepreneurial activity in Thailand is driven by a combination of necessity-based motivations, the dynamism of the informal sector, and increasing access to digital technologies and online platforms. Nevertheless, significant obstacles remain, notably in the areas of business formalization, capital accessibility, and innovation capabilities. These elements are indispensable for advancing from subsistence-level entrepreneurship to enduring enterprise growth (*Cueto et al., 2022*).

Age-related variations in life stage, opportunity cost, and motivational orientation may influence how individuals evaluate entrepreneurial risks and rewards (*Hatak et al., 2015, Kautonen et al., 2015, Sahinidis et al., 2021*). However, empirical investigations of the moderating effects of gender and age on the cognitive and motivational predictors of entrepreneurial intention within a unified structural model remain limited.

### 3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Entrepreneurship is a key factor in the economic growth, employment creation, innovation and social progress since it is the source of business opportunities and self-employment. Entrepreneurs today are dealing with a number of issues that hinder their growth and development, including a lack of access to funding, insufficient innovation, competition from other firms, technological shifts, inadequate management skills and sustainability concerns. Entrepreneurship is a vast field and has opportunities in diverse sectors but not every entrepreneur is successful in achieving long-term sustainability because of the differences that exist in their motivation, confidence, creativity, risk taking capacity and resources. Achievement motivation, financial independence, social recognition, government support, family encouragement, and

market opportunities are important motivational factors that impact entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurial development. But, the effect of having an entrepreneurial status, scope and motivations on entrepreneurial development has not been studied extensively in an integrated way in many earlier studies. Based on the above considerations, the present study is designed to analyse the entrepreneurial status, determine scope and entrepreneurship opportunities and study the motivational factors influencing entrepreneurial development through the method of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in order to scientifically and systematically understand the relationship among the variables studied.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the entrepreneurial status, scope, and opportunities available for entrepreneurial activities by examining the existing position of entrepreneurs, business growth potential, market opportunities, and the expanding scope of entrepreneurship in the present business environment.
2. To examine the motivational factors influencing entrepreneurial development by using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in order to identify the significant motivational determinants such as achievement motivation, financial independence, social recognition, innovation, and government support that contribute to entrepreneurial growth and sustainability.

#### 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is descriptive and empirical research to analyze the entrepreneurial status, range, and motivation in entrepreneurial development. The study emphasizes the understanding of the different factors that make the entrepreneur grow, businesses sustainable and the entrepreneur successful in the competitive business environment today. In the research process, both qualitative and quantitative approach is taken because complete analysis and interpretation of research variables need to be done. The research was mainly descriptive in nature and was conducted by using primary data which is obtained directly from the entrepreneurs by using a well-structured questionnaire prepared specifically for the objectives of the study. The questionnaire has several dimensions concerning entrepreneurial status, entrepreneurial scope, entrepreneurial motivation and development of entrepreneurship. Every item on the questionnaire is rated on a scale of one to five, where one indicates 'strongly disagree' and five indicates 'strongly agree'. The secondary data used

for the study is obtained from journals, books, research articles, conference papers, government reports, entrepreneurship development publications, magazines, web and other published and unpublished sources. These secondary sources help the research study to have theoretical support and concepts. The study area is limited to the State of Telangana and entrepreneurs from varied sectors like manufacturing, trading, service, retail, food processing, handicrafts and small scale industries are included for analysis. The study population are entrepreneurs who are involved in entrepreneurial activities and business operation in various regions of Telangana.

A convenient sampling technique is used for selecting 500 entrepreneurs to build a sample for the study. The sampling method is used because respondents are easily accessible and available in the various entrepreneurial sectors. The respondents chosen for the study are of multiple socio-economic backgrounds, educational attainment, types of business and entrepreneurial experiences. The large sample size increases the reliability and validity of the research results, and allows for a more in-depth analysis of the entrepreneurial factors affecting entrepreneurial development. The information collected is organized, coded, tabulated and analyzed using statistical tools and software packages. To understand the socio-demographic profile and the general characteristics of the respondents, descriptive statistical tools like percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation and ranking analysis are used. The methods used in this study are tools of statistical techniques as an inference which is correlation analysis and regression analysis to determine the relationship between the study variables. The main analytical tool used to analyse the direct and indirect relationship between the variables of entrepreneurial status, entrepreneurial scope, motivational factors and entrepreneurial development is structural equation modelling (SEM). The use of SEM to test the conceptual framework scientifically is achieved by analyzing the relationship of causality between the latent variables in the study model.

The use of SEM allows better understanding of the influence of motivational factors on entrepreneurial development and sustainability of business. The proposed research model is evaluated using model fit indices which include Chi-square value, CMIN/DF, GFI, AGFI, CFI and RMSEA. Reliability and validity tests are also carried out to see that there is consistency and suitability in measuring scales used in the study. The results of the research methodology offer insights into the entrepreneurial behavior,

entrepreneurial growth opportunities and motivational determinants for entrepreneurial development. Thus the research methodology provides a system, scientific and analytical approach to the research in entrepreneurial development and significantly influences the research in the field of entrepreneurship and the formulation of entrepreneurship policy.

**6. DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS**

**6.1. Conceptual Model Fit for Entrepreneurial Status, Scope and Motivational Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Development by using Structural Equation Model**

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) is one of the multivariate statistical technique that can be used to analyze the direct and indirect effects of the variables in studies simultaneously and to test the scientific fit of the conceptual framework. The present study uses SEM to analyze the conceptual model fit of entrepreneurial status, scope and motivation of entrepreneurial development. The conceptual framework is built on theoretical ideas, previous research studies, and study objectives with the variables of entrepreneurial status, entrepreneurial scope and motivational factors as independent constructs in influencing entrepreneurial development. The model fit is assessed through the use of various goodness of fit indices to find the degree of adequacy and validity of the proposed research model which include Chi-square value, CMIN/DF, GFI, AGFI, CFI, RMR, and RMSEA. Application of SEM helps to understand the

structural relationship between the study variables and provides a scientific basis for determining the factors that can influence entrepreneurial success, business sustainability and entrepreneurial growth.

**6.2. The variables used in the structural equation model are**

**6.2.1. Observed, endogenous variables**

1. Attitudes of the Entrepreneurs
2. Status of the entrepreneurs
3. Scope of the entrepreneurs
4. Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs
5. Problems faced by the entrepreneurs
6. Effective performance of the entrepreneurs

**6.2.2. Observed, exogenous variables**

1. Educational status of the entrepreneurs
2. Gender of the entrepreneurs
3. Community status of the entrepreneurs
4. Religion of the entrepreneurs
5. Marital status of the entrepreneurs
6. Age of the entrepreneurs

**6.2.3. Unobserved, exogenous variables**

1. Error 1 for Attitudes of the Entrepreneurs
2. Error 2 for Status of the entrepreneurs
3. Error 3 for Scope of the entrepreneurs
4. Error 4 for Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs
5. Error 5 for Problems faced by the entrepreneurs
6. Error 6 for Effective performance of the entrepreneurs

*Table 1: Summary of the variables used for the analysis*

Number of variables in model	18
Number of observed variables	12
Number of unobserved variables	6
Number of exogenous variables	12
Number of endogenous variables	6

Source: Output generated from Amos 20.

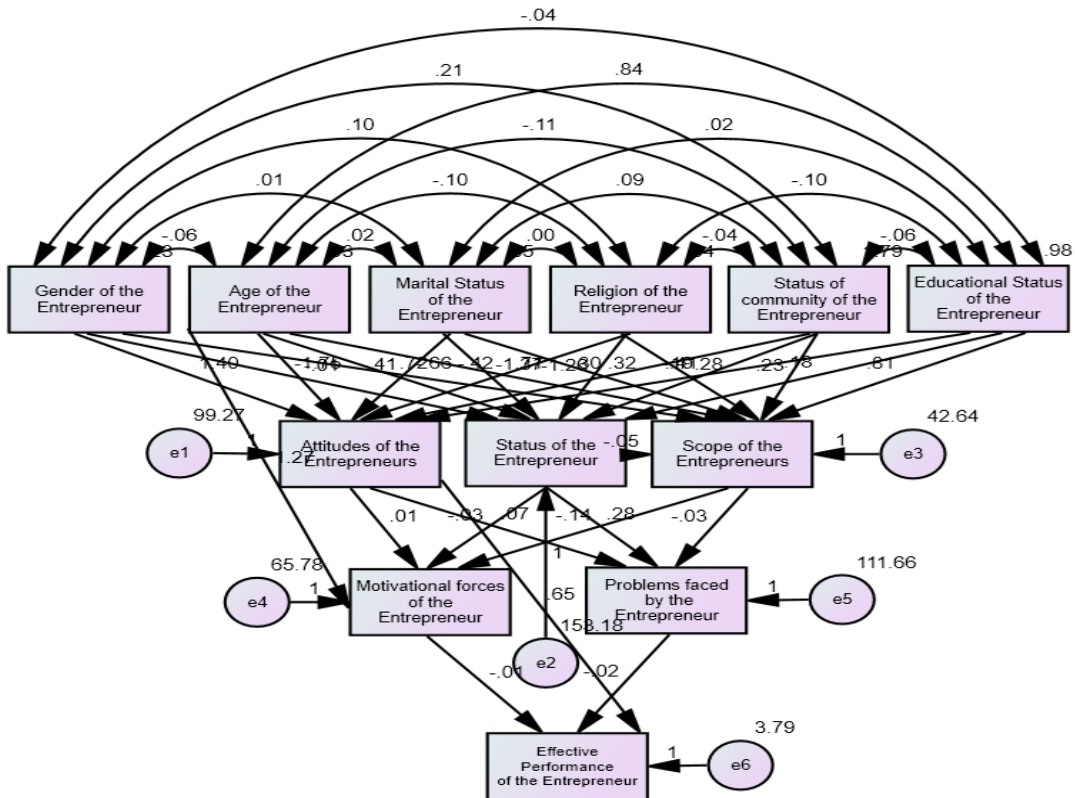


Figure 1: Unstandardized estimate for Structural Equation Model of the Entrepreneurial Status, Scope and Motivational Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Development

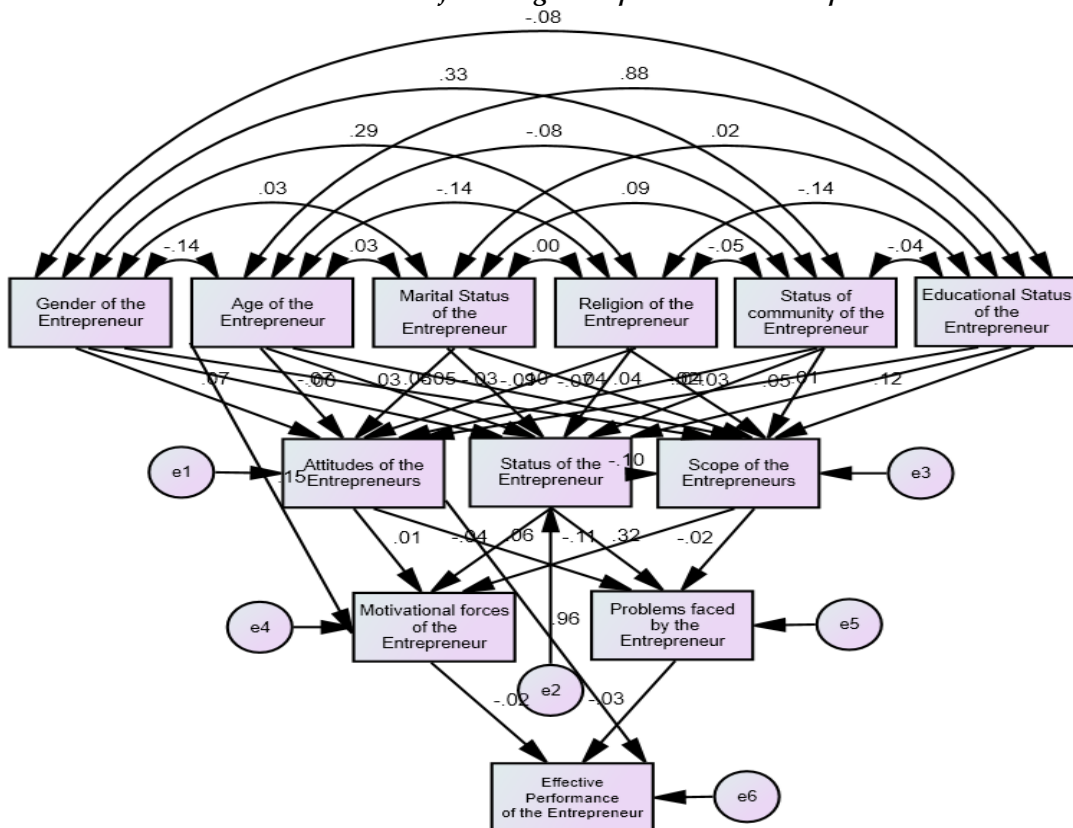


Figure 2: Standardized estimate for Structural Equation Model of the Entrepreneurial Status, Scope and Motivational Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Development

**Table 2: Regression weights for Structural Equation Model for the Entrepreneurial Status, Scope and Motivational Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Development**

Regression weights	Hypothesis	Unstandardized estimate	S.E.	Standardized estimate	C.R.	P Value
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Gender of the entrepreneurs	H1 - No Significant Relationship	-1.753	1.291	-.067	-1.357	.175
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Age of the entrepreneurs	H2 - No Significant Relationship	.724	1.230	.055	.589	.556
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Marital status of the entrepreneurs	H3 - No Significant Relationship	-1.368	.691	-.088	-1.979	.048
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Religion of the entrepreneurs	H4 - No Significant Relationship	-1.258	.804	-.074	-1.565	.118
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Community status of the entrepreneurs	H5- No Significant Relationship	-.414	.447	-.044	-.928	.354
Status of the entrepreneurs <--- Educational status of the entrepreneurs	H6 - No Significant Relationship	.180	1.190	.014	.151	.880
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Gender of the entrepreneurs	H7 - No Significant Relationship	1.398	1.040	.068	1.345	.179
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Age of the entrepreneurs	H8 - No Significant Relationship	-.011	.990	-.001	-.011	.991
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Marital status of the entrepreneurs	H9 - No Significant Relationship	-.411	.556	-.033	-.739	.460
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Religion of the entrepreneurs	H10- No Significant Relationship	-.417	.647	-.031	-.645	.519
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Community status of the entrepreneurs	H11 - No Significant Relationship	.301	.360	.040	.835	.403
Attitudes of the entrepreneurs <--- Educational status of the entrepreneurs	H12 - No Significant Relationship	-.185	.958	-.018	-.193	.847
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Gender of the entrepreneurs	H13 - No Significant Relationship	-.655	.683	-.048	-.960	.337
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Age of the entrepreneurs	H14 - No Significant Relationship	.714	.649	.104	1.100	.271
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Marital status of the entrepreneurs	H15- No Significant Relationship	.324	.366	.040	.886	.376
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Religion of the entrepreneurs	H16 - No Significant Relationship	.275	.425	.031	.648	.517
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Community status of the entrepreneurs	H17 - No Significant Relationship	.226	.236	.046	.960	.337
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Educational status of the entrepreneurs	H18 - No Significant Relationship	-.805	.628	-.121	-1.283	.200
Scope of the entrepreneurs <--- Status of the entrepreneurs	H19 - No Significant Relationship	-.051	.024	-.098	-2.164	.030
Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs <--- Attitudes of the entrepreneurs	H20 - No Significant Relationship	.007	.036	.009	.199	.842
Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs <--- Status of the entrepreneurs	H21- No Significant Relationship	-.029	.029	-.044	-1.000	.317
Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs <--- Scope of the entrepreneurs	H22 - No Significant Relationship	-.139	.055	-.111	-2.509	.012
Problems faced by the entrepreneurs <--- Attitudes of the entrepreneurs	H23 - No Significant Relationship	.068	.047	.061	1.442	.149
Problems faced by the entrepreneurs <--- Status of the entrepreneurs	H24 - No Significant Relationship	.284	.038	.320	7.514	***
Problems faced by the entrepreneurs <--- Scope of the entrepreneurs	H25 - No Significant Relationship	-.031	.072	-.018	-.430	.667
Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs <--- Age of the entrepreneurs	H26 - No Significant Relationship	1.272	.379	.148	3.360	***
Effective performance of the entrepreneurs <--- Motivational forces of the entrepreneurs	H27 - No Significant Relationship	-.013	.011	-.016	-1.274	.203
Effective performance of the entrepreneurs <--- Problems faced by the entrepreneurs	H28 - No Significant Relationship	-.020	.008	-.033	-2.560	.010
Effective performance of the entrepreneurs <--- Attitudes of the entrepreneurs	H29 - No Significant Relationship	.645	.009	.959	73.954	***

Source: Output generated from AMOS 25

The regression weights of the SEM show the relationship between socio-demographic variables and the status of the entrepreneurs. The findings indicate that there is no significant relationship between gender of the entrepreneurs and status of the entrepreneurs since the p value (.175) is higher than the alpha value of 0.05 so that H1 is accepted. On a similar note, the age of the entrepreneurs is not significantly different from entrepreneurial status as the p-value (.556) is greater than the significance level and H2 does not affect the model. The marital status of the entrepreneurs is significantly related with entrepreneurial status as the p-value (.048) is less than 0.05 so that the marital status of the entrepreneur is rejected. A negative standardized estimate (-.088) means that marital status negatively affects status of entrepreneurs. The p-value (0.118) indicates that the religion of the entrepreneurs is not significant in determining the entrepreneurial status and H4 is retained. The same applies for community status of the entrepreneurs, where the p-value is .354 (not significant) and thus H5 is retained. There is also no significant difference between the educators' education and the entrepreneurs' education as the p-value (.880) is above 0.05 and H6 is retained. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that out of the selected socio-demographic variables only marital status has a significant effects on the status of the entrepreneurs, as gender, age, religion, community status and educational status shows no significant relationship with the status of the entrepreneurs.

The regression weight parameters of the Structural Equation Model indicate the relationship between the socio-demographic variables and the entrepreneurs' attitudes. The findings indicate that Gender of the entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial attitudes are not significantly related as the p-value (.179) is higher than the 0.05; hence the null hypothesis H7 is accepted. In the same way, age of the entrepreneurs does not have a significant influence on entrepreneurial attitude as the p-value (.991) is greater than the significance level so, H8 is retained. Similarly, marital status of the entrepreneurs does not reveal a significant relationship with entrepreneurial attitudes as the p-value of the hypothesis (0.460) is greater than .05, therefore H9 is not rejected. Therefore, the variable "Religion of the entrepreneurs" has no significant effect on entrepreneurial attitudes with a p-value of 0.519 which is greater than 0.05, so H10 is retained. Similarly, the community status of the entrepreneurs is not found to be significantly correlated with entrepreneurial attitudes (p value .403) and thus H11 is accepted. The educational status of the

entrepreneurs is not significant with respect to entrepreneurial attitudes as the p-value (0.847) is higher than the 0.05, so the educational status of the entrepreneurs is retained. Overall, the analysis indicates that none of the selected socio-demographic variables such as gender, age, marital status, religion, community status, and educational status have a significant influence on the attitudes of the entrepreneurs.

The regression weights of the Structural Equation Model indicate the relationship between socio-demographic variables, entrepreneurial status, and the scope of the entrepreneurs. The findings reveal that gender of the entrepreneurs does not have a significant relationship with entrepreneurial scope, as the p-value (.337) is greater than 0.05; therefore, H13 is retained. Similarly, age of the entrepreneurs does not significantly influence entrepreneurial scope since the p-value (.271) exceeds the significance level, leading to the retention of H14. Marital status of the entrepreneurs also does not show a significant relationship with entrepreneurial scope because the p-value (.376) is greater than 0.05, and hence H15 is retained. Religion of the entrepreneurs does not significantly affect entrepreneurial scope as the p-value (.517) is higher than 0.05, resulting in the retention of H16. Likewise, community status of the entrepreneurs does not have a significant relationship with entrepreneurial scope due to the p-value (.337), and therefore H17 is retained. Educational status of the entrepreneurs also does not significantly influence entrepreneurial scope since the p-value (.200) exceeds 0.05, leading to the retention of H18. However, status of the entrepreneurs shows a significant relationship with entrepreneurial scope because the p-value (.030) is less than 0.05, and therefore H19 is rejected. The negative standardized estimate (-.098) indicates that entrepreneurial status has a negative influence on entrepreneurial scope. Overall, the analysis indicates that among the selected variables, only entrepreneurial status has a significant influence on the scope of the entrepreneurs, while gender, age, marital status, religion, community status, and educational status do not show significant relationships with entrepreneurial scope.

The regression weights of the SEM show the relationship among the attitude, status, scope, and motivational forces of the entrepreneurs. From the findings, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the attitude of the entrepreneurs with the motivational forces since the p value obtained is 0.842, which is greater than the value of  $p = 0.05$ , so that H20 is accepted. Likewise,

status of the entrepreneurs does not significantly affect motivational forces as the p-value (.317) is above the significance level and H21 is retained. The motivational forces has a significant relationship with scope of the entrepreneurs and the p-value (0.012) is less than 0.05, hence H22 is rejected. The negative standardized estimate (-.111) indicates that entrepreneurial scope has a negative influence on motivational forces of the entrepreneurs. The analysis suggests that of the selected variables, entrepreneurial scope is the only one that is significantly related with the motivational forces of the entrepreneurs, while entrepreneurial attitudes and entrepreneurial status do not show significant relationships with the motivational forces.

The Structural Equation Model regression weights show the relationship of the attitudes to the entrepreneurs' status, scope, and problems faced. The result shows that there is no significant relationship between attitudes of the entrepreneurs towards the problems faced by the entrepreneurs, because the p-value is 0.149 which is more than 0.05, so H23 is not rejected. Likewise, scope of the entrepreneurs does not effect significant on the problems of the entrepreneurs (p-value of .667 > .05) hence H25 retained. The result of the entrepreneur's status is indicated to be highly significant with the entrepreneur's problems as the p-value () is less than 0.001, thus Ho24 is rejected. The positive standardized estimate (.320) shows entrepreneurial status positively has an effect on the problems faced by the entrepreneurs. Overall, the analysis indicates that among the selected variables, only entrepreneurial status has a significant influence on the problems faced by the entrepreneurs, whereas entrepreneurial attitudes and entrepreneurial scope do not show significant relationships with entrepreneurial problems.

The regression weights of the Structural Equation Model reveal the relationship between age of the entrepreneurs and motivational forces of the entrepreneurs. Based on the results, age of the entrepreneurs is highly related to motivational forces,

the p-value () is less than 0.001, hence H26 is rejected. Results from the positive standardized estimate (.148) indicates that age has a positive relationship with motivational forces of the entrepreneurs. This means that age differences make a significant contribution to differences in entrepreneurial motivation. The finding indicated that entrepreneurial motivation rises with age as a result of experience, maturity, exposure to business, financial obligations and confidence in conducting business activities. Therefore age is considered as an important socio-economic variable influencing the motivational factors of entrepreneurs.

The results of the regression weights of the SEMs help to reveal the relationship between motivational forces, problems faced, attitude and the effective performance of the entrepreneurs. The results show that there is no significant relationship between motivational forces of the entrepreneurs with their effective entrepreneurial performance with a p-value of (.203) which is greater than 0.05 so that H27 is accepted. However, problems faced by the entrepreneurs show a significant relationship with effective performance because the p-value (.010) is less than 0.05, and hence H28 is rejected. The negative standardized estimate (-.033) suggests that the difficulties encountered by the entrepreneurs negatively affect the entrepreneurs' effective performance. Likewise, the relationship between the attitudes of the entrepreneurs and the effective entrepreneurial performance is highly significant as the p-value (\*\*\*) is less than 0.001 which leads to the rejection of H29. The positive standardized estimate (.959) indicates a very strong positive influence of entrepreneurial attitudes on effective performance. The analysis suggests that entrepreneurial attitudes have significant relationship with the effective performance of the entrepreneurs and the problems faced by the entrepreneurs have also significant influence on the effective performance of the entrepreneurs while the motivational forces do not show a significant relationship with entrepreneurial performance.

**Table 3: Model Fit Summary for Structural Equation Model of the Entrepreneurial Status, Scope and Motivational Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Development**

Indices	Value	Suggested Value
Chi-square value	23.162	
P value	0.393	>0.05 (Hair et al., 1998)
CMIN/DF	1.053	< 5 (Marsh&Hocevar,1985)
GFI	0.992	>0.90 (Hu and Bentler, 1999)
AGFI	0.973	>0.90 (Hair et al. 2006)
CFI	0.999	>0.90 (Daire et al., 2008)
RMR	0.514	<0.08 (Hair et al. 2006)
RMSEA	0.010	<0.08 ( Hair et al. 2006)

Source: Output generated from AMOS 25

The model fit summary for the Structural Equation Model of entrepreneurial status, scope, and motivational factors influencing entrepreneurial development indicates that the proposed model has a good fit with the observed data. The Chi-square value of 23.162 with a p-value of 0.393, which is greater than 0.05 as suggested by Joseph Hair et al. (1998), indicates that there is no significant difference between the proposed model and the observed data, confirming the adequacy of the model fit. The CMIN/DF value of 1.053 is less than the recommended value of 5 suggested by Herbert W Marsh and David Hocevar (1985), which indicates an acceptable and satisfactory model fit. The Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) value of 0.992 and Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI) value of 0.973 are greater than the recommended value of 0.90, indicating a strong fit of the model with the sample data. Similarly, the Comparative Fit Index (CFI) value of 0.999 exceeds the suggested value of 0.90 recommended by Daire et al. (2008), showing an excellent comparative fit of the model. The Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) value of 0.010 is lower than the threshold value of 0.08 recommended by Hair et al. (2006), which confirms a very good approximation fit of the model. Although the RMR value is reported as 0.514, the overall goodness-of-fit indices collectively indicate that the proposed Structural Equation Model is statistically acceptable, reliable, and appropriate for explaining the relationships among entrepreneurial status, scope, motivational factors, and entrepreneurial development.

## 7. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Effective training, entrepreneurial education, financial assistance and motivational support to entrepreneurs is a good way to strengthen entrepreneurship development. The government organizations, financial institutions and entrepreneurship development organizations should arrange regular skill development programme, workshop, alert programmes and awareness programmes to enhance the entrepreneurship knowledge, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship managerial skills of entrepreneurs. Financial support, subsidy, startup scheme and low

interest loan can be easily available to help entrepreneurs to surmount financial challenges to expand their business function well. Entrepreneurs should also be encouraged to apply modern technologies, digital marketing and innovative business strategies to remain competitive and enhance business performance in varying market conditions. Entrepreneurial education and experiential learning should be encouraged in educational institutions to build positive entrepreneurial attitudes, self-confidence, leadership skills and entrepreneurial intentions in the individuals. Proper mentoring, counseling and business networking opportunities should also be provided to enhance entrepreneurial motivation, opportunity recognition and business sustainability. Innovation, adapting to the market and the customer orientation of business are vital for long-term entrepreneurial success and sustainable entrepreneurial development.

Entrepreneurship is a key component in fostering economic growth, job creation, innovation and social development through opportunity creation and self-employment. The present study employed the method of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to analyze the entrepreneurial status, scope and motivation in entrepreneurial development. The results showed that the entrepreneurial attitudes significantly affect the effective entrepreneurial performance and the entrepreneurial scope significantly affects motivational forces of the entrepreneurs. Another finding from the study was that entrepreneurial problems negatively affect entrepreneurial performance and business sustainability. The overall results of the Structural Equation Model indicated good fit indices, thus the conceptual framework was reliable and valid. The study suggests that the entrepreneurial development can be improved if appropriate motivational support, entrepreneurial education, innovation, financial assistance, and supportive business policy are given. The overall findings of the study may be useful to the policy makers, entrepreneurship development agencies, financial institutions, researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs for the promotion of sustainable entrepreneurial development and economic development.

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