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Exploring the nexus of entrepreneurial potential and entrepreneurial mentoring among TVET programme students

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Abstract

Malaysia government aims to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem by launching The National Entrepreneurship Policy in 2019 to encourage TVET students to participate in entrepreneurship. TVET students are taught about business startups. This collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) seeks to nurture student entrepreneurs as job creators. Issues such as salary discrimination, and competency gaps are often faced by TVET graduates. A total of 252 students from Vocational Colleges in Malaysia were selected using stratified sampling. The result found entrepreneurial students and entrepreneurial interaction have a relationship with entrepreneurial potential. Yet, no relationship was indicated between entrepreneurial potential and the entrepreneurial mentor. The study expands knowledge of TVET students' entrepreneurial potential and provides insights into entrepreneurial potential studies for Malaysian entrepreneurship academia. It also helps the public and private sectors create entrepreneurship mentoring programmes. The findings support the TVET institution's goal of becoming an entrepreneurial hub.

Keywords:

entrepreneurial potential, TVET, mentoring, entrepreneurial interaction, SEM-PLS

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1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship education is emerging as a key approach to encourage entrepreneurship, specifically cultivating entrepreneurial aspirations and new business ventures (Munawar et al., 2023). Nevertheless, the journey of entrepreneurship does not end with the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and the initiation of a business venture. Entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial support are equally crucial in ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of entrepreneurial ventures (Nchu et al., 2023; Shehu & Ahmad, 2023). Entrepreneurial education is an initial or startup learning that includes various activities and resources that help students learn more about entrepreneurship (Jáki & Huszák, 2023). Lei et al. (2023) explain that entrepreneurial support may include workshops, seminars, mentoring programmes, networking opportunities, and access to business resources and expertise. When students engage in entrepreneurship education and get support from entrepreneurial mentors, students can acquire new skills in entrepreneurship education (Prastyaningtyas et. al, 2023). Moreover, entrepreneurial mentoring mechanisms are vital in providing students with the necessary guidance, encouragement, and connections to grow in their entrepreneurship education (Zhang, 2023; Passavanti et al., 2023). Mentors, or coaches, can offer valuable insights, feedback, and advice, and assist students in looking for and seizing business opportunities (Dilshodovich, 2023).



Fauchald et al. (2022) agree that entrepreneurial mentoring enables students to connect with mentors, share entrepreneurship experiences, and learn from one another.

In general, the percentage of individuals engaged in entrepreneurial activities in Malaysia currently at 4.74% of the overall population, reflects the existing entrepreneurial landscape in the country (Soebijantoro et al., 2021). While Malaysia has made progress in cultivating entrepreneurship, it falls behind some neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand in terms of entrepreneurial activity rates. Hutasuhut and Aditia (2021) added, Singapore shows a higher rate of 8.76%, indicating a more robust entrepreneurial ecosystem and a greater proportion of individuals involved in entrepreneurial endeavours. Leong (2008) explained the lower entrepreneurial activity rate in Malaysia suggests the need for concerted efforts to encourage and support aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly among the student population. Recognising the potential for entrepreneurship among students is crucial for fostering a vibrant and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem (Kantis et al., 2020). By nurturing the entrepreneurial aspirations of students, Malaysia can tap into a valuable pool of innovative and creative minds, driving economic growth and job creation (Agrawal et al., 2023).

Putro et al. (2022) identified that entrepreneurship education is one of the critical factors in increasing entrepreneurial potential. Nowiński et al. (2019) conducted a study that reinforced the positive impact of entrepreneurship education on students' entrepreneurial potential. The findings highlight that entrepreneurship education acts as a catalyst in shaping students' entrepreneurial potential. It helps foster entrepreneurial characteristics, such as creativity, innovation, risk-taking propensity, self-confidence, and resilience. These qualities are vital for individuals aspiring to embark on entrepreneurial ventures and navigate the challenges inherent in the business landscape. Pham (2018) agreed that entrepreneurship education could encourage entrepreneurial activities. Alharbi et al. (2018) concurred that entrepreneurship education has been shown to predict student business formation.

Today's entrepreneurship education is important because it equips students with the confidence and skills necessary to operate a business. This is agreed by the study conducted by Anwar et al. (2022) and Okagbue et al. (2023) indeed supported that entrepreneurship education significantly increases entrepreneurial potential. After implementing entrepreneurship education within the Technical Vocational Education and Training program (TVET), the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE) has taken steps to equip TVET lecturers with entrepreneurial skills. It involves providing them with training through several entrepreneurship courses (James et al., 2023; Abdullah et al., 2019). Additionally, an entrepreneurship-certified lecturer has been designated to provide students from different programmes with exposure to the concepts of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial mentoring is essential for aspiring students to develop entrepreneurial skills (Wilbanks, 2013). However, students often face obstacles such as a lack of mentorship (Hägg et al., 2023), funding (Singh Sandhu et al., 2011), experience (Ozen et al., 2023), difficulty in balancing schoolwork and running a business (Hartikainen et al., 2023), and insufficient networking opportunities with other businesspeople (Blažič, 2022). TVET lecturers, who are essentially upgraded lecturers from non-skilled education backgrounds, may find entrepreneurial mentoring challenging and time-consuming, potentially distracting them from their teaching and research responsibilities (Stephen & Festus, 2022). This can be particularly burdensome if they are already overwhelmed with administrative duties (Shi & Bangpan, 2022). Moreover, a lack of experience in mentoring entrepreneurs could also pose a challenge for lecturers (Davis et al., 2022). However, Lope Pihie and Bagheri (2011) mentioned that entrepreneurship lecturers or teachers should be entrepreneurial.

Hossain et al. (2023) emphasised that entrepreneurial mentoring can significantly impact the development of entrepreneurial potential among students. Mentors can offer students guidance, advice, and support in developing their entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, and attitudes (Daragmeh & Halabi, 2023). This paper argues that lecturers with entrepreneurial backgrounds are responsible for teaching entrepreneurship education to encourage entrepreneurial potential

among TVET students. This study empirically explores such elements in entrepreneurial mentoring in developing students' entrepreneurial potential exhibited by TVET students when it comes to initiating their own businesses.

2. Literature review

This section focuses on reviewing the literature related to entrepreneurial potential and the antecedents of entrepreneurial mentoring, including the roles of entrepreneurial mentors, entrepreneurial students, and entrepreneurial interactions. The goal is to develop research hypotheses and frameworks.

2.1 Entrepreneurial potential

Rofa and Ngah (2022) distinguish three important entrepreneurship concepts: entrepreneurial potential, entrepreneurial intention, and entrepreneurial readiness. Entrepreneurial potential refers to a person's propensity for entrepreneurship and correlates with creativity, risk-taking, and self-efficacy (Ćoćkalo et. al., 2017). In contrast, entrepreneurial intention is the desire to start a business and is influenced by cognitive factors such as attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control (Maheshwari et al., 2022).

Moreover, entrepreneurship readiness focuses on a person's preparedness and willingness to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape, including risk management, quick decision-making, and adaptability. Despite being a relatively new concept in entrepreneurship research, behavioural control emphasises the significance of an individual's ability to effectively respond to the challenges and demands of entrepreneurship (Olugbola, 2017; Coduras et al., 2016). By comprehending these three concepts, as highlighted by Rofa and Ngah (2022), researchers and practitioners can develop interventions and programmes to support and promote entrepreneurship. The clarity in these areas facilitates the advancement of knowledge and the growth of the field of entrepreneurship.

When embarking on a business venture, young individuals and college graduates are more prone to exhibit higher entrepreneurial potential compared to non-graduates with lower potential for entrepreneurship (Makwara et al., 2023). This finding suggests that entrepreneurial education and age are important factors in developing entrepreneurial potential. Aside from that, exposure to a wide range of experiences, a willingness to take risks, and creative prowess are just a few of the qualities and experiences that young people and recent college graduates possess that make them ideal candidates for entrepreneurial endeavours (Sarwar et al., 2023). Since entrepreneurial education is identified as one of the most critical factors in developing entrepreneurial potential, Tiberius et al. (2023) have listed courses such as marketing, accounting, and finance, which are important among others. By equipping these students, they may obtain entrepreneurial skills, which can be essential for starting and running a business in the future.

2.2 Entrepreneurial mentoring

Khelifi (2023) highlights the importance of mentoring in influencing students' entrepreneurial potential. Mentoring programmes can provide students with practical knowledge, guidance, and support essential for entrepreneurship. This support can be in advice, access to networks, and financial resources. Entrepreneurial mentoring provides students with guidance, advice, and support from experienced entrepreneurs or professionals (Zhang & Nong, 2023). Mentors can share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, which can help students to refine their ideas and develop their entrepreneurial skills further. By combining entrepreneurship education

and mentoring, students can develop comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurship, which can help them visualise and create their businesses (Zen et al., 2023; Zeng et al., 2023).

Bist (2023) adds that students representing the next generation of entrepreneurs play a vital role in job creation and economic development. Consequently, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) could shape future employers by offering entrepreneurship education and mentoring programmes (Kintu et al., 2019). Government initiatives and policymaker actions also play a crucial role in fostering the entrepreneurial potential of young individuals, as they contribute to inspiring and motivating young people to pursue entrepreneurship (Poon et al., 2023).

Entrepreneurial mentoring is recognised worldwide as an effective method to train and motivate new business owners (Annas & Melinda, 2023). It involves providing aspiring entrepreneurs with guidance and support from experienced professionals (Nate et al., 2022). Madu and Okunna (2023) confirm that mentorship facilitates practical knowledge acquisition and entrepreneurial skill development, leading to successful ventures. Thus, this study explores students' entrepreneurial potential by considering the demonstration of the effectiveness of mentoring. Ting et al. (2017) classified entrepreneurial mentoring as consisting of mentors, students, and interaction.

2.3 Entrepreneurial mentor

Mentors can play various roles, including leaders, models, coaches, teachers, advisors, counsellors, and even "buddies," to assist their mentees (Kent et al., 2003). Entrepreneurial mentors help students evaluate business opportunities, develop business plans, and manage business risks (Prastyaningtyas et al., 2023; Bist, 2023). An entrepreneurial mentor, in the context of this study, refers to a TVET lecturer accredited and certified to help students develop entrepreneurial skills and mindset (Njenga, 2023). According to Musyimi and Mwasiaji (2023), TVET students require mentors with entrepreneurial experience. As a result, an entrepreneurial mentor assists students in developing entrepreneurial skills (Susanto, 2023). Students can be inspired and motivated to pursue their entrepreneurial goals by a passionate, dedicated, and genuinely invested entrepreneurial mentor (Shymko & Khoury, 2023). As a result, young entrepreneurs require qualified, committed mentors to share their knowledge and experience (Prastyaningtyas et al., 2023).

H1: Entrepreneurial mentor has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential.

2.4 Entrepreneurial students

Entrepreneurial students have unique traits that set them apart from others, such as motivation, innovation, and a strong desire to build successful businesses. According to Bejinaru et al. (2023), an entrepreneurial student has an entrepreneurial mindset and actively engages in entrepreneurial activities while pursuing their education. These students strongly desire to create and innovate and frequently look for opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge in a business setting (Adeel et al., 2023).

Within a TVET programme, students' entrepreneurial learning can be fostered as they follow their mentors' instructions (Khieng et al., 2019). Their young age, which ranges from 15 to 19 years old, allows mentors to easily instil discipline and positive entrepreneurial habits (Hastuti & Maslamah, 2023). Student's willingness to follow instructions and acknowledge feedback aids learning and entrepreneurship (Bazkiaei et al., 2020). However, student's willingness is subjective and may not apply universally (Shah et al., 2020). Each student has a unique personality and circumstances (Singh & Mehdi, 2022).

Sunny and Ismail (2023) explained that TVET programmes emphasise practical skills to improve career prospects and employability. TVET programmes are accessible and tailored to diverse

students who may have struggled in traditional academic settings (Song & Chea, 2023). Entrepreneurial subjects like business planning, market research, financial management, and marketing skills help students identify and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities (Djubaedi et al., 2023). Indeed, entrepreneurship education in TVET programmes gives students the skills to succeed in the entrepreneurial world, regardless of their entrepreneurial potential (Padi et al., 2022).

H2: Entrepreneurial student has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential.

2.5 Entrepreneurial interaction

Jackson (2022) elaborates that by interacting with a mentor, an entrepreneurial student can learn about different aspects of entrepreneurship and receive guidance on overcoming common obstacles. Lowell and Yang (2023) explained that the interactions can provide feedback that help students grow their businesses and confidence. Assenova (2020) studied that mentors provided the knowledge, skills, and resources required to develop entrepreneurial potential, making the conversation between mentor and student highly impactful. The mentor's guidance and support stimulate success, providing the necessary direction, support, and networking opportunities to launch and grow a business (Bozward et al., 2023).

H3: Entrepreneurial interaction has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential.

Figure 1 depicts the study's framework. The independent variables are entrepreneurial mentors, entrepreneurial students, and entrepreneurial interaction. The dependent variable is entrepreneurial potential.

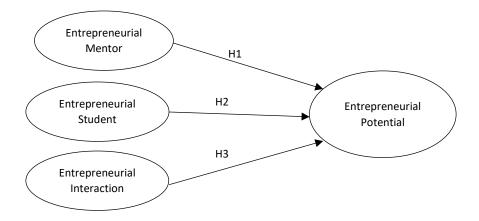


Figure 1: The Framework of Study

3. Methodology

The population of TVET students was 61,870 as of 2019 (Ministry of Education Malaysia, 2019) covering vocational colleges in the states of Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak. Stratified sampling was employed, and the data collection was carried out through online. A total of 382 students were selected as the maximum target, ensuring accuracy and representation for the entire population (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970; Huang & Zhang, 2023). The survey was distributed to final-year students who had taken entrepreneurship education at vocational colleges. The survey link was emailed to the principal of each vocational college and shared via WhatsApp with entrepreneurship lecturers and their groups of students. A total of 500 online questionnaires

were distributed and 252 questionnaires were completed and usable, indicating 50.4 percent of response rate. Nulty (2008) explained the response rate was consistent with the response rate in education for online surveys which ranged from 20 to 50 percent. The survey obtained responses from a diverse range of vocational colleges across the country. Ting et al. (2017) deployed and modified measurement instruments to evaluate entrepreneurial mentoring, and Colakoglu and Gozukara (2016) used and modified measurement instruments to assess entrepreneurial potential. Table 1 displays specific item measurements which consist of entrepreneurial mentor, entrepreneurial student, and entrepreneurial interaction. For clarity, the survey used a five-point Likert scale, and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) for data analysis. It is because of its dependability and ability to run multiple analyses concurrently. The SEM framework contained two models: the measurement model for testing the outer model and the structural model for validating the inner model. This method produced consistent results for the study.

Table 1: Item Measurements

Variables	Measurements		
Entrepreneurial	The lecturer/mentor is enthusiastic and open-minded.		
Mentor (M)	 The moral quality of the lecturer/mentor is excellent. 		
	The lecturer/mentor is willing to listen.		
Entrepreneurial	I am a very outgoing person.		
Student (P)	I have the initiative to learn.		
	 I have a solid knowledge of basic entrepreneurial skills. 		
Entrepreneurial	• The communication mode between my lecturer/mentor and myself is appropriate.		
Interaction (Int)	 The communication content between my lecturer/mentor and myself is useful. 		
	My lecturer/mentor and I can get along well.		
	 My lecturer/mentor and I trust each other. 		
	 My lecturer/mentor and I have a similarity of preferences. 		
Entrepreneurial	 I am ready to do anything to be an entrepreneur. 		
Potential (EntP)	 My goal is to be a professional entrepreneur. 		
	 I am determined to create a business venture in the future. 		
	 I do not have doubts about starting my own business in the future. 		
	 I have a strong intention to start a business in the future. 		
	 My academic qualification will contribute to my interest in starting a business. 		

4. Results and finding

The finding presented responses from male students about 46.4% and female students about 53.5%. The responses from TVET programmes of social community service is 48.4%, agriculture is 40%, and business is 37.5%. While technology and communication programme shows the smallest figure at 9.12%. The hospitality programme accounts for 4.76%. Response profile information is displayed in Table 2.

Table 2: Profile Information

Demographic	Item	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	117	46.4
	Female	135	53.5
	Business	95	37.6
	Agriculture	10	40
TVET	Engineering	101	4.36
Programme	IT & Communication	11	9.12
	Tourism & Hospitality	23	4.76
	Social Community Service	12	48.4

4.1 The measurement model

Convergent validity, internal reliability, and discriminant analysis can be used to evaluate a measurement model. According to Chin (2009), these techniques can be used to evaluate the measurement model, which considers the loadings, reliability, and validity of the measures employed to represent each construct. Hair et al. (2017) recommend that the loadings should exceed 0.7. Kline's (2011) suggestions show that the average extracted variance and composite reliability of the variables were both above the 0.5 and 0.7 thresholds. Convergent validity is shown by the fact that the measures of the variables/constructs are good enough. In Table 3, the variables and constructs for convergent validity are shown. Thus, the condition of convergent validity has been met. Convergent validity and discriminant analysis had been performed and all items are found valid for further testing.

Table 3: Convergent Validity Analysis

Variable	Construct	Loadings	CR	AVE
Entrepreneurial Mentor	M1	0.917	0.929	0.814
	M2	0.882		
	М3	0.909		
Entrepreneurial Student	S1	0.803	0.866	0.683
	S2	0.822		
	S3	0.854		
Entrepreneurial Interaction	Int1	0.848	0.911	0.672
	Int2	0.783		
	Int3	0.866		
	Int4	0.848		
	Int5	0.749		
Entrepreneurial Potential	EP 1	0.831	0.948	0.751
	EP 2	0.889		
	EP 3	0.887		
	EP 4	0.869		
	EP 5	0.896		
	EP 6	0.825		

Note: CR: Composite Reliability, AVE: Average Variance Extracted.

4.2 The structural model

The evaluation of the measurement model is satisfactory. Standard evaluation criteria include the coefficient of determination (R^2), the blindfolding-based cross-validated redundancy measure Q^2 , and the statistical significance and relevance of the path coefficients. Before assessing the structural relationships, Hair et al. (2017) suggested that collinearity must be examined to avoid bias in the regression results. Regarding the prevalent method bias of PLS-SEM, Kock (2015) proposes a comprehensive collinearity assessment strategy. According to Hair et al. (2017) and Kock (2015), the ideal VIF values are between 2 and 3. The evaluation revealed that most VIF values are close to 3 or lower. Some items are more significant than 3 but less than 5, and VIF values above 5 suggest potential collinearity issues among the predictor constructs. Since collinearity is not a concern, the following step is to examine the R^2 value. The entrepreneurial mentoring elements contributed 48.6 percent variance explaining entrepreneurial potential. Henseler et al. and Hair et al. (2011), state that R²values of 0.75, 0.50, and 0.25 are considered substantial, moderate, and weak, respectively. Hence, the R² value in this study can be categorised as moderate. This indicates that the model effectively fits the data, as supported by Hair et al. (2019). For Q^2 values greater than 0, 0.25, and 0.50 indicate the PLS-path model's small, medium, and large predictive significance (Hair et al., 2019). In this study, the coefficient of determination $(R^2 = 0.486)$ is regarded as highly predictive. According to the PLS-path model, the predictive significance of blindfolding entrepreneurial potential ($Q^2 = 0.341$) is between medium and high. Figure 2 depicts the study's structural model. Based on SRMR (Square Root Mean Residual)

values of 0.067, this model demonstrated a good model fit. It falls short of the standard value of 0.08 (Garson, 2012; Hair, 2010; Schumacker & Lomax, 2004).

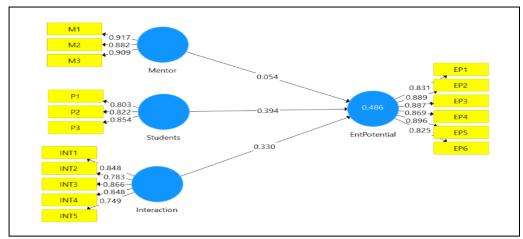


Figure 2: The structural model

Henseler et al. (2015) suggested that the heterotrait-monotrait (HTMT) ratio of correlations was used to test the discriminant analysis. HTMT is deemed superior and capable of achieving higher specificity and sensitivity rates. Ringle, and Sarstedt, (2015) highlight the HTMT values fall below the 0.90 threshold. The discriminant analysis had thus been completed and established between two reflective constructs. The discriminant analysis of the HTMT criterion is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: HTMT Criterion

Tuble 4: HIMI Criterion				
	Entrepreneurial Potential	Entrepreneurial Interaction	Entrepreneurial Mentor	Entrepreneurial Student
Entrepreneurial	-	-	-	-
Potential				
Entrepreneurial	0.698	-	=	=
Interaction				
Entrepreneurial	0.479	0.802	-	-
Mentor				
Entrepreneurial	0.736	0.832	0.472	-
Student				

According to Table 5, the entrepreneurial mentor has no effect on entrepreneurial potential (β =0.054, t=0.602). As a result, H1 is not supported. Meanwhile, entrepreneurial student and entrepreneurial interaction have a significant relationship to entrepreneurial potential (β =0.623, t=5.317), and entrepreneurial interaction has a significant relationship to entrepreneurial potential (β =0.330, t=3.382), supporting both H2 and H3. Table 5 depicts a detailed path analysis of the hypotheses' direct relationship.

Table 5: The Structural Equation Modelling Result for Hypotheses

Variable	Standard Coefficient (β)	t-statistic	p-value	Conclusion
H1: Entrepreneurial mentor has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential	0.054	0.602	0.547	Not Supported
H2 : Entrepreneurial student has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential	0.394	5.317	0.000	Supported
H3 : Entrepreneurial interaction has a positive relationship with entrepreneurial potential	0.330	3.382	0.001	Supported

5. Discussion

Entrepreneurial mentoring is an effective tool for assisting students in developing their entrepreneurial potential, with about 48.6 percent of the variability in their potential. However, various factors can impact the effectiveness of mentoring programmes. This study found that entrepreneurial mentors have an insignificant relationship with entrepreneurial potential. In fact, entrepreneurial mentors are crucial in guiding and supporting aspiring entrepreneurs on their journey toward success. Studies by Zhang (2023) displayed some mentors may focus heavily on theoretical concepts, which may not provide students with sufficient practical experience. This imbalance can hinder students' abilities to apply their knowledge effectively in real-world entrepreneurial settings. Moreover, mentors with insufficient experience (Davis et al., 2022), knowledge (Okeremi & Caesar, 2022), and lack of mentorship (Olumuyiwa et al., 2023) may not effectively guide and support students, leading to programme failure.

Then, entrepreneurial student is found to have a significant relationship with entrepreneurial potential. Since entrepreneurial education has been incorporated in TVET programmes, this integration has the potential to breed more student entrepreneurs (Hanafi et al., 2023; Rofa and Ngah, 2022). This approach not only equips students with entrepreneurial skills (Kalogiannidis et al., 2022), but also instils the creativity and innovation required for entrepreneurship (Agbonna, 2022). Moreover, this merger serves as valuable preparation for students as they transition into the workforce. Several TVET institutions have taken proactive steps by encouraging their students to engage in entrepreneurship clubs actively (Pittaway et al., 2023). As a result, this participation has emerged as a significant factor contributing to the presence of entrepreneurial students within the TVET system.

The final findings found entrepreneurial support had a significant relationship with entrepreneurial potential. Many students have ventured into entrepreneurship without adequate support from mentors (Prastyaningtyas et al., 2023). However, Zhang (2023) explained in the process of entrepreneurship in learning institution, lecturers or mentors who act as entrepreneurial mentors can provide positive emotional support to create a supportive environment for student entrepreneurs to maintain and improve their level of self-efficacy, self-confidence, and efficiency of opportunity recognition in a risky environment. Hejazi and Sadoughi (2023) added that emotional support given by lecturers or mentors could make the entrepreneurial education learning process successful among students.

A comprehensive entrepreneurial education requires a balance between theoretical knowledge and practical application (Bell, & Cui, 2023). Entrepreneurial mentors must provide guidance that includes practical experiences (Laalo et al., 2020) and real-world challenges (Gimmons, 2014). Ewim (2023) elaborates that collaborative learning environments between entrepreneurial mentoring and entrepreneurial students can further enhance students' entrepreneurial mindset and equip them with the necessary skills and experiences to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape successfully. By combining theoretical knowledge, practical experience (Avazovna, 2022), and effective mentoring (Yuan et al., 2022), students can develop a well-rounded entrepreneurial foundation and increase their likelihood of success.

6. Conclusion

Future research should investigate the entrepreneurial mentorship approach in depth, considering additional relevant dimensions and factors. Researchers must conduct comprehensive studies that closely observe and analyse entrepreneurial mentoring activities to gain deeper insights into their effectiveness and impact on students' entrepreneurial development.

To facilitate effective mentorship in TVET institutions, MoE has prepared guidelines that can serve as a blueprint for developing mentorship programmes. These programmes should focus on matching TVET students with successful entrepreneurs who can guide and inspire them. Clear timelines, well-defined mentor and mentee expectations, and a regular monitoring system should be established to ensure the effectiveness of mentorship relationships.

Furthermore, mentors should be provided with appropriate training to effectively work with students, share their expertise, and nurture their mentees' entrepreneurial potential. This training can equip mentors with the necessary skills to guide students in various aspects of entrepreneurship, such as business planning, market analysis, financial management, and networking.

Students can benefit greatly from engaging with successful entrepreneurs, investors, and other business stakeholders within the TVET institutions' environment. These interactions can provide valuable insights and networking opportunities, helping students learn about real-world entrepreneurship and gain practical knowledge and guidance.

Moreover, TVET institutions can incorporate practical experiences into the curriculum, such as entrepreneurship internships, cooperative programmes, and business plan competitions. These initiatives allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge, gain hands-on experience, and refine entrepreneurial skills. Creating an entrepreneurial culture within TVET institutions is essential to inspire and motivate future entrepreneurs. It can be achieved through promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career option, providing support and resources for aspiring entrepreneurs. and celebrating the achievements of student entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, future research should explore the details of entrepreneurial mentoring, considering additional dimensions. TVET institutions can utilise the MoE guidelines to develop effective mentorship programmes, foster connections between students and industry experts, and provide practical experiences and resources to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and entrepreneurial personality traits. By implementing these measures, TVET institutions can play a role in shaping and nurturing the entrepreneurial potential among TVET students.

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