

Entrepreneurial Intentions Among Nursing Undergraduates in Malaysia

Zaharul Zabidi , Akbar Ali Abd Kadir

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia

Abstract

Entrepreneurship in healthcare is gaining momentum as a strategic approach to equip future professionals with the skills to innovate and pursue self-employment. In Malaysia, this priority is reflected in national policies and action plans that promote entrepreneurship education across various fields. Despite these efforts, there is still limited research focusing specifically on the entrepreneurial intentions of nursing undergraduates. This study aims to examine the factors influencing entrepreneurial intention among nursing students in a Malaysian public university, based on Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and extended with the construct of entrepreneurship education. Data was collected from a sample of nursing undergraduates across various academic cohorts using a structured questionnaire. Using multiple regression analysis, data shows that attitude toward entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education significantly influences entrepreneurial intention, while perceived behavioral control showed no significant effect. These findings highlight the importance of nurturing students' mindsets and perceptions early in their academic journey, as well as the value of entrepreneurship exposure within nursing curricula. This study fills a gap in the intersection of nursing education and entrepreneurship research in Malaysia. The results suggest that higher education institutions and policymakers should consider embedding entrepreneurial learning in health science programs to nurture enterprising graduates and support national innovation goals in healthcare services.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Intention; Entrepreneurship Education; Nursing Students; Theory of Planned Behavior;