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## Investigating the perceived university support and the relationship between entrepreneurship education and self-employment intention

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**Abstract:** Currently, Malaysia is being faced with a high rate of unemployment among the graduates emerging from the higher educational institutions. This is one of the main social development problems facing by the Malaysian government. Graduates preference for paid employment over self-employment intention is one of the contributing factors to this current problem. The roles of universities promoting entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial skills to the students are increasing. This study is to analyse to moderate factor of university support to the relationship between entrepreneurship education and self-employment intention. Several studies were selected for review, the findings of the study are supported by the application of relevant theories. The findings of this study can be used as a reference for future researchers to get an initial picture related to this issue.

**Keywords:** self-employment intention, entrepreneurship education, higher education, university support

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### INTRODUCTION

This education is essential, not only to shape the mindsets of the youth but also to provide the skills and knowledge that are central to developing an entrepreneurial culture particularly among the educated youths. Literature has shown that universities play an important role in fostering entrepreneurship (Viviers et al., 2013; Nik Nurharlida et al., 2021). Its teaching practices vary from work-based learning to theoretical models and it cuts across psychology, economics, finance and social studies (Schuh et al., 2015; Norazmi et al., 2020; Norazmi et al., 2019; Zaid et al., 2020; Zaid et al., 2021). This suggests that it is interdisciplinary in nature (Mkwanazi and Mbohwa, 2018). The teaching and learning of this subject drive entrepreneurial action which rises from the intention of the recipients of the lessons to start new enterprises or to provide solutions and pioneer programme on entrepreneurship was first present in 1945 by Myles Mace at the Harvard Business School (Mwasalwiba, 2010). Thus, the teaching and learning of entrepreneurship are vital to understanding economic opportunities and to finding ways to best explore them (Jensen, 2014).

Universities have been identified as a viable platform to play a major role in the task of maintaining growth in Malaysia's economy through entrepreneurship by providing a safe platform from which graduates can launch their business careers (Fatoki & Oni, 2014; Azlisham et al., 2021; Firkhan et al., 2021) and university programmes have been identified as a good way to introduce entrepreneurship skills to students (Othman & Othman, 2017). It is seen as one of the solutions to the unemployment problem that is occurring not only in Malaysia but also other developing countries because it is capable of changing negative student perceptions about entrepreneurial careers (Othman & Othman, 2017; Zaid et al., 2020; Een et al., 2021). Zaid et al. (2020) and Rosnee et al. (2021) highlight the possibility of the role of entrepreneurship education in influencing an individual's decision to become an entrepreneur.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Ooi et al. (2011) investigated the inclination towards entrepreneurship among university students in the northern region of peninsular Malaysia where their study specifically examined the relationship between entrepreneurship education and inclination towards entrepreneurship, also the influence of demographic characteristics and family business background on university students' inclination towards entrepreneurship is also being examined. Their result finding shows that two entrepreneurship education variables are found to have statistically significant relationship on the inclination towards entrepreneurship. At the meantime, two demographic variables and a family business background variable have an effect on university students' inclination towards entrepreneurship.

Rahimah et al. (2019) study examined the impact of entrepreneurship education on students' entrepreneurship interest, intentions and competencies by implementing fashion entrepreneurship program. The samples used