

# **What is the correlation between childhood experiences, immigration, upbringing, and entrepreneurial intentions?**

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University of Toronto, 2022

## **Research Overview:**

Entrepreneurs create jobs, reduce poverty, and stimulate the economy. Companies with less than 100 employees contribute to 51% of the Canadian GDP, and more than 40% of Canadians say that starting a business and becoming self-employed would be the most rewarding career path for them. An entrepreneurial culture within a country will foster more entrepreneurs, creating a virtuous cycle of economic growth and fulfilled citizens. This research focuses on finding the correlation between childhood experiences, immigration, upbringing, and entrepreneurial intentions. The ultimate goal of this study is to have a profound and qualitative understanding on the various factors that result in entrepreneurial intentions and complete a holistic report that can serve as reference to foster more entrepreneurs in the long run.

## **Methodology:**

The research takes on the form of a survey and primarily targets University of Toronto students. Participants voluntarily complete a 3-minute-long survey that asks questions related to their university, year of study, entrepreneurial intentions, perceived desirability and feasibility of starting a business, childhood upbringing, education, and family background.

Participants are recruited mostly from the University of Toronto. The recruitment process consists of emailing faculty to help distribute forms, social media, clubs, and various organizations on campus. The survey methodology is being used, as it replicates previously conducted studies in the field. The response options include five-point Likert scales, appropriate categorical options, and dichotomous scales.

## **Results:**

I received 102 survey responses by the end of the summer. Through conducting a multivariable regression analysis with 16 of the 22 variables in the survey questionnaire, I was able to conclude that two variables are statistically significant in contributing to the intention of starting a business in 5 years: the thought of starting a business and the practicality of starting a business. These two variables have p-values of 0.00021 and 0.0424 respectively. Variables such as business extracurriculars, difficult prior life experiences, and work experience in high school surprisingly do not contribute to the notion of starting a business. Further research and analysis are required to understand the reasoning.

## **Personal Reflection:**

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to conduct independent research in my first summer of university through the Laidlaw Scholars foundation, and this initiative would not have been feasible without the support of my research advisor Professor Laura Doering from the Rotman School of Management. Through reading over 40 research papers and conducting the study, I was able to broaden my understanding of entrepreneurship within a global environment and how various factors result in entrepreneurial intentions. Though many papers were on entrepreneurial intentions, they each had their unique twist on the topic, whether through a longitudinal research method, different geographical settings and socioeconomic backgrounds, and many more. The breadth of the literature serves as a foundation for me to delve deeper into my research study next summer and truly understand the correlation between education, immigration, family, and entrepreneurial intentions.