

# Research in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education: An International Perspective

A REntEd SIG initiative

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**REntEd**  
research in  
enterprise  
education



# The Background

- ▶ Ratten and Usmanij (2020) Entrepreneurship education: Time for a change in research direction? *The International Journal of Management Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijme.2020.100367>

*The key takeaway from this article about entrepreneurship education is that many research opportunities are still yet to be discovered. Entrepreneurship education researchers need to continue to find innovative teaching methods and develop critical thinking skills. We acknowledge that interest in future research areas are subjective and determined largely by the attitudes of the researcher toward the topic. To enhance our understanding of the processes that lead to successful outcomes of entrepreneurship education courses, a shared agreement on specific outcomes is needed. This involves communicating to students about the benefits of entrepreneurship education and that there may be a time lag in seeing the results of taking a course. Key learning objectives need to be embedded in entrepreneurship education curriculum in order to enhance student engagement. There are few studies that predict future learning scenarios for entrepreneurship education and how to improve learning effectiveness. We are particularly excited about the potential new teaching methods in entrepreneurship education in order to assess how critical thinking improves learning outcomes.*

# What have we done?

## Part 1, UK Focus

- ▶ The EEUK/ISBE REntEd SIG were driven by this article to articulate what the current status of research in enterprise education is in the UK.
- ▶ It was not a direct ‘response’ to the Ratten and Usmanij (2020) article, but used it as a provocation from which to add to the global dialogue.
- ▶ It engaged with a number of ‘thought leaders’ (representing policy, practice and research) in the discipline, and included a coordinated programme of online responses pulled together by a lead coordinator.
- ▶ The initial results and findings are as follows...

## Finding 1

# Purpose of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education

Initial results show that there are still questions over the purpose/purposes of EntEd and whilst we recognise its complexities, it has been ‘parked’ as an issue and not addressed with any depth. This may be due to.....

- ▶ There are multiple purposes dependent on education, economic and social context
- ▶ The purpose is constantly evolving so there is no fixed and static purpose

There is a recognition that this needs to be understood to create a strong base to enable future research and work on and in EntEd to be more impactful and grounded.

## Finding 2

# The distinctiveness of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education

Initial results show that whilst we recognise EntEd as a 'distinct subject', there is a struggle to articulate and encapsulate its distinctiveness. For a long time EntEd has been assumed to be within the the Business and Management disciplines and there is current concern that EntEd is, and only is viewed as Venture Creation. Whilst those in EntEd know that this is not the case, our external identity and therefore struggle, continues to be a consequence. The results show that this is having an impact of the EntEd discipline area and the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Educators within.

## Finding 3

# Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education haunted by dated theories

As a consequence of a lack of purpose and distinctiveness, EntEd can be 'haunted' by dated theories, concepts and mental models which continue to feature in our discussions on EntEd. Although it is recognised that some still apply but must adapt and evolve. Therefore, if we don't address and resolve these issues, we will limit progress and there is the potential to create a vicious circle of a lack of purpose, little distinctiveness, and subsequently a rehashing of traditional theories, concepts and mental models.

# What are we doing now?

## Part 2, International Focus

- ▶ The EEUK/ISBE REntEd SIG are continuing to analyse data from the UK.
- ▶ At the same time, we are engaging with a number of international ‘Thought Leaders’ to discuss and debate the findings from the UK and their relevance in an international context.
- ▶ There will be a series of events to achieve this objective, including the joint EEUK/ISBE REntEd SIG Workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.