Abstract

Entrepreneurship is regarded as one of the best economic development strategies to develop country’s economic growth and to sustain the country’s competitiveness in facing the increasing trends of globalization. Entrepreneurship education can contribute to the development of entrepreneurial skills and potential for business start-up. Entrepreneurial needs of students in the light of changing business environment, policy focus of the governments and the effect that key drivers such as the knowledge economy may have on students are much needed in order to create an entrepreneurial environment among students. On the other hand, students must be ready to be able to shift their current learning approach to a more practical way which is required in the entrepreneurial learning process. The learning process of entrepreneurship should not only confine just to the classroom discussions but the interaction with today’s dynamic business environment is vital because of critical entrepreneurial skills can only be developed and refined if they are practiced. This is to enable students to gain hands-on experience by seeing, touching and feeling about the business world.

The main objective of the study is to analyze the factors that determine the Entrepreneurial Skills of Graduate Students. The study had adopted a survey design. A research questionnaire and a standardized tool and four hypotheses were raised for the study. This includes the effects of demographics, contextual factors and the components of general, managerial, manufacturing and marketing skills of the individual respondents. The tool was distributed to 532 final year graduate students studying in various colleges in Bangalore. The data collected were analyzed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Student ‘t’Test ( two
tailed, independent), Chi-Square/ Fisher Exact, and Percentage. The findings highlighted that gender, type of college, students' occupation and subject discipline were determinants of entrepreneurial skills of graduate students.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship education, Entrepreneurial skills, General skills, Managerial skills, Manufacturing skills, Marketing Skills, Graduate Students