

EFFECT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ORIENTATION ON EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION TO ENHANCE SCIENCE EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY IN JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

R. Ramanan¹ and W. D. Chandrasena^{2*}

¹Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

²Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

*wdchand@pdn.ac.lk

To improve science education, both the number of students studying science for G.C.E. (A/L) and their performance at the examination should be improved. In Sri Lanka, studies on educational administrators' contribution to enhance science education is rarely researched. Thus, this study aimed at exploring those aspects in Jaffna District. The Morris and Joyce scale on entrepreneurial orientation dimensions, such as innovativeness, risk taking and proactiveness, are adapted to survey educational managers' perceptions. Based on this foundation, the study empirically investigates the effects of entrepreneurial orientation on the enhancement of science education in terms of performance and number of students studying science for G.C.E. (A/L) in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. This study used both interviews and perception surveys of educational managers. Thirty-nine educational managers were selected from 56 1AB schools in Jaffna District through convenience sampling. Descriptive statistics and multiple regressions were used in data analysis, and the reliability of the questionnaire was checked through Chronbach's alpha value (0.94). The findings revealed that 28% of the educational managers perceived that they are entrepreneurially oriented to enhance the science stream. The multiple regression analysis showed that students' performance depends on the managers' entrepreneurial orientation ($R^2 = 0.678, p < 0.01$). The study also found that there is no causal relationship between the number of students and entrepreneurial orientation ($R^2 = 0.042, p > 0.05$). Thus, entrepreneurial orientation is a highly important tool which could be used to re-evaluate the school science education in order to improve the level of standards in practices of science teaching and learning process.

Keywords: Educational managers, Entrepreneurial orientation, Performance, Science education