

## **The Mothers' Role in the Children's Choice of a Career in Entrepreneurship: An Examination of Mothers in Sri Lanka**

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### **Abstract**

Making the choice of individuals to choose a career in self-employment is critical as an entrepreneur contributing to a county's economy. Entrepreneurship as a choice is influenced by many contemporaneous variables such as household wealth, gender, spouse's education, family composition, along with health. This paper examined the mothers' influence on the choice of individuals to engage in entrepreneurship. Even though many studies have been conducted in understanding the various factors that prevent an individual from becoming an entrepreneur limited studies have been conducted in understanding the mother's contribution to creating or crushing entrepreneurial mind set of a child especially in the Sri Lankan context. Having understood that a qualitative research study supported by twenty in-depth interviews were conducted among mothers and children to explore their influence on the child's choice of becoming an entrepreneur. The findings imply that there is a significant impact of a mother on the probability of an individual to become an entrepreneur.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Education, Entrepreneurial Intention, Entrepreneurial Orientation, Mothers' Influence.

### **Introduction**

Entrepreneurs are recognized as the life blood of a county's economy. It is also regarded as the key driver of innovations and economic development. As entrepreneurship is a process that lets an individual identify opportunities for existing marketable needs with the intention

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to get probable risk of forming an organization to satisfy the unmet needs, these entrepreneurs have the capability to form new businesses amidst risk and uncertainty (Hatten, 2012). Entrepreneurship is a field that brings great positive contribution not only to the Human Development but for the development of the society as well. It can increase the standard of living of individuals through introducing new and useful products and services (Sarvananthan, 2011). Entrepreneurs are contributing positively to economic development as well as social and structural change within a society (Audretsch, et al., 2015).

Entrepreneurship and economic development are interconnected according to the understanding of different policymakers. The economic development of a country is affecting the new business startups for small-medium as well as large scale (Audretsch, et al., 2015). But it is not the only thing that influences entrepreneurship and new business startups. Family background is an important factor; particularly whether a parent was involved in entrepreneurship. At very least the children are opened to numerous avenues to start a career in entrepreneurship of whose parents are entrepreneurs, and on the other hand the choice made by an individual concerning his or her career in the field of entrepreneurship can be influenced and affected by of entrepreneurs have several avenues with which to arrive at a career in entrepreneurship. And, turning the issue around, an individual's choice of a career in entrepreneurship may be influenced by whether their parents were entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurial intention, entrepreneurial orientation, and entrepreneurial education are recognized as the determining entrepreneurship. The dimensions of each variable are discussed in this paper. Entrepreneurial intention is a state of mind and an act of identifying business opportunities to accomplish a specific goal. It is considered as a predisposition factor that determines individual's entrepreneurship behavior and denotes the crucial role that the parent would play in developing the child's entrepreneurial intention (Dewi & Antawati, 2016). Entrepreneurial orientation is identified as the attitudes that potential entrepreneurs possess in relation to undertaking entrepreneurial activities whereas entrepreneurial education it is a crucial component that provides competencies needed to tackle uncertainty and make informed decisions. As been said

earlier, entrepreneurship is a process that trigger event that spark the entrepreneur into action followed by the implementation stage in which the parental role model influence is crucially important when an individual is transitioning from the trigger event to the implementation stage (Diken & Erdirençelebi, 2016). Entrepreneurship education (EE) is measured with the variables of creativity capacity, entrepreneurial intention, opportunity discovery, social problem-solving, entrepreneurship, and opportunity exploitation. The current research study mainly centers its attention on the social problem solving, creative capacity, entrepreneurial intention as well as entrepreneurship and the impact made on them by the mothers of Sri Lanka. These employment analysis-based notions of entrepreneurship show a well-known variable called entrepreneurial orientation (EO), which encompasses creativity, risk-taking, and initiative. They also offer additional opportunity-related elements, like opportunity finding and opportunity exploitation. Additionally, these ideas allude to elements like the ability to be creative and the generation of societal value, which are connected to Schumpeter's (1934) idea of "creative destruction."

### **Problem Statement**

Even though many studies have been conducted in understanding the various factors that prevent an individual from becoming an entrepreneur limited studies have been conducted aiming to expand the knowledge about the relationship between family support and entrepreneurship (Cardella, Hernández-Sánchez and Sánchez, 2020) and more specifically in understanding the mother's contribution to creating or crushing entrepreneurial mind set of a child especially in the Sri Lankan context. Therefore, to solve the problem the research mainly focuses in identifying the mother's influence on a child in becoming an entrepreneur as well as to propose possible measures that can be adopted to inspire mother to encourage that children to become entrepreneurs within the Sri Lankan context.

### **Research Objectives**

RO1: To identify the mothers' influence on a child in becoming an entrepreneur.

RO2: To propose possible measures that can be adopted to inspire mothers to encourage their children to become entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka.

### **Research Questions**

RQ1: How do Sri Lankan mothers influence on entrepreneurship?

RQ2: How do Sri Lankan mothers inculcate entrepreneurial skills in their children and from encouraging their children to become entrepreneurs?

### **Literature Review**

#### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is a process by which an individual identifies opportunities for existing marketable needs and they intend to assume the probable risk of forming an organization to satisfy the unmet needs (Hatten, 2012) and these individuals are entrepreneurs, they have the capability of forming new business amidst the persisting risk and uncertainty for the purpose of generating profits and further develop the business by identifying and exploiting the opportunities through assembly of required resources (Scarborough, 2012). Entrepreneurship would bring about an immense positive contribution to society as stated by Wu (2009). The creation on new firms through entrepreneurship would increase the standard of living of individuals, thus it would also increase the value gained by an entrepreneur and their customers, since they can identify the requirements and come up with new and useful products and services Wu (2009).

#### **Entrepreneurial Intention**

Entrepreneurship is the act of identifying and exploiting business ideas for the purpose of being self-employed (Kumara, 2012), and the intention to do so is crucial. According to Bird (1988), an intention is a state of mind that would direct an individual to accomplish a set goal. Therefore, an Entrepreneurial Intention is a state of mind that would direct individuals to setting up their own business (Kumara, 2012). Wu (2009) defines Entrepreneurship Intention as an individual's intention to create a new venture in the near future.

**The Dimensions of EI**

Baron (2000) states that an entrepreneurial intention is predicted by the psychological traits, thus Rauch & Frese (2007) has identified psychological traits such as locus of control, propensity to take risk, self-efficacy, need for achievement, tolerance for ambiguity and innovativeness as traits associated with entrepreneurship. When it comes to the determinant factors for entrepreneurship intention, Churchill & Bygrave (1989) has identified the need for achievement, internal locus of control, tolerance for ambiguity and risk-taking propensity as determinants. Based on the findings of Karabulut (2016), the dimensions of personality traits that would determine entrepreneurial intention are presented in table one.

**Table 1: Entrepreneurial Intention Dimensions and Definitions**

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Locus of Control</b>	It is the degree of control a person has over their life.
<b>Need for Achievement</b>	It is the drive of a person to be successful, they possess the desire and ambition to be successful.
<b>Risk Tolerance</b>	It is the ability to handle risk and uncertainty and being prepared to bear them. They could choose alternatives with lower probability but higher return.
<b>Entrepreneurial Alertness</b>	The ability to notice a opportunity that had been ignored by other people

Source: Karabulut (2016)

**Entrepreneurial Orientation**

An individual’s entrepreneurship orientation is the attitude they possess in relation to them undertaking entrepreneurship activities and it would depend on whether the individual likes to remain in the existing firm or would like to create a new venture, this attitude could either be favorable or unfavorable (Wu, 2009).

### Dimensions of EO

Rauch, et al., (2009) has identified five key dimensions that could measure an individual's Entrepreneurial Orientation as depicted in table two.

**Table 2: Entrepreneurial Orientation Dimensions and Definition**

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Innovativeness</b>	Predisposition to engage in creativity and experimentation through the introduction of new products or services as well as technological leadership via R&D in new processes.
<b>Risk taking</b>	Involves taking bold actions by venturing into the unknown, borrowing heavily, and/or committing significant resources to ventures in uncertain environments.
<b>Proactiveness</b>	An opportunity-seeking, forward-looking perspective characterized by the introduction of new products and services ahead of the competition and acting in anticipation of future demand.
<b>Competitive aggressiveness</b>	The intensity of a firm's effort to outperform rivals and is characterized by a strong offensive posture or aggressive responses to competitive threats.
<b>Autonomy</b>	Independent action undertaken by entrepreneurial leaders or teams directed at bringing about a new venture and seeing it to fruition.

Source: Rauch, et al., (2009, p.763)

### Entrepreneurial Education

Entrepreneurship Education is a vital component of Entrepreneurship as it provides the competencies such as self-confidence, enterprise skills and knowledge for them to tackle with uncertainty, address social and institutional factors, and make informed decisions (Entrialgo & Iglesias, 2017; Gibb et al., 2009). According to Fayolle et al., (2006) as stated in Entrialgo & Iglesias (2017), EE is based on programs or educational professional training process in relation to

building the attitudes and qualities required to be an entrepreneur. Lazear (2005) states that individuals that possess a balance skill set acquired through EE has a higher tendency to be self-employed.

**Dimensions of EE**

Fayolle (2008) has identified three key dimensions of entrepreneurship education and it is the professional dimension, spiritual dimension and theoretical dimension which is presented in table three.

**Table 3: Entrepreneurial Orientation Dimensions and Definition**

<b>Dimension</b>		<b>Definition</b>
<b>Professional</b>	Know-what	what one must do to decide and act in any given situation
	Know-how	how to deal with any given situation
	Know-who	who are the useful people, and which are the useful networks in each context
<b>Spiritual</b>	Know-why	What behaviors, actions, attitudes, and drives lead a person to become an entrepreneur
	Know-when	Identify the right time to proceed with a plan.
<b>Theoretical</b>	Theories and Scientific knowledge that are useful to understand the entrepreneurial phenomenon, completing and strengthening the contents related to the professional and spiritual dimensions	

Source: Fayolle (2008, p.327)

**Mother’s Influence on Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is a process that starts with an innovative idea of a new product or service and requires a trigger event that spark the entrepreneur into action, followed by an implementation stage where they proceed to set up a business (Hatten, 2012). Within this process Hatten (2012) has identified parental and role model influence when transitioning from the trigger event to the implementation stage. It has been identified that mothers have the capability to influence their

children and act as a role model on their decision to become an entrepreneur (Kirkwood, 2007; Tarling et al., 2016).

### **Mother's Positive Influence on Entrepreneurship**

As depicted in the findings of Kirkwood (2007), a mother can have a positive impact on an entrepreneur, as one entrepreneur's mother was able to positively influence her personality in a way that it hampered the possibility of inheriting her father's assertive personality, thus positively contributing on becoming an entrepreneur. According to Tarling et al., (2016), it was stated that one of the entrepreneur's mothers was perceived as a role model in the way she handled their family business, thus encouraging the entrepreneur to be self-employed.

### **Mother's Negative Influence on Entrepreneurship**

There are entrepreneurs that garnered negative implications from their mothers. As stated by Kirkwood (2007), some entrepreneurs perceive their mothers as being an anti-role model, and others doesn't portray their mothers in a positive light. Based on the findings of Otto, (2000), mothers play a decisive role in the career choices a child makes, this would confine them to the perception of their mother.

### **Methodology**

Along with the purpose of the current study, to explore the mothers' influence, the inductive approach was occupied where the basic interpretive qualitative study which is introduced by Merriam (2002), was deemed appropriate for the study. The primary data was gathered in the form of semi-structured interviews conducted by the researcher. The sample size was decided as 20. The unit of analysis of the study was individuals.

### **Data Analysis**

The interview transcripts have comprised the data in the study. The six-step data analysis method is adopted in the study which is recommended by (Clarke & Braun, 2013).



### **Familiarization with Data**

The transcripts were read many times to be familiarized with all the data collected. As the researcher collected all the data the familiarization process became much easier.

### **Initial Codes Generation**

First codes were created and assigned initially to create the full list of codes that aligned with the questions asked in the interviews. For easy referencing all the codes were recorded manually in one sheet, the editing which was done manually making the revision a much easier task. Many of the phrases and sentences were recorded under the same code therefore sub codes were created by breaking them down under a parental code. The search for the themes began once the initial sorting of data was completed.

### **The Search for Themes**

Here it is important to search for themes has it theme needs to explain a meaningful idea about the collected data and answer the research questions appropriately. The search for themes is carried out to find out themes and sub themes of the research.

### **The Review of Themes**

The supervisor Guided and supported to establish the potential themes after research.

### **Defining and Naming Themes**

The final reviewing of the themes paved the way to the defining and naming of the themes.

### **The Production of the Report**

Afterwards the final paper was prepared.

### **Findings and Discussion**

#### **Mother's Influence on Entrepreneurship**

Mother's role in creating an entrepreneur is discussed in existing Literature. The following section facilitates the findings as per the mother's influence on Entrepreneurial Intention, Entrepreneurial

Orientation, and Entrepreneurial Education of a child positively as well as negatively.

## **Mother's Positive Influence**

### **1. Entrepreneurial Orientation**

Within their prolonged answers for the questions that they were given, all most all the respondents agreed that they were trying to make their Children creative and innovative, risk-takers, independent thinkers, proactive and caring of others (competitors).

In the context of Sri Lanka majority of the students are sent for extra classes after school which hinders their ability to enjoy free time. But according to the findings of the current study, it was revealed that mothers encourage their students to enjoy that freedom and play as they wish while doing their studies.

Respondent 06 (a 42-year-old), who is a mother of two with a B.com bachelor's degree and a housewife stated, *"We have given them freedom. We didn't send them for extra classes until my eldest son got into grade 10. They are fully enjoying their time after school."*

Respondent 02 (a 42-year-old), who is a mother of two with a writership diploma and Reading for an external degree in University of Sri Jayewardenepura along with a diploma in press stated, *"I teach them to be kind to all they are friends even though they hurt them. I keep them to understand who the person is and their lies."*

Respondent 13, (a 40-year-old), who is a giant entrepreneur in the field of education stated, *"My parents never interfered with me. They always trusted me. That is what made me think outside of the box and be innovative."*

### **2. Entrepreneurial Education**

Respondent 02 who is also a wife of a chief executive officer of a renowned Company in Sri Lanka stated,

*"I always teach my children to gather knowledge not just really by studying the textbooks. Their grandparents teach them history as in stories my husband's sister teaches them science by taking them into nature. I think it is very important in making them skilled in making better decisions in their lives."*

### **3. Entrepreneurial Intention**

It is understood that most of the mothers in Sri Lanka are allowing their children to do what they intend to do in terms of education and the selection of fields of studies for higher education but with constant guidance shared by the mothers.

Respondent 18, (a 23-year-old), who is an undergraduate having to brands of his own in photography stated, *"My parents never told me to do this or that exactly. But I have seen from most of my friends they were directed mostly by their parents. They never pressurized me. They gave me the full freedom to do my own work with their Full support whenever I needed it."*

Respondent 19, (a 23-year-old), who is an undergraduate and used to do several businesses online but currently has stopped due to no demand for online purchasing stated, *"I always had the intention of starting my own business. Before entering the University, I did an 8 to 5 job in the Peoples Bank. To start a business, we need money which I did not have so I and my friend started thinking of starting a business that does not require finance. My mother didn't know exactly that I was doing business. They always advised me to do a job even while going to university. It's not that they completely disagree with me starting a business what they say is to do a job and gained experience and the required Finance to start a business"*

### **Mother's Negative Influence**

#### **1. Entrepreneurial Orientation**

It is understood that most of the mothers in Sri Lanka are not influencing their children to become selfish and competitive with the others around them. According to the findings, it is evident that most the parents especially mothers are trying to make their children creative and innovative thinkers, with very low competitive aggressiveness wherewith the religious beliefs mostly Buddhism the mothers are teaching their children to be kind to one another and not to be competitive in terms of education.

But it was evident that some parents were afraid of allowing their children to take risks at young ages as well as when they grew up to the age of starting their own business.

Respondent 14 (a 50-year-old), who is a semi entrepreneur with one daughter and who was inspired to become an entrepreneur due to his wife's influence stated, *"I still can't ride a bicycle because my mother told me under the directions of my horoscope that I will break my leg if I ride a bicycle one day. My mother also told me that doing business was not in my blood"*

Respondent 13, (a 40-year-old), who is a giant entrepreneur in the field of education stated, *"My mother was a very traditional thinker. Both my mother and father were scared when I was about to take a risk. My mother used to always ask why? Why are you taking loans? This is enough when I was planning to expand my business. They have a traditional mindset. But if one has a clear vision and takes the necessary decisions you can be successful"*

Respondent 17, (a 35-year-old), who is an exporter of Organic Kithul honey and jaggery with two children stated, *"I started my business during the covid-19 while I was doing my job. My parents feared me when I told them that I was about to start a business because I had a family. But with the covid-19 they saw how people lost their jobs which made them support me gradually. Even my wife feared me when I decided to quit my job and work on my business full time. She asked me to somehow manage the job. But I gave it up and I am now fully working in my business. Now they are all satisfied because my business has grown. And they are all supporting me now. My only dream is to expand my business furthermore and hand it over to my children. My children also help me with the packing and stuff. I would love to see them getting well educated and doing the business in advanced and in creative ways to take it to a whole new level one day"*

## **2. Entrepreneurial Education**

According to the responses shared by the parents, as well as the entrepreneurs it was understood that the parents are not negatively influencing the child's opportunity to learn entrepreneurial skills.

## **3. Entrepreneurial Intention**

It is evident that many parents are willing to support their children in becoming entrepreneurs with their educational and corporate exposure. But they highlighted the fact that in the current situation of

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the country with economic and political instability there is no suitable environment for their child to become an entrepreneur.

Respondent 03, who had changed her child's school from a government school to an International School and the reason that the government schools are crushing the pure soul of a child at a very young age stated, "*The child's future depends on the country in which they grow. In our country, there is no social security. There is no economic sustainability. So as a mother I am not focusing on his skill development. Trying to improve his qualifications for him to do a job that will support it is the ability to have proper economic sustainability. To be clear I like to see him become an executive in Sri Lanka, but I love him going abroad and improving his skills. It's alright for him to become an entrepreneur in another country.*"

## **Discussion**

### **Mother's Influence**

Based on the research findings of Kirkwood (2007) & Tarling et al., (2016) it can be stated that the probability of a child becoming an entrepreneur in the future is influenced by their mother. There are three dependent variables that determines a person's probability of becoming an entrepreneur and they are Entrepreneurship Orientation, Entrepreneurship Education and Entrepreneurship Intention.

### **Entrepreneurial Intention**

Antawati (2016) has identified Entrepreneurship intention as one of the predisposition factors that would determine an individual's entrepreneurship behavior and that parent would play a crucial role in developing a child's entrepreneurship intention. Thus, Entrepreneurship intention is the commitment an individual has towards starting up a new business (Krueger & Carsrud, 1993). Hoffmann et al., (2014) findings showcase that mothers who are entrepreneurs have a higher degree of influence on their daughters' intention to become an entrepreneur.

It can be concluded that the degree of control that a child has over his or her life is Greater but with constant guidance shared by the mothers. Out of the respondents the entrepreneurs had the need for achievement of success in terms of the business. Both respondents 13's and 17's prove that. They have taken risks to expand their business

island wide and even worldwide even the parents were scared in allowing them to take such risks. It is also understood that even though the parents were scared to let their children take risks the achievement of success by becoming entrepreneurs, the entrepreneurs are letting their children take risks and even start businesses of their own. Both respondents 11's, 12's and 17's prove that.

### **Entrepreneurial Education**

According to McIntyre and Roche (1999, p. 33) Entrepreneurship Education is a process of providing individuals with the concepts and skills to recognize opportunities that others have overlooked, and to have the insight and self-esteem to act where others have hesitated. Zellweger et al., (2011) states that, by observing role models individuals would be capable of acquiring necessary competencies in starting a business. Thus, there would be a transfer of entrepreneurship education to a child from their entrepreneurial parents (Zellweger et al., 2011). Furthermore, Tarling et al., (2016) findings showcase the portrayal of an entrepreneur mother as a role model. Thus, a child's mother can influence the entrepreneurial education acquired by a child.

It is understood that most parents are focusing on their children's education in terms of professional, spiritual as well as theoretical aspects of entrepreneurial education. It cannot be concluded that parents are motivating their children towards the reception of entrepreneurial education mainly to become an entrepreneur but equip themselves with entrepreneurial skills with education from a very young age. The parents are concerned about improving the skills of their children in terms of communication (sending off that children English as well as speech and drama classes, encouraging their children to engage in sports, religious activities, attending Sunday schools, allowing them to explore the nature to an extent).

### **Entrepreneurial Orientation**

As stated previously, entrepreneurship orientation is basically an individual's attitude towards undertaking entrepreneurship activities (Wu, 2009). Harris & Ozdemir (2020) has stated that the primary determinant of entrepreneurship orientation is the ownership of a family business. Thus, a child's attitude towards pursuing a career in

entrepreneurship is highly dependent on whether their family runs a business. The findings of Harris & Ozdemir (2020) present a strong influence on one respondent by their mother, where the mother's business of producing and selling carpets immensely influenced the child to drop out early on in their educational life and get involved in their mother's business. Thus, their mother was able to positively influence the attitude of the child.

It is also evident that the parents (the respondents who were entrepreneurs of the current study) who are entrepreneurs or with an entrepreneurial background encourage their children to become entrepreneurs. Even the mothers who are working in the corporate world encourage their children to become entrepreneurs. Even mothers with a good educational background encourage their children to become entrepreneurs. It is understood that the mothers of the current study, who came from very traditional families, haven't received the opportunity to make their lives decisions independently in terms of starting their own business. It is also evident that as a woman, the wife played an important role in encouraging the husband to become an entrepreneur. Also, on the other hand some of the husbands in Sri Lanka prefer their wives to stay as housewives taking care of the children unless doing a job that suits their educational qualifications. Respondent six who had a bachelor's degree in business studies and got married right after graduation now with two children stated, *"My husband doesn't like me working. Even recently when the government offered jobs for graduates, he didn't want me to apply. But I do not regret the fact that I am not working because with that I am able to be with my children and to support them in all means"*

Respondent 11, (a 72-year-old), who is an entrepreneur in the solar energy industry as well as a father of three who are now doctors and engineers stated, *"My parents were teachers, and they didn't let us go and play outside with other children of our age. My elder brother was very studious, listening to my parents he never came out to play. But I ran away whenever I got a chance to play around and hang out with friends. I was adventurous. We swam in the sea without my parents knowing. I think those helped me in becoming an entrepreneur. I had a lot of friends from a very young age, and it was very helpful even when I started my business. My brother became an academic."*

Accordingly, the children whose parents have restricted them from networking and being adventurous in terms of risk-taking and socializing with everybody have not become entrepreneurs.

### **Conclusion**

The study examined the mother's capability to influence their children and act as a role model and how she can impact both positively and negatively as well. The positive influence received through the way the mother handles family business and encouraging the individual to be self-employed. Thus, the negative impact is when the mother becomes the anti-role model playing a recessive bro in the career choices that child makes. The Research questions of this paper were, how do Sri Lankan's mothers perceive Entrepreneurship and how do Sri Lankan's mothers inculcate entrepreneurial skills in their children and from encouraging their children to become entrepreneurs. The findings of this research answered the research questions by providing insightful descriptions presented by participants during the data collection to understand how they perceive entrepreneurship and their interpretation on the mother's role in creating an entrepreneur.

The findings showed that mothers are aware of the concept of entrepreneurship. Thus, a mother can influence both positively and negatively on a child on their intention to pursue a career in entrepreneurship. In terms of the mother's influence on entrepreneurship, there is not only a positive impact but also a negative impact as to the influence on entrepreneurial intention, entrepreneurial orientation, and entrepreneurial education of a child. The Mother's positive influence on these three variables in the context of Sri Lanka is that they encourage that children to get the best out of the freedom. Most mothers tend to understand and allow their children to make life choices in terms of education. However, the mothers negative influence on the three variables in the Sri Lankan context is that traditional mothers do not tend to negatively influence their child's opportunity of becoming an entrepreneur. Instead, they teach them to be kind and help one another along the way. It is highlighted that the prevailing economic, social, and cultural situation of the country is not supporting that child to become an entrepreneur.



In conclusion, based on our findings it could be stated that there is a significant impact from an individual's mother on the probability of an individual becoming an entrepreneur. Thus, a mother can influence both positively and negatively on a child on their intention to pursue a career in entrepreneurship. The state of mind that would direct a person to be self-employed is the entrepreneurship Intention (Kumara, 2012), thus, our findings convey that a mother is able to encourage or discourage the child's intention to becoming an entrepreneur.

Furthermore, the entrepreneurship orientation is the attitude of an individual in relation to pursuing an entrepreneurship role (Wu, 2009), based on details extracted from our respondents, it can be concluded that the mothers have been able to influence the attitudes of their children both positively and negatively. Lastly, Entrepreneurship Education is the provision of skills and concepts on identifying opportunities and capability to act on them (McIntyre & Roche, 1999). It is evident in our findings that the provision of the required entrepreneurship education by the mother has increased the child's tendency to become an entrepreneur in the future, likewise a lack of Entrepreneurship Education by the mother has hampered the probability of the child becoming an entrepreneur.

### **Implications**

Standing on the findings implications has been facilitated for parents, as well as policy setters of the country to ensure that children's choice of a career in entrepreneurship. According to the findings of the study, with a greater positive influence of the mothers on their children's ability to become entrepreneurs, it is important to organize several action research in which several workshops can be conducted for a group of mothers to inspire them to make their children entrepreneurially oriented and then follow up its outcome.

The presented field research, which is the first of its kind in the Sri Lankan context, delivers a case for further educational activities fostering entrepreneurship that public policymakers ought to consider while developing and reforming the state school curriculum of Sri Lanka. The results of this study suggest that investment in the development of children's entrepreneurial skills might be supported

by an improved school curriculum which will be efficient with the choice of a career in entrepreneurship.

It is also revealed that most of the mothers lack the knowledge about different schemes of studies that are available for their children rather than only focusing on the four main subject areas under the Biological Science stream, Physical Science stream, Commerce stream, Technology stream, as well as Arts stream to pursue their higher education. The policymakers, as well as the government, have a huge responsibility in creating an environment as well as an education system that is favorable for a child in becoming an entrepreneur and for an entrepreneur to successfully conduct and continue with the business stable economic environment.

The insights of this study recommend immediate alteration to the education systems of the country of Sri Lanka. It is evident that the Sri Lankan education system is contributing to tarnishing the entrepreneurial capabilities and intentions in the minds of the students from their very young ages. It is critical to organize multiple action research projects in which several workshops can be held for a group of mothers to encourage them to pursue different fields of study for their children which include Automobile repair and maintenance, hotel, tourism, and Food Technology, personal community development, multimedia technology electrical and electronic studies as well as telecommunication studies.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Acknowledging the limitations of the research study is essential and with respect to the current research study, there were a few major limitations that restrict the findings. The sample of the current study was mainly centered around women. Only mothers' role was explored in understanding the parents' role in developing entrepreneurs. Another major limitation of the current study was backed the sample was only limited to the Colombo district of Sri Lanka. Colombo is recognized as one of the most populated and the largest cities by population. It is understood that all most all the respondents have a good education background even though few of them were housewives currently. The majority are middle or upper middle-income earners as well. Most of the respondents were working in

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different professions. Accordingly, future studies can focus on understanding the role of mothers with a limited educational background and working entrepreneurial exposure as well as lower income earners from rural areas of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the results of the current study or not generalized to the entire country Sri Lanka.

### **Future Research**

Future research studies can be conducted with a more diversified sample that consists of both the parents, mother, and father. It is also recommended to increase the sample size with the contribution of entrepreneurs to get their insights into understanding the parents' influence on their success stories. Future research studies can also be conducted to understand the parents' perception of the current syllabuses taught in the government schools in developing an entrepreneur because the parents' role, as well as the education systems, are influencing the child's ability to become an entrepreneur with the developed spiritual orientation. Future research studies can be conducted to understand the parents' perception of religion with their influence on developing the Spiritual capacity of a child in Sri Lanka. Future research studies can be extended to a quantitative research design.

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