



Research Paper

Impact of Personal and Socio-Economic Factors on the Entrepreneurial Intention Among the Differently Abled Young Crowd with Special Reference to Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka

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Abstract

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Intention for entrepreneurship has received considerable attention unquestionably, as it has a substantial positive personal, economic, and social impact in responding to unemployment in developing countries. Sri Lanka is a country that appreciates democracy; even though all related to the age limit of 15-29 years should be included in the employment rates without discrimination, the contribution of people with impairments has reached a significant minimum level in Sri Lanka. This study examines the impact of personal and socio-economic factors on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka. The explanatory research method was used on 134 differently-abled youngers from the Kurunegala district using the convenience sampling technique. The data was collected using a self-administrated questionnaire and analyzed using Pearson's correlation and multiple regression analysis to test the hypotheses. The results highlighted that self-efficacy, self-employment, the role of family support, entrepreneurial education, and skill development significantly positively impact entrepreneurial intention. The practical value of this research holds significance for scholars and governmental and non-governmental decision-makers, as it encourages entrepreneurial endeavors among differently abled youngers.

Keywords: Self- efficacy, Self- employment, Role of Family Support, Entrepreneurial Education Skill Development, Entrepreneurial Intention

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Entrepreneurship is the ability and willingness to create, oversee and operate a commercial endeavor independently to turn a profit despite all of its uncertainties. The idea that arises in one's mind to start to do that is entrepreneurial intention (Farzana, 2018). The primary reason to draw focus globally on entrepreneurship is that there is a favorable association between entrepreneurship and economic growth (Cooney, 2008). Also, the concept of entrepreneurship became a trend in the modern world as it is possible to add value to the personal and societal worth of individuals and the whole economy of a country by stimulating entrepreneurial intent while giving the full option as a suggestion to the unemployment (Farzana, 2018).

The Sri Lankan economic crisis is causing a high unemployment rate, with the majority (23.8%) being younger individuals, resulting in an increase from 4.70% in March 2023 to 5.20% in June 2023 and from that amount; the majority (23.8%) includes the youngers. The National Youth Policy defines youth as those aged 15 to 29. A labor market characteristics report by Nisha Arunathilaka (Director of Research at the Institute of Policy Studies in Sri Lanka (IPS) and the head of the labor employment and human resource unit development unit at the IPS) reveals a high unemployment rate among youngers with challenges or impairments. Only 29.1% of these individuals engage in the labor force, indicating a potential decrease in participation or discouragement.

The Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No.28 of 1996 defines a disabled person as someone unable to provide for themselves due to physical or mental limitations. In Sri Lanka, 87 out of every 1000 people suffer from this issue, with 18% being adults. To remove unemployment among these populations, entrepreneurship has been accepted as the best way because it is significant for them to have the flexibility to work around their impairments and work life, which they can adjust to the best extent possible for their position in social and labor market participation and if it can refer intention them for the entrepreneurship, it is worthwhile while giving a fresh definition for them as a person with different abilities (Arunatilake, 2012).

1.2 Problem Statement

Sri Lanka, a democratic country, acknowledges the right to work for all, including differently-abled individuals. Over the past 25 years, several laws and policies have been passed or modified to support these individuals, including the Rehabilitation of the Visually Handicapped Trust Fund Act No. 9 of 1992, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 28 of 1996, and Sri Lanka's 2003 National Policy on Disability. Its first goal was to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for the impaired. Second, it strives to provide work opportunities or financial assistance to impaired people who want to start their businesses (Arunatilake, 2012). Furthermore, Sri Lanka's Constitution is the supreme source of law, and Article 12's anti-discrimination provision deals with fundamental rights. People with

disabilities are not officially mentioned, but they are recognized as falling within the Constitution, which states that "all persons are equal". Although laws, rules, and statutes emphasize equality, it is no secret that Differently-abled people in Sri Lanka face significant socializing challenges, including extreme poverty, limited access to basic needs, and high unemployment and poverty rates due to lack of wage and self-employment (Kumarasinghe, 2020).

Kasunjith Satanaarachchi, a disability rights advocate and blogger, expressed concerns about limited work opportunities for young differently-abled people in the UN Development Program, stating they prefer to rely on others. Sri Lanka's government pledged 3% job opportunities for differently abled individuals in 2007 through the "Year of Accessibility," but formal employment remains scarce, especially in the public sector. Mr. Kasunjith also shared his thoughts on private sector employment, stating that "employment in the private sector is limited and available only to a small percentage of differently abled individuals, and also this is a result of employers' negative attitudes, particularly a lack of sensitivity and practical understanding of differently-abled people's talents and abilities, as well as their demands and rights to be mainstreamed into employment."

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Industry and Commerce reports that 75% of enterprises are SMEs, contributing 52% to GDP and 45% to employment, yet only 2.8% of the working population are employers or company owners (Mirza, 2018). Sri Lanka needs a fivefold increase in entrepreneurs due to insufficient commercial activity volume for economic growth. This study aims to explore the factors influencing entrepreneurial intention among the differently abled, particularly young people in Sri Lanka, focusing on personal and socio-economic aspects. Numerous studies explore barriers to entrepreneurial performance, particularly focusing on women entrepreneurs, the influence of entrepreneurial education and training, and the influence of motivational factors on entrepreneurial intention. (Kumarasinghe, 2020). However, this study explores the impact of personal and socioeconomic factors on entrepreneurial intention among differently-abled young people in Sri Lanka, focusing on Kurunegala District considering self-efficacy, attitude toward self-employment, the role of the family support, entrepreneurial education, and skill development as personal factors and socio-economic factors, highlighting a lack of research on this topic.

1.3 Research objectives

The study's main objective is to examine the impact of personal and socio-economic factors on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka.

The Specific objectives:

- To examine the impact of self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka.
- To examine the impact of the attitude of self-employment on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka.

- To examine the impact of family support on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka.
- To examine the impact of entrepreneurial education and skill development on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in Sri Lanka.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Entrepreneurial Intention

The concept of entrepreneurial intention was initially proposed by Bird (1988). He considered entrepreneurial intention an internal psychological activity that enabled entrepreneurs to work hard to obtain ideal results (Bu et al., 2023). The ambition to start one's firm is referred to as entrepreneurial intention. It has associated entrepreneurial purpose with persons interested in new venture formation, and an entrepreneur's method of thinking emphasizes possibilities above risks (Krueger et al., 2000).

2.2 Personal factors

Personal factors originate with the pull that comes from within, from an innate need to be ideal in one's life. It is not caused by external influences being dragged drawn toward one's deepest desires rather than away from something unpleasant and individual traits, savings for own self, readiness to employ friends and relatives, willingness to take risks, and a favorable business climate among other things are some of the factors that affect personally on one's mind to become an entrepreneur (Elango, 2023).

2.2.1 Self-efficacy

Self-efficacy is the belief in one's ability to undertake the effort necessary to attain one's goals. It can be defined as a person's ability to complete a task using personal resources (Farzana, 2018). Bandura's (1977) opinion is also similar to it. His descriptive opinion about self-efficacy is the source of an individual's ability to execute a certain activity and perform a job. It is concerned with how actions, behavior, perceptions, cognition, and the environment interact in a self-motivated manner. He defined it also as people's views about their capacity to perform at expected levels, impacting events that affect their lives (Bandura, 1997).

2.2.1.1 Self-efficacy and Entrepreneurial Intention

Individuals and their behavioral processes are the first concepts that appear when discussing entrepreneurship intention. For this reason, individuals with firmer beliefs in their self-efficacy are likely to be entrepreneurs (Naktiyok et al., 2009). Entrepreneurial self-efficacy is one approach to understanding the new venture creation process, which can help instructors adopt new entrepreneurship curricula and courses (Svotwa et al., 2022). Entrepreneurial self-efficacy is a person's belief in their ability to carry out specific entrepreneurship-related duties, reflecting their favorable predisposition to handle the challenges and processes required to start a firm, closely related to entrepreneurial ambitions (Ferreira-Neto et al., 2023).

2.2.2 Attitude of self-employment

Self-employment is a tailored employment strategy that can be used as an alternative to salaried employment. It entails an individual working for themselves as a sole proprietor, independent contractor, or company owner (Iacomini et al., 2022). Harper and Momm (1989) argue that the attitudes of differently-abled people towards self-employment are more relevant than those of the general public, as they often view themselves as dependent, waiting for job offers, and expecting others to make decisions (Cooney, 2008).

2.2.2.1 Attitude of self-employment and entrepreneurial intention

Boylan and Burchardt (2003) discovered that people who have been disadvantaged from a young age may have already faced disadvantages in the education system due to the lack of access to facilities and the entire curriculum. As a result, such people will have lesser educational qualifications on average and be disadvantaged in the labour market (Cooney, 2008). Blanck (2000) and Schur (2003) found that prejudice and discrimination are the primary motivators for differently abled people to start businesses, with discrimination contributing to higher self-employment rates. This highlights the growing interest in entrepreneurship among differently-abled youth.

2.3 Socio-economic Factors

Many of the differently abled, especially young, youngers' attitudes cannot only be created by themselves, externally but also by monetary or non-monetary support is also very need for them. It emphasizes the need to investigate sociological and environmental factors influencing entrepreneurial intention (Profile, 2023).

2.3.1 The Role of Family Support

Social support significantly influences entrepreneurial intention, providing essential resources and a sense of love and care from family, friends, and acquaintances (Shen et al., 2017). From that, family support is one sort of social support that has been shown to influence entrepreneurial inclination. Family support is defined as a family's conduct and attitude toward embracing family members, which might include emotional, informational, financial and instrumental assistance (Annisa et al., 2021). Family support boosts motivation, drive, and desire for business goals, fostering a specific psychological approach to challenges and increasing confidence in overcoming obstacles (Hieu & Loan, 2022).

2.3.1.1 The Role of Family Support and Entrepreneurial Intention

Young people are motivated to make a difference by finding entrepreneurial platforms. However, family support is a crucial variable in entrepreneurship literature, yet it is under-researched (Saoula et al., 2023). Family members influence individuals' intentions toward business start-ups due to their close links and encouragement (Shen et al., 2017). Family support is integral in pushing them to create entrepreneurial goals. At the same time, abled youngers specifically require knowledge, financial assistance, guidance, or pity from acquaintances to enhance ideas or inspire them to continue their efforts (Hieu & Loan, 2022).

2.3.2 Entrepreneurial Education and Skill Development

Entrepreneurship education aims to develop positive attitudes and inventive skills for self-sufficiency, promoting individuals to develop the necessary skills for new plans and innovations (Astiana et al., 2022). Entrepreneurial skills are crucial for successful business ventures, generating value and demonstrating perseverance. Education and skill development are linked to business growth (Etrata & Raborar, 2022).

2.3.2.1 Entrepreneurial Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurial Intention

Entrepreneurial education is a crucial educational program that fosters entrepreneurial attitudes and abilities, directly influencing entrepreneurial development and intention as it strengthens individuals' attitudes toward entrepreneurship (Saoula et al., 2023). Entrepreneurship education enhances entrepreneurial competence through knowledge, experience, and practical participation, fostering a desire and attitude towards entrepreneurship and strengthening competencies and motivation. (Mahendra et al., 2017). Entrepreneurial education fosters entrepreneurship and innovation by instilling individuals' critical thinking, teamwork, decision-making, imagination, problem-solving, and communication skills, promoting their pursuit of entrepreneurial careers (Saoula et al., 2023). Entrepreneurial skills, including thinking, negotiation, and business acumen, are crucial for a company's success and are linked to the ability to create a new business model and strategy (Etrata & Raborar, 2022). Furthermore, an individual's entrepreneurial skills play a part in establishing a new enterprise (Etrata & Raborar, 2022).

3. Methodology

3.1. Conceptual Framework

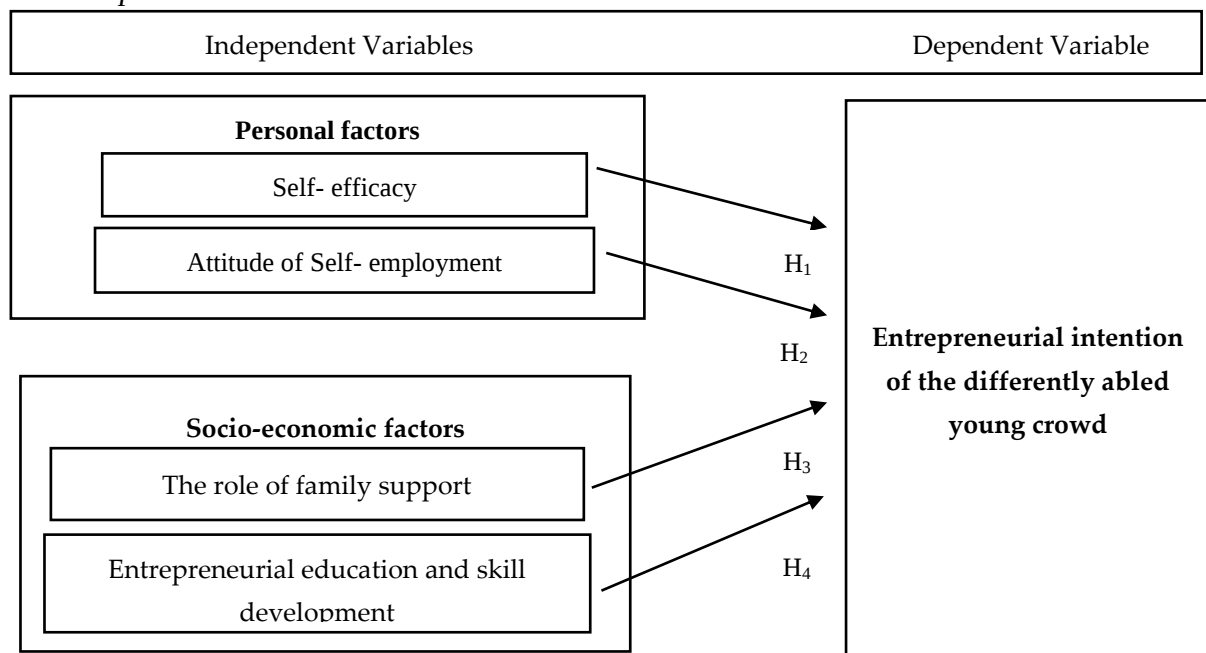


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

Source: Developed by researcher

3.2 Hypotheses Development

H1: Self-efficacy has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd

H2: Attitude of self-employment has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd

H3: The role of family support has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd

H4: Entrepreneurial education and skill development have a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd

3.3 Research Design

The study is descriptive, examining group behavior to achieve three main goals: describing, explaining, and validating findings, without influencing factors, and focusing on detected, observed, and measured variables. This quantitative study uses a cross-sectional survey strategy and a deductive approach to examine the impact of personal and socioeconomic factors on entrepreneurial intention among the differently-abled young crowd.

3.4 Population and Sampling

The researcher investigates how personal and socio-economic factors influence the entrepreneurial intentions of the differently-abled youth in Sri Lanka, focusing on the Kurunegala district. The term 'younger crowd' refers to individuals aged 15-29, highlighting the transition from dependent to independent adulthood (*National Youth Policy Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, 2011*). As it cannot cover practically the total younger, differently abled crowd in the country, this study briefly references the Kurunegala district. According to the latest Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka, most disabilities and their district can be concluded and represented below.

Table 1. Population Statistics

District	Amount (number)
1 Gampaha	28683
2 Colombo	27430
3 Kurunegala	26046
4 Kandy	19357

Source: Eliya (2001)

As it has already covered the first two districts, including the province, by a study (western province), this study gives a particular reference to the Kurunegala district as it has the next majority population. According to the Sri Lanka Disability information sheet (May 2014) and the report on disability-inclusive education practices in Sri Lanka.

It can be identified four main types of disabilities as,

- Visually impaired
- Hearing-impaired
- Physically impaired
- Mentally impaired

Source, (Disability-Inclusive Education Practices in Sri Lanka, n.d.) , (CBM Australia, 2014)

However, here, the researcher only considers the youngers with the first three impairments, visually impaired, hearing or speaking impaired and the physically impaired, as it cannot accept the responses of the mentally impaired youngers reasonably. According to the latest calculations (for 2023 May) of the Social Service Department (which is the responsible unit the differently abled persons) of the District Secretariat of Kurunegala, the amount of the respective amount for the respective disabilities and for the respective ages are as below.

Table 2. Types of the Disability

Visually impaired		Hearing and speaking impaired		Physically impaired		
Age between 11-20 years	Age between 21-30 years	Age between 11-20 years	Age between 21-30 years	Age between 11-20 years	Age between 21-30 years	
72	80	262	292	267	332	
Total- 152		Total- 554		Total- 599		=1305

Source: Developed based on the datasheet issued by the District Secretariat Office, Kurunegala according to 2023 data

This study focuses on 1305 differently-abled individuals aged explicitly 15-29. The researcher assumes 500-750 differently-abled youngers, aiming for a sample of 100-150. Using the Krejcie and Morgan Table, 134 differently-abled youngers aged 15-29 from the Kurunegala district are analyzed, aiming to reach the desired number of 500-750.

3.5 Data Collection

The researcher utilized convenience sampling to select differently abled youths from primary sources, focusing on those in the Kurunegala district's unique needs, schools, and centers. The data is collected from the Department of Social Service and the North Western Provincial Council. The study identifies approximately 21 skills and competency development centers in the North Western Province and over 15 locations in the Kurunegala District. This study focuses on skills and competency exchange centers for individuals aged 15-19. The researcher selects locations with younger individuals between 15-29 using a convenience sampling technique. The study aims to collect data from the secondary section of a special needs school using the student's name registration. The convenience sampling technique allows for convenience in selecting individuals to answer questionnaires, ensuring a representative sample for the study. The researcher created a questionnaire for 134 differently abled youngers

in the Kurunegala district, focusing on self-efficacy, attitude toward self-employment, family support, entrepreneurial education, and skill development. In both Sinhala and English, the questionnaire was distributed to the target sample, ensuring convenience and support from responsible owners.

3.6 Data Presentation and Analysis

The study used the SPSS-26th version for data analysis, including assumption testing, correlation analysis, and regression to test hypotheses on self-efficacy (SEF), attitude of self-employment (SEM), role of family support (RFS), and entrepreneurial education and skill development (EESD).

4. Results

4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Below is the sample composition in terms of the gender, age, and position of the sample,

Table 3. Frequency of Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Male	70	52.2	52.2	52.2
Female	64	47.8	47.8	100.0
Total	134	100.0	100.0	

Source: Survey result, 2024

Table 4. Frequency of Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
15-16	55	41.0	41.0	41.0
17-19	55	41.0	41.0	82.1
20-23	9	6.7	6.7	88.8
24-29	15	11.2	11.2	100.0
Total	134	100.0	100.0	

Source: Survey result, 2024

Table 5. Frequency of Impairment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Visually impaired	19	14.2	14.2	14.2
Hearing or speaking impaired	71	53.0	53.0	67.2
Physically impaired	44	32.8	32.8	100.0
Total	246	100.0	100.0	

Source: Survey result, 2024

Table 6. Descriptive Statistics

	No.of valid	No.of missing	Mean	Meadian	Mode	Standard deviation	Variance	Minimum	Maximu m
SEF	134	0	4.6284	5.0000	5.00	0.65173	0.425	1.20	5.00
SEM	134	0	4.6567	5.0000	5.00	0.66156	0.438	1.80	5.00
RFS	134	0	4.6299	5.0000	5.00	0.79944	0.639	1.40	5.00
EESD	134	0	4.5836	5.0000	5.00	0.87644	0.768	1.00	5.00
EI	134	0	4.6194	5.0000	5.00	0.89101	0.794	1.00	5.00

Source: Survey result,2024

4.2 Reliability Analysis

A measure's reliability can be verified by testing for consistency and stability, and the consistency of the concepts being measured reveals how well they fit together. Cronbach's alpha is used to determine the reliability, and it should be equal to or greater than 0.7. Here, Cronbach's alpha values fulfill the reliability conditions.

Table 7. Results of Reliability Analysis

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha value
Self - efficacy	0.942
Attitude of self-employment	0.932
Role of family support	0.968
Entrepreneurial education and skill development	0.994
Entrepreneurial intention	0.987

Source: Survey Data, 2024

4.3 Assumption Testing

4.3.1 Normality Test

The normality test requires a sample size of over 50 and a Kolmogorov-Smirnov significance value greater than 0.05, and the sample of 134 differently abled younger individuals meets this requirement.

Table 8. Results of the normality test

Variable	Kolmogorov – Smirnov value
Self - efficacy	0.079
Attitude of self-employment	0.046
Role of family support	0.133
Entrepreneurial education and skill development	0.080
Entrepreneurial intention	0.060

Source: Survey result,2024

4.3.2 Multicollinearity Analysis

The multicollinearity test, which measures the high interrelationship between independent variables, requires a decision rule of 0.9 or higher to avoid high risk between variables.

Table 9. Results of Multi collinearity analysis

		SEF	SEM	RFS	EESD
SEF	Pearson Correlation	1			
SEM		0.736**	1		
RFS		0.509**	0.465**		
EESD		0.706**	0.834**	0.439**	1
N=134, $p < 0.05$					

Source: Survey result, 2024

4.4 Correlation Analysis

The correlation analysis indicates a negative relationship between variables, a positive relationship, and a zero relationship. The Pearson correlation analysis has a significance threshold of 0.05, which corresponds to a 95% confidence level and when the significance value is less than 0.05, the association is statistically significant.

Table 10. Results of Correlation Analysis

	EI	SEF	SEM	RFS	EESD
Pearson correlation	1				
EI Significance value					
N	134				
Pearson correlation	0.714	1			
SEF Significance value	0.000				
N	134	134			
Pearson correlation	0.845	0.736	1		
SEM Significance value	0.000	0.000			
N	134	134	134		
Pearson correlation	0.495	0.509	0.465	1	
RFS Significance value	0.000	0.000	0.000		
N	134	134	134	134	
Pearson correlation	0.939	0.706	0.834	0.439	1
EESD Significance value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
N	0134	134	134	134	134

Source: Survey result, 2024

4.5 Regression Analysis

Regression analysis is a statistical method used to estimate the relationship between a dependent and independent variable by assessing its strength and forecasting its relationship.

4.5.1 Model Summary

The study found that the degree of change in entrepreneurial intention was 89%, with adjustments to self-efficacy, self-employment attitude, family support role, and entrepreneurial education and skill development, indicating a significant impact of independent variables.

Table 11. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Standard Error of the Estimate
1	0.948	0.899	0.896	0.28748

Source: Survey result,2024

4.5.2 ANOVA Summary

It represents if the collection of independent variables significantly impacts the dependent variable, and it assesses the usefulness of the overall model. The value must be less than or equal to 0.05. As the ANOVA table shows, the regression model is significant in the current study, as the significant value is 0.000, which is less than the limit of 0.05. It can be examined how well the regression model fits the model.

Table 12. ANOVA Summary

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significance value
1	Regression	94.928	4	23.732	287.151	0.000
	Residual	10.661	129	0.083		
.	Total	105.590	133			

Source: Survey result,2024

Table 13. Multiple Regression

Model		Unstandardized B	Coefficients Standard Error	Standardized Coefficient s Beta	t	Significance value
1	(Constant)	0.466	0.204		2.282	0.024
	SEF	0.032	0.060	0.024	0.532	0.013
	SEM	0.226	0.074	0.168	3.052	0.003
	RFS	0.086	0.037	0.077	2.343	0.021
	EESD	0.761	0.053	0.748	14.284	0.000
Dependent Variable: Entrepreneurial intention (EI)						

Source: Survey result,2024

The regression equation can be developed as follows based on the above results. Notion for independent variables and dependent variables,

$$Y^{\wedge} = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

- $Y^{\wedge}$ - Dependent variable = Entrepreneurial intention (EI)
- X_1 – Independent variable 1 = Self- efficacy (SEF)
- X_2 – Independent variable 2 = Attitude of self-employment (SEM)
- X_3 – Independent variable 3 = The role of the family support (RFS)
- X_4 – Independent variable 4 = Entrepreneurial education and skill development (EESD)
- α = constant value
- ε = Error
- $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4$ = represents the coefficients

The relationship between the above-mentioned independent variables and dependent variables can be illustrated in the following equation.

$$Y^{\wedge} = 0.466 + 0.032X_1 + 0.226X_2 + 0.086X_3 + 0.761X_4 + \varepsilon$$

$$EI = 0.466 + 0.032SEF + 0.226SEM + 0.086RFS + 0.761EESD + \varepsilon$$

4.6 Hypothesis Testing

The acceptable threshold is that the p-value should be below the 0.05 level.

Table 14. Results of Hypothesis Testing

	Persons Correlation coefficients	B value	Significance value	Decision
H ₁ : Self-efficacy has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district	0.714	0.032	0.013	Supported
H ₂ : Self-employment has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district	0.845	0.226	0.003	Supported
H ₃ : The role of family support has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district	0.495	0.086	0.021	Supported

H ₄ : Entrepreneurial education and skill development have a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district	0.939	0.761	0.000	Supported
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Source: Survey result, 2024

5. Discussion

As per the descriptive statistics of demographic variables, 52.2% of the sample represents the male differently abled younger, and 47.8% represents the female differently abled younger. As per the data, most respondents are between the age limit of 15-16 and 17-19 (41.0%), and the 20-23 age limit consists of 6.7% of the respondents, and 11.2% consists of the age limit of 24-29. The study examines the impact of personal and socioeconomic factors on entrepreneurial intention among the differently-abled young crowd in Sri Lanka, specifically in the Kurunegala district. The research identified four independent variables: self-efficacy, attitude toward self-employment, the role of family support, and entrepreneurial education and skill development. Hypothesis can be tested by calculating the P- value (significance level) for each B coefficient of independent variables and the 95% confidence interval for choosing a hypothesis is employed in the social sciences. To gain this, the confidence interval's P- value must be equal to or less than 0.05 and if the value is not equal to or less than 0.05, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. Additionally, the alternative explanation lacks supporting evidence. The study's major four hypotheses are H₁, H₂, H₃, H₄. Empirical data from 134 respondents support the study's findings.

5.1 Self-efficacy and Entrepreneurial Intention

This study has proposed that self-efficacy is positively related to entrepreneurial intention (H₁), and the empirical results of this study support the direct positive impact of self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention. Most past studies show a positive relationship between self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention. It has shown that the study produces insightful findings for the sociopsychological perspective on entrepreneurship, with a positive correlation between entrepreneurial intention and self-efficacy (Naktiyok et al., 2009). Then, it has been shown that it plays a significant role in self-efficacy by enhancing confidence in the capacity to be entrepreneurs and strengthening entrepreneurial intention (Saoula et al., 2023). Another study shows that self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention are positively related (Leong, 2008).

5.2 Attitude of self-employment and Entrepreneurial Intention

This study has proposed that attitude toward self-employment is positively related to entrepreneurial intention (H₂), and the empirical results of this study support the direct positive impact of the attitude toward self-employment and entrepreneurial intention. Most of the studies show a positive relationship between the attitude toward self-employment and entrepreneurial intention. It has shown that the attitudes towards self-employment with entrepreneurial intention are rated very good as a positively related relationship (KimSoon et al., 2014). Another study found that entrepreneurship-related barriers and support are

significantly related to entrepreneurial intention. At the same time, self-employment is very important for the youth (Al-Qadasi et al., 2021).

5.3 The Role of Family Support and the Entrepreneurial Intention

This study has proposed that the role of family support is positively related to entrepreneurial intention (H_3), and the empirical results support the direct positive impact of the role of family support and entrepreneurial intention. It has shown that in most of the past studies, there is a positive relationship between the role of family support and entrepreneurial intention. It has shown a positive relationship between the role of family support and entrepreneurial intention (Saoula et al., 2023). It also shows a very significant relationship between the role of family support and the entrepreneurial intention of younger in another past study (Annisa et al., 2021). It has been shown in a past study that there is a very good positive relationship between the role of family support and entrepreneurial intention (Hieu & Loan, 2022).

5.4 Entrepreneurial Education and Skill Development and the Entrepreneurial Intention

This study has proposed that entrepreneurial education and skill development are positively related to entrepreneurial intention (H_4), and the empirical results of this study support the direct positive impact of entrepreneurial education and skill development and entrepreneurial intention. In many previous studies, there has been a positive relationship between entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurial intention, as proven in one study that directs a positive relationship (Muhudin Hasaan, 2015). Another study shows a positive relationship between these variables (Westhead & Solesvik, 2016). Another finding is that entrepreneurial skills impact entrepreneurial intention (Etrata & Raborar, 2022). Moreover, the positive and significant relationship between entrepreneurial education and skill development is proven in another study (Astiana et al., 2022), and it also shows again the positive relationship between both variables (Thomas, 2023).

6. Conclusions

This study investigates the link between personal and socio-economic factors and entrepreneurial intention in differently-abled youth in Kurunegala District. It explores the impact of self-efficacy, self-employment attitude, family support, and entrepreneurial education on this population, concluding that these factors significantly enhance their entrepreneurial intention.

- Self-efficacy has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district
- Attitude of self-employment has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district
- The role of family support has a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district

- Entrepreneurial education and skill development have a positive impact on the entrepreneurial intention of the differently-abled young crowd in the Kurunegala district

6.1 Practical Implications

Previous studies suggest that skill development and training programs are the most appropriate way to the development of entrepreneurial intention with a positive effect on the entrepreneurial intention among the differently abled (Shanimon, 2018). This study also suggests that motivational programs and supportiveness for differently abled youth can enhance entrepreneurial intention. Practitioners should focus on self-efficacy, self-employment, financial well-being, family support, and entrepreneurial education. Also, it is suggested, already as the differently abled youngers are practicing their ability from their centers, the government or non-governmental support is essential to enhance the path for them to the market practically. Then future research should explore the effects of motivational factors on entrepreneurial intention and the barriers faced by differently-abled entrepreneurs.

6.2 Areas for Future Research

A future study on the impact of personal and socio-economic factors on entrepreneurial intention among differently abled young people should consider a larger sample size and include additional variables rather than self-efficacy, attitude of self-employment, family support, and entrepreneurial education. This qualitative approach could address the potential limitations of the current study.

6.3 Limitations of the Study

This study examines the impact of personal and socio-economic factors on entrepreneurial intention among differently abled young people in Kurunegala district, Sri Lanka. It is limited to the Kurunegala district and focuses on four dimensions: self-efficacy, attitude of self-employment, family support, entrepreneurial education, and skill development. The study has limitations in collecting data, with only 134 samples selected. Future research should focus on generalizing results and addressing these limitations.

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