

An Insight into Entrepreneurship Education in China: A Policy Perspective

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Abstract:

Entrepreneurship education is increasingly forming an integral part of Chinese higher education. This initiative first emerged in 2002 in the form of nine selective universities charged with piloting innovation and entrepreneurship education on their campuses. It has been well received in China and extended its reach to more higher education institutions ever since. According to the Ministry of Education, from 2016 on, all colleges and universities will be expected to offer courses on innovation and entrepreneurship education and make them part of their curriculum.

There is no doubt that entrepreneurship education has been adopted as a powerful instrument for skills development in an era of global competition. It strives to develop the entrepreneurial awareness, spirit, and ability in millions of young people in China, with the hope that individuals' innovation and entrepreneurship will eventually drive the innovation of the whole nation. Within this context, it is worthwhile to study this policy initiative in terms of the following factors: 1. Rationale: why was entrepreneurship education chosen in the first place, out of all the policy alternatives? 2. Practice: How has entrepreneurship education been implemented and what have been the lessons and challenges? 3. Impact: What have been the impact of entrepreneurship education on higher education and lifelong learning? This presentation will attempt to address these questions.