



# ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN A SOUTH INDIAN UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

*This study is an investigation to find the attitude of aerospace engineers toward entrepreneurship. Simple percentage methods along with charts were used for the analysis. This study also focused on whether there is a difference in entrepreneurial intentions among male and female students. Questionnaires were sent to aerospace engineering students. The research aimed to evaluate the attitude of aerospace engineers toward entrepreneurship and whether gender was a factor in this process. This comparison showed a significant difference in entrepreneurial interest of students according to gender as interest of male respondents were more than female respondents.*

**KEYWORDS:** *attitude, students, aerospace, engineering, entrepreneurship*

## INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is starting one's own business or businesses. There is a lot of financial risk when starting a business, but all in the hope of making profit. There has been a stiff competition for employment opportunities, so many graduates tend to choose entrepreneurship.

For this research, students were selected as a target group and were asked to fill out their thoughts in the given google forms. This study examined whether views on self-employment were based on gender, the year of their study and their family background.

## QUALITIES OF AN ENTREPRENEUR

### **The Ability to Take Risk**

The primary quality of an entrepreneur is being less risk-averse. There are always several risks involved when starting a business or anything new. People who are ready to take such a huge risk will only be interested in entrepreneurship. Also, someone who can mentally handle the pressure that comes with that will eventually be successful.

### **Innovative Idea**

His/her ideas should be innovative and economic. An entrepreneur is creative and uses his talent for bettering the economy.

### **Problem Solving**

A successful entrepreneur always tries solving problems, even if there are a lot of challenges. The problem solving attitude shows determination.

### **Leaders**

They are ambitious and man of vision. A successful entrepreneur should also have great leadership skills. They are not lazy people but very hard working.



### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Given below are the main research objectives taken into consideration during the survey.

- Effect of gender on the interest of students towards entrepreneurship
- Influence of the their year of study
- Family background and inheritance
- Attitude towards risk

### Research method

To make the research approximate, a questionnaire was prepared and circulated among a group of 200 aerospace engineering students of a south indian university.

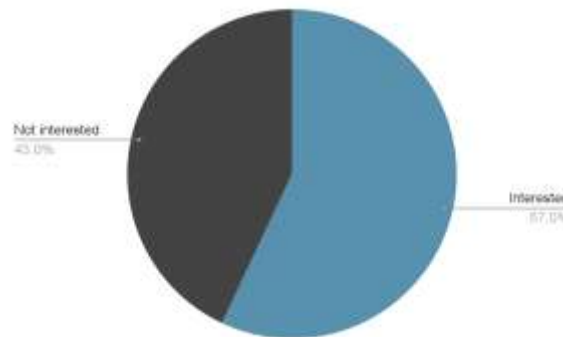
### Analysis

To find the factors affecting the interest of students towards entrepreneurship, the results of the questionnaire are shown in different forms of charts and the conclusions are interpreted in mathematical methods.

**Table showing the interest of students towards entrepreneurship**

Answers	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	114	57%
No	86	43%
Total	200	100%

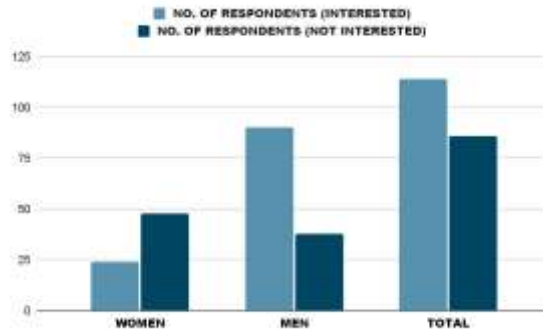
Pie chart showing percentage of students interested in entrepreneurship



Majority of the students were interested in the field of entrepreneurship. Only 43% of students were not interested in entrepreneurship.

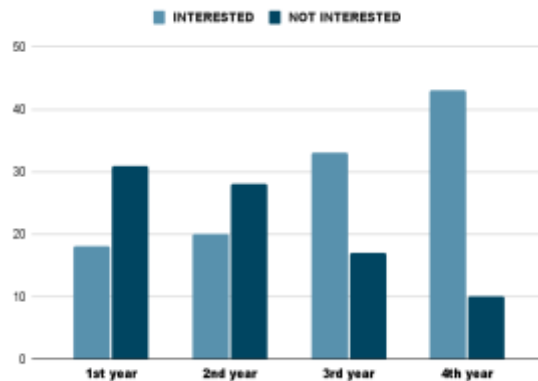
### Gender wise classification of students

Gender	No. of respondents (interested)	No. of respondents (not interested)	Total
Women	24	48	72
Men	90	38	128
Total	114	86	200



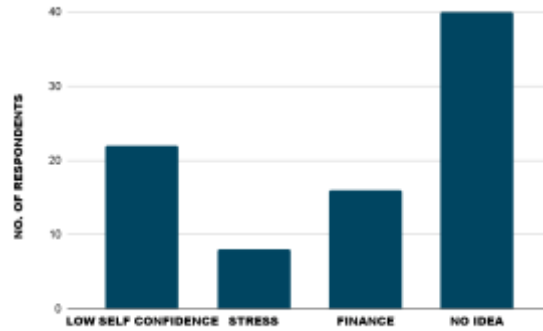
Year wise classification of students

Year	Interested	Not interested	Total
1st year	18	31	49
2nd year	20	28	48
3rd year	33	17	50
4th year	43	10	53
Total	114	86	200



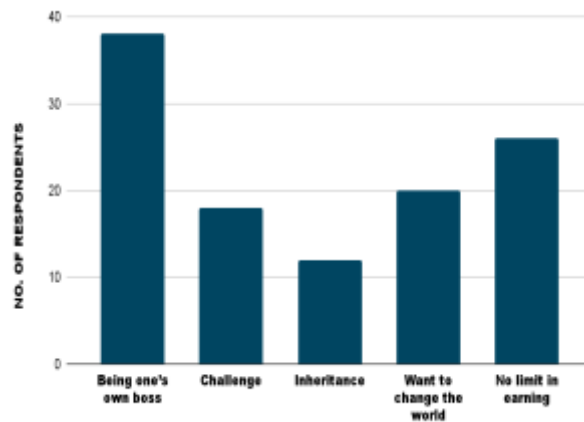
The following table shows the reasons why the students are not interested in entrepreneurship.

Options	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Low self confidence	22	25.6%
Stress	8	9.3%
Finance	16	18.6%
No idea	40	46.5%



The following table shows the reasons why the students are interested in entrepreneurship.

Options	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Being one's own boss	38	33.3%
Challenge	18	15.8%
Inheritance	12	10.5%
Want to change the world	20	17.5%
No limit in earning	26	22.8%



### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

- The group of respondents was divided into two sets according to their gender. Among 72 female respondents, only 33% were interested in entrepreneurship. When considering the 128 male respondents, 70% of respondents were interested in entrepreneurship.
- Majority of respondents from the final year showed an interest towards entrepreneurship. Among 53 4th year respondents, 81% of respondents were interested in entrepreneurship. But only 36% of 49 respondents were interested from 1st year. The rate of interest gradually increased in 2nd and 3rd years of study.
- Respondents with a business family background were interested in entrepreneurship. Many respondents were ready to take up entrepreneurship because of inheritance.
- The majority of first year respondents were not interested in entrepreneurship because they didn't have any idea.
- The major challenges and problems that were visible in the study were gender, finance and the ability to handle and work under pressure.



- The majority of respondents who were not interested in entrepreneurship because of low self confidence and stress were female students.

### CONCLUSIONS

- There is a significant existence of interest in male students than that of female students. This is because of their risk-averse attitude.
- Family business knowledge and inheritance also influenced the interest towards entrepreneurship.
- The level of education and the year of study is another factor. The longer time they spend in college, they have a higher chance of being interested. 1st year of study also lacks ideas.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- For future research, the study could be expanded to more departments. That will help understand the attitude of students towards entrepreneurship from a wider perspective.
- The introduction of more entrepreneurial cells and programs in colleges will reduce risk-averse attitude.
- Involvement of female students in entrepreneurial cells should be monitored.
- Introduction of ted talks by notable entrepreneurs of both genders should be encouraged.
- Hackathons could be conducted in order to bring ideas to students' minds.

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