Applications of Structural Equation Modeling in Entrepreneurship Research

by
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Abstract: My research pertains to understanding the phenomenon of starting social ventures. In particular, I am interested in knowing those startup behaviors of social entrepreneurs which can predict early stage success. Social ventures have a double bottom line of doing good while doing well and face added challenges in comparison with regular entrepreneurial ventures. Social entrepreneurs’ startup behaviors are guided by their social mission and also by their intention to be financially viable.

In this colloquium I will briefly introduce my research and focus on a study which uses structural equation modeling (SEM) to test a conceptual model regarding entrepreneurial behaviors and early stage success. I will discuss the process used to develop the conceptual model, steps involved in preparation for running the SEM, testing the conceptual model and finally how I interpreted the results to arrive at conclusions. I will also discuss typical challenges faced while using SEM and how I have approached these challenges.

I have a Ph.D. in Management (Designing Sustainable Systems) from Case Western Reserve University and a Master of Statistics from Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkatta, India. Prior to UMD I have worked extensively with Global Information Technology consulting firms, provided leadership in the areas of strategy, organizational change management, business process improvement, and program management. I am currently associated with various academic and practitioner groups such as the Academy of Management, Association for Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations, Social Enterprise Alliance, Minnesota Social Impact Center, and Social Venture Network.

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