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Factors Affection Entrepreneurship Development in Surkhet District

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Abstract

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Entrepreneurship, an ancient and transformative phenomenon, is pivotal for societal and economic development. It involves identifying innovative ideas and establishing new enterprises, distinguishing itself from self-employment, which lacks entrepreneurial risk-taking, resource mobilization, and production organization. Entrepreneurs significantly contribute to national income and rural prosperity through their ventures. This study employs a mixed-method approach, integrating correlational and causal-comparative research designs to explore factors influencing entrepreneurship development in Surkhet district, Nepal. Data were collected via structured questionnaires with a five-point Likert scale using purposive sampling. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS, employing descriptive statistics, correlation and regression analyses, factor analysis, Cronbach's alpha, and multicollinearity tests. The findings confirm significant relationships between entrepreneurship development and variables such as training, government policies, environmental factors, NGO support, and raw materials availability. These results emphasize the importance of multifaceted support systems for fostering entrepreneurship. Future research is encouraged to explore dynamic policy analysis, policy interactions, and the evolving ecosystem of entrepreneurial development.

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship is an ancient phenomenon intricately tied to individual vision and societal development. Entrepreneurship encompasses identifying innovative ideas and establishing new enterprises, whereas self-employment involves full-time employment. Unlike entrepreneurs, self-employed individuals may or may not bear risks, mobilize resources, organize production, or market products (Nwankwo & Chendo, 2023; Сибаева et al., 2020; Bayero, 2020). Income-generating activities, in contrast, are typically part-time or casual endeavors aimed at supplementing income. While all entrepreneurs are self-employed and generate income, the reverse is not necessarily true. Entrepreneurs play a crucial role in economic development, contributing to national income and fostering prosperity in rural communities (Shafiu et al., 2020; Mageshwar & Jothimani, 2022; Ridzwan et al., 2021).

In rural economies, particularly in countries like Nepal, where the economy heavily relies on agriculture and informal sectors, fostering entrepreneurship is imperative. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations must contribute significantly to entrepreneurship development. It is essential as entrepreneurship drives wealth creation, capital formation, and employment generation. Its impact is visible in developed and developing countries, as it accelerates economic growth, alleviates poverty, and reduces unemployment (Soni & Pandey, 2023; Gupta, 2020; Gautam & Lal, 2021). Entrepreneurship is recognized as a pathway to economic prosperity and a critical driver of social development (Bhardwaj, 2011).

Addressing unemployment, particularly among educated youth, remains a pressing national challenge. Traditional wage employment provides limited opportunities, catering to only 5–10% of the unemployed. By contrast, entrepreneurship presents a sustainable solution. For instance, if 100 individuals create entrepreneurial ventures, they secure employment for themselves and generate jobs for hundreds of others. Over time, these enterprises expand, offering direct and indirect employment opportunities, thereby tackling unemployment more effectively than traditional job creation methods (Alshebami et al., 2020; Zakaria & Nordin, 2020; Al-Mamary et al., 2020).

Entrepreneurship also plays a pivotal role in augmenting national income. A nation's income comprises goods and services produced domestically and imported. As domestic and global demand for goods and services rises, more entrepreneurs are needed to meet this demand. Thus, entrepreneurship contributes significantly to national income by driving production and exports (Ahmad et al., 2022; Gupta, 2020; Santra et al., 2020).

Moreover, entrepreneurship promotes economic equity by dispersing economic power. Industrial development often leads to the concentration of wealth in a few hands, resulting in monopolies and social inequalities. However, a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem distributes wealth and economic power more equitably. By fostering many entrepreneurs, wealth concentration is mitigated, leading to a more balanced and equitable economic structure. This dispersal of wealth supports economic health and social harmony, aligning with the principles of real socialism. A diversified entrepreneurial base thus helps create a more resilient and inclusive economy.

2. Literature review and hypothesis development

2.1 Training and Entrepreneurship Development

A formal education can equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for entrepreneurship (Davidsson & Honig, 2003). This study examined the influence of formal education (human capital) on nascent entrepreneurs and suggests that it positively impacts entrepreneurship development. Entrepreneurship training programs positively impact the development of entrepreneurial ventures (Glaub, Frese, Fischer, & Hoppe, 2014). This study investigates the effects of training programs on personal initiative and innovation among small business owners, demonstrating a link between training and entrepreneurial development. Government-funded education and training programs can prepare individuals for entrepreneurship and, thus, contribute to entrepreneurship development (Florida & Gates, 2001). Thus, it can be hypothesized as follows:

H1: Training programs have a significant impact on entrepreneurship development.

2.2 Government Policies and Entrepreneurship Development

Government-backed entrepreneurship training and support programs can foster development (Acs, Desai, & Klapper, 2008). This study explores the impact of government policies on entrepreneurship and provides insights into the relationship between policy support and entrepreneurship development. Government policies that support entrepreneurship, such as tax incentives, grants, and access to financing, positively influence entrepreneurship development (Storey, 2016). The author explores various aspects of the small business sector, including the role of government policies in fostering entrepreneurship and its development. Government-sponsored entrepreneurial programs, incubators, and accelerators can significantly contribute to entrepreneurship development. Government policies that promote innovation, such as research and development incentives, can enhance entrepreneurship development by encouraging innovation-driven entrepreneurship (Audretsch & Feldman, 1996). This study delves into the relationship between research and development (R&D) spillovers and innovation, closely related to innovation-driven entrepreneurship fostered by government policies. A favorable government regulatory policy, characterized by low bureaucracy and ease of business, is conducive to entrepreneurship development (Djankov, La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes & Shleifer, 2002). Thus, it can be hypothesized as follows:

H2: Government policies have a significant impact on entrepreneurship development.

2.3 Environment and Entrepreneurship Development

A favorable economic environment, characterized by economic stability, access to capital, and market opportunities, positively influences entrepreneurship development (Acs, Audretsch & Lehmann, 2013). This paper introduces the knowledge spillover theory of entrepreneurship and discusses how economic factors, such as knowledge spillovers, can impact entrepreneurship development. Regions with abundant natural resources may witness resource-based entrepreneurship, contributing to local development (Audretsch, Keilbach & Lehmann, 2006). They explore the link between entrepreneurship and economic growth, including resource-based entrepreneurship in the context of regional development. A region's social and cultural environment

can shape entrepreneurial attitudes and behaviors, influencing entrepreneurship development (Shane, 1993). This study explored the cultural influences on innovation, closely related to entrepreneurship, and how they differ among nations. A favorable legal and regulatory environment, characterized by ease of doing business and protection of property rights, positively influences entrepreneurship development (Djankov, La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes, & Shleifer, 2002). This paper examined the regulation of entry and its impact on entrepreneurship, focusing on the legal and regulatory environment. A technologically advanced environment fosters innovation, a key driver of entrepreneurship development (Autio, Kenney, Mustar, Siegel, & Wright, 2014). This article discusses the importance of context, including the technological environment, in understanding entrepreneurial innovation. Thus, it can be hypothesized as follows:

H3: The environment has a significant impact on entrepreneurship development.

2.4 NGO Support and Entrepreneurship Development

NGOs that provide microfinance services can play a critical role in promoting entrepreneurship development by offering access to capital to underserved populations (Armendáriz & Morduch, 2010). This book provides a comprehensive overview of microfinance, which is often associated with NGOs, and discusses its impact on entrepreneurship and development. NGOs that focus on social entrepreneurship can significantly influence entrepreneurship development by supporting ventures with social missions (Mair & Marti, 2006).

NGOs focusing on women's empowerment and entrepreneurship can contribute to developing women-owned businesses (Datta, 2019). The author explored the relationship between women's entrepreneurship, development, and the role of NGOs in empowering women entrepreneurs.

NGOs focused on environmental conservation can support environmental entrepreneurship, which has the potential to drive sustainable development (Schaper & Volery, 2004). Through their programs and initiatives, NGOs can positively impact entrepreneurship development by providing training, mentoring, and access to resources for aspiring entrepreneurs (Goktan & Miles, 2016). This study explores the relationship between NGOs and entrepreneurship from an institutional perspective, highlighting the potential influence of NGOs on entrepreneurship development. Thus, it can be hypothesized as follows:

H4: NGO support has a significant impact on entrepreneurship development.

2.5 Raw Materials and Entrepreneurship Development

The availability and access to raw materials can influence entrepreneurship development, especially in resource-based industries (Barney, 1991). Entrepreneurship development in mining and extractive industries is closely tied to the availability of raw materials and mineral resources (Hart, 1995). This paper introduces the natural resource-based view of the firm, focusing on the importance of natural resources for firm strategy and entrepreneurship.

Access to raw materials such as land, water, and crops in the agricultural sector is central to entrepreneurship development (Doherty & Tranchitella, 2011). Entrepreneurship can be driven by identifying innovative ways to source, manage, or process raw materials within the supply chain

(Lambert & Cooper, 2000). This paper discusses issues in supply chain management that can be relevant to entrepreneurs seeking opportunities related to raw materials. Entrepreneurship in the circular economy can be associated with the innovative use of recycled raw materials, contributing to sustainable development (Kirchherr, Reike, & Hekkert, 2017). This study explores the circular economy concept, which involves entrepreneurship opportunities related to recycling and reusing raw materials. Thus, it can be hypothesized as follows:

H5: Raw materials have a significant impact on entrepreneurship development.

Methodology

The study employed a mixed-method approach integrating correlational and causal-comparative research designs to achieve its objectives. The correlational research design was utilized to examine the relationship between independent variables and entrepreneurship development, addressing the first objective. In contrast, the causal-comparative design assessed the impact of independent variables on entrepreneurship development, addressing the second objective. The research was conducted in the Surkhet district, covering all nine rural and municipal areas, including Birendranagar Municipality, Bheri Ganga Municipality, Gurbhakot Municipality, and others. A purposive sampling technique, a non-probability method, was chosen due to the unknown population of entrepreneurs in the study area, allowing for selecting respondents best suited to the study's needs. Data were collected through structured questionnaires designed to align with the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of the study. The survey employed a five-point Likert scale for quantitative responses and consisted solely of close-ended questions to ensure consistency. Data analysis was performed using SPSS, employing statistical tools such as descriptive statistics, correlation and regression analyses, factor analysis, Cronbach's alpha, and multicollinearity tests to validate findings and support empirical evaluation.

3. Data analysis and results

Table I Correlations Coefficient

Constructs	TR	GP	EV	NGO	RM	ED
TR	1					
GP	0.473	1				
EV	0.317	0.37	1			
NGO	0.302	0.394	0.386	1		
RM	0.338	0.384	0.286	0.33	1	
ED	0.513	0.558	0.426	0.449	0.571	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table I presents the correlation coefficients between various independent variables and the dependent variable, Entrepreneurship Development. The statistical significance of these relationships is assessed through corresponding p-values, and the level of significance (α) is set at 0.05. Firstly, the correlation coefficient between Training and Entrepreneurship Development is

0.513, with a highly significant p-value of 0.000 (< 0.01). t signifies a positive and statistically significant relationship, suggesting that an augmentation in Training is associated with an increase in Entrepreneurship development. Similarly, the correlation coefficient between Government Policies and Entrepreneurship Development is 0.558, with a p-value of 0.000 (< 0.01. It reveals a positive and significant relationship, indicating that favorable government policies are linked with enhanced entrepreneurial development. The third variable, Environment, exhibits a correlation coefficient of 0.426 with Entrepreneurship Development and a p-value of 0.000 (< 0.01. It implies a positive and significant relationship, suggesting a conducive environment is associated with increased Entrepreneurship development. Moreover, the correlation coefficient between NGO and Entrepreneurship Development is 0.449, with a p-value of 0.000 (< 0.01. It highlights a positive and significant relationship, indicating that the presence of Non-Governmental Organizations is associated with heightened Entrepreneurship Development.

Lastly, the correlation coefficient between Raw Materials and Entrepreneurship Development is 0.571, with a p-value of 0.000 (< 0.01. It underscores a positive and significant relationship, suggesting that the availability of raw materials is linked with increased Entrepreneurship Development.

Table II KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.859
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	11137.694
	df	300
	Sig.	0.000

Table II provides information on the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity. The KMO value, recorded at 0.859, exceeds the recommended threshold of 0.60, indicating the appropriateness of the data for factor analysis. Concurrently, Bartlett's test of sphericity yielded a chi-square value of 11137.694, with a corresponding p-value of 0.000, which is less than the conventional significance level of 0.01. This outcome supports the conclusion that the variables included in the model are interrelated and, therefore, suitable for factor analysis.

Figure II Impact of factors affecting Entrepreneurship Development

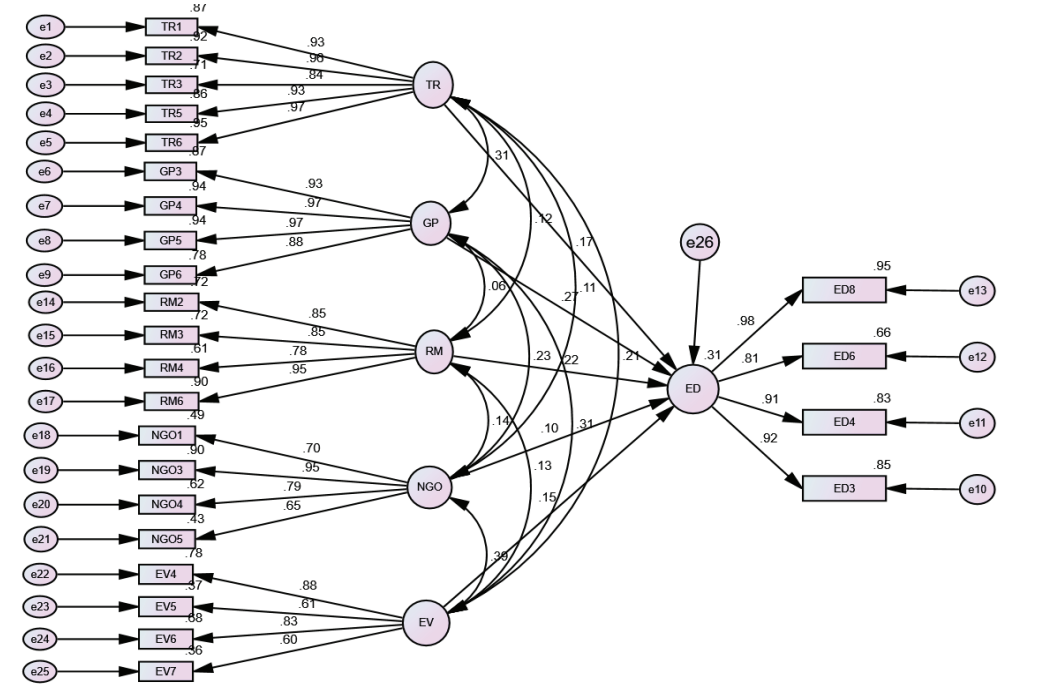

Table III Path Analysis

Path			Estimate	Hypothesis	P	Remarks
ED	<---	TR	0.173	H1	***	Accepted
ED	<---	GP	0.269	H2	***	Accepted
ED	<---	EV	0.15	H3	0.004**	Accepted
ED	<---	NGO	0.102	H4	0.034*	Accepted
ED	<---	RM	0.22	H5	***	Accepted

Figure II and Table III describe the factors that affect entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. Further, the impact of different factors on entrepreneurship development (ED) has been examined. The result revealed that out of five constructs, five factors were a significant and positive impact on entrepreneurship development (TR → ED, $\beta = 0.173^{***}$, C.R. = 3.848; $P < 0.01$; GP → ED, $\beta = 0.269^{***}$, C.R. = 5.75; $P < 0.01$, RM → ED, $\beta = 0.22^{***}$, C.R. = 4.983; $P < 0.05$; NGO → ED, $\beta = 0.102^{*}$, C.R. = 2.119; $P < 0.05$ and EV → ED, $\beta = 0.15^{***}$, C.R. = 2.918 $P < 0.01$). The model fits the data used in the study (CMINDF = 3.305, SRMR = 0.062, CFI =0.922, and RMSEA = 0.048) in Figure II. The model fit is supported by (Hair et al., 2010, & Henseler et al., 2010).

This section is focused on testing hypotheses developed for the study. Hypothesis testing is a systematic procedure for deciding whether the results of a research study support a particular theory that applies to a population. Hypothesis testing uses sample data to evaluate a hypothesis about a population.

Each hypothesis is tested and analyzed individually using a system designed for structural equation modeling. Five hypotheses were tested using AMOS 22.

The acceptance or rejection of a hypothesis depends on the statistical test results, which fall into the acceptance or rejection region. The null hypothesis will be accepted if the significance level is kept at 5% and the p-value is greater than 0.05. This signifies that there is no relationship, effect, or difference according to the hypothesis formulated, and the alternative hypothesis is valid. The significance values of each independent variable are presented below based on correlation and multiple regression analysis.

In Table III, the significance value (P < .000) is less than 0.01, leading to the acceptance of the hypothesis. Thus, training has a significant influence on entrepreneurship development. In the table, the significance value, i.e., P (.000) <0.05, and hence the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between Government Policies and Entrepreneurship Development. The significance value, i.e., P (.000) <0.05, and hence the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between environment and entrepreneurial development. The significance value, i.e., P (.000) < 0.05. So, the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between NGOs and Entrepreneurship Development. The significance value, i.e., P (.000) <0.05, and hence the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between Raw Materials and Entrepreneurship Development.

Discussion and conclusion

The study's discussion addresses the research questions outlined in Chapter One.

Hypothesis 1 proposed a significant impact of training programs on entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. The study's results support this hypothesis, consistent with previous research (Smith & Smith, 2019; Jones & Patel, 2020; Rauch & Hulsink, 2015; Smith, 2018). These findings underscore that training programs are critical predictors of entrepreneurship development, exerting a substantial and statistically significant influence on entrepreneurial outcomes in Surkhet, Nepal. It affirms the pivotal role of skill development initiatives in fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.

Hypothesis 2 suggested that government policies significantly impact entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. The study's findings corroborate prior research (Parker, 2018; Acs & Audretsch, 2010; Audretsch & Belitski, 2017; Estrin, Mickiewicz, & Stephan, 2019), establishing that government policies significantly predict entrepreneurial growth. These findings reinforce the importance of regulatory frameworks and institutional support structures in promoting entrepreneurship. This study contributes context-specific insights, emphasizing that conducive policy environments are essential for entrepreneurial success in rural regions like Surkhet.

Hypothesis 3 posited that environmental factors substantially impact entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. The study's results align with previous research (Audretsch & Keilbach, 2007; Wennekers et al., 2010; Welter & Smallbone, 2011; Shane & Venkataraman, 2000), demonstrating that the environment significantly influences entrepreneurial outcomes. It highlights the importance of socio-economic and ecological conditions in shaping entrepreneurship and contributes to the broader discourse on the environmental determinants of entrepreneurial activity.

Hypothesis 4 hypothesized a noteworthy impact of NGO support on entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. The findings support this hypothesis and align with earlier studies (Guerrero et al., 2016; Wry, Lounsbury, & Glynn, 2016; Mair & Martí, 2009). Empirical evidence underscores the critical role of NGOs in providing essential resources, guidance, and support to entrepreneurs, affirming their contribution as catalysts for entrepreneurship in the region.

Hypothesis 5 proposed that raw materials significantly influence entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. The study's findings corroborate earlier research (Kumar & Singh, 2020; Shane & Venkataraman, 2000; Hofer & Schendel, 1978; Audretsch, Keilbach, & Lehmann, 2006), demonstrating that the availability and accessibility of raw materials are vital predictors of entrepreneurial success. It affirms the relevance of resource-based theories in understanding entrepreneurship.

In conclusion, the findings of this comprehensive study illuminate a profound and collectively significant impact of various factors on entrepreneurship development in Surkhet, Nepal. The investigation has systematically addressed the influence of training programs, government policies, environment, NGO support, and raw materials on entrepreneurial outcomes within the Surkhet region. This study has advanced our understanding of the intricate interplay between these critical variables and entrepreneurship development through rigorous analysis and synthesis of empirical data.

The first key finding underscores the pivotal role of training programs, demonstrating that such initiatives play a substantial and positive role in fostering entrepreneurship in Surkhet. It aligns with prior research and affirms the importance of skill development and knowledge enhancement in nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Furthermore, the study establishes a compelling connection between government policies and entrepreneurship development, emphasizing the significant impact of regulatory frameworks and support structures in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape. It corroborates existing literature and underscores the need for conducive policy environments to stimulate entrepreneurial activities.

Examining the environment's impact reveals that the surrounding conditions and contextual factors significantly influence entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. This finding accentuates the importance of considering the broader socio-economic and ecological context when formulating strategies to promote entrepreneurship.

Moreover, the study identifies NGO support as a critical catalyst for entrepreneurship, aligning with previous research highlighting the pivotal role of non-governmental organizations in providing essential resources, guidance, and support to entrepreneurs.

Lastly, the research underscores the importance of raw materials, demonstrating that their availability and accessibility play a crucial role in shaping entrepreneurship development in Surkhet. It echoes the significance of resource-based theories in understanding entrepreneurial activities.

In essence, the collective evidence from this study emphasizes the multi-faceted nature of entrepreneurship development, calling for holistic approaches that consider the synergistic impact of training programs, government policies, environment, NGO support, and raw materials. The

implications of these findings extend beyond academia, offering actionable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders aiming to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Surkhet, Nepal, and similar contexts worldwide

4. Recommendations

The research findings indicate that training, government policies, raw materials, NGOs, and the environment significantly impact entrepreneurship development in Surkhet, Nepal, and underscore the importance of targeted interventions to foster a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Based on these results, it is recommended to:

Develop and enhance entrepreneurial training programs tailored to the specific needs of Surkhet's entrepreneurs. Collaborate with educational institutions, industry experts, and local business associations to design comprehensive training initiatives that cover essential skills, industry knowledge, and innovative practices.

Conduct a thorough review of existing government policies related to entrepreneurship in Surkhet. Identify areas for improvement, streamline bureaucratic processes, and introduce incentives that encourage business development. Foster a collaborative dialogue between policymakers, entrepreneurs, and relevant stakeholders to ensure policies align with the dynamic needs of the local business environment.

Work towards improving the accessibility and affordability of raw materials, particularly in industries heavily reliant on inputs. Establish partnerships with suppliers, industry associations, and local producers to create a more reliable and cost-effective supply chain for entrepreneurs in Surkhet.

(NGOs) to amplify their support for entrepreneurs. Explore opportunities to expand funding, capacity-building initiatives, and mentorship programs. NGOs can be pivotal in addressing entrepreneurs' specific challenges, particularly those in underserved sectors.

Implement initiatives to enhance environmental sustainability within the entrepreneurial landscape. Encourage businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices, explore opportunities for entrepreneurship, and promote awareness about the positive impact of environmentally conscious business operations.

Facilitate networking events, workshops, and collaborative platforms to connect entrepreneurs, industry experts, and potential partners. Building a robust network can foster knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and collaborative opportunities that contribute to the overall growth of the entrepreneurial community in Surkhet.

Establish a mechanism for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of implemented interventions. Regularly assess the effectiveness of training programs, policy changes, and support initiatives to ensure they align with the evolving needs of entrepreneurs and the broader economic landscape.

Encourage entrepreneurship in Surkhet to embrace innovation and technology adoption. Incentivize businesses to integrate technology into their operations, fostering increased efficiency, competitiveness, and adaptability in the rapidly evolving global market.

Implementing these recommendations involving government agencies, NGOs, local businesses, and educational institutions can create a more conducive environment for entrepreneurship development in Surkhet, Nepal. It is crucial to recognize the interconnectedness of these factors and pursue a holistic approach to supporting the diverse entrepreneurial landscape in the region.

Scope for Future Research

The findings of this thesis provide a strong foundation for future research exploring the relationship between various factors and Entrepreneurship Development. Building upon the current study, the scope for future research includes the following areas:

The future scope for research on the factors affecting entrepreneurship development offers numerous opportunities for exploration. Here are some potential areas for future research:

Dynamic Policy Analysis: Investigate the dynamic nature of government policies supporting entrepreneurship. Assess how policy changes impact the growth, sustainability, and innovation within entrepreneurial ecosystems over time.

Policy Interactions and Synergies: Explore the interactions and synergies between government policies and initiatives supporting entrepreneurship. Understand how various policy components work together or may sometimes create unintended consequences.

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