

## Editorial

Envisioning a more sustainable and equitable economy for the future involves striving to improve the quality of life for all, protecting the environment, and conserving environmental resources for future generations. Entrepreneurship, innovation, scientific advancements, and productive research are pivotal in addressing today's environmental and social challenges. The papers featured in this issue primarily revolve around research related to entrepreneurship education and practice, which align with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for quality education (Goal 4), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and developing partnerships to achieve the goals (Goal 17). Two of the papers highlight the importance of reducing inequalities (Goal 10), particularly the benefits of addressing gender inequality (Goal 5) for national economic prosperity. One paper on wellness tourism aligns with SDG Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing). It contributes to the importance of SDG Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), which highlights the need for sustainable tourism development based on promoting wellbeing through preservation of natural environments and in design of ecohabitats.

Hidaya Zahir's paper in this issue on doing action research while developing soft skills of post-graduate business studies students is an example where teachers demonstrate entrepreneurial personality traits of risk taking, willingness to bring uncertainty into the pedagogic practice and to innovate. Not finding space within the heavy curriculum of an existing programme of study, she developed a short, intense module in collaboration with the students, which meant student engagement within the module was exemplary. Her model of doing action research contributing to theory development through practice can be used elsewhere across university education, changing the culture of students as passive learners. As she highlighted, students valued having an opportunity to develop their voice, gain confidence, develop essential soft skills, and learn collaboratively with their peers to identify practical solutions to novel situations.

In Maryam Sadha and Sheema Saeed's paper studying drivers, barriers and external forces which influence individual Maldivian women entrepreneurs' beliefs and actions, they highlight that development of their own and their team's capabilities on an ongoing basis was one of the most significant factors identified by women as contributing to their success, and the necessity to develop women's business leadership skills for scaling up

and to attract investment was significant. The barriers encountered by women entrepreneurs identified the necessity to create a fair and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Greater Male' area. They also highlight the necessity for government intervention to support growth of their businesses through access to workspaces, wider markets, supply chains, and networking and partnership building opportunities. Women's entrepreneurship behaviour in the challenging business environment of Male, of building networks and constructing partnerships, to create conditions for sustainable practice, can be a model which can be used elsewhere.

The entrepreneurship ecosystem comprises interconnected actors, from public agencies to large companies, academia, infrastructure, charities, civil society organisations, socio-political culture, and the regulatory environment. In the context of Nepalese master's in business administration students in Kathmandu Valley, Bikram Prajapati and Krishna Khanal's findings show that students' entrepreneurial intent is shaped by their perception of their capabilities and the informal support system around them. Universities can use research findings to develop students' capabilities to identify the commercial potential of their ventures, use business design and leadership skills to recruit and develop talent, and obtain funding for successful business innovation. Universities can also function as change agents in enabling coordination between various actors in the entrepreneurial ecosystem by initiating entrepreneurial incubators within universities.

The global wellness economy is worth trillions of dollars, with abundant entrepreneurial opportunities through development of necessary infrastructure and experiences. Wellness is interrelated with the broader culture, community, and social environment context. Jia Yanan, Shi Peihua, Anshul Garg, Guo Yue, and Zhao Yue's paper in this issue is on a study exploring online travelogue data of Chinese tourist experiences in wellness tourism destinations in China. The findings demonstrate that the Chinese associate wellness with spending time in natural environments and the concept of self-care to prevent illness. The study demonstrated that Chinese tourists valued experiences in seven dimensions of wellness including physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, cultural, social, and environmental. Their results showed differences in frequency of associations between different dimensions of wellness and types of landscapes and with other wellness resources, including infrastructure and facilities. Tourists' intentional and unintentional engagement in wellness behaviours depended on the experiences available to them and accessed by them. This suggests that

wellness needs to be inbuilt from designing tourism destinations to managing all services, including lodging, food and beverage, shopping, and educational activities.

Shamma Adam Solih and Azra Abdul Sattar's paper explored employees' performance in the Maldives' energy sector, using motivation theory as the research lens. Establishing a correlation between motivation and performance, they demonstrate that an extrinsic model of rewards as incentives is not sufficient to improve performance. While the low motivation of employees can be enhanced through job design, staff selection and development, and improving managerial style and organisational culture to be fairer and more inclusive, opportunities for collaborative, innovative behaviours and organisational citizenship activities may improve task performance, staff overall motivation, and achievement of organisational goals.

Generation of ideas through research and dissemination of ideas through publication needs to be linked to research impact on local and national economies and targeted to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 as part of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Having an entrepreneurial attitude to constantly strive to improve the quality of research output, to increase the citation of the research, to connect with other researchers, with public and private sector organisations, and with funding bodies can improve the productivity of research efforts. Developing partnerships and collaborating with researchers across universities to improve research output is essential. Commercialisation of research and building links with industries can enhance and improve innovation to meet society's emerging socio-environmental and economic needs.

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