THE INTENTION OF APPLYING DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (DE) AMONG UNDERGRADUATE TOURISM STUDENTS IN EGYPT

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is an economic tool that aims to enhance people's lives. Digital entrepreneurship is one of the latest theories that academic research tries to cover. This study examines the factors that influence undergraduate tourism students to apply digital entrepreneurship. Despite the presence of several studies that tackled different aspects of entrepreneurship in Egypt, there is limited research about applying digital entrepreneurship, especially among undergraduate tourism students. So, the current study tries to fill this gap. In this context, the research depended on the quantitative method in which the researcher distributed questionnaires to the third and fourth-year students enrolled in the Tourism Studies Department, Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, Helwan University. The valid questionnaires are 213 out of 250. The research used regression analysis to prove that DL, AE, PT, and ATDE affect the DEIs of undergraduate tourism students. In this regard, the study hypotheses are supported. It is worth mentioning that the field study points out the main barriers that hinder applying digital entrepreneurship among undergraduate tourism students. Finally, the study provided many recommendations and proposed a framework to of digital entrepreneurship enhance the application among undergraduate tourism students.

KEYWORDS: Digital Entrepreneurship; Entrepreneurial Intention; Tourism; Students.

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is a tool for economic prosperity and poverty alleviation (Chowdhury et al., 2019; Shepherd et al., 2021). Entrepreneurship provides opportunities, adds a new value, applies new methods in production processes, and enhances competitive advantages (Beliaeva et al., 2019). Upadhyay et al. (2021) mentioned that entrepreneurship is the engine that improves industry transformation. In this context, digital technologies such as social media platforms and digital 3D painting systems (Nambisan, 2017) enable entrepreneurs to develop innovative enterprises (Giones and Brem, 2017; Abubakre et al.,2020). Digital technologies can play a variety of roles and take many forms, including products (Lyytinen et al., 2016), service platforms, infrastructure tools or systems and digital applications (Berger et al., 2021). Recently, research has paid attention to digital entrepreneurship as an emerging economic trend (Kraus et al., 2019; Sahut, et al., 2021). the world has focused its attention on applying digital Lately, entrepreneurship (Ngoasong, 2018). Digital entrepreneurship means adapting to new technologies or converting existing ventures by using new digital technologies (Franco et al., 2021). Namely, the main variance between traditional entrepreneurship and digital entrepreneurship is the method that entrepreneurs follow to market their products (Dutot and Van Horne,2015). Entrepreneurial intention is at the core of the entrepreneurship process (Al-Jubari et al., 2019).

Digital Entrepreneurship Intention (DEI) means that establishing a new business via using digital technologies/ internet facilities (Younis, 2018; Alkhalaileh, 2021a). Entrepreneurial intention is influenced by both internal and external variables, events and individuals (Dutot and Van Horne, 2015), such as personality traits and educational environment (Youssef et al., 2021; Alkhalaileh, 2021b), as well as attitude towards entrepreneurship (Lai and To,2020). Although there is extensive research about entrepreneurship, there is little research about Digital Entrepreneurial Intention (DEI) (Alkhalaileh, 2021a; Younis, 2018; Nambisan et al. 2019). Most academic studies addressed entrepreneurship theory among students (e.g., Al-Jubari et al., 2021; Al-Jubari et al., 2019). In Egypt, studies about entrepreneurship were focused on traditional entrepreneurship, such as Soliman (2011), who affecting undergraduate tourism students' factors revealed the entrepreneurial intentions after graduation. In addition, Hattab (2014) examined the role of entrepreneurship education on entrepreneurial Intentions applied to British University in Egypt. Sharaf et al. (2018) examined the role of planned behavior theory on students' intentions towards entrepreneurship in Egypt. Subsequently, the present study contributes to determining the factors that influence DEIs of students, especially undergraduate tourism students. The results of this study are also very important for tourism faculties in Egypt, as the study helps tourism faculties to know what makes students involved in digital entrepreneurship and what tourism faculties should do to increase the number of digital entrepreneurs in the tourism field in the future. So, the research objectives are :

1-Spotlight on digital entrepreneurship.

2- Determine the factors affecting digital entrepreneurship intention.

3- Determine the factors influencing undergraduate tourism students to apply digital entrepreneurship.

4- Measure the obstacles that prevent undergraduate tourism students from applying digital entrepreneurship in Egypt.

LITERATURE REVIEW

DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Digital entrepreneurship can be defined as "the practice of pursuing new venture opportunities presented by new media and internet technologies" (Ngoasong, 2018:2). Digitalization refers to the usage of digital technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, mobile computing, and 3D printing to operate organizations (Gregori and Holzmann, 2020). Digital entrepreneurship is a subcategory of entrepreneurship in which some or all of the operations in a traditional organization have been digitized, relying on information technology to create, market, distribute, transform, or provide the product (Hull et al., 2007). There are three types of digital entrepreneurship as follows: mild, moderate, and extreme (Grzeslo, 2020). The first one is "mild digital entrepreneurship", where firms use digital technology as a complement to traditional entrepreneurship, this type is similar to "click and mortar" (Hafezieh et al., 2011). The second one is called "moderate digital entrepreneurship", where the company invests a significant amount of resources in applying digital technologies such as digital products, digital delivery or other components of its value chain (Dutot and Horne,2015). The third type is "extreme digital entrepreneurship", in which the company totally depends on digital technology from production to customers (Rosin et al., 2020).

Digital Entrepreneurship (DE) is a main economic pillar in different countries as it provides job opportunities (Ladeira et al., 2019). Furthermore, Zhao and Collier (2016); Dy et al., (2017) demonstrated that DE enables firms to penetrate more markets and improve their positioning because digital technologies have a greater reach and lower costs because infrastructure is no longer required to store products and developed. Applying stakeholder involvement was digital entrepreneurship enables entrepreneurs to get accurate and quick feedback on their products, which contributes to upgrading their products later (Wardani et al, 2020; Soluk et al., 2021). Digital entrepreneurship doesn't need capital to start, in contrast to e-commerce, which needs adequate capital to run the business (Zamzami,2021). Kheirabadi and

Rafeian (2019) mentioned that Amazon.com, Google.com, and eBay.com have transformed into digital entrepreneur platforms in order to enhance their revenues and increase customer satisfaction (Hänninen et al., 2018). Accordingly, a digital entrepreneur is a person who performs key business activities, such as production, marketing, distribution, and stakeholder management, by depending on ICT (Papageorgiou et al., 2021).

DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION (DEI)

Entrepreneurial intention is generally defined as "a self-acknowledged conviction by individuals that they intend to set up a new business venture and consciously plan to do so at some point in the future" (Tomy and Pardede, 2020:1425). In this context, entrepreneurial intention is the main motivation to apply entrepreneurship (Mueller, 2011; Al-Jubari et al., 2019). Digital entrepreneurship intention is a person's ambition to find knowledge and establish business goals on the internet by putting forth several efforts (Mugiono et al., 2020). Although using digital technology has become an essential element in the entrepreneurship process (Rippa and Secundo, 2019), there are a few studies that clearly investigate the factors that influence digital entrepreneurship intention. In this regard, some of these studies include the study of Ramadani et al. (2021), who revealed the factors that influence digital entrepreneurial intention applied to Kosovo companies. Another study is by Younis (2018), who studied in depth the factors that affect digital entrepreneurs as applied to university students in Qatar. Furthermore, Lai and to (2020) examined e-entrepreneurial intentions among young Chinese adults.

Digital technologies have an effective role in students' entrepreneurship intentions (Alkhalaileh, 2021b), information and communication technologies give a chance for students to develop their skills to be entrepreneurs (Sousa et al.,2019). In general, there are internal and external factors that affect entrepreneurial intention (Ahmed et al.,2020; Gulzar and Fayaz, 2021). These factors include attitude towards entrepreneurship and the propensity to take risks (Ohanu and Ogbuanya, 2018). Some researchers consider digital literacy and entrepreneurship education to be some of the factors that could influence students to start their digital businesses (Permatasari and Anggadwita, 2019; Suparno et al.,2020). Digital literacy is a prerequisite to being a digital entrepreneur (Bayrakdaroğlu and Bayrakdaroğlu, 2017).University education is primarily responsible for developing students' entrepreneurial skills all over the world (Hahn et al., 2017).

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Nowadays, computers are the foremost learning tool for students (Lindqvist and Pettersson, 2019). In this regard, new generations of students have a high technological awareness where they get used to interacting daily with mobile devices, platforms, and social networks (Hernandez-de-Menendez and Morales-Menendez, 2019; Arango-Morales et al., 2019). Academics describe the new generation of students as the Net Generation or Digital Generation (Mishra et al., 2017). University students have a high readiness to work in digitalized jobs (Primahendra et al., 2021).In this line, Scuotto and Morellato (2013) confirmed that student entrepreneurs are characterized by a desire to get high benefits from digital media and technology; they use, for example, electronic social networks as a knowledge-sharing tool. Gialamas et al.(2013) pointed out that university students consider the internet very essential for their future careers.

DIGITAL LITERACY (DL)

Digital literacy constitutes a set of skills and abilities that a person or social group uses when interacting with digital technologies (Kozanoglu and Abedin, 2021). Digital literacy includes computer and internet literacy (Islami, 2019). Digital literacy can be defined as "the ability to find, evaluate, utilize, share, and create content using information technologies and the Internet" (Walton, 2016:1). Computer literacy means the ability and understanding of how to use computer programs (Tsai et al., 2019), while Berman (2021) explained that computer literacy should include knowledge of basic software and effective performance of tasks related to computers without help. Internet literacy includes three dimensions "access-understanding-creation" (AK, 2020). Internet literacy can be defined as "the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and create online content, which can be measured based on the specific skill sets required of the individual to navigate and interact effectively on the Internet (e.g., ability to download a file or access a video on the internet" (Vijayalakshmi et al.,2020 :4).

In Egypt, Internet users have had a continuous increase over the years from 2013 to 2019 to reach approximately 51 million users, where 73.81% of them are university students, and 44.3% of their Internet activities are for educational purposes (El-Sayad et al., 2021). The number of internet mobile users was 52.40 in 2019 (MCIT, 2020). Moreover, Badr and Elmarghraby (2021) mentioned that Egyptian students tend to use IT tools as a learning method to increase their skills and knowledge. Finally, Mugiono et al.(2020) confirmed that there is a

strong relationship between digital literacy and entrepreneurship. Based on this, the following assumption was proposed: **H1**: DL affects DEI positively.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT (AE)

University education is one of the main pillars responsible for developing entrepreneurial skills among students (Bae et al., 2014; Li and WU, 2019). Concerning digital entrepreneurship, higher education is responsible for developing digital entrepreneurship competencies among students (Kurmanov et al., 2020). Due to the importance of digital technologies in business and management (Lombardi, 2019), some universities have paid attention to applying digital entrepreneurship education, such as Georgia Tech University, applying Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to their engineering undergraduate students (Secundo et al., 2020). In this context, entrepreneurship encourages students to be up-to-date and very interactive in business life (Papageorgiou et al., 2021). So, it is necessary to apply digital tools, such as MOOCs, 3D printing, social media, big data analytics, and cloud platforms in universities to reinforce digital entrepreneurship among students (Rippa and Secundo, 2019; Guerrero et al., 2021; Castillo-Abdul et al.,2021). In short, education is one of the most important factors that influences digital entrepreneurship among students(Frolova et al.,2019) as it solidifies new skills and digital knowledge among students in universities (Secundo et al.2021). In addition, education increases the entrepreneurial competence of students (Birtchnell et al., 2017). According to the previous literature, the following hypothesis was assumed:

H2: AE affects DEI positively.

PERSONALITY TRAITS (PT)

A personality trait is "a characteristic pattern of thinking, feeling, or behaving that tends to be consistent over time and across relevant situations" (Soto, 2019:711). According to Karami et al.(2017) and Youssef et al.(2021), entrepreneurial personality traits are one of the most effective factors affecting the intention of applying digital entrepreneurship among students. Digital entrepreneurs have a greater readiness to take risks than traditional entrepreneurs (Bandera and Passerini, 2020). Also, digital entrepreneurs are characterized by hard work and innovativeness (Suparno et al.,2020). Zaheer et al. (2019) illustrated that digital entrepreneurs' experience, and motivation, incorporated with personal skills, are considered very essential factors for successful digital entrepreneurship. Thus, the study assumed the following hypothesis:

H3: PT affects DEI positively.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS APPLYING DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ATDE)

The term "entrepreneurial attitude" is defined "as an individual response of information, events, and critics toward the existing opportunities" (Wardana et al., 2020:1). Attitude towards entrepreneurship is considered motive encourages the highest (50%)that people to apply entrepreneurship (Zabelina et al., 2019; Alzamel, 2021). Attitude is an essential factor beyond entrepreneurial intention because it is the determinant factor that shapes entrepreneurial behavior (Mahfud et al., 2020). The need for achievement, personal behavior control, innovation, and self-esteem are the four dimensions of entrepreneurial attitude (Jena, 2020). Regarding digital entrepreneurs, Younis (2018) illustrated that entrepreneurs mainly seek to apply digital entrepreneurship to achieve their self-esteem. In this line, there are some studies that confirm that Attitudes Towards Digital Entrepreneurship(ATDE) highly affect digital entrepreneurship intentions, such as Alzamel et al. (2020), who revealed that attitudes towards e-entrepreneurship affect digital entrepreneurship intentions as a part of a study applied to female students in Saudi Arabia. Accordingly, the following hypothesis was proposed: H4: ATDE affects DEI positively.

METHODOLOGY

Research Sample

The research relied on the purposive sampling technique to identify the target sample, which aims to identify and select individuals or groups who are proficient and well-informed about the research interest point (Etikan et al., 2016). The research sample consists of the students who are enrolled in the third and fourth academic years in the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management at Helwan University. The target sample is the students who are enrolled in the Tourism Studies Department. The researcher chose this sample because these students have good knowledge of the work environment and digital business.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT AND CONSTRUCT MEASURES

The questionnaire consists of seven sections. The first section represents the profile of the sample, which was adapted from Youssef et al. (2021). The second section includes seven statements that measure the digital literacy of the students according to the scale of Infante-Moro et al.(2019). The third section consists of seven statements reflecting the academic environment of the students (Lubis, 2019). The fourth section includes five statements that measure digital entrepreneurship intentions. The fifth section comprises five statements reflecting the personality traits of students. The six-section refers to the students' attitude towards digital entrepreneurship. Both the fourth, fifth, and sixth sections are adapted from Lai and To (2020). The seventh section tries to reveal the obstacles facing the application of digital entrepreneurship in Egypt in accordance with Simić (2020), who tries to give details about the challenges facing digital entrepreneurship in tourism.

The researcher relied on the pilot questionnaire method to test the validity of the questionnaire statements (Bowden et al., 2002). The questionnaire was administered face-to-face. Consequently, there are some amendments to the questionnaire according to the opinion of the students, where the researcher distributed 70 pilot questionnaires. It is worth mentioning that the concept of digital entrepreneurship is not widespread, especially among tourism students, so the research target sample was not large enough. Thus, the researcher relied on distributing the questionnaires to students who have sufficient awareness of digital entrepreneurship. In this regard, 250 questionnaires were distributed, 250 questionnaires were returned, and the valid questionnaires were 213. Consequently, the response rate is 92.6%. The distribution process took around three months, from October to December 2021. The questionnaire employed a Likert scale, which consists of five degrees: 1=strongly disagree; 2 =disagree; 3 =neutral; 4 =agree; and 5=strongly agree. The research used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22 to analyze the different responses of the sample.

DATA VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

This part measures the reliability of the questionnaires by using Cronbach's alpha measure.

Variables	No. of	Cronbach's	Validity
	Items	Alpha	Coefficient
Digital Literacy	7	.728	0.853
Academic Environment	7	.841	0.917
Personality Traits	5	.679	0.824
Attitudes Towards Digital	4	.832	0.912
Entrepreneurship			

Table (1) Cronbach's Alpha of the Factors Affecting DigitalEntrepreneurship Intention Among Tourism Students

Digital Entrepreneurship Intention	5	.793	0.890
Obstacles Facing Digital	5	.692	0.831
Entrepreneurship			

Table 1 shows the reliability and validity of the questionnaire by using Cronbach's Alpha measure, which is considered the most common measure of the internal consistency of questionnaires (Heale and Twycross, 2015). There is no unified minimum value for reliability (Bonet and Wright, 2015). It is noticeable from table 1 that Cronbach's Alpha value ranges between 0.679 and 0.841, which means that the internal reliability of variables is acceptable and sufficient according to Taber (2018), who mentioned that Cronbach's Alpha value is acceptable and sufficient between "0.45 to 0.98" and the value is considered high between " 0.73 to 0.95". In terms of validity, it was determined that the lowest value is 0.831.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following table illustrates the sample profile of the students, which includes information about their age, gender, and academic year.

Attributes	Frequency	Percent
Age		
18-21	135	63.4
22-25	77	36.2
26-30	1	.5
Gender		
Male	64	30.0
Female	149	70.0
Academic Year		
Third year	85	39.9
Fourth year	128	60.1

 Table (2) The Profile of the Sample

It is concluded from Table 2 that the most majority of students are between 18-21 and most of them are female.

The following part shows the means and standard deviations for the constructs of the questionnaire, which represent digital literacy, academic environment, digital entrepreneurship intention, personality traits, attitudes towards digital entrepreneurship, and obstacles facing applying digital entrepreneurship.

Variables	Mean	Standard de viation	Rank
I have enough knowledge to use internet tools	4.33	.744	3
I have a rapid responses to any changes on the digital platforms	3.54	1.007	6
I use the internet to facilitate my work life	4.21	.929	4
I can establish a web page by using computer programs	2.84	1.204	7
I use the internet to increase my knowledge	4.57	.687	1
The internet is the most important source of useful information	4.46	.773	2
I have knowledge of digital marketing	3.92	1.039	5
Total of mean and standard deviation	3.98	.571	

Table (3) Digital Literacy

Table 3 shows that students have good digital literacy where the total mean is "3.98". The highest rank is for " I use the internet to increase my knowledge" (mean= 4.57 standard deviation =.687). The internet is the most important source of useful information (mean =4.46, standard deviation=.773). Moreover, students have good knowledge about how to use internet tools with a mean of 4.33. In addition, students are able to use the internet to facilitate their work life with a mean of 4.21 and a standard deviation of .929. Unfortunately, few students are able to establish a web page as a working digital tool with a mean of 2.84.

Table (4) Academic Environment

Variables	Mean	Standard de viation	Rank
Curriculum copes with market needs	3.13	1.112	4
Assignments depend on using IT	3.33	.984	2
The curriculum includes technological skills	3.31	1.073	3
The curriculum provides a real-life simulation for digital entrepreneurship	2.79	1.049	6
My academic curriculum prepares me to be a professional in digital tourism entrepreneurship	2.98	1.157	5
Providing workshops on the use of technology in tourism	3.33	1.238	2

Assignments motivate me to get innovative ideas for my future project	3.50	1.084	1
Total of mean and standard deviation	3.19	.788	

Table 4 points out the role of the academic environment in encouraging students towards applying digital entrepreneurship. It seems that the faculty started to prepare students to be digital entrepreneurs with a total mean (3.19). The table shows that assignments motivate students to create ideas for their future careers with a mean of 3.50 and a standard deviation of 1.084. Most of the students confirmed that the curriculum provides workshops about applying IT in tourism (mean=3.33, standard deviation =1.238). In addition, the curriculum enhances technological skills (mean= 3.31, standard deviation=1.073). The faculty's curriculum is not preparing students enough for digital entrepreneurship (mean = 2.79, standard deviation= 1.049).

Table	(5)	Personality	Traits
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Variables	Mean	Standard	Rank
		deviation	
Being entrepreneurial is an advantage	3.57	.875	5
Being a businessman or woman is a very attractive job	4.15	.861	2
If I have the chance, I will apply IT to my project	4.14	.900	3
I want to be an entrepreneur rather than have any job	3.78	.892	4
I can take responsibility for my decisions	4.16	.854	1
Total of mean and standard deviation	3.95	.579	

Table 5 shows that personality traits can prepare students to start their digital careers in the future, with a total mean (3.95). It shows that the majority of students are responsible for their decisions with a mean of 4.16 and a standard deviation of .854. Furthermore, most students prefer to be businessman/woman (mean=4.15, standard deviation=.861). In addition, students are highly prepared to use information technology in their future careers (mean=4.14, standard deviation=.900).

Table (6) Attitudes towards Applying Digital Entrepreneurship

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Rank
Digital Entrepreneurship is attractive to me as it's a challenge	3.66	.970	4

Digital entrepreneurship is	3.80	.975	3
attractive as it's an achievement			
For me, digital entrepreneurship is	3.91	.932	2
a form of personal autonomy			
If I have a chance, I will establish	4.22	.882	1
my own business			
Total of mean and standard	3.89	.768	
deviation			

Table 6 aims to measure the attitudes of students towards applying digital entrepreneurship. It seems that students have high attitudes towards applying digital entrepreneurship, with total mean (3.89). The responses confirmed that students have a tendency to apply digital entrepreneurship where the highest mean is for " if I have the chance, I will establish my own business" (mean=4.22, standard deviation= .882). Students believe that digital entrepreneurship can help them gain personal autonomy (mean=3.91, standard deviation=.932). Additionally, students are drawn to digital entrepreneurship because it is regarded as an achievement (mean = 3.80, standard deviation = .975).

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Rank
I plan to establish my digital work	3.24	1.054	2
I insist on establishing my own work despite obstacles	3.21	1.031	3
I plan for digital projects in the next five years	3.24	1.126	2
I've already considered starting my own digital project.	3.20	1.140	4
I am ready to make any effort to establish my digital project	3.42	1.676	1
Total of mean and standard deviation	3.26	.909	

 Table (7) Digital Entrepreneurship Intention

Table 7 measures the intention of applying digital entrepreneurship among students. The table confirmed that the majority of students intend to pursue digital entrepreneurship. In this regard, the total mean is (3.26), which indicates that a good proportion of respondents have a high readiness to apply digital entrepreneurship. It is clear from the table that the highest rank is for "I am ready to make any effort to establish my digital project" (mean=3.42, standard deviation=1.676), followed by "I plan for digital projects in the next five years" (mean=3.24, standard deviation=1.126). Moreover, there are some students who have already applied digital projects with a mean of 3.20.

Variables	Mean	Standard de viation	Rank
Lack of educational support to encourage	3.38	1.090	4
digital entrepreneurship			
Lack of knowledge to establish digital	3.38	1.043	4
entrepreneurship			
Lack of financial resources to establish	3.72	.933	2
digital enterprises			
The high cost of training courses	3.78	.952	1
A shortage of courses about digital	3.62	1.015	3
entrepreneurship			
Total of mean and standard deviation	3.57	.675	

 Table (8) Obstacles Facing Applying Digital Entrepreneurship among Students

It is concluded from Table 8 that the vast majority of students face different obstacles that prevent them from applying digital entrepreneurship, with a total mean (3.57). It seems that the vast majority of students are unable to afford the cost of training courses, with a mean of 3.78 and a standard deviation of .952. In addition, students are not able to establish their digital enterprise due to a lack of financial resources (mean=3.72, standard deviation =.933). Furthermore, digital entrepreneurship courses are insufficient (mean=3.62, standard deviation= 1.015).

REGRESSIONS

Table 9 shows how regression analysis was used to measure the change that DL, AE, PT, and ATDE can cause in DEI. It is clear that DL has a positive and statistically significant impact on DEI (β = .425, P.< 0.05), which is consistent with the findings of Primahendra et al. (2021), who investigated the high impact of digital literacy on digital entrepreneurship. AE affects positively DEI (β =.256, P <0.05), this finding is consistent with Lubis (2019), who demonstrated that the academic environment is a critical factor in applying DE. Personality traits (PT) have a positive and significant impact on Digital Entrepreneurship Intention (DEI) (β =.582, P<0.05). The finding is consistent with the hypotheses of Younis (2018) and Abdel Fattah et al. (2022), who hypothesized that personality traits influence digital entrepreneurship intention. ATDE (Attitudes Towards Digital

Entrepreneurship Intention) has a significant effect on DEI (β = .794, P.< 0.05.). this finding is compatible with the finding of Alzamel et al. (2020), who discovered that attitudes toward e-entrepreneurship influence digital entrepreneurship intentions.

Hypotheses	β	Т-	Р-	Decision
		Value	Value	
H1: DL affects DEI positively	.425	5.866	.000	Supported
H2:AE affects DEI positively	.256	4.764	.000	Supported
H3:PT affects DEI positively	.582	5.808	.000	Supported
H4: ATDE affects DEI positively	.794	9.159	.000	Supported

 Table (9) Testing Hypotheses via Regression Analysis

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

The theoretical part emphasized the role of Digital Entrepreneurship (DE) in upgrading the business environment. DE enables young start-up entrepreneurs to enhance their positioning in the markets. DE is a part of traditional entrepreneurship; the main difference between digital and traditional entrepreneurship is the use of digital tools, such as the internet. In order to apply digital entrepreneurship, it is necessary to have a clear intention. In this regard, both internal and external factors influence students' intentions to engage in digital entrepreneurship. These factors include digital literacy, academic environment, personality traits, applying digital entrepreneurship. towards Regarding and attitude obstacles facing applying digital entrepreneurship among students, the field study revealed that almost all students suffer from financial burdens, which are summarized by the lack of financial resources to establish their own digital business and the high training course costs. Furthermore, existing digital entrepreneurship courses are insufficient. The study proposed four hypotheses related to applying digital entrepreneurship. In this regard, the study assumed that each of digital literacy, academic environment, personality traits, and attitudes towards digital entrepreneurship affect digital entrepreneurship intention. In this context, the study used regression analysis to prove that DL, AE, PT, and ATDE can be the motivating factors beyond the decision to apply digital entrepreneurship among students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to the lack of research about digital entrepreneurship in Egypt, especially in the tourism field, research units in universities have to start providing research and blueprints to apply digital entrepreneurship successfully in Egypt.
- Universities should provide courses and programs about digital entrepreneurship in cooperation with the pioneers in this field, such as Uber and SWVL. In addition, universities have to make a protocol with incubators such as AUC Venture Lab to enhance the application of IT methods in entrepreneurship.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research must establish a protocol between faculties of information technology and communication and those specializing in business administration in order to solidify the concept of digital entrepreneurship in Egyptian higher education.
- Tourism faculties and institutes should seek to apply advanced MOOCs with affordable fees for students.
- Education is the primary pillar of digital entrepreneurship. So, the teaching staff has a big role in motivating university students to run digital businesses in their future careers. From this point, the majority of university teaching members need training courses about digital entrepreneurship dimensions, concepts, and applications. Regarding the tourism field, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology should make a memorandum with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to provide digital entrepreneurship courses for teaching staff in tourism faculties.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research should create a protocol between Egyptian tourism institutes and faculties to exchange academic experiences specializing in entrepreneurship and its updates. In addition, the Ministry has to make cooperation agreements between Egyptian universities and the prominent digital entrepreneurship universities outside Egypt, such as EU Business School, which is spread in many European countries, and Stanford University, which provides "The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program".
- Finally, the study highly recommends a coordinated paradigm among Egyptian universities, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and prominent digital entrepreneurs as a vision that should be applied by decision-makers to enhance digital entrepreneurship among undergraduate tourism students.



Figure (1) a proposed Relationship Paradigm among Egyptian Universities, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Prominent Digital Entrepreneurs. Source: The Author.

LIMITATIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

In the present research, there are two limitations. The first limitation is related to the literature review, where there are insufficient studies about digital entrepreneurship (DE) in the tourism industry. In addition, there is a lack of studies that illustrate the concept of digital entrepreneurship in Egypt. Regarding the obstacles section, there are no sufficient studies illustrating the obstacles that face university students when applying DE theory, especially for tourism students. Consequently, this led to a gap in the literature review of the current study. The second limitation is related to field study, where it was difficult to find an appropriate scale for tourism students as most of the research focused on small entrepreneurs who had already established their digital businesses. Also, the concept of digital entrepreneurship is not widespread among tourism students, which led to the sample size not being large enough. Thusly, the researcher can't distribute more than 250 questionnaires. Based on this, further research should be conducted on the application of digital entrepreneurship theory tourism students. Furthermore. among

researchers should pay attention to studying the obstacles facing the application of digital entrepreneurship in Egypt.

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