

An Empirical Study on Academic Entrepreneurship in Sri Lankan Universities

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In the current competitive world, the academic entrepreneurship process can be recognized as one of the important factors in the technological innovation process and effective factors in the development of the knowledge economy. The creation of spin-off firms from universities is seen as an important mechanism for the commercialization of research, and hence the overall contribution from universities to technology development and economic growth. Appropriate choice of academic entrepreneurship strategy has a large impact on the successful university research commercialization. Identification of the factors that affect the academic entrepreneurship strategies adopted by the universities is the most efficient part of the university research commercialization process. This study intends to fill this gap and it intends to identify the most influencing factors of academic entrepreneurship strategies through this research study. The study will develop four declarative hypothesis on organizational structure, culture, capabilities and competencies and control systems and identify its impact on entrepreneurial strategies adopted by universities in Sri Lankan context. The research is a quantitative study and will be conducted using instrumental case study research method. Both primary and secondary data will be used for the study and the primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires, interviews and the secondary data will be collected through content analysis. The outcomes of this research will identify how factors contribute to the adoptability of strategic approach in the area of academic entrepreneurship and ultimately it will help to uplift and enhance the "Academic Entrepreneurship" in Sri Lankan Universities.

Keywords: *Academic Entrepreneurship, Research Commercialization, Spin-off Firms, Strategies*