ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS & GENDERED NATIONAL-LEVEL ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY: TEN-YEAR PANEL STUDY OF GEM (SUMMARY)

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WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SUMMARY

ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS & GENDERED NATIONAL-LEVEL ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY: TEN-YEAR PANEL STUDY OF GEM

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Principal Topics

The ecosystems approach in entrepreneurship highlights the complex inter-linkages among a variety of participants in an entrepreneurial society (e.g., entrepreneurs, educators, corporations, the media and a diverse set of government ministries) and the importance of the incentives the various actors encounter as they push towards an entrepreneurship-friendly environment (Wessner, 2004). The entrepreneurial ecosystem perspective views the formation or start-ups as influenced by two dynamic elements: the entrepreneur (or more accurately, the would-be entrepreneur) and the entrepreneurial environment. Prior work has found that the entrepreneurial ecosystem influences overall entrepreneurial activity (Levie & Autio, 2008). However, we do not know how the ecosystems influence entrepreneurial propensities and motivations to venture in general, particularly between men and women. Thus, we question how the entrepreneurial ecosystem influences firm formation rates in opportunity or necessity entrepreneurship between men and women.

Methods

We sampled matching data from the following sources at the country level: World Bank, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Adult Population Survey (APS), and GEM National Expert Survey (NES). Our final dataset covers 93 countries and comprises 204 observations over the years 2001-2010. To test our hypotheses, we estimated pooled panel data using generalized method of moments (GMM), with one and two year lagged independent variables for the period 2001-2010. We draw upon we draw on the entrepreneurial framework approach (EFC) from GEM (Levie & Autio, 2008) to measure the recommended sixteen metrics of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Results and Implications

Our results provide exploratory analysis of structure and mechanisms associated with male versus female necessity and opportunity entrepreneurship among various economies. We find that women globally engage in necessity entrepreneurship more than opportunity entrepreneurship, and thus are pushed more into entrepreneurial activity. We also find that “some” ecosystem factors affect male and female venturing differently, but many do indeed impact opportunity and necessity entrepreneurship similarly. For instance, the availability of financial resources in the financial environment and government policy that support venturing only impacts male necessity entrepreneurship. Likewise, for women only as the respect for entrepreneurship as a legitimate career path increases in a society is linked to higher necessity entrepreneurship rates for women.

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