

# **Entrepreneurial Intention of Prisoners in Sri Lanka**

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Development of entrepreneurship concept is directly involved with entrepreneurial behavior and thus it has become an important topic to study. Prisoners are a kind of inactive and untouched category in the society that could be used to contribute the development any country. Prisoner's unemployment is one of the major factors that caused a higher rate of recidivism. Given the lack of empirical and the divergent finding of intention of entrepreneurship, this study investigated the nature of entrepreneurial intention of prisoners in Sri Lanka. Convenience sampling method and stratified sampling method were employed to select 150 prisoners from the prison institution of Sri Lanka. Data were gathered by using self-administered questionnaires and interviews. Hence, Correlation, Multiple Regression, and Thematic Analysis were used to analyze data. The results revealed that the existing level of attitudes towards the behavior and entrepreneurial intention were almost agreed by the prisoners while they moderately agreed with the existing level of subjective norms and perceived behavioral control. Alongside, it was found that attitudes towards the behavior and perceived behavioral control strong positively influence the entrepreneurial intention while subjective norms weak positively influence the entrepreneurial intention. The study contributes to the existing knowledge and suggests that the government should pay more attention to enhance the entrepreneurial intention among the prisoners. Further, study also provided areas for future researches.

*Keywords:* Attitudes towards the behavior, Entrepreneurial intention, Perceived behavioral control, Subjective norms