

ABSTRACT

The practice of entrepreneurship creates jobs and brings innovative products and services and it is a way to steer any economy on a path of economic growth. The increasing use of the term “entrepreneurial ecosystem” has become vital to understand the context and the environment where the entrepreneurial activity takes place, the challenges of measuring the entrepreneurial ecosystem of any region have gained scholarly attention in recent years; some scholars have developed econometric based indicators and others have developed perception-based measures to understand the entrepreneurial ecosystem of any given region and to identify grey areas for policy recommendations. The current research has extended and further refined and extended the entrepreneurial ecosystem scale developed by (Ligouri et al., 2019). The multidimensional scale of the entrepreneurial ecosystem consists of six main domains i.e finance, support, markets, human resources, policy and culture, the EFA conducted in this study has revealed two sub-domains i.e support professions with support domain, and capital finance within finance; based the group interviews and literature review three more themes are constructed and items generated are linkages, bureaucracy and entrepreneurial satisfaction; the EFA of newly created constructed has revealed two-factor structure within the bureaucracy, entrepreneurial satisfaction and linkages, the construct entrepreneurial satisfaction is used as a dependent construct to assess the entrepreneurial satisfaction of entrepreneurial ecosystem domains.

The "Urdu" version of the multidimensional scale of the entrepreneurial ecosystem is constructed and evaluated in the second stage of the study. The CFA is carried out in SmartPLS, and the scale is further validated and tested using IRT theory for

robustness assessment. According to the overall research, the EEs domains of capital finance , general finance, support, support-professions, policy, human resource and culture are reliable and discriminatory through EFA, CFA, and IRT, but the market domain has relatively less discriminatory power through CFA and IRT. The current study has added to the multidimensional scale of the entrepreneurial ecosystem scale both theoretically and practically. To measure the regional entrepreneurial environment, several policy ideas are presented in the conclusion. Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of a region and come up with useful recommendations for policymakers to create a vibrant, sustaining ecosystem to support entrepreneurship.

Keywords: CFA, Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Scale, IRT, EFA, validation,