

**MALE PARENTS' OCCUPATIONAL INFLUENCE ON THEIR  
OFFSPRING - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MICRO  
ENTREPRENEURS OF SONITPUR DISTRICT**

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**ABSTRACT**

Research works concerning the influence of socio economic variables on humans' life have disclosed the various facets of this subject matter which were hidden before. Existence of an inter-generational occupational influence is one of such facets. And keeping this fact in mind this particular study has been planned and performed with a view to discover certain new insights regarding male parents' occupational influence on the micro entrepreneurs.

**Keywords:** Intergenerational occupational influence, male parents, micro-entrepreneurs, Socio-economic variables.

**INTRODUCTION**

For genuine descriptions of the aspects of a human's life, a clear understanding of his/her socio economic characteristics are utmost necessary. These are the factors which have given the shape of his/her personality, attitude and behavior. An entrepreneur's way of observation, thinking and perception about the things around may bring the desired changes to the economy of a geographical area. In the modern day economies the entrepreneurs have been viewed as one of the key players of economic development, and their pro-active role goes a long way in realizing the desired goal. However, it goes without saying that the larger spectrum of socio-economic concerns engaging the entrepreneurs seems a major area warranting major thrust and discussion. Going by the observations made in earlier researches, it is known that an entrepreneur parent (it may be either the father or the mother) has a higher probability that his/her children will become an entrepreneur in the future. But on other hand, people drawing regular salaries, be it in public or private sector, accord less priority to entrepreneurial stance. For this, their next generation, do

not seem to have much interest in the said area. Most of the times, the members of the family would like to follow the path shown by the parents and other senior members.

The intergenerational occupational association turns out a potent factor in orienting the path of entrepreneurship intents in society. And there is no denying the fact that sustainable development owes much to entrepreneurship, due to its recognition as an employment generation and poverty reduction approach. It is on the basis of one's occupation and the perception about that occupation that the mind set of people is placed along the mode of action meant for economic development. What it warrants is to see the influence of parental occupation on the career choice of their offspring.

Considering this study has given its efforts to investigate male parents' occupational influence on their offspring.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The findings of following earlier research works are considered as the foundation of this study -

Matthew J. Lindquist et al., (2012) in "Why do Entrepreneurial Parents Have Entrepreneurial Children" had found that in relation to entrepreneurial parents the probability that own-birth children become an entrepreneur increases by 60%. The transmission of entrepreneurship from mothers to daughters is significantly stronger, and for sons the effect of entrepreneurial fathers is significantly stronger than the effect of entrepreneurial mothers.

Noshina Saleem et al., (2014) in 'Career selection: Role of Parents' Profession, Mass Media and Personal Choice' had recognized the existence significant correlation between parents' profession and career selection.

Iciar Pablo- Lerchundi, Gustavo Morales- Alonso, Rosa Maria Gonzalez-Tirados (2015) in 'Influences of parental occupation on occupational choices and professional values' had identified that self-employed parents foster entrepreneurial intentions in their children, whereas civil servant parents are negative entrepreneurial role models. Parental occupation influences students' views on how attractive these two professional options are. Students with self-employed parents value financial reward more than civil servants' children do.

Indira Sigh and T. Prasad (2016) in "A Study on the influence of Family Occupation on the Entrepreneurial Intentions of Management Students" had found the existence of significant difference in the entrepreneurial intention between the samples of management students whose parents own and run a business and whose parents do not own and run a business.

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The present study is driven by the following basic objective –

1. To investigate whether there exists any influence of the male parents' occupations on the occupation of the micro entrepreneurs of the study area.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research methodology section related with the blue print of a particular research work. The key points of this blue print are related with topics like population and sample of the study, data and sources of data, variables and analytical framework. The details are as follows;

### **Population and Sample**

The present study is strictly confined to the earlier undivided Sonitpur district of Assam.

Various earlier research works have shown existence of the influence of parental occupation on the occupational/career choice of their offspring. The researcher here interested to investigate whether there exists any influence of the male parents' occupations on the occupation of the sample micro entrepreneurs of the concerned district. For this purpose, along with the sample of micro entrepreneurs, another sample of non-entrepreneurs also have considered. The salaried employees of public sector undertakings are treated here as the non-entrepreneurs.

For the purpose of drawing these two samples both the probability and non - probability sampling technique have followed.

Selection of the sample of micro entrepreneurs of the concerned study area has made as per the probability sampling technique. For the purpose of drawing this required sample from the population, the list of registered micro enterprises from the year 2001 – 2016 prepared by the District Industry Center (Sonitpur), brought into consideration. For the purpose drawing the required sample, the concerned district has divided into 3 Sub divisions i.e Tezpur, Biswanath Chariali and Gohpur. For selecting the registered micro entrepreneurs from the sampling frame, systematic random sampling technique has applied.

Against the sample units of the registered micro entrepreneurs, another sample of salaried employees (these are the non-entrepreneurs) of the Public sector undertakings of the district have considered for the study. For this purpose, "Judgmental sampling technique" has applied.

A total of 60 micro entrepreneurs and 60 public sector salaried employees have selected to form to ultimate sample for this study.

### **Data and Sources of Data**

This paper is based on primary data. The primary data for the purpose of this study are intended to be collected through the survey method of the selected sample respondents by using a structured schedule.

### **Theoretical framework**

Variables of the study contains dependent and independent variable. The study used pre-specified method for the selection of variables.

The occupation of the sample micro entrepreneur and salaried public sector employees (i.e. the non-entrepreneurs) are considered as the dependent variable and the male parents' occupations of the sample respondents treated as the independent variables. These occupations are divided into 4 categories -

Occupational category 1 = Cultivator

Occupational category 2 = Public sector salaried employee

Occupational category 3 = Entrepreneur

Occupational category 4 = Others

Here the dependent and independent variables are in binary form, as the variables have only the values of 0 and 1. The probability of an offspring's occupation/career is in entrepreneurship being coded as 1 and the probability of being a salaried employee (i.e. the probability of being a non-entrepreneur) is coded as 0. Similarly each of the independent variables is coded as 1 and 0.

The resulted coefficients of the independent variables of the model are being used to explain the effect each of these variables on the occupation of the sample entrepreneurs.

### **Statistical tools and econometric models**

This section elaborates the proper analysis model which has been used to forward the study from data towards inferences.

### **Descriptive Statistics**

For fulfilling the purpose of this study the researcher has used the Logistic regression analysis technique. It's is the appropriate technique when the dependent variable is a categorical variable and the independent variables are quantitative or binary variables. Here efforts has given to

develop a “Logistic regression model”. During the procedure the researcher have used software package STATA and XLSTAT to estimate the Logistic regression model.

### **The Logistic Regression Model**

$$\text{Log} [p/(1-p)] = b_0 + b_1A_1 + b_2A_2 + b_3A_3 + b_4A_4$$

Here

$\text{Log} [p/(1-p)]$  = Log odds ratio of an offspring’s occupation/career is in entrepreneurship to the probability that the particular offspring’s occupation/career is not entrepreneurship.

$b_0$  = Constant term

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4$ , are the co-efficient of various independent variables which examines the marginal impacts of these independent variables on the dependent variable.

The parental occupations of the sample respondents are divided into 4 occupational categories -

Occupational category 1 = Cultivator

Occupational category 2 = Public sector salaried employee

Occupational category 3 = Entrepreneur

Occupational category 4 = Others

As the categories of male parents’ occupations of the sample respondents are binary in nature, here the dummy variables are going to represent these occupations. There are 4 categories of male parents’ occupations, and to represent this 4 different categories, 3 dummy variables ( $4 - 1$ ) would use.

$A_1$  = Occupational category 1

$A_2$  = Occupational category 2

$A_3$  = Occupational category 3

$A_4$  = Occupational category 4

The dummy variables are used to indicate the effects of the male parents’ occupations on the occurrence of the event where the offspring have selected a career in entrepreneurship.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Results of Descriptive Statics of Study Variables**

**Table 1: Goodness of fit statistics**

Observations	140
LR chi2(3)	34.26
DF	136
Pseudo R <sup>2</sup> (McFadden)	0.1765
Prob>chi2	0.0000

Table 1 has showed the value of Pseudo R<sup>2</sup> = 0.1765, and this indicates that 17.65% variability in the dependent variable i.e. the happening of an event where an offspring has selected entrepreneurship as an occupation/career is explained by the explanatory variables i.e. his/her father's occupation.

**Table 2: Model Parameters**

Source	Coefficients Values	Standard error	Z	P>  z
Intercept	1.3863	1.1180	-1.51	0.215
A1	-1.7430	1.1537	-1.93	0.131
A 2	-2.2336	1.1598	0.51	0.054
A 3	0.6286	1.2383	1.24	0.612

Table: 2 has showed the coefficients of the Independent variables i.e. 4 different categories of male parents' occupations of the entrepreneurs and of the salaried employees which have been considered for this study. To consider 4 categories of occupation, the researcher here has used 3 dummy variables. The dummy A1=1 if the male parents are/were in cultivation/farming, and A1=0 if the male parents are/were other than cultivator/farmer. Likewise the dummy A2 = 1 if the male parents are/were salaried employees of some public sector undertakings, and A2 = 0 if

the parents are/were other than salaried employees of public sector undertakings. And the dummy  $A_3 = 1$  if the parents are/were entrepreneurs, and  $A_3 = 0$  if the parents are/were not entrepreneurs. Coefficients indicate the strength of the association between the two binary variables i.e. dependent and independent variables. The sign (+ or - ) indicates the direction of their relationship. Values more than + 1 indicating a perfect positive relationship, 0 indicating no relationship, and -1 indicating a perfect negative or reverse relationship.

Here as per the calculated coefficients it can be mentioned that holding other variables constant, if the variable  $A_1$  is increased by 1 unit, the average logit value goes down by  $\approx 1.7430$ , that is, the log odds in favor of offspring's occupation/career in entrepreneurship goes down by 1.7430.

Again, holding other variables constant, if the variable  $A_2$  is increased by 1 unit, the average logit value goes down by  $\approx 2.2336$ , that is, the log odds in favor of offspring's occupation/career in entrepreneurship goes down by 2.2336.

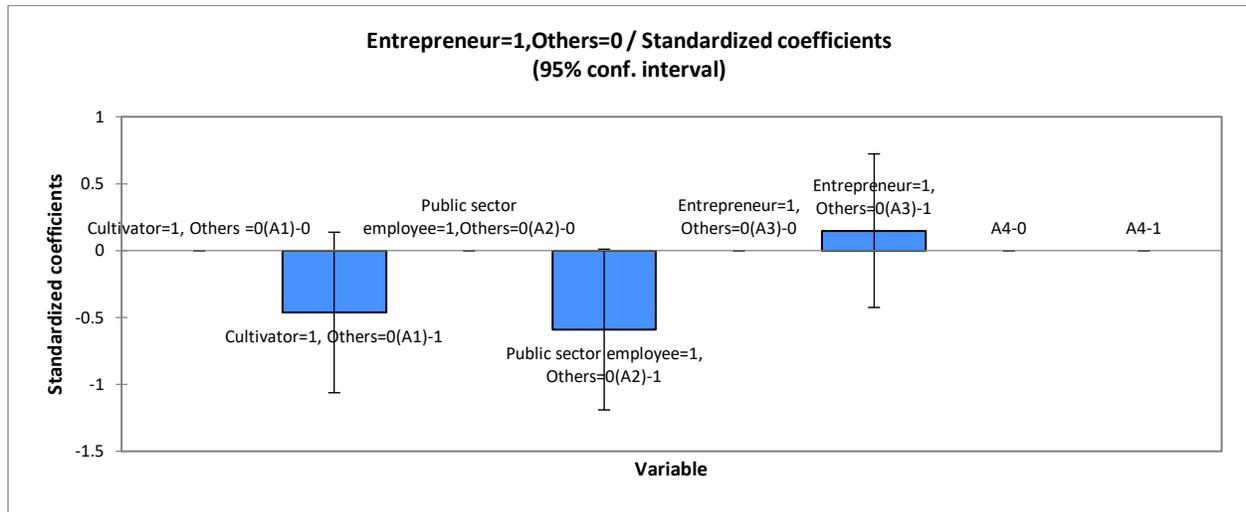
And, holding other variables constant, if the variable  $A_3$  is increased by 1 unit, the average logit value goes up by  $\approx 0.6286$ , that is, the log odds in favor of offspring's occupation/career in entrepreneurship goes up by 0.6286.

After going through the estimated z values, it can be seen that individually the variable  $A_2$  has a significant negative impact on the logit (and therefore on the probability of an offspring's occupation/career is in entrepreneurship) and the variables  $A_1$  and  $A_3$  have no statistically significant impact.

**Equation of the model (Entrepreneurship):**

$$\text{Pred (Entrepreneur=1,Others=0)} \\ = 1 / (1 + \exp(-1.38629 - 1.74297 * \text{Cultivator=1,Others=0}(A_1) - 1 - 2.23359 * \text{Public sector salaried employee=1,Others =0}(A_2) - 1 + 0.62861 * \text{Entrepreneur=1,Others=0}(A_3) - 1))$$

**Graphical presentation of model:**



## CONCLUSION

Due the limited capacity of the public sector of the nation, and at the same time with the rapid increase in the nation’s population, the task of creating of job or employment cannot be solely assigned to the state. And accordingly creating self-employment through entrepreneurship has got its place in the policies of the Indian Government. It has become a thrust area for the policy makers to address the issues like unemployment and poverty. The entrepreneurs have the potentiality to contribute towards Gross National Product (GNP), per capita income, nation’s export trade and facilitate overall development.

The results of this study exhibited that if the fathers’ occupation is/was in public sector undertakings as salaried employees then their offspring have negative chances of being in entrepreneurship as their livelihood option. This finding may have some implication in crafting an effective plan for the promotion of entrepreneurship intents in the society in recent future.

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