

Entrepreneurial Mindset among Physiotherapy Students of Gujarat: A Survey-Based Study

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Abstract: *This observational study assesses the level of entrepreneurial awareness among physiotherapy students in Gujarat and evaluates the demand for integrating entrepreneurship education into their academic curriculum. Using a validated 22-item questionnaire, responses were collected from 501 students across multiple institutions. Results show that while a majority express interest in entrepreneurship, many lack formal exposure to essential business, legal, and financial knowledge. Nearly half of the participants come from business-involved families, further suggesting a receptive environment for entrepreneurial initiatives. The findings emphasize the need for structured entrepreneurship development programs within physiotherapy education to foster innovation and self-reliance.*

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Physiotherapy students, Curriculum development, Entrepreneurial mindset, Gujarat

1. Introduction

The term 'entrepreneur' refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into actions. It includes creativity, innovations, and risk taking as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives."^[4] This help one and all in daily life at home and in society, makes employees more conscious of the context of their work and better able to grab opportunities and endows with a foundation for entrepreneurs launching a social or commercial activity."^[4]

"Throughout the world, physiotherapy is the third largest and rapidly growing profession."^[5] Physiotherapists are collaborating into a profession with changing state of mind, convictions, inspirations and values and this advancing career, and changes in clinical roles influence how the profession is perceived and how others perceive the profession. "According to a survey in 2009, Physiotherapy was the 7th most earning profession in the world."^[9] In other words, clinical practitioners or collectives can make alterations in a profession.

Educational programs aiming to develop entrepreneurial skills should strengthen the relationship between students' sense of advancement, pride, entrepreneurial self-adequacy, and information of cognition. "That's, educational programs ought to look to sustain and fortify the connections between students sense of earlier victory in accomplishing positive objectives, their sense of viability for entrepreneurial errands, and self-awareness of their cognitive skills."^[5]

In Gujarat, awareness and utilization of physiotherapy services has been steadily increasing over the years. However, the importance of physiotherapy has been recognized more prominently in the last decade following advancements in educational qualifications and professional recognition. Despite this growth, private practice and entrepreneurship remain under explored among physiotherapy graduates. This is primarily due to the lack of formal education in entrepreneurship, limited exposure to successful role models, and minimal encouragement for independent practice during training. There is very limited

research or structured effort focused on promoting entrepreneurship within the physiotherapy profession in Gujarat. Therefore, this study aims to shed light on the existing entrepreneurial potential among physiotherapy students in Gujarat and highlights the need for implementing educational reforms that integrate entrepreneurship into the academic curriculum.

As entrepreneurship is much less explored in the physiotherapy field especially in Gujarat, we want to explore this field so students can become self-reliant entrepreneurs. Therefore, we conducted this survey study to evaluate the level of awareness about entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial opportunities in the field of physiotherapy among physiotherapy students.

This study is significant as it addresses a critical gap in professional physiotherapy training by highlighting the necessity of entrepreneurship education to foster innovation, self-employment, and adaptability in a competitive healthcare landscape.

2. Materials and Methods

- **Study Setting:** Gujarat State
- **Study Design:** An observation survey study.
- **Study Participants:** BPT, MPT and Interns of Physiotherapy
- **Selective Criteria:**

Inclusion criteria:

- 1) Students studying in Gujarat physiotherapy colleges.
- 2) BPT and MPT pursuing students along with Interns of physiotherapy.
- 3) Students who were well versed in filling Google Forms.
- 4) Students who understand English.

Exclusive criteria:

- 1) Non - physiotherapy students

Sampling Method: Convenient sampling method

Procedure

An observational survey study was carried out across Gujarat to evaluate the level of entrepreneurial awareness and aspirations among physiotherapy students, interns, and practicing professionals. The main aim was to understand their demographic background, existing entrepreneurial knowledge, interest in launching ventures and their perspective on the importance of incorporating Entrepreneurship Development (ED) into the physiotherapy curriculum and clinical practice.

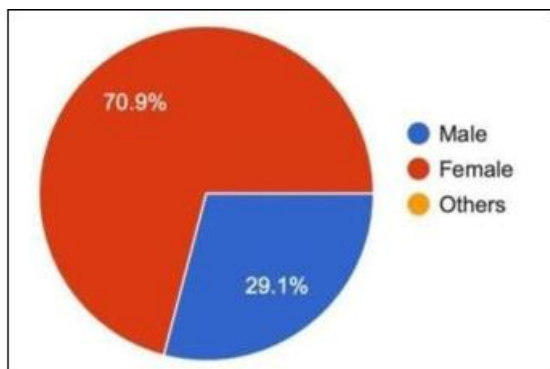
To ensure accuracy and relevance, the researchers created a self-structured questionnaire adapted from established, peer-reviewed articles related to entrepreneurship in healthcare. The draft was validated by the original author of the source material to ensure clarity and appropriateness for the target group. After validation, the questionnaire was refined with simpler language and localized terms to enhance understanding. The finalized version was digitized using Google Forms and distributed through email and WhatsApp, ensuring broader reach and better response rates among participants.

3. Results and Statical Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using SPSS version 27.0 with descriptive statistics, focusing on frequencies and percentages. Demographic details, including age and gender, were shown in Table 1 and Graph 1. The analysis revealed a higher number of female respondents, suggesting either a female-dominant physiotherapy population in Gujarat or greater participation from women in the survey.

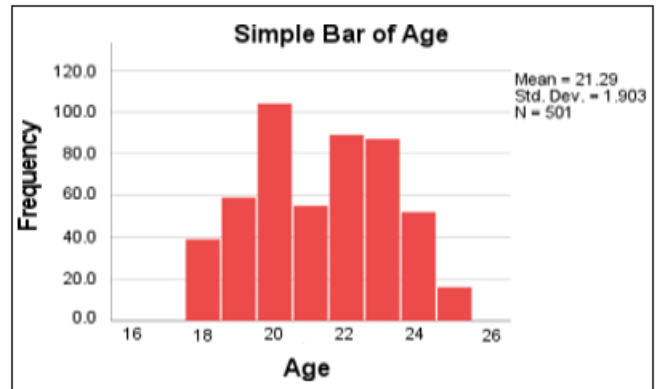
Table 1: Demographic details of population

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	352	70.25948
Male	149	29.74052
Total	501	100



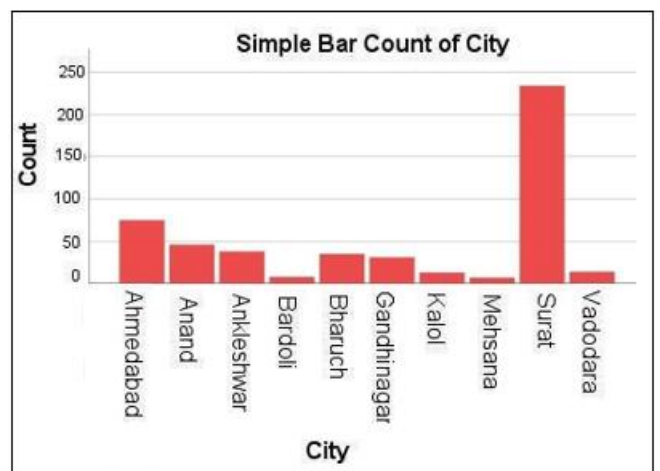
Graph 1: Percentage distribution of demographic details of population

Graph 2 showed that most participants were 20 years old, indicating they were early in their physiotherapy education, mainly pursuing a BPT degree. The study included responses from 17 physiotherapy colleges across Gujarat, ensuring diverse representation and enhancing the generalizability of the findings.



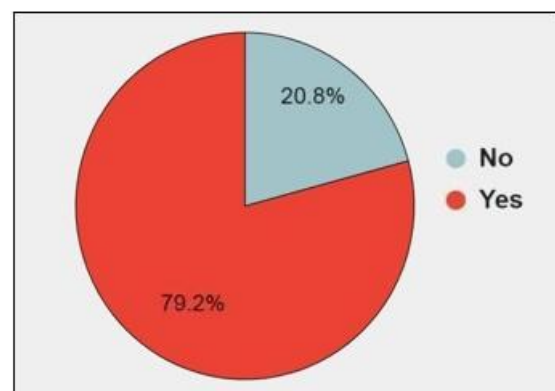
Graph 2: Distribution of the age of the participants

Graph 3 shows the geographical distribution of participants across various cities in Gujarat, demonstrating broad regional participation. This city-wise participation added diversity and improved the representativeness of the survey sample.



Graph 3: Distribution of the cities of the Gujarat

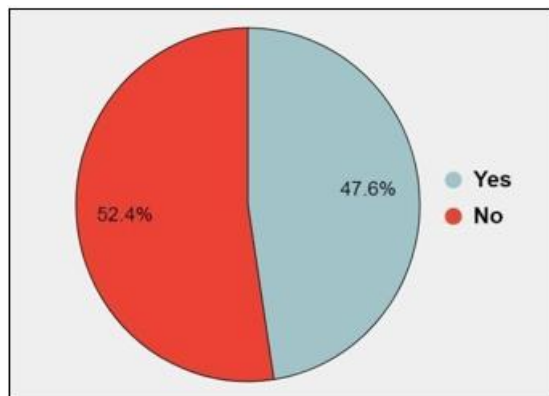
Descriptive analysis showed that most participants were aware of the term "Entrepreneurship," with 79.2% showing interest in becoming entrepreneurs (Graph 4). However, 20.8% were not interested, indicating diverse career goals. These findings highlight the need for targeted entrepreneurship education to support interested students and address barriers for others.



Graph 4: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Are you interested in becoming an entrepreneur in future?"

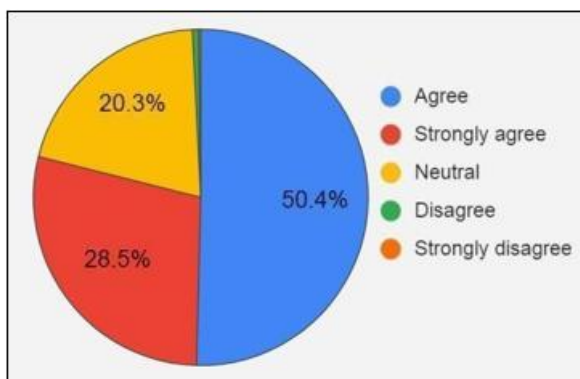
As shown in Graph 5, 47.6% of participants had a family

business background, suggesting significant exposure to entrepreneurial environments. This familiarity may positively influence their interest and confidence in pursuing entrepreneurship.



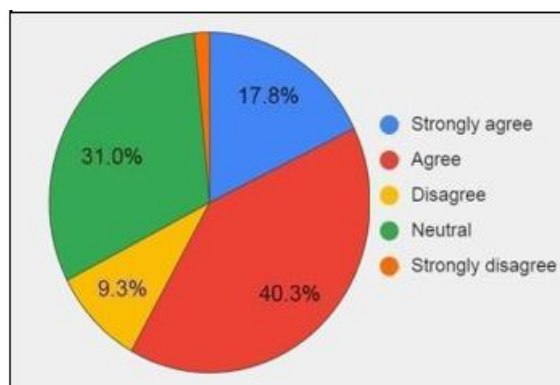
Graph 5: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Do your family owns business?"

Graph 6 shows that 50.4% of participants view entrepreneurship as a desirable career, reflecting moderate interest. This suggests a need for increased awareness and support to help more students see its potential benefits.



Graph 6: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "I think entrepreneurship is a desirable option"

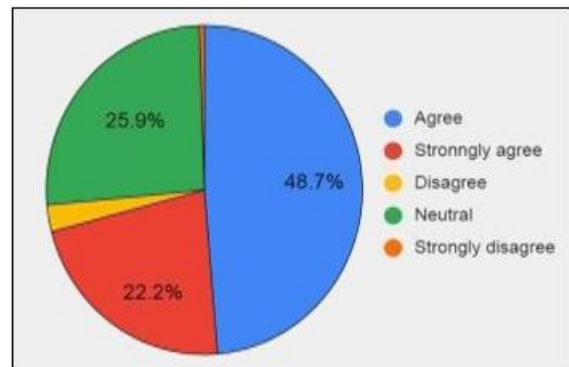
Graph 7 shows that 58.1% of respondents believe entrepreneurship should be part of the physiotherapy curriculum. This highlights a growing demand for entrepreneurship education to equip students with skills for diverse career paths like private practice and healthcare innovation.



Graph 7: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Entrepreneurship can be learned from our"

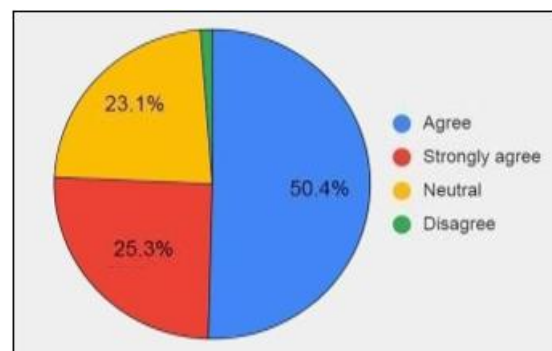
curriculum only and entrepreneurs should be backed by high educational qualifications."

Graph 8 shows that 48.7% of participants are motivated by potential high income to pursue entrepreneurship, highlighting financial gain as a key driver. This underscores the need for financial literacy and business education in the curriculum.



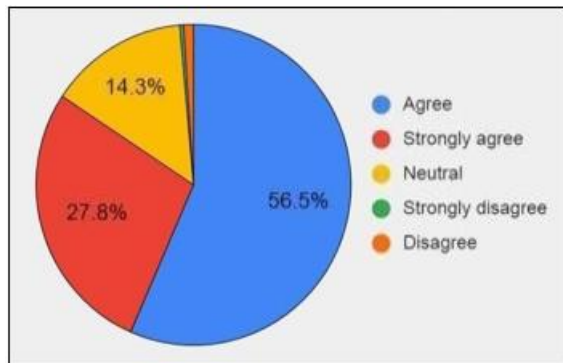
Graph 8: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "High income motivates you towards entrepreneurship"

Graph 9 shows that most participants are willing to take the risk of starting a business. This indicates a growing entrepreneurial mindset among physiotherapy students and professionals. They see benefits such as autonomy, financial growth, and innovation in patient care. This shift reflects a move away from traditional roles toward independent ventures. It highlights their readiness to embrace uncertainty for greater opportunities.



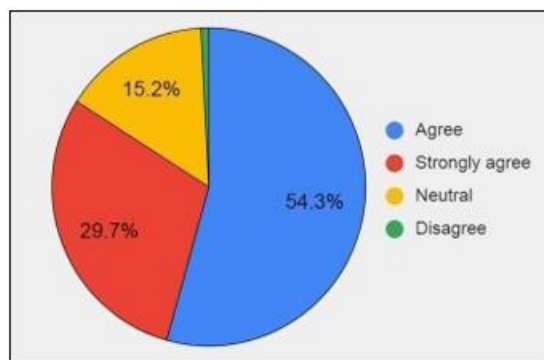
Graph 9: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Entrepreneurship enhances risk bearing capabilities."

Graph 10 shows that 50.4% of participants see business opportunities in physiotherapy, such as clinics, rehab centers, telehealth, and wellness ventures. This indicates moderate awareness but also reveals uncertainty among others. Increased exposure to real-world success stories and mentorship could help more professionals view entrepreneurship as a viable career option.



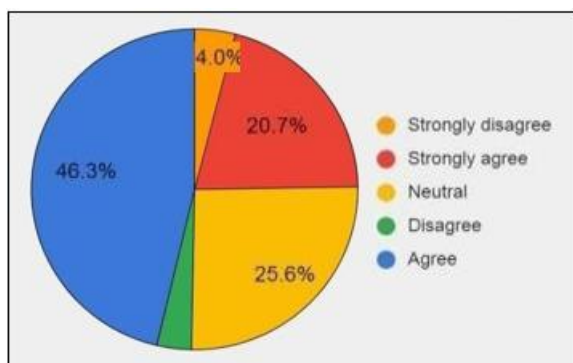
Graph 10: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Entrepreneurship provides business opportunities"

Graph 11 shows most participants see business opportunities in physiotherapy, with few disagreeing. This reflects growing interest in non-traditional paths like private practice and wellness ventures, highlighting the need for entrepreneurship-focused education and institutional support.



Graph 11: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "Entrepreneurship helps to be economically independent."

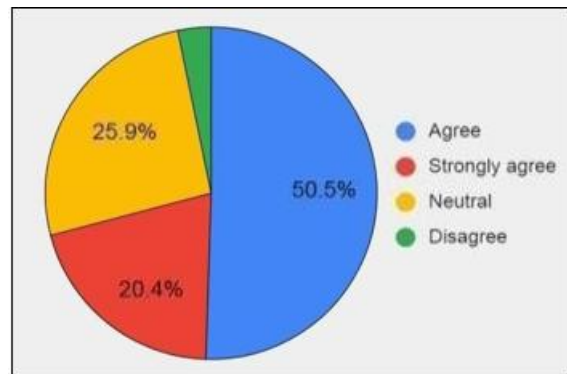
Graph 12 shows that 46.3% of participants view finance as essential for starting a business. This highlights awareness of financial challenges in entrepreneurship and the need to include financial literacy and funding strategies in training programs.



Graph 12: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "The basic requirement of the entrepreneurship is a finance."

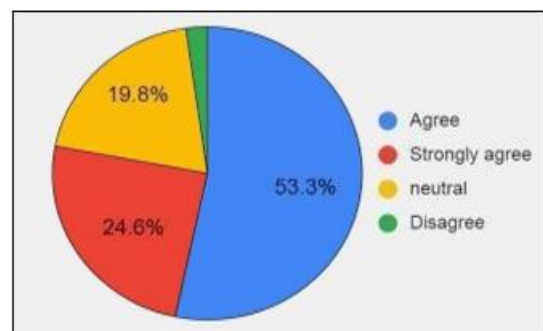
Graph 13 shows most participants believe strong technical knowledge is vital for successful entrepreneurship. This reflects their understanding of the importance of domain

expertise in physiotherapy. Technical skills enhance service quality, credibility, and innovation. They also help in solving problems and adapting to industry changes. The findings highlight the need to balance technical, business, and financial skills.



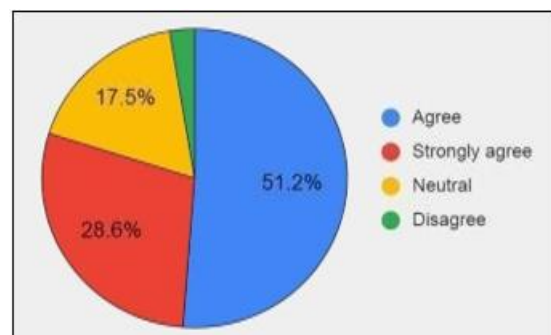
Graph 13: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "You should have sound technical knowledge to start a new venture."

Graph 14 shows participants see legal knowledge as key to starting a business, especially in healthcare. It ensures compliance and smooth operations, highlighting the need for legal education in entrepreneurship programs.



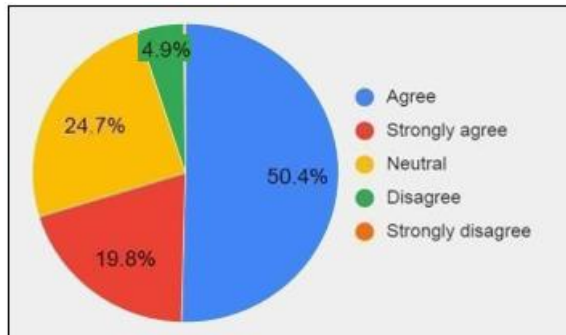
Graph 14: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "You should know about the legal formalities involved in starting a new venture."

Graph 15 shows most participants believe awareness of government schemes is vital for entrepreneurship. They recognize the value of funding, mentorship, and support from such programs. These resources can ease startup challenges and boost sustainability. The findings stress the need to educate students about available government support.



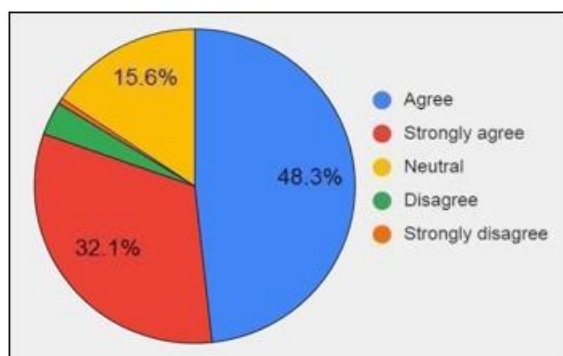
Graph 15: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "You should be aware about the entrepreneurial supporting schemes of government"

Graph 16 shows most participants support promoting entrepreneurship through reading materials, lectures, and media. They see these tools as effective for increasing awareness and interest. Resources like books, webinars, and podcasts help shape entrepreneurial mindset. Such platforms expose individuals to real-world experiences and inspire action. The findings suggest institutions should invest in multi-channel awareness efforts.



Graph 16: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "You should be aware of entrepreneurship through pleasure reading and public lecture or media"

Graph 17 shows participants value awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities in physiotherapy. They believe it expands career options and drives innovation. The findings highlight the need for structured exposure to such opportunities to inspire creative and independent roles in healthcare.



Graph 17: Percentage distribution of responses to the question "You should be aware about entrepreneurial opportunities in physiotherapy"

4. Discussion

This study aims to assess the awareness of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial prospects among physiotherapy students. It has been seen that students are not much aware of the concept of entrepreneurship, though they have heard about it. Findings show that entrepreneurship courses are not offered in the department and hence 46.8% of the participants are agreeing that such skills should be incorporated into the course curriculum. The participants have the knowledge that entrepreneurship is a desirable option as a career but few of them disagree to the point.

A study conducted by Choudhary and Kalra (2025) among physiotherapy students in Delhi revealed that although the majority were familiar with the term "entrepreneurship,"

only 55% were aware of specific entrepreneurial opportunities within the physiotherapy field. The study highlighted critical gaps in knowledge about essential entrepreneurial components such as funding, legal formalities, and government schemes. Despite these gaps, students expressed a strong desire to learn more and favored the inclusion of entrepreneurship development (ED) programs in the curriculum. These findings align with global trends suggesting the necessity of structured entrepreneurship education in healthcare to foster innovation and self-employment, especially in emerging fields like physiotherapy.

A relevant validation-based study was conducted by Singh and Choudhary in New Delhi to design a tool assessing the entrepreneurial awareness of physiotherapy students. The authors identified a gap in existing literature regarding entrepreneurship in the physiotherapy field and aimed to fill it by developing a structured, expert-reviewed questionnaire. Using the e-Delphi method and Lawshe's content validity technique, they finalized a 12-item validated instrument. The study revealed that entrepreneurial awareness in physiotherapy students is insufficiently addressed and underscored the importance of introducing focused educational interventions. The researchers emphasize the need to incorporate entrepreneurship-oriented content within academic curricula to build self-reliance and readiness for entrepreneurial ventures among future physiotherapists.

5. Conclusion

It has been observed that physiotherapy students are aware about the term entrepreneurship and have interest in becoming entrepreneurs. Therefore, it is essential to integrate dedicated training programs into the academic curriculum to enhance their understanding of these prospects. Equipping students with entrepreneurial knowledge will empower them to launch their own ventures, effectively applying innovative treatment techniques and advancing their professional contributions to the healthcare sector.

6. Limitations

1) Perception barrier:

Respondents might misunderstand the question and might answer accordingly.

2) Background barrier:

Respondents might be from a poor family background and not have family business faces problems in starting the new venture.

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