

Technology Entrepreneurship Perspectives: A Survey of Kfupm Graduates (2001-2006)

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Abstract

This paper reports on some findings from a survey recently carried out on technology entrepreneurship potentialities of graduates between 2001 and 2006 at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Saudi Arabia. While this country substantially invests in science and technology education and research and enhances private businesses, yet emphasis on entrepreneurship education is not evident.

KFUPM, as one of the leading higher education institutions in the Gulf region, stands as a quite interesting case to examine. With its main engineering profile, it attaches much concern to the development of the national economy and the local community. Ambitiously, it strives to produce highest quality graduates armed with knowledge, skills and capabilities to turn ideas into successful outcomes. From the survey, valuable information is obtained on entrepreneurship inclination and potentialities of KFUPM graduates.

The outcome could be useful to decisions makers at KFUPM and in Saudi Arabia, as well as to researchers interested to learn about entrepreneurship in this country. The main conclusions are that KFUPM produces graduates with entrepreneurial potential; that an entrepreneurship program could add value to these graduates; and that the shift to technology-based entrepreneurship will support the efforts to make the Saudi economy more competitive.

Keywords: Technopreneurship, entrepreneurship, inclination, graduates, Kfupm, Saudi Arabia.