

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in GCC and India: A Perspective

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Abstract: The present study aims to identify the differences in the entrepreneurial ecosystems of GCC and India. Special attention is given to certain attributes and components within the ecosystems that make the individual ecosystems work. To compare the ecosystems of GCC and India, different databases were used to understand of the two regions and their entrepreneur ecosystems.

The results indicate that the best feature of the GCC entrepreneurial ecosystem is its connection with the oil-based market, where GCC entrepreneurs benefit from numerous potentials and help the government. GCC Governments support entrepreneurs and initiate financing to explore business in foreign market. However, the best feature in their ecosystem is the physical and service infrastructure. In addition, cultural support for entrepreneurship is high in India. Nevertheless, the present research proposes proposing that this measurement is not representation for the actual situation. This analogy reflects an indication of both regions support to entrepreneurship and thereby providing an environment for ecosystems. The study recommends that future research should address the effect of cultural and political differences on measurement scores.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Ecosystem, GCC countries, India.

1 Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a source for sustainable growth of economy. Globally entrepreneurship represents the power which accelerates the economic development. Accordingly, the present study addresses two large entrepreneurial ecosystems GCC countries and India.

The Cooperation Council of Gulf for the Arab States. Known as Gulf Cooperation Council. (GCC) is, the regional intergovernmental economic and political union consisting of Persian Gulf Arab states except Iraq. It was founded on 25 May 1981. The members are: Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. Its headquarters are in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The official language is Arabic. GCC major purpose is to achieve unity among the members who have the same and, as well as all of them are similar to the cultural and political identities that are rooted in Islamic and Arab cultures.

To reduce the future dependence on the oil, GCC introduced that pursuing an unprecedented structural economic reform. The GCC have agreements that focus on economic and security coordination. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia tended to lead policy coordination (Cochrane & Amery, 2017). The GCC are endowed by the gas and oil that made them the richest among all other countries of the entire world. The economies of these countries depend on gas and oil extraction activities.

GCC countries usually are concerned about achieving economic diversification by setting the programs and policies for stimulating investment in different sectors. The entrepreneurship and SMEs need to assess the learning and determinants from experience of the developed countries that succeeded to accelerate the Entrepreneurship and SMEs by developing the comprehensive ecosystem. GCC countries are modernizing entrepreneurship ecosystem which takes in the account of the best practices. The GCC countries devised the long-range social and economic development strategies, which understands the importance of the economic diversification. Long-Term strategies are built by Vision 2020 in Oman, 2021 in the United Arab Emirates, 2030 in Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 (Miniaoui & Schilir'o, 2016).

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Entrepreneurship in GCC usually promotes the approaches for starting the new business, which is not just useful for the students but to anyone that is seeking the practical insights for essential aspects of the entrepreneurship. According to the Mason and Brown (2013) GSER report, Bahraini females represented 18% of startups. Bahrain is one of the top 10 ecosystems which watch the financial technology in Middle East and Europe. The Bahraini government as a regional battle for the SME wallets and hearts reduced startups capital from t\$50,000 to the \$100.

2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

Entrepreneurship has become an inevitable part of economic and social development in several countries throughout the world. The innovative ideas and latest business concepts have proved beneficial for improving the economy and provided several social and cultural benefits. Accordingly, the main ideas that encourage entrepreneurship involves several factors which serve as the basis for entrepreneurial ecosystem (Zoltan., 2017). These ideas involve various aspects of economy, culture, and society. Thus, the amalgamation of these concepts enhances it. Therefore, denotes the social and economic environment at the regional level which promotes business ideas, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The concept of the entrepreneurial ecosystem is not limited to social and economic factors. However,, several factors including business environment, corporate space, regulations and support for businesses also influence entrepreneurship. Accordingly, these aspects constitute the core concepts of entrepreneurial ecosystem. The basic idea of business and innovation (Sussan, 2017). Risk factor and business environment entrepreneur business development. Thus, business, economic and social environment regulating the entrepreneurship in any country or region is directly related to the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Governments have to set policies related to the corporate and business sector. Accordingly, they directly affect business environment in any country. Entrepreneurs, as an inevitable part of business sector directly relate to governmental policies because they have to think unconventionally. However, different initiatives (Zoltan , 2017). Thus, the governments play vital role to play in devising business and corporate policies which directly affect entrepreneurial ecosystem. In free-market economies, the governments do not interfere much in the market policies. However, these economies also have a tough competition in the markets which entrepreneurs do not sometimes favor.

Entrepreneurship promotes small businesses because entrepreneurs are small business owners who take the risk put their ideas into practice.. Thus, it is a general perception that increase in small businesses is good for entrepreneurial ecosystem. However, it is a wrong perception because an increase in small businesses reduces the payout for good jobs because employers small business cannot afford paying more to their employees (Zoltan, 2018). Accordingly, the purchasing power of consumer reduces and negatively affects economy. Thus, the entrepreneurial ecosystem should be balanced enough to promote the interests of all key players in the economic system.

3. Research Question

What are the similarities and differences in between the two huge ecosystems of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and India?

4. Methodologies

The present study adopts the qualitative approach that uses secondary data sources to investigate the entrepreneurial ecosystems of GCC countries and India. Given its descriptive nature, this study, develops an explanatory procedural approach. According to this approach, representativeness is adopted and taken by the researchers via their own thoughts to the meaning of the existing knowledge on ecosystems for entrepreneurship. Our approach is subject to analyze the present t situation in in the GCC states in comparison to India by identifying the similarities and differences and how this will help in developing future strategies and policies. The data collected from GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP INDEX (GEDI), GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP INDEX (GEI), GEM Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, (GEM). Academic papers and reports used to draw meaningful evaluation between the investigated where there are standardized measurements, in addition, make the results comparable. Furthermore, the authors conducted a search on databases, such as database like ProQuest, Scopus, EBSCO, Emerald, Elsevier, Science Direct, Springer and Wiley inderscience as well as Taylor and Francis.

5. Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in GCC

The economy of GCC countries is oil-based. In addition, tourism& banking are other major sectors, which constantly improves to promote business communities. These countries are politically stable and conservative, and their governments adhere to monarchy (Miniaoui & Schilir`o, 2016). Accordingly, the governments strictly address to the political, social, economic, and cultural structure. However, the fast-paced business environment and recent economic changes worldwide has forced these countries to develop new economic rules and regulations.

Thus, the GCC countries have also taken several steps for ensuring an increase in small and medium corporations (SMEs). These initiatives aim to increase the economic dependence on other sources, which boost economic activities in the region. The GCC countries have strong regional, territorial and cultural relationships (Miniaoui & Schilir'o, 2016). Having a close territorial proximity to each other, these countries have several social and economic aspects, which are mutual, and shows great dependence on each other. Thus, these countries promote mutual interest through economic, social and cultural factors. Accordingly, these countries are highly concerned about their economic diversification owing to a worldwide decrease in the consumption of oil and crumbling oil prices.

These countries are now more concerned about the role of the private sector, which can become the backbone of economic activities. They are preparing to increase the role of private sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem, these countries have to learn a lot from developing countries which are already taking huge benefits by promoting entrepreneurship (Evren, 2018). Thus, the assessment of the entrepreneurial environment in GCC countries is inevitable considering the strong role of entrepreneurs in developed economies. For this purpose, the GCC countries need to access the determinants of entrepreneurial ecosystem which play a vital role in driving entrepreneurship. These determinants include individual skills and abilities, institutional regulations, financial determinants, social setup, cultural aspects, and economic conditions. Beside, entrepreneurial ecosystem in GCC countries is highly linked with technology and innovation. The GCC countries lack the technology infrastructure which promotes entrepreneurship (Nezameddin Faghieh, 2018). They are not as creative as the developed countries. innovative ideas which are materialized using the required capital. Furthermore, the entrepreneurial ecosystem is highly dependent on cost, time, and procedures. These factors are included in the World Economic Forum's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Accordingly, GCC countries need to develop an economic environment which favors entrepreneurship. Hence, SMEs. On the other hand, these countries have also relaxed the business environment by allowing international business organizations to do business and promote their corporate interests (Nezameddin Faghieh, 2018). Besides, the governments have also eased concerning defined types of businesses to upgrade innovativeness and technology. These initiatives are taken to materialize the concepts of entrepreneurs which can prove beneficial for the economy. However, a critical analysis of the economic, social, and cultural aspects of these countries will help us in identifying the entrepreneurial ecosystem, which is regionally pursued.

5.1 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Kuwait

Kuwait tremendously depends on its oil resources. The economic conditions in Kuwait are stable. However, fluctuation in oil prices threatens to the economic fabric in Kuwait. Under this circumstance, Kuwait is also taking effective measures to diversify its economy. In this regard, the first step taken by the Kuwait government is to promote entrepreneurship (Adel Al-Wugayan, 2010). The need to diversify the economic sources is highly prioritized for Kuwait because several GCC countries have started promoting the concepts of small businesses. The recent initiatives taken by Kuwaiti government is the promotion of private sector. The private sector is which is one of the fundamental pillars of economy.

Western countries hugely rely on this sector. However, this concept is in its preliminary stages in GCC countries. GCC countries including Kuwait mainly focus on oil exports from oil fields. However, the recent trends in international economic environment have forced these countries to take effective measures for boosting their economies. In this regard, the government of Kuwait has introduced the Kuwait National Fund for small and medium businesses in 2013 (insights.flat6labs.com, 2018). The main purpose of this fund was to promote capital investments and education. The investments in private sector are good initiatives for giving a boost to the declining economy. The benefits of this initiative will be transferred to the small and medium level entrepreneurs who are eager to develop their businesses.

On the other hand, this initiative will also provide several benefits to young people who are studying in schools and colleges. One of the purposes of this fund is to provide funds to the education sector, which will then promote entrepreneurship later (Darwish, 2014). Most of the entrepreneurs bring innovative ideas the legal measures are taken to reduce barriers for market entry. Thus, these measures will reshape the overall entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kuwait.

5.2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Bahrain

The entrepreneurial ecosystem in Bahrain is thriving owing to recent changes in its legal, corporate, and economic setup. To create a balanced entrepreneurial ecosystem, Bahraini government has reduced the minimum capital investment for startups. This step will encourage small investors to play their role in the economy. Besides, the government has also introduced the Al Waha Venture Capital Fund (Galpin, 2019). The purpose of this fund is to attract angel investors in the country. and empower entrepreneurs. Bahrain has also introduced several laws which facilitate the entrepreneurial efforts.

The country is all set to introduce its digital economic laws which are aimed at facilitating the digital economy. that prevails throughout the world. Accordingly, Bahrain aims at tapping the untapped market sectors in GCC (Abdulhasan Al-Dairi, 2012). These laws will ensure smooth online transaction vital for e-commerce and online buying and shopping. In addition,

they ensure the secure use of big data for commercial purposes. In today's technological world, big data is highly relevant to technology initiatives.

Thus, Bahrain is eyeing at tapping the technology market through entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Bahrain has also introduced sharia-compliant financing and crowd-funding. Moreover, the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism has also introduced investment centers, licensing facilities for small businesses, and business incubators to help raise entrepreneurial investments (moic.gov.bh, 2019). These initiatives will collectively improve the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.

5.3 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Oman

Oman's economy depends on oil. However, the agriculture and fishing sector in Oman also contribute towards its economy. The economic liberalization in Oman was started back in 1960 (Hesham A. E.Magd, 2014). make no sense. Like other GCC countries, Oman has also introduced several laws and governance rules for ensuring smooth business activities in both public and private sector. However, with these initiatives, the Omanis have also started taking part in maintaining economic conditions. One such step includes the increase in number of local businesses. Back in 2013, there were only 323 businesses registered under the name of locals and can be observed in figure 1.

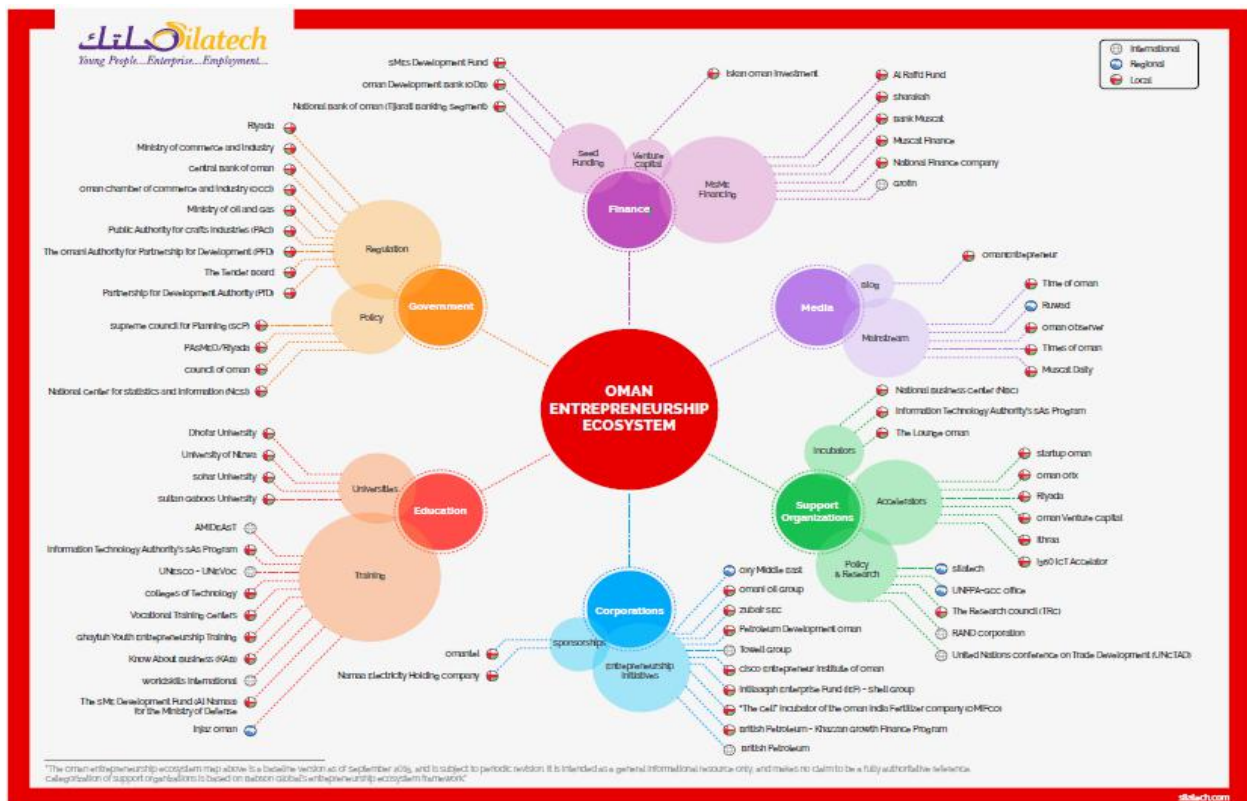


Figure 1: *Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Oman*

Source: Secondary data

However, these businesses increased to 4,300 (Santosdiaz, 2019). Startup Oman is a platform made for entrepreneurs. It guides and helps entrepreneurs with their initiatives and small business. This startup also holds educational program for entrepreneurial community. The government of Oman has also setup Wadi Accelerator, a seed-stage program with \$15million in funding. It provides workplace and incubators for entrepreneurs. Besides, this program also facilitates the training and mentorship for entrepreneurs. These initiatives taken by the government and the locals are driving the country towards creating a suitable and well-defined entrepreneurial ecosystem.

5.4 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has diversified its economy in the aftermath of slow growth in the oil and gas sector. It has been regarded as the land of opportunities has a huge say in GCC, and it also happened to be one of the most famous countries for religious

tourism. The entrepreneurship environment in Saudi Arabia is gaining momentum as a result of Saudi government's efforts to reduce the burden of economy from oil and gas exports. According to a recent report by Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 76.3% of Saudi Arabian adult population is pursuing good opportunities for startups (Ashri, 2019). The government of implements its Vision 2030 by the contemporary changes which are focused on diversification of the economy and can be observed in figure 2.

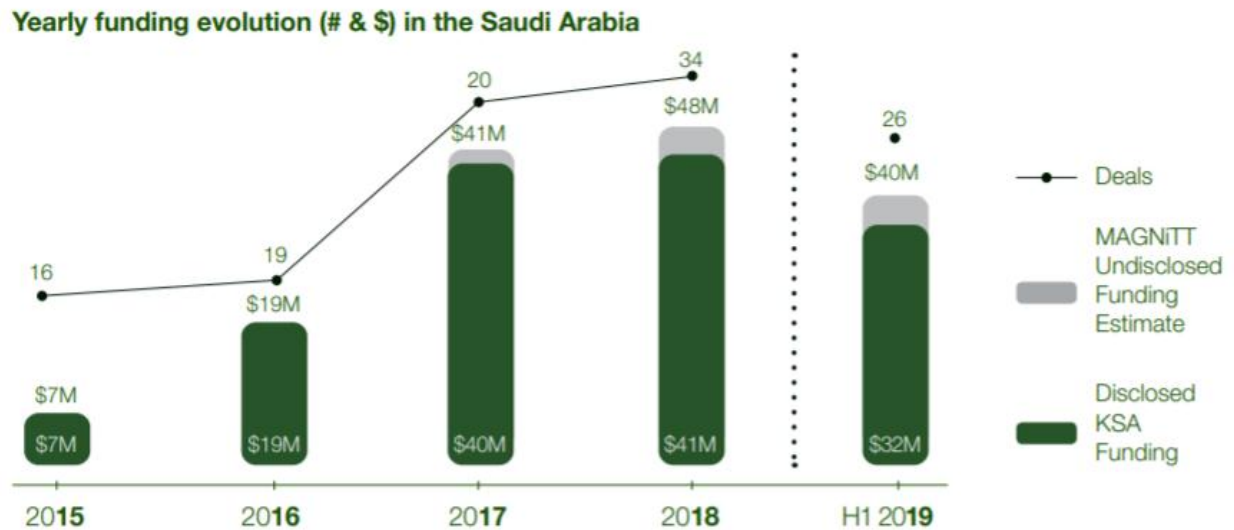


Figure 2 : Funding evolution of the Saudi Arabia (in yearly and \$)
Source: Secondary data

According to this vision, they are pursuing several initiatives which are vital for boosting the economic activity in the region. Accordingly, this vision also has special plans for SMEs. Thus, it aims at raisin the SMEs' contribution to country GDP from 20% to 33% in 2030. On the other hand, the Saudi government has also introduced SAR 72 billion packages for ensuring growth in private sector (arabiangazette.com, 2019). Under this program, the government introduces indirect funding to SMEs, reimbursement of government fees and export finance.

Moreover, a Public Investment Fund of SAR 4 billion will also ensure private sector participation in the economy through investments. Furthermore, it has also introduced the Meras program which facilitates the both public and private services (Hamid, 2019). Accordingly, the major initiatives for balancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country are taken by the government.

5.5 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Compared to other GCC countries, activities are more enhanced and matured as compared to other GCC countries. The reason being the liberal business and economic culture in the country. UAE is also located in the same region ass other GCC countries. However, it has a different business environment. It offers several opportunities to expatriates and also welcomes them from all over the world. The reason being the economic diversification in the country. UAE has a diversified economy with several developed industries including the tourism, construction, retail, oil and gas, manufacturing and automotive industry (Burke, 2018). However, it continues to improve its entrepreneurial ecosystem to contribute to the economy. Currently, almost 95% businesses in UAE are SMEs, and they also provide 52% employment (nhbcdubai.com, 2019).

The contribution of SMEs in the UAE is 47%. In this regard, the government of UAE also supports the entrepreneurial environment. Accordingly, the Mohammad bin Rashid Fund of Dubai has allocated AED 68 million for SMEs (nhbcdubai.com, 2019). On the other hand, Dubai SME plan 2021, funded by the government, focuses on an increase in entrepreneurial activity, SME competitiveness and as well as integration. In addition, Abu Dhabi Vision 2030 also aims at boosting economic activities through investments. These collaborative efforts are vital for ensuring an increase in entrepreneurial activity through innovation and funding and can be observed in figure 3.



Figure 3 : *Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)*
Source: Secondary data

6 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems of India

6.1 Start-ups in the Indian Context

In the present-day scenario „Startup“ is a buzz word across the world , including India exception. A start-up ecosystem is defined as a society comprising of entrepreneurs with ideas & skills, young companies at early stages, incubators with mentors & capital, and media which supports in publicizing innovation along with the support of government in terms of supportive policies. All of these entities have to interact to strengthen the ecosystem which can also help increase their own value (Kuratko DF & Rao TV, 2012)

A company which is incorporated or registered in India and has been in existence for less than seven years (less ten years - in case the business is related to biotechnology) from the date of incorporation, and has an annual turnover of INR 25 crore or less from the date of inception for all financial years Moreover, the objective of the organisation must be to work towards innovation, development, deployment or commercialization of new products, processes or services driven by technology or intellectual property. Also the organisation must not be formed by splitting up or reconstruction of a business already in existence. The most important aspect for an organisation to be considered as a start-up is the clause that mandates the company to be incorporated as a private limited company or a registered partnership firm or a limited liability partnership which has obtained a certification from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) setup for such a purpose.

6.2 Start-ups: The Growth Story

The Indian start-up ecosystem has its growth story over the last two decades. Start-ups started evolving from the early 2000s, when the Indian ecosystem was still immature. There were very few investors who were active and the number of support

organizations such as incubators and accelerators were very limited. The government declared 2010-20 as 'India's Decade of Innovation' and the industry increasingly started expecting its employees to have an entrepreneurial mindset. After 2010 the number of Indian start-ups increased and support from the ecosystem became available in all dimensions. Figure 1.1 exhibits the number of start-ups created and the percentage of them that acquired funding. (Economic Times 2019). Also the number of start-ups have increased across major Indian cities. Two locations namely Bengaluru and the

NCR (National Capital Region) led in terms of the percentage of start-ups created in India. The percentage of start-ups across non- metros also contributed to the numbers but it can be Figure 1.2 that the same has decreased in the recent years. (Economic Times 2019).

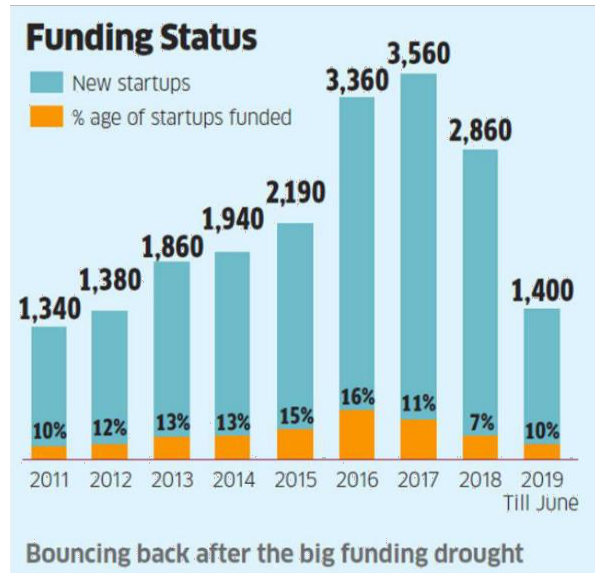


Figure 4 : Growth of start-ups in India
 Source: Secondary data.

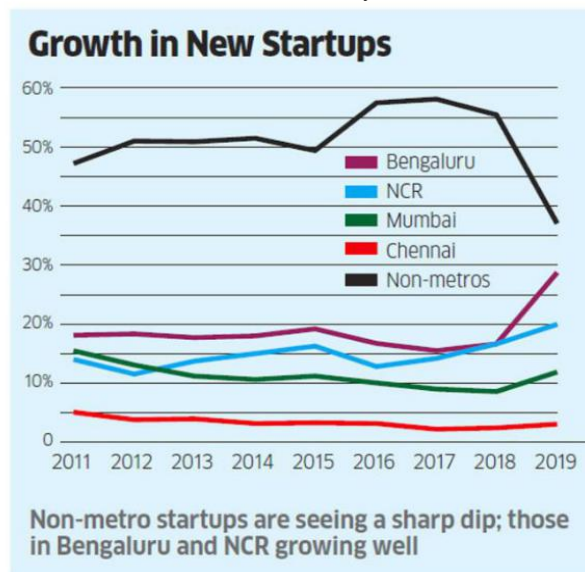


Figure 5 : Percentage of start-ups in India.
 Source: Secondary data

The drivers of growth for the Indian start-up ecosystem can be explained in the context of earlier economic reforms and the present market trends, impact of technological change, the changing policies of the Indian government and corporate support.

6.3 Economic Reforms and the Present Market Trends

India is country with 1.3 billion people and manufactures even niche products to have significant market potential. The economic reforms in the 1990s made India a market based economic system and post this liberalisation there has been a rapid economic development. In 2018.

Indian economy had a GDP of 2.72 trillion (World Bank Report 2018-A) and with a growth rate of 7.0 percent India still remains one of the fastest growing economies of the world (World Bank Report 2018-B). This makes Indian market is capable of offering abundant opportunities for start-ups.

Although there are cues of a global slowdown, the Indian economy continues to grow and the purchasing power continues to increase. According to the world economic forum report, the growth of upper middle class and high net worth individuals is expected to grow from one in four households to four in one house hold by 2030 (World Economic Forum, 2019). Moreover, the demographic scenario of the country. According to the Young India and work report presented at the world economic forum, half of India's population is less than 25 years of age and the Indian youth have very high aspirations (Young India , WEF 2019). Also the report indicates that approximately 700 million children born in the late 1980s to the 2000s carry material ambitions (World Economic Forum, 2019).

The diversity in culture, language, ethnicity and religion which is an integral part of India is both a boon and a bane for start-ups. Start-ups focus on understanding customers from specific regions when building their products and fail when the try to scale their products to customers across the country. The positive aspect of diversity is the fact that, if start-ups create solutions that address the needs of diverse customers across India, they are most likely to find customers in other countries such as Africa, Latin America, and even the developed countries.

6.4 Impact of Technological Changes

According to World Poverty Clock, approximatly 6.4% Indians live in poverty (WPC 2019). A large Indian population lives on less than \$3.2 a day. This requires innovative solutions to reduce the rate of poverty requires can be provided by technology start-ups due to their potential to scale and grow in an exponential manner.

As India improved its digital connectivity, market access barriers have been brought down. The broadband penetration is increasing fast and the number of wireline subscribers in 2018 is expected to increase by 44 percent over the next four years (Economic Times 2018). Also the number of internet users was pegged at 483 million in 2018 and is projected to reach 666.4 million in 2025 (Statista 2019). Establishing the identity of the customer online and ease of online digital payments is driving many brick and mortar business to go the tech way. Digital payments have become more widely available , so start-ups to serve masses of new customers. The Aadhaar biometric ID system, which was introduced in 2009 has helped in assigning Indian residents a unique identity number, made it easier for companies to validate information about their customers. With the demonetization drive of the Indian government in 2016, large segments of the Indian population have accepted to opt digital payments.

Between 2017 and 2019, the Indian tech start up ecosystem has seen the rise of a few companies that have struck gold. There are a few tech start-ups which have been valued over a \$1 billion. Table 1.1 indicates that during Indian tech start-ups they have raised funds, grown faster than expected and are now bona-fide billion dollar companies. (Gadgets Now Bureau 2019). Fintech, Edutech, Foodtech, Healthtech and other tech-based start-ups foster the start-up ecosystem to be vibrant and effective.

Table 1.1 Indian Start-ups Going Billion Dollar

Star-up	Fund		Value
Lenskart	\$ 350 million	Softbank	\$1.2 Billion
Druva	\$ 130 million	Viking Global	\$1.0 Billion
Dream 11	\$100 million	Steadview Capitals	\$1.0 Billion
Policy Bazaar	\$238 million	Softbank	\$1.0 Billion
Paytm Mall	\$30,0000 million	Softbank and Alibaba	\$1.9 Billion
Oyo	\$800 million	Softbank	\$1.0 Billion
Swiggy	\$1.0 Billion	Tencent and others	\$3.3 Billion
Byju	\$40 million	Nasper Ventures	\$3.6 Billion
Freshwroks	\$100 million	Sequoia India & Accel	\$1.2 Billion
Udan	\$225 million	DST global	\$1.0 Billion

Zomato	\$210 million	Ant Financial	\$1.0 Billion
Billdesk	\$300 million	Visa	\$1.8 Billion
Delhivery	\$143 million	Sofbank	\$1.6 Billion

Source: Secondary data

6.5 Changing Policies of the Indian Government and Corporate Support

The Indian government, which came to power in 2014 placed digital transformation across all sectors, as one of the core objectives. The government also realized that promoting start-ups is the only way provide job opportunities rapidly. In 2018, start-ups accounted for 2.64 percent of the total jobs created in India and they are expected to create 200,000 250,000 jobs in 2019 (Inc. 42 Report 2018). In addition, „Start-up India“ is a flagship initiative of the Indian government catapult the start-up culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

Launched on 16 January 2016, the Startup India Initiative has introduced several programs with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building a robust start-up ecosystem. Through this initiative, the government plans to make compliance easier, exit process easier for failed start-ups, provide legal support, help in fast tracking of patent applications and provide a website to reduce information asymmetry. The government also provides Exemptions on Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax for eligible start-ups; a fund of funds to infuse more capital into the start-up ecosystem and a credit guarantee scheme. The government has funded and created numerous incubators and innovation labs, and also conducts events, competitions and provides grants to start-ups. In addition, a website, titled Start-up India Portal, is one of the programs mandated under the Start-up India Initiative, which is the single largest online platform for start-ups and entrepreneurs in India, connecting them to thousands of other start-ups, as well as other key stakeholders such as investors, mentors and incubators. The portal aims to reduce knowledge asymmetry in the start-up ecosystem and better equip entrepreneurs for success by providing them with essential information and valuable online resources. (Start-up India 2019)

Govt. of India has established Innovation Cell (MIC)* to systematically foster the culture of Innovation amongst all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The primary mandate of MIC is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work with new ideas and transform them into prototypes. (MHRD 2019). In spite of the initiatives of the government,, the number of recognized start-ups by DPIIT remains abysmally low at 23,298 (as on October 2019).

Because start-ups are innovating and are creating path breaking products innovative solutions, large companies are feeling the heat and are now forced to innovate more rapidly. Many large companies have complex business processes and make their decision slowly. innovate incrementally to grow their existing business. Currently, they have pressure from many innovative start-ups who are bringing radical innovations and changing the game. This is forcing large companies to move towards open innovation approaches (Tobias and Henry 2015). Indian conglomerates are reaching out to start-ups to increase their own innovativeness (Thomas 2016). These large organisations are entering into strategic partnerships with start-ups, promising them with specific resources and taking stakes in return and hence making the engagement mutually beneficial (Nasscom 2019). This is helping established companies to gain the competitive advantages of start-ups, especially in terms of their speed, Furthermore, they identify new business models and effective solutions that address the existing problems.

6.6 The Society's Perceptions towards Entrepreneurship

From 1990 to 2000 taking up a job in the public sector, established Multi-national Companies (MNCs) or a career in Information technology company were highly sought by the Indian middle class, as these options offered stability and a guaranteed income. Starting a business, especially by the first generation entrepreneur, was as a near-impossible option. This was due to several reasons like the risk associated, the support available, the ecosystem that prevailed and also the perception that existed in the society. With angel investment and venture capital firms investing millions of dollars, the popularity of start-ups has increased and this has changed the perception about start-up with the Indian middle class. With success stories of start-ups and the news their founders broadcast on a daily basis, the stigma surrounding entrepreneurship has faded. In the present day scenario people who start their own business, command a high level of respect and admiration within the Indian society. Those who are willing to take risks are the ones who can put ideas into practice and seize opportunities.

Most start-up founders in India have strong intrinsic motivations and report being driven by their passion, curiosity, satisfaction that comes from problem solving, and desire to make a difference in society. Some Indian start-up founders have work experience in corporate houses, but despite the stability in those jobs and the benefits of high salaries and other perks, they perceived those jobs as constraining to their creativity. A lack of identification of their value and the desire to make a difference to the in the community encourage the entrepreneurial journey, and create something on their own, which enables them to define their own values and control their own direction. Also due to the media publicity some start-up founders have become India's „Start-up heroes“, contributing to the image of entrepreneurship as “cool” and “glamorous”. Hence, the social acceptability of entrepreneurial careers is indeed increasing and thereby positively influenced start-up culture and the ecosystem.

6.7 Future Challenges

Indian startups encounter numerous challenges. Although the government World Bank Ease of Doing Business index ranks India 77th of 190 countries, the country is 137th of 190 countries in the World Bank Starting a Business Ranking index (Economic Times 2019 – WB). Hence, bureaucracy remains a challenge. The other challenges for an Indian start-up involve providing to more complex aspects, such as developing a scaling up strategy. Taking products to market and willingness to pay by the Indian customers, access to the right mentors, easy access to the angel investors and venture capital firms, understanding and implementing the constantly evolving Good and Services Tax, which was introduced by the Indian government in July 2017. Hiring the qualified officials at affordable prices is a herculean task for Indian start-ups. This is due the fact that many for job seekers, joining a start-up as an employee is not an attractive career option, due to the inherent risk that the start-up might fail. Hence, unrewarding work for large corporations, which promise stable jobs with a good financial incentive. In addition, not all start-ups compete with the reputation and compensation structures, which large companies offer.

7 Conclusions

The present study aims to scrutinize entrepreneurial ecosystems of GCC and India. The previous pieces of literature reveal that GCC countries, which are the main exporters of oil and gas, are the richest countries worldwide. Currently, they plan their economic development for long term sustainability. Therefore, the Currently, they plan came up with following visions, Oman vision 2020, United Arab Emirates vision 2030, Saudi Arabia vision 2030 and Bahrain 2030. The major part of the economy depends on oil, in that some as well as tourism. . The huge development business environment has forced them to develop countries to developed new economic policies and laws. The additional potential strength is the culture and community. On the other hand they show more interest in the private sector to boost economic development.

The Kuwaiti government introduced schemes for small and medium business to promote capital investment in various small industries. This initiative has motivated young generation to become entrepreneurs. The government of Bahrain reduced capital investment for startups; this step encourages new investors into new business. In addition, it initiated digitization, Central Bank of Bahrain also introduced sharia-compliant financing and crowdfunding. In addition to that, the Ministry of commerce and Tourism announced investment centers, licensing facilities for small investments. Oman also made changes in their laws to attract new investors and startups. The government established Wadi Accelerator and seed-stage program. which runs training programs for new investors.

Saudi Arabia has a big economy in GCC, According to arabiangazette.com the government introduces indirect funding to SMEs and Meras program also facilitates funding to the public and private services. The United Arab Emirates has well developed diversified industries including tourism, construction, oil and gas, retail, manufacturing and automotive. In addition, Mohammad bin Rashid Fund of Dubai has allotted AED 68 million for SMEs development.

Regarding India, „Startup“ is a buzz word across the world , including India is. A start-up ecosystem is defined as a society comprising entrepreneurs with ideas and skills, young companies at early stages, incubators with mentors & capital, and media which supports publicizing innovation along with the support of government in terms of supportive policies. All of these entities have to interact to strengthen the ecosystem which can also help increase their own value (Kuratko et al, 2012). The Indian ecosystem of start-up was immature in 2000. The Indian government declared the period from 2010 to 2020 as India’s Decade of Innovation. The government introduced start-up India Initiative that has several programs aim to support the new entrepreneurs. Moreover, it Ministry of Human Resource Development's (MHRD) Innovation Cell to prevail the culture of innovation within higher education institutions. GCC has to concentrate on startup and give special concern to education development to achieve the entrepreneurial universities (Darwish ,2014). Different bodies have to support startup in the country policies and . Contributors' collectively see that they have to concentrate on the diversified economy. The Indian ecosystem has been created and constantly develops the relevant policies, so it can easily initiate start-ups. Moreover, culture provides support. Future studies will be beneficial if they measure vibrancy of start-up entrepreneurial ecosystem..

The researchers can adopt indicators such as Density and its measurements, i. New and young firms per 1,000 people, ii. Share of employment in new and young firms and iii. Sector density, especially high tech, For Fluidity measurements are i. Population flux, ii. Labor market reallocation and iii. High-growth firms; connectivity measurements tools such as i. Program connectivity, ii. Spinoff rate and iii. Dealmaker networks; as well as Diversity measurements as i. Multiple economic specializations, ii. Mobility and iii. Immigrants to gain results.

The limitation of the present study is that it is based o to the availability of secondary data. topic entrepreneurial ecosystem is a broad concept. Nevertheless, there is a scope for future measurement of ecosystems.

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