Exploring the Nexus of Inventive Passion on Effectuation and Product Innovativeness

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https://doi.org/10.62345/jads.2024.13.4.7

Abstract

This study investigates the interplay between inventive passion and the effectuation process's role in bringing product and service innovativeness. This research examines the mediating effect of effectuation in connection with the entrepreneurial inventive passion product and service innovativeness in SMEs. The study is causal and cross-sectional; SPSS version 26 is used for statistical inference, whereas Hayes macro version 4.2 is employed for regression analysis. The findings suggest that inventive passion has a significant positive relationship with product innovativeness and effectuation. Furthermore, effectuation mediates the relationship between inventive passion and product innovativeness. The study results have considerable implications for entrepreneurs and policymakers seeking to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. In a dynamic and uncertain environment, SMEs can employ compelling logic of effectuation to innovate products and services. Effectual elements provide the framework for developing the echo system for product and service inventiveness for passionate entrepreneurs which will facilitate product and service innovativeness.

Keywords: Inventive Passion, Effectuation, Innovation, Innovativeness, Process Model.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a fabrication of passion, strategic thinking, and innovation. The era of globalization has made innovation an essential issue in the competitive economic environment Calik (2024). Digitization and providing innovative solutions are driving the organization. Countries found innovativeness and digitalization of enterprises fundamental to their progress and development of a competitive knowledge-based economy Brodny and Tutak (2024). In order to overcome the negativity of the economic turbulence of the business environment, organizations are gearing up their efforts to develop their innovation capabilities Edeh et al. (2022).

Countries invest in developing their enterprise to innovate. The analysis showed that in terms of the level of innovativeness among EU-27, enterprises in the rich countries, i.e. Belgium, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden (EU-14), developed the innovativeness of their companies, on the other hand, enterprises of the developing countries of Europe (EU-13), i.e. Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland and Romania are equally investing in developing echo systems for innovativeness for their enterprises Brodny & Tutak (2024). Entrepreneurial innovativeness positively enhances small and medium enterprises' business success (market share and sales growth) George will (2024).

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Entrepreneurial hustle is the critical and unconventional measures they employ to deal with hindrances and prospects under uncertainty Burnell et al. (2024). Whereas the study found that differentiation in values in the countries influences product and service innovativeness, there is no single recipe for innovation (Tużnik, 2024). The main objective of this paper is to explain the nexus of entrepreneurial inventive passion, effectuation, and product innovativeness and enlighten the mechanisms which drive entrepreneurial success. Innovation is considered to play a vital role in developing a nation's economy (Distanont & Khongmalai, 2020). The mechanization of production and allocation of resources are interlinked and were always accompanied by questions about their impact on the incentive Antonioli (2024). Innovation provides the road map for venture sustainability and competitive advantage in the current era of business environments (Zeb & Ihsan, 2020); however, it is predominantly carried out by new resource-constrained organizations and effectuation process can benefit the resource constrained entrepreneur to overcome these constraints by employing the effectual logic. Based on the previous research implications, this study aims to investigate the effectuation process that can bring innovations to products and services.

In business, entrepreneur passion is linked to innovation (Kiani et al., 2020), ignoring the process of passion as an entrepreneurial trait and how it affects the innovation process Kiani et al. (2022). This study focused on investigating the process that drives product and service innovation by exploring the entrepreneurial passion of owners and the effectuation process. Entrepreneurship is a beacon of innovation, propelled by enthusiasm, strategic insight, and the dogged quest for creative solutions. At its foundation, entrepreneurship is a journey driven by imaginative enthusiasm, in which individuals use their natural ambition, creativity, and determination to traverse the intricacies of the corporate world. This desire drives entrepreneurs to push the boundaries, question the current status quo, and launch companies that change sectors and marketplaces Edeh et al. (2022).

Similarly, the concept of effectuation arises as a strategic paradigm that reflects the entrepreneurial experience. Sarasvathy (2001) pioneered effectuation theory, which emphasizes using existing resources, viewing uncertainty as an opportunity, and iteratively adapting methods to changing conditions. Effectuation connects the entrepreneurial experience to product and service innovation' Ahmed et al. (2024). This pragmatic and adaptable approach resonates strongly with entrepreneurs navigating the ever-changing landscape of innovation and disruption. Understanding the complicated interplay between three core pillars - entrepreneurial inventive spirit, effectuation, and product innovation - becomes increasingly important as the entrepreneurial ecosystem evolves. The study by Kiani et al. (2022) uncovers the role of entrepreneurial passion and encourages future studies to account for additional factors and consider their co-occurrence.

Entrepreneurship and innovation are considered to be processual phenomena Vettik-Leemet & Mets (2024), and effectuation theory could provide a solution to this problem. These processes are constrained to the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem through their available network. Nascent firms are resource-constrained, requiring more knowledge and skills to orchestrate these processes and utilize intangible and tangible resources. Government restraint orders for dining-in in the hospitality sector during the COVID-19 pandemic further drive entrepreneurs to innovate effectively. Noone et al. (2024) network and interconnected resources of the large organization provide a better framework for innovations and organizational survival. This leads to further research on antecedents and consequences of innovation networks available to SMEs through effectuation and in a crisis. Streamlining the processes of entrepreneurship and innovation needs further research at every stage Vettik-Leemet and Mets (2024); hence, this study is inclined to explore the outcome of the effectuation process and how it affects product and service innovativeness.

New enterprises with resource constraints employ the theory of effectuation for innovation in highly dynamic and uncertain situations Berends et al. (2014). The research claims that effectuation is most suitable in uncertain conditions, whereas the response of entrepreneurs in these conditions at different levels of uncertainty needs to be investigated. Studies of behavioural decision-makers claim that in the event of an increase in ambiguity, behavioural decision-makers tend to keep the status quo instead of finding new ways to cope with the uncertainty Cowden et al. (2024). Therefore, this study will be underpinned by the theory of effectuation developed by Sarasvathy (2009). The study will extend the theory of effectuation and enrich the literature with the findings of this study on the effectuation-innovation nexus.

This study unravels the nexus that connects these factors to discover the mechanisms, relationships, and revolutionary potential they possess within entrepreneurial enterprises. Innovation can cause a competitive gain for businesses, either through developing approaches (i.e. Dell incorporation) and techniques capable of generating new products or services or perfecting existing ones Taques et al. (2021). Experiments as a tool for innovation are an element of the understudied effectuation process; further studies need to be employed to explore the entrepreneurs' insights for innovation. Banerjee and Pandey's (2024) experiment, a tool of effectual logic, is also studied in this investigation. This research gap is intriguing because the entrepreneur's passion has yet to be studied earlier in the context of the effectuation process to bring product and service innovativeness. Hence, this research has incorporated the suggestion put forth by the above author to fill the gap in effectuation mediation on the relationship between inventive passion and product and service innovativeness.

This study focuses on the research questions including the impact of an entrepreneur's inventive passion on product and service innovativeness and the mediation of the effectuation process on the relationship between an entrepreneur's inventive passion and product and service innovativeness. The research objective of the study is to examine the impact of entrepreneurial inventive passion on product and service innovativeness, as well as the effects of the mediation relationship.

Literature Review

Entrepreneur Inventive Passion

Entrepreneurial achievement is derived from various facets of his/her Passion Morfaki (2025). Studies conducted on passion found its significant impact on people's cognition, action and motivation (Dinibutun, 2024). Entrepreneur Inventive Passion refers to the individual's eagerness to explore market opportunities, experiment with new methods, build products and services and engage in economic activities Zhou et al. (2021). Passion is a force that drives success; it provides internal drive, improved resilience, inventiveness, and creativity, and it helps identify and find resources to achieve goals. Passion inspires creativity to find new ideas for products and services Banerjee and Pandey (2024). Inventive passion refers to entrepreneurs' enthusiasm and dedication to creating new products and services. Research has shown that inventive passion is a crucial driver of innovation (Amabile, 1988).

Product and Service Innovativeness

Enterprise grows through new product and service innovation (2024). Innovations create a competitive edge for organizations and bring growth and sustainability to organizations Nurgraha and Mulyadi (2018). '*Product innovation* is defined as goods, services, ideas or processes perceived by the customer as a new thing in life' Hassan (2017). Product innovativeness is the newness and uniqueness of the existing product and services; it is a critical aspect of innovation linked to firm performance (Rogers, 2003).

Organizations innovate for a competitive edge, innovating processes, i.e. Dell corporation approach, or creating new products and services or upgrading existing products or services Taques et al. (2021); in the dynamic era, the importance of innovation has increased manifolds for SMEs to survive in their domestic and international markets Kiani et al. (2020). In order to recognize the course of successful innovation, the newness in the product innovation is required Cheng et al. (2013). In the marketplace, there is a significant surge in the requirements for innovation and the research community. In organizations, the benchmark of success is innovation, and much of the research is dedicated to the behaviours and antecedents of innovation Kiss et al. (2020).

Effectuation

The study found that effectual decision-making approaches, i.e., affordable loss, flexibility, etc., synergize firms' growth (Farokhmanesh et al. (2024). The effectuation process identifies non-existing goals using existing means Jamin (2024). Effectuation logic reconfigure network alliances enhances its external capabilities Khan et al. (2024). In order to create competitive advantage, SMEs make networks and partnerships and use effectual logic Alam et al. (2024). Constructive alliance is found in the effectual logic framework, and the mediation mechanism exists in the entrepreneurs' alertness and market opportunities and SME performance Karami and Hossain (2024), effectuation as an approach for pursuing opportunities during uncertainty to remain competitive Ebegbetale et al. (2024). Previous studies suggest that the effectuation mechanism is more appropriate in dynamic and uncertain conditions Cowden et al. (2024).

Entrepreneur Inventive Passion and Product and Service Innovativeness

In the dynamic entrepreneurial environment (Li & Sukpasjaroen, 2024), entrepreneurs' dynamic competence is instrumental in helping achieve innovation goals. Business model innovation and entrepreneurial passion are interlinked Dinibutun (2024). Entrepreneurs' passion scans the techniques available for innovation, and passion is a critical process to refine innovation Luu (2023). Entrepreneurial individuals typically possess a self-motivated and independent mindset centred on innovation, creativity, risk-taking and proactivity while embracing change and uncertainty (Abdullah et al., 2024). Innovation theory draws the line between innovation and entrepreneurial processes because of uncertainty and risk Ryman & Roach (2024). The entrepreneur's inventive passion provides the impetus for relentless efforts to find new markets and fulfil their needs by finding new ideas, products, or services Li and Sukpasjaroen (2024). This study delves into how product and service innovation is linked to organizations' benefits of entrepreneurial, inventive passion. Hence, the study's first hypothesis is derived from the above discussion:

H1: Entrepreneur inventive passion has a positive relationship with product innovativeness.

Entrepreneur Inventive Passion and Effectuation

Entrepreneurs' networking and alliances have an affirmative effect on the innovation capacity and performance of MSMEs Martini et al. (2024). Entrepreneurs identify opportunities and encourage business innovation by making alliances to orchestrate the firm's resources to direct their goaloriented behaviour and cognition Li and Sukpasjaroen (2024). Entrepreneurial firms struggle to develop internal capabilities to innovate products and services Saari et al. (2024). Organizations require significant investments in technological innovation, which may hinder their innovative ambitions. Kumar et al. (2024) found that the reasons for innovation failure are improper management and lack of knowledge. Passionate entrepreneurs create alliances, integrate information technology and enhance the development of innovative business ideas frequently Flores Pérez and Guevara (2023). Passionate entrepreneurs engage in more ineffectual for innovation. There is a connection between entrepreneurs' inventive passion and effectuation (Read et al., 2009). Businesses are linked in product innovation (Jajja et al., 2017), and supplier innovation strategies are linked; buyers' innovation strategy enhances product innovation and moderates the supplier's focus on innovation. Service co-creation and innovation are linked with effectuation, not causation (Alam et al., 2022). The above discussion develops the link between the entrepreneur's inventive passion and the effectuation process; hence, from this discussion, the study derives the second hypothesis, H2: Entrepreneurial inventive passion, which has a positive relationship with effectuation.

Effectuation and Product & Service Innovativeness

Effectuation is positively related to product and service innovativeness, suggesting that experimentation and learning are critical for innovation (Sarasvathy, 2001). The resourcesconstrained entrepreneurs frequently exercise effectuation in their entrepreneurial endeavours, exploit networks through collaboration- making partners not competitors, emphasize affordable loss than expected returns, etc., in order to create a known future situation rather than forecast uncertainty; these processes are more reliable than exploited entrepreneurial approaches Rod (2024). Alliances and partnerships are elements of effectual logic that play a significant role in dynamic environments. Startups must use these alliances for business model innovation Xu et al. (2024). This literature review allowed framing our third hypothesis:

H3: Effectuation has a positive effect on Product innovativeness.

Effectuation as a Mediator

Effectuation has been found to mediate the relationship between inventive passion and product innovativeness (Sarasvathy, 2001). Professional entrepreneurs exercise effectual logic in uncertain conditions to achieve organizations' goals; it increases the probability of innovation Sarasvathy (2024). The entrepreneur employs the effectual logic framework, i.e. alliances and partnerships, to create opportunities Read *et al.* (2009). An organization's capacity for innovation is determined by its resources and reconstruction to achieve innovation goals Li and Sukpasjaroen (2024). This concludes the last hypothesis of this study,

H4: Effectuation positively mediates the relationship between entrepreneurial, inventive passion and product and service innovativeness, and thus developed the study conceptual framework.

Figure 1: Theoretical Framework and Conceptual Diagram



Methodology

Table 1: Research Instru	ment and Reliability St	tatistics
Construct	Source	Item Statement
Inventive Passion	Cardon et al. (2013)	Owning my own company energizes me
Product innovativeness	Cui & Wu (2017)	Very novel for the industry
Effectuation	Chandler et al. (2011)	Network contacts provided low-cost resources

Table 1 provides the reliability statistics of the study variables. This study has employed five point likert scale and all the variables have accepted value of more than 0.7 which is acceptable. Reliability of independent variable Entrepreneur inventive passion is $\alpha = 0.763$, reliability of the dependent variable product innovativeness is $\alpha = 0.859$, and the reliability of the mediator effectuation is $\alpha = 0.821$.

0.763
0.859
.821

Data Analysis

Table 2 shows the study demographics. Most respondents were male and fell within the age brackets of 18-35. Further, the respondents were either owners of the MSMEs or executive-level employees who better understood the business operations. Gender composition of respondents: female twenty percent and eighty percent of the respondents were male whereas sixty eight percent of the respondents were single.

Variable	Range	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Female	70.00	20.11
	Male	278.00	100.00
Age	18 to 25	178.00	51.15
	26 to 35	130.00	88.51
	36 to 45	16.00	93.10
	46 to 55	21.00	99.14
	55 or above	3.00	100.00
Marital Status	Single	239.00	68.68
	Married	109.00	100.00
Designation	Owner	158.00	45.40
	EL	57.00	61.78
	GM	71.00	82.18
	FM	35.00	92.24
	FLM	27.00	100.00

Table 3 depicts the value of skewness and kurtosis. The value of skewness is within the range of -3 to +3 which shows data is asymmetrical. Whereas, the values of gender is showing negative sign which shows it is negatively skewed; as because more than 75 percent of the respondents were male. Kurtosis is the measure of degree of peakness of the frequency distribution. The results of kurtosis is also within the range and asymmetrical at the level of three. More than +3 signify positive kurtosis and, less than -2 negative kurtosis. All the values of the items are within range besides education which is 18.65 which indicates that most of the respondents were educated at the level of graduate.

Items	Skewness	Kurtosis
Education	3.188	18.654
Industry	1.312	.408
Designation	.750	654
Total Experience	.999	.096
Your Age	1.508	2.120
Gender	-1.498	.244
Marital Status	.809	-1.353

Table 4: Statistic-- Skewness and Kurtosis

Correlations

The correlation of the variables is illustrated in correlation table 4. The study independent variable entrepreneurs' inventive passion has a positive and significant correlation with the dependent variable Product *innovativeness at* .449^{**}, and with the mediator effectuation.409^{**}. The dependent variable Product innovativeness has a positive and significant correlation with mediator effectuation at .455^{**.} The correlation results show that inventive passion is positively correlated with product innovativeness and effectuation. Effectuation is also positively correlated with product and service innovativeness.

Items	EP Invt	Prd Invt	Effectuation
E. Passion Inventive	1		
Product Innovativeness	.449**	1	
Effectuation	.409**	.455**	1

Regression Analysis

Hypotheses Tests

This study used the Andrew Hays process model 4.2 to run the mediation analysis of independent variable entrepreneur experience on dependent variable product innovativeness, this process made it

more effective than other software. Table 5 model summary, the model is significant at the P value is .000, the correlation R is .449 which is strong and change in the model R^2 is .2017 and positive; the model is fit for interpretation.

Table 5: Model Summary					
R ²	F	$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{f}^1$	Df ²	Р	
0.2017	87.143	1.000	345.000	0.000	
	odel Summa R ² 0.2017	R2 F 0.2017 87.143	R2 F Df1 0.2017 87.143 1.000	R ² F Df ¹ Df ² 0.2017 87.143 1.000 345.000	

Table 6 shows the direct, indirect and total effect of the study variables. The direct effect of entrepreneurs' inventive passion on dependent variable product innovativeness shows an impact of .3285 on the dependent variable product innovativeness and the results are significant, T value 6.342 and upper level and lower-level confidence interval is also in the same direction, hence it can be concluded that hypothesis H1: Entrepreneur inventive passion has a positive relationship with product innovativeness. The data shows a strong effect of independent variable entrepreneur inventive passion on product innovativeness that is bringing 32 percent change in dependent variable which concludes the acceptance of the study second hypothesis H2: Entrepreneur inventive passion has a positive relationship with effectuation.

The indirect effect or the mediation analysis show mediation is occurring. The effect of the mediation is 0.1384 and the result is significant. The effect of the mediation increases the total effect to 13.8 percent which concludes that effectuation increases the effect of entrepreneur inventive passion for the product innovativeness. Hence it can be claimed that study hypothesis H3: Effectuation has a positive effect on Product innovativeness and H4: Effectuation mediates the relationship of entrepreneur inventive passion and product innovativeness is accepted. The total effect also reflects that there is an increase 14 percent in the total effect which increases from 32.85 to 46.7 percent. The regression analysis confirms the hypotheses, showing that inventive passion has a significant positive relationship with product innovativeness and effectuation, and that effectuation mediates the relationship between inventive passion and product innovativeness.

Ta	Fable 6: Direct, Indirect and Total effect of X on Y							
	Direct, Indirect and Total effect							
		Effect	Т	Р	LLCI	ULCI		
	Direct effect	.3285	6.3437	0.0000	.2267	0.4304		
	Indirect effect	.1384			0.0766	0.2125		
	Total Effect	.4670	9.3350	0.0000	.3686	0.5653		

Discussion

The study aimed to empirically examine our proposed mediation model of the nexus of inventive passion, product and service innovativeness and effectuation process. The study research questions the impact of an entrepreneur's inventive passion on product innovativeness and the mediation of the effectuation process on the relationship between an entrepreneur's inventive passion and product and

service innovativeness. This study aligns with the previous research by Abdullah et al. (2024). Entrepreneurial individuals typically possess a self-motivated and independent mindset centered on innovation. Entrepreneurial passion has been related to radical innovation among businesses (Kiani et al., 2020). The study has found a strong relationship between the entrepreneur's inventive passion and product and service innovativeness. The direct effect, where the impact of the independent variable entrepreneurial inventive passion was regressed on the dependent variable product and service innovativeness, is found to be strong. The beta value is .3285, which shows a direct impact of 32.85 per cent, and the research model is relatively robust in bringing a 33 per cent change in the dependent variable. The study further identified the mediation effect as 13.84 per cent, which increased the total effect from 32.85 to 46.7 per cent. The overall effect of the model is powerful; the study endorses previous authors Sarasvathy (2024) that the effectual process increases the probability of innovation; Xu et al. (2024), the entrepreneurial networks-effectuation-BMI association was more substantial in highly dynamic environments; the effectuation connects the entrepreneurial experience to product and service innovation Ahmed et al. (2024).

Managerial and Practical Implications

The findings of this study have significant implications for entrepreneurs and policymakers seeking to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. The results suggest that cultivating inventive passion and engaging in effectual behavior can increase product innovativeness. The study also highlights the importance of experimentation and learning in innovation. Passion drives innovation; hence, passion intricacies must be learned and taught to young entrepreneurs through workshops, seminars and mentoring at the universities.

Future research should explore the nuances of these relationships and their implications for innovation and entrepreneurship. Future research could be conducted on the ingrained dimensions of the effectuation, i.e. how each dimension impacts the product and service innovativeness. The survey method was used to gather respondents' views. Future studies could employ the qualitative study of the effectuation process, which can lead to better insights.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study contributes to understanding the complex relationships between inventive passion, effectuation, and product innovativeness. The findings suggest entrepreneurs should cultivate inventive passion and engage in effectual behaviour to increase product innovativeness. Moreover, the situations that concern the relationship between resource orchestration and product innovation need further investigation. The present research informs, extends, and encourages entrepreneurs to utilize multiple resource orchestration with suppliers and other stakeholders to assist their firms in integrating their network through the framework provided by the elements of effectuation to be a source of competitive advantage through product and service innovation. SMEs are predominantly resource-constrained, and their chances of success can be enhanced through an inventiveness echo system. This echo system can be developed through compelling logic of effectuation through internal and external partnerships and networks. The effectual logic enables the SMEs to scale their risk-taking and experimentation and develop an inventive culture and echo system in the dynamic and uncertain environment.

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