

≈ SUMMARY ≈

ASSESSING THE TEAM ROLE PREFERENCES OF WOULD-BE ENTREPRENEURS

*David A. Robinson & Jeremy Hayllar
Queensland University of Technology*

Principal Topic

Dr. Meredith Belbin's textbook 'Making teams work' (date) identifies nine distinct team role types. Although all team role types are present in any one individual, each person has a natural preference for one or more team role. Much has been written about the personality traits of 'would-be entrepreneurs', but little is said about their team role preferences. As Dr. Belbin has determined a set of norms that depict the spread of team role preferences across the United Kingdom, it is now possible to analyse individuals' team role preferences and then compare a specific group of individuals against those norms. This research seeks to identify whether or not the particular preferences of Australian 'would-be entrepreneurs' are in any way different from the norm. The sample frame is MBA students pursuing the entrepreneurship stream at QUT's Brisbane Graduate School of Business.

Methodology

Dr. Belbin's Team Role Preferences questionnaire was administered to [number of] volunteer participants conforming to the sample frame, and these were then analysed with the use of Interplace software. Results were compared to the norms established by Dr. Belbin, based on managers in the United Kingdom.

Results

This research enhances our knowledge of the team role preferences of would-be entrepreneurs, thereby providing a basis for the effective teaching and nurturing of entrepreneurial skills. It makes a contribution to the debate surrounding the supposed dichotomy between traditional management orientations and entrepreneurial orientation, first promulgated by Stevenson (1983). Furthermore, the realisation that team role preference may be a significant factor in choosing whether to become an entrepreneur or not opens the door to the early detection of entrepreneurial orientations and possibly to appropriately designed styles of knowledge transfer.

CONTACT: David A Robinson. Queensland University of Technology. Tel: 07 3864 4008,
Email: da.robinson@qut.edu.au