# TECHNOPRENEURIAL INTENTION AMONG PRACTICING ENTREPRENEURS IN SRI LANKA

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**Abstract** - Since from the human civilization, Entrepreneurship has been played a significant role in taking mankind and the society forward. At present, we are in the technological era, and entrepreneurship in the technological stream is the way forward. Hence, the intention towards technology entrepreneurship is very much imperative and many researchers tend to find the factors affecting technopreneurial intention. Thus, the main objective of this research was to determine the factors that affect technopreneurial intention among practicing entrepreneurs who have registered for educational programs at Small and Medium Enterprise Development Support Unit (SMEDSU) attached to the Department of Entrepreneurship, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. The specific objectives were to assess the impact of Attitudes (AT), Subjective Norms (SN) and Perceived Behavioral Control (PBC) on Technopreneurial Intention (TI) of practicing Entrepreneurs.Another objective was to investigate the effect of Gender as a moderator in the AT, SN and PBC relationships with TI. A model was developed for the study adopting the variables of Theory of Planned Behaviour to assess the relationships mentioned in the objectives. The population is 305 registered practicing entrepreneurs at SMEDSU.Self-administered questionnaires were distributed among 105 practicing entrepreneurs on random basis and 05 questionnaires were rejected due to incomplete information. Accordingly, 100 questionnaires were used in the final analysis.The data were analyzed with Partial Least Squares (PLS) using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) in Smart PLS 3. The study found astatistically significant, positive and moderate strength relationship between AT and TI as well as PBC and TI while no statistically significant relationship found between SN and TI. Further, the results of the study revealed that Gender did not act as a moderator in the said relationships.

**Keywords** - Techno-entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Intention, Theory of Planned Behaviour, Partial Least Squares (PLS), Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)