

**Examining the effectiveness of the National Self-Employment Training Program
(2019-2022) in developing entrepreneurial skills to set up and/or sustain
enterprises in Jordan.**

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Declaration

As the author of this paper, I declare that this thesis presented for the degree of Master of Business Administration is an original report of my research and has been written by me. Due references have been provided on all supporting literatures and resources. I also confirm that this work has not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification.

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Abstract

The economy of Jordan has been affected by geopolitical, socioeconomic, and social factors resulting from inter-regional or internal conflicts. This led to significant increases in poverty and unemployment rates, especially after the effects of Covid-19 as well. With the decrease in foreign investment, the need emerged to encourage local investment in small and medium enterprises to create new job opportunities. The National Self-Employment Program “Inhad” was launched in 2019 as one of the government’s efforts to raise the capacity of entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses.

Small and medium businesses (SMEs) make up a large part of the private sector in Jordan’s economy. Thus, resources are being exhausted on training programs such as “Inhad” to support entrepreneurs. However, this has not led to higher success rates for SMEs nor a noticeable decrease in unemployment rates which stand at an alarming rate of 23.1% in 2022.

This research attempts to identify the effectiveness of the National Self-Employment Program “Inhad” on developing the entrepreneurial skills of participants to start or grow their own businesses. Through applying a positivism research philosophy and using a mono method quantitative study model, this research aims to verify how effective are the training activities offered by the program in developing entrepreneurial skills to start and maintain SMEs.

An interview was conducted with the program management to understand the program’s aims and structures. It is divided into four stages: training, economic feasibility study, financing, and guidance. Demographic data was collected about the 1312 participants who took part in the program from 2019 till 2022, out of which 17% participated in the email survey.

Confirmed using SPSS, the research found no correlation of statistical value between the variables concerning entrepreneurial and leadership training and maintaining the continuity and success of the small enterprises established by the trainees.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial training; entrepreneurial behavior, entrepreneurial intentions, learning environment; Business incubators.