

Nurturing Women's Entrepreneurship: perspectives from the UK and GCC

Dr. Najma Taqi – Arab Open University

Dr Safia Barikzai – LSBU

Linsey Cole – LSBU



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

Overview

- Share outcomes of two studies into women's entrepreneurship
 - **Identify attitudes**
 - **Understand the challenges**
 - **Comparison between UK and GCC**
- Share best practice identified
- Make pledges for future work to support under-represented groups



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

London South Bank University



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

London South Bank University

Total students 17,734

Mode of study



59% Full time

41% Part time

Gender split



57% Female

43% Male

90% UK

3% Other EU

7% Non EU

Age breakdown



Ethnic origin

44% White

40% BME

16% Not known



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

London
South Bank
University

Arab Open University, Bahrain



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



**London
South Bank
University**

EST 1892

Arab Open University, Bahrain

1996: Official Opening

HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz President of the Arab Gulf Development Programme (AGFUND)

2002: AOU strategic partnership with Open University, United Kingdom

Quick Facts:

AOU GCC countries: Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Headquarter: Kuwait

23000 students

12,000 graduates

50% female graduates



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University

Nurturing Women: Igniting passion for entrepreneurship @LSBU

- Funded by Enterprise Education Research Project Fund
- Aim: “identify areas where we can increase enterprise and entrepreneurial engagement and in particular to encourage female entrepreneurs at LSBU to take their business ideas further.”
- How?
 - Create bespoke enterprise education interventions that better support under-represented groups at LSBU
 - Engage students in research activities
 - Produce a blueprint for engaging female students in entrepreneurship activities
 - Pilot a sector-specific peer support group



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

LSBU Activities

1. Identify challenges and barriers for STEM students

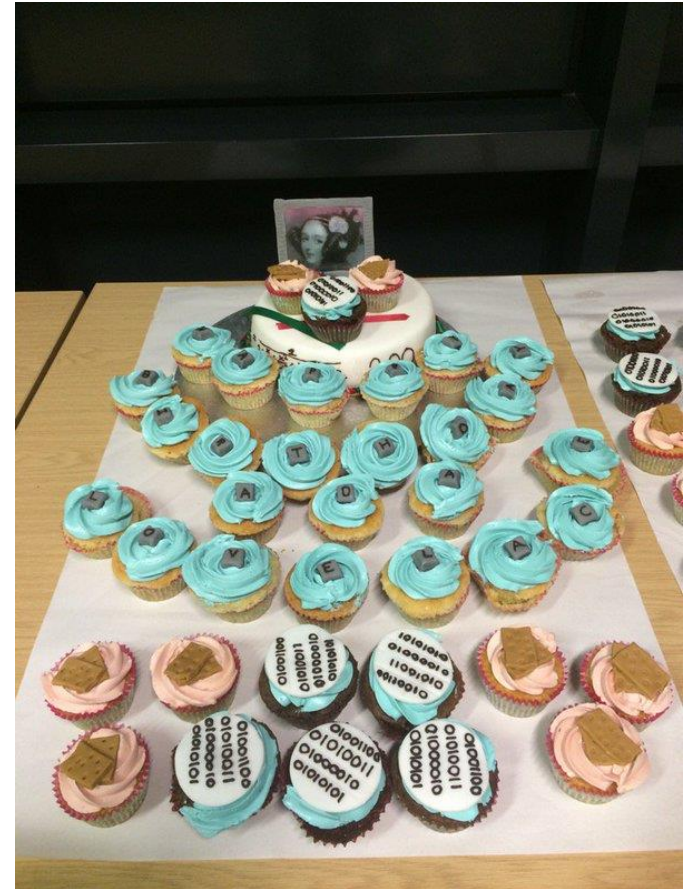
- Survey
 - 87 students completed the survey (22 females and 65 males)
 - Response rate of 12%.
 - Results:
 - Two thirds were aware of Student Enterprise at LSBU (60%)
 - Despite the small sub-sample sizes, it was evident that females were less likely to attend SE activities at LSBU than males.
 - Nearly two thirds would like to run their own business in the future (63%), and interestingly a greater proportion of females than males stated this, 82% compared with 57% respectively.
- Three focus groups
 - Two with engaged female STEM students and one with engaged male STEM students
 - Valuable insight into importance of role models for female students



LSBU Activities

2. STEMM Pilot

- Focus on the School of Engineering: most marked difference in terms of female/male student ratios.
- Delivered activities to raise awareness
 - IP activities embedded in the curriculum
 - Birthday celebration for Ada Lovelace (first female programmer)
 - New interdisciplinary work: Games Jam and a Wellbeing App.



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

LSBU Activities

3. Developing peer support Entrepreneurs Network

- Subject specific networking opportunities: 'Diversity in Engineering' event
- 2016-17: 29th October during Black History Month.



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

LSBU Activities

4. Raise awareness

- Nathu Puri Institute (NPI) aims to 'be an international centre of excellence for fostering innovation and enterprise in engineering education and practice'.
- Secured funding to revamp the Nathu Puri portal summer 2016 with student interns
- Interns will:
 - create enterprise case studies
 - showcase best practice and promote events with a view to raising awareness of entrepreneurship within the School of Engineering and beyond



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

LSBU Outcomes

- Student engagement in enterprise activities increased: engaged with over 5,000 students (approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student population)
- Increased proportion of female students taking part in our start-up an accelerator programmes
 - 2015/16, there were 45 participants in our start-up programmes, of which 20 were female (44%).
 - An increase of 10% when compared to 2014/15.
 - In 2016/17, first female President of South Bank Entrepreneurs (SBE)



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) Study

Doctoral Study – Quick Facts

- Large sample size of female entrepreneurs operating in GCC countries
- Survey: 412 women approached, 397 completed online survey
- Interviews: 54 consented to interview but only 24 completed
- Communications sent by the entrepreneur networks
- Almost ALL female entrepreneurs were native to GCC (Support for International entrepreneurs not available at present)
- 65% of the women were married

Work family interface

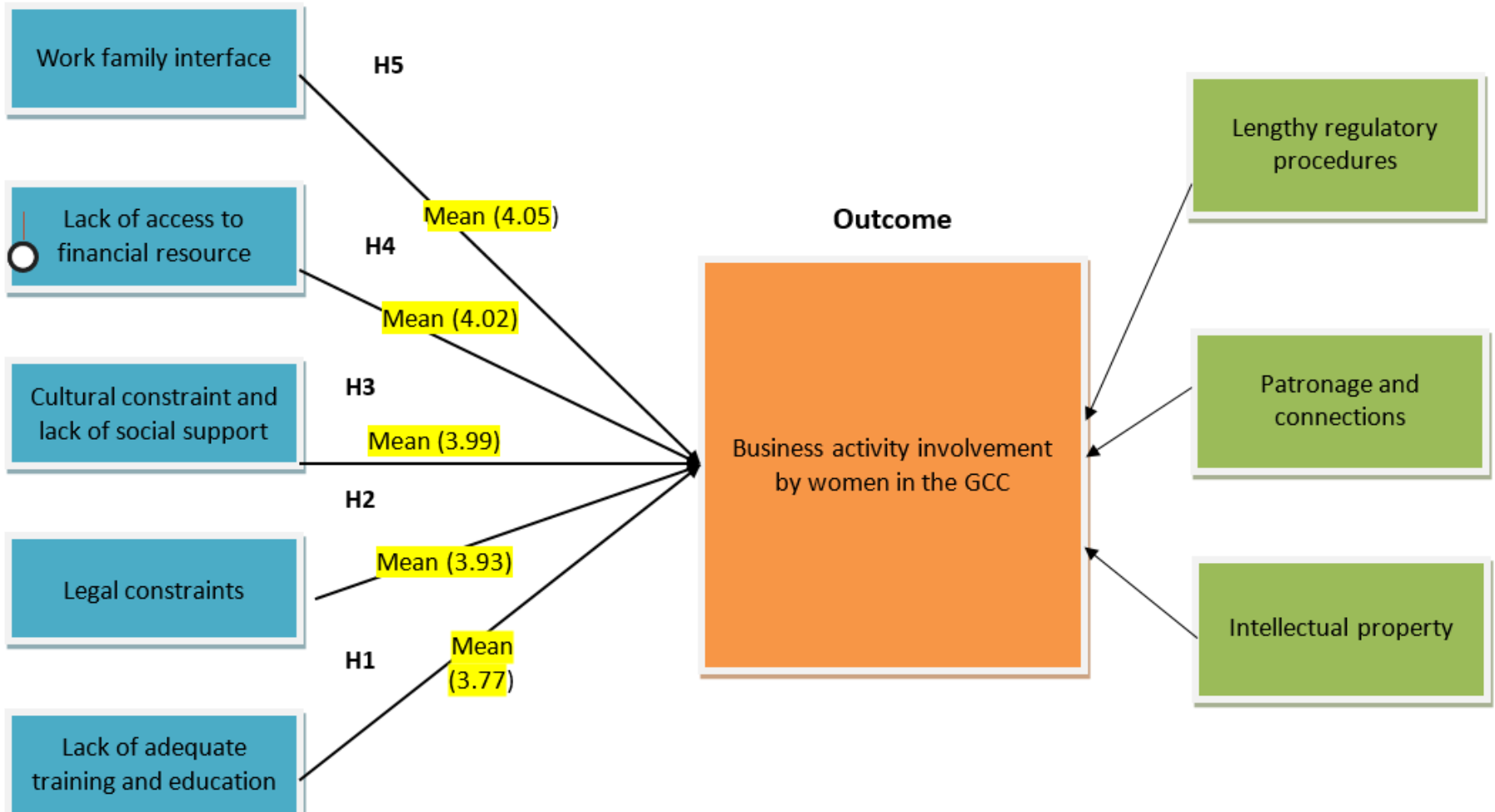
Lack of access to financial resource

Cultural constraint and lack of social support

Legal constraints

Lack of adequate training and education

GCC Outcomes





الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

Future Collaborations

UK & Bahrain

NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN.



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**

Contact us

Dr. Najma Taqi

Najma.taqi@aou.org.bh

Dr Safia Barikzai

safia.barikzai@lsbu.ac.uk

Linsey Cole

l.cole@lsbu.ac.uk



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة
Arab Open University



EST 1892

**London
South Bank
University**