25/05/22

Professor Maryann Feldman  
Editor

Research Policy

Subject: Response to Referee Report on MS. Ref. No.: RESPOL-D-20-00402R3  
Title: Accelerators as a Tool for Enhancing Female Entrepreneurship

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to submit our revised manuscript, entitled “Accelerators as a Tool for Enhancing Female Entrepreneurship,” authored by Eyal Rechter and myself, after making considerable revisions following the reviewers’ comments on our last draft.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our reviewers. It is evident that they have significant expertise in the relevant material. While the review process was very challenging it was crucial in developing the paper. We are grateful for their commitment to the process and their meaningful help in improving the manuscript.

The main issue in the reviewers’ last round of comments was strengthening the empirical work and its interpretation. We addressed this issue with two main changes:

1. Increasing the focus on our initial regression analyses.
2. Adding mediation analyses to gain a better understanding of the confounding factors which might explain the gender difference we present in the paper.

It is important to mention that while we do present now a much deeper analysis of the confounding factors that explain gender differences, we still believe, following Elam (2008), that even though after controlling for background conditions most gender differences disappear, our findings are crucial for better understanding potential mechanisms for closing the gender gap in entrepreneurship, as men and women founders typically do not find themselves in similar circumstances (or with similar background conditions). Thus, we assert that our findings have significant policy implications and are of great interest to academic scholars, policy makers, and participants of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

We also want to thank you for recognizing the potential of the paper and giving us several opportunities to improve the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Gil Avnimelech, PhD