



Office of Research, Impact and Postgraduate Studies

Small, Micro, and Medium-sized Enterprise (SMME) Business Growth in Trinidad and Tobago’s Manufacturing

presents a **Postgraduate Seminar** titled

Small, Micro, and Medium-sized Enterprise (SMME) Business Growth in Trinidad and Tobago’s Manufacturing

by **Mr Mitra Ramkhelawan**

Small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises (SMME) play a consequential role in balancing and transforming the economy of many developing nations. Previous economic research pertaining to businesses was mainly focused on larger corporations employing economies of scale. Further investigation revealed that SMMEs are now being emphasised due to the substantive, innovative solutions they offer to countries’ economic problems. However, most SMMEs are unable to operate at their full potential due to many challenges they may face.

A small business in a supportive environment with better access to the required resources has a greater chance of expansion. Although there are many programmes and resources available to all businesses who operate in the local, regional and international arenas, there is a need to develop a small-business growth model that caters to the overall climate of Trinidad and Tobago.

This research would be conducted in two parts, where qualitative and quantitative research methods will be used. For Phase 1, one-on-one interviews with a few established business owners would be conducted. The results from these interviews would be used to structure Phase 2 – questionnaires. These would be used to determine which factors contributed to the growth of the local business via an online survey. These participants would be registered, small-business owners within the manufacturing sector.

This study’s main emphasis is to identify the challenges local, small businesses face in advancing within the manufacturing sector so that a country-specific model for small business development can be established. Therefore, it is anticipated that this research may produce noteworthy benefits to the business community by pinpointing the exact needs of small business owners. Once identified, specific training curriculum or seminars may be developed and/or modified to encourage and educate entrepreneurs. Additionally, it is hoped that the relevant policy makers and organisations use the findings to offer grants and funding that are specifically geared toward the manufacturing sector and the needs of the local market. The additional funds would not only be a benefit to the business owner, but to the wider economy as employment would be generated and revenue increased.



Mr MITRA RAMKHELAWAN is a serial entrepreneur. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) focusing on small business growth and development within Trinidad and Tobago’s manufacturing sector.

Mitra has over forty years’ experience in the fields of project management, construction, and medical supplies. He is also President and Chairman of various boards and associations, both locally and internationally. He possesses a wealth of knowledge from his time spent in academic at local and international institutes. Aside from his certifications, he has a Master of Business Administration and Masters of Law from Anglia Ruskin University.

His study applies the factors of small business growth to local entrepreneurs within the manufacturing sector. This research aims to develop a local framework for assisting entrepreneurs with moving their businesses from small to large-scale enterprises.

Wednesday 4th December, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

zoom | **CLICK HERE** to register