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#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

# VALUE CREATION NETWORKING DIMENSION DOMINATION ON ENTREPRENEURIAL MARKETING BEHAVIOR: A PERSPECTIVE OVERVIEW OF COMPANIES MANAGED BY FOUNDERS AND PROFESSIONALS

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ABSTRACT – The aim of this study is to fill the gap in the study of Entrepreneurial Marketing behavior. Previous studies are found to be insufficient in determining the most dominant dimension that contributes to the differences in entrepreneurial marketing behavior when implemented in companies with certain characteristics. Entrepreneurial marketing dimension in this study focuses on Growth Orientation, Opportunity Orientation, Total customer focus, Value creation Networking, Informal Market Analysis, Closeness to The Market, and whether those factors result in differences in the behavior of founders and professionals in managing companies. The study was conducted on 406 business owners in 8 provinces in Indonesia. Snowball sampling was used to select the respondents from the overall company population in Indonesia, be it services or manufacturing company. The result of the study indicates that lower Entrepreneurial Marketing behavior is found in companies managed by founders compared to companies managed by professionals. This study also contributes to findings on Value Creation Networking dimension that is proven to be the most dominant dimension in influencing Entrepreneurial Marketing behavior, be it for founders or professionals in managing companies.

#### **ARTICLE HISTORY**

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#### **KEYWORDS**

Entrepreneurial Marketing Growth Orientation Opportunity Orientation Total Customer Focus Value Creation Networking Informal Market Analysis Closeness to The Market

# **INTRODUCTION**

Entrepreneurial Marketing (EM) as a research field was first developed in the 1980s, whereas the domain of EM at that time has yet to become a well-known research field. EM began as an intercept between marketing and entrepreneurship and integrated into a general concept that frequently appears in research on marketing as well as entrepreneurship (Morris et al., 2002). At the development stage, there were plenty of discussions on the pros and cons of EM. One of the reasons for the EM concept to surface is it acts as a critique of the customer-centric model on marketing that results in a lack of innovation. This situation has resulted in process, product, and service replication that are relatively similar, and not as an innovative result (Sheth et al., 1991). EM approach can proactively make use of innovation and help manage risk in the process of product creation, communication, and value for customers (Miles and Darroch, 2006).

EM research has resulted in thoughts of EM as a marketing practice that helps companies to operate in a fast-changing environment. Previous studies contributed to identifying several EM behavior characteristics, such as decision-making (Carson and Grant, 1998), resources decision making (Thomas et al., 2013), decision based on intuition and experience (Hills and Singh, 1998), focus on opportunity identification, flexible approach to market and exploiting smaller market niche (Stasch, 1999). The aforementioned studies have justified that EM behavior is proven to be different in companies managed with different styles and approaches. The conclusion is based on several initial research that shows startup companies are more successful in executing entrepreneurial marketing. Similarly, big companies will be more successful in executing entrepreneurial marketing.

The majority of EM research is usually conducted using a case study approach, in which although the result will give a detailed illustration of company experiences, it can't be generalized in various samples with certain characteristics. Several studies were also not focusing on researching which dimension is more dominant and contributes to entrepreneurial marketing behavior when implemented in companies with different company management characteristics. The study aims to fill this gap by analyzing EM dimensions in companies managed by founders compared to companies managed by professionals. Contribution expected of this study in the development of EM knowledge is how big is the difference in the implementation of entrepreneurial marketing behavior between companies with different managing subjects (founders or professionals), as well as which dimension is dominant in contributing to entrepreneurial marketing behavior in companies managed by both founders in comparison to professionals.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

## **Entrepreneurial marketing dimension**

According to Kraus et al (2012), EM is defined as an organizational function and a set of processes to create innovation, communicate, and give value to customers, as well as manage the relationship with customers in a way that benefits the organization and its shareholders. This is indicated by innovation, risk-taking, proactive measures, and can also be done without resources that are currently owned by the organizations. Various combinations of EM dimensions have also been frequently researched in various studies. Though fragmented, several researchers have collectively shaped the EM paradigm (Collinson & Shaw, 2001; Jones & Rowley, 2011). Morris et al (2002) developed 7 core dimensions in EM, which are: proactiveness, calculated risk-taking, innovativeness, opportunity focus, resource leveraging, costumer intensity, and value creation. These dimensions differentiate the EM approach from the traditional marketing approach. However, the dimensions used in this study are taken from Morris et al (2002) and several other studies. These dimensions are Growth Orientation, Opportunity Orientation, Total customer focus, Value creation Networking, Informal Market Analysis, Closeness to The Market.

#### **Growth orientation**

Marketers in general have a long-term goal to achieve sales growth through a long-term relationship in their marketing activities (Kilenthong et.al, 2015). On the other hand, EM is always related to growth. Marketer ambition to grow the company will decide the company business model, competitive strategy, and resource management strategy of the company. In order to facilitate growth, marketers can adopt several ways to develop their businesses, including increasing repeating business and creating a community of customers who are dedicated and loyal to the products.

## **Opportunity orientation**

Companies can be considered as an entity that is constantly trying to find new ways to improve product and services offered with a number of risks entailed (Becherer et al., 2008). Opportunity is a source of continuous profit for companies. The availability of opportunity is highly related to the level of change in the environment which is an indication for marketers to always look for and discover the said opportunity (Hacioglu et.al, 2012). Even though opportunities can appear randomly, EM is known to proactively seek new opportunities. EM puts emphasis on pursuing opportunity while still taking into consideration existing resources. Innovation and creativity are important processes in helping EM to turn opportunity into reality. Companies that adopt EM often focus on creating a new product category and directing their customers using unsustainable innovation. Note that innovation is not only limited to products or services but also includes the marketing process and strategy.

## **Total customer focus**

Marketers integrate their customers into their operation and regularly accepts recommendations from their customers. Customer preferences directly affect and play an important role in determining product approach, price, distribution, and communication of a company. EM behavior prioritizes customer preferences using a very focused and flexible approach and can be adjusted to the market. EM behavior allows companies in making new promises to customers, modifying their product design, and changing their prices to give the most satisfactory product or service to their customers (Becherer et al., 2008; Morris et al., 2002). EM makes customers their top priority and treats customers as active participants in the process of marketing decision making.

#### Value creation networking

Resources from the network can help companies manage their risk and allocate their resources more efficiently. Note that the entrepreneurial marketer network is not only limited to suppliers and customers but also includes competitors. Through competitors, companies can also gain knowledge and resources that are previously not owned (Gilmore, Carson & Grant, 2001). Value creation through a network is an important concept in EM. EM gathers market information and gains access to potential customers through their network (Kilenthong et.al, 2015). Information from the network can also help marketers to offer high-quality products with the best quality to the customers to gain a competitive advantage against the competitors.

#### Informal market analysis

Marketers have the tendency to not conduct research in the formal market since they believe that they gain intuitive and useful understanding about their market from discussions and various informal information collected from their customers (Li et.al, 2009). Marketing decisions under EM do not always depend on a formal planning process (Hills & Hultman, 1999). A company marketing strategy can be initiated and adjusted during implementation. Entrepreneurial marketers often follow their intuition in making marketing decisions and consider intuitive assessment as a very important aspect in assessing market potential.

# Closeness to the market

Several EM practitioners rely on experience when deciding on new products and services because they believe that experience helps make competent marketing decisions (Kilenthong et.al, 2015). EM often has a decision-making process

that is closely related to customers. They make decisions based on customers' feedbacks or information received from direct interactions or face-to-face conversations with customers. A marketer can gather information about the market through the relationship with supplier and sales partner, and changes in customers' preferences. This information enables them to implement marketing strategy and communication more effectively.

## **Hypotheses**

Experience, value, and personality of the top management not only affect management decisions, but also structure, function, and company performance (Hambrick & Mason, 1984; Randoy & Goel, 2003). Previous studies have proven that professionals have several entrepreneurial qualities at a higher level compared to company founders. These qualities include self effectiveness in creating innovation, entrepreneurial competence and commitment, needs and accomplishments, tendency to take risks, and tolerance towards ambiguity (Erikson, 2002). Company founders are also reported to behave differently from professionals when deciding since they tend to be biased in decision making and heuristic as opposed to professionals (Busenitz & Barney, 1997). Based on these studies, it was shown that professionals are more entrepreneurial compared to founders, and EM behavior is more common in companies operated by professionals compared to companies managed by founders. In relation to this statement, several hypotheses are proposed as follows:

- H1. Companies managed by professionals have higher entrepreneurial marketing behavior level compared to companies managed by founders
- H2. Value creation networking dimension is more dominant in companies managed by founders than companies managed by professionals

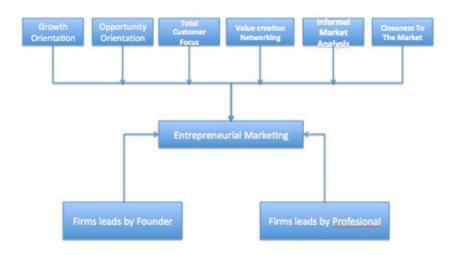


Figure 1. Conceptual model

Source: Processed by Researcher, 2019

## **METHODOLOGY**

#### Research methodology

This research was conducted using a quantitative approach, since the systematical calculation of the difference between EM behavior in companies managed by founders and managed by professionals is needed, and also to determine the most dominant entrepreneurial dimension in entrepreneurial marketing behavior in companies managed by founders and managed by professionals. Both objectives emphasize hypothesis testing by using a statistical tool and trying to draw generalized conclusions.

The population of this study consists of 8 provinces in Indonesia (East Java, Central Java, West Java, Special Region of Yogyakarta, South Sumatra, Bali, South Sulawesi, South Kalimantan). Snowball sampling was used to determine the selected respondents. The sample in this study consists of 406 business owners spread throughout 8 provinces in Indonesia. Companies managed by founders are defined as companies with the majority or full control in the hands of the owners, whereby companies managed by professionals are companies that the founders have entrusted the management to professionals. The analysis techniques used to test the hypotheses proposed are t-test testing and multiple regression.

# Research model

EM behavior is a dependent variable in this study. Independent variables are categorized based on EM dimensions which are growth orientation, closeness to market, value creation through networking, and informal market analysis. Five points Likert scale was used in the questionnaire which is agree, slightly agree, disagree, slightly disagree, or strongly disagree.

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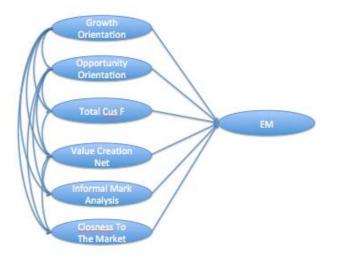


Figure 2. Research model

Source: Processed by Researcher, 2019

## **Respondents descriptions**

The 406 companies in the sample are described in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Respondents descriptions

## **Descriptions of Respondents**

Respondents consist of 280 (68.9%) companies managed by founders and 126 (31%) companies managed by professionals.

Based on the company age, 31% aged less than 5 years, 58% aged between 5-15 years, and 45% aged less than 15 years.

Based on company assets, 23% of the companies have assets between 200-500 million, 37% with assets more than 500 million to 10 billion, and 40% with assets more than 10 billion.

Based on type of industry as follows: 3% service, 10% manufacturing, 3% real estate, 7% retail, 3% medical equipment industry, 3% biotechnology, 3% refined sugar, 3% property, 3% food and beverage, 3% retail houseware, 3% coffee processing, 3% trading company, 3% hospitality, 7% freight forwarding and logistic, 3% fishery, 7% batik industry, 3% paint company, 3% agency, 7% furniture, 10% digital industry, 7% branding and graphic design.

Based on new product or service launch in the business with details as follows: 58% of the companies have launched new product or service  $\leq 2$  years, 26% of the company has launched new product or service in  $5.5 \leq 10$  years and 2% of the company has launched new product or service in  $\leq 10.5$  years. Therefore, more than half of the companies in the sample have launched a new product or service in less than 2 years.

96% of the sample strongly agrees to appreciate all processes related to innovation and only 4% slightly disagrees or disagrees with the innovation process.

In addition, respondents' answers to each question in the questionnaire can be seen in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Respondents' responses mean and standard deviation

Indicator	Question	Mean	Std.
			Deviation
G1	Long term growth is more important than immediate gain	4.5	0.7593
G2	Our main purpose is to grow the business	4.633	0.5405
G3	We aggressively try to expand our customer base	4.1601	0.9514
O1	We keep searching for new business opportunities	4.4113	0.73419
O2	Our marketing effort leads the customer, and not to respond	3.4704	1.33809
O3	Adding innovative product or service is very important to our success	4.5	0.73954
O4	Creativity stimulates good marketing decision	4.5739	0.65032
T1	Majority of our marketing decisions is based on what we learnt from daily contact with the customers	4.2833	0.80189
T2	Our customers require us to act flexibly and according to their specific needs	4.0739	0.97851
T3	Everyone in this company make customers their main priority	4.5123	0.71912
T4	We adjust ourselves quickly to fulfill our customers' everchanging expectations	4.4532	0.67515
V1	We learn from our competitors	4.4039	0.81612
V2	We use our friends and main industry partners extensively to help us in developing and marketing our products and services	4.2931	0.86084
V3	Majority of our marketing decisions is based on information exchange with people in our personal and professional network	4.1897	0.81103
I1	Introducing new product or service usually only involves limited research and formal market analysis	3.1059	1.41635
I2	Our marketing decisions are based more on informal customer feedback rather than formal market research	3.4631	1.16634
I3	It is important to rely on intuition when making marketing decision	3.2217	1.25122
C1	Customer demands are usually the reason why we introduce new product and/ or service	4.9012	0.90122
C2	We usually introduce new product and service based on the recommendation from our suppliers	4.9831	0.98316
C3	We highly rely on experience when making marketing decision	4.7436	0.74367
EM1	Growth orientation is an important factor in building business success	4.5148	0.63131
EM2	Opportunity orientation is an important factor in building business success	4.4852	0.60739
EM3	Total customer focus is an important factor in building business success	4.5	0.63148
EM4	Value Creation Through Networking is an important factor in building business success	4.5	0.67678
EM5	Informal Market Analysis is an important factor in building business success	4.3374	0.67909
EM6	Closeness To The Market is an important factor in building business success	4.4113	0.71372

Source: Data processing, 2020

Almost all responses from respondents for all questions have the mean of above 4, only the mean for the answers to opportunity orientation dimension question, which is "Our marketing effort leads the customer, and not to respond" and the three questions for all dimensions of informal analysis dimension that have the answers mean between 3 and 3.5, which includes "Introducing new product or service usually only involves limited research and formal market analysis", "Our marketing decisions are based more on informal customer feedback rather than formal market research", and "It is important to rely on intuition when making marketing decision".

# **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

## Validity and reliability test

The validity test using Pearson correlations shows that the value of calculated r is > table r, based on the significance test 0.01 (2-tailed), which means that the items above are valid. The reliability test was conducted using Cronbach's alpha

which shows the value of 0.876, higher than 0.6 which means that it is reliable and that the instrument used in the study to obtain information can be relied on as a tool to collect data and can reveal actual information in the field.

## **Hypothesis testing**

The t-test differences test is used to prove that there is a difference in the entrepreneurial marketing behavior between companies with small and large scale, based on Table 3 and Table 4 as follows.

Table 3. Group statistics

	CompSize	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
EntrMark2	Founder	280	4.3768	0.55155	0.03290
	Profesional	126	4.514	0.3806	0.03391

Source: output statistic

Table 3 shows that there are 280 (68.9%) companies managed by founders and 126 (31%) companies managed by professionals as the respondents, with a mean of 4.37 in companies managed by founders and 4.5 in companies managed by professionals. The standard deviations for the two are 0.55 and 0.38 respectively, which indicates that the respondents' responses tend to be homogeneous.

Table 4. t-test difference testing

		Levene's Test for Finality					of Variances			
Entry	Equal variances assumed Equal variances not assumed	F	Si g.	t	df	Sig. (2- tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Differen	Interv	onfidence al of the erence
Mark2									Lower	Upper
		30.541	0	-3.594	404	0.00	-0.19464	0.05416	-0.30112	-008817
				-4.116	337.749	0.00	-0.19464	0.04729	-0.28766	- 010163

**Source**: output statistic

Table 4 shows EM differences test analysis for companies managed by founders and companies managed by professionals by using Levene Test in independent t-test, Sig value (2-tailed) or p-value. In the test above, the p-value is 0.007, which is < 0.05 indicating that there is a meaningful or significant difference statistically in probability 0.05. The magnitude of the difference in mean of the two groups is -0.194. Since the value is negative, it means that the first group, which consists of companies managed by founders, has a lower mean than the group of companies managed by professionals, or companies managed by founders have lower entrepreneurial marketing behavior compared to companies managed by professionals.

As for Table 5, Table 6, and Table 7, multiple regression tests were conducted to analyze whether the six dimensions have a significant impact on entrepreneurial marketing behavior of companies managed by founders compared to companies managed by professionals.

Table 5. Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
Founder	.767ª	.588	.579	.33896
Profesional	.666a	.444	.416	.31402

Source: output statistic

Based on table 5, it shows that the R-value is 0.767 and R-squared is 0.588 for companies managed by founders, and for the group of companies managed by founders, the values are R of 0.666 and R-squared of 0.44, which shows that the percentage contribution of the impact of the independent variable (which are: Growth Orientation, Opportunity Orientation, Total customer focus, Value creation Networking, Informal Market Analysis, Closeness to The Market) on EM behavior is 58.8% for companies managed by founders, and 44.4% for companies managed by professionals.

Table 6. ANOVA

Type of Company		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Founder	Regression	9.360	6	1.560	15.821	.000b
	Residual	11.735	119	.099		
	Total	21.095	125			
	1	Residual	6	6.042	89.404	.000b
Professional	Regression	Total	178	.068		
		36.250	184			
		12.029				
		48.279				

Source: output statistic

Based on Table 6, it shows that the significant value is 0.000 for both companies managed by founders and companies managed by professionals, which means that there is a significant impact of Growth Orientation, Opportunity Orientation, Total customer focus, Value creation Networking, Informal Market Analysis, Closeness to The Market simultaneously towards EM behavior of companies managed by founders as well as companies managed by professionals.

Tabel 7. Coefficient

Type of Company	Unstandardized Coefficients		Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.	
туре от Сошрану	<b>B</b> Foun	Pro	Foun Pro	Beta Foun	Pro	Foun Pro	Foun Pro	
(Constant)	2.606	0.983	0.33 0.164			7.898 6.01	0	
GrowthOrient1	0.248	0.165	0.167 0.051	0.267	0.194	1.49 3.227	0.139 0.001	
OpportunityOrient2	-0.324	0.053	0.137 0.055	-0.516	0.061	-2.371 0.976	0 0.33	.019
TotasCustFocus3	0.082	0.065	0.072 0.044	0.128	0.087	1.15 1.463	0.253 0.145	
ValueCreationNetwork4	0.583	0.46	0.119 0.055	0.733	0.568	4.895 8.352	0.0	
InformalMarketAnalysis5	-0.055	-0.006	0.043 0.025	-0.15	-0.022	-1.268 0.012	- 0.207 0.811	
ClosnessToTheMarket6	0.076	0.006	0.102 0.057	0.117	0.341	0.743 4.682	0.459	

Table 7 shows that some of the six dimensions have a significant impact on entrepreneurial marketing behavior. In companies managed by founders, only two dimensions are significant, which are opportunity orientation and value creation networking. As for companies managed by professionals, only three dimensions are significant which are growth orientation, value creation networking, and closeness to the market, and they are significant since their significance values are less than 0.05. Value creation networking variable is also a dimension that is most dominant for companies managed by founders with a beta value of 0.583, which is similar to companies managed by professionals with a beta value of 0.46.

### **DISCUSSION**

The result of the study shows that there is a difference between entrepreneurial marketing behavior of companies managed by founders and companies managed by professionals, in which companies managed by founders have lower entrepreneurial marketing behavior compared to companies managed by professionals. The result also presents that value creation networking is the most dominant dimension for both companies managed by founders and companies managed by professionals,. Companies managed by professionals used a different approach in pursuing their market opportunity. Companies managed by professionals pursue opportunities by relying on speed, flexibility, and ability to satisfy market niche, whereas companies managed by founders pursue opportunities by relying on financial resources and human resources (Dean et al., 1998).

Companies managed by professionals have a marketing decision-making process that tends to be more opportunistic, flexible, and innovative with a clear target. Companies can improvise and make sudden changes in decision-making patterns when involved with their market. As a result, they have the ability to react faster towards changes in the

environment and a tendency to capture new opportunities at a faster pace than companies managed by founders (Carson & McCartan-Quinn, 1995; Chen & Hambrick, 1995). Companies managed by professionals have less dominant decision-makers compared to companies managed by founders. As a result, marketing decisions and strategies of companies managed by founders can be directly impacted by the decision maker's personal interest (Brush & Chaganti, 1998).

Finally, companies managed by professionals have a more flat organizational structure compared to companies managed by founders, and this makes them closer to the customers. Company personnel of all levels in professional companies has the potential to be involved in individual level and face to face interaction with customers (Carson et al, 1995). It is also relatively easy for professional companies to access market information through direct manners (Hisrich, 1992). As a result, companies managed by professionals tend to invest in building a personal relationship with their main customers to build strong contact with customers as compared to companies managed by founders (Meziou, 1991). This research also found that companies managed by professionals are more oriented towards value creation to build networking in marketing (Bjerke & Hultman, 2002)

#### **CONCLUSION**

Findings in this study prove that companies managed by founders have lower entrepreneurial marketing behavior compared to companies managed by professionals. However, companies managed by founders and professionals both show value creation networking as the most dominant dimension.

The finding in which characteristics of companies managed by founders and professionals are the suitable determining factor for EM practices gave an important theoretical contribution to the development of EM knowledge. This study also offers several implications for future studies. The result of the analysis shows that companies managed by founders are less involved in the approach with EM market dimension compared to companies managed by professionals. The findings of this study indicate that companies managed by founders do not have a well-defined market or established customer base, therefore they rely less on market demand/ market information compared to companies managed by professionals when introducing their new products. These findings imply that future studies might need to consider investigating how far EM can help mitigate the impact of responsibility on corporate novelty and to identify the best EM practice that needs to be adopted by companies so that they can be sustainable in the long run.

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