

Good essay exemplar

The following is an example of a good essay. Take note of the comments and use these tips in your own essays.

Describe the concept of indigenous entrepreneurship and how this relates to Māori economic development. Describe some of the challenges that indigenous organisations might face and specify ways to minimise these challenges.

This essay will describe indigenous entrepreneurship, its relation to Māori economic development and the challenges that indigenous organisations might face in their pursuit of social and economic aims. It begins with a description of indigenous entrepreneurship followed by a summary of Māori cultural values that underpin Māori development organisations. It concludes with a description of the challenges that indigenous organisations might face and how these organisations might minimise these challenges.

Commented [NL1]: Add signposts to give the reader an idea of what is coming up. I have three themes to cover, each indicated by the different colours below.

Hindle and Lansdowne (2002) define indigenous entrepreneurship as the creation, management and development of new ventures by indigenous people for the benefit of indigenous people within private, public or non-profit sectors. The desired or achieved benefits of venturing can range from the narrow view of economic profit for a single individual to the broad view of multiple social and economic advantages for entire communities. A significant characteristic of indigenous entrepreneurship is the fact that economic objectives are decided for indigenous people by indigenous people based on their own cultural heritage (Dana, 2007).

Commented [NL2]: Include evidence to support what you want to say.

In relation to Māori economic development, Henare (2000) suggests that Māori development organisations be underpinned by Māori cultural values such as the recognition of Te Ao Māori (Māori worldview); Tino Rangatiratanga (self-determination); equity and social wellbeing; sustainability and economic growth. Such values emphasise economic development whilst retaining a strong sense of Māori cultural identity.

Although indigenous entrepreneurship allows indigenous people to determine and pursue their own economic objectives, challenges lie in balancing social and economic development. Indigenous knowledge is often incompatible with the basic assumptions of mainstream practices where individualistic forms of economic development conflict with cultural forms of organisation that are predominantly based on kinship ties (Dana, 2007; Henare, 2005). Henare (2005) suggests that the economic worldview in relation to globalisation is dominated by the economy and the marketplace – terms that are not traditionally associated with indigenous culture. Cornell and Kalt (1988) suggest that indigenous organisations need to manage culture in a way that utilises strengths and downplays constraints without undermining cultural values. Although indigenous entrepreneurship can create challenges in reconciling conflicting ideals, indigenous culture and knowledge can also be a source of innovation (Dana, 2007).

In conclusion, indigenous entrepreneurship is a vehicle for indigenous communities to pursue social and economic benefits that are decided for indigenous people by indigenous people. Although indigenous organisations might experience challenges in pursuing dual aims, the pursuit of entrepreneurial activities can be an excellent source of innovation.

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