Entrepreneurship and the Management of Change within a Context of Sustainable Development of Small Business

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Abstract: Significant pockets of the emerging literature on small business management and development have for some time been emphasising the distinctive features and characteristics of the smaller business compared to the large well resourced organisation whose development is at least partially underpinned by an abundance of specialist management resource. It is still questionable, however, as to the extent to which this unfolding understanding is being fully acknowledged by researchers attempting to investigate a variety of small business developmental phenomena and by support providers involved in the design and delivery of small firm supply programmes.

The main premise of this paper is that the small business should be considered as a potential unique problem type distinguished by clearly identifiable qualitative as well as quantitative features which render substantial areas of the essentially large company management knowledge bases contained in main stream academic and 'how to' texts inappropriate. Underlying this premise is an urgent need to begin to tease out of such literature areas of guiding insight which do have potential application in the small firm context, and in so doing also offer understanding of what is happening in small business management practice and how this can inform adjustment of inappropriate areas of the literature.