

Bridging the Policy–Practice Gap in Digital Entrepreneurship: An Integrated Digital Mentoring Framework for Malaysian TVET

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1 INTRODUCTION

Digital entrepreneurship is increasingly shaped by AI, platform economies, and algorithm-driven ecosystems. Malaysian TVET institutions are expected to prepare graduates for these rapidly evolving environments. However, significant gaps remain between policy ambition and institutional practice.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The policy–practice gap in Malaysian TVET is not simply a resource problem, but a coordination problem. Fragmentation occurs when:

- policy remains aspirational,
- teaching becomes detached from market realities,
- ecosystem engagement remains episodic.

3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

This study proposes the Integrated Digital Mentoring Framework (IDMF) to:

- bridge the policy–practice gap,
- reposition mentoring as a meso-level coordination mechanism,
- strengthen institutional alignment across policy, pedagogy, and ecosystem integration.

4 METHODOLOGY

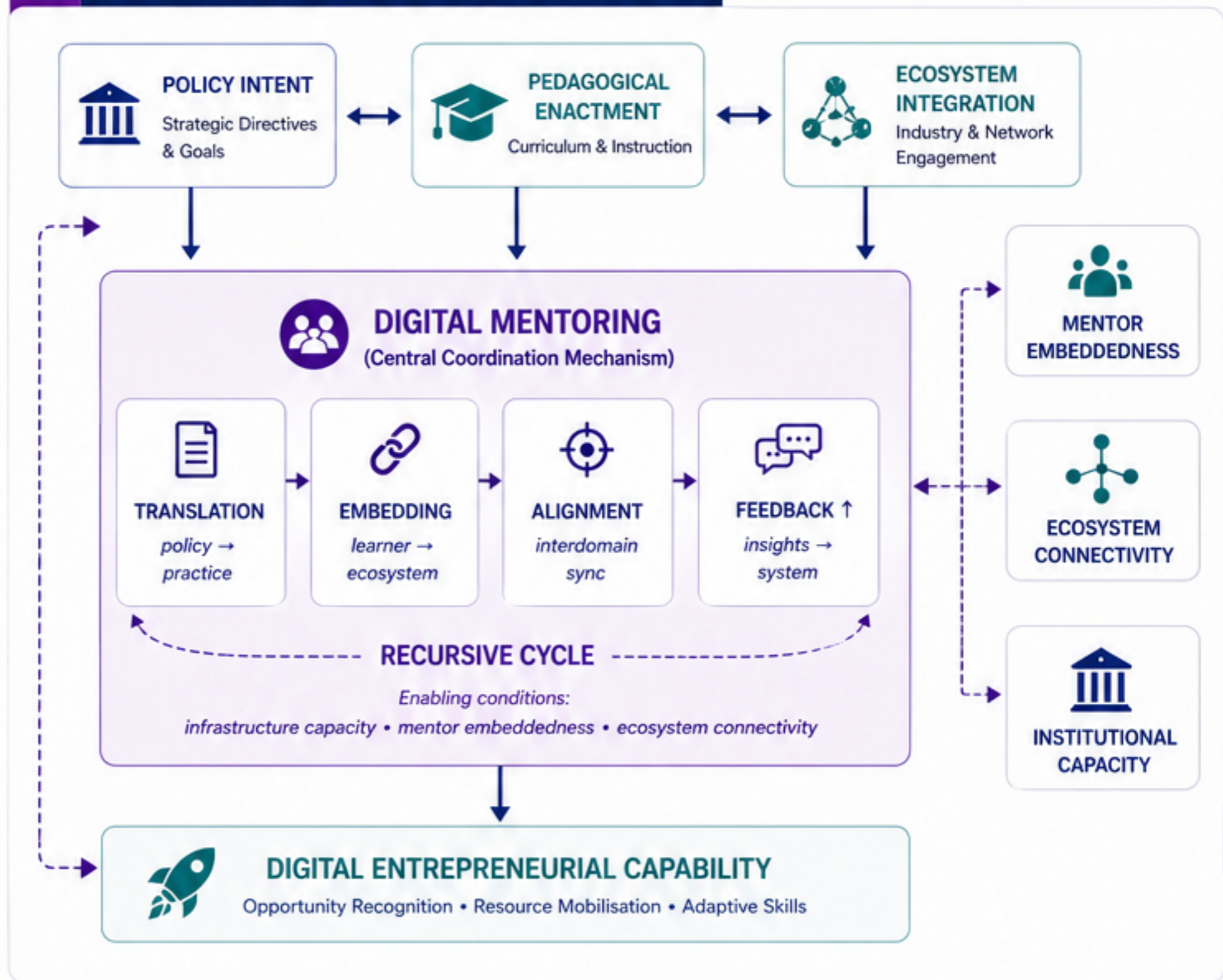
Conceptual theory-building approach based on Jaakkola (2020):

- synthesis of institutional, mentoring, and ecosystem theories,
- identification of coordination gaps,
- development of a systems-oriented conceptual framework.

5 CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION



6 INTEGRATED DIGITAL MENTORING FRAMEWORK (IDMF)



7 KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- ✓ Reframes the policy–practice gap as a coordination failure
- ✓ Extends mentoring theory to the meso-level
- ✓ Integrates fragmented scholarly domains into one systems-oriented framework
- ✓ Positions digital mentoring as institutional infrastructure

8 CONCLUSION

Sustainable digital entrepreneurship education depends not only on technological adoption, but on effective institutional coordination across policy, pedagogy, mentoring, and ecosystem participation.

9 KEYWORDS

- Digital entrepreneurship
- Digital mentoring
- TVET
- Entrepreneurial ecosystems
- Institutional coordination
- AI-enabled entrepreneurship

CONFERENCE

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