



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN INDIA – ROLE OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG STUDENTS

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Abstract

The economic development of a nation is inherent in its talented, skilled, and trained youth. The education system of a nation has a vital role to play in the development of entrepreneurial skills. This is not the sole responsibility of vocational and higher education institutions. It has to be fulfilled with utmost care and a suitable plan needs to be chalked out that divides the responsibility of training youth among all the stakeholders, especially the schools imparting primary, secondary, and higher secondary education. While doing so the role of teachers needs to be highlighted. This paper focuses on the importance of entrepreneurship education in schools in India and the role of teachers.

Keywords: Economic development, Education, Entrepreneurial skills, Entrepreneurship education, the role of school, teacher's role.

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Introduction:

A Nation's economic development depends on the quality of Entrepreneurs it produces. The human resource of a nation is the true strength of the economy which needs to be educated, trained, and skilled enough to realize its true potential. The development of a nation is inherent in an educationally and vocationally efficient workforce.

Entrepreneurship education has been recognized as an essential agent of change and development in the minds of potential Entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship education includes all activities aiming to foster entrepreneurial mindsets, attitudes, and skills and covering a range of aspects such as an idea, generation, start-up, growth, and innovation.

Talented Entrepreneurs are a need of the hour as they are major contributors to the process of economic development, especially for our nation as we have an abundant human resource which is one of the strongest characteristics of an economy. Entrepreneurs have contributed a lot in generating jobs, raising overall productivity, optimum and efficient utilization of available resources, and reduction of wastage.

However, the Orientation and need for harvesting entrepreneurship skills in the youth of the nation are vested in the hands of Tertiary institutions as well as Secondary and higher secondary institutions, especially schools.

Review of related literature:

1. **Ulrich and Cole (1987)** have given emphasis on the learning experiences in developing interest in entrepreneurship in youth. According to them, educational entrepreneurship can play an important role in enhancing the interest related to entrepreneurship practices.



- Harrison and Leitch (1990)** have emphasized the need for the utilization of the latest developments in the field of research for leadership in studying entrepreneurship. In the view of these authors, “education institutions play a vital role in creating entrepreneurial leaders through effective learning. Entrepreneurial education is closely associated with continuous learning in the classrooms”.
- Ashish Gupta (1992)** is of the opinion that the Indian subcontinent presents a scene of unprecedented entrepreneurial activity. “Establishment of a business in India is a very difficult proposition. The absence of a proper entrepreneurial climate, the lack of suitable infrastructure, and the lack of industrial technology play roles as obstacles in the establishment of a business. The entrepreneurial initiatives of successful entrepreneurs depend largely on their educational experiences”
- Bechard and Toulouse (1998)** are of the opinion of creating a framework from the educational science for achieving the four kinds of educational orientations. These are conformist, adaptive, transformative, and alternative orientations. Out of these first three are pedagogical approaches and they mainly focus on the content of the course. The last one is the andrological approach which emphasizes the process. The pedagogical model is dominant in entrepreneurship course studies.

Objectives of the study:

- To understand the importance of Entrepreneurship education in Development of the successful Entrepreneurs.
- To understand the role of school education in the development of entrepreneurship skills.
- To understand the importance of skill-based education in Indian schools.
- To understand the role of teachers in the development of Entrepreneurial skills in students.

Hypothesis:

There is a positive relationship between Entrepreneurship education and the role of schools and teachers in the skill development of young students.

Research Methodology:

Research is on secondary data and reviewed papers, journals, and articles accessed from e-resources through the internet.

Definitions:

Entrepreneurship:

- Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, launching, and running a new business, which is often initially a small business. The people who create these businesses are called entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks to make a profit."

Entrepreneur:

- 'Entrepreneur' is defined as, "a person who is not an innovator but a person who can develop an organization and who can harness the ideas of different innovators to the benefit of the organization- **Harbinson**.

Education:

- Education is the process of training man to fulfill his aim by exercising all the faculties to the fullest extent as a member of society- **Aristotle**
- Education is all one with growing; it has no end beyond itself. (Education is everything along with growth;



education itself has no final destination behind him)- **John Dewey**

Teacher:

1. **Atmaka (2004):** Teacher is an adult educator who is responsible to provide help to students in the development of both physical and spiritual. In order to achieve the level of maturity capable of standing alone fulfilling his duties as a creature of God, being social, and being an independent individual.
2. **Mulyasa (2003):** Educators must have academic qualifications and competence as agents of learning, physical and spiritual health, as well as having the ability to realize the goals of National Education.

Importance of education for the development of Entrepreneur skills:

- The whole idea of Education is to make a man capable of understanding his thoughts and ideas and putting them to practice most fruitfully.
- Education has a key role to play in shaping the orientations of youth at the right age toward innovative and creative thinking. It can be either Formal or Informal education. It helps realize one's potential and makes a person independent and a fully productive resource to the economy.
- Education helps stimulate analytical and critical thinking, logical, and reasoning abilities in people at the right age.
- This whole thought puts light on the fact that there is no formal curriculum designed to impart entrepreneurship education to students studying up to K10 and K12 levels in India but still, the entire schooling of the child proves helpful in developing the life skills necessary for the same.
- Development of life skills will help realize the importance of living with dignity and becoming financially independent in later life.
- Life skill development should be an essential aspect of school education of backward and marginalized groups as it would create avenues of sources of income for them and relieve the Government from the pressure of creating employment and controlling poverty.

Role of Schools and Teachers in imparting Entrepreneurship education:

Schools play a pivotal role in moulding minds at a very tender age. Schools can play important role in the building of knowledge and skills for entrepreneurship generally, as part of recognized education programs at primary, secondary, or tertiary-level educational institutions. Schools promote innovative and creative thinking in students in many ways:

1. **Activities:** Schools can develop entrepreneurship skills indirectly through Curricular and co-curricular activities. Although the prime focus of School education is not on developing entrepreneurship skills but on the all-round development of the students, in the whole process the child learns many other virtues that eventually lead to the development of leadership skills and risk-taking ability. Also, it might lead to entrepreneurship orientation in young students.
2. **Inspirational stories of Successful Entrepreneurs:** Students are introduced to the contribution of successful entrepreneurs through languages and History. Their stories can be used to inspire students and make them realize the importance of entrepreneurs in the betterment of society.
3. **Life skills training:** This is more fruitful in schools that have students from poor families or backward regions, slum and rural areas, students in Alternative and Innovative Centres (AIE), out-of-school children,



and Government schools in any such localities. This would lead to the socio-economic empowerment of such students and their families. Activities such as pottery, knitting, stitching, paper bag making, soft toy making, embroidery, flower making, tie and dye, plastic recycling products, bookbinding, and many more.

Teacher's role:

- The role of a teacher is most important in the entire process of delivery of education through teaching-learning activities and daily classroom conversations.
- A teacher inculcates values through their teachings, train students in handling real-life situations, and help in the development of skills and competencies that eventually lead to the development of critical skills required in an entrepreneur.

Suggestions:

Primary level:

- There is no formal curriculum that teaches entrepreneurship but the students can be introduced to stories of successful entrepreneurs and their contributions to the world. The students can be introduced to skill development activities that focus on providing hands-on experience in life skills.

Secondary and Higher Secondary level:

- Secondary and higher secondary schools can introduce a curriculum that inculcates the spirit of entrepreneurship and change the mindset of students regarding their future careers.
- As most of the students are only aware of a few options as careers, educating them about entrepreneurship as a career and its importance would stimulate young minds and make them think in a different direction.
- Students can be introduced to the concept and process of Entrepreneurship; the skills needed to create and manage entrepreneurial ventures and develop entrepreneurial qualities and competencies in them. This would include understanding and analyzing market situations and environments and identifying entrepreneurial opportunities.
- They can also be introduced to the world of innovative entrepreneurship or start-up culture. This could include scanning and identifying opportunities, preparing project reports, resource assessments, and mobilization of available resources as well managing an entire enterprise. Such qualities would motivate the students to start an entrepreneurial career in adult life.

Role of Teachers in the development of entrepreneurial skills:

- A teacher can motivate and inspire students and help them identify real-world opportunities, and develop confidence and decision-making abilities while delivering information and knowledge in a classroom setting would be necessary for building a successful career.
- A teacher can help students understand the importance of an entrepreneur as an agent of social change and economic development by introducing various case studies of successful entrepreneurship that would provide insights into entrepreneurship and its importance in the economic development of the nation.
- A teacher can play an active role in the framing of curriculum and teaching-learning strategies to be implemented on a national scale. This would ensure the generation of efficient and successful entrepreneurs in the future.



- A teacher can put examples of personalities who have become successful innovative entrepreneurs and students could use them as role models.
- Thus, by inculcating confidence, leadership, innovative and creative thinking, decision-making, and risk-taking, the teacher can enhance the capacity of students to perform better as future entrepreneurs.

Conclusion:

As we progress towards a new era of start-ups and ventures by children as young as eleven, it is imperative to believe that entrepreneurship education is not the sole responsibility of business schools or vocational institutions but even high schools and higher secondary institutions can be a place of developing the roots of successful entrepreneurs in the Nation. Special focus should be on curriculum development and designing teacher training courses that would accomplish the crucial task of developing young and talented entrepreneurs.

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