The Role of Education in Fostering Entrepreneurial Spirit in the Young Generation

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Abstract. Education has a very important role in shaping young people into competitive and innovative individuals, especially in the context of an increasingly complex and rapidly changing global economy. Entrepreneurial spirit is the ability of individuals to identify opportunities, take measured risks, and develop ideas into valuable innovations for society. This research aims to examine the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation. The current research type is qualitative. Data collection techniques include listening and recording important information to conduct data analysis through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The study results show that the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation is very important in facing challenges and rapid economic change. Education has the responsibility to provide relevant entrepreneurial skills, create a supportive environment, and remove the negative stigma towards failure. In addition, education should also reinforce ethical values and social responsibility and integrate technology to enhance learning effectiveness. Social entrepreneurship and inclusiveness should also be part of education to create positive social impact and equality of opportunity for all.

Keywords: Education, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Young Generation

1. Introduction

Education plays a key role in cultivating the skills and mindset necessary for young individuals to thrive as competitive and inventive members of society, particularly within the dynamic and swiftly evolving global economy [1]. The entrepreneurial spirit refers to the capacity of individuals to recognise and seize opportunities, undertake calculated risks, and transform ideas into significant innovations that benefit society [2].

Over the past few decades, there have been notable transformations in the global labour landscape as a result of economic and technical advancements [3]. These modifications necessitate the capacity to adjust, generate novel ideas, and provide fresh employment opportunities [4]. Education has a pivotal role in addressing these difficulties and equipping young individuals to effectively contribute to economic transformation [5].

Previous research has shown that a high level of entrepreneurship can increase a country's economic growth. [6] examined the relationship between entrepreneurship levels and economic growth in developing countries. Data was collected from various countries over a period of 10 years. The analytical method used was regression to measure the impact of entrepreneurship level on economic growth. The results showed that countries with high levels of entrepreneurship tend to have better economic growth compared to countries with low levels of entrepreneurship. The study also found that entrepreneurship contributes to creating new jobs and encourages innovation and investment, which has a positive impact on the economic growth of developing countries. The level of entrepreneurship in a country has a significant positive influence on the level of economic growth in the country [7].

[8] also conducted a study with the aim of analysing the relationship between the level of entrepreneurship and economic growth in the long run. The researchers used data from various countries over several years and
applied regression analysis models to examine the impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth. The results showed that countries with high levels of entrepreneurship tend to have better economic growth in the long run compared to countries with low levels of entrepreneurship. In addition, the study found that entrepreneurship has an important role in creating new jobs, encouraging innovation, and increasing productivity, all of which contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Entrepreneurship is a major source of employment, economic growth and innovation, fuelling product and service quality, competition and economic flexibility. Entrepreneurship is also the mechanism by which many people enter the economic and social mainstream of society, aiding cultural formation, population integration and social mobility. [9] produced an article that aimed to shed light on research opportunities for psychologists by exposing gaps in the entrepreneurship literature and explaining how these gaps could be filled. A “call to action” was issued to psychologists to develop theory and conduct empirical research focusing on five main topic areas: personality characteristics of entrepreneurs, psycho-pathology of entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial cognition, entrepreneurship education, and international entrepreneurship. Methodological issues are discussed and recommendations are given. It is shown that psychologists can help identify factors that influence new venture creation and success and inform the development of public policies to facilitate entrepreneurship.

Within this particular setting, education is regarded as a pivotal factor in cultivating the entrepreneurial mindset among the youth. Education serves as a means to not only impart academic knowledge and abilities, but also to mould the character, attitude, and perspective of pupils [10]. The importance of education as a comprehensive and interconnected system is of utmost significance in establishing attitudes and values that are pertinent to entrepreneurship [11]. Within the framework of the educational curriculum, there exist several prospects for the incorporation and amalgamation of entrepreneurship education, encompassing comprehensive understanding of business principles, managerial practises, as well as fostering innovation and creativity [12]. Some of the factors that form the background of the relevance of this research are:

1. The Need for Innovation: The rapid development of technology has changed the way of doing business and created new opportunities. The younger generation must have an entrepreneurial spirit to create innovations that are relevant to the demands of the times.
2. Reducing the Unemployment Rate: The high unemployment rate among the youth demands efforts to encourage the birth of young entrepreneurs who can create jobs.
3. Increasing Economic Independence: An entrepreneurial spirit can increase the economic independence of the community by reducing dependence on formal employment.
4. Support Economic Growth: The role of entrepreneurship in creating jobs and advancing innovation is critical to supporting a country’s economic growth.
5. Education Paradigm Shift: Education that only focuses on academic mastery is no longer relevant. Education should also include the development of entrepreneurial skills to enable young people to compete in the world of work.
6. Influence of Social Environment: Social environment and education play an important role in shaping individual attitudes and behaviour. Therefore, research on the role of education in fostering entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation is important to understand and raise awareness on this subject.

A comprehensive examination of existing literature pertaining to this subject matter will yield valuable insights into the educational initiatives that have been undertaken to foster entrepreneurial mindset among the youth. This research aims to investigate several key areas, namely, the teaching strategies employed in entrepreneurship education, the role played by educational institutions in fostering entrepreneurship, the factors that shape the development of entrepreneurship among young individuals, and the effects of entrepreneurship education on business performance and economic advancement.

This research aims to enhance comprehension of the significance of education in cultivating the entrepreneurial mindset among young individuals. The ultimate goal is to offer more efficacious educational policy guidelines to effectively address forthcoming economic difficulties. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the outcomes of this study will yield practical advantages for educational institutions and other relevant parties in the formulation of educational initiatives centred on entrepreneurship.

1.1 Education

Education is a formal and systematic process that aims to transmit knowledge, skills, values and cultural norms from one generation to the next [13]. Education includes various aspects of learning and teaching conducted through educational institutions, such as schools, colleges, universities, as well as through learning experiences outside the formal environment, such as in the family, community, and neighbourhood. Education plays an important role in shaping individuals into educated, cultured members of society and possessing relevant skills [14]. The main goal of education is to improve the potential and abilities of learners so that they
can actively participate in the social, economic and political life of the community, and be able to achieve their personal and professional goals. There are several important components in education, including:

1. Knowledge: Education aims to transmit knowledge about various fields of science and other disciplines, such as maths, science, languages, history and the arts.
2. Skills: In addition to knowledge, education also aims to develop practical skills, such as communication skills, critical thinking, innovation and professional skills relevant to the career the individual is taking.
3. Values and Ethics: Education also plays a role in shaping moral and ethical values that are important in shaping an individual's character, such as integrity, a sense of responsibility, empathy and tolerance.
4. Character Building: Education helps shape an individual's character and personality, teaching discipline, perseverance and the ability to work together in a group.
5. Understanding of Self and Environment: The education process also helps individuals to understand themselves, their potentials, interests and aspirations, and to understand their social, cultural and natural surroundings.
6. Potential Development: Education seeks to optimise the potential of individuals so that they can achieve higher achievements in various aspects of life.

Education can take place in various levels and forms, such as formal education in schools and universities, non-formal education through training or courses, and informal education through daily experiences and interactions with the environment. In modern society, education is a human right and an important pillar in the social, economic and cultural development of a country [15].

1.2 Entrepreneurial Spirit

Entrepreneurial spirit, also known as entrepreneurial spirit or entrepreneurial attitude, refers to a set of traits and characteristics possessed by individuals who tend to see, seek, and take new opportunities boldly and innovatively in order to create added value. The entrepreneurial spirit encompasses a combination of attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable a person to become an entrepreneur or change agent in the business and social environment [16]. Some of the key characteristics of the entrepreneurial spirit include:

1. Innovative and Creative: Individuals with entrepreneurial spirit tend to have the ability to think outside the box, seek innovative solutions to problems, and develop new ideas that have the potential to add value.
2. Measured Risk Takers: Entrepreneurship often involves taking risks, but individuals with an entrepreneurial spirit tend to be able to consider risks well, take measured risks, and take into account the consequences of their actions.
3. Opportunity Orientation: They have the ability to identify business opportunities or opportunities for change in their immediate environment and are prepared to take action to exploit these opportunities.
4. Perseverance and Passion: The entrepreneurial spirit is fuelled by high perseverance and passion to achieve their goals. They do not give up easily in the face of obstacles or failure.
5. Customer and Market Oriented: Entrepreneurs with an entrepreneurial spirit tend to be sensitive to the needs and wants of customers, and are able to develop products or services that match market demand.
6. Independent and Proactive: The entrepreneurial spirit encourages individuals to be independent and proactive in taking initiatives and managing their businesses.
7. Flexibility and Adaptability: Entrepreneurship is often associated with dynamic and fast-changing environments. The entrepreneurial spirit enables individuals to adapt to changes and find new ways to stay relevant.

It is important to remember that entrepreneurial spirit can be developed and enhanced through education, training, experience, and interaction with the environment and more experienced business people. Furthermore, entrepreneurial spirit is not a quality exclusive to entrepreneurs, but can also benefit employees and other individuals in working innovatively and helping organisations achieve their goals more effectively [17].

1.3 Young Generation

The Young Generation refers to a population group within a certain age range, who usually share relatively similar traits and experiences because they were born and grew up in the same or neighbouring time periods [18]. There is no definitive boundary to describe the younger generation as age limits may vary depending on cultural and social contexts. However, in general, the term “younger generation” refers to individuals who are between their late teens and late twenties or early thirties. Each younger generation often has different characteristics and values as they have experienced unique life experiences in different social, political, technological and economic contexts [19]. Young people are often the focus of attention and analysis in a variety of fields, including sociology, psychology, marketing and politics [20]. Some of the younger generations that have been identified and frequently mentioned in social contexts are:
1. The Baby Boomer generation: This generation was born between 1946 and the mid-1960s. They are called "Baby Boomers" because they are the generation born after World War II, during which the birth rate increased significantly.

2. Generation X: This generation was born around 1965 to the early 1980s. They are the children of the Baby Boomers and are often considered the generation that experienced significant social and technological changes.

3. Generation Y (Millennials): Generation Y was born around 1981 to the mid-1990s. They are often considered the generation that grew up with the rapid development of information technology and the internet.

4. Generation Z (Zoomers): Generation Z was born around the mid-1990s to early 2010s. They are the generation that grew up in the digital era and are considered as "digital natives".

5. Generation Alpha: Generation Alpha is the generation born after 2010. They are the children of the Millennial generation and Generation Z.

This generational classification helps researchers, marketers, and policy makers to understand the differences in behaviour, values, preferences, and tendencies among younger generations, which in turn can impact various aspects of society, including the economy, education, and culture.

2. Method

This study aims to analyse the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation. In this study, researchers conducted library research so that there was no need to go directly to the field during the data collection process, but rather examine various reference sources that support this research. The literature was obtained from online media and databases from journal portals in accordance with the keywords related to this discussion, namely the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation. The author does not focus on specific journal portals or online media in determining relevant reference sources such as referring to the Emerald Insight, ResearchGate, and Elsevier journal portals, but is more flexible. In this article, with a focus on the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation, the author makes these keywords the focus of the search so as not to widen the main discussion. The search for journals, articles and publications was mostly in the range of articles published between 2000 and 2023. Not all articles, journals and publications that appear in the search results will be used, but only those related to the role of education in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation.

This research is a type of qualitative research. Data collection techniques include listening and recording important information to conduct data analysis through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing to obtain a picture of the conclusions regarding the literature study that will be developed in this study. Data validation uses triangulation of data sources.

3. Result and Discussion

The significance of education in shaping the entrepreneurial spirit in the next generation is of utmost importance. The phenomenon of entrepreneurship has emerged as a significant determinant in addressing global challenges and adapting to swift economic transformations. In the context of the rapidly advancing digital and innovation landscape, it is imperative that young individuals possess the necessary skills and dispositions to effectively navigate the entrepreneurial realm, thereby ensuring their success and competitiveness. Hence, it is incumbent upon the field of education to establish a conducive and invigorating milieu that fosters the entrepreneurial mindset among the youth.

An essential element of education's function in cultivating entrepreneurial spirit involves equipping students with pertinent entrepreneurial competencies [21]. This include the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to innovation, creativity, risk mitigation, problem-solving, and leadership competencies. In light of a dynamic and evolving global landscape, possessing such competencies empowers the younger generation to swiftly adjust, discern novel prospects, and devise inventive resolutions to the societal obstacles at hand. Furthermore, it is imperative for education to cultivate an environment that fosters entrepreneurial curiosity and spirit among the younger cohort. The attainment of this objective can be facilitated through the implementation of entrepreneurship initiatives inside educational settings such as schools, universities, and other academic institutions [22]. These programmes may encompass business competitions, provision of entrepreneurial mentors, or avenues for collaborative engagement in innovative ventures. Education plays a key role in fostering
an environment that is both motivating and nurturing, thereby enabling young individuals to cultivate the drive and fortitude necessary to embark upon entrepreneurial endeavours [23].

Education also has a significant role to play in mitigating the adverse societal perception associated with failure in the realm of entrepreneurship. The majority of individuals commonly see failure as an indication of vulnerability or inadequacy, despite the fact that it is an essential component of the entrepreneurial process [24]. Education provides young individuals with the opportunity to acquire knowledge on the triumphs that arise from failures, as well as the subsequent development of resilience and wisdom [25]. Education has a vital role in cultivating a positive outlook and fortitude, as it enables individuals to reframe setbacks as valuable occasions for personal development and advancement [26].

It is imperative to acknowledge that education ought to integrate a student-centric methodology, thereby enhancing individual creativity and initiative. This entails not just transmitting theoretical knowledge, but also fostering the cultivation of critical thinking, inventiveness, and cooperation abilities. Educators ought to assume the role of facilitators of learning, fostering an environment that motivates students to delve into their own interests, discern their aptitudes, and guide them towards career paths and undertakings that align with their distinct interests and capabilities [27].

Education aimed at fostering an entrepreneurial mindset should prioritise the enhancement of ethical principles and the cultivation of social responsibility [28]. The promotion of sustainable and socially good entrepreneurship is vital. It is imperative to facilitate the empowerment of the younger generation, enabling them to generate new solutions that not only cater to their own needs but also foster sustainable progress in social and environmental domains. Furthermore, it is imperative to emphasise the significance of fostering partnership between the education sector and the corporate industry. By means of this collaboration, the field of education has the potential to expose students to practical experiences and the actualities of the corporate world. Entrepreneurs and business professionals possess the capacity to impart their knowledge, expertise, and perspectives to the younger cohort, so serving as a source of inspiration and dispensing invaluable insights pertaining to the realm of business [29]. The pivotal importance of education in fostering entrepreneurial mindset among the youth is crucial for the development of a vibrant, inventive, and competitive society. By means of an inclusive, innovative, and nurturing educational approach, adolescents can acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively confront forthcoming obstacles and assume proactive roles as catalysts for societal and global economic transformation.

In the context of cultivating entrepreneurial mindset among young individuals, it is imperative to examine the influence of technology in facilitating pertinent educational experiences that are in line with contemporary demands. Technological advancements, such as the implementation of online learning platforms, the use of business simulations, and the integration of game-based training, have the potential to augment the efficacy of learning processes and facilitate the acquisition of entrepreneurial competencies among students through enhanced interactivity [30].

The provision of comprehensive technology education equips the younger cohort with the necessary knowledge and skills to comprehend the utility of technology as a facilitator for expediting corporate growth. It is imperative to provide instruction on the effective utilisation of digital platforms, e-commerce, data analytics, and digital marketing, as these skills are indispensable in navigating the digitally interconnected global market [31]. Furthermore, it is imperative to incorporate education that fosters understanding regarding social entrepreneurship. Social entrepreneurship is the pursuit of generating favourable social outcomes through the establishment of economically viable company endeavours. It is imperative for the younger cohort to comprehend the potential of entrepreneurship as a viable approach to tackle prevalent societal challenges, including but not limited to poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns. Education should serve as a catalyst for individuals to imbibe social and environmental principles within their entrepreneurial endeavours, thereby fostering a positive impact on the holistic welfare of society [32].

Furthermore, it is imperative that education fosters inclusivity and ensures equitable opportunities for all individuals. This entails ensuring equitable access to high-quality education for students hailing from various socioeconomic origins, genders, and other marginalised social groups. By ensuring equitable access to opportunities, the latent entrepreneurial capabilities inherent in every individual can be harnessed, thereby enabling society to reap the advantages stemming from a wide range of ideas and talents originating from various socio-economic backgrounds [33]. Furthermore, it should be noted that the influence of education on fostering entrepreneurial inclination extends beyond conventional educational institutions, including schools and colleges. Informal schooling also exerts a noteworthy influence. Families, communities, and non-educational institutions have the potential to play a significant role in cultivating the entrepreneurial mindset among the younger generation by means of exemplification, assistance, and motivation.
The accurate measurement and evaluation of the efficacy of education in fostering entrepreneurial spirit is of paramount importance. To accomplish this objective, it is imperative to conduct continuous study in order to evaluate the degree to which education has influenced the level of entrepreneurship among the younger cohort. The utilisation of accurate data and comprehensive analyses is crucial in the process of enhancing current educational methodologies and pinpointing areas that necessitate further development [34] and [35].

In order to effectively promote entrepreneurial spirit among the younger generation, it is imperative to foster collaboration among many stakeholders, including the government, educational institutions, the corporate sector, and the general public. Collaboration among all stakeholders is vital in establishing an educational environment that fosters, motivates, and enables the younger generation to realise their entrepreneurial capabilities.

It is crucial to emphasise that education significantly influences the development of entrepreneurial mindset among the youth. By implementing appropriate curricula, fostering a supportive environment, utilising innovative educational technology, providing education on social entrepreneurship, promoting inclusivity, and encouraging strong collaboration, it is possible to guide young individuals towards becoming entrepreneurs who possess a competitive edge, make a positive social impact, and exhibit readiness to confront the challenges of an evolving society with self-assurance. Promoting the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset among the younger population is a crucial endeavour in fostering a society that is characterised by dynamism, innovation, and sustainability.

4. Conclusion

The role of education in fostering entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation is crucial in the face of challenges and rapid economic change. Education has the responsibility to provide relevant entrepreneurial skills, create an enabling environment and remove the negative stigma of failure. In addition, education should also reinforce ethical values and social responsibility and integrate technology to enhance learning effectiveness. Social entrepreneurship and inclusivity should also be part of education to create positive social impact and equality of opportunity for all. Therefore, in light of the above, this study arrives at the following suggestions:

1. Development of a Relevant Curriculum: The education system should develop a curriculum that includes entrepreneurial skills and ethical values. The curriculum should be updated according to the times and the demands of the global market.
2. Improved Teacher Training: Teachers should be provided with training and support to teach entrepreneurship effectively. They should be learning facilitators who inspire and encourage students' entrepreneurial interests.
3. Collaboration with the Business World: Education should establish close collaboration with local companies and entrepreneurs. This collaboration will bring students closer to the realities of the business world and help them develop practical skills.
4. Effective Use of Educational Technology: Technology should be utilised to enhance learning and facilitate access to education for students from diverse backgrounds.
5. Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship: Education should promote social entrepreneurship as part of the curriculum. The younger generation should be taught to incorporate social and environmental values in their businesses.
6. Establishment of a Supportive Community: Education should create a supportive environment and facilitate the exchange of ideas and support between students, teachers, entrepreneurs and the community.
7. Continuous Evaluation and Research: Continuous evaluation and research is needed to measure the impact of education in fostering entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation. This data will help in improving existing educational approaches.

1. Inclusiveness in Education: Education should provide equal opportunities for all students, regardless of economic background, gender or social group. This inclusivity will create a diverse and innovative environment.

By implementing the above suggestions, education can be a catalyst for the growth of entrepreneurial spirit in the younger generation. Encouraging entrepreneurship among young people is a long-term investment in creating a competitive, innovative and sustainable society. With an understanding of real-world challenges and equipped with the right skills, young people can become agents of positive change and make a huge impact on the global economy and society.

References


