

Effects of Kidspreneurship on children's' autonomy in Pakistan

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Kidspreneurship is a modern day term used to describe a business initiated and run by a child. Kids are no more dependent. They are using their creative skills to earn and work as a business leader. Like the other countries in the world Pakistani children are also progressing in this field. In spite of limited resources they are successfully utilizing social media, YouTube, social contacts in order to market their business. This research focuses on the effects of kidspreneurship on children's' autonomy in Pakistan from a child's perspective. Data is collected through interview from different kidspreneurs in Pakistan aging between 10 to 15 years. This study reveals that kids enjoy the freedom of choice, they are more confident, they feel happy in sharing their parents' financial burden, and they enjoy the fame. On the other hand they suffer from exploitation, lack of awareness among people, non serious attitude of buyers, lack of investment, suffering of studies etc.

Key Words: Kidspreneurship, Kidspreneur, autonomy, freedom, investment,

Introduction

Kid's preneurship is a unique and rapidly growing idea of business run by kids. In kidspreneurship program, chance is given to kids to analyze issues and make comment on them. Kidspreneurship empowers kids with the entrepreneurial mindset and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. It is all about fostering a pioneering grit in every child. In the future of work, entrepreneurship is a sheer 'must-have' skill. Kids must have a growth mind-set in order to lead a happy and fulfilling life. In a developing country like Pakistan kidspreneurship should be promoted in school curriculum to bridge the income imbalance through kids autonomy.

Literature Review

Nowadays, entrepreneurship is a key issue due to its significance on emergence and survival of organizations and as a driving force in modern economies and societal development (Zahra, 1995). In addition, it is said that entrepreneurship can be achieved through both economic growth and job creation, and the promotion of innovation in the business environment (Go'mez-Haro, Arago'n-Correa, & Corrido'nPozo, 2011), (Bosma & Levie, 2010), (Bosma, Acs, Autio, Coduras,

& Levie, 2009). So, Entrepreneurship, as identification and exploitation of opportunities, innovation, and mobilization of economic resources, has got a significant role in economic development within the countries. In one hand, developing and expanding businesses and entrepreneurship activities have directly affected the economic growth and employment; on the other hand, they help to improve life quality, distribute the wealth fairly, and be satisfied with life; finally it leads to a sustainable development. Kidspreneur is one of the education concepts based on entrepreneurship with the target of children, because the provision of entrepreneurship is needed since childhood. Hatten and Ruhland also found that short-term vocational training courses have made some changes on entrepreneurial attitudes (Hatten & Ruhland, 1995). The results of their study indicated that there can be an improvement in entrepreneurial attitude of senior and graduate level college students through participation in a Small Business Institute (SBI) program. It can have a positive impact on individuals who recognize entrepreneurship as a career choice. Persons interested in increasing entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education should continue to support programs like the SBI. Regarding the fact that our children's training and education methodology is not accurate, AhmadianRad emphasizes the necessity of training creativity and entrepreneurship in childhood and adolescence- in school and home (AhmadianRad, 2009). Evaluation of entrepreneurs' characteristics indicates that these people have a set of features and identifying them can provide a suitable situation for reinforcing and extending the entrepreneurship among the people of the society. These features are as follows: flexible to risk (Shahrokni, 2005), time orientation, self-denial, the desire to improve and succeed in politics (Sharifzadeh & Zamani, 2006), Goal orientation, (Shahrokni, 2005), Interested in competition, power endurance (Sharifzadeh & Zamani, 2006), optimism, being prospective, locus of control, motivation, being determined, having self-confidence, result orientation, creativity and innovation, power seeking, independence seeking (Karimi & Mobaraki, 2012), (Karimi, Sofiyabadi, Mobaraki, & Madanipour, 2012), (Alhuei, Karimi, & Alizadeh, 2014). On the other hand, through observing the developing and growing world we would find out that through increasing and expanding the developed technologies, the role of entrepreneurs will significantly increase. In other words, there is a direct relationship between the technology development and the necessity of entrepreneur's training (Akbari, 2009).

Objectives

To identify the opportunities of kidspreneurship in Karachi Pakistan

To investigate how kids use their income

To explore the financial status of the families of kidspreneurs

Research Questions

Are there any business opportunities for kidspreneurs in Karachi Pakistan?

What are the ways kids use their income?

What financial status does the familiarizes of kidspreneurs enjoy?

Methodology

Data is collected through interview from different kidspreneurs in Pakistan aging between 10 to 15 years. Population of the study is all kidspreneur in Karachi Pakistan. Sample of study is 10 kidspreneurs ageing between 10 to 15. Data is collected through interview technique. Open ended questions are asked from kidspreneurs to reveal the answers of research questions. Thematic analysis is done to explore the effect of kidspreneurship on kids autonomy. A semi-structured interview (Appendix F) was used to interview the participants. According to Creswell (2009), the interview protocol should include instructions for the interviewer to ensure standard procedures are used for all interviewees, as well as, four or five questions which often relate to the qualitative research sub questions. Further probes to elicit elaboration are always recommended. According to Goodwin and Goodwin (1996), a semi structured process allows the researcher to understand perspectives and insights about the research and is useful for determining respondents' ideas, thoughts, perceptions, feelings, and past experiences of events. This enables the conversations to vary and change between the different participants. Interviews were conducted individually and took place at the participants' convenience at their place. Interviews took place after school hours

Findings and Discussion

Children were very excited while giving interviews. I consulted the kidspreneurs in a school setting for kidspreneurship where children were encourage to show case their talent and sale their products. Several stalls were displayed and children were busy in selling their products This program was named as Business Buzzzz by the school authorities.

Q1 What type of business you are engaged with?

Several children responded differently according to the nature of their product. Mostly the girls entrepreneurs were engaged in jeweler making and Arts and crafts while boys kidspreneurs responded with origami weapons and food items .

Q2 How did this idea strike in your mind?

Some of them replied that they carried the tradition of their family. Their mothers were engaged in jeweler making so they also did the same. Kids selling origami weapons replied that they used to watch movies and were inspired by the weapons so they searched internet and found many videos on youtube.

Q3 Who supported you in your business?

Kids were thankful to their parents who provided initial capital for their business. Besides they were appreciating the efforts of school for providing them a platform to present their business and sell products. They were thankful to their friends who help them in all arrangements.

Q5 *How much do you earn approximately?*

Most of the respondents replied that it depends on the circumstances because they are not doing it on full time basis. They also give time to their studies so they earn more when they are on school off and less on school days.

Q6 *How do you use your earning?*

It was a mix of replies some of them said they go for shopping. Some of them spend on food. Few of them said they support their family and very few replied they spend on charity.

Conclusion

This study focus on knowing the children perception on financial autonomy while doing business. As Pakistan is a developing country it is good to have kidspreneural activities to bridge income inequalities. It also makes the kids empowered and confident.

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