

A Study on Youth Involvement and its Impact on Start-Up and Entrepreneurial Growth

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Abstract

Youth play a vital role in driving innovation, economic development, and entrepreneurial growth. With increasing government initiatives, technological advancement, and digital accessibility, young individuals are actively participating in start-up activities across various sectors. This study examines the level of youth involvement in start-ups and analyses its impact on entrepreneurial growth. The research adopts a descriptive design and collects primary data from 400 young respondents through a structured questionnaire. The findings indicate that innovation mindset, risk-taking ability, digital skills, and access to financial support significantly influence start-up participation. The study concludes that strengthening entrepreneurial education, mentorship, and funding support can enhance youth-led start-up growth and contribute to sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Youth Entrepreneurship, Start-ups, Innovation, Entrepreneurial Growth, Economic Development, Self-Employment

Introduction

Entrepreneurship has emerged as a powerful tool for economic growth and employment generation. In recent years, youth have shown increasing interest in establishing start-ups due to technological advancements, digital platforms, and supportive government policies. Young entrepreneurs bring creativity, adaptability, and innovation, which are essential for business expansion and competitiveness. Their involvement in start-ups not only reduces unemployment but also contributes to national economic progress. Understanding the factors that influence youth participation in entrepreneurship is crucial for promoting sustainable start-up ecosystems.

Need of the Study

Youth unemployment remains a significant challenge in many developing economies. Encouraging entrepreneurial activities among youth can create job opportunities and foster economic

stability. However, many young individuals face challenges such as lack of funding, inadequate skills, fear of failure, and limited mentorship. Therefore, it is essential to study youth involvement in start-ups and identify the factors influencing entrepreneurial growth to formulate effective policy and institutional support mechanisms.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the growing interest in entrepreneurship among youth, the success rate of start-ups remains inconsistent due to various internal and external challenges. Limited access to capital, insufficient training, market competition, and risk uncertainty often hinder entrepreneurial growth. The study seeks to analyse the extent of youth involvement in start-ups and examine how it impacts entrepreneurial development and economic growth.

Objectives of the Study

- To know the demographic profile of youth respondents.
- To identify factors influencing entrepreneurial growth.
- To provide suggestions for strengthening youth entrepreneurship.

Research Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive research design to examine youth involvement and its impact on start-up and entrepreneurial growth. Both primary and secondary data were used for the research. Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to youth respondents, while secondary data were gathered from journals, reports, websites, and government publications to support the theoretical background. The population of the study consists of youth aged 18–35 years who are either involved in or interested in start-up activities. A sample size of 200 respondents was selected using the convenience sampling technique. The questionnaire was designed using a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) to measure perceptions and opinions. The independent variables considered in the study include innovation mindset, risk-taking ability, financial support, government schemes, digital skills, and mentorship, while entrepreneurial growth was treated as the dependent variable. The collected data were analysed using statistical tools such as percentage analysis, mean score analysis, ranking method, and chi-square test to interpret the findings and examine associations between variables.

Results and Discussion

Table No.1 Age-wise classification of Respondents

S.No	Variables	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Age	18–25 Years	98	49
		25–30 Years	72	36
			30	15
		Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

The majority of respondents (49%) belong to the 18–25 years age group, indicating that younger youth show greater interest in start-up activities.

Table No. 2 Mean Score Analysis of Factors Influencing Entrepreneurial Growth

Factors	Mean Score	Rank
Innovation Mindset	4.58	1
Digital Skills	4.42	2
Financial Support	4.18	3
Government Schemes	3.90	4
Mentorship	3.76	5
Risk-taking Ability	3.60	6

Source: Primary Data

Innovation mindset ranks first with the highest mean score (4.58), showing that creativity and new ideas are the primary drivers of entrepreneurial growth. Digital skills and financial support also play significant roles. Risk-taking ability received the lowest mean score, indicating that fear of failure may still influence youth entrepreneurial decisions.

Table No. 3 Chi-Square Test – Association between Demographic Variables and Entrepreneurial Growth

Variable	Chi-square Value	DF	p-value	Level of Significance	Result
Age	12.84	4	0.012	0.05	Significant
Gender	5.26	2	0.072	0.05	Not Significant
Educational Qualification	7.91	3	0.048	0.05	Significant

Source: Primary Data

The chi-square test results indicate that age has a significant association with entrepreneurial growth ($p < 0.05$), showing that younger respondents demonstrate a stronger inclination toward start-up activities. Educational qualification also shows a significant association with entrepreneurial growth, suggesting that higher education levels positively influence entrepreneurial intention. However, gender does not show a statistically significant association ($p > 0.05$), indicating that entrepreneurial interest is not strongly influenced by gender differences in this study. Overall, demographic factors such as age and education play an important role in shaping youth entrepreneurial growth.

Conclusion

The study concludes that youth involvement plays a significant role in start-up and entrepreneurial growth. Innovation, digital competency, and access to financial support are the key determinants of entrepreneurial success. However, challenges such as funding constraints, lack of mentorship, and fear of failure still hinder growth.

Recommendations

- Provide entrepreneurship education and skill development programs.
- Improve access to funding and credit facilities for young entrepreneurs.
- Establish mentorship and incubation centers.
- Promote government start-up schemes and awareness programs.
- Encourage networking platforms for youth entrepreneurs.

Strengthening youth participation in entrepreneurship will enhance economic development, employment generation, and innovation-driven growth.

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