



Aiding Youth Employment through Entrepreneurship and Industrial Experience: Engaging Universities and Government in Malawi

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ABSTRACT

Youth unemployment is a tenacious global issue with extensive socio-economic implications. It is a critical step in addressing youth unemployment and youth entrepreneurship. The aim of this study is to create an aiding solution to youth unemployment through entrepreneurship and industrial experience by bridging the gap through engaging the government and Universities in Malawi. Although this is a concerning problem within the nation, little research and implementation has been put into the study.

There is an immense gap within the employment rate, and difficulty in entrepreneurial ventures due to the instability of the economy. This initiative pursues to bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical application, thus enhancing the employable and self-dependance of the young individuals.

For this research, qualitative and quantitative research methods will be used for data collection to analyze the experiences of individuals and observe the data at a scale. It will involve under and post graduate students who have been affected by this study throughout the years which will total 30 participants as the population size, from different universities. The research tools that will be used in this study will be a case study and questionnaire. The outcome is estimated to be a reduction in youth unemployment rates, an increase in business innovative start up culture and a steady foundation for the future industry workforce.

The project demonstrates a detailed framework, involving curriculum enrichment, mentorship programs and policy support that will create a good environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth. The triumph of these initiatives depends on the commitment of universities, government, and industries as well as the students themselves.

1. INTRODUCTION

Employment is the leading source of the economy in Malawi to all ages eager to make ends meet. Two decades past, there were more employment opportunities due to the development of the nation as a whole and the rise of technological advances from other countries being implemented here in Malawi. The nominal population of workers then, aligned with employment rate at that period which also led to the lower range of graduates within the Malawian universities. Therefore, signifying that as the population rose, the number of university graduates also increased. The factors elaborated above also apply to the entrepreneurship sector, Knowledge acquired from the universities/ colleges was easier to apply and most were first on the market and innovative. Involving the government and Universities is a critical step in addressing youth unemployment in the sense that there are several incentives that can be taken to handle this case, for instance: implementing entrepreneurship programs, internships and collaborations between the university and industries. If more graduates venture in entrepreneurship, it will also create more job opportunities for others with all types of qualifications, whether big scale businesses or small-scale businesses. This project aims to find ways to prepare the youth with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to succeed in the competitive job market, business environment and stimulate economic growth. To achieve the agenda, the research will use qualitative and quantitative data collection tools to analyze the experiences of individuals and observe the data at a scale.

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

High unemployment rate in Malawi and its causes as well how can the youth venture into business and manage it into a successful venture using tools provided by the universities and the Government. Malawi has capable minds of driving the economy to an outstanding stability and success if the youth were employed and given resource to act on their ideas. As the saying goes 'the future is in the hands of the youth'

1.1. Aims and Objectives

- Identify and provide a solution to the unemployment rate
- Assessing the gap in unemployment
- Discussing the startup business culture due to the inflation vs small scale business
- Identifying the roles that the university and the government can play to aid a solution rather than only providing education without a way to put it into action.

There is a high unemployment rate in Malawi, where most youth rely on employment as a survival skill. In order to secure a job, the requirements include having a long-time experience for example, For Example, 5-10 years which most recent graduates do not have.

Entrepreneurial sector as high as it is recommended and encouraged for the youth to focus on entrepreneurship, it is quite difficult for youth to establish business because.

- i. It requires capital, which most do not have.
- ii. Most of the businesses are already on the market and are dominating.
- iii. Lack of understanding of the laws and policies that protect business owners.
- iv. Difficult management skills

As the saying goes, the future leaders of the world are the youth, therefore if the youth can manage to stabilize and secure the economic states of the country, not only will it be beneficial to the youth but all citizens of Malawi. It is a studied fact that most of the population in Malawi is the youth (Ages from 18-39) among the elderly and the minors.

Therefore, the same skills acquired by the youth will be passed down to other generations.

In most countries including Malawi, there is a program that requires degree students to participate in internship programs, this helps to enhance the knowledge of the program they are studying, how the industry works in that field and if they would like to continue.

1.2 SOLUTIONS

- Maximizing youth groups to enhance business strategies.
- Uncooperating small businesses to venture as one.
- Business development services providers

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews theoretical literature on examining the impact of the aid and how articles written by several authors can be related to the research study being undertaken.

(A.C Awogbenle, K.C. Iwuamadi, 2010) studied though the data collected from a stratified sample of loan beneficiaries of the small-scale industries and the graduate employment program in Nigeria. It determines that training, experience as well as personal inclinations of the employers play an intense role of types of small-scale firms.

(A. Rajeev, M. Afua, B. Mohamed, 2017) Entrepreneurship decreases unemployment, unemployment generates entrepreneurship. Develop entrepreneurial culture among people right from primary education. They studied that job creation among youth is enhanced by entrepreneurship development. This is promoted through technology and business incubators. The study found that in order to reduce the unemployment rate, by using their government and ministry of labor.

Theories of Entrepreneurship, there are several theories of entrepreneurship, for instance, the economic, sociological, entrepreneurship innovation theories of entrepreneurship.

There are three types of policies that can be used in SMES as identified by (Khabib Fauzi Akhmad, M wijaya, 2018; Placeholder1) in a case study in Indonesia. A. public policy B. implementation policy and C. technical policy. A policy is defined as a principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual as a set of Guidelines. This case study proved that the availability of many SMES in Indonesia served as a pillar stone to the economic strength of the country. The business development services providers provide an opportunity to improve the capabilities of the businesses to become strong and viable enterprises.

Entrepreneurs take advantage of difficult times in order to create a solution and make a profit out of it (Osunkoya, 2012)

John Keynes studies the fact that one person's income is other person's expenditure, in a sense that there is a relationship between income, output and expenditure which is shorten by $Y=O=D$ (Keynes, 1936) it states that National income is the function of level of employment. Aligning with this study, supply is impossible without demand if the aggregate demand increases then inflation will occur. The national income and employment is determined aggregate supply and aggregate demand, therefore if the majority of the population is unemployed the Nation's aggregate is as well suffer.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The research methodology of this thesis is based on understanding and collecting data of individuals that have college/ university education and are unable to secure jobs or was difficult to do so due to unavailability of jobs or other reasons and how entrepreneurship and bridge the gap of unemployment by creating new jobs and expanding the economic growth. The methodologies include Qualitative research methods, Quantitative research methods and a case Study example. Aiding youth employment through entrepreneurship and industrial experience, while engaging universities and government, typically involves a structured approach that integrates various stakeholders and leverages their resources and expertise.

This chapter will also project the research design that will be used in this research, a sampling type of the population of measurement, sample location, data type, instrument used, analytical tools, hypothesis, identified and dependent variables, contents analysis with the reference based on the findings. The framing of the questionnaire and finally the constraints under which has been undertaken.

3.1. research method

3.1.1. Qualitative research

Qualitative research provides valuable understanding the factors into the dynamics of youth employment, entrepreneurship and industrial development facilitated by universities and government initiatives. Techniques such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participants observation can help uncover nuanced experiences, barriers and success factors in domains. Exploring perceptions, motivations and experiences can inform policy decisions and educational strategies to foster youth employment.

Some of the questions asked are:

- a. What challenges do you perceive in pursuing entrepreneurship or engaging with industries as a young professional?
- b. According to you, what opportunities exist for youth in entrepreneurship and industrial sectors through university support and government initiatives.
- c. Are you content that your university provides sufficient training and skill development for entrepreneurship and industrial roles?

3.1.1. Quantitative research

Quantitative research methods aid in assessing the impact of youth entrepreneurship programs facilitated by universities and government initiatives on industrial growth. The questionnaire survey shows the statistical analysis measured factor. This method will also show insights now how effectiveness of various support mechanisms and policy makers to promote programs for better outcomes.

Some of the questions are:

- a. rate the effectiveness of educational programs in developing in developing practical skills.
- b. rate your understanding of entrepreneurial opportunities available.
- c. evaluate the role of industry exposure in enhancing employability.

3.2 research design

Research design is the strategic method used to create a work frame on research to collect data and information in order to evaluate, analyze and to apply to the situation or problems occurring that led to research problem, it is the fundamental foundation of the project research, therefore leading to recommended input of solutions to resolve the problem. Thus, to identify the research design in the youth unemployment in Malawi, this research will use descriptive research design to conduct this study. Descriptive design is fit for this research because it will characterize the behavior of the youth as an individual and as a group.

3.2.1 Target Population

Target population is the total number of participants from where the study will occur and the sample is yet to be drawn. The estimated population size is forty young graduates/ job seekers from the ages of 18 to 40.

3.2.1 Sampling type

Simple random sampling is best suited for this research study because it provides an equal and fair opportunity to all respondents that will participate in this study and also all government employees all around Malawi. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed to the participants of the study.

3.2.2 sample size

From the research it has been found that the responsive range is as follows:

- Increased industry exposure
- Supportive policy environment
- Networking and mentorship
- Improved employability
- Enhanced entrepreneur skills

5.0 CONCLUSION

This project has studied the effective way and solution or aid that could help to decrease the range of unemployment and creating entrepreneurship solutions of students to sustain the life. Employment is current leading source of economy in Malawi for all ages. Providing resources and mentorship for young entrepreneurs can further enhance their chances of success. Engaging universities and government in supporting entrepreneurship and providing industrial experience to youth will lead to increased youth employment rates, it can be concluded that such engagement can have a positive impact on young individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, networks and opportunities to start their own businesses secure employment industries. It is important to emphasize that successful implementation requires a collaborative approach involving themselves.

Universities play a crucial role in fostering an entrepreneurial culture by offering relevant courses, establishing entrepreneurship centers, organizing startup competitions and providing mentorship and networking opportunities. This initiative equips students with the necessary skills, knowledge and networks to pursue entrepreneurship and industrial experience. Government support is equally import as it can create an enabling environment through policy initiates, funding opportunities and collaborations with universities and industries. By implementing measures such as tax incentives, regulatory reforms and simplified processes, he government ca promote entrepreneurship and provide avenues for young individuals to gin industrial experience through internship, apprentices and work study programs.

5.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

By implementing the following recommend actions, university and government can collectively contribute to reducing youth unemployment rates, fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and facilitating meaningful employment opportunities for young individuals.

- Establish entrepreneurship support centers
- Integrate entrepreneurship education.
- Encourage industry collaboration
- Enhance government support
- Foster entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Monitor and evaluate impact