



Youth Entrepreneurship

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Abstract

Entrepreneurs are made not born. It is the way that a young person is brought up, the way they are taught, the influence of teachers and ‘significant others’ and the way they interact with their peers that shape their entrepreneurial nature and destiny.

That is our contention and it is the reason why we have developed courses and programs that foster entrepreneurship in young people. In this workshop a range of programs that we conduct (or have conducted) will be discussed and reference will be made to emerging research into the background of nascent entrepreneurs.

Evidence such as:

- 67% of the fathers of nascent entrepreneurs either strongly encouraged (30%) or encouraged (37%) their son or daughter to commence a business venture (Compared to 19% and 26% respectively in a comparison group).
- 78% of parents of nascent entrepreneurs had run businesses compared to 69% of the comparison group.
- 38% of nascent entrepreneurs believed that their teachers either strongly encouraged (12%) or encouraged (26%) them to start a business venture compared to 0% and 26% of the teachers of students in the comparison group.
- 63% of the nascent respondents believed their friends either strongly encouraged them to start a business venture (31%) or encouraged them (32%) compared to 52% (15 and 38% respectively) of comparison group respondents.

This will be an opportunity to discuss this research and look at emerging and leading edge programs that foster the development of entrepreneurial capacities in young people.