

The Importance of Youth Entrepreneurship

When you think of entrepreneurs, how often do you imagine them being under 18 years old? Not often, right? Let's change that. When done right Entrepreneurship is designed to provide you with an opportunity to grow your skills, grow your income and create generational wealth. The current unemployment rate amongst US youth 15-24 is 14.85% and 6.3% for BIPOC youth, during these times many underserved youth are expected to contribute to their households. It may be unfortunate, however the lack of jobs among young people has consequences on their health, well-being, and overall future.



Let's Change That

One of the many ways to get youth into the workforce is through youth entrepreneurship. When youth are presented with the idea of doing something they love and make money at the same time, they see the opportunities as endless. Not only will entrepreneurship bring youth into a new trajectory for their lives, it will also assist them with the soft skills that will benefit them in the long run. Such as,

- Purposeful Learning + Connections - social and communication skills, relationship and civic awareness
- Teamwork + Collaboration - commitment and follow-through, persuasion, and census building
- Resilience - grit, drive, perseverance
- Accountability - self-discipline, self direction, prioritization
- Critical + Creative Thinking - agility, assessment and analysis, decisiveness



- Empathy - perspective and passion. young people in other countries struggle to succeed because they don't have enough access to information, knowledge, training, or peer-to-peer support networks. Success stories of young entrepreneurs raise awareness among policymakers and institutions for empowering youth-led initiatives. For example, in the case of Liberia, a country where over 60 percent of the population is under the age of 35, support for youth entrepreneurship and leadership was considered crucial to building COVID-19 resilience.

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Benefits of Youth Entrepreneurship

When youth become entrepreneurs they are seen amongst their peers as role models and are able to learn important skills such as teamwork, networking, problem solving, self discipline and more these skills can help them improve their school performance and later on in life. Entrepreneurship is a real tool for a more secure future and can be used as a way to take control of their future. Youth entrepreneurs also create solutions while boosting local communities, creating social and economic change, and accelerating sustainable growth. Incorporating youth entrepreneurship into both the academic and Afterschool curriculum we not only help the youth in our communities thrive, we also help our communities as a whole thrive. Youthprise provides entrepreneurship grants to all MN youth under the age of 25. Check them out [here](#).



About the Author

Founder and Lead Strategist of business development agency The Admin, Mys Helen Martin is a business strategist, educator and organizer from St. Paul, MN. The Admin helps businesses and organizations grow and sustain themselves by providing growth strategies, online courses, and business development services. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Dayton to serve as a YWI council member and co-chair of the Economic Opportunity Chapter. She has also served as a member of Youthprise Board of Directors and Finance Committee. Her love of business development strategies commenced while facilitating NDC's Entrepreneur training class for small business owners in 2018. Her work has been featured in MN spokesman recorder, Star Tribune, and more.

Mys Helen has a passion for underserved youth and devotes her free time to developing after school programs designed to spark entrepreneurial pathways. Otherwise, when she is not helping businesses grow to their full potential, she is being wild and adventurous - living life to its fullest.