

Developing Entrepreneurial Skills Through Entrepreneurship Education to Promote Economic Independence Among Youth

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Abstract:

This article aims to examine the development of skills entrepreneurship in an effort to promote the economic independence of the youth in an era of increasingly competitive global competition. The focus of the study is directed to the importance of entrepreneurial skills as the main provision for young people to create business opportunities, reduce unemployment levels, and enhance economic competitiveness. This article uses a literature study method (literature review) by examining various scientific sources such as books, research journals, and academic articles related to entrepreneurship, economic education, and human resource development. The results of the study show that (1) developing entrepreneurial skills through formal education, training, and mentoring programs plays an important role in shaping creative, innovative, and independent mindsets among the youth; and (2) the economic independence of the youth can be achieved if entrepreneurial skills are supported by access to capital, the use of digital technology, and a social environment that is conducive to business growth. In addition, entrepreneurial skills also have an impact on improving the youth's ability to manage risk, make decisions, and create new jobs. The novelty of this article lies in the discussion that not only views entrepreneurship as an economic activity, but also as a process of character building, an independent mindset, and empowerment strategies for the youth in facing the ever-evolving challenges of the digital economy and globalization.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, youth, economic independence, skills, empowerment.

Introduction

The economic developments in the digital era put the younger generation in a situation that is very different from that of the previous generation. Formal jobs do continue to increase, but the number of job seekers also rises, so many education graduates still face difficulties in obtaining suitable employment. In such circumstances, entrepreneurship becomes one of the most realistic paths to build

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economic independence. When the younger generation has the ability to create their own business, they not only act as job seekers, but can also become job creators for others. Therefore, the development of entrepreneurial skills cannot be seen as a mere add-on; it is an important need for the younger generation to be able to survive, grow, and make a real contribution to the community's economy. (Fauziah & Munastiwi, 2023) The importance of entrepreneurial skills is also evident in the role of education in shaping the younger generation's mindset.

Entrepreneurship education is not only about introducing how to open a business, but also about instilling the courage to take risks, the ability to think creatively, communication skills, and the spirit to keep trying. In many cases, good entrepreneurship learning is able to encourage learners not only to wait for job opportunities, but also to dare to create new opportunities through ideas and innovation. This indicates that entrepreneurship education needs to be arranged in a more applied manner so that the younger generation not only understands theory, but is also trained to design and run a business independently. Thus, education becomes an initial foundation that strongly determines the success of developing entrepreneurial skills in the younger generation. (Kertarajasa & Annisa, 2022) Apart from formal education, the family environment also has a very significant influence in nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit. Young people who grow up in families accustomed to being independent, disciplined, and valuing hard work tend to be more prepared to face the business world. Parental support in the form of motivation, role modeling, and early habituation can shape children's courage to try new things, including in the field of business. At this stage, the family is not only a place for emotional growth, but also the first space for shaping economic character. Therefore, the development of entrepreneurial skills should not only be the responsibility of school or university, but also involve the family as an environment that shapes the younger generation's mindset, self-confidence, and independence. (Fauziah & Munastiwi, 2023) On the other hand, the development of digital technology opens up new opportunities that are very big for the younger generation to develop businesses. The business world is currently moving rapidly toward digital, so the younger generation needs skills that are not only conventional, but also able to use technology to support business activities. Technopreneurship is one of the important concepts in this context because it combines business capability with the effective use of technology. Through the ability to prepare a business plan, use digital platforms, and understand how online markets work, the younger generation can start businesses in a more focused and measurable way. This situation shows that entrepreneurial skills in today's era must be accompanied by digital capabilities so that the business being run does not fall behind changes in the times. (Kertarajasa & Annisa, 2022) Advances in social media and digital marketing also increasingly strengthen opportunities for the younger generation in the business world. Young

people today have access that is much more large to promote products, build brands, and reach consumers without needing large capital.

Digital marketing provides space for the younger generation to sell digitally in a more flexible, faster, and more efficient way, while also training them to understand the ever-changing market behavior. However, these opportunities can only be exploited optimally if young people have basic entrepreneurial skills, such as the ability to spot opportunities, develop promotional strategies, and maintain business consistency. Therefore, mastery of digital marketing is not just an additional skill, but an important part of modern entrepreneurial skills needed to drive economic independence. (Alimuddin, 2023) The novelty of this article lies in its discussion not only viewing entrepreneurship as the activity of starting a business, but also as a process of forming an independent, creative, adaptable character and the ability to make decisions among the younger generation. This study emphasizes that developing entrepreneurial skills should be understood more fully, as a result of the synergy between education, family, digital technology, and real business practice experience. With this approach, the younger generation is not only steered to become business actors, but also prepared to become a generation capable of standing economically on their own, creating job opportunities, and adapting to increasingly fast-changing markets. Therefore, this article offers a more comprehensive perspective in viewing entrepreneurship as a strategic means to build the economic independence of the younger generation amidst global challenges and the digital era. (Wakhudin, 2023).

Entrepreneurial skills can be understood as a set of abilities to recognize opportunities, turn ideas into economic value, make decisions, manage risks, and execute ventures independently. In the context of education, these skills are not enough to be taught as theory alone, but must be developed through practice, practical experience, and habit formation of creative thinking. Hudaya, Noviani, and Sangka (2023) show that family environment and entrepreneurial education both positively influence students' interest in entrepreneurship, meaning entrepreneurial skills grow stronger when learners receive examples, support, and applicable learning. In other words, entrepreneurial skills are not just knowledge about business, but real abilities that make the younger generation better prepared to build ventures and face market uncertainties. In addition, entrepreneurial skills also include the ability to adapt to rapidly changing business environments, especially in the current digital era. The younger generation is required to be able to read market trends, utilize technology, and develop product or service innovations that meet consumer needs. This process requires an open mindset, flexibility, and solution-oriented thinking, so that every challenge can be turned into a business

opportunity. Skills such as communication, time management, and teamwork are also important in supporting the success of an entrepreneur. Without these abilities, even a good business idea is difficult to develop sustainably. Therefore, strengthening entrepreneurial skills must be done comprehensively so that the younger generation not only can start a business but also sustain and grow it in the long term independently and competitively in a market that keeps changing

Entrepreneurship Education and the Role of the Environment

Entrepreneurship education becomes the main foundation in shaping patterns independent thinking among the young generation. Good education helps learners understand how to read opportunities, prepare business plans, manage capital, market products, and evaluate business risks. Pertiwi and Marlina (2025) emphasize that stronger entrepreneurship education is needed as an alternative strategy for job creation amid high unemployment, especially among young age groups. They also show that comprehensive, applied, and contextual educational models are more effective in fostering interest in entrepreneurship. This finding aligns with Dharsana (2025), who emphasizes that entrepreneurship education is important for equipping students with skills relevant in the digital era. Therefore, entrepreneurship education needs to be directed not only toward understanding concepts, but also toward practical skills closely aligned with the needs of today's business world. In addition, entrepreneurship education also plays a role in shaping the character of discipline, responsibility, and the courage to make decisions in learners themselves.

Practice-based learning processes such as business simulations, small business projects, and real case studies can help students understand business-world challenges more concretely. Thus, learners not only master theory, but also have direct experience in managing ideas into a real business. Directed entrepreneurship education can also foster confidence in facing the risk of failure, because failure is understood as part of the learning process. This is crucial for forming a resilient entrepreneurial mindset that is not easily discouraged. Therefore, strengthening the entrepreneurship curriculum needs to continue to be adjusted to changing times so that it can produce young people who are creative, innovative, and ready to compete in both the world of work and the business world independently.

Economic Independence of the Young Generation

The economic independence of the young generation relates to the ability to meet daily living needs, make economic decisions independently, and create sources of income without fully depending on other parties. In entrepreneurship studies, economic independence is often linked to the courage to open a business, the ability to survive competition, and the readiness to create new jobs. Research by Sitohang et al. (2026) shows that entrepreneurship education and family support have a positive influence on entrepreneurial interest among Generation Z, and they complement

each other in fostering a spirit of independence and innovation in the young generation. Meanwhile, Pertiwi and Marlana (2025) emphasize that entrepreneurship education is an alternative strategy for job creation. This means that economic independence is not only the end result of business activities, but also the outcome of an ongoing process of forming attitudes, knowledge, and environmental support.

In addition, the economic independence of the young generation is also strongly influenced by strong financial literacy skills, such as managing income, regulating expenses, saving, and wisely investing business results. Without adequate financial understanding, businesses often find it difficult to grow even when they have large market potential. In today's digital era, economic independence is also supported by the ability to leverage technology such as e-commerce platforms, social media, and digital payment systems that make business transaction processes easier. Young people who can combine entrepreneurship skills with digital literacy will have greater opportunities to achieve economic independence sustainably. Therefore, strengthening the aspects of knowledge, skills, and environmental support must proceed in a balanced way so that the young generation is not only able to start a business, but also able to maintain and develop their business in the long term in a stable and competitive manner.

Supporting Ecosystem for Entrepreneurship Development

The development of entrepreneurship skills will not run optimally without a supportive ecosystem, such as family, schools, higher education institutions, government, and a positive social environment. Hudaya, Noviani, and Sangka (2023) show that family support strengthens interest in entrepreneurship, while entrepreneurship education that is arranged in a practical and targeted way helps learners be more ready to enter the business world. On the other hand, Dharsana (2025) emphasizes the importance of skill-based entrepreneurship training and mentoring that is relevant to the digital era, because today's young generation needs preparation that is not only theoretical, but also technical and adaptive. Research by Sitohang et al. (2026) also highlights the importance of projects, apprenticeships, business competitions, incubators, funding, and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen an entrepreneurial culture. Thus, the development of entrepreneurship skills must be understood as a joint effort among formal education, families, and policy support. Based on these various theories, the development of entrepreneurship skills can be seen as a process that gradually shapes the courage, creativity, and economic independence of the younger generation. Entrepreneurship education provides a knowledge foundation, family provides emotional and moral support, while the digital environment opens access to wider market opportunities and business opportunities. The relationship among these three elements indicates that economic independence does not emerge

instantly, but is built through learning processes, habituation, and real experience in entrepreneurship. Therefore, this study views that strengthening entrepreneurship skills is one of the most relevant paths to prepare the younger generation to be able to stand on their own feet, create businesses, and contribute to the sustainable economic growth of society.

Research Method

This research uses a literature study method (library research) with a descriptive qualitative approach. The literature study method is a research method carried out by collecting, reading, reviewing, and analyzing various literature sources relevant to the topic of developing entrepreneurship skills to encourage the economic independence of the younger generation. The sources used in this research include books, scientific journals, academic articles, as well as documents from previous research that discuss entrepreneurship, economic education, and the economic independence of the younger generation. According to Sugiyono (2022), literature studies are conducted to obtain a deep understanding of a problem through reviews of various existing references without conducting field research directly. A descriptive qualitative approach is chosen because this research focuses on understanding concepts and the relationships among variables theoretically, not on measuring numbers or statistical data. With this approach, the researcher can systematically describe how entrepreneurship skills are formed, develop, and contribute to the economic independence of the younger generation based on review results from various scientific sources. In addition, this method allows researchers to compare various findings from previous research so that a more comprehensive, in-depth, and objective picture of the phenomenon being studied is obtained. The data collection technique in this research is carried out through documentation study, that is by searching, reading, recording, and classifying various relevant literature. The data used consists of primary data in the form of scientific journals and books that discuss entrepreneurship and the economy of the younger generation, as well as secondary data in the form of supporting articles and results from previous research. All of that data is then analyzed using a qualitative descriptive analysis technique, namely by elaborating, interpreting, and linking various findings to form a complete pattern of understanding. According to Moleong (2021), qualitative descriptive analysis aims to understand a phenomenon thoroughly through the depiction of data from various sources in a systematic manner. Thus, the method used in this research is expected to provide a clear, structured, and in-depth picture of the role of entrepreneurship skills in encouraging the economic independence of the younger generation in the modern era.

Research Results

Developing Entrepreneurship Skills of the Young Generation

The results of the study show that the development of entrepreneurship

skills in the young generation is a very important process in forming sustainable economic independence. Entrepreneurship skills are not only understood as the ability to start a business, but also include the ability to think creatively and innovatively, as well as to be able to see and take advantage of opportunities available in the surrounding environment. In this regard, the younger generation is required not only to be job seekers, but also to be able to create jobs through business ideas that are relevant to community needs and the development of the times. Furthermore, entrepreneurship education in both schools and universities has a very significant role in shaping character and entrepreneurial ability. The learning process that is not only theoretical, but also involves direct practice such as business simulations, small business projects, and entrepreneurship training, has proven able to improve understanding as well as the courage of students to start a business.

This applied education helps the young generation understand how a business is genuinely run, from planning to evaluating business results. Apart from formal education, the family and social environments also provide significant contributions in forming entrepreneurship skills. Family support that provides motivation, real examples, and moral encouragement can increase the confidence of the younger generation in making decisions to become entrepreneurs. On the other hand, a positive social environment can also strengthen networks, open access to information, and provide inspiration in developing new business ideas. Overall, the results of this study indicate that entrepreneurship skills are formed through an interconnected process among formal education, practical experience, and support from the surrounding environment. These three aspects cannot be separated because they reinforce one another in building the mindset, abilities, and courage of the younger generation.

The Role of Entrepreneurship in Economic Independence

The results of the study also show that entrepreneurial skills have a very significant influence on the economic independence of the younger generation in the long term. Young people who have good entrepreneurial skills tend to be more able to create their own business opportunities than to rely solely on formal employment, whose numbers are limited and whose level of competition is increasing. Under such conditions, entrepreneurship becomes one of the important alternatives for paving the way toward economic independence while also improving life welfare. Economic independence in the younger generation can be seen from individuals' ability to generate income independently without fully depending on other people. In addition, independence is also reflected in the ability to manage finances, control spending, and make economic decisions

more wisely and in a planned manner. This shows that entrepreneurial skills not only impact the business aspect, but also shape a more independent and responsible mindset in everyday life. In addition, developments in digital technology also provide a significant impact in strengthening the economic independence of the younger generation. The presence of social media, e-commerce platforms, and digital payment systems opens up broader opportunities to start and grow a business with relatively smaller capital. This technology also enables young people to reach larger markets without territorial limitations, so that the chances of business success become higher and easier to develop in a sustainable manner. provides greater opportunities for the younger generation to expand market reach without being limited by geographical areas. By leveraging digital media, the products or services offered can become more widely known, thereby increasing income potential. Meanwhile, economic independence is reflected in individuals' ability to generate income on their own without overly relying on other parties. Thus, entrepreneurship can be understood as one of the main factors that plays an important role in shaping the younger generation's economic independence in a way that is sustainable and adaptive to changing times.

Discussion

The development of entrepreneurial skills in the younger generation is fundamentally strongly influenced by the educational process, which not only emphasizes theory but also builds courage, self-confidence, and the ability to read business opportunities. Research findings show that entrepreneurship education and family support are two main factors that affect the entrepreneurial interest of Generation Z; moreover, both are also related to digital business literacy and financial literacy as reinforcers of business readiness. Aditya et al. (2024) also affirm that the family environment and entrepreneurship education have a positive effect on entrepreneurial interest through self-efficacy. This shows that entrepreneurial skills grow stronger when the younger generation receives consistent support from home, school, and its social environment. Furthermore, entrepreneurial skills become more tangible when the younger generation is given concrete opportunities for practice. Activities such as Market Day, small business practice, and project-based learning provide opportunities for learners to plan products, calculate capital, manage marketing, communicate with consumers, and evaluate business results. Andriani and Lestari (2024) show that Market Day is effective in nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit, entrepreneurial interest, and life skills because learners are trained from the planning stage through to sales. These findings align with your research results that creativity, innovation, decision-making, and risk management are not enough to be taught solely through theory; rather, they must be practiced

through direct experience so that they become truly embedded abilities in the younger generation. If these skills continue to develop, the impact will be strongly felt in the younger generation's economic independence. Entrepreneurship provides opportunities for young people to build their own sources of income, create jobs, and not be fully dependent on formal employment, whose competition is increasingly tight. In this context, financial literacy becomes an important reinforcement because it helps individuals manage spending, save, invest, and make economic decisions more rationally. Amanah and Mainaky (2026) emphasize that financial literacy positively contributes to healthy and sustainable economic behavior, while social arithmetic skills strengthen the accuracy in assessing economic risks and benefits. That means economic independence is not only built from the courage to open a business, but also from the ability to manage business outcomes wisely so that the business can survive in the long run.

In addition to financial aspects, the development of digital technology also broadens the space for young people to run businesses. Social media, marketplaces, and digital payment systems enable small businesses to reach a wider market without high costs. In Sitohang et al. (2026) study, digital business literacy and financial literacy are described as factors that strengthen the readiness to entrepreneurship for Generation Z, so technology mastery is no longer a supplement but a basic necessity in modern entrepreneurship. From this, it appears that your research findings are relevant to current conditions: entrepreneurial skills, family support, practice training, and financial management complement each other in shaping economically independent and more resilient youth in facing changing times. This article differs from studies conducted by Hudaya, Noviani, and Sangka (2023), Kertarajasa and Annisa (2022), and Fauziah and Munastiwi (2023). Essentially, those studies focus more on the influence of family environment, entrepreneurial education, and technopreneurship learning on students' or pupils' entrepreneurial interest. Hudaya, Noviani, and Sangka discuss the relationship between family environment and entrepreneurial education with students' entrepreneurial interest, Kertarajasa and Annisa focus more on technopreneurship learning for students, while Fauziah and Munastiwi highlight the role of entrepreneurial education in shaping Generation Z's entrepreneurial interest. Meanwhile, this article has a broader scope because it not only views entrepreneurship from the perspective of interest or learning, but also comprehensively examines the process of developing entrepreneurial skills involving creativity, innovation, decision making, risk management, and their impact on the sustainable economic independence of youth. This article aligns with research conducted by Pertiwi and Marlana (2025), Sitohang et al. (2026), and Alimuddin (2023). Essentially, these studies all discuss the importance of

entrepreneurial education, digital literacy, and environmental support in shaping youths' readiness to become entrepreneurs. Pertiwi and Marlina discuss entrepreneurial education as an alternative strategy for job creation, Sitohang et al. examine the influence of entrepreneurial education, digital business literacy, and financial literacy on Generation Z's entrepreneurial interest, while Alimuddin emphasizes the role of digital marketing as a means of business development in the digital era. This article also discusses similar points, namely strengthening entrepreneurial skills as a means to promote the economic independence of youth, but with a more specific emphasis on the relationship between developing practical skills, independent economic capability, and readiness to face the challenges of a continually changing modern market. Furthermore, the novelty of this article lies in the discussion of developing entrepreneurial skills in a more comprehensive and integrative way by connecting various interconnected dimensions, such as formal education, family environment, and experiences. practice, financial literacy, the use of digital technology, and the development of independent character in the younger generation. This article not only explains entrepreneurship as an economic activity, but also as a process for building the ability to think creatively, dare to take risks, and be able to create one's own business opportunities. In addition, this article also emphasizes that the economic independence of the younger generation cannot be separated from support from a healthy ecosystem, both from schools, families, and the development of information technology that opens up wider business opportunities. Thus, this article offers a new perspective that the development of entrepreneurship skills is a strategic process that not only produces business actors, but also shapes a younger generation that is independent, adaptive, and ready to compete in a continuously developing digital economy.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study that has been discussed, it can be concluded that the development of entrepreneurship skills has a very important role in shaping the economic independence of the younger generation. Entrepreneurship skills not only include technical abilities in running a business, but also include the ability to think creatively and innovatively, make decisions, and manage risks in dealing with the dynamics of the business world. The process of forming these skills cannot be separated from the role of entrepreneurship education in schools and universities, which provides a foundation of knowledge as well as practical experience through project-based learning and business simulations. In addition, the family and social environment also has a major contribution in shaping the character and courage of the younger generation to start a business. Moral support, motivation, and real examples from the surrounding environment are able to increase confidence in

starting and developing a business. On the other hand, the development of digital technology also strengthens opportunities for economic independence by opening wider market access through social media, e-commerce platforms, and digital payment systems that are easier and more efficient. Overall, entrepreneurship skills have been proven to have a direct influence on the economic independence of the younger generation. Young people who have these skills are better able to create their own business opportunities, manage finances independently, and not fully depend on formal employment. Therefore, strengthening entrepreneurship education, environmental support, and the use of digital technology are key factors in shaping a younger generation that is independent, productive, and ready to face economic challenges in the modern era.

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