

School Entrepreneurship, The Best Practice in Myanmar

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is the ability to turn ideas into action. It involves creativity, innovation, risk-taking, planning, and project management. School entrepreneurship aims to support the needs of the community and society by solving day-to-day problems and improving the standard of living. Entrepreneurs are individuals who take risks and find market opportunities to meet community demands. School entrepreneurship projects can be initiated with low-cost or free resources available around the school. The goal is to encourage students to develop their initiative and entrepreneurial skills to support their future endeavors. Teachers play a vital role in managing, deciding, and organizing successful entrepreneurship projects. They are leaders, managers, decision-makers, and organizers who can transform these skills to their students. The school entrepreneurship activity's private motto is "Thinking outside the box," and it has five Ps: passion, purpose, plan, partner, and profit. Passion is essential for everything we do, and it is necessary to love the profession of teaching and children to be a good teacher. The purpose is to support the community and develop school soft skills. The plan is crucial, and the project's benefit will differ according to how teachers and active students manage it. Partners or friends are essential for the school, and the school and community depend on each other for development. Support from the community or students' parents is a word of encouragement. In Myanmar, there is a great saying by Buddha that "100% of your work will surely be successful if you have a good friend." Profit is the last P, and it is the result of goodwill, time, and effort invested in the project. School entrepreneurship projects may not always generate profits, but they can provide mental encouragement and a sense of pride for students who work together to help their community. School entrepreneurship is not a new concept, as many great philosophers have initiated it long ago. Albert Einstein said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results," while Charles Darwin said, "Every great thing starts from very small steps." For example, in Myanmar, schools are using bamboo trees to create tables, chairs, and armchairs that are sold to the community at a low price. A famous handicraft school is teaching students to make products of standard quality and sell them to wider communities in Myanmar and neighboring countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and students in Myanmar helped the community by selling cloth masks at low prices when there was a shortage of masks in the country. Schools in Myanmar are engaging in entrepreneurship activities to support their communities during the pandemic. For example, schools are creating rubbish bins and basins for hand washing using plastic containers and pipes. These products are sold to other schools, generating reasonable profits. The goal is to encourage more schools to engage in entrepreneurship activities and inspire new ideas for future projects.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, innovation, risk-taking, planning, project management