



POTENTIALS REQUIRED BY MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO RAISE FINANCIAL CAPITAL FOR SELF- EMPLOYMENT

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Abstract: *This study investigated on the potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students to raise financial capital for self-employment in Enugu State. The study adopted survey research design. One research question and one null hypotheses tested at .05 significant levels guided the study. A 20 items questionnaire was constructed and validated and its reliability of 0.77 was used to generate data for 103 respondents comprising of 90 undergraduate students and 13 lecturers of mechanical technology education in Enugu State. The population was manageable. There was no sampling. The findings of the study showed that the 20 items identified are potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students to raise financial capital for self-employment. The study recommended among others that only qualified lecturer entrepreneur who are experienced in raising capital should teach entrepreneurship studies to undergraduate students of mechanical technology education so that they will guide the students very well on how to raise capital for self-employment and job creation.*

Keywords: *Capital, Potential, self-employment*

INTRODUCTION

Capital is to business what nutrition is to life. Raising capital is one of the most difficult challenges any entrepreneur faces in starting a business (Onoh, 2011) you could have the best ideas, plans and people, but without capital, none of the dreams will come true. Raising the proper amount of capital is the most important step in starting a business. Capital plays a pivotal role in the startup. Finance is the lifeline of business (Burton, 2012). A mechanical technology education undergraduate student who want to go into self-employment on graduation requires finance to commence his operations, to continue its operations and for the expansion and growth. There must be a continuous flow of funds in and out of business.



Access to finance remains a critical barrier to the start-up and success of self-employment (Butter, 2013). A crucial factor that will determine the success of entrepreneurship is access to finance. Without the ability to secure funding, entrepreneurial companies will be unable to reach their potential and may not survive at all. One of the crucial requirements for an entrepreneur to start and flourish is his ability to raise fund (Young, 2012). According to Brock, (2010) when somebody especially mechanical technology education undergraduate students acquired skills and ability to raise fund for a start such persons can be self-employed and even employ others. For mechanical technology education undergraduate students to be successful in self-employment, they should have access to capital (Onoh, 2011). Without access to capital all the dream of mechanical technology education undergraduate students to go into self-employment cannot be achieved.

According to national standard for Entrepreneurship education USA (2013), mechanical technology education undergraduate students who studied entrepreneurship has the ability to raise capital either from personal savings or loan to start their own business and thereby create wealth. Also, they have the knowledge to identify legitimate source of capital. When the knowledge to identify legitimate source of capital and the ability to raise capital are articulated, it will help to make the students on graduation not just self reliance but job creators and employers of labour.

The concern of this study is that most of the undergraduate students of mechanical technology education lack the potentials raise financial capital to on graduation and thereby cannot go into self-employment. The problem of this study, therefore is what are the potentials possessed by mechanical technology education undergraduate students to raise financial capital for self-employment. The purpose of this study is to determine the potentials possessed by mechanical technology education undergraduate students to raise financial capital for self-employment.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The following research question was posed to guide the study.

1. What are the potentials possessed by mechanical technology education undergraduate students to raise financial capital for self-employment?

NULL HYPOTHESES

The following Null Hypotheses were p tested at 0.05 level of significance.



1. There is no significant between the mean responses of undergraduate students of mechanical technology education and their lecturer on the potentials possessed they possessed to raise financial capital.

METHOD

The research was survey research design. The study was conducted in Enugu State. It focused on all the universities in Enugu State that run mechanical technology education programmes. The population for the study was 103 respondents, comprised 90 undergraduate students and 13 lecturers of mechanical technology education from University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Enugu State University of Science and Technology (Universities in Enugu State that run mechanical technology education programme). The population identified for the study was not too large; therefore the entire population was used for the study. There was no sampling. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire developed by the researcher using a four point response scale of strongly agree (4), agree (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). The Instrument was validated by three experts and its reliability ($r = 0.74$) coefficient was established using Cronbach alpha measure of internal consistency.

The instrument was administered to respondents by the researcher and two research assistants. The return rate was 98%. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer question, while t-test statistic was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULT

Data for the study were presented and analyzed based on the research question and hypothesis that guided the study. The details are contained in the tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of responses on potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students of Universities in Enugu State to raise financial capital for self-employment

S/N	Item statement	Lecturers		Students		Overall		Decision
		X1	SD1	X2	SD2	X3	SD3	
	Ability to access financial capital from :							
1	family members	3.10	0.20	2.60	0.80	2.85	0.50	Agree
2	Friends	3.10	0.50	2.76	0.66	2.93	0.58	Agree
3	Relations	2.90	0.50	2.71	0.74	2.81	0.66	Agree
4	Banks	3.10	0.50	2.77	0.81	2.94	0.66	Agree



5	cooperative society	3.10	0.50	2.82	0.69	2.96	0.60	Agree
6	other financial houses	2.90	0.49	2.77	0.77	2.84	0.63	Agree
7	Personal saves	3.10	0.49	2.90	0.54	2.96	0.52	Agree
8	Odd jobs	2.92	0.69	2.67	0.57	2.80	0.63	Agree
9	Vacation jobs	2.92	0.49	2.70	0.51	2.80	0.50	Agree
10	Part-time employment	2.85	0.80	2.69	0.57	2.77	0.69	Agree
11	Seasonal employment	2.90	0.69	2.70	0.59	2.80	0.64	Agree
	Ability to get grant from;							
12	Government agencies	3.15	0.80	2.89	0.45	3.02	0.63	Agree
13	Nongovernmental organizations (NGO)	2.80	0.45	2.60	0.50	2.70	0.48	Agree
14	Individual philanthropies	3.20	0.49	2.90	0.57	3.05	0.53	Agree
15	Ability to raise capital through joint partnership	2.90	0.62	2.80	0.59	2.85	0.61	Agree
16	Ability to attract angel investor	3.10	0.20	2.60	0.80	2.85	0.50	Agree
17	crowd funding	3.15	0.80	2.89	0.45	3.02	0.63	Agree
18	Factoring	3.69	0.62	3.40	0.59	3.54	0.61	Agree
19	start up incubators	3.60	0.77	2.99	0.68	3.30	0.73	Agree
20	Co-ownership	3.10	0.49	2.90	0.54	3.00	0.52	Agree
	Grand Mean	2.79	0.52	2.52	0.64	2.52	0.62	Agree

Data in table 1 showed that the respondents agreed that all the items identified are the potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students of Universities in Enugu State to raise financial capital for self-employment. The mean values were above the benchmark of 2.50 and the grand mean for the two groups of the respondents were also above 2.50.

Table 2. t-test analysis of the mean responses of undergraduate students of mechanical technology education and their lecturer on the potentials they required to raise financial capital for self-employment

Respondents	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Lecturers	13			101	±i.69	±1.96	Do not
Students	90						Reject Ho ₂

The data presented in Table 2 indicated that at 0.05 level of significant, t-calculated of 1.69 is less than t-critical which is 1.96. This implies that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of undergraduate students of mechanical technology education and their lecturer on the potentials they required to raise financial capital for self-employment.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The analysis of respondents to the research question showed that all the 20 items listed had mean ratings that qualify them as the potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students of Universities in Enugu State to raise financial capital for self-employment. This was observed from overall mean(x) values which range between



2.70 to 3.30 for the research question, indicating agreed because the mean values were above the benchmark of 2.50.

The grand mean (\bar{x}) for the two groups of the respondents respectively in the research question were above 2.50, showing that they agreed to the items as the potentials required by mechanical technology education undergraduate students of Universities in Enugu State to raise financial capital for self-employment. The closeness of the responses as shown by the entire standard deviation (SD) indicates homogeneity in their responses. Testing of the hypotheses as shown in table 2 revealed that there is no significance difference on the mean responses of undergraduate students of Universities in Enugu State and their lecturers on the potentials required of them to raise financial capital for self-employment.

CONCLUSION

For undergraduate students of mechanical technology to raise fund for self-employment on graduation, they must work hard and cultivate the attitude of making personal savings. They should have high expectations and be inspired with the right vision about the enterprise they want to start. They should have the ability to motivate donors, volunteers and philanthropies who are ready to assist young graduates to go into self-employment and job creations. Undergraduate students of mechanical technology, who want to go into self-employment and job creation, should be honest and people of integrity. While in the university, they should develop good public relation with the powers that be. They should work hard to exploit the available fund and grant that has been mapped out by the government for young entrepreneurs. .

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. Only qualified lecturer entrepreneur who are experienced in raising capital should teach entrepreneurship studies to students of mechanical technology.
2. The government should make fund and grants available for young graduates who want to go into self-employment and job generation.
3. Students of mechanical technology education should start early to make some savings which can help them to go into self-employment on graduation.



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