

Youth Lab Incubator

Introduction

The rate of unemployment in Kenya is highly pegged on the education system i.e the system as is currently set, does not train youths and students in schools to be job creators, But instead pumps them with the knowledge that enables them to become job seekers when they are done with schooling. These graduates also lack the skill-set that is relevant in the job market by the time they graduate hence don't qualify to land the jobs that they have studied for.

With more than 50 Universities in Kenya, the number of young people in higher learning institutions is growing at a faster rate; therefore calling for a more practical approach to youth unemployment.

Ylab incubator is creating a pool of young, talented and efficient graduates who are able to use the latest tools to solve world problems while creating a self -sustaining livelihood for themselves and those around them.

Problem/Issue at hand:

- a. Unemployment & Incompetency
- b. The huge number of university graduates
- c. Education system
- d. Culture

Justification

As recent graduates, our team have had first time experience of the system in our tertiary institutions. Most programmes in tertiary institutions leave students with a lot of free time on their hands. Time that if properly utilised to develop skill-set instead of used for leisure would help grow well-rounded individuals.

Looking through the university systems; we lack sufficient mentorship programs, and innovation hubs.

In this regard, Ylab incubator will leverage on the available free time within the university calendars to create well rounded and skilled graduates who are able to creatively come up with solutions that can be turned into income-generating activities for themselves and those around them.

Our Vision

To develop and equip tertiary students into young professionals with the highest work standards within their field of operation.

Our mission

To be a platform that facilitates the creation of self-sustaining professionals, leaders, and entrepreneurs with fresh impactful solutions to the world's problems and make the world a better place.

Objectives

1. Student Mentorship
2. Proper Professional and Social Linkages
3. Networking with professionals and peers
4. Create Employment and Job opportunities

Ylab Incubator Model

The program will create a network of visionary students who are able to think, learn and act faster to solve societal problems around them.

Ylab will work under the following models:

1. Inter-university collaborations that will ensure that the Ylab incubator members get access to resources, networks and foster project collaborations and partnerships.
2. Additionally, regular tailor-made university and inter-university events and forums will give them access to a wide range of fast-hand experiences, exposure and knowledge.
3. Through strategic partnerships with industry players, the incubator will see to it that all the members find relevant and productive internship opportunities.
4. The students will also be coupled up with mentors hence ensuring they their growth. The mentors will also facilitate in the acquisition of necessary skills & expertise they need to be competitive in the job and entrepreneurship fields.

Approach and Methodology

Ylab incubator shall use the mentors and industry professionals to provide opportunities and guidance to the students. Through the elected club leadership in each university the team shall act as the liaison between the club members and ylab directors and the mentors. Collaborations and networking opportunities that provide hands on experience in different fields will be made available to club members. A club shall discuss and table down their interest areas beginning of each semester example if entrepreneurship is one of their key learnings. The mentor and patron will organise opportunities surrounding entrepreneurship. Outstanding club members who have shown great initiative and potential in a particular area will be presented with a chance to intern with a partner/s organisations. They will also play a key role in any activities as called upon that provide more opportunities for them to grow and develop their skills beyond class. In a nutshell our framework is to provide the student with first hand feel and experience of the industry to reinforce their curriculum.

Leadership Structure

The leadership constitutes:

- a. Mentor- Ylab Rep
- b. Patron- Lecturer
- c. Team Lead- Student
- d. Club Members.

Conclusion

As Ylab we are passionate about young people and to provide opportunities that equip them at an early stage in their life to give them a headstart as they navigate their professional journey. We want to build a community of empowered people willing to shake up and change the narrative of young Kenyans.