

## **The Role of extracurricular activities on students' development of entrepreneurship skills in Dodoma higher learning institutions, Tanzania**

**Author: Rhoda Chanangula**

**(MAED, 2018)**

Internationally, extracurricular activities are part and parcel of human life. A person can turn extracurricular activities into self-employment, particularly sports. Therefore, for that case, this study sought to explore the role of extracurricular activities on students' development of entrepreneurship skills in Dodoma higher learning institutions, Tanzania. It employed a mixed research approach whereby quantitative and qualitative research techniques were used. Data were collected from a sample of 102 respondents, including two (2) university administrators, 50 participant students in extracurricular activities and 50 non-participants students in extracurricular activities by using interview, questionnaire and documentary review. Interview was administered to university administrators while a questionnaire was administered to both participant and non-participant students in extracurricular activities. The findings revealed the following: Firstly, the institutional administrations urge students to participate because extracurricular activities can in the future help the students to create a self-employment as far as entrepreneurship is concerned, despite financial constraints. Secondly, the extracurricular resources provided by the institutions adequately supported the students' development of entrepreneurship skills. Thirdly, the findings revealed that regardless of the efforts made by higher learning institutions administrators to stress on the importance of extracurricular activities, students failed to participate due to inadequate time, inadequate recourses, lecturers' discouragement and the cost of financing extracurricular activities.

Students were too busy with course-work, had no professional coaches, and family obligations also were an obstacle to participation. Hence it became difficult to develop entrepreneurial skills. The researcher recommends that universities should support and encourage participation in extracurricular activities because they build entrepreneurship, teamwork and leadership skills. Likewise, the government and other stakeholders should cooperatively address the importance of extracurricular activities in all institutions. Also, being a significant phenomenon, a comprehensive study on the means and ways to control the problem may as well be carried out in order to promote higher involvement in extracurricular activities and to mitigate the challenges pointed out in this study.

