



Swami Vivekananda's Philosophy of Self-Confidence and Its Role in Shaping the Entrepreneurial Mindset among Youth

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Abstract:

Swami Vivekananda's philosophy strongly emphasizes self-confidence, fearlessness, and perseverance as the keys to human progress. He believed that the greatest weakness is to think of oneself as weak, and that true growth comes from realizing the power within. These ideas are highly relevant for today's youth, especially in building the courage and creativity needed for entrepreneurship. In Karbi Anglong district of Assam, where young people face challenges such as unemployment, lack of opportunities, and socio-economic constraints, Vivekananda's teachings can inspire both personal and professional development.

This study explores how Vivekananda's philosophy of self-confidence influences the entrepreneurial mindset of youth in Karbi Anglong. A self-developed scale was used to assess two areas: self-confidence and entrepreneurial mindset. The sample includes 30 undergraduate students and young entrepreneurs from a local college in the district. The study aims to determine whether higher self-confidence levels are associated with stronger entrepreneurial qualities such as risk-taking, leadership, problem-solving, and creativity.

The findings are expected to emphasize the relevance of Vivekananda's ideas in modern times, demonstrating how philosophical teachings can be turned into practical strategies for youth empowerment. The study also aims to propose ways to incorporate value-based education and entrepreneurship training for young people in Karbi Anglong, helping them become confident leaders and job creators.

Keywords: Philosophy of Self-Confidence, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Youth Empowerment, Karbi Anglong, Value-Based Education

Introduction:

Swami Vivekananda is remembered as one of the greatest thinkers and motivators of modern India. His philosophy centers on strength, self-confidence, and fearlessness. He strongly declared that “The greatest sin is to think yourself weak” (Vivekananda, 1963), meaning that success begins when we believe in our inner power. Though deeply spiritual, his message has broad practical value in education, leadership, and youth development. In the present age, when young people face unemployment, stress, and pressure to innovate, Vivekananda’s philosophy offers guidance for building confidence, courage, and resilience.

Several scholars have emphasized the ongoing relevance of his ideas. Chakraborty (2018) explained that character-building and confidence, which are central to Vivekananda’s philosophy, remain vital for education. Sengupta (2019) highlighted that values like discipline and fearlessness help youth become more effective leaders. Similarly, Das (2021) and Ghosh (2023) noted that Vivekananda’s teachings promote self-reliance, creativity, and independent thinking, which are essential qualities for young people in today’s society. Roy (2021) further pointed out that spiritual and philosophical ideals can serve as motivation for entrepreneurship by providing moral strength to youth.

Recent research on youth development also confirms the importance of self-confidence. Mishra (2022) showed that confidence plays a central role in preparing young people for success in both education and careers. Singh and Verma (2022) added that strong self-belief helps youth to take initiative and develop entrepreneurial ideas. Studies on entrepreneurship show the same link. Kumar (2020) found that youth with higher confidence are more willing to take risks and innovate. Sharma and Patel (2020) observed that entrepreneurship education works best when it develops resilience and confidence alongside technical skills. Patel (2024) argued that responsibility, fearlessness, and service values, close to Vivekananda’s philosophy, make youth stronger as leaders and entrepreneurs.

From this background, it is evident that Swami Vivekananda’s philosophy of self-confidence is not only a source of spiritual wisdom but also a practical guide for modern youth. His ideas can inspire young people to overcome fear, think creatively, and take bold steps in entrepreneurship. Therefore, this study focuses on exploring the role of Vivekananda’s philosophy of self-confidence in shaping an entrepreneurial mindset among youth, to link timeless wisdom to present-day challenges and opportunities.

Objectives of the study:

1. To examine the impact of Swami Vivekananda’s philosophy of self-confidence on the youth of Karbi Anglong.
2. To explore the connection between self-confidence and entrepreneurial mindset among students and young people in Karbi Anglong.
3. Suggest methods to incorporate Vivekananda’s ideas into educational and skill-development programs to empower youth in Karbi Anglong.

Method of the Study:

The present study employs a descriptive survey method to examine the influence of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of self-confidence on shaping the entrepreneurial mindset of youth in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The study was carried out in Karbi Anglong, a region predominantly inhabited by tribal communities in Assam. The district was selected purposively because a significant number of students pursuing higher education are preparing to enter the job market, yet many also aspire to create self-employment opportunities through entrepreneurship.

The sample includes 30 undergraduate students from colleges in Karbi Anglong district who have expressed an interest in starting their own business or entrepreneurial venture in the future. Purposive sampling was used to select these students through discussions with teachers and peers, ensuring that only those with entrepreneurial aspirations were included.

A self-constructed questionnaire was developed for data collection. It contained two sections: (a) Self-Confidence Scale: Items reflecting Vivekananda's teachings on inner strength, fearlessness, and positive thinking. (b) Entrepreneurial Mindset Scale: Items focusing on leadership, risk-taking, problem-solving, creativity, and perseverance.

Responses were recorded using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from "Strongly Agree" (5) to "Strongly Disagree" (1). Data was collected directly from students in classroom settings with prior permission from college authorities. Before filling out the questionnaire, the purpose of the study was explained to the participants, and confidentiality of responses was assured. The collected data were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, and mean) to understand the general trend of reactions. Additionally, correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between self-confidence and entrepreneurial mindset among the students.

Results:

The present study aimed to examine the influence of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of self-confidence on the entrepreneurial mindset of youth in Karbi Anglong. Data were collected from 30 undergraduate students interested in becoming entrepreneurs. Scores for Self-Confidence (Section B) and Entrepreneurial Mindset (Section C) were recorded for each student. Results are presented in the following tables.

Table 1: Scores of Students on Self-Confidence and Entrepreneurial Mindset

Sl.No of student	Section -B (Self-Confidence)	Section - C (Entrepreneurial mindset)
1	36	44
2	42	33

3	29	31
4	32	37
5	42	40
6	29	36
7	42	38
8	38	44
9	37	33
10	37	39
11	43	39
12	35	32
13	38	32
14	38	32
15	32	36
16	36	36
17	32	36
18	34	32
19	35	31
20	36	34
21	29	23
22	39	29
23	34	32
24	36	32
25	42	39
26	40	49
27	32	28
28	35	40
29	39	42
30	41	42

To understand the general trend, the mean and standard deviation (SD) of both variables were calculated.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Self-Confidence and Entrepreneurial Mindset (N = 30)

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum score	Maximum score
Self-Confidence	36.5	4.08	29	43
Entrepreneurial Mindset	35.7	5.50	23	49

The analysis indicates that students' average self-confidence score is somewhat higher than their entrepreneurial mindset score. However, the values are similar, suggesting a potential link between the two.

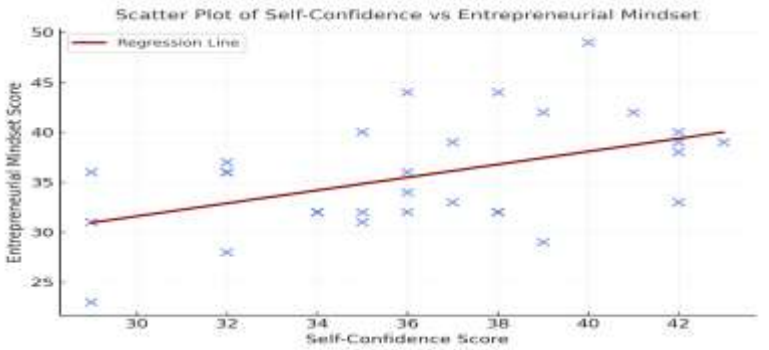
To test this relationship, the Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated.

Table 3: Correlation between Self-Confidence and Entrepreneurial Mindset

variables		Correlation (r)	Significance
Self-confidence & Entrepreneurial Mindset		0.62	Moderate to strong positive correlation

The result shows a positive correlation ($r = 0.62$), indicating that students with greater self-confidence often have a more developed entrepreneurial mindset. To visually represent this relationship, a scatter plot was drawn.

Figure 1: Scatter Plot showing Correlation between Self-Confidence and Entrepreneurial Mindset



Discussion

The present study examined the link between self-confidence and entrepreneurial mindset among students in Karbi Anglong, inspired by Swami Vivekananda’s philosophy. The findings revealed a moderate to strong positive correlation ($r = 0.62$) between self-confidence and entrepreneurial tendencies. This suggests that students with higher self-confidence are more likely to exhibit traits of an entrepreneurial mindset, such as taking risks, innovating, and showing persistence.

Swami Vivekananda repeatedly emphasised that “the greatest sin is to think yourself weak” and that realising one’s inner strength is the key to growth and success. The findings of this study align with this view, suggesting that self-confidence is not only a psychological trait but also a driving force that motivates youth to embrace challenges and pursue new ventures. In the context of Karbi Anglong, where youth face socio-economic barriers, fostering self-confidence can play a significant role in developing entrepreneurial skills and encouraging self-reliance.

Earlier studies also support this relationship. For example, researchers have highlighted that self-confidence builds resilience, improves decision-making, and enhances leadership qualities, all of which are essential for

entrepreneurship. The current findings extend these insights by providing evidence from the tribal context of Karbi Anglong, where entrepreneurship can serve as a tool for both individual empowerment and community development.

Overall, the study demonstrates that Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of self-confidence has practical relevance for today's youth. By nurturing self-belief, students are better equipped to develop entrepreneurial mindsets, which may ultimately contribute to socio-economic development in their communities.

Suggestion and conclusion:

The findings of this study highlight the practical importance of self-confidence in developing the entrepreneurial mindset among youth. By showing a moderate to strong positive relationship, the results imply that fostering self-belief can directly affect students' willingness to take risks, innovate, and persist in entrepreneurial activities. Based on these insights, several measures can be considered to further boost self-confidence and encourage entrepreneurship among the youth of Karbi Anglong.

1. **Implement Confidence-Boosting Initiatives:** Schools and colleges can host workshops and training sessions based on Swami Vivekananda's teachings to enhance self-confidence among youth. Activities like public speaking, problem-solving tasks, and entrepreneurial simulations can help students practically apply these lessons.
2. **Promote Entrepreneurship Education with Local Resources:** Incorporating entrepreneurial training into the curriculum, along with mentorship programs with local entrepreneurs, can assist students in turning self-confidence into practical skills. Students can be encouraged to start small businesses using local raw materials, such as bamboo, cane, traditional herbs, forest products, and handicraft resources, to create products like furniture, artisanal crafts, herbal products, and organic food items.
3. **Encourage Community-Based Initiatives:** Youth can be inspired to launch small ventures or community projects, strengthening both confidence and entrepreneurial skills while also promoting sustainable use of local resources.
4. **Parental and Teacher Support:** Families and educators can play a crucial role in fostering self-confidence by offering positive reinforcement, guidance, and opportunities for innovation and risk-taking.
5. **Further Research:** Future studies could analyse larger and more diverse samples, examine other psychological traits (e.g., resilience, creativity), or evaluate the long-term effects of self-confidence training on entrepreneurial outcomes in tribal communities, particularly ventures utilising local raw materials.

Conclusion

This study highlights a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.62$) between self-confidence and the entrepreneurial mindset among youth in Karbi Anglong, reinforcing Swami Vivekananda's philosophy that realising one's inner strength is essential for growth and success. Students with higher self-confidence tend to display entrepreneurial

traits such as innovation, persistence, and risk-taking. In socio-economically challenged regions like Karbi Anglong, fostering self-belief can act as a catalyst for youth empowerment and community development. By nurturing confidence through education, mentorship, and support.

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