



University of Wales
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MBA- Master of Business Administration

Entrepreneurship

Reflective Report

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Introduction

A start-up's growth and development entails the journey of entrepreneurship in which the process of fundraising is an essential component. This reflective report has investigated about the complex terrain of start-up fundraising by examining the various funding sources along with the challenges and opportunities, the influence of entrepreneurial traits, the complexities of cross-border fundraising, and the ethical considerations with the application of Gibbs' Reflective Cycle.

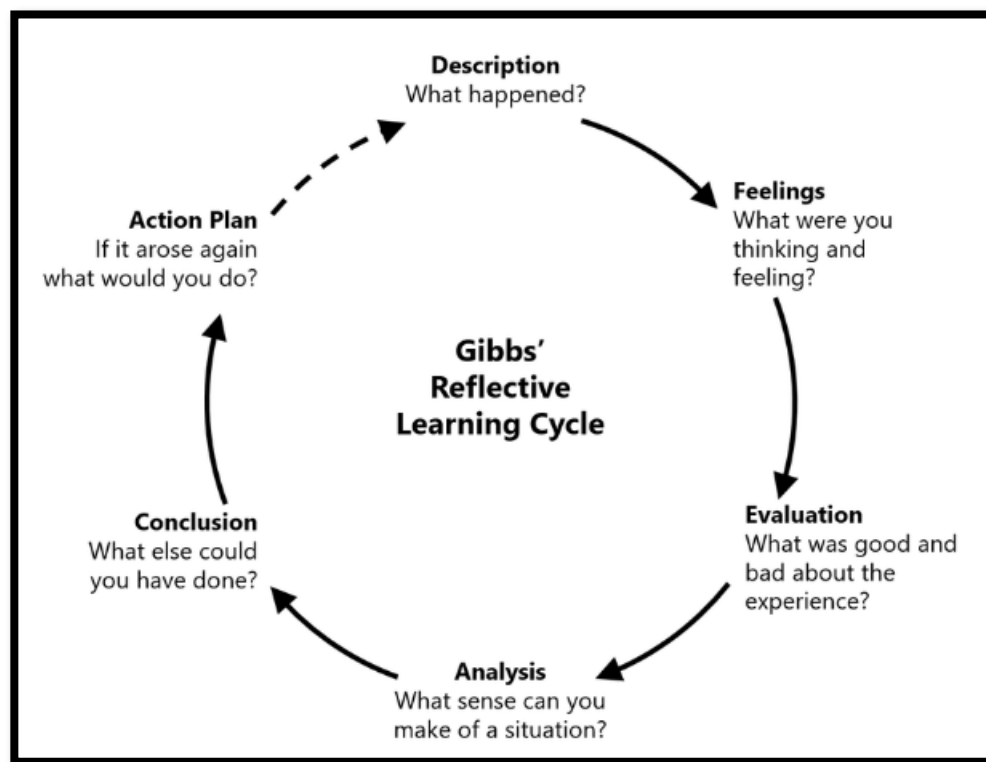


Figure 1: Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

(Source: Mohd and Ahmad, 2021)

Description

I have understood several different aspects of start-up fundraising which includes obtaining an understanding of the many kinds of funding sources that are accessible to start-up businesses.

These sources range from equity financing and debt financing all the way to venture capital, angel investors, crowdfunding, and bootstrapping (Svetek, 2022). In addition, an investigation of the issues and difficulties start-ups encounter throughout the fundraising process has been done. It includes the absence of a track record, the unpredictability of the market, the complexity of the valuation process, and the level of severe competition. In addition, the study has stated entrepreneurial traits such as investor resilience, adaptability, leadership, and effective communication. These traits play a crucial role in fostering investor confidence (Hadjielias *et al.* 2022). In its concluding section, the report examined the complexities of international funding as well as the ethical considerations that lead to responsible fundraising practices.

Feelings

As I dove further into the complex world of start-up fundraising, I couldn't help but feel a feeling of curiosity and interest over the course of my exploration. A combination of excitement and empathy was elicited by the challenges that start-up companies confront, as well as the creative solutions that they come up with to address those challenges. The human aspect of the fundraising process was brought to light while reading about the effects of good leadership and the value of effective communication (Shaker and Nelson, 2022). The international aspect stimulated a feeling of connectivity on a global scale, while the ethical considerations contributed an additional degree of profundity and responsibility to the whole discussion.

Evaluation

The process of gaining an understanding of fundraising for start-ups turned out to be a journey that was both educational and fulfilling. The variety of funding sources sheds light on the plethora of options that are open to new businesses at various points in their evolution. The challenges brought to light the need for careful planning and smart decision-making, lending credence to the idea that obstacles often serve as a catalyst for innovation. The environment of start-up funding is changing, as shown by opportunities such as early-stage accelerators and the acceptance of ESG investments (Lin, 2022). When examined, entrepreneurial traits were shown

to have a significant bearing on the confidence of investors and the overall achievement of fundraising efforts (Johan and Zhang, 2020). The exploration of international funding shed light on the difficulties of working with people from other countries, and the discussion of ethical issues brought to light the need to use ethical and responsible business practices while fundraising.

Analysis

The dissection of the event revealed a rich tapestry of lessons about fundraising for start-up companies. To be successful in this industry, one must combine the three elements of strategic planning, inventive thinking, and ethical considerations in an appropriate proportion (Cruz-Sandoval *et al.* 2023). The broad spectrum of funding sources is a reflection of the wide range of requirements that start-ups must satisfy as they navigate their own development paths. The challenges that have been encountered highlight both the value of making wise decisions and the relevance of maintaining resiliency in the midst of ambiguity. The highlighted entrepreneurial traits, which include adaptability, visionary leadership, and effective communication, represent the key to generating trust and confidence in the minds of prospective investors (Hashimy *et al.* 2023). The international aspect serves as an important reminder of the globalised character of business, which necessitates cultural sensitivity and the formation of collaborative relationships (Matheus and Gaugler, 2020). Ethical considerations emphasise the obligation that is placed on start-ups to connect their funding aspirations with their principles of social responsibility and sustainability.

Conclusions

In summary, the study of start-up fundraising shed light on the multifaceted nature offered insightful new information. Planning, effective communication, and adherence to ethical considerations are essential to the success of fundraising (Zhao and Ryu, 2020). My understanding of the complexities of start-up finance has been widened as a result of my increased familiarity with the many funding sources, challenges, and possibilities. When the

relevance of entrepreneurial traits is acknowledged, their influence on the confidence of investors and the overall success of fundraising efforts is brought into focus. The cross-border aspect draws attention to both the benefits and the challenges of working with people from other countries (Vulevic *et al.* 2021). In addition, the ethical considerations highlight how important it is to match fundraising practices with responsible and environmentally sustainable company activity.

Action Plan:

My future strategy for start-up fundraising will definitely be shaped by the lessons I got from this exploration. From the learnings, I want to place a greater emphasis on strategic planning when analysing potential sources of funding and will make use of the effectiveness of effective communication to express the distinctive value proposition of my business endeavour. Understanding their potential to create investor confidence will continue to be a top goal in cultivating entrepreneurial characteristics like adaptability and visionary leadership. The process of navigating funding from many countries will be addressed with cultural sensitivity and a strategic mindset (AlQershi, 2021). My attempts to match my fundraising endeavours with responsible business practises, so fostering sustainability and good social effect, shall be guided by the ethical considerations that are relevant to the situation.

My overall understanding of the complexities of start-up fundraising and the central role it plays in propelling innovation and development has been much enhanced as a result of the trip I've taken to investigate this topic. Armed with these ideas, I am looking forward to making a positive contribution to the exciting world of entrepreneurship by engaging in fundraising activities that are efficient, ethical, and consequential.

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