

Start and Improve Your Business Training Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is Tumisang Ntlaloe. I am a Masters student at the University of the Witwatersrand, and as part of my study requirements I am doing research that includes a survey on the Start and Improve Your Business Entrepreneurship training program. Can I ask you some questions about the training? It will only take about 20 minutes.

Thank you for agreeing to talk to me. Please be assured that this is a confidential interview and if you feel uncomfortable, we can stop at anytime. May I please start by asking you some questions about yourself?

PART 1

Personal Details

1. (a) Age

10-15_____

15-20_____

20-25_____

25-30_____

30-35_____

(b) What level of education do you have?

No schooling_____

7 years/ Primary School_____

10 years/ Less than Grade 10_____

More than Form 5 but not High School_____

Matric or equivalent_____

University degree/ Diploma_____

Post-Graduate Degree_____

Other? Specify _____

Thank you. I will now be asking you questions about your business.

Part 2

2. (a) What type of business do you operate?

Service_____

Retail_____

Manufacturing_____

Farming_____

Other (specify) _____

(b) Where do you run the business from?

Home_____

Street_____

Other (specify) _____

(c) Why did you start your business?

I was unemployed_____

Employed but needed to supplement my income_____

I inherited the business_____

I got money and bought the business_____

Saw no one else doing that kind of business_____

The business was offered to me_____

Other (specify) _____

(d) What is the range of your monthly profit?

Less than M 500_____

501-1000_____

1001-1500_____

1501-2000_____

2001-3000_____

More than M 3000_____

(e) Do you have any official documents that allow you to operate your business?

Yes_____

No_____

(f) Do people work for you?

Yes_____

No_____

(g) If yes, who? How many are they _____

Sibling_____

Parent_____

Kin_____

Friend_____

Other _____

(h) Did you experience any problems when starting your own business?

Yes_____ go to (i).

No_____

(i) If yes, what kind of problems did you experience in starting your business?

Acquiring business documents_____

Finding capital_____

Finding a suitable site for your business_____

Didn't have proper business management skills_____

Government takes too long to approve my business application_____

Did not have access to: water_____

Electricity_____

Other (specify) _____

Thank you for your answers. I would now like to ask you about the Start and Improve Your Business training.

Part 3

3. When did you attend the SIYB training?

From _____ / _____ (month/year) to _____ / _____ (month/year)

4. (a) Are there any new business skills that you have learnt from the Start Improve Your Business programme?

Yes_____

No_____

(b) If yes, what are these skills?

Business management_____

Business plan development_____

Record keeping_____

Other (specify) _____

(c) In what way do you think the new skills benefit your business?

(d) How has the money given to you at the end of training benefitted your business?

Helped me start the business_____

Helped me make improvements to the business_____

Other (specify) _____

The answers that you have provided have been very helpful to this far. I would like to ask you about your business after the training.

Part 4

5. Is your business still operating? Yes _____ go to 6. a).

No _____

(b) If no, why has it stopped operating?

6. (a) Has your business changed over the last few years?

Yes _____

No _____

(b) If yes, how?

i. Employed more people _____ (go to c.)

ii. Employed fewer people _____ (go to d)

iii. Increased profits _____

iv. Decreased profits _____

v. Increased activities _____ (go to e.)

vi. Stopped operating _____ (go to f.)

vii. Acquired a new business site _____ (go to g.)

viii. Gained access to water _____

viii. Gained access to electricity _____

ix. Gained access to internet connection _____

x. Acquired business documents _____ (go to h.)

xi. Other _____ (go to j.)

(c) If i. how many more people has it employed? _____

(d) If ii. How many people has it cut out? _____

(e) If v. What other activities has it taken? _____

(f) If vi. Why has it stopped operating? _____

(g) If vii. Where is this other business site?

In a building in town _____

At a roadside _____

On a business site _____

(h) If x. What business documents are these?

Business licence _____

Official documents _____

Registration papers _____

(i) Where did you get your documents from?

A government office in town_____

Local Council_____

Family_____

Other _____

Bank_____

Government department_____

Enterprise Development Corporation_____

Business association_____

Business individual_____

Other _____

(j) if your business has undergone another change apart from the ones listed above, can you specify what type of change this is?

(c) If no, do you think partnering with an organisation or individual of business relevance would help your business improve? Yes_____

No_____

(d) If yes, how do you think this kind of partnership could be beneficial to your business?

7. (a) Do you think the papers help you with your business?

Yes_____

No_____

(b) Why or why not? _____

8. (a) Are there any people or organisations of business relevance that the Start and Improve Your Business programme has helped you partner with?

Yes_____

No_____ (go to (c))

(b) If yes, what kind of an organisation or person is this?

Thank you very much. Just before we finish, I would like to ask you about other services and facilities that you might have access to that may be helpful for your business.

Part 5

9. (a) Financing

- i. Micro-loan_____
- ii. Alternative financing_____
- iii. Other means (specify) _____

(b) Infrastructure

- i. Telephone_____
- ii. Electricity_____
- iii. Water_____
- iv. Own land_____
- v. Own transport_____
- vi. Internet_____
- vii. Other _____

(c) Workshops and training

- i. Mentoring services_____

- ii. Policy advocacy_____
- iii. Analysis of policy constraints_____
- iv. Other (specify) _____

(d) Marketing

- i. Trade fares_____
- ii. Product exhibitions_____
- iii. Market research_____
- iv. Other (specify) _____

Thank you very much for your time; you have been very helpful!