

6. What makes projects like *EmpowerInclusive* stand out to you?

It's practical, it's multilingual, and it respects the diversity of youth experiences. The fact that it includes stakeholder interviews, real case studies, and digital guides makes it feel *alive*. It's not just theory—it's mentorship in motion. That's what young people need today—tools *and* connection.

7. What specific elements should an ideal youth entrepreneurship toolkit include?

A step-by-step startup roadmap, templates for business canvases, video stories of local entrepreneurs (especially those who started with little), AI tools for ideation, and maybe even a “fail log”—where youth can document what didn't work and what they learned. Plus, space for peer feedback and mentoring.

8. What's a personal story from your students that moved you?

Last year, one of my students—a 20-year-old girl from Şanlıurfa—created an online marketplace for traditional handmade scarves crafted by local women in her village. She connected culture, technology, and social impact. She started with a Google Form and an Instagram page. Today, she's received funding and employs five women. She taught me that entrepreneurship doesn't need to be flashy to be meaningful.

9. How do you deal with youth who feel entrepreneurship is “not for them”?

I remind them that entrepreneurship isn't always about being the CEO. It's about seeing possibilities where others see problems. Even if you work in a company, being entrepreneurial means you lead with initiative. I often say: “The future belongs to the proactive.”

10. What message would you like to give to young people feeling stuck or unsure about their future?

You don't need to be extraordinary to begin. You just need to begin. The world is changing fast—but that means new gaps, new problems, and new opportunities. Look around you. Your idea doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to *matter*. And once you take the first step, you'll be amazed how doors start to open.

