Unpaid internships

The desire of every person when going for college is to get a job upon graduation. Every employer nowadays expects their potential employees to have some experience before they can be offered a job. Internships are among the most common grounds where someone can gain some basic experience to increase their chances of securing entry level jobs. Since every company wants to cut down on cost of doing business whenever it has a chance to, many of them offer students and recent graduates unpaid internships as a way of making them gain the necessary experience while cutting on the overall cost of doing business.

There are different opinions given by people with conflicting interests whereby one group wants to bar employers from failing to pay their interns even the minimum wage. For instance, in the UK, the minimum wage for a person of 21 years and above is six pounds per hour while in the US, the minimum wage is. Many fresh graduates are often of this age therefore failing to pay them would be in contravention with the labor laws. Some firms have actually been abusing unpaid internships by having interns all year round in the name of trying to help students and fresh grads get the experience they deserve to get a job. Many interns can attest to the fact that they do manual work such that anyone without any skill can perform such tasks.

Some people argue that they can support their unpaid internships comfortably and are willing to work for free to acquire experience. This means those who cannot afford to work for free cannot compete for such internships since employers mostly go for the cheaper alternative. Students or grads from poorer backgrounds that cannot support themselves throughout these internships therefore often take longer to be absorbed in the job market compared to their richer counterparts who get experience by working for free. Some countries have come out strongly against this practice arguing that it is unfair for students since only those who are rich can afford their upkeep during internships.

Many students who work during holidays just wants to be busy therefore do not mind giving their services for free. Many actually take it as a favor that such firms are doing therefore is quick to offer their services. Others actually do the same job performed by permanent employees which minimizes the amount of work that these employees perform. Some of the students are often overworked just because they do not have any specific job description therefore often work in all departments which means some employees give their work to them in the name of experience.

Unpaid internships however are an eye opener for many people since they expose them to the real working environment. Many employers are actually willing to share any information that interns may need especially when they are the people’s favorite. In addition to improving their CV, they also provide multiple opportunities for networking with other people such as suppliers. Given their level of enthusiasm, many of them are even poached by suppliers and offered permanent jobs. On the other hand, some people have ventured into business based on the experience they received during their unpaid internship. This makes it essential to go for internships whether paid or unpaid to expose you to the many opportunities that are available whether as a career or by venturing into business. Implementing legislations aimed at prohibiting firms from advertising unpaid internships is the only way to force employers to pay interns otherwise students and fresh graduates will always be willing to work for free.