



MEDIATING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA: A CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is widely regarded as the driving force behind economic growth and as a buffer against underdevelopment, unemployment, and poverty. The developed economy has paid a lot of attention to entrepreneurship. By cultivating an entrepreneurial aim among students, entrepreneurship education inspires the entrepreneurial spirit and attitude. In-depth discussion of entrepreneurial intention among tertiary students has received more attention in the literature than that of secondary school students. The purpose of this study is to determine the variables that affect secondary school students' entrepreneurial intention, with government policy serving as a mediating element. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), the most popular model for assessing entrepreneurial intention, served as the foundation for earlier studies. To support government policy, Agency Theory (AT) is employed in this study to identify the mediating influence of government policy. A conceptual framework that was constructed from the existing literature was proposed in this study. The study's recommendations would give entrepreneurs, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) insight into the fundamental elements that affect one's intention to start a business. To implement policies and provide sustainable entrepreneurship instruction and programs in Nigerian secondary schools, the findings is helpful to policy makers.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship education, previous entrepreneurial experience, Perceived desirability, government policy, entrepreneurial intention.

INTRODUCTION

From various believed and established facts by different researchers entrepreneurship is recognized as the most important component for rapid economic growth and development (Obaji & Olugu, 2014). Entrepreneurship is also sees as momentousness elements that boost the economic development of a country. The reasons behind the introduction and practice of entrepreneurship as far back as 18th century where economist linked themselves with bearing risks and unforeseen external and internal environmental factor is to improve the economy and to provide job opportunities. Thus, entrepreneurship is confirmed to be the keystone and the backbone of an open business economy (Afolabi, 2015; Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). The persistent increase on unemployment and poverty among people particularly graduates is as a result of non-availability of job opportunities from various government and non-governmental

organizations (Negash & Amentie, 2013). Education, skills and training and prior entrepreneurial experience are the stimulus to be self-employed. Entrepreneurship promotes creativity, job creation, innovation, technological progress, and it also gives wider range of opportunity for formation of a new bazaar, which brings economic progress and wealth creation (Holmgren & From, 2005). In the developed and developing Nations various entrepreneurial policies were established to foster activities of entrepreneurship among the citizen but with special attention given young people (Ozaralli & Rivenburgh, 2016; Sharma & Madan, 2014). With several policies and entrepreneurial programs established to promote entrepreneurial stimulation among the people through small and medium scale enterprise with technology transfer but very little significance were achieved on the designed goals. However, this gives room to native entrepreneurs to be the sole importers and exporters of the goods as against building the capacity of entrepreneurial activities through mechanized agriculture and modern production and services (Thaddeus, 2012). Education is an instrument that connects between unemployment and employment among the individuals, entrepreneurship changes people mindset towards entrepreneurial intention (Bell, 2019). Giving more attention to the role of entrepreneurship and establishing different entrepreneurial programs and taught courses in an academic environment can encourage students on venture creation (Fayolle, 2013). This current study perhaps, among the fewer research that determines entrepreneurial intention through the mediating role of GP. This would also serve as the greatest contribution that may come out from this study. This study is very important in an attempt to fill the research gap in the literature and provide additional insights and a clear understanding of the entrepreneurial practice in developing Nations particularly Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The fast-growing in the world population and rapid development in the area of technology, entrepreneurship is confirmed as the major contributor for healthier economic development. However, with the increase in the number of entrepreneurship programs and agencies in Nigeria to oversee the affairs of entrepreneurship development but yet the participation on the entrepreneurship activities is very low and the unemployment rate is increasing. Thus, with the efforts put by various administration in Nigeria on the establishment of entrepreneurship programs yet majority of the graduates are still unemployed (Agbonlahor, 2016; Onuma, 2016). Thus, it was confirmed that most of the Nigerian graduates are still roaming the street looking for a white cooler job instead of applying the skill and knowledge acquired during entrepreneurial training (Onuma, 2016). But it was observed that, most of the graduates lack the basic technical know-how to become self-employ and also suffice that, insufficient entrepreneurial skills is among the attributes that generate problem of unemployment among the youth in Nigeria (Adebisi & Oni, 2012). In support of the argument, the unemployment rate is due to the absence of association between teachers and the best teaching method (Onuma, 2016). Perhaps, it may also be as a result of poor implementation of entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial programs. This problem needed to be addressed in order to curb unforeseen circumstances that may degenerate social vices and criminal activities in the society apart from what we are experience now.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

This study has breached its theoretical underpinning on the Ajzen Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) and Agency Theory (AT). The theoretical believed attitude and intention of a person is an

intrinsic optimism which encourages a person to execute a certain behaviour (Walie & Alaminie, 2018). The study accentuates four basic elements influencing entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students: entrepreneurship education, previous entrepreneurial experience, perceived desirability, and government policy. The focus has been laid on these basic elements of entrepreneurial intention and how these elements influence the student's intentions. Accordingly, many countries believed that entrepreneurship is very important and to understand how students' feel and what motivates them to start-up a new venture, what are the steps that lead and encourage the students to understand the essence why entrepreneurship was introduced. Many scholars have carried out various studies to identify the factor that influence and people to become self-employed (Esfandiar et al., 2017; Nguyen et al., 2019; Paço et al., 2011; Usman & Yennita, 2019).

Entrepreneurship: Existing literatures have considered entrepreneurship played a significant role in finding a solution to the problem of poverty and unemployment among youth in any society (Pauceanu, 2016). Possibly, it is because entrepreneurship is a multidisciplinary area which contains the heritage, psychology, environmental culture and sociology (Pauceanu et al., 2018). The concept of entrepreneurship has been worldly recognized. Entrepreneurship has been defined by various scholars among the most accepted definition of entrepreneurship is by (Schumpeter, 1934) cited by (Mat et al., 2015) entrepreneurship is the process of adding value to an existing business which transforms and change the business idea into a new look. According to (Musa et al., 2016) entrepreneurship is the ability of a person to start a new business from the existing one with the available resources and bear all the unforeseen risks. From the various definition of entrepreneurship, this current study operationalized entrepreneurship is a barrier between unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment through job creation which stimulates wealth creation for nation-building.

Entrepreneurial intention (EI)

EI is a combination of different research field as far back as the 1990s. (Bird, 1988) sees entrepreneurial intention which mirrors a person's attitude towards designing business model and new ideas which factors transforming the existing business to fit in the new market. Various opinions recommend that intention is the key factor that develops entrepreneurship. (Bird, 1988) confirmed that intention it has to do with a person past experience, knowledge and attentiveness to achieve the desired objective with a definite behaviour. Entrepreneurial intention it is a process whereby a person goes into business formation with a strong-mind to bear all the risk and to become self-employed than to be employed (Walie & Alaminie, 2018). It is very difficult to understand how the entrepreneurial intention process forms because the intention is basically something that has to do with new business creation (Bird, 1988; Krueger & Carsrud, 1993). However, with the level of increase in the research carried out in the area of entrepreneurial intention yet, there is more to do in this area (Fayolle & Liñán, 2014). According to the various understanding of the entrepreneurial intention, this research believed that entrepreneurial intention is dynamic which affect individual behaviour towards the new business formation.

Entrepreneurship education (EE)

EE is widely offered around the world particularly in the developing Nations. The empirical literature has discovered that entrepreneurship education is the fundamental elements that transform the economic well-being of any country through innovation and technological

advancement (Zhang et al., 2014). Entrepreneurship education is to inculcate new training skills and knowledge which enable an individual to acquire techniques on how to undertake new business (Onuma, 2016). Entrepreneurship education is a strategic plan that guides and promotes an individual on a new business idea (Onajite & Aina, 2017). Entrepreneurship education is the inculcation of new skills and knowledge in order to change the attitude of a person towards creating a new business, without dread of the unforeseen circumstances that may occur (Ediagbonya, 2013). The absentminded of entrepreneurship education has effects on the fostering entrepreneurial tendency. The study on entrepreneurship education is very important in reducing unemployment and poverty. Thus, entrepreneurship education assists in to examine the over-reliance ratio and the proportion of unemployment to the working class in the Nation.

Prior entrepreneurship experience (PEE)

Entrepreneurship practical knowledge and skills possibly cannot concessionaire to a person to more success in the area of business but rather it would equip him with new skills above those without entrepreneurial prior experience but they would assist them to add value on formation a new venture (Maina, 2013). Those students that grew up in a family were they are into business have a greater chance of becoming self-dependent and tendency to create their own venture. In consonant with this argument student with the business background, it may perhaps affect their intention to business creation (Israr & Saleem, 2018). According to (Krueger et al., 2000; Krueger & Carsrud, 1993) they believed that prior entrepreneurial experience the crucial predictor which prompts new business creation, having advance knowledge on something is quite important than having a bad experience which affects the individual mind-set. Prior entrepreneurial expose prompt individual desire to start-up a new business to become self-employed than seeking for employment.

Entrepreneurial perceived desirability (EPD)

The Shapero's model highlighted for a person to start-up a new business it depends on his perceived desirability and ability to a certain action (Talaş et al., 2013). Many studies have indicated that intention is a factor that conduit person whether or not to create a business, but it determines by his perceived desirability towards entrepreneurship (Senarath & Perera, 2018). Various researchers' defined perceived desirability is the channel to growth and development (Krueger et al., 2000; Krueger & Carsrud, 1993). From the perspective of (Fellnhöfer, 2017) perceived desirability is the ability of a person to start a new venture for opportunity costs. Perceived desirability highlighted by (Păunescu et al., 2018) it is the personal desire to start a new business as a profession in order to become self-employed. Generally, perceived desirability is those pull factors that prompt an individual into venture creation for economic again.

Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)

Theory of Planned Behaviour has been considered the most appropriate model in the development and modeling entrepreneurial intention on the individual attitudes and social elements such as peer group, family, role model (Krueger et al., 2000; Paço et al., 2011). The study of (Solesvik et al., 2012) they confirmed 40% distinction of the entrepreneurial intention can be explained by the Shapero's even model whereby the theory of planned behavior explained 55%. According to (Iakovleva et al., 2011) argued that Ajzen model is the best and reliable in predicting entrepreneurial intention predictions. Similar findings by (Paço et al., 2011) confirmed

that TPB is the most suitable model for forming and improvement the EI. This study would use TPB to determine factors influence entrepreneurial intention among students.

Agency Theory (AT)

Agency theory model it was developed in the early 1970s in the field of academic economics literature (Michael & William, 1976; Ross, 2005) and later it was spread to business and management at the beginning of 1990s and later become foremost influential reasoning on corporate governance (Zajac & Westphal, 2014). Agency theory is the connection between two or more individuals that is principal and the agent, the principal issue the commands to the agent on a task to perform. The agency theory focuses on the assumption that the agent would adhere to a policy especially during the competing interests with the principal and resolve the conflict of interest. Agency theory reduces the size of the corporation into two segments that is shareholders and the managers whereby conflicting interest in openly define. Secondly, the theory assumed that every person is self-center, thus, a human being is rational in terms of what they want (Kultys, 2016). However, agency theory its main target is on financial motivation because a financial motivation is the key factors that align in public governance to achieve a target by the principal. It depends on internal reward and externally mediates the performance of the agent towards the desired goals in the organization (Frey & Benz, 2005).

MEDIATING OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Researchers stresses that suitable government policy on entrepreneurship prompt people to become entrepreneurs, the higher the entrepreneurs the higher the small scales industries (Jahanshahi et al., 2011). From various empirical findings, government policy has a positive link with entrepreneurship development (Mason & Brown, 2011). In a similar finding from (Ihugba et al., 2013) their results show that there is an association between government policy and entrepreneurship. Thus, it is confirmed that unsuitable government policy played a negative role in the development of entrepreneurship especially in the developing Nations. (Friedman & Hall, 2014)found out that perceived efficiency in government significantly related to entrepreneurship and national level. Other study findings indicated that government policy has a direct association with business performance but government policy has no mediation effect on entrepreneurial orientation (Korry et al., 2013). From the above finds, it shows that there is a limited study on the mediating role of government policy on entrepreneurial intention. This study suggests examining the mediating role of government policy on the entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students.

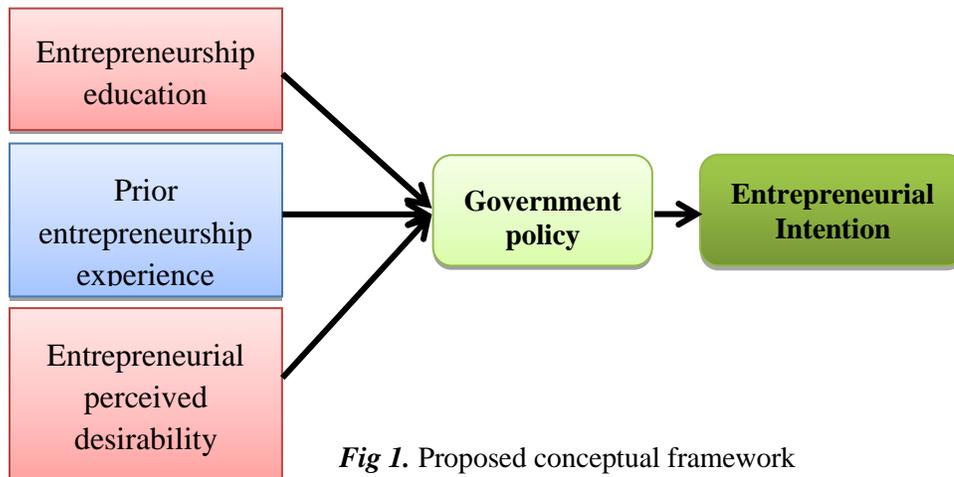


Fig 1. Proposed conceptual framework

DISCUSSION ON THE CONCEPTUAL LINK

EE and EI have been considered world-wide by different researchers, having believed that entrepreneurship predict entrepreneurial behaviour, thus, education it is not the only notion that lead to learning but rather previous experience can also lead to that path (Aja-okorie & Adali, 2013; Păunescu et al., 2018), confirmed that effective entrepreneurship education motivating students' entrepreneurial intention. Similarly, (Sumarsono, 2013) they found that educational background, age, and gender have no impact on the entrepreneurial intention. In a consonant study, (Byabashaija & Katono, 2011) prove that entrepreneurship education has no significant positive relationship with entrepreneurial intention. Prior studies have examined the link between entrepreneurship experience and entrepreneurial intention (Israr & Saleem, 2018) believed that students with a parental business background are more likely to affect their entrepreneurial intention, and also found that prior entrepreneurial exposure has a positive influence on their intention. According to Haque et al. (2017) argued that having a family business is insignificant to entrepreneurial intention.

Thus, (Fayolle & Gailly, 2015) indicated that there is significantly linked between previous entrepreneurial exposure and entrepreneurial intentions and its backgrounds, the results further indicate that entrepreneurship education program and six months later varies in correlations. Contrary to the above argument (Haque et al., 2017) family business is irrelevant to entrepreneurial intention. According to empirical findings individual with prior entrepreneurial exposure have high degree perceived desirability can have a stimulus entrepreneurial intention and aftermath behaviours (Barton et al., 2018; Krueger & Carsrud, 1993) established that, for a person become an entrepreneur it is prompted by his perceive desirability and his judgment of feasibility. Segal et al. (2005) the outcomes of their study indicate perceived desirability has moderating link with a person's entrepreneurial intention to create business. Consequently, perceived desirability can be impacted through entrepreneurship education (Krueger & Brazeal, 1994). Thus, Pauceanu et al. (2018) found out that there is a positive association between perceived desirability and entrepreneurial intention. Finally, based on the above finds there is need to further study on the influence on the EE, PEE, PED, and EI with mediating role of GP in order to identify how government policies can further explain the relations among the variables.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study transcendent and examine the factors influencing entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Nigeria as well as the mediating role of government policy. This study supports the emphasis on the sustainable and effective government policy and practical methodology on entrepreneurship education which can prompt the factors that influence students' entrepreneurial intention. The study postulates that government policy rouse with the robust method on entrepreneurship education and effective learning environment, by providing low-interest rate, affordable taxes, securities and securing business environment can encourage entrepreneurial intention. Thus, further empirical research have certified through the conceptual association postulated by this study geared towards extending the literature on the mediating role of government policy on the entrepreneurial intention the study also donate to the existing argument on the factors that influence entrepreneurial intention in the existing literature. This study finding may also authenticate the foundation and contribute to extent literature application and adaption of the theory of planned behaviour and similarly agency theory is also adapted to resolve the conflict issue on the mediating role of government policy particularly on the internal

and external policies toward development of entrepreneurial activities as offered in the proposed conceptual framework in this study.

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