



Entrepreneurial
Education for a
Changing Society



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The role of entrepreneurship education in
mitigating the impact of insecurity in Africa.

MBONTEH JACOB NZANG (Ph.D.)



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The Role of Entrepreneurship Education in Mitigating the Impact of Insecurity in Africa

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Abstract:

The malaise that the African continent has suffered recently due to insecurity is better imagined than, experienced; this has provoked general political agitation for a more democratic transformation in almost all the African countries, Mbonteh (2015). Despite urgent needs to ameliorate the situation, program efforts have slowed slightly. Since the advent of the 21st century and perhaps the return to democracy in most African countries, issues relating to political instability and insecurity have been the center of discussion in all spheres within the continent. The African continent faces diverse security challenges such as political instability, politically instigated conflicts, and criminalities. This paper aims to examine the prospect of utilizing entrepreneurship education as a panacea for mitigating the incidences of insecurity and unemployment in crises hit countries of the continent. The paper argues that the problem of insecurity in Africa would be solved if we potentially understand the fundamentals of job creation, wealth creation, value chain management economic development and entrepreneurial orientation. To achieve this critical analysis, an expository method will be adopted as research methodology in the work.

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INTRODUCTION

The malaise that the African continent has suffered in recent years due to top insecurity is better imagined than experienced. This has provoked general political agitation for a more democratic transformation in almost all of the countries in Africa. Mbonteh (2015). Despite urgent needs in the recent past, program efforts have been slight and slowed. Dr. Daniel Goleman in one of his articles stated that “Each successive generation worldwide since the beginning of the 20th century, has lived with a higher risk than their parents, or suffering a major depression, not just sadness but a paralyzing listlessness, dejection and self-pity, and an overwhelming hopelessness over the cause of life”

There is no gain in saying that since the advent of the 21st century and the return to democracy in most African countries, issues relating to political instability and insecurity have been the center of discussion at every sphere of influence within the continent. The African continent is confronted with diverse security challenges such as political instability, politically instigated conflicts such as the present crises in Cameroon, and criminalities. Examples of these include but are not limited to insurgency, armed banditry, election violence, militancy, cross-border crimes, separatist movements, etc. These security challenges greatly threaten the peace and security of the vast majority of the countries on the continent. While we can sometimes see these challenges as internal, ie., having an effect on a particular geographical and sometimes political boundary, quite often than not tend to escalate and spread to other neighboring countries, thereby constituting a serious threat to the effective functioning of the state in question. Consequently, socioeconomic potential and prosperity are hindered not only in the affected countries but also in the continent at large.

Agreeably, social uprisings are not peculiar to the African continent; however, their notoriety, frequency, and

intensity are exceedingly excessive in this part of the globe. Ukaeje. O (2022) attests that the sustainability of Africans has been repeatedly threatened by incessant conflicts and insurgency. In his view insecurity, conflicts and insurgency have become dominant theoretical and policy discourses in sub-Saharan Africa. Africa is the continent with the most youthful population, the continent appears to still lack in requisite innovational intervention to transmute such democratic dividends into economic opportunities for the benefit of the large population (Ogbu et al 2020).

Additionally, the impact of other natural disasters such as climate change and food insecurity on the continent has also implied uncertainty as migration trends have increased. Again as pointed out by Michael and Anietie (2021) the management of the recent COVID-19 pandemic across the world, presented a clear pointer to the continent justifying that except development is internally driven, no one is ready to exogenously drives a sustainable good life for others. (T. Gries and W. Naude, 2011) argue that entrepreneurship matters for any meaningful development. Generally, the entrepreneur is seen 'by economists as an innovator risk taker, and arbitrator who contributes to economic growth by introducing new technology, competition, and markets (Schumpeter, 1934, kirzner,1973). (A.E Dangana 2022) supports this accession by adding that entrepreneurship is like a production factor and thus refers to it as “entrepreneurship capital”

Unfortunately as expressed by (T. Gries and W, Naudi 2011), technological innovation, economic growth, and improvements in productivity do not automatically translate into human development such is within the African continent bedeviled with unemployment and the rising wave of crime, which has serious implications on the continent at large.

Entrepreneurship is no doubt a dynamic process of vision, change, and creation as argued by (Adekunle and

Kayoed 2014). It requires an application of energy and passion towards the creation and implementation of new ideas and creative solutions. The contribution of an entrepreneur to any nation's economy can simply be observed in a situation where he acts as an employer innovator as well as a risk bearer that is extensively recognized by society, Dangana and Ogedegbe, (2018). There is a need therefore to foster entrepreneurship education as a general support and training of entrepreneurs. Given the positive social and economic effects of entrepreneurship, it is obvious that entrepreneurship education will articulate the growing insecurity situation in Africa.

CONCEPTUAL ELUCIDATION

The notion of an enterprise :

Entrepreneurship has become a household word extremely used at various levels of the economy to mean at some point different phenomena. The imagination of everyone is excited when it comes to discussions on entrepreneurship. It is therefore important to deepen our search in order to understand entrepreneurship as a phenomenon.

The Concept of Enterprise :

According to Rosa (1992), as cited by Dangana and Ogedegbe (), the term enterprise can be viewed from three different perspectives; a business organization of some type, a series of personal skills and qualities vital to economic development, and a series of personal skills and qualities vital to good citizenship and the realizations of the individual's full potential, Mana Nelson and Thiongo (2005) on their part have defined enterprise as any identified idea that is translated into a planned and satisfactorily implemented activity. Judging from this definition, an enterprise means a business, a project, or an undertaking that involves these different tasks ; which include but perhaps not limited to idea, identification,

planning, implementation, successful completion of an activity, and acceptance of risk and reward.

The term enterprise can therefore be defined according to 2018to Dangana and Ogedegbe (2018) as a properly planned and organized project, undertaking, or business unit that is associated with risk and reward, and the personal attributes required to start and operate such an entity successfully.

The person who possesses the personal skills and abilities required to plan and organize the enterprise is referred to as an entrepreneur, while the process involved in starting the enterprise is also known as entrepreneurship. Logically therefore the personal skills and abilities required to start are usually qualified as entrepreneurial traits/ qualifies or what many authors refer to as an entrepreneurial mindset. Different countries have classified an enterprise using different criteria however, the general classification common to them includes ; the following factors.

1. The nature of objectives being pursued.
 - ❖ Whether profit-oriented business or not-for-profit
2. The size of the enterprise.
 - ❖ Micro, small, medium, or large organizations.
3. Ownership structure
 - ❖ Whether private (community) ownership large number of people.
4. Ownership base.
 - ❖ Whether local or foreign
5. The products of the enterprise
 - ❖ Whether economic or social/ public
6. The native of activities involved.
 - ❖ Whether manufacturing or service
7. Target customers.
 - ❖ Whether consumer or industrial
8. The degree of formality
 - ❖ Whether formal or informal enterprises.

Enterprises can therefore be classified based on objectives, profit-oriented and non-profit-oriented

Entrepreneurship

Muhammad Muhammed et al (2020) have opined that orthodox economics have largely ignored the critical role that the entrepreneur plays in the development of the industry and the growth of new markets. In their view, this has been especially the case, until recently in developing economics, which appeared to concentrate on macro-economic research and less on microeconomics as a human-driven operation.

Entrepreneurship as clear as we can comprehend is seen as a crucial contextual part of a variety of economic growth frameworks that understand the complexity of incomplete knowledge. Dangana and Ogedegbe (2020) have defined entrepreneurship as a process, a type of ability, and a way of thinking. Entrepreneurship, according to Stevenson and Jarrilo (1990) is the process by which individuals either on their own or inside organizations pursue opportunities without regard to the resources they currently control. The pursuit of opportunities usually results in the creation of something new, No doubt therefore knight (1921); Mises, (1966), Kirzner (1979) Casson (1982), and Druker (1983), all define an entrepreneur as someone who manages development functions together and share the burden or insecurity of spending his finite and capital in business project. By doing so it incorporates the administrative roles of arranging, scheduling, hiring, monitoring, and handling the company (muhammed muhammed (2020). This is probably the reason Hisrich and Peters (2002) define entrepreneurship as the process of creating something new, the accompanying financial psychic, and social risk, and receiving the resulting reward of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence. Entrepreneurship has been defined in a variety of different ways by different authors.

- ❖ Nwachukwu (1990) regards entrepreneurship as a process of seeing and evaluating entrepreneurship as a process of seeing and evaluating business opportunities gathering the necessary resources to take advantage of them and initiate appropriate actions to ensure success.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship to Wenneker and Thurik (1999) is the manifest ability and willingness on their own, in teams within outside existing organizations to perceive and create new economic opportunities (new products, new production methods new organizational schemes, and new product-market combination) and to introduce their ideas in the market in the face of uncertainty and other obstacles by Making decisions on location, form and the use of resources and institutions.
- ❖ Okpare (2000) defines entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment and establishment and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities. From this definition entrepreneurship is seen as a way of the king reasoning and acting that is opportunity-based, holistic in approach, and leadership-balanced.

Quite often, entrepreneurship has been identified with a collection of generally optimistic, human characteristics that characterize a specific category of persons. Rockstar (2008) identified creativity, activity, dynamic process, purposeful activity, and risk involvement as the main characteristics of entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship is characterized as anticipation of benefit from the use of resources (schumpeter1934 Hayek 1945, Kirzner 1973, Casson 1982, Shane 2003).

According to Krueger et al (2000), entrepreneurial intent is very significant because it is the primary predictor of future entrepreneurial behaviors.

Insecurity

As stated by Victor A. Umoh et al (2023) the worrisome level of insecurity in the world now particularly in Africa has ignited many suggestions for solutions including Entrepreneurship education. While social uprisings are not peculiar to Africa, their notoriety frequency and intensity are excessive in the continent (Ukaeje O. 2022). The sustainability of Africa in his view has been repeatedly threatened by incessant conflicts and insurgency. Insecurity, conflicts, and criminality have been at the center of discourse in sub-Saharan Africa. Human insecurity as a concept was first propounded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its Human Development Report 1994. Ogbu E. et al (2020) has pointed out that the UNDP developed the concept of human security to encompass not just the achievement of minimal levels of material needs but also the absence of severe threats to them, of an economic or political kind. They argue that the concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety. The free dictionary.com (2012) defines insecurity as a state of being subject to danger or injury, a condition of being susceptible to harm or injury, or the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety. Beland (2005) on his part sees insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Galtung on the other hand has viewed human insecurity as caused by violence which according to him can be direct or indirect. To him violence is "harm done to human beings as a process, working slowly as the way misery in general and hunger in particular erode and finally kill human beings. Human insecurity as argued by Sen (1999) is concerned with reducing and when possible removing the insecurity that plagues human life.

Achumba et al (2013) observed that insecurity can be viewed from two perspectives; they note that insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, whereas danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. The second perspective

considers insecurity as a state of being exposed to risk or anxiety where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. The various authors are unanimous about the dynamics of insecurity, implying that their definitions have common characteristics, a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethnic-regional, civil, social economic, or political that contributes to recurring conflicts such as experienced in Africa, leading to wanton destruction of lives and property. Insecurity could amount to anything that potentially brings fear and uncertainty, and which constitutes a danger to the ability of a person, group, community, and the overall society to ensure the protection of lives and property.

Conversely, the word security can be seen as an apparent word from where the word insecurity has been constructed. By definition according to Collins online dictionary, security refers to all the measures that are taken to protect a place or to ensure that only people with permission enter or leave. The second definition that also matches this context is that security is a feeling of being safe and free from worry. (KellyShortridge. Com) 2023, has given a comprehensive definition of security which he says comprises protection against harm to one's basic mode of life and economic values, as well as reasonable protection against fear and terror, and the presence of a positive assurance that these values will continue to be maintained in the future. Insecurity is therefore the antithesis of security and reflects such common descriptions as want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, inadequately guarded or protected instability and lack of protection, and being unsafe. Security measures enhance safety, prevent incidents, protect property, and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals and communities. It is incumbent there fore to appreciate the efforts of those who potentially contribute to ensure a society free from insecurity.

Table 1: Some selected African Countries Presently grappling with instability and security

S/N	country	Nature of instability and insecurity	Remark
1	Burkina Faso	Continued ethnic clashes have registered 173 security incidents and 285 deaths (including children) between July and September. As of 30 September 2021, the number of IDPs reached 1,407,685(CONASUR) out of which over 61.02 percent are children. Ansurul Islam linked to al Qaeda is active	Threat to the peace and stability of the region
2	Cameroon	Protracted politically Instigated conflicts and armed rebellion between the government forces and secessionists since 2016, to return to former southern Cameroon and La Republic du Cameroon	Volatile and a threat to peace and stability of the state and neighboring Nigeria
3	Central African Republic	Seleka, a coalition of five Muslim rebel groups overthrew a legitimate government and seized power in March 2013. There are also the anti-balaka militias (Christians against Seleke coalition)	Potential threat
4	Democratic Republic of Congo	Political instability resulting from electoral violence led to rebel insurrections. Several armed rebel forces fight to take over power. The most recent is the attack in 2020 carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a radical Islamist rebel Group, and the Cooperative for Development of Congo (CODECO)	Potential threats
5	Ivory Coast	A long history of Political Instability revolves around deep-seated cleavages such as ethnicity, nationality, and religion. The recent re-election of President Alassane Quattara in October 2020 sparked deadly violence and was boycotted by the opposition voters.	Potential threat to the stability and peace of the state.
6	Kenya	Rising terrorism in the state from al-Qaeda-like Somali militia, the Muslim Youth Center in Kenya, and the insurrection activities of the Mombasa Republic Council (MRC) separatist group	Potential threat to peace and stability of the state.
7	Mali	Protracted politically Instigated conflicts and armed rebellion between the government supported by the French against radical Islamic groups that seized the north of Mali on 12 January	Threats to the state and the region.
8	Nigeria	Continuing Ethno religious conflagrations between Muslims and Christians in Kaduna, Taraba, and Plateau states, armed conflicts between government forces and book Haram Terrorist and ISWAP in the northeast, armed banditry, and kidnaping in the northwest, herders farmers conflict from the Northcentral down the entire southern hemisphere, and armed separatist.	Volatile and a threat to the peace and stability of the state and neighboring countries in the Lake Chad basin.

9	Senegal	Severe security challenges are rooted instigated by political instability. The Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance Forces (MFDC) or Movement for the Democratic Forces of Casamance has been fighting against the government since 1982. Though MFDC declared a unilateral ceasefire in April 2014, the remained unstable.	Potential threat to peace and stability of the state.
10	Sudan	Sudan has been engulfed in a political crisis since 2002 between the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), Popular Defense Forces (PDF), a pro-government paramilitary group, and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) formed by five rebel groups against the government forces. The government has been fighting the Darfur population since 2003 including clashes with rebels.	Severe threat to the state and the Saharan region because of the influx of armed machinery from Sudan to other volatile regions.

Source. Compiled by the author from Security and Conflict Trends Data (2021) and Wars in the World, (2022)

The data in Table 1 above illustrate graphically the high level of political instability and insecurity in contemporary African states, and this situation has not improved rather it keeps getting worse by the day making the entire continent vulnerable. The worsening security situation has caused severe human security challenges to the affected states and created a general atmosphere of fear and social tension across the continent. Such a situation poses a serious threat to the aspirations and objectives of the AU Agenda 2026

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Entrepreneurship Education

In the view of Nwosu, Jonathan, and John Henry C. (2018), the Consortium of Entrepreneurship Education (CEE, USA) as cited by Nwosu, Jonathan, et al, (2018), defines entrepreneurship education as a form of education that is out to seek for the preparation of people, especially youths, to be responsible enterprising individuals who will contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. Entrepreneurship education is a form of education, a move towards self-reliance, a reasonable channel that

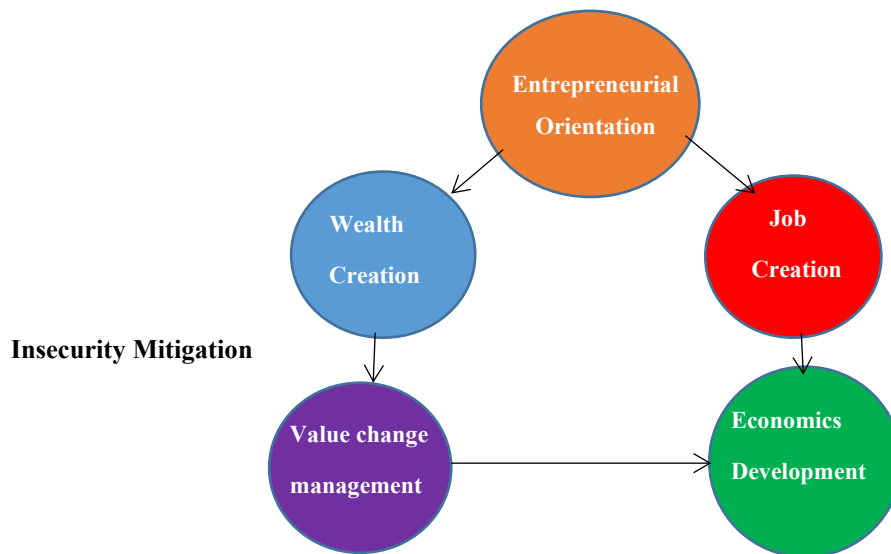
will greatly assist in curbing employment problems. This of course is because its emphasis is on the acquisition of skills and capacities to be self-employed. Entrepreneurship education is indeed the solution to Africa's high unemployment status with its resultant effect of poverty and instability, spreading across the continent including high crime-induced conflict.

Entrepreneurship education has the inherent ability to create a change in the mental orientation from the "take-job syndrome" to the create-job mentality because it is a carefully organized process that leads to the acquisition of entrepreneurial competence through the teaching of entrepreneurship courses and training (Nwosu et al, 2018). The knowledge or skills acquired will therefore enhance the ability to set up a gainfully productive entity for self-employment as opposed to being employed. Entrepreneurship education should therefore be fashioned in a way to encourage everybody and youth in particular by equipping them with entrepreneurial approaches. The emphasis is on the youths because they are the most vulnerable and oftentimes are misguided by high-profile politicians and business Gurus to cause wanton destruction of property and loss of lives.

Entrepreneurship Education and Insecurity Mitigation.

There are quite several interesting scholarly works on the nature and causes of social uprising within the continent, however, there are few theoretical and perhaps practical discourses on appropriate strategies for mitigating

Fig 1. Insecurity Mitigation



Mbonteh Model

Entrepreneurship Education and Entrepreneurial Orientation

Entrepreneurial orientation is a key concept when executives are crafting strategies in the hope of doing something new and then exploiting opportunities that other organizations cannot exploit. EO simply refers to the processes, practices, and decision-making styles of organizations that act entrepreneurially. In brief entrepreneurially – Oriented firms support and exhibit a sustained pattern of new entry over time that is generally characterized by innovation, pro-activeness, and risk-taking (Wales, 2016). These are other contextually relevant dimensions such as competitive aggressiveness or autonomy (Lumpkin and Dess, 1996) may be

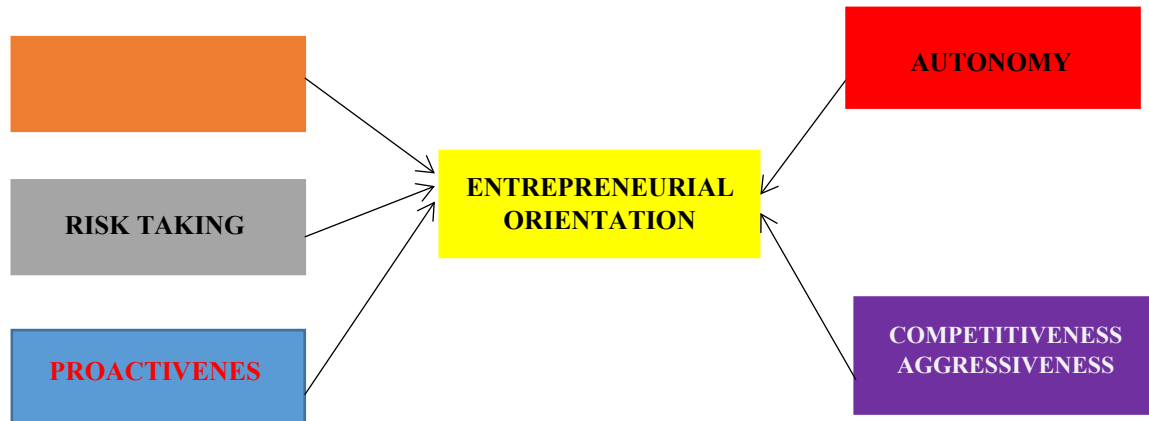
insecurity, conflicts, instability, and insurgency in Africa. The authors have therefore used the model in Figure 1 as the appropriate strategy for mitigating conflict, insecurity, and insurgency in a continent such as Africa driven by a high degree of poverty, poor governance, and undemocratic tendencies.

explored in aggregate or isolated (Covin and Wales, 2012)

A popular model of entrepreneurial orientation (EO) suggests that there are five dimensions of EO, namely autonomy, innovation, risk-taking, pro-activeness, and competitiveness aggressiveness (Lumpkin and Dess 1996).

Wood et al. (2004) opined that entrepreneurial orientation is the ability to distribute creative innovation in business with added value. Entrepreneurship education is therefore relevant in this context especially where more talent is required to conduct autonomy, innovation, risk-taking, pro-activeness, and competitive aggressiveness to gain competitive advantage and high performance.

Fig 2. Entrepreneurial Orientation Model



Source: Adopted from the author's research work

Entrepreneurship Education and Job Creation

Entrepreneurship education as part of the total educational system is the type of education that involves the acquisition of skills, ideas, and management abilities necessary for job creation. An entrepreneur promotes employment rather than seeking employment. Entrepreneurs create employment opportunities not only for themselves but for others as well. Entrepreneurial activities may influence a country's economic performance by bringing new products, methods, and production processes to the market and by boosting productivity and competition more broadly.

In today's rapidly changing job market where traditional employment structures are evolving and industries are constantly being disrupted by political instability and social unrest, job security has become a major concern for many individuals. The concept of job security has traditionally been tied to stable employment with a single employer, but in the current landscape, it is essential to explore alternative avenues that can provide a sense of security and stability. One such avenue is entrepreneurship which offers unique opportunities for individuals to create their own job security by taking control of their lives and building successful businesses.

Entrepreneurship Education and Wealth Creation

Entrepreneurship education teaches people to have control over their own income and this will make them determine their own salary, as well as re-invest profits back into the business to fuel growth. Entrepreneurship also allows one to diversify one's income streams, which can provide more stability and security in the long stream.

The dynamics of the wealth creation approach are not as complex as it seems to be. One cannot create wealth by just earning more money. One has to invest his/her savings to create a parallel stream of income. This process of investing year-saved money to grow your

wealth by choosing investments that align with your financial goals is called wealth creation.

Entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in wealth creation as it enables individuals to create new businesses, generate income, and accumulate wealth. By identifying unmet needs or gaps in the market, Entrepreneurs can develop innovative products or services that have the potential to disrupt industries and create value.

We can identify four Pillars of wealth creation notably:

- To acquire
- To Protect
- To grow and
- To pass it along

Mastering the above areas of wealth is vital for creating a solid financial foundation and leaving a lasting legacy. The golden rule of wealth creation as the saying goes is "spend less and save more"

Entrepreneurship Education and value chain management

The value chain describes the full range of activities that are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of production (involving a combination of Physical Transformation and the input of Various producers), delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use. The role of value chain management in entrepreneurship is cardinal, it enables a company to have more control over different business components that contribute to the company earning revenue and generating profits. Enhancing different value chain components can ameliorate profit margins, enhance customer satisfaction, and reduce company expenses. Value chain management is, therefore, the process of creating and executing an initiative that makes a good business process a great one \ ; It invests in high-value decisions and implements better, faster, quicker decision-making.

Benefits of a Value Chain

- It can raise the standard of the market and increase competition.
- It can improve a company's valuable offerings while boosting its long-term adaptability and sustainability.
- A company's profit margin may increase due to effective logistics and distribution.

Value chain analysis is important because it helps one understand how that business creates and captures value about competitors,

Entrepreneurship Education and Economic Development.

Entrepreneurship is a driver of economic dynamism and invariably influences the economic growth of countries and regions (ACS and Armington, 2024). This assessment is corroborated by Levie and Autio (2008) who have highlighted the impact of entrepreneurial activity on economic development based on the dynamization of production factors, increased efficiency, and the incentive for innovation (Lopes-claros et al 2006). The entrepreneurship process consists of a sequence of phases including those before and after starting a new business (Moriano 2005). These authors assert that Entrepreneurship education is a core element for understanding the process of starting a new business (Bird, 1998) and represents the antecedent of the decision to create a company (Linan et al 2013). This entrepreneurship education is of crucial interest to a country, like those in Africa bedeviled by conflict and insecurity, because it is considered the best approach to entrepreneurial skills building. In the current dispensation, the analysis of entrepreneurship education in educational institutions has become very relevant. In fact, the promotion of Entrepreneurship education in schools and colleges and the creation of employment

opportunities as decisive as this will contribute significantly to prosperity and citizens' well-being.

CONCLUSION

From the review, we find that the African continent is blessed with great potential, both human and natural resources. Security of people and property enhances and optimises business activities but insecurity will do the contrary by hindering these activities and so constitute a threat to business activities. There is a need, therefore, to scale down insecurity and instability in the continent by the respective states. The approach to curbing this menace has been to introduce Entrepreneurship Education at all levels of education to respond positively to the growing criminality trends in the continent.

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