Moderating Role of Perceived Expertise Support on the Relationship between Entrepreneurship Education, Prior Work Experience, Societal Culture and Entrepreneurial Intention

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is a global phenomenon affected by the emergence of new small and innovative start-up businesses which is positively resulting in economic growth across the world. It plays a significant role in creating new jobs, influencing governments to recognize and support entrepreneurial start-up activity. However, only a few students immediately after graduation start a business due to the fact that many students do not consider entrepreneurship as a career option. The objective of this paper is to review the related literature and highlight the need to investigate moderating role of perceived expertise support on the relationship between entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture and entrepreneurial intention among BUK post graduate students. The study is theoretically based on the theory of planned behaviour (TPB), social cognitive career theory (SCCT) and Expectancy theory. Selfadministered survey method will be used to distribute questionnaire in order to collect primary data through a simple random sampling technique from postgraduate students of Bayero University Kano(BUK) that are active in status. The study will provide an enriched contribution to knowledge and significant implication to the theory and practices of entrepreneurship. The study will contribute in expanding the TPB, SCCT and expectancy theory. It will also signal to the practitioners such as the education authority as well as the government to look into the effect of entrepreneurship education and prior work experience as well as societal culture as influencing factors when moderated with perceived expertise support on post-graduate students 'entrepreneurial intention.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture, perceive

1.0 Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a global phenomenon affected by the emergence of new small and innovative start-up businesses which is positively resulting in economic growth across the world. Due to these new small businesses positive contributions to the economy (Uhlaner and Thurik, 2007), it plays a significant role in creating new jobs, influencing governments to recognize and support entrepreneurial start-up activity. In the last few decades, the concept of entrepreneurship has become vital as a result of constant and increasing economic problems especially unemployment (García-Rodríguez, 2017). Countries are motivated to increase the rate of entrepreneurship to promote economic and social well-being (Peng et al.; 2012).

However, with the development and progress of economic globalization, more and more people choose to start their own businesses under strong national and governmental supports, which not only promotes the economic development of the country, but also alleviates the employment situation to a certain extent (Barba-Sánchez Atienza-Sahuquillo, and 2018). Accordingly, relevant researches show an increasing number of office workers and college students are involved in the army of self-entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship has become a trend in developing economies like China (Azoulay, Jones, Kim & Javier, 2020).

As Government in Nigeria has implemented entrepreneurship education into the Nigerian educational system, a segment of the population that is targeted in the promotion of attitude towards entrepreneurship is higher education students (HES) using entrepreneurship education programmes (Olorundare and Kayode, 2014). The most crucial question to be answered is, whether the students are showing their attitude or not towards entrepreneurship particularly in higher institutions is to be understood for the success of such initiatives. This is because entrepreneurship education often improves attitude of students the towards entrepreneurship (Wei Xingjian, Liu, & Jian, 2019). Without having a proper attitude, both cognitive competencies and noncognitive competencies are difficult to achieve and sustain in the long run (Moberg, 2014).

Despite the implementation of entrepreneurship education and development programmes, youths' unemployment in Nigeria has been on an increase as numbers of yearly graduates from institutions of higher learning continued to increase. The unemployment and underemployment rate according to NBS as of 2018 rose to 23.1 percent and 16.6 percent respectively (NBS, 2018), and is soaring upwards as the country records an unemployment rate of 27.1% in the second quarter of 2020 (NBS, 2020). Graduate employability, however, is only at 36% per graduate (Stutern, 2016), which strongly indicates a serious problem to the country's graduate employability (Mahmoud & Garba, 2019).

Typically contemplating career options by Tertiary students leads-up to and after graduation. Hisrich and Peters (2002) stated that very few students immediately after graduation will start a business due to the fact that many students do not consider entrepreneurship as a career option. In Nigeria, it is observed that the family members did not encourage their wards to engage in entrepreneurship. For long the Nigeria environment expects their educated young children to seek for paid employment in corporations, government parastatals or civil service (Bako et. al, 2017). This is an indication that the society does not support the entrepreneurial intentions of graduates about to enter into world of work. Therefore, this is a problem given the importance of new business start-ups to the society and economy and as a result, this issue becomes research requiring a area further investigation.

It is imperative to know more about the university students' career intentions so as to have a better understanding of the problem and also understand the impact of their individual environments. The question that separates those who choose to engage in entrepreneurship from those who do not is the interest of researchers (Ahmad, Xavier, & Bakar, 2014).Therefore, this study seeks

examine the moderating effect of to perceived expertise support on the entrepreneurship relationship between education, prior work experience, and societal culture entrepreneurship on intention.

Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

The paper reviews necessary literatures that are related to the study. It contains the concept of entrepreneurship, concept of entrepreneurial intention, entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intention, prior work experience and entrepreneurial intention. societal culture and entrepreneurial intention, perceived expertise support as moderator. a moderating effect of perceived expertise support on TPB model, conceptual frame work.

2.1 Concept of entrepreneurship

The term entrepreneurship origin has a history that can be traced back to 1732, when an Irish-French economist, Richard Cantillon used the word to refer to individuals with "a willingness to carry out forms of arbitrage involving the financial risk of a new venture" Minniti & Lévesque (2008). Woolf, (1980) says in a universal term, an entrepreneur is defined as one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise. While this definition may seem plausible, some researchers like Shane and Venkataraman (2000), Bruyat and Julien, (2001), Ireland and Webb, (2007) argued that the field of entrepreneurship lacks a clear conceptual frame with no clear boundaries.

2.1.1 Concept of Entrepreneurial Intention

Entrepreneurial intention also referred to as entrepreneurial intent means the intention of an individual to perform an entrepreneurial behavior. Zhao et al. (2005) defined it as the intention to start a new business venture, the intention to own a business as stated by Crant (1996), or the intention to be selfemployed, Douglas and Shepherd (2002). A number of researchers among others that include (Krueger et al., 2000) have recognized that intent plays an important role towards becoming an entrepreneur. For the purpose of this study, entrepreneurial intention will be defined as an individual's intention to become self-employed.

2.2 Entrepreneurship Education and Entrepreneurship intention

Entrepreneurship education is the development of knowledge and skills either "about" or "for the purpose of" entrepreneurship generally, as part of recognized education programs at primary, post-primary or tertiary-level of educational institutions (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2010). Harvard University is where entrepreneurship course was offered for the first time on February 1947(Katz, 2003). Ogundipe, Emmanuel, Kosile, Adejoke, Olaleye, Ogundipe Olugbenga, and Olatunde (2012) using a sample of graduating students of the Department of Guidance and Counseling and Business Students Education of Lagos State University, Nigeria, suggested that both courses have an impact on the intention to entrepreneurship thereby revealing that counseling students' intention to entrepreneurship is stronger than their business counterpart. Accordingly, Zwan, Zurrhout and Hessels (2013) in their work stated that positive relation exists between entrepreneurship learning indicators and self-employment intention. However, Liu, Lin, Zhao & Zhao (2019) in a study titled effects of entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurial self-efficacy on college students' entrepreneurial intentions observed

that entrepreneurship education has positive effect on their entrepreneurial intention.

Numerous studies have reported positively significant relationship between EE and ENTI (see for instance, Ogundipe et.al., 2012; Zwan, Zurrhout & Hessels, 2013; Liu, Lin, Zhao & Zhao, 2019; Asimakopoulous, Hernandez & Pena, 2019; Boldureanu, Mariuca, Viorica & Boldureanu, 2020; Jena, 2020).

2.3 Prior Work Experience and Entrpreneurial intention

Shepherd and De Tienne (2005) imply that prior knowledge is associated with the realization of a greater and a number of innovative entrepreneurial opportunities. knowledge defined Prior as by Venkataraman (1977) is the distinct information ability of an individual about a specific subject matter, and could be as a result of education or previously attained work experience (Souitaris, 2007). Past business and entrepreneurial experiences as researches have shown influences an individual decision making and business performance (Dyke, Fischer & Reuber, 1992). Yaun, Qalati, Iqbal, Hussain, & Ali (2019) affirms that posit ive relationship exist between prior work experience and entrepreneurial intention in a study in Pakistan. Also, Nguyen (2018) in a study found that prior experience in selfemployment also increases entrepreneurial intention among business students of Vietnam. Rashid, Mat, Marof, Nasuredin, Sanita and Isa (2012) in their work to study the relationship between professional entrepreneurial capacity and attraction, towards entrepreneurship experience intention found that professional attraction and entrepreneurial capacity are positively related to experience. The importance of PWE has been reported by numerous studies as an essential path in contributing to the advancement of ENTI (Rashid at.al., 2012; Nyugen, 2018; Wen, Ali, Iqbal, Yasir & Ali, 2019; Yaun et.al., 2019).

2.4 Societal Culture and Entrepreneurship intention

Society is the arrangement of shared values that recognizes the member of one group from an alternate group (Hofstede, 1980; Mueller & Thomas, 2001). Etzioni (1987) contends that the qualities and standards that are principal in an individual social environment may influence his or her propensity to begin a business. Sajjad, Imran, Haroon, Dad, and Munir (2010) in their work titled the impact of culture on entrepreneurship intention found that different cultures influence entrepreneurship intention in different ways and also impacts on intention towards perceived feasibility and perceived desirability in different ways. Accordingly, the work of Rantanen and Toikko (2013) which is about social values, entrepreneurship societal attitude and entrepreneurial intention of young people in Finland shows that the young people in the Finnish state view entrepreneurship in the first place as a reasonable career option. Moreover, Radipere and Ladzani (2014) in their work the effects of entrepreneurial intentions on business performance opines the magnitude of the business that environment clearly confirms the positive impact of entrepreneurial intention on business performance. A study conducted by, Liu, Lin, Zhao & Zhao (2019) titled effects of entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurial self-efficacy on college students' entrepreneurial intentions observed that entrepreneurial attitude has no obvious effect on the students entrepreneurial Studies reporting significant intentions. positive relationships between SC and ENTI (see: Sajjad et. Al, 2010; Rantanen &

Toikko, 2013; Radipere & Ladzani, 2014; Liu et.al, 2019).

2.5 Perceived Expertise Support as a Moderator

Entrepreneurial intention is also supported and encouraged via expertise in form of formal support for individuals as seen in literatures. Sperber and Linder (2018) asserts that "formal networks are embedded in a diverse group of actors within an economic area to which formal relations are set up". According to Gelard and Saleh (2011), expertise or formal network is related to experience consultants, other entrepreneurs. agencies related to entrepreneurship activities, customer and supplier networks. Support from consultants professionals and other in the entrepreneurial community is seen as formal support. Going by the expectancy theory, Sperber and Linder (2018) opined that the combination of the effort of entrepreneur's readiness and ability to execute and the perception of support expected form a basis of entrepreneurial intention. As higher support tends to reduces an individual's effort required of the outcome of an activity. whereas lack of that support means or requires more of the individual's personal effort (Sperber & Linder, 2018). If an individual perceives to have formal support via expertise in the form of consultancy assistance, then there will be more confidence from that individual regarding possible positive outcome, and therefore his intention will be higher.

In a similar vein, Hoogendoorn et al. (2019) posit that when individuals perceive insufficient information support at start-up phase, they will feel unsupported during the process of starting a business. Sharing knowledge and expertise reduces the ambiguity linked to entrepreneurship activity (McAdam & Marlow, 2007). For

example, knowledge and consultancv delivered through business incubators can help individuals build financial skills and transform their ideas into commercial enterprises (Van Rijnsoever, 2020). Such assistance is likely to improve an attitude individual's toward entrepreneurship. Therefore, based on the extant literature, it could be advanced that when nascent entrepreneurs feel they receive sufficient support from local institutions, they would be inclined to think favourably of entrepreneurial activity, not only because they feel supported but also because they develop a feeling of reciprocity toward such institutions

2.6 Moderating Effect of Perceived Expertise Support on TPB Model

Baron and Kenny (1986) postulated that what calls for the introduction of a moderator is when there are mixed or weak research findings, however for the moderating variable, significant relationship must exist with the dependent variable. Therefore, in line with the inconsistencies of findings on the relationship between EE, PWE and SC towards EINT, and positive relationship existence between EFS and EINT, the moderating influence of PES on the TPB model relationships is suggested in this study. The choice of PES as a moderator in this study was reinforced by the role of Expectancy theory (Vroom, 1964) on human development and economic success. The Expectancy theory holds that individuals have different sets of goals and can be motivated if they have certain expectations. knowledge/human Since capital development is contingent on economic progression same (the way as entrepreneurship), this study argues that PES can moderate the relationship between EE, PWE, and SC towards EINT of university

students. Therefore, the study propositions posit that;

i Perceived Expertise Support will moderate the relationship between Entrepreneurship Education and Entrepreneurial intention.

ii Perceived Expertise Support will moderate the relationship between Prior Work Experience and Entrepreneurial intention.

iii Perceived Expertise Support will moderate the relationship between Societal Culture and Entrepreneurial intention.

The study is theoretically based on the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) developed by Ajzen (1988, 1991), social cognitive career theory (SCCT) by Lent, Brown and Hackett (1994) and lastly Expectancy theory by Vroom (1964) which states that individuals have different sets of goals and can be motivated if they have certain expectations.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

In the study, perceived expertise support can relationship the between moderate entrepreneurship education, prior work experience as well as societal culture which are regarded as the independent variables influence positively student that entrepreneurial intention which is the dependent construct. As such, the proposed framework is presented below:

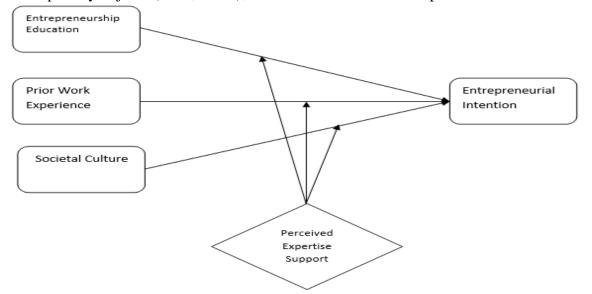


Figure 1.

3.0 Methodology

Based on literature, entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture are normally operationalized from the individual level perspective. Therefore, the unit of analysis in this study will be individual level and the target respondents will be BUK post-graduates students that are active in status as at when the study will be conducted. The study will adopt a survey research design and will be cross-sectional as data will be collected at one point time. Therefore, a quantitative research design using cross sectional approach is considered suitable for this study, as quantitative research is a form of research that seeks to explain trends through gathering numerical data which should be analysed using statistical methods (Cohen, 1988). Primary data using self-administered questionnaire will be collected among BUK post-graduate students (master's and doctoral students) of Bayero University Kano, Nigeria. The study will adapt measurements based on the previous studies relevant to the current research context (Churchill 1979).The total population of the study will be BUK postgraduate students that are active in status in BUK as at when the study will be conducted (2021 academic session), and will be used as the population size. Representative sample of the students will be chosen randomly out of BUK post-graduate students as at when the study will be conducted are to be surveyed.

4.0 Discussion

This study contributes both theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this study has been able to examine the link between entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, and societal culture as factors influencing entrepreneurial intention when moderated by perceived expertise support. As such, it has contributed to the body of knowledge by supporting the previous studies on the established link between entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture, perceived expertise support on entrepreneurial intention. In addition, it has been able to expand literatures on the concept of entrepreneurship and indicates the factors that can enhance entrepreneurial attitude among youths.

More so, the study findings have been able to provide a support to TPB, SCCT and Expectancy theory by concretizing TPB which postulates on the intention of individuals to engage in certain activities, SCCT and Expectancy theory have also been expanded by this study through its findings that societal-entrepreneurship attitude or societal culture influences an individual decision to become an entrepreneur.

Practically, it is expected that this study will provide an avenue for government and education authority to install a program that can improve the entrepreneurial intention attitudes among youths. In addition, it will point out to the education authorities that entrepreneurial experience is an important factor that determines entrepreneurial intention among graduates. As such, fieldattachment or industrial training should be given optimum attention in order to enhance entrepreneurial intention attitude.

5.0 Conclusion

The importance of entrepreneurship towards economy cannot be Nigerian over emphasized due to its positive contributions to the economy as it plays significant role in creating new jobs. Consequently, studying the factors that will enhance entrepreneurial intention among Nigerian postgraduates is also important. The main objective of this paper is to review the related literature and highlight the need to investigate moderating role of perceived expertise support on the relationship between entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture and entrepreneurial intention among BUK post graduate students. Based on the previous literature reviewed, it is concluded that there is an evidence of link between entrepreneurship education, prior work societal experience. culture and entrepreneurial intention, as well perceived expertise support and entrepreneurial intention. Hence, perceived expertise support can serve as a moderator through which entrepreneurship education, prior work experience, societal culture can affect students' entrepreneurial intention. The proposed research framework incorporates entrepreneurship education, prior work experience societal culture and as

independent variables, perceived expertise support as moderating variable and entrepreneurial intention as dependent Empirically testing variable. of this proposed framework will significantly help academicians and administrators in students understanding entrepreneurial intent. In addition, it will be helpful to other policy makers and most importantly other researchers that may seek to work on entrepreneurial intention.

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