

## Sociology and Entrepreneurship Nexus

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the nitty-gritty of the relationship between sociology and entrepreneurship by situating it in a proper context. The role and influence of social structure, social institutions, entrepreneurial society, and entrepreneurial leadership are examined. The objective of the paper is to explore the gains associated with the relationship between sociology and entrepreneurship at the domain of academic community and that of the society in whole. The paper adopts content analysis where relevant literatures were reviewed. The paper established a synergy in clear terms, sustained entrepreneurial progress, innovation and societal development. It further observed that such progress can only be achieved and sustained when there exist, a functional leadership and enhanced/sustained capacity building effort. This paper is of the view that societies visioning transformation and desiring to become/remain relevant in the 21st century in terms of productivity, must embrace innovative entrepreneurship, functional and entrepreneurial leaders as well as entrepreneurial capacity quest.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial Leadership, Entrepreneurial Society, Social Institutions, Entrepreneurial Ambience, Innovation.

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### Introduction

Sociology as a scientific discipline is interested in human behaviour especially the interaction pattern among group(s) of people in society. Society consists of people who have lived long enough together to be referred to as one, having generational membership with defined goals. While culture entails the totality of the ways of life of a people, which include laws, mores, folkways, arts, . . . science and technology and every other capabilities that a man acquires as a member of the society. As culture vary from one society to the other, so entrepreneurial traits vary from one society to the other. Sociology complements labour economics, social psychology, and personality theory in understanding the decisions of individuals to pursue entrepreneurial behavior. The sociological enterprise has developed some of the most useful models related to an individual's major life decisions as affected by life course stage and the relevant cultural norms (Reynolds, 1991).

Sociological perspectives and research provide important and distinctive contributions to the understanding of entrepreneurship in three ways. The first is through the development of societal conceptions regarding productive activities that encompass the entrepreneurial role or function. The major alternatives emphasize socioeconomic systems as (a) moving toward an equilibrium (reflecting a broad consensus) or (b) reflecting the outcome of class competition (emphasizing conflict resolution). Both assume the inevitable dominance of massive productive organizations (Reynolds, 1991). An empirical fact of not seeing much of anything new and innovative in terms of meaningful development in some countries can be attributed to the decline or a fall in the quality of persons attaining/occupying leadership position. As the best result/outcome in terms of achievement – idea/contents, infrastructural development, access to services and empowerment and capacity building initiatives for future leaders, etc – that were there in the past appear to be lacking now. To the extent that the new set of leaders obviously lack the ability and will to either maintain or sustain existing infrastructure and establishments put in place by past leaders. Intriguing entrepreneurial intricacies deserving articulate responses include: members must define and refer to themselves as critical stakeholders in the governing affairs of their society; the essence of government is to provide needed imperatives for every developmental quest in

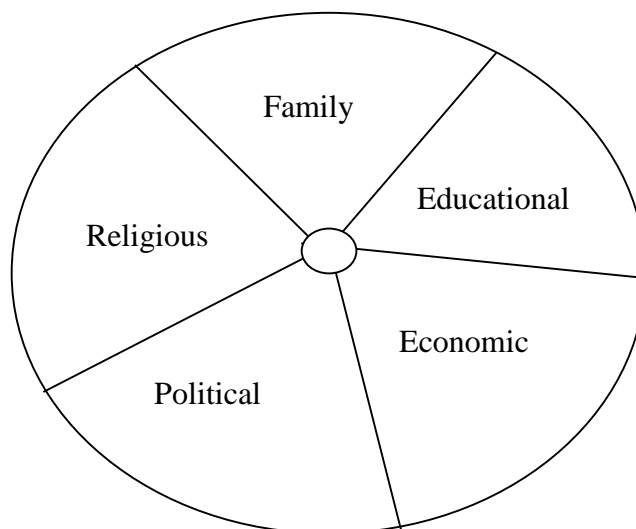
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society; and the workings and effective functioning of societies are mainly determined by the kinds of governments in place and those who constitute their leadership.

The relationship between sociology and entrepreneurship stems from the innate desire of knowledgeable and rational beings to understand the socio-economic, political and psychological orientations of the ambience in which entrepreneurial activities are to be carried out. Sociologically, a society's make-up is better understood and appreciated by studying its social structure. The pattern of social relationships and social institutions depicts the workings and functionality of the society. Sociology, as a scientific and interpretative discipline views societal workings through its social structural and social institutional arrangement or framework. The structure pertains to the existing pattern of social relationships in society. Deductions or questions of the pattern of social relationships, such as whether the pattern of social relationship is hostile/exploitative or warm/cooperative are inherent in determining a society's level of productivity. Sociological inquiries have revealed that high productivity and entrepreneurial prospects are the hallmark of societies that leverage on warm/cooperative pattern of social relationship. Whereas, entrepreneurship that does propel small and medium scale enterprises and high employability ventures and income generation potentials in some societies have been found to be strangled in some other locale, where pattern of social relationships and policies are unfriendly and hostile. Sociologists are interested in studying social institutions in society. These institutions are the family, religion, educational, economic and the political institutions. The functional and interrelatedness of these institutions are the determinants of the pace of progress of the concerned society.

Institutions have to create an environment in which skills and capital equipment could be constantly mobilized and accessed without inhibitions. That is why, every society desiring progress must ensure that the structural frameworks for their functionality are in place at all times.



*Fig. 1 Social Institutions*

Many scholars are of the view that the level of efficiency and functionality of family, religious, educational and economic institutions is ascribed to the functionality of the political institution. This is obvious due to the fact that those who constitute the leadership group in a society through their action and inaction dictate the relationship patterns among the people and the pace of progress (see Baran, 1968; Deyo, 1987). Like agro - entrepreneurship for example, the level of government involvement by way of policies and investment in the agricultural sector makes the difference between underdeveloped and developed societies as far as food sufficiency and food security are concerned. So it is in other sectors, like, science and technology, housing, manufacturing, commerce, education, transportation, communication, construction, entrepreneurship and even in the quality of leadership. That is why, members of a society must live to correct every observed error/or wrongs perpetuated by those at the helm of affairs in order to ensure justice, fairness, and equity administration as well as service delivery.

This paper is therefore, structured to discuss the relationship between sociology as a discipline and the functionalism and realization of societal entrepreneurial objectives/potentials.

### **Family institution and entrepreneurship**

Globally, most families in every society are known and associated with one form of socio-economic activity or the other flowing from their entrepreneurial orientation, which does evolve from one level of growth to the other, some evolving through being a community known enterprise to gaining international recognition. Some families are also known to possess certain unique entrepreneurial traits which do transcend generations and generational members imbibing and sustaining such traits not only in meeting their socio-economic needs, but providing more people with income through direct and indirect job creation. Family entrepreneurship sometimes transcends into community entrepreneurship. Community entrepreneurship most times, carries with it stringent rules that do not allow outsiders' participation or disclosure of traits to none members. Many cultures of the world have been able to leverage on as well as build on the innovation, creativity and invention of their forbearers, transcending several generations.

*Goal attainment* refers to the development of system goals and evidence of their accomplishment. For a society, the political system is the major mechanism for developing and monitoring societal goals. *Integrative* refers to the need for the presence of common features—language, values, culture—that facilitate interaction and contribute to a sense of shared destiny. Primary socialization of the young, such as that provided by families or through formal education, contributes to integration. These four needs are, of course, the well-known AGIL (Adaptive, Goal attainment, Integrative, and Latent) functional imperatives of Parsons (Parsons and Smelser, 1956 cited in Reynolds, 1991).

The role and importance of family entrepreneurship to the society drawing from the unique entrepreneurial behavior associated with some families cannot be overemphasized. Some of the entrepreneurial behaviors that do emerge are relative to some families, such behaviours carry with them attributes of discipline, prudence, accountability, endurance, perseverance, diligence, resilience, encouragement and promotion of creativity, innovation with the ultimate aim of enhancing productivity and better returns on investment (Casillas, Cajal and Moreno, 2010; Marchisio, Mazzola, Sciascia, Miles and Astrachan, 2017).

Some known entrepreneurial families have been caught in the web of liquidation due to their inability to sufficiently and successfully carry members along in exercising the tenets of prudence in the management of family entrepreneurial resources. This is why entrepreneurial families are advised to always inculcate the culture of managerial prudence and financial discipline amongst its members or extend control and management of their enterprise to outsiders who are deemed to possess needed capacity and managerial skills for the purpose of sustainability. Family business needs to be more innovative and risk taking in its approach to internationalization as it helps them build their reputation and increase performance (Ratten, Ramadani, Dana, Hoy and Ferreira, 2017). Family entrepreneurship is associated with multigenerational dimension and family influence that do create the unique dynamics and relationships.

### **Religious institution and entrepreneurship**

A foremost sociological inquiry conducted by Max Weber was on the relationship between religion and entrepreneurship with a particular emphasis on the Calvinist group exploring the protestant ethics. The role of old religious homes and that of the present religious homes especially the Pentecostal group towards entrepreneurship, self-discipline, hard work, imbibing the spirit of investment and reinvestment, pattern of economic relationship of leaders with members (whether exploitative or cooperative) are issues of considerations across societies of the world today.

The relationship between religion and entrepreneurship and whether religious practice impacts on how individuals view the individual and societal contributions to business enterprise are critical in every society, especially from the perspective of religious leaders. Religion and enterprise have a complex interdependent relation (Dodd and Seaman, 1998; Anderson et al., 2000), with the Western Protestant

work ethic raising entrepreneurship to a privileged status. As ethnic diversity has increased within the western world, so too has the religious mix of value systems and religious belief systems that came with such diversity/religions. Paralleling increasing diversity is the decreasing participation rates in the traditional Christian churches. We question the impact of this changing religious mix on entrepreneurial participation and perception. Our findings indicate that increasing ethnic diversity and associated religious value systems are certainly not going to negatively reduce the business start-up rate. If anything, the start-up rate may be enhanced (Carswell and Rolland, 2004).

### **Educational institution and entrepreneurship**

Building the desired manpower needs and capacity of a people is dependent on the level of functionality of its educational system. Factors determining the functionality of the educational system in a society are: the amount of recognition given to the sector by its leaders, educational budgeting level and funds releases, capacity and competences of societal leaders; level, quality and quantity of facilities/infrastructure, quality and quantity of staff (teaching and non-teaching), quality and motivation for staff members, quality/competence of administrators and methods of attaining headship positions (through competence or through influence), investment in science and technology, and research and development as well as recognition and use of research findings.

All of these aforementioned, are determinants of competence and proficiency of the final outcome from the various educational institutions. Another critical point would be whether the society's leadership embraces fully, a holistic educational system or a partial educational system. That is, educational system tilted towards cognitive and affective domain and neglect of the psychomotor orientation. Most societies that have failed to fully exploit the entrepreneurial potentials of its environment are those that have passively approached or holistically neglected its educational sector. Such a society will continue to experience a decline in productivity, aberrational dispositions among increasing number of its population, low quality/failed leaders, as obtained in societies, where security votes for political office holders exceed state budget for education. There is a direct relationship between the quality of education and quality of legislations as well as sustenance of favorable policies. The level of functionality of a society's educational system also determines the possession prospects of the desired innovation, creativity, inventive, prudence, managerial competence and proficiency prowess of entrepreneurs. A nation's curriculum, in terms of contents, design, planning and development as well as implementation/competence of implementers coupled with government's will and attitudes towards educational development is a great influencer of educational outcomes and national entrepreneurial prospects. For example, in some countries today, students are being taught robotronics as part of their course of studies in order to ensuring mastering and proficiency from the basic stage of learning.

Recently, Bill Gate while addressing the National Economic Council of Nigeria, expressed his displeasure at the poor human capacity development efforts of the authorities concerned, the low life expectancy, low investment in education and health services (tagging Nigeria, as one of the most dangerous places to raise children) and calling for an immediate halt to these inadequacies. Though government officials found difficulties assimilating these observations in concrete terms, observers are of the view that, if the government is humble enough to receiving so far the sum of 1.6 billion dollars as grant to Nigeria and 9 billion dollars to Africa form Gates Foundation, Nigeria government official should be humble enough to heed his views and advice to the country (Owoseye, 2018).

### **Economic institution and entrepreneurship**

Economic institution involves the socio-economic strategies designed to cater for the survival quest of a community, which each community and society must develop in order for its members to cope with every life situation. The functioning capacity of the economic institution is determined by factors such as: the society's leadership content and structure – whether effective or poor; economic policies – whether favorable or unfavorable, implemented in good faith or shabbily; economic potentials – level of awareness of the existence of these potentials, harnessing capability of the society, marketing prospects local, national, regional or global. Other considerations includes: available economic incentives – tax regime, availability of startup capital, venture capital, protection of infant industries,

shock absorbers mechanism for challenged/distressed industries (large or small) ( Stough, 2016; Acs, and Szerb, 2010; Acs, Szerb, Ortega-Argilés, and C.,et al.; (2012); Applebaum, Gebbie, Han, Stocking and Kay, 2016).

The financial system of the economy also plays a fundamental role in shaping the prospects of economic activities in a society. These include the lending system, sources of lending for required funds, availability of lending fund, conditions for lending (whether favourable or unfavourable) interest rate payable on credit lending i.e lending interest rate is as high as 26 percent in some societies and as low as 2 percent in some other societies. Level of government intervention in mitigating production financing challenges and level of intervention by large scale corporate entities on any challenged production sector (Brown, Mason and Mawson, 2014; Zhang, 2015; Yu, Yu, Pau, and Stough, 2016; U.S. Department of Labor 2016; Stough, Aberman, Baycan and Vulto, 2013 Stough, and Haynes, 2009). The structure of the society's economy on the bases of inclusivity of all sectors/stakeholders in the formulation and execution of economic decisions and equal access to available opportunities in the economic sector are variables used in assessing whether a society is on the threshold of economic progress or retrogression (Sundheim, 2012; Stough, 1998; Stough, Welter, Block, Wennberg, and Brasco, 2015).

Conducive entrepreneurial ambience supports investment and reinvestment flow, domestic direct investment and foreign direct investment. Reasonable assurance of safety and protection of lives and property as well as that of investment must be guaranteed by a society's authority to attract more investment and reasonable amount of confidence on investors (Stough, 2015; Malecki, 2007; Malecki, 2011; Mason, and Brown, 2014; Nelson, 2012). Also to be considered is the behaviour of leaders especially as it relates to their prudence in the handling of public resources and amount of promotion, protection and patronage for locally made produce.

The GEDI Applied to Spain, Andalucia and Innovative Country Averages:

1.Opportunity Perception (ATT), 2. Startup Skills (ATT), 3. Nonfear of Failure (ATT), 4. Networking (ATT), 5. Cultural Support (ATT), 6.Opportunity Startup (ACT), 7. Tech Sector (ACT), 8. Quality of Human Resource (ACT), 9. Competition (ACT), 10. Product Innovation (ASP), 11. Process Innovation (ASP), 12. High Growth (ASP), 13. Internationalization (ASP), 14. Risk Capital (ASP). Spain regional average Innovation driven country average Andalucía. (Acs et al.,2012, p. 37).

### **Political institution and entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship goes beyond immediate articulation, establishment and take off of entrepreneurial initiatives. The sustenance and growth of entrepreneurship, whether private or public, rest on the sustained and improved entrepreneurial initiatives of successive administrations in the society. Experiences have shown that societies without the greatest level of entrepreneurial achievements are those whose political leaders – executive, legislature and judiciary – are firm, selfless, consistent and innovative in the promotion of policies that propel entrepreneurship as well as supporting facilities and infrastructures. In such societies, leaders pursue entrepreneurial cause with vigor for the interest of the people and the state, even when leaders have to leave, after tenure of office poorer. Such systems, encourage and promote entrepreneurial freedom thus, leading to the emergence of thousands and millions of successful entrepreneurs with the associated benefits – increased employment prospects, increase in the number of income earners, increase in savings, increase in investment prospects, and so on – that propel progress.

Whereas, the reverse of these lofty gains are found in societies where those who constitute the political leadership are entrepreneurially absent or selfish. They are absent when they lack out rightly entrepreneurial ideas and not aware of any innovative ideas in growing the entrepreneurial prospects of their people. They are selfish, when their efforts are tilted towards conscripting publicly owned entrepreneurial prospects to themselves and cohorts using stolen public funds at the detriment of the people and the state. They combine in using executive, legislative and judicial powers to promoting these selfish and corrupt interests.

These coupled with their ill will/inability to sustain the existing entrepreneurial initiatives, structures and policies by political leaders' ridicules entrepreneurial prospects of a society. Political entrepreneurial leaders leverage and maximize the gains of spread effects in locales where they exist and invest genuinely in locales where there are backwash effects with adequate incentives. Thereby, reasonably mitigating location entrepreneurial imbalances in the society and ensuring enhanced socio-economic well-being of the people. Un-entrepreneurial leaders usually engage in evolving hostile and exploitative strategies in the name of tax or revenue without any form of entrepreneurial incentives. Responsive leaders must imbibe the culture of adopting and making use of favourably innovative ideas sourced internally and externally, in the words of Max Weber, ideas trigger desired social change in a society.

### **Media institution and entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship leverages on an improved level of proficiency of media practitioners and media homes, amount of press freedom, access to information on new ideas, innovations – linking producers and markets as well as consumers. Media help improve the quality of products with the presentation of alternative choices to consumers. A study conducted by Owolabi (2014) revealed that both newspapers and magazines did not give necessary attention to the coverage of SMEs, it also showed that the amount of coverage and the degree of prominence given to SMEs and related issues were not strong enough to translate to national development. The media as the fourth estate of the realm have assumed the position of eminence in the present world and this explains why it is perceived as the nexus that controls the overall socio-economic and political development of the society. Perhaps the acceptance of this truth explains why Golding (1977) cited by Oboh (2004) opines that it is meaningless to discuss any social institution such as mass media as though it operates in isolation. This is because there is a symbiotic relationship between the media and the society thus leading to the interconnectivity of the political, social and economic development of the people in a particular community. The economic development and socio-political stability of any society are predicated upon the policies and programs put in place by the political class. The business group on the other hand translates these economic policies into actual product and services that determine the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. The media on its part reports on the comments and views of the people about the activities of government, its agencies and non-governmental institutions. It is these reports that form the major ingredients in the formulation of public policies by the government. In the present world, apart from the four traditional functions of mass media (information, education, entertainment, and surveillance), the media have taken up a set of new roles that border on the development of the society.

This is the basis of Edwards' (2000, remarks cited in Owolabi, 2014)) that whatever the circumstances or nature of the society in which the media operate, they either succeed or fail to influence attitudinal change, alter perception, enhance behaviour and decision making process for good or bad depending on the type of government in power. Notwithstanding, it needs be mentioned that the media thrive well and make positive change in a democratic setting as presently practiced in most countries of the world. The issues of poverty and under- development have remained a major global issue among the governments of the developed and developing nations. This is because these nations are facing acute poverty crises where basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, health care delivery, potable water, and qualitative education are in short supply. It has also been observed by environmental and development experts that most of the socio-ecological problems experienced in many parts of the world such as air, water and oil pollutions, ethnic, cultural and gender conflicts have their roots traced to poverty and economic activities of the state (Owolabi, 2014; also see Ihua, 2009; McQuail, 2010).

### **Relationship between Sociology and Entrepreneurship**

What makes us comprehend the attributes of entrepreneurial society and leadership and non-entrepreneurial leadership and society are discussed hereunder.

### **Entrepreneurial Society**

Part of the attributes of entrepreneurial society is that the society sources for and embraces innovations and ideas. According to Reynolds (1991) societies are, then, special cases of social systems, special in

that all the subsystems critical for system survival are present. A society is considered to be a social system that can survive indefinitely on its own. Entrepreneurial societies promote the growth and sustenance of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs), which are known to be the engine of societal growth. The Newly Industrializing Countries of South America and Asia as well as Turkey today, are renowned for their entrepreneurial pursuit that is not only strong on the home front but growing as regional hubs for thriving inclusive entrepreneurship. A unique feature of thriving entrepreneurial society is that, such societies are endowed with leaders who possess high level entrepreneurial initiatives alongside sound entrepreneurial policies. With such policies in place, selfish and discretionary initiatives on the part of leaders and sectoral/institutional administrators would be curtailed from the manipulations of the entrepreneurial process for self-interest or that of cronies. This obviously, is the hallmark of strong and functional institutions in society.

Societies led by leaders with entrepreneurial initiatives understand the dynamics of entrepreneurship, and when challenged, they proffer all possible remediation in order that possible business closure/liquidation and loss of jobs are averted, sometimes through bailout fund as obtained in the United State of America. Where many companies that were already on the distressed role came back strong, courtesy of government's intervention. The reverse of this scenario, is obviously the case in societies where leaders lack entrepreneurial initiatives, as leaders through their action and inaction altercate entrepreneurial processes that do result in folding up/closure of businesses and loss of jobs, sometimes at an alarming rate. The 2017 report of the National Bureau of Statistics has it that for the period under review, more than 7.5 million jobs were lost in Nigeria (Elebeke, 2018). Further, the report attested to the fact that within the same period, more than 400 manufacturing outfits got shut down due to hash and unfavourable entrepreneurial actions and inactions of those at the helm of affairs.

Entrepreneurial societies, create entrepreneurial opportunities even when there appears to be none. Singapore, under the leadership of Lee Qua Yu, stands out in history as one that systematically instituted entrepreneurial culture which eventually transformed the nation from a poor Third World nation to a fast developing nation. Lee Qua Yu, is a clear example of those that can be referred to as entrepreneurial leaders in view of his entrepreneurial articulation, vision and mission. Same can be said of Mao of China (cultural revolution) and Samuel Ogbemudia of Nigerias' old Mid-Western State (Ogbemudia, 1991; Lee, 2000). Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia's contributions to the entrepreneurial development of the old Mid-Western State and indeed Nigeria have remained an indelible mark in the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. That since his exit from office in 1975, successive administrations have not been able to sustain up to 20 percent of the entrepreneurial outfits built by him let alone build additional new meaningful ones despite the magnitude of resources and spread of opportunities till today. During his era, concrete efforts were made to build local capacity, locally and internationally as well as embracing the gains of cross cultural capacity integration by hiring foreign experts to kick start the operations of some of the outfits instituted by him. Currently, countries like Nigeria, are faced with what appears to be double dilemma (having a crop of people with little or no entrepreneurial capacity and also not making any meaningful effort in building quality capacity) by those at the helm of affairs.

Entrepreneurial societies leverage on their continual capacity development of their available manpower. This, they do because growth and sustenance of societal entrepreneurship reasonably depend on the quality and competence of available professionals. It must be noted that the society is integrated in production quest and networked in the distribution of goods and services for the good of all. That is why societies, leaders and institutions must synergize and function to build and sustain entrepreneurship. Capacity building is the backbone of all known societies that have blossomed entrepreneurially. The socio-economic strength of any society is not measured on the basis of its consumption prowess or its population size, but on its productive capacity which does evolve from its entrepreneurial initiatives. For instance, Israel with a population of about 6 million people, according to Cohen (2002) has the highest number of engineers proportionally, 135 engineers per every 10,000 persons, followed by USA, with 85 engineers per every 10,000 person. Turkey over the years, has reasonably built their capacity in this regard. The import of these enumerated experiences is that, these capacity building efforts are responsible for the quality of their products which are cherished and sort for globally. Whereas, in some

other domains, capacity is not recognized let alone put to use for the good of the society. A society whose population possesses the needed capacity, has a legion of people who are entrepreneurial at home and in the diaspora. Nations like China and India that have pursued this capacity goal with vigor currently according to the World Bank, lead on the global chat in terms of diaspora remittances to their home countries on an annual basis hovering between 60 to 70 billion dollars.

### **Entrepreneurial Leadership**

Leaders in society who gimmick and rhetoric over entrepreneurship matters must not, be allowed to get away with such selfish and societal cajoles. Such leadership dispositions are found to be misleading to both local and foreign investors and thereby hinder the entrepreneurial prospects in the environment. Asian Tiger nations of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong as well as Japanese experiences, have revealed the strength of leadership and governmental imperativeness in effectively and comprehensively harnessing the entrepreneurship potentials of an environment even when some of the locales lack the availability of mineral resources that are in abundance in some other locales whose potentials are untapped, wasted or underutilized, resulting in poverty and underdevelopment. These countries facilitated their entrepreneurial terrine with such incentives as low interest rate for lending, tax holiday, favourable tax regime, and other enhancing incentives. The socio-economic thriving of the aforementioned nations altered rapidly for the affirmative when the political will emerged to deploy public resources in large quantity towards promotion of entrepreneurship research and development, full scale capacity utilization, favourable/enabling laws, protection of infant industries from domination by larger ones, developed local market and well-influenced external market – friendly/favourable foreign policies. Whereas, some other societies consciously or unconsciously hinder entrepreneurial processes through multiple taxation, high interest rate on credits, absence of incentives (startup capital, venture capital, and infrastructure) insecurity, obdurate disposition of leaders and so on.

At the other end, the socio-economic situations are further strangulated by policies enacted by leaders, little or low public resources are made available for entrepreneurship, research and development, low capacity utilization, unfavourable laws, strangulation of local markets (locally made goods) with promotion of the influx of foreign made produce such that the local produce are weakened in meeting international market competitiveness. In other climes, where there exists entrepreneurial leadership and the tenets of ideas, creativity, innovation are adopted and put to use, cattle open grazing, grazing routes, grazing reserve and grazing colonies have since been outlawed. While zero grazing system is being adopted, exploring the socio-economics of cattle rearing; whereby – more persons would be employed, daily milk production level of a cattle reaching as much as 35 litres as against the 1 litre per day currently in countries like Nigeria and other parts of the cattle are being put to economic use – which are economic growth enablers.

Societies whose leaders are forthright and cherish entrepreneurship, understand the need for the provision of basic social services which in refined societies support the growth of entrepreneurship. As stated earlier, nationals in the diaspora remittances, contributes substantially to local entrepreneurship and the national economy, because their governments are alive to their responsibilities. They create and promote entrepreneurial ambience/opportunities and provision of supporting facilities thereby, triggering the desired entrepreneurial zeal and sustenance. The reason, why the impact of nationals in the diaspora remittances is low in locales such as Nigeria, is that the bulk of the remittances goes into the provision of services (roads, electricity, water, housing, etc) which ought to have been provided by the government. Another reason is the lackadaisical attitude of government to properly and genuinely provide the desired capacity to its people, that would enable them have high values/opportunities in terms of highly skilled jobs to a significant number of Diasporas and corresponding remuneration anywhere they find themselves striving.

### **Ethnicity and Entrepreneurship**

For some time sociologists have identified ethnic minorities that occupy a middleman role in societies with bifurcated status structures. "Jews in Europe, Chinese in Southeast Asia, Asians in East Africa, Armenians in Turkey, Syrians in West Africa, Parsis in India, Japanese and Greeks in the United States"



have been observed to be middleman minorities (Bonacich, 1973, p. 583). They are generally observed to engage in commercial activities that mediate between an elite class and the masses in trade and commerce as agents, labour contractors, rent collectors, money lenders, and brokers. It is suggested that by acting as a buffer between the elites and the masses, they help prevent conflict between two groups of "natives," thereby contributing to the smooth functioning of the society and facilitating survival—or equilibrium. On the other hand, because they tend to be permanently considered as "outsiders," they are most likely to be the losers when internal conflicts develop. Considerable effort has been given to the study of intra-societal variation, often based on ethnic or religious affiliations. Substantial evidence has developed regarding the extent to which various ethnic groups or new immigrants engage in entrepreneurial behaviour within the United States (Reynolds, 1991).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theory found suitable for the explanation of the relationship between sociology and entrepreneurship is the sociological entrepreneurship theory. Several perspectives have been utilized as a means of understanding entrepreneurial processes. Few studies, however, have examined entrepreneurship from a sociological perspective, prior to the 1990s. To better understand socio-economic systems, three primary perspectives are identified: (1) a review of the socioeconomic system as both a system progressing toward equilibrium and an array of conflicting homogenous groups; (2) an evaluation of the societal and contextual factors influencing entrepreneurial activity; and (3) an exploration of the societal context. Literature reviews of the most recent research address each of these perspectives. Regarding the two perspectives for viewing the socioeconomic system, the evidence suggests that these explanations provide details as to why current socioeconomic systems appear capable of handling some of the overwhelming pressures inflicted by large, governing productive organizations (Reynolds, 1991). Additionally, the research regarding the impact of societal and contextual factors indicates that entrepreneurial activities, as well as favourable government policies, significantly impact a society's economic development. Finally, the role of the individual, in terms of both social factors and personality characteristics, is examined. The research suggests that an individual's social context, their perception of available opportunities, and their personality traits play a significant part in being predisposed to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors. The literature points to several trends related to the impact of sociological factors upon entrepreneurial activity, and several areas for future research are identified and discussed as the significant impact of entrepreneurship upon an economy gains greater recognition (Reynolds, 1991).

Schumpeter (1942/1975 P. 132 as cited in Ruel and Lounsbury (2007) argued that “ the function of entrepreneurs is to reform or revolutionize the pattern of production by exploiting an invention or, more generally, an untried technological possibility for producing an old one in a new way, by opening up a new source of supply of materials or a new outlet for production, by reopening an industry and so on. Ruel and Lounsbury (2007) in their book, recognized stock taking of entrepreneurship research within organizational sociology, critically examining the theoretical presuppositions of the field and situating extant research within the sociological canon. They contended that the disciplinary lens of sociology provides a systematic foundation to understand the context, process, and effects of entrepreneurial activity as well as emphasizing the need for a comprehensive framework for the development of the sociology of entrepreneurship.

Drawing from the views of Max Weber's sociological theory of entrepreneurship, social cultures are the driving force of entrepreneurship. The entrepreneur becomes a role performer in conformity with the role expectations of the society, and such role expectations base on religious beliefs, taboos, and customs. Max Weber 1864-1920 held religion as the major driver of entrepreneurship, and spread on the spirit of capitalism which highlights economic freedom and private enterprise. He noted that capitalism thrives under the protestant work ethic that harps on these values. The right combination of discipline and an adventurous free – spirit defines the successful entrepreneur.

Literatures (Max Weber, 1946; Ruel and Lounsbury, 2007; Omofonmwan, Omoyibo, Odia and Omoro, 2010) support the following as the peculiar attributes of entrepreneurs:

- The ability to make decisions about personal/collective circumstances;
- The ability to access information and resources for decision –making;
- Ability to consider a range of options from which to choose ( not just yes / no, either /or);
- Ability to exercise assertiveness in collective decision- making;
- Having positive thinking about the ability to make change;
- Ability to learn and access skills for improving personal/collection circumstance;
- Ability to inform others’ perceptions through exchange, education and engagement;
- Involving in the growth process and changes that are never ending and self –initiated;
- Increase one’s positive self-image and overcoming stigma;

Casson (1945) cited in Nayab (2011) enumerated the following as enabler to entrepreneurship:

- Tax policy
- Industrial policy
- Easy availability of raw materials
- Easy access to finance on favourable terms
- Access to information about market conditions
- Availability of technology and infrastructure and
- Marketing opportunities.

Increasing one’s ability in discrete thinking to sort out right and wrong.

Sociological empowerment often addresses members of groups that social discrimination processes have excluded from decision-making processes through for example discrimination based on disability, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or location of communities and even now through government to doing the needful which does hamper member entrepreneurial prospects/condition of living.

### **Discussion**

In entrepreneurial societies, individuals accomplish success on the bases of their innovativeness, creativity and invention, while few individuals excel in non-entrepreneurial societies through connection(s) and influence at the detriment of the majority. When members of entrepreneurial societies celebrate excellence and achievements, their counterparts in non-entrepreneurial societies busy themselves celebrating unproductiveness, consumption, bad leadership and failure (Stough, 2015; Mason and Brown, 2014; Malecki, 2011). Investment system in entrepreneurial societies structured towards financial discipline, prudence in resource management, sense/spirit of investment and reinvestment, niche for intellectual and professional display, investment promotion/protecting, huge/genuine investment in capacity building by both the public and private sectors, high productivity and good income by employees (Marchisio, Mazzola, Sciascia, Miles and Astrachan, 2017; Casillas, Cajal, and Moreno, 2010; Brown, Mason, and Mawson, 2014).

Experiences of dwellers in an non-entrepreneurial society include; having very few individuals with access to capital, most of whom are non-entrepreneurial, engaging in sumptuous consumption, low/no investment in capacity building, low productivity, lack of self-reliance, poor remuneration, job insecurity, low capacity utilization, absence of social safety net (Reynolds, 1991; Acs, and Szerb, 2010; Omofonmwan and Odia, 2011; Applebaum, Gebbie, Han, Stocking, and Kay, 2016). Committed, creative and productive service oriented leaders who invest so much on research and development (Baran, 1968; Cohen, 2002; Deyo, 1987), accomplish high level of socio-economic prospects. An entrepreneurial society is usually propelled by leaders who possess emotional intelligence, which Ogbemudia (1991) and Lee (2000) views as authors and actions as leaders depicts. Absent minded, criminal and unproductive leaders who know nothing about research and development would usually forbid investing on it. Cohorts/like minds celebrate individuals with half knowledge or complete illiterate, some with aura which are cherished by the uninformed members of the society at the detriment of their immediate and future socio-economic conditions.

### **Conclusion**

Political leaders, who are entrepreneurial, use their political ideas and influence in growing their societies entrepreneurially. While political leaders lacking entrepreneurial initiatives use their ideas and

political influence to exploit, their societies. They manipulate or sabotage the entrepreneurial process/opportunities especially when it does not suit their selfish interest. The former set of leaders are selfless and patriotic, while the latter set of leaders celebrate criminality, courtesy of their invasion of state treasury, inept and rated among the richest set of people in the society after their exit from office. This paper is of the view that sociology as a scientific discipline captures it all, having emphasized the role of societal structure, social institutions, innovative ideas, informed and functional leadership and enhanced productivity as determinants of entrepreneurial society. Societies parading leaders with entrepreneurial deficiencies would certainly have their members strangulated entrepreneurially, thus precipitating poverty which does erode self-confidence of people – merely struggling for survival and lacking the rudiments needed for time, creativity, innovation and invention-not having sufficient energy, courage and resources.

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