

Dynamics weighing down the development of entrepreneurial culture among the South African Youths. Eclectic contexts

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[https://doi.org/10.35609/gcbssproceeding.2026.1\(100\)](https://doi.org/10.35609/gcbssproceeding.2026.1(100))

ABSTRACT

While youths in ubiquitous contexts face a constellation of subjugation, in many spheres of economic development across many African countries, their engagement in business ventures is adversely affected. Clearly, the entrepreneurial culture suffers from a gender disparity, as female youth remain at the periphery of entrepreneurial development. This follows the patriarchal cultural terrain that places a woman and the girl child in the second place to men or the boy children. The condescending attitudes of the African adults who see the youth as mere children who should follow the dictates of their adult superiors have a pernicious impact on the youth's motivation to develop an entrepreneurial culture. Most importantly, most African educational curricula suffer from a colonial hangover, as they have remained unchanged to address the actual problems the concerned countries face, such as motivating youths to be entrepreneurial. They are still Western-centric, where graduates are glued to seeking white-collar jobs rather than being creative in creating jobs. Instead of the government maintaining Technikons that offered entrepreneurial-based professions, they were inopportunately merged with other main universities. In South Africa, the lack of a ministry of youth to address youth affairs is a gap that hinders youth entrepreneurship. Many youths also lack role models in entrepreneurship and, therefore, are inclined to look for white-collar jobs, thereby weakening the dynamics of an entrenched entrepreneurial culture. These researchers call upon the government, in tandem with other youth-friendly bodies, to engage in a serious debate on the gaps bedeviling the youth entrepreneurial culture in South Africa. The country needs the youth to make meaningful contributions to its GDP and to the Sustainable Development Goals. This would make an integral contribution towards realizing its Vision 2030.

JEL Codes:

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Culture, gender disparity, patriarchy, adult condescension; South Africa, Start-up, ethical principles