

Psycho-Demographic Precipitants of Entrepreneurial Intention among Schooling Adolescents and Youths in Makurdi Metropolis: A Pathway for Developing Interventions.

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Abstract: *This study investigated the psycho-demographic precipitants of entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis, Benue state Nigeria. Considering learned helplessness, self-concept clarity, ambiguity to tolerance and gender as independent variables and entrepreneurial intention as dependent variable data were collected using appropriate standardized scales from 860 participants who were selected through a stratified sampling technique. The results of the analysis showed that learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance have significant joint and independent prediction on entrepreneurial intention, with learned helplessness showing the strongest prediction (though negative relationship). Further results showed that there was a significant gender difference on entrepreneurial intention with males reporting higher entrepreneurial intention than their female counterparts. Consequently, these findings thus have great implications for entrepreneurial practice and interventions, in this light the implications and recommendations were thus presented in this paper.*

Keywords: Learned Helplessness, Self-Concept Clarity, Ambiguity Tolerance, Gender & Entrepreneurial Intention

1. Introduction

Necessitated by the increase in unemployment especially in Nigeria, this study examined the precipitants of entrepreneurial intention among Nigerian adolescents and youths, and developed a pathway for interventions. Many Nigerian students have a common trend of graduating from tertiary institutions and remaining unemployed (Global Statistics of Unemployment, 2018). Hence, encouraging entrepreneurship in Nigerian tertiary institutions may serve as a buffer against this common trend of unemployment after graduation among Nigerian students.

The study of entrepreneurship can be traced back to the work of Irish-French economist Richard Cantillon in the late 17th and the early 18th centuries. Cantillon defined the concept of entrepreneurship first in his book titled “*Essai sur la Nature du Commerce en General*” which when translated means “*Essay on the Nature of Trade in General*”. According to Cantillon, an entrepreneur is defined as a person who pays a certain price for a product and resells it at an uncertain price, making decisions about obtaining and using the resource to exploit other opportunities in order to maximize the financial return.

One crucial entrepreneurial factor that contributes to the process of entrepreneurship among entrepreneurs is the **entrepreneurial intention**. Wu and Wu, (2008); Nabi, Holden, and Walmsley (2016); Guerrero, Rialp, and Urbano (2018) defined entrepreneurial intention as the state of mind in which individuals wish to create a new firm or a new value driver inside existing organizations. Simply put, entrepreneurial intention can be conceptualized as the intention to startup a new business. The intention of becoming an entrepreneur is accompanied with significant amount of risk taking behaviors, consequently entrepreneurs

are risk takers. Furthermore, not all startup businesses prove to be successful at first, but with perseverance and consistency such businesses eventually yield success (Giacomin, Janssen, Pruett, Shinnar, Llopis, and Toney, 2018).

There are many factors precipitating entrepreneurial intention among individuals, however for the sake of the present study, the roles of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity, ambiguity tolerance and gender were of consideration. The concept of learned helplessness was first introduced by Richter (1957) and further advanced ten (10) years later by Seligman (1967) through various experiments involving animals. Learned helplessness reflects people's perception that they will become victims of bad events as a result of their perceived powerlessness/helplessness. Learned helplessness has very high propensity for occurring when people believe that they will find themselves in harmful situations and that there is little or nothing they can do to avert this perceived danger. The focus of learned helplessness is on perceived feelings of powerlessness or hopelessness that a person or animal experiences after undergoing life threatening/traumatic events. In other words, learned helplessness can be defined as state or condition where a person suffers from feelings of powerlessness or hopelessness due to a life threatening/traumatic experience. The whole process of learned helplessness is a learning process.

One of the earliest definitions of self-concept clarity was provided by Campbell, Trapnell, Heine, Katz, Lavalley and Lehman (1996), who in their article defined self-concept clarity as the strength to which a person's ideas and thoughts about one's self is clearly and appropriately defined, internally consistent with high stability. Self-concept clarity is concerned with the extent to which a person's self-concept is clearly defined, consistent or stable

over a relatively period of time. These definitions implies that self-concept clarity is about the extent of awareness, clarity, confidence and stability that a person has towards his or her own self-concept. Some researchers suggest that self-concept clarity varies with age, and the older a person is, the clearer the self-concept (e.g.Cicei, 2012). Consequently to this, it is expected that people with high self-concept clarity usually report better psychological wellbeing and quality of life than people with low self-concept clarity. This also implies that that self-concept clarity is highly imperative for healthy psychological functioning among individuals. In addition, having a clear understanding of one's self i.e. self-concept clarity may be imperative for developing and sustaining entrepreneurial intention among individuals.

Ambiguity tolerance refers to the extent to which individuals can persist in the face of adversities (Smith & Ovil, 2015). This is concerned with how effective individuals can be in the face of challenging situations. An entrepreneur that is high on ambiguity tolerance will still perform optimally even when changes that pose challenges manifest itself. Ambiguity tolerance is thus a key attribute for successful entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs. Ambiguity tolerance has been found to be an important trait in prospective entrepreneurs with enduring entrepreneurial intentions (e.g. Kim & Windsor, 2015). Similarly, Ritlop (2017) reported that re-framing ambiguity tolerance improves entrepreneurial outcomes, but it is unclear of the impact on ambiguity tolerance on entrepreneurs with mixed cultural orientations. Nonetheless, ambiguity tolerance remains an imperative resources for positive entrepreneurial outcomes.

2. Purpose of Study

The following are the purposes of this study:

- 1) To examine the joint prediction of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis
- 2) To examine the independent prediction of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis.
- 3) To examine the gender differences on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis.

3. Research Questions

The following questions were answered in this study:

- 1) Do learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance have any significant joint prediction on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis?
- 2) Do learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance have any significant independent prediction on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis?
- 3) Are there gender differences on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis?

4. Theoretical Framework

Entrepreneurial Intention: Theory of Planned Behavior

The theory of planned behaviour was developed by Ajezen (1991). The theory of planned behaviour is widely adopted by numerous researchers to explain how individuals' beliefs can be associated with their behaviors. According to this theory, *attitude towards behavior*, *subjective norms*, and *perceived behavioral control* interact together to shape an individual's behavioural intentions and behaviour. **Attitude towards behavior** describes individuals' thoughts, feelings and likely behaviors towards specific behavior (attitude object). **Subjective norms** describes individuals' perception of any behavior that is influenced by the perception of significant others. **Perceived behavioural control** refers to individuals' perception that performing a specific behavior will be simple or complex. Consequently, the more favourable the attitude towards behaviour and subjective norm, and the greater the perceived behavioural control, the stronger a person's intention to perform the behaviour in question. Hence, the presence of an actual control over the behaviour, will enable individuals to carry out their intentions when the appropriate opportunities are in place.

One implication of the theory of planned behavior to the present study is that the theory of planned behaviour provides a theoretical perspective for understanding the development and sustenance of entrepreneurial intention among individuals. Consequently, prospective entrepreneurs will require certain key processes for the development and sustenance of entrepreneurial intention. Hence, individuals that have a favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship, and subjective norm, and the greater the perceived control over entrepreneurship, the stronger will be the intention of such individuals towards entrepreneurship.

Theory of Learned Helplessness

Richter (1957) after experimenting with animals laid down the foundation for the learned helplessness theory. The hallmark of this theory is that animals and human beings after undergoing prolonged life traumatic or threatening events, and are unable to overcome this threatening events, begin to feel powerless and thus the outcome is *learned helplessness*. Learned helplessness means to be perceived as powerless or helpless after undergoing a negative situation and this perceived powerlessness or helplessness is a product of learning i.e. conditioning process. The learned helplessness theory has been widely used to explain how individuals' perception of threatening or stressful provoking events around them predispose them to either helplessness or strength.

One implication of the learned helplessness theory to the present study is that prospective entrepreneurs that perceive entrepreneurial processes as a stressful one under which they will be unable to cope if they venture into entrepreneurship, have little propensity for building intentions towards entrepreneurship as a result of this perceived helplessness. On the other hand, prospective entrepreneurs that perceive entrepreneurial process as a stressful one under which they can cope well if they venture into it, will have high propensity for building and sustaining intentions towards entrepreneurship.

Self-Concept Clarity: The Rope Model

The rope model is a theoretical basis of self-concept clarity and was introduced by Wittgenstein (1958). This model of self-concept clarity holds that, the strength in a rope lies not only in the fibre alone, but also in the overlapping of many fibres". This model also has a second assumption that there are numerous "strands" of self-concept that essentially cause the emergence of various situation specific thoughts about one's self, such as self-efficacy, or self-esteem, etc. Consequently these specific thoughts in individuals cause them to various approaches for actualizing these them.

Simply put, the rope model manifest like a series of threads that are interwoven together to form fibres, this reflects a sense of continuity within the self as an individual.

Furthermore, there are at least three (3) major levels in the rope model.

Level One: The Motives/Strands

At this level, there are various motives for self-concept, such that these motives influence the strategies used to negotiate demands of the environment, these strategies in turn influence human behaviors towards the demands within the environment (Buss & Cantor, 1989).

Level Two: Situation Specific Orientations/Dispositions

In this level, orientations and dispositions are used for the purpose of self-enhancing, self-verifying and/or self-protecting the self.

Level Three: Specific Strategies

This last stage implies the use or deployment of specific and precise strategies in various situations that yield positively to motivations leading to a sense of self.

Consequently, the rope model of self-concept clarity provides a theoretical illustration for understanding the impact of self-concept clarity on the intentions to become entrepreneurs. By application of this theory to this study, it would be expected that prospective entrepreneurs that have a clear understanding of themselves and consider themselves able enough to maximize their self-resources in the startup of a business will have high propensity for developing and sustaining intentions for entrepreneurship. On the other hand, prospective entrepreneurs that lack a clear understanding of themselves and consider themselves unable enough to maximize their self-resources in the startup of a business will have less propensity for developing and sustaining intentions for entrepreneurship. It thus becomes imperative for entrepreneurial interventions to focus on improving the self-perceptions and self-resources of prospective entrepreneurs.

Resilience Theory: Ambiguity Tolerance

Rutter (1987) developed the resilience theory to explain why individuals thrive to attain success despite the presence of adversities in the environment. Resiliency theory supplies the conceptual ideology for studying and understanding why some entrepreneurs strive to be successful on their businesses in spite of risks exposure. Resiliency which is a concept synonymous to ambiguity tolerance has its hallmark

on contextual and individual variables that interfere or disrupt the attainment of success.

A strong resilience reflects a strong ambiguity tolerance, hence possessing a strong resilience is crucial for overcoming the daily life challenges faced by man. In other words, the resiliency theory holds that the stronger a person's resilience, the higher the likelihood that such person has the resources for coping with daily life stresses. Furthermore, resilience may be viewed as a personality trait which serves as a coping resources for coping with daily life stresses. This coping resources for daily life stresses is needful in every spheres of life, however, for the purpose of this study, the relevance of resilience will be discussed on the intentions to startup a business. In other words, resilience is a key factor for developing and sustaining intentions to startup businesses. With further application of the resiliency theory to the present study, it is pertinent to note that the resiliency theory explains the construct of ambiguity tolerance in this current study, it also explains why prospective entrepreneurs are able or unable to develop and sustain their intentions for businesses startup. Thus resiliency/ambiguity tolerance is a critical requirement for prospective entrepreneurs in the 21st century.

5. Empirical Review**Learned Helplessness and Entrepreneurial Intention**

Omidiran, Ali and Sawore (2018) in a quest to understand the predictors of intention to become entrepreneurs among students, embarked on a study to investigate the roles of psychosocial variables in predicting entrepreneurial intention, considering the roles of resilience, life orientation and perceived helplessness. With a sample size of 120 undergraduate students, data were collected using questionnaires and analyzed. The results showed that all variables showed a significant joint and independent prediction on the intention to become entrepreneurs among research participants. Consequently, the research suggested that it is not clear if the findings from this study applies to other cultures, hence further studies may be required to extend this study in other cultures in order to enrich literature.

Similarly, Roberts and Ventford (2018) investigated the influence of perceived social support and perceived helplessness on the entrepreneurial intentions of students. With a sample size of 92 students, data were collected using questionnaires and semi-structured interviews and analyzed. The outcomes of the analysis showed that there was no significant association between learned helplessness and entrepreneurial intention. Further findings showed that social support showed a significant positive association with entrepreneurial intention. In this light, the researchers; Roberts and Ventford (2018) suggested that further investigations will be required on the factors limiting the impact of perceived helplessness on intentions to become entrepreneurs.

Lastly, Wong and Oh (2018) investigated the roles of acquired helplessness and entrepreneurial education in precipitating entrepreneurial intentions among postgraduate students in Hong Kong. With a sample size of 412

postgraduate students data were collected using survey method and subjected to analysis. The results of the analysis showed that there was a significant joint and independent prediction of acquired helplessness and entrepreneurial education on entrepreneurial intention among research participants. Consequently to these findings, the researchers; Wong and Oh (2018) concluded that entrepreneurship is crucial for mitigating against unemployment after graduation from tertiary institutions, and as demonstrated by findings from this study entrepreneurial education should be incorporated and fostered into the school curriculum.

Self-Concept Clarity and Entrepreneurial Intention

Brownhilder (2014) carried out a study to investigate an assessment of entrepreneurial intention among university students in Cameroun. With a sample size of 282 university students, data were collected using questionnaires and analyzed. The results showed that students with a clear understanding of themselves, i.e. self-concept clarity reported a strong intention to become entrepreneurs. This was in contrast to students with an unclear understanding of themselves. Consequently, the researcher; Brownhilder (2014) concluded that self-concept clarity is highly imperative for entrepreneurial intention, hence the inclusion of self-concept clarity trainings in entrepreneurial programs should be practiced and strengthened.

Similarly, Zuker and Frantis (2018) embarked on a study to examine the impact of self-related variables on the entrepreneurial intention of students to become entrepreneurs. With a sample size of 44 students, data were collected and analyzed. The results showed that self-concept clarity and self-esteem reported significantly positive relationship with entrepreneurial intention in that study. Due to the small sample size in this study, the researchers suggested that further studies will be required to expand the sample size for a better generalizability effects of findings.

Lastly, Hosu, Faleti and Adekola (2017) in Nigeria investigated the influence of self-concept clarity and risk taking behaviors in predicting entrepreneurial intentions. After data collection and analysis, the findings showed that self-concept clarity showed a significant positive relationship with entrepreneurial intention. Hence, the stronger the self-concept clarity the stronger the intentions to become entrepreneurs. Consequently, these findings highlights the relevance of self-concept clarity in developing intentions for entrepreneurship.

Ambiguity Tolerance and Entrepreneurial Intention

Ogunleye and Osagu (2014) carried out study to examine self-efficacy, tolerance for ambiguity and need for achievement as predictors of entrepreneurial intention among students in Ekiti state, Nigeria. Findings showed that sex, age, self-efficacy and need for achievement did not have significant prediction on entrepreneurial intentions among research participants. Further findings showed that tolerance for ambiguity significantly predicted entrepreneurial intention, and the dimension of tolerance for ambiguity that had the strongest prediction on entrepreneurial intention was insolubility. In this light, the researcher concluded that the skill training for ambiguity tolerance should be encouraged among prospective

entrepreneurs. Further studies on entrepreneurial intention may consider finding more barriers to entrepreneurial intention among prospects.

Marcos (2017) investigated the influence of ambiguity tolerance on entrepreneurial intention, the findings showed that ambiguity tolerance had a significant positive relationship with entrepreneurial intention. This implies that stronger ambiguity tolerance yields stronger interests in becoming entrepreneurs. By implication, this finding reflects the importance of ambiguity tolerance trait for prospective entrepreneurs. Lastly, Soz and Hiua (2018) reported in a study that there is a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurial intention and ambiguity tolerance and consequently further studies will be required to investigate further variables that moderate or mediate this relationship.

Gender and Entrepreneurial Intention

Yordanova and Tarazon (2017) carried out a study to investigate gender differences in entrepreneurial intention among students in Bulgaria. With a sample size of 306 students, data were collected and analysed. The results showed that there was a significant gender difference in entrepreneurial intention, with females reporting significantly lower entrepreneurial intentions than their male counterparts. Consequently recommendations were made that entrepreneurial interventions will be required to target more females than males due to this observed differences. Further studies were also encouraged to replicate the gender differences in entrepreneurial intention among other cultures.

Sanchez and Licciardello (2014) carried out a study to investigate gender differences and attitudes in entrepreneurial intentions: the role of career choice. With a sample size of 535 women and 283 men data were collected and analyzed using questionnaires. The results showed that there was a significant gender difference in entrepreneurial intention, with men reporting significantly higher entrepreneurial intentions than their women counterparts.

Lastly, Nwankwo, Marire, Kanu and Balogun (2017) embarked on a study to investigate differences in gender-role orientation and self-efficacy on entrepreneurial intention. With a total of 350 participants, data were collected and analyzed, the results showed that there was a significant gender difference with males reporting significantly higher entrepreneurial intentions than their female counterparts. Consequently, recommendations were that further investigations should be extended on the justifications for females' low interest in becoming entrepreneurs.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in this study:

- 1) Learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance will have significant joint prediction on the entrepreneurial intention of youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis.
- 2) Learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance will have significant independent prediction on

the entrepreneurial intention of youths and adolescents in Makurdi metropolis.

- 3) Males will score significantly higher than females on entrepreneurial intention.

6. Methodology

This study adopted a cross-sectional survey design and made use of 860 research participants which comprised both youths and adolescents, as well as males and females. A stratified sampling technique was used in the selection of research participants from Makurdi metropolis, Benue state Nigeria. Appropriate ethical considerations which included informed consent, equal treatment and respect for participants, and confidentiality were applied to research

procedures. The research instruments for the study were learned helplessness scale developed by Quinnless and Nelson, (1988); self-concept clarity scale developed by Campbell, Trapnell, Heine, Katz, Lavalley and Lehman (1996); ambiguity tolerance scale developed by Budner (1962), and entrepreneurial intention questionnaire developed by Linen and Chen (2006).

7. Results

Hypothesis 1:

This hypothesis stated that there will be a significant joint influence of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and tolerance to ambiguity on entrepreneurial intention among schooling adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis.

Table 1: Summary of regression analysis showing the joint influence of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and tolerance to ambiguity on entrepreneurial intention

Model	Regression	Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	Sig
A	R = .788	Regression	5031.909	1	50318.909	1243.492	.000
	R ² = .621	Residual	30673.090	758	40.466		
	R ² (adj) = .621	Total	80991.999	759			
B	R = .844	Regression	57678.004	2	28839.002	936.396	.000
	R ² = .712	Residual	23313.995	757	30.798		
	R ² (adj) = .711	Total	80991.999	759			
C	R = .845	Regression	57875.771	3	19291.924	630.929	.000
	R ² = .715	Residual	23116.228	756	30.577		
	R ² (adj) = .713	Total	80991.999	759			

a: predictor: (constant), learned helplessness, b: predictor: (constant), learned helplessness, self-concept clarity, c: predictor: (constant), learned helplessness, self-concept clarity, tolerance to ambiguity, d: dependent variable: entrepreneurial intention.

Table 1 shows the contribution of the three independent variables to the dependent variable. When the first variable (learned helplessness) was entered into the regression model a significant contribution was shown ($R = .788$; $R^2 = .621$; $F(1, 758) = 1243.492.91$; $p < .001$). This implies that learned helplessness was able to explain 62.1% of the variance in schooling adolescents and youths' entrepreneurial intention. When the second variable (self-concept clarity) was entered into the regression model the prediction level improved ($R = .844$; $R^2 = .712$; $F(2, 757) = 936.396$; $p < .001$). Self-concept clarity was able to contribute 9.1% to the prediction while the addition of learned helplessness and self-concept clarity accounted for 71.2% of the total variance observed. The addition of the third variable (tolerance to ambiguity) to the regression model showed a significant contribution ($R = .845$; $R^2 = .715$; $F(3, 756) = 630.929$; $p < .001$). Hence, tolerance to ambiguity has contributed 0.3% to the prediction of the dependent variable. The three variables jointly accounted for 71.5% of the total variance observed in entrepreneurial intention among schooling adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis. Consequently, hypothesis one was accepted in this study.

Hypothesis 2: Stated that there will be a significant independent influence of learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and tolerance to ambiguity on entrepreneurial

intention among schooling adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis.

Table 2: Summary of testing the regression weight of learned helplessness (a), self-concept clarity (b) and tolerance to ambiguity (c) on entrepreneurial intention

Model	Unstandardized coefficient		Standard coefficient	t	Sig
	B	Standard Error	Beta		
A	.637	.018	.955	-36.308	.000
B	.254	.016	.359	15.455	.000
C	.030	.012	.058	2.543	.011
Constant	2.073	1.096		1.892	.059

A: Predictors in the Model: (Constant), Learned helplessness; b: Predictors in the Model: (Constant), learned helplessness, Self-concept clarity; c: Predictors in the Model: (Constant), learned helplessness, self-concept clarity, tolerance to ambiguity; d: Dependent variable: entrepreneurial intention.

Table 2 tested the regression weights of the independent variables. It was evident from the table that learned helplessness was the most potent predictor (though negative) of entrepreneurial intention among the study population ($\beta = .955$; $t = -36.308$; $p < .001$). This was followed by self-concept clarity ($\beta = .359$; $t = 15.455$; $p < .001$) and finally tolerance ambiguity ($\beta = .058$; $t = 2.543$; $p < .05$) respectively. Consequently, hypothesis two is accepted in this study.

Hypothesis 3: This stated that there will be a significant gender difference in entrepreneurial intention among schooling adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis.

Table 3: Independent t-test summary table showing gender difference on entrepreneurial intention

Dependent Variable	Group	N	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
Entrepreneurial Intention	Male	471	41.77	10.16	.468	2.357	835	.019
	Female	366	40.11	10.02	.524			

Result in table 3 shows a significant gender difference. It shows that there is a significant gender difference (that is between male and female) on entrepreneurial intention among schooling adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis [$t = 2.357$, $df = 835$; $p < 0.05$]. The result further shows that male schooling adolescents and youths (Mean = 41.77, SD = 10.16) significantly scored higher on entrepreneurial intention than their female counterparts (Mean = 40.11, SD = 10.02). Consequently, hypothesis three is accepted in this study.

8. Discussion of Findings and Pathway to Intervention

The aforementioned findings in this study thus has great implications for entrepreneurship. Firstly, it was reportedly observed that the three variables i.e. learned helplessness (negative relationship), self-concept clarity, and ambiguity to tolerance showed significant joint and independent prediction on the entrepreneurial intention of adolescents and youths in Makurdi metropolis. This observed significance could probably be because these three independent variables i.e. learned helplessness (negative relationship), self-concept clarity, and ambiguity to tolerance may be vital psychosocial resources for starting up and sustaining a business. Hence one implication of this observation is that entrepreneurial trainings and education programs should consider it imperative enough to include training prospects on these three traits i.e. learned helplessness (negative relationship), self-concept clarity, and ambiguity to tolerance as part of their curriculum.

In addition, it was reportedly observed in this study that there was a significant gender difference in entrepreneurial intention with males scoring higher than their female counterparts. This observation could be justified by the general expectation from the Nigerian society that expects males to be bread winners over females, hence it should not be surprising that males have stronger interest in starting up businesses than their female counterparts. Thus an implication of this is that entrepreneurial interventions in Nigeria should be targeted towards more females than males. Furthermore, the observed significances of the hypotheses in this study were found to be consistent with most studies found in literature, thus the present study enriches literature and validates previous findings in this research topic.

9. Recommendations

On the bases of findings from this study, the following recommendations were arrived at:

- 1) Firstly, it is recommended that entrepreneurial education programs should include trainings against learned helplessness and trainings that support self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance as part of their curriculum.
- 2) Secondly, it is recommended that both males and females should be encouraged for entrepreneurship and made available with the necessary resources for venturing into entrepreneurship.
- 3) Thirdly, governments and private individuals should formulate and implement policies that encourage youths and adolescents for entrepreneurship.
- 4) Lastly, this study due to limitation of resources did not cover the roles of socio-cultural variables on entrepreneurial intention and did not cut across wider research settings. Consequently, further studies will be required to enrich literature by extending knowledge on this.

This study thus concluded that learned helplessness, self-concept clarity and ambiguity tolerance have significant influences on entrepreneurial intention among youths and adolescents. Also it is concluded that there are gender differences in entrepreneurial intention with males having higher intentions for entrepreneurship than females. Hence, it is imperative for entrepreneurs, managers, governments and the academia to take the findings and recommendations from this study very imperative enough.

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