

Ethics and Entrepreneurship Asymmetrical?

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Ethics and Entrepreneurship Dichotomy

- Literature indicates that entrepreneurship and ethics are characterised by some as “antithetical”
- Infusing pragmatism with ethics for sustainable entrepreneurship leadership
- Efficiency and expediency not compatible with ethical behaviour
- Emphasis on ethics and value-oriented spiritual dimension
- Unethical practices are consequences of increasing individualism and emphasis on money and material consumption
- Fiduciary obligation to shareholders and social responsibility



African Entrepreneurship and Ethics

- African entrepreneurship differs from the traditional American or European entrepreneurship
- African entrepreneurial activity is found on family trade based on handicraft workmanship
- Goods and services are marketed to the local community
- Disappearance of the traditional phenomena due to competition from cheap imports
- Trade is based on ethical dealing involving trust and integrity



Promoting Entrepreneurship for Economic Development

- Entrepreneurial capacity is a driver for economic development
- Does Africa have an entrepreneurial spirit?
- Does it have indigenous character or cultural underpinnings
- How has colonialism influenced entrepreneurship in Africa?
- World entrepreneurial development and its impact on Africa
- Barriers to entrepreneurial growth in Africa



Ethics and Life Cycle of Business Firms

- Is there ethics in entrepreneurship?
- Entrepreneurs sell and produce shoddy products and provide mediocre services
- No ethical consideration given in entrepreneurial undertaking
- How does ethical and unethical behaviour vary with size and growth of business firms
- Studies show that big business tend to exhibit carelessness in ethical practices
- Are moral values tied to economic value and performance



Conclusions of survey

- Unethical behaviour is more frequently observed and practiced in large corporates
- Overall perception: no ethics in business as unethical behaviour is more prevalent
- In principle there should be more ethical behaviour
- Unethical behaviour is more prevalent in large sized business but existing in all
- More emphasis or focus should be on large corporates or businesses

