

Sociology of Entrepreneurial Thought in Algeria Mechanisms of Adoption and Levels of Implementation

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Abstract

Entrepreneurial thinking is a key driver of development in modern societies, with Western countries advancing through technology and innovation. This study explores the social feasibility of entrepreneurial thinking in Algeria, focusing on its integration into national universities to attract talent. Findings indicate that this concept, originating in France, has taken root in Algeria through academic events, involving both men and women. It emphasizes creativity, skill development, and the role of entrepreneurship in reducing unemployment, particularly among university graduates, while promoting technological progress and economic growth.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial thinking, Sociological analysis, Social feasibility, Creative skills, Functional and structural specialization.

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Résumé

La pensée entrepreneuriale est un moteur clé du développement dans les sociétés modernes, les pays occidentaux ayant progressé grâce à la technologie et à l'innovation. Cette étude explore la faisabilité sociale de la pensée entrepreneuriale en Algérie, en se concentrant sur son intégration dans les universités nationales pour attirer les talents. Les résultats indiquent que ce concept, originaire de France, s'est implanté en Algérie à travers des événements académiques impliquant à la fois des hommes et des femmes. Il met l'accent sur la créativité, le développement des compétences et le rôle de l'entrepreneuriat dans la réduction du chômage, en particulier parmi les diplômés universitaires, tout en promouvant le progrès technologique et la croissance économique.

Mots clés : Pensée entrepreneuriale, Analyse sociologique, Faisabilité sociale, Compétences créatives, Spécialisation fonctionnelle et structurelle.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of economic and social progress, fostering innovation, generating employment, and driving technological advancement. As the backbone of economies, particularly in developing nations, entrepreneurship is instrumental in addressing critical challenges, such as poverty reduction, regional development, and industrial diversification. The unique attributes of entrepreneurship, including its reliance on entrepreneurial spirit and its integration with cultural, economic, and social dynamics, highlight its transformative potential. Despite its benefits, the understanding of how entrepreneurship evolves, impacts societal structures, and contributes to sustainable development remains fragmented, requiring a comprehensive analysis of its mechanisms, motivations, and outcomes.

While entrepreneurship has been widely recognized as a key driver of economic growth and social equity, many societies face barriers to fully leveraging its potential. The central issue lies in understanding the complex interplay between entrepreneurial motivations, cultural and institutional frameworks, and the broader economic and social environments. What are the mechanisms that enable entrepreneurship to foster economic and social development? How can barriers to entrepreneurial culture and practices be mitigated to maximize its benefits for society?

Entrepreneurship significantly contributes to economic and social development by enhancing technological innovation, generating employment opportunities, and promoting equitable income distribution. Moreover, fostering an entrepreneurial culture and spirit within supportive institutional and social frameworks can amplify its positive impacts, enabling sustainable development and reducing societal inequalities.

1. Theoretical Framework

1.1 Entrepreneurial Thinking: It is a set of ideas related to activities and endeavors aimed at creating and developing an enterprise more broadly to establish a specific activity (A. Fayolle, 2003, p. 16)

Entrepreneurship: It refers to the activity focused on establishing new projects or ventures that offer something new or create an innovative economic or managerial activity. This involves efficiently managing resources with exceptional competence and bearing the accompanying risks, contributing to maximizing the value of the outcomes achieved (A. B. Al-Nadawi, n.d, p. 4) .

It is also defined as the stages that lead to the creation of a new organization. From this perspective, entrepreneurship is a series of stages that result in the establishment of an enterprise, meaning the activities through which the entrepreneur mobilizes and assembles resources to exploit an opportunity and transforms it into a structured project (M. Salami, 2008, p. 43).

1.2 Definition of an Entrepreneur

The concept of the entrepreneur has evolved over time. In France, during the Middle Ages, the word "entrepreneur" referred to a person who takes responsibility for and manages a group of individuals. Later, it came to mean a bold individual who seeks to take on economic risks.

Drucker defined an entrepreneur as someone who organizes and executes opportunities. An entrepreneur acquires resources, labor, materials, and other assets in a way that enhances their value compared to before (N.G.A.-O Muhammad Joudat, 2011, p. 147) .

Schumpeter defined an entrepreneur as "a person who has the management skills and ability to transform a new idea or invention into successful innovations"(A. Berreziga, & A .Meziane, 2012, p. 4).

The definition of an entrepreneur can also be inferred as: a person who possesses institutional building skills along with managerial and creative abilities that help in building and managing the organization.

1.2 Characteristics of an Entrepreneur:

Through the various definitions and concepts provided for the entrepreneur, a set of characteristics can be inferred, which include the following (F.J.A.S. Al-Najjar & M. A. Abd Al-Sattar, 2008, p. 10) :

- **Willingness and Inclination for Risk:** This represents the most important element in the personal qualities of an entrepreneur, as various definitions and studies address the aspect of risk. Some believe that entrepreneurs are individuals whose work is based on the creativity of a new product or service, but they are also the ones who have the courage to start a new or unique venture.
- **Desire for Success:** Entrepreneurs know their goals well and work diligently to achieve them. They are organized, although they differ in their level of desire for success. They possess a greater degree of responsibility for their work and roles than ordinary people.

- **Self-Confidence:** Entrepreneurs can turn their ventures into successful businesses because they have a superior sense of awareness and a heightened sensitivity to various types of problems. Different studies have shown that entrepreneurs possess self-confidence and the ability to prioritize and categorize problems and deal with them better than others.
- **Drive to Work:** Entrepreneurs typically exhibit a higher level of drive towards work than others. This drive and enthusiasm often manifest as stubbornness and a desire to tackle challenging and arduous tasks. Entrepreneurs have an intrinsic motivation for excellence and brilliance in the face of challenges.
- **Commitment:** Entrepreneurs must maintain their focus on their goals and not abandon their planning for various activities. A person can succeed in entrepreneurship as long as they learn from their mistakes and those of others.
- **Optimism:** Small business owners tend to be optimistic. They are not pessimistic; they are more hopeful than others. They learn from their mistakes and consider failure as a step in the journey towards success.

1.3 Motivations of the Entrepreneur

Motivations are defined as those factors that interact with a person during the pre-entrepreneurial path (meaning before the actual establishment of the enterprise) (M.Salami, 2008, pp. 70-71) .

The researcher categorizes the motivations leading to the establishment of an enterprise into three types: economic motivations, which focus on maximizing profit but acknowledge that profit is not the only driving force; psychological motivations, stemming from disruptions in an individual's daily life, where strong psychological shocks or disturbances, such as social insecurity or neglect, can push someone toward entrepreneurship; and social and cultural motivations influenced by religion, family, and political, economic, and educational systems. While capital is essential for entrepreneurial activity, culture and religion provide individuals with spiritual capital, as highlighted by Weber in his analysis of religion's impact on individual orientations. Family influence is significant, particularly if one parent is an entrepreneur, along with an individual's network of relationships (friends, family, classmates, or colleagues). Additionally, entrepreneurial activity requires a market economy system and political freedom, as free enterprises cannot thrive without rights that protect the freedom of exchange and safeguard individuals and goods. Ultimately, the researcher emphasizes that the most crucial

quality an entrepreneur should possess is "entrepreneurial spirit," which will be elaborated on later.

1.4 Entrepreneurial Spirit

The entrepreneurial spirit is distinguished by its overlap with the concept of corporate spirit; however, the latter refers to "a set of positive and general attitudes towards the concept of the enterprise and the entrepreneur." The entrepreneurial spirit encompasses more than that, as it includes initiative and a love for work. It is defined as the mindset that drives a passive individual to take the initiative in facing challenges and to shape their own personal career future. It is also described as a set of qualifications and abilities that characterize the entrepreneurial personality and reflect the behavior and actions of entrepreneurs. There has been no consensus on its specific characteristics, but researchers (Berni, L. & Falta, Y., 2010, p. 12) have summarized it in the following points: challenge and perseverance, risk-taking and confronting uncertainty, initiative, opportunity exploration, creativity and innovation, and independence.

1.4.1 Concept of Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship has become widely used and prevalent, as many economists and administrators have addressed the issue of individual initiative and enterprise. Peter Drucker was among the first to highlight this in 1985 by pointing out the shift of modern economies from management economies to entrepreneurial economies. The concept of entrepreneurship has been extensively utilized in the Japanese business world, where entrepreneurial enterprises have flourished due to technological, commodity, and service advancements. Traditionally, entrepreneurship has always implied innovation; in the field of business management, it refers to the establishment of a new project or the provision of added value to the economy. Entrepreneurship can be defined as "the activity of creating and exploiting business opportunities by an individual or a group of individuals through the establishment of new organizations to create value.

1.4.2 Entrepreneurial Culture

Engaging with the concept of entrepreneurial culture is a scientific approach that logically requires the interaction of academic research with the complex developments of its environment in training and practice. "When discussing entrepreneurial culture, it should be viewed as a product of the social entity interacting within the enterprise as a distinctive

institutional organization that imposes its relative independence from the surrounding environment. The culture of the enterprise is considered a set of value-based and practical rules shared by its members to achieve its economic objectives, solve its problems, and contribute to societal development through the economic and social benefits it produces for the state and society. These values include organization, management, ethics, competitiveness, professionalism, competence, and the ability to innovate and renew.

The concept of entrepreneurship is characterized by its uniqueness, which is related to several aspects. Entrepreneurship is not limited to being an organization and a legal, economic, and social structure that encompasses financial, technical, and human resources; rather, it is a comprehensive process that requires the use of entrepreneurial logic, starting from the idea to the establishment and initiation of actual activity. It fundamentally relies on the entrepreneurial spirit possessed by the entrepreneur. Additionally, the surrounding environment, including social, economic, cultural, political, legal, and technological dimensions, directly influences entrepreneurial actions. These complex factors play a crucial role in either encouraging or inhibiting the formation of an entrepreneurial culture.

2. Methode

To develop an entrepreneurial culture, it is essential to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship through "entrepreneurial training via educational programs, professional and academic tracks, training workshops, etc. This aims to encourage interest in entrepreneurship, which is a fundamental element of entrepreneurial culture. Following this is the appreciation of entrepreneurial behaviors and practices by adopting and supporting various ideas, preparing them, and presenting them in the form of projects. The key point in this relationship is the university's openness to the environment of creating and establishing enterprises, with the goal of transitioning from ideas and projects to action and implementation, as well as attracting support. Thus, it becomes evident that the relationship between the university and research institutions within the entrepreneurial culture revolves around the triad of awareness, training, support, and follow-up.

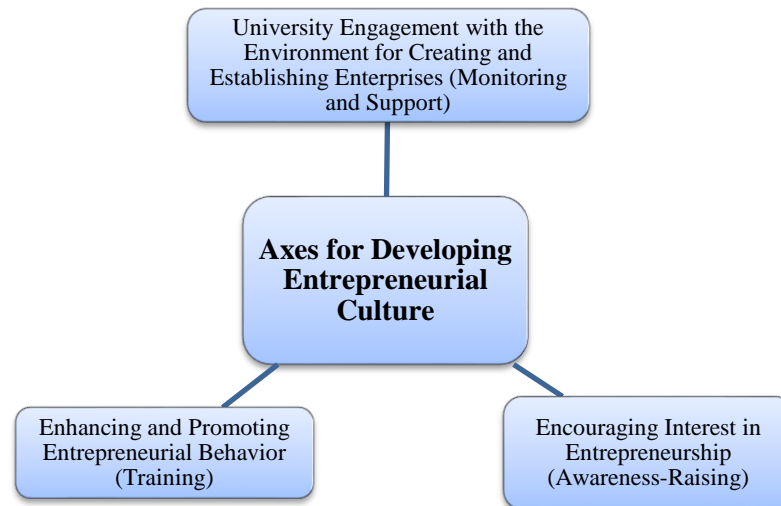


Figure 1. Axes for Developing Entrepreneurial Culture (Source: (S. Badrawi, 2015, p. 83))

This study is based on an analytical and descriptive methodology aimed at examining the mechanisms and impacts of entrepreneurship. It relies on an in-depth documentary review, including academic works, economic reports, and relevant case studies. Comparative analyses were conducted to highlight the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in economic and social development, taking into account their contribution to industrial diversification, regional development, and the reduction of inequalities. The study also employs an inductive approach to synthesize observations and empirical studies to illustrate the fight against poverty and the integration of marginalized groups. A systemic analysis was carried out to connect economic, social, and technological dimensions, emphasizing key themes such as equity in income distribution, technological development, and job creation. This integrated methodology provided a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the mechanisms of adoption and levels of implementation of entrepreneurship.

3. Results

3.1 Economic Viability of Entrepreneurship

Small enterprises can be considered the backbone of any national economy. On a global level, this type of institution has received significant support, as it represents nearly 90% of businesses worldwide and employs between 50% to 60% of the global workforce (S. Leitch, 2006).

Entrepreneurship can play an effective role in accelerating development because it does not require massive investments all at once and is capable of mobilizing small individual savings. The production from these industries can expand in the local market and ensure the production of certain goods that are difficult to obtain. Additionally, it helps in training

technical staff and can contribute to the growth of exports, thereby generating foreign currency and improving the balance of payments for developing countries. Furthermore, it contributes to the formation of a balanced industrial sector that serves the national economy and helps achieve self-sustained progress in societies, especially in developing ones.

3.1.1 At the Local Level

- **Increasing Productive Efficiency and Maximizing Economic Surplus:** Large industrial enterprises appear to be more capable of increasing productive efficiency and maximizing economic surplus, due to their higher labor productivity compared to small and medium enterprises, along with the economies of scale they enjoy, as well as the application of modern management methods and work organization. All the advantages gained from larger size contribute to enhancing productive efficiency, thereby achieving significant economic surpluses. However, this belief is misleading, as it overlooks an important factor: the relationship between the capital invested per worker and the economic surplus generated. Thus, “the economic surplus generated for society as a whole by investing a certain amount of capital becomes apparent. While it is acknowledged that the economic surplus achieved per worker increases with the size of the enterprise, if we correlate the invested capital and the economic surplus generated based on the various sizes of enterprises, it becomes clear that small and medium-sized enterprises are better positioned to maximize the economic surplus for society” (I. Ben Sassi & Y. Quraishi 2006). On the other hand, small and medium enterprises are capable of achieving productive efficiency. This means that through the abundance of capital resources they achieve, they can utilize scarce resources more efficiently or are capable of employing the appropriate production techniques that ensure the optimal use of production factors.

- **Diversification of the Industrial Structure:** Entrepreneurial activities play a significant role in diversifying production and distributing it across various industrial branches. This is due to the small size of their operations and capital, which leads to the establishment of many enterprises that produce a diverse range of goods and services. They address the current needs of the population, especially regarding consumer goods, as well as fulfilling the requirements of larger industries by serving as supplier industries.

- **Supporting Regional Development:** Enterprises are characterized by their ability to geographically spread across industrial areas, rural regions, and new cities. This is due to their potential for establishment and ease of adaptation to the surroundings of these areas. Additionally, these businesses do not require substantial investments, high-level training in production work, high management costs, or advanced technology. Therefore, they contribute to achieving balanced regional development and alleviating issues related to housing and environmental pollution (H. Merah, 2003, p. 36).

3.1.2 At the General Level:

- **Addressing Certain Economic Imbalances:** Developing countries often suffer from low savings and investment rates. Enterprises help to address this imbalance due to their lower establishment costs compared to larger institutions. Additionally, they contribute to correcting the balance of payments by manufacturing goods locally instead of importing them and by exporting industrial goods. Because they rely on labor intensity, they reduce the need to import high-cost technologies.

- **Export Development:** Export development is a significant issue for most developing countries that suffer from large and increasing deficits in their balance of payments, particularly in the trade balance. For a long time, exporting has been the domain of large institutions. The investments that required complex and extensive trade networks in global markets practically allowed only the existence of large-sized enterprises. However, in reality, the small and medium-sized enterprises have qualitative advantages that facilitate exporting

- **Attracting Savings:** Enterprises have the ability to mobilize the limited savings of small savers who do not utilize the banking system, as they are willing to invest these savings in their own businesses. It is well known that the need for capital in an enterprise is a limited demand, and therefore the modest savings of family members may be sufficient to establish a business, rather than leaving this money idle and susceptible to discretionary spending or even depositing it in banks. Thus, the low amount of capital required to establish and operate these industries makes them more attractive to small savers, who are reluctant to engage in employment patterns that prevent them from directly overseeing their investments (M. A. Zewail, 2001, p. 3).

3.2 The Social Feasibility of Entrepreneurship:

Although entrepreneurship is an economic project aimed at generating profit and improving the personal income of the entrepreneur, it also plays a significant social role. The enterprise is an independent economic, social, and financial institution that relies primarily on free initiative, the pursuit of quick profits, fair competition, and, notably, on capital, which is its main driving force. Entrepreneurship has existed for many years, but its prominence has only been established with the ongoing development of the capitalist system, which has highlighted the importance of this institution in both economic and social aspects, alongside technological advancement. Thus, enterprises have become the cornerstone and backbone of any society aspiring to rise to honorable ranks and follow the path of countries that lead in cultural advancement.

3. 2.1 From a Living Perspective:

Technological Advancement: Many countries have contributed to the technological explosion experienced by the modern world, with entrepreneurship being the foundational element in that development. Thanks to the leadership of entrepreneurs, the continuous training of their workers, and the explosion of initiative and ongoing ambition among talents, technological leading countries have reaped the benefits. As a result, inventions and innovations have emerged from entrepreneurship, driven by the fundamental motive of profit, which in turn contributes to expanding the realm of technological knowledge and encourages investment, thereby broadening the scope of creativity and innovation. Additionally, the role of civil society and the state in continuous encouragement and support cannot be overlooked. We now observe a steady increase in vocational training and technical education centers, thanks to the impetus provided by the promotion of small and medium enterprises, which inevitably unleashes creative energies and contributes to technological development (G.M. El-Morsi et al., 2002, p. 42).

- **Increased Employment:** The growing international interest in enterprises is due to the role they play in employment, thereby contributing to the use of labor-intensive production methods, making them an important tool for absorbing the increasing supply of the labor force, especially in developing countries that are characterized by a relative abundance of labor at the expense of capital. Consequently, they contribute to invigorating the labor market and ensuring its balance.

3. 2.3 From a Material Perspective

- **Equity in Income Distribution:** The existence of a large number of enterprises, similar in size and operating in simple competitive conditions, contributes to achieving fairness in income distribution. This is because they require modest investment capabilities, allowing a significant number of individuals to establish these enterprises. Consequently, this will help expand the size of the middle class and reduce the size of the poor class. In contrast, investing in large industries necessitates substantial investment capabilities, which leads to an increase in social class disparity.
- **Combating Poverty and Social Advancement:** Since the mid-1980s, the importance of micro-enterprises has emerged as a means to combat poverty and integrate socially and economically marginalized groups, initially in developing countries alongside structural adjustment plans (the evolution of the economic concept of the informal sector), and later in developed countries due to rising unemployment rates driven by the relative success of experiences in developing countries, particularly the "Grameen Bank" experiment in Bangladesh. Micro-enterprises represent the only sustainable way out of poverty and serve to improve welfare and living standards in the long term by building assets, whether material (housing, land, equipment), financial (such as bank accounts), or social (networks and social relationships) (G.M. El-Morsi et al., 2002, p. 42).

3. Discussion

Entrepreneurship serves as a powerful engine of economic growth and social progress, driving innovation, employment creation, and technological development. In both developed and developing economies, it addresses pressing challenges such as poverty alleviation, regional disparities, and industrial diversification. However, the potential of entrepreneurship to foster sustainable development and equitable growth often depends on the cultural, social, and institutional environments in which it operates.

Despite its recognized benefits, the mechanisms through which entrepreneurship generates economic and social value are not yet fully understood. Furthermore, barriers such as inadequate institutional support, limited access to financial resources, and cultural stigmas around risk-taking can hinder its development. This discussion seeks to explore key questions surrounding entrepreneurship: How can entrepreneurial ecosystems be optimized to support innovation and social equity? What role do entrepreneurial spirit and culture play in shaping the outcomes of entrepreneurial endeavors?

A comprehensive approach to these issues reveals that entrepreneurship thrives within supportive frameworks that foster creativity, provide access to capital, and encourage entrepreneurial thinking. Such environments enable the establishment of dynamic small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which serve as the backbone of local and national economies. SMEs contribute significantly to employment generation, technological advancement, and income equity. By integrating entrepreneurial culture with strategic institutional support, societies can address challenges like poverty and unemployment while promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

This discussion invites participants to critically examine the multifaceted dimensions of entrepreneurship, focusing on its theoretical underpinnings, cultural dynamics, and practical implications. We aim to identify actionable strategies for empowering entrepreneurs and unlocking the transformative potential of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Conclusion

the need for Arab criticism and linguistics to embrace the complexity of the modern world and interdisciplinary sciences has never been more urgent. The shift from simplistic, reductionist views to inclusive, complex models of knowledge is reshaping various academic disciplines, and Arab criticism must follow suit. The work of scholars like Mohammed Miftah highlights the potential of interdisciplinary approaches to enrich Arab critical theory. By integrating knowledge from diverse fields such as linguistics, semiotics, cognitive psychology, and even mathematics, critics can break free from the traditional confines of literary analysis. This openness not only enables a more comprehensive understanding of literary texts but also helps Arab criticism remain relevant in a world marked by rapid scientific and technological advancements. The challenge lies in moving beyond imitation of Western models and fostering a unique Arab critical methodology that draws from the rich intellectual heritage of the Arab world while embracing the innovative potential of interdisciplinary studies. This approach can offer a path forward for Arab criticism, ensuring it contributes to the global dialogue while addressing the specific needs and challenges of contemporary Arab societies.

Based on everything mentioned above and as a generally agreed-upon result, Arabic criticism is experiencing anxiety and crisis. However, this anxiety must carry a positive aspect to become a driving force for the development of research and a motivation to embark on a new experience—one that leads to the salvation of Arabic criticism from this prolonged difficult labor. The paradigm of interdisciplinarity or interdisciplinary studies must serve as a framework

for this situation, leveraging all the abilities and qualifications possessed by the thinker, writer, critic, and creative individual to revive critical life anew and free it from the dominance of narrow methodologies and passive dependency. This transformation will allow Arab criticism to flourish, not as a passive receiver of external influences but as an active force capable of shaping its own future within the global intellectual landscape.

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