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Role of Local Ethics and Culture in Shaping Entrepreneurial Economic Development in Africa.

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Abstract.
In this study, a narrative review study design was used to qualitatively interpret prior findings on local ethics and entrepreneurial economic development in Africa. 20 existing literature was synthesized to demonstrate the value of local ethics on entrepreneurship. The selection of primary articles relied on the area of focus and followed a systematic approach. The study findings reveal that corruption, political instability, business innovativeness, and inequalities are the most common issues hindering entrepreneurship and economic development in Africa. There is a need for future research to provide interventions for addressing the challenges pushing Africa to lag in development.

Keywords:*corruption, political instability, business innovativeness, and inequalities.*

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I. Introduction

Hardly a day passes by without reports of African public leaders embroiled in scandals over ethics violations due to corruption. Unethical practices erode government institutions and economic development (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2019). Good governance promotes sustainable entrepreneurial growth in both the public and corporate sectors. In the absence of good governance, unethical behavior suffices, undermines the rule of law, and eventually weakens administrative and legal institutions (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2019). A lack of consistent, transparent, and reliable governance is a disincentive to invest in African countries. Unethical practices stifle entrepreneurial economic development. Conversely, separating politics from entrepreneurship, honest bureaucrats, sound laws, and transparent government foster healthy entrepreneurial economic development in African countries.

Effective corporate and public ethics systems would encourage and sustain entrepreneurship in most African nations. Unethical behaviors such as misappropriation of public resources, preferences, bureaucracies, and political bad will drag Africa's entrepreneurial prosperity (Sitharam&Hoque, 2016). To achieve the greatest strides in entrepreneurial economic development, African countries must consider constitutional reforms and enforce effective policies on reliability, accountability, transparency, and consistency.

II. Literature review.

Many studies have examined the factors that limit Africa's entrepreneurial and economic development. Most studies conclude that most African countries lag other developing and developed continents due to poor governance. In this review, corruption, political instability, business innovativeness, and inequalities are the most common issues addressed by the authors.

Corruption and entrepreneurial development.

Shumetie and Watabaji (2019) attribute entrepreneurial economic development in Africa to political stability, foreign markets, access to training, and quality labor. In contrast, the greasing effects of corruption hinder entrepreneurial growth in Africa. Exploring the impacts of political instability and corruption on enterprises in Ethiopia, Shumetie and Watabaji (2019) revealed a decline in entrepreneurial development due to an unfavorable economic environment.

Corruption significantly affects political stability and entrepreneurship. While corruption's greasing effect would aid entrepreneurs to bypass lengthy bureaucratic processes, Shumetie and Watabaji (2019) note that poor governance systems deny people equal opportunities. Access to government services through corrupt strategies is an indication of poor governance. Other limiting factors to entrepreneurship are access to infrastructure and innovativeness. Uninterrupted electric power supply, for instance, promotes enterprise operations.

Ngunjiri (2010) faults corruption in several stalled development projects in Kenya. According to Ngunjiri, entrepreneurship relies on economic, psychological, and social factors, which are significantly affected by corruption. Ngunjiri reveals both the positive and negative aspects of corruption in entrepreneurship in

Kenya. Where governance systems are inefficient, corruption plays a positive acceleration role in bypassing bureaucratic procedures. Where the institutions are functioning ineffectively, corruption subverts the effectiveness of the institutions. Ngunjiri identifies two types of corruption: expansive and restrictive. Expansive corruption improves the market's competitiveness and flexibility. On the other hand, restrictive corruption limits productivity, social exchange, and opportunities (p.7). The Kenyan case, like most African countries, experiences restrictive corruption. The public sector in African states, Kenya being one of them, struggles with the illegal appropriation of public resources and retarded entrepreneurial growth.

Corruption encourages inefficient enterprises to indefinitely remain in business (Ngnjiri, 2010). In contrast to benefiting efficient enterprises, corruption protects incompetent entrepreneurs. Corruption causes substantial economic costs in Africa. In addition, limited access to government funds and permits reduces people's participation in entrepreneurial engagements (Ngunjiri 2010, p.10). Lawal (2007) argues that factors such as the political culture of a country, corruption, and leadership affect the level and rate of economic development. Lawal notes that corruption diverts limited resources in Africa, impedes policy changes, and undermines economic development (p.4). Moreover, corrupt activities hinder the implementation of policy reforms on economic development in African countries.

Ighodaro and Igbinedion (2020) hold a similar sentiment on corruption as other authors. Ighodaro and Igbinedion note that corruption reduces accountability, subverts due process, limits the reliance of citizens on the government, and promotes the unequal distribution of public goods and services. Focusing on West Africa, Ighodaro and Igbinedion argue that corruption has become too common in West Africa, which makes enterprises ineffective and affects economic growth in general. Akkoyunlu and Ramella (2020) agree with Ighodaro and Igbinedion that corruption negatively affects income per capita, entrepreneurs' motivation, and productivity (p.63). On the other hand, Chene (2014) argues that corruption greases the wheels of economic development. The long-term corrosive impacts of corruption on entrepreneurship do not match the positive outcomes it has in an ineffective governance system.

Ncube (2005) recognizes corruption as one of the underdevelopment traps that African countries face. Ncube is also concerned with other institutional factors that hinder entrepreneurial success in Africa. The barriers include an unreliable justice system, non-supportive financial infrastructure, policies, and corporate governance practices. According to Ncube, the government's regulatory and institutional environment affects enterprises' performance in Africa. For instance, more bureaucratic procedures and costly regulations lower entrepreneurial activities in low-income African countries (Ncube 2005, p.7). Ahmed and Nwankwo (2013), however, recommend expansion of spaces for entrepreneurship, liberalizing the market, and providing a conducive environment for entrepreneurs. Alemu (2015) explored the aspects of good governance infrastructure that promote entrepreneurial economic development. Examining the ease of doing business in 41 African countries, Alemu observed that government effectiveness, stability, and respect for the rule of law were vital aspects of entrepreneurial economic development. The author argues that good governance institutions promote high returns on production, protect private property, and foster dynamism.

Fal (2013) explored the state of entrepreneurship in Africa to determine the underlying factors. Fal's interest was drawn to macroeconomic growth and per capita of Africa in comparison to the rest of the world. The study focused on six sub-Saharan African countries: Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia. The aspects examined include entrepreneurship economic development assets: infrastructure, talent, skills, and financing. Second, business support, such as incubators and government programs. Third, policy accelerators include administrative burdens and legislation. Lastly, Fal explored entrepreneurship motivation and mindset, such as culture, attitudes, and legitimacy. The author's key findings reveal the importance of access to capital in accelerating economic growth. Second, there is a greater need for technical talent among entrepreneurs in most African countries, considering the huge amount of informal entrepreneurism in the continent. Third, poor infrastructure in most sub-Saharan African countries is a major obstacle to entrepreneurial growth. Challenges arise from inadequate and unreliable infrastructures. Inadequate and unreliable electricity supply and costly inefficient infrastructure. Regarding government programs, Fal argues that much needs to be done on existing efforts, such as the Ghanian Small and Medium Enterprise Project, the Kenyan Youth Enterprise Development Fund, the Nigerian Federal Government Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, South Africa's Small Enterprise Development Agency, and the Tanzanian Small Industries Development Organisation.

Atiase et al. (2018) investigated the role of critical resources in entrepreneurship growth in Africa. The factors of interest investigated by the authors were political governance, contract enforcement, electricity, and credit. The author's findings reveal a significant gap in financial inclusion and ineffective institutions that promote entrepreneurship in Africa. In a separate complementary study, Ochieng and Kim (2019) explored the impacts of governance, human capital, market freedom, and financial market development on entrepreneurship in Africa. One of the outstanding observations made by Ochieng and Kim is that poor governance hinders the legal establishment of enterprises, thus creating a large informal sector. Sitharam and Hoque (2016), who investigated SMEs in South Africa, equally attributed the slow growth and prevalence of SMEs in the country to corruption.

Reforms and entrepreneurship.

Africa is a potential destination for investors. However, unethical practices, such as misappropriation of public resources, preferences, bureaucracies, and political bad make the continent less preferred by most foreign investors (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2019). To improve her image, African countries must strive to address challenges in entrepreneurial economic growth. One of the approaches recommended by scholars is policy and administrative reform. Baliamoune-Lutz (2009) investigated the association between policy and institutional reforms on entrepreneurship and economic growth in developing countries. Significant evidence has shown that financial sector reforms led to the growth of entrepreneurship in developing countries. However, trade reforms have had a minimal impact on entrepreneurship. For Mehta and Sengupta (2008), reforming competition policy is one of the best approaches to promote the creation of a vibrant sector.

Fohtung et al. (2012) share a similar sentiment regarding policy reforms. The authors note that SMEs are recognized as sources of job creation and tax revenue. Focusing on South Africa, Cameroon, and Nigeria, Fohtung et al. (2012) argue that countries have witnessed massive entrepreneurial economic growth. According to the authors, the reforms enacted are in the form of non-financial and financial support, both at the national and local levels. However, most citizens in these countries lack awareness of the existence of these reforms.

Inequalities and entrepreneurship.

Despite the numerous resources, both natural and human capital, African countries face continuously growing unemployment rates, extreme poverty, and widening income inequality. While inequality affects economic development, Ogede (2020) conducted a study to determine the impact of entrepreneurship on income inequality in sub–Saharan Africa. Ogede's findings reveal a direct relationship between income disparity and entrepreneurial activities. The disparities resulting from entrepreneurship activities are largely influenced by the macroeconomic situation. Thus, the author suggests the implementation of government policies that promote flexible startups. Kunawotor et al. (2020) hold onto the view that no matter much effort African governments make to enhance economic growth, poverty reduction and alleviation would remain a nightmare if inequality, especially institutional inequalities persist. Kunawotor et al. (2020) argue that income inequality is higher in Africa than in other developed countries. Thus, to achieve institutional quality and promote entrepreneurial economic development, Africa must ensure political stability, control of corruption, and fight terrorism.

Political instability.

Local ethics and culture in shaping entrepreneurial economic development in Africa cannot be discussed without understanding the African political landscape. A vast body of knowledge seeks to explain African politics and the relationship between local ethics, culture, and politics in shaping entrepreneurial economic development in Africa. Kadio et al. (2018) found that culture defines politics and economic development.

Political instability is the opposite of politicalstability. Political instability, lack of good political wills, good governance, proper formulation, and implementation of policies are inexorable. Many scholars have established links between political instability, bad governance, poor policy formulation, and implementation (Kadio et al., 2018; Mayer Pelicice, 2019; Shumetie&Watabaji, 2019). Likewise, researchers have also associated local ethics and cultures with political instabilities in African states to slow entrepreneurial economic development in Africa. More than half of African countries have been affected by political turmoil since the end of the European rule in Africa.

African countries experienced relative political stability and peace during the period leading to colonization. According to Mayer Pelicice(2019), this peace enabled growth and economic development. European imperialists overstepped the barriers of culture and African ethics and established what they believed to be superior to Africans. European imperialists believed Africans were inferior, could not innovate, and had an inferior culture. By way of explanation, scholars argue that Africans were incapable of running their governments to successfully initiate economic development despites being endowed with mineral resources and rich agricultural fields (Kadio et al., 2018; Mayer Pelicice, 2019; Shumetie&Watabaji, 2019). Studies suggest that European powers established a favorable political environment and peace to facilitate their economic activities despite the many resenting voices from Africans.

During the period of imperialism, European countries branded Africans as continent inferior. They needed domination from the Westerners to make meaningful political cultures and infrastructure that would enable them to spur economic growth and development. After independence, Africa remained in the hands of African leaders who perpetuated political instabilities by allowing corruption, nepotism, and favoritism. Shumetie and Watabaji (2019) claimed that the African political landscape began on the wrong foot immediately after independence and continued to impact economic development to date. In their argument, the philosophical inclination by African states and continual interference by the colonial masters; the mother countries on African political landscape are the central source of African political instability.

Mayer Pelicice(2019)discovered that African stability is the key to enabling entrepreneurship innovation and economic development. The study attributed slow African development to weak political structures that scared investors and hindered innovation, entrepreneurial, and economic development. On the other hand, Kadioet al.(2018) established that ethics and culture were basic steps in establishing political stability and that unethical practices in government institutions lead to political instability. Kadio et al. (2018) attributed that good governance and adherence to the rule of law have affected African states. By way of explanation, Kadio et al. (2018) revealed that African states failed to establish functional government and leadership structures to facilitate good governance. Whenever good governance is lacking, leaders' ethical practices and adherence to the rule of law also lack, providing an opportunity for political instability. This argument is supported by Shumetie and Watabaji's (2019) work, which also found that misappropriation of public resources and transparency were to be blamed for political anarchy in many African states, which hinders development.

Business innovativeness.

A substantial body of research has linked African slow growth to slow business innovativeness or government structure to support business ideas, entrepreneurship, and innovation (Egbetokun et al., 2016; Neumann, 2020; Ndemo&Aiko, 2016). Economies are driven by technology and innovation. However, Ndemo and Aiko(2016) argued that the scope of Africans in supporting business is narrow and does not live to the expectations of many entrepreneurs, investors, and innovation. Egbetokun et al. (2016), in their study, revealed that African innovation is lugged behind immediately after independence. Egbetokun et al. (2016) argued that there is a lack of government support and involvement in supporting small enterprises. Instead, due to bad governance, nepotism and corruption, most policies negatively affect innovation efforts and frustrate entrepreneurship.

Neumann (2020) found that African economic and entrepreneurship development was embedded in the ability of African states to encourage innovations and open business hubs that would intern spur growth. However, most African countries are slow to act and, in most cases, embroiled in the misappropriation of resources that would otherwise spur economic growth (Ndemo&Aiko, 2016). Innovation is also intertwined within the cultural and ethical context (Egbetokun et al., 2016; Neumann, 2020; Ndemo&Aiko, 2016). Good ethics and culture promote innovation, where bad culture and ethical practices discourage and harbor economic growth. Neumann (2020) in his analysis postulates on the issues that were acting as impediments to African economic growth found that ethics and culture were some of them; Africans for decades have failed to embrace modernity. Most Africans are still deeply rooted in traditional cultures that consider technology as evil. The cultural epithet is superior to technology and innovation (Egbetokun et al., 2016; Neumann, 2020; Ndemo&Aiko, 2016).

Essentially, the issue of business innovation in Africa has been debatable.

Some researchers have observed that Africans are creative and innovative, but bad cultures such as poor governance, corruption, and poor policies to support the innovators have been lacking (Egbetokun et al., 2016). African states' bad policies are to be blamed for a lack of business innovativeness (Egbetokun et al., 2016; Neumann, 2020; Ndemo&Aiko, 2016). As a result, innovators often sell their business ideas, are discouraged, and lack motivation. Ideally, Africans are innovative, but their innovative ideas are curtailed by lousy governance, ethics, and culture. Egbetokun et al. (2016) hypothesized that politics is a major player in influencing innovations by laying out structures and policies that do not suppress discovery.

III. Methods

In this study, I adopted a narrative review to qualitatively interpret prior findings on local ethics and entrepreneurial economic development in Africa. The author synthesized existing literature to demonstrate the value of local ethics in entrepreneurship. The selection of primary articles relied on the area of focus and followed a systematic approach. The adoption of Levy and Ellis's (2006) systematic approach of conducting a literature review assisted in defining a procedure. Levy and Ellis (2006) applied three stages in their review: literature gathering and screening, Bloom's taxonomy of processing, and writing the review. Levy and Ellis (2006) considered the procedure input-processing-output systematic approach. The sequential stages were useful in collecting studies on local ethics and entrepreneurship, analysis, and synthesis of information regarding the impact of ethical behavior on entrepreneurial economic development.

To answer the research question, what are the impacts of local ethics on entrepreneurial economic development in Africa? A literature search was performed in eight journals and electronic databases. Several free text words, terms, and keywords were used in the search. Inclusion and exclusion criteria, as shown in *Table 1.1* were also utilized during the screening process. An independent review of the studies was conducted to determine eligibility and extract the most applicable information.

Reviewing the literature.
The preceding sections show a series of steps followed in selecting, screening, synthesizing, and reviewing the current literature.

Searching the literature.
Using effective techniques and tools helped access and review the most appropriate literature for this study. A systematic, structured, and consistent search of databases yielded relevant literature for this study. The researcher (I) began by identifying and listing databases, online libraries, and journals that recorded several pieces of literature on the topic. The researcher listed the sources after using various terms, phrases, and keywords relevant to the study. The researcher also ensured that he kept a search diary containing search activities and took note of effective search terms.

Databases used.
The databases prioritized in this study focused on entrepreneurship and economic development. Such term "A-Z databases entrepreneurship and economic development," gave a list of databases. The researcher assessed one database after another and selected the most applicable database. Databases covering a variety of academic topics and believed to contain the literature on the study area were also included. The electronic databases, journals, and libraries covered topics on governance, corruption, transparency, accountability, entrepreneurship, ethical and unethical behaviors, and economic development in Africa. Table 2.0 shows a list of databases, journals, and online libraries used.

Development databases	**Others**
World Development Indicators	Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD)
World Bank Data	GlobalEDGE
	Directory of Open Access Journals
	Science Direct
	ERIC
	Google Scholar

Table 1.0

Search terms, phrases, and keywords.
a. Entrepreneurship AND Governance
b. Policies AND Entrepreneurship
c. Corruption AND Economic Development.
d. Entrepreneurship AND Corruption.

Selection criteria
The study aims and objectives influenced the literature selected and used in this study. In addition, various development, and entrepreneurial challenges common among African countries contributed to the selection of literature on the pre-identified challenges. Statistics on sustainable economic development approaches and entrepreneurship are considered. Studies with recent statistics on accountability and transparency, especially those on COVID-19, were included in the review.

Inclusion and exclusion of literature
Inclusion criteria implied all features of the study that ensured it qualified for the review. The aspects of the study included the country in which the study was conducted, the year of publication, the topic of study, the type of study (primary or secondary studies), and whether the study was peer-reviewed or not. Studies in which respondents or countries of focus were African states were included. Studies that passed through the peer-review process were also included. Primary studies published in the last five years were also included. In addition, studies that were open access and focused on local ethics, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Africa were also considered in the narrative review. However, studies that did not meet these criteria were excluded from the review.

Table 1.1 inclusion and exclusion of literature

Inclusion	exclusion
Studies conducted on African states.	Studies were not conducted on African states.
Research papers with publications ranging between 2017 and 2021.	Research papers published before 2017.
The study respondents were from African states.	The study respondents were not from African states.
Qualitative and quantitative studies that explored ethics, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Africa.	Quantitative and qualitative studies do not explore ethics, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Africa.
Peer-reviewed research papers.	Studies that were not peer-reviewed.

Identifying relevant studies.

The Cochrane systematic review was highly effective in identifying the most relevant studies. The inclusion of a study flow diagram enabled the research to screen out several research papers and retain only those that were more useful. Additionally, the application of the PRISMA statement guide helped sketch the PRISMA diagram necessary in summarizing relevant full articles, as shown below.

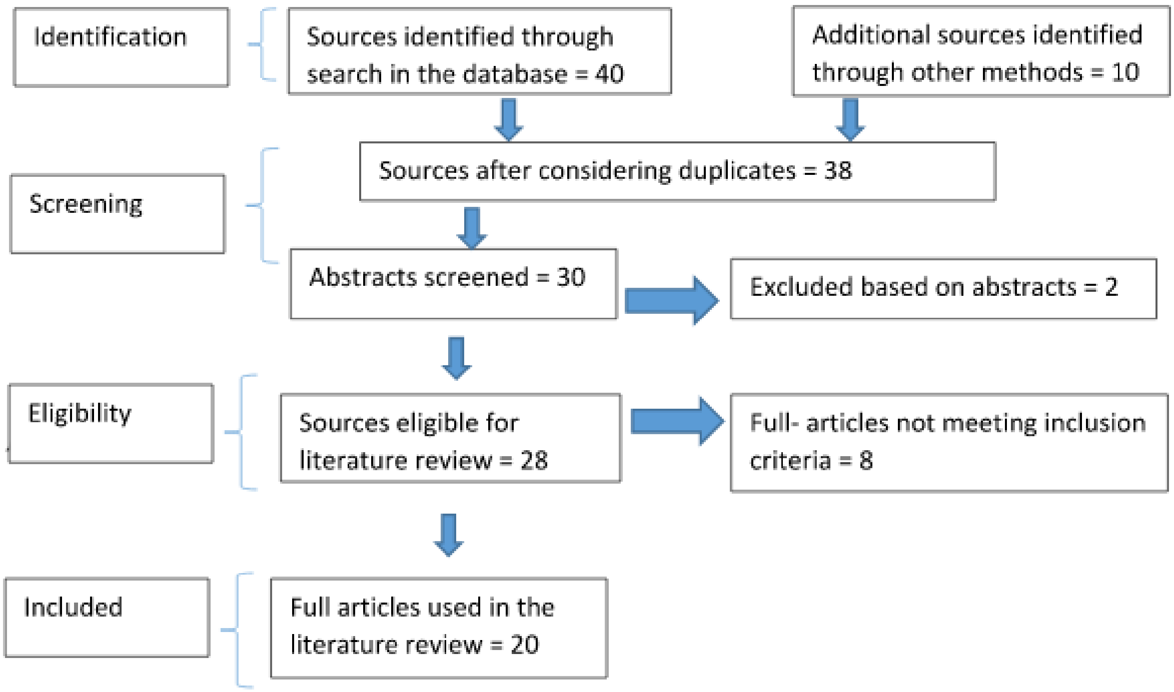


Figure 1.0

Reviewing the qualitative and quantitative literature.

Both qualitative and quantitative studies were included in this review. Various critical appraisal tools have also been considered. The tools: Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ) for qualitative literature. The Cochrane Assessing Risk of Bias in a randomized trial was applied to quantitative research papers.

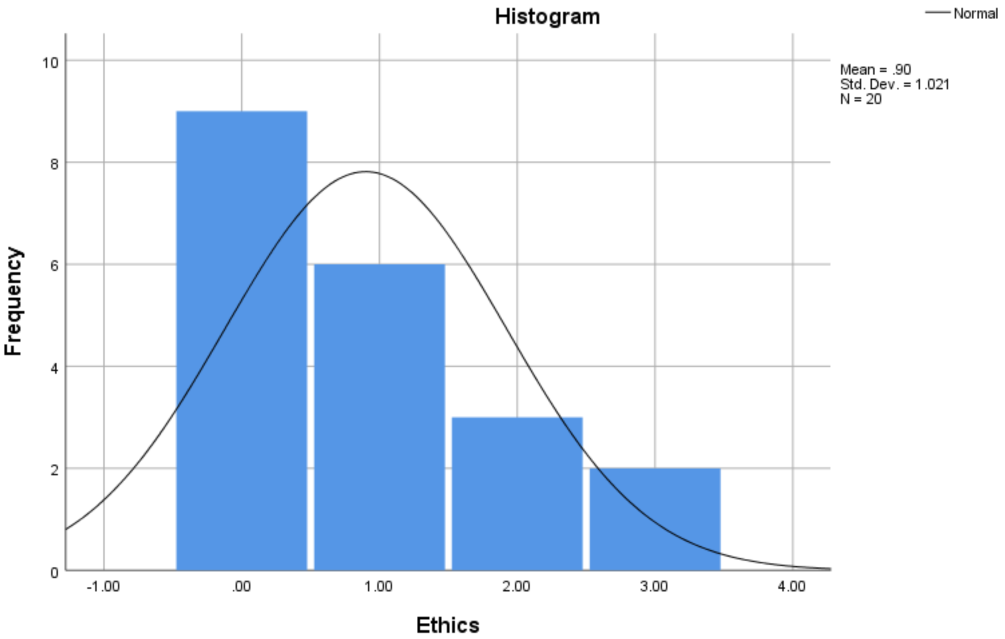
Result of the reviews.

Twenty peer-reviewed articles were included in this review. The below-detailed review is grouped per topic of discussion as they were presented in the selected literature.

IV. Results and discussion

Ethics

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Corruption	9	45.0	45.0	45.0
	political instability	6	30.0	30.0	75.0
	inequality	3	15.0	15.0	90.0
	business innovativeness	2	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	100.0	



From the statistical analysis, 45% of the studies consider corruption to be the major ethical concern affecting entrepreneurial economic development in Africa. This is an indication that corruption thrives in most African countries, thus limiting efforts towards promoting enterprises across the continent. Studies by Shumetie and Watabaji (2019) support the finding that corruption sets barriers to access government services with ease. Reports of corruption in a country lead to a loss of interest, trust, and confidence of investors and shareholders. Corruption jeopardizes public trust and affects the economic environment. Corruption may exist in African countries in various forms, such as bribery, embezzlement, or extortion. Regardless of the form, corruption interferes with the credibility of enterprises. Corruption also lowers the number of available resources to effectively manage an enterprise. For instance, when an enterprise has been linked to corruption, many resources are wasted on penalties, PR, and legal fees. Corruption also leads to high inflation, which ultimately impacts the economic environment in most African countries.

Corruption promotes criminal activities. The widespread corruption in most African countries has a trickle-down effect on businesses. Widespread engagements in the black market are a product of corruption, while they are not healthy for thriving and legitimate businesses. African enterprise brands suffer equally from losing competitiveness in global markets due to corruption reports, which lowers trust and discourages potential customers. Corruption in Africa implies that businesses contain hidden costs, shaky partnerships, and unfair competition. In addition, getting legal redress for enterprises' growth and sustainability will continue facing hurdles due to lack of accountability and respect for the rule of law. Ngunjiri (2010) considers corruption as a barrier to effectively functioning institutions.

Political instability stood at 30%, related to entrepreneurial development. Instability has a greater impact on business, as it scares away investors willing to enter new markets. Most African countries, especially Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, and South Sudan, face challenges of instability. While enterprises mostly operate according to forecasts and scenarios, entrepreneurs and business leaders become worried about instability in both micro-and macro-economic environments. Enterprises in African countries suffer greatly from political dysfunction, extremism, and gridlock. These conditions repelled foreign investors. Instability also leads to frequent strikes, chaos, and social unrest, which sometimes lead to the destruction of property and loss of life. Businesses thrive in a more politically stable environment than those faced with protests, unrest, and running battles between citizens and state officers or rebel groups. When the country is not friendly and welcoming, even workers are likely to skip their responsibilities; hence, there is a huge loss to business establishments. Kadio et al. (2018), Waterbaji (2019), and Pelicice (2019) support the notion that political instability hurts enterprises from employees' working conditions, business profits, and operations; therefore, most investors prefer avoiding such economic environments. In addition, capital investments mostly go to environments that experience peaceful coexistence and tranquility. The perception that most African countries are in continuous conflicts denies the continent's opportunity to make significant strides in entrepreneurship.

High levels of economic inequalities accounted for 15% of the literature reviewed. Economic inequality affects people and society at large. Inequality affects fairness in accessing entrepreneurial opportunities and capacities. Inequality is the uneven distribution of resources, rewards, and access to resources for entrepreneurial growth and economic development. Ogede (2020) and Kunawotor et al. (2020) recognize the negative impacts of high economic inequalities. Inequality is so entrenched among African countries that it reflects unequal rewards for labor, disparities in access to productive resources, and dispersion of resources among individuals. Inequality affects enterprises in Africa through two main pathways. First, inequality affects performance, as it lowers human development. This leads to extra costs for healthcare, productivity, and on-the-job training.

High economic inequality leads to a larger population of African countries being poor. The gap between the rich and the poor has significant implications for protectionism, distributive policies, and corruption. It is also apparent that most individuals with a high socioeconomic status in Africa prioritize self-interest. Selfish gains thus lower the expansion of enterprises because of minimal or lack of support. It is also clear that high levels of economic inequality lower social relationships, which is a key indicator of entrepreneurship. Finally, business innovativeness weighed 10% to impact entrepreneurship and economic development in Africa. While most African countries have embraced innovation as part of the twenty-first century's economic growth strategy, they still lag other developed and emerging markets in the Asian continent. Ndemo and Aiko (2016) and Egbetokun et al. (2016) considered low business innovativeness among African countries.

V. Conclusion.

This study reviewed 20 previous studies on entrepreneurship and economic development in Africa. Corruption, political instability, business innovativeness, and inequalities are the most common issues addressed by the authors. corruption thrives in most African countries, thus limiting efforts to promote enterprises across the continent. Political stability has also been recognized as a means of repelling existing and prospective investors in Africa. Moreover, low business innovativeness and high economic inequalities are pertinent issues common in Africa that impact entrepreneurship and economic development.

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