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Uncovering the darkside of entrepreneurship in Nigeria, through a gendered lens.

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2024

Theme: Achieving transformation for greater good: Societal, organisational and personal barriers and enablers.



UNCOVERING THE DARKSIDE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NIGERIA, THROUGH A GENDERED LENS

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CONFERENCE



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Context of Darkside of entrepreneurship

Background 1

Research shows that:


- Despite the benefits of entrepreneurship and the positive contribution to economic growth and development, recent streams of research critique this all-positive narrative and call for entrepreneurship scholars to uncover the darker and downside of enterprise (Shepherd, 2019; Kim, Mueller and Dey, 2024).
- Several studies suggest that entrepreneurship also presents a variety of negative forms of impacts on entrepreneurs which can be sources of their miseries and afflictions (Biju & Kandathil, 2019).
- The downside of engaging in entrepreneurship has negative impacts on individuals psychological and emotional wellbeing on entrepreneurs, their lives are not as alluring as they seem (Shepherd, 2019).

Background 2

- Gender dynamics would also mean differences in these negative experiences.
- Notably, due to structural inequalities, women are more disadvantaged than their male counterparts (Marlow, 2020; Shepherd, 2019).
- Socio-cultural norms also has limiting patriarchal beliefs which restrict women's agency and engagement in entrepreneurship, make a trade-off between (Vossenbergh, 2013).
- Institutionalised sexism and the sole responsibility of household and childcare

Aim/Objectives/research questions

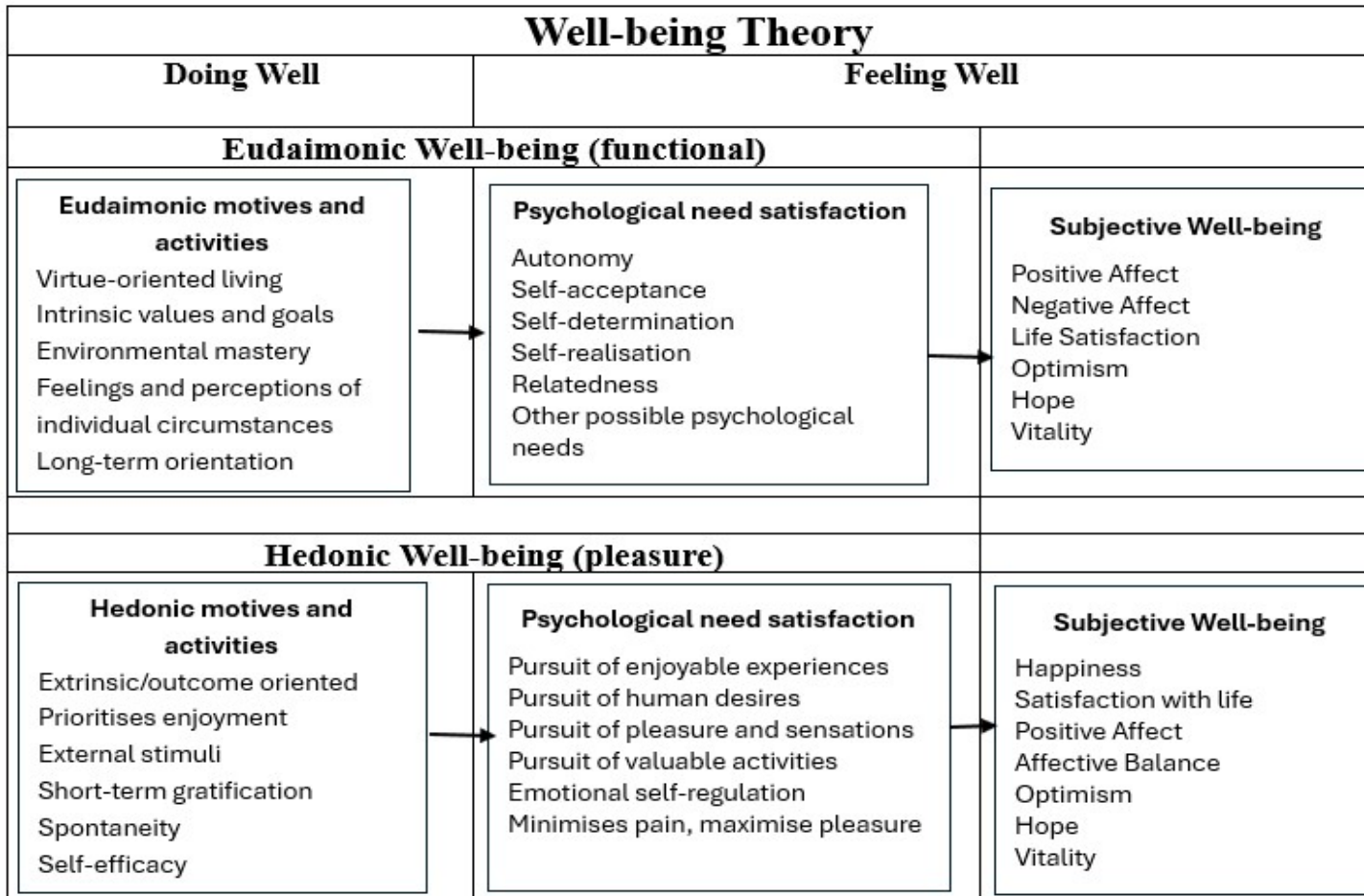
The aim of this paper is therefore to unpack the darker side of entrepreneurship in Nigerian Context.



The study examines how men and women respond to limitations they experience as everyday entrepreneurs and how it causes them to enact unethical entrepreneurial actions.

Wellbeing theory

The well-being of women entrepreneurs is crucial for gender equality and sustainable development. However, defining wellbeing is a challenging task due to its varied interpretations and usage in different contexts, making it appear adaptable like a chameleon



Data structure

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Main theme or 1st order code	Sub-theme or 2nd order codes	Interpretation of themes	
Narratives around the loss of finance caused by corruption, experienced by the entrepreneur	Impact of corrupt practices	Systemic corruption embedded in institutions leads to stress, loss and harassment.	
Narratives around the loss of finance caused due to multiple taxation demands by the entrepreneur	Policy inaccuracies		
Narratives around the need in developing relationships to help facilitate loan approvals in formal financial institutions	Helpful Relationships or strong ties		
Narratives around the need in developing sexual relationships to help facilitate loan approvals in formal financial institutions	Sexual Harassment		
Narratives around legislation and regulations that hinder them from growing successful businesses, therefore, encourage a	Influence of inheritance laws		The influence of culture leads to distrust and social isolation

feeling of despair and discrimination

Narratives around gender stereotyping in the sector of Gender bias and

operation and in accessing business finance that limit business stereotyping

growth aspirations



Research
Sample

14 male entrepreneurs

16 female entrepreneurs

Semi-structured
interviews

Result and Findings

Findings suggest that both male and female entrepreneurs faced the dilemma of *systemic corruption embedded in institutions* quite similarly.

In contrast, both males and females have different experiences of *the Influence of socio-cultural practices* on how they ‘do’ entrepreneurship that continuously forces the females to feel disadvantaged, social isolation and distrust thereby making them experience the darker side of entrepreneurship.



Power Quotes: the Influence of socio-cultural practices

Well, it's really challenging, that's very obvious, you know, because the system is really not working honestly. Corruption is everywhere, you have to pay to get your way up there, so these are the most of the challenges and others which of course, are caused by corruption: a lack of enabling environment...Okon (male entrepreneur)

And yeah, I mean some government rules from government laws and regulations make it just really difficult to run smoothly because you are paying multiple taxation to every arm of the government that could really be a pain in the neck...Chi (female entrepreneur)

Well, it's really challenging, that's very obvious, you know, because the system is really not working honestly. Corruption is everywhere, you have to pay to get your way up there, so these are the most of the challenges and others which of course, are caused by corruption: a lack of enabling environment...Okon (male entrepreneur)

Contribution to research and practice

This study engages with the literature of the dark side of entrepreneurship extending what we understand of this phenomenon.

Furthermore, the paper contributes to wellbeing theory.

This expands the body of knowledge on critical entrepreneurialism debate by highlighting the dark side of entrepreneurship from a Global South context