

## BARRIERS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN GHANA

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### ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship education has become a major focus in the Ghanaian educational sector and governmental policies because entrepreneurship is seen as the major antidote to the increasing graduate unemployment. This study explores from students perspective barriers to their entrepreneurial intentions. In this study a model was developed and its impact on entrepreneurial intention was measured. In the model we theorised that the entrepreneurial intention of university students in Ghana is a function of four models: Economic, Legal, Sociocultural, and Personal factors. A survey-based methodology was used to collect data from 731 students from a public university in Ghana. Respondents' perception towards four categories of barriers to entrepreneurship (Economic, Legal, Sociocultural, and Personal) were analysed using descriptive statistics. Multiple regression analysis indicated that all four predictor variables contributed significantly as barriers to entrepreneurial intention. Economic factors were the highest ranked barrier to entrepreneurial intention ( $\beta = .242$ ,  $p < .001$ ), followed by legal factors ( $\beta = .084$ ,  $p < .05$ ), and then personal factors ( $\beta = .061$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Socio-cultural factors served as the least form of barrier to entrepreneurial intention ( $\beta = .014$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This research has filled a research gap by providing important insights into the barriers to entrepreneurial intention among university students in Ghana. The results of the study may have valuable implications for the policy makers and educators.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial, Barriers, Ghana, Students, Intention, University.