

**Social fund and entrepreneurial intention of young girls in buka town, est of the democratic republic of congo.**

الصندوق الاجتماعي ونية ريادة الأعمال للفتيات الصغيرات في مدينة بوكافو شرق جمهورية الكونغو الديمقراطية.

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## Abstracts

Nowadays, entrepreneurship remains an alternative to cope with youth unemployment in order to allow them to increase income. Many factors influence their intention to start personal business. This study examines the relationship between social fund and entrepreneurial intention of young finalist girls from Bukavutown in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For so doing, the model of entrepreneurial intention inspired by previous studies was tested on a sample of 220 finalist girls from Bukavu whose age varies between 22 and 30 years. Data processing was carried out using successively exploratory factor analysis and multiple regression.

Outcomes indicated that social fund significantly and positively influences the entrepreneurial intention of the finalist girls in Bukavu town. We found that the likelihood of young finalist girls intending to undertake in a sector is higher when they think that entrepreneurial activity is valued positively in their environment and when they know other entrepreneurs in their environment. Training the finalist girls on the implementation of their innovative ideas, improving the business environment and supporting young entrepreneurs' associations thus become important to enable young people to contribute to the development of their community through the creation of wealth through their businesses.

**Key words :** entrepreneurial intention ; social fund ; Young girls finalists ; empowerment ; Bukavu.

## **Introduction**

Entrepreneurial activity is considered as a social process that is included in networks of interpersonal relationships (McKeever et al., 2014; Malebana, 2016). These social networks promise entrepreneurial activity by facilitating the efforts of entrepreneurs to initiate new activities (Hampton, Cooper and McGowan 2009; Klyver 2007), improve the performance of their activities and play an important role in the growth and development of countries (Herrington and Kew, 2015) and are considered an effective strategy to address employability issues especially among young people (Koe et al., 2012). Young people in general are often excluded in the development process, especially women, who depend on their male partners. Currently, some women are emerging from the shell by networking (Malebana, 2016).

Previous research has mentioned that the creation of new businesses appears to be a result of entrepreneurs' intentions. However, for more than ten years, researchers have been largely interested in exploring the construct of entrepreneurial intention (EI) (Fayolle and Liñán, 2014 cited by Ndatbaye et al., 2019). The importance of EI has been

recognized by knowing that entrepreneurship is a process rather than an event (Shane, 2012). Entrepreneurial intention is the first step in the entrepreneurial process and is then followed by the identification of an opportunity (Ndatabaya, 2019).

Thus, entrepreneurial intention is the desire, the will of an individual to start a business, to pursue a freelance career (Bird, 1988) (Zhangetal., 2014). Studies on EI recognize that this is considered as the key element in understanding the process of starting a new business (Malebana, 2012) and its formation depends on the social circumstances in which individuals are exposed (Klyver and Schott, 2008).

Some theoretical models have been developed to explain that there is a relationship between entrepreneurial intention and entrepreneurial behavior, including the model of entrepreneurial intention based on the theory of planned behavior of Ajzen (1991) and the model of the entrepreneurial event of Shapero&Sokol (1982). However, these studies did not delve deeper into the causal link between social fund and entrepreneurial intention. Research on social fund recognizes the role of the social context in which new adventures are created (Liao

&Welsch, 2005; Malebana, 2016) and the effect of sociocultural factors in the shaping of entrepreneurs (Anderson & Miller, 2003; McKeever et al., 2014). Social fund is a concept taken in the form of network connections, trust and shared vision (Anderson & Jack, 2002)(; Koka and Prescott, 2002).

Our study focuses on the social fund and entrepreneurial intention of finalist girls in Bukavu town, at the Eastern DR Congo. The importance of this study is dictated by three complementary arguments. First, female university students face an immediate career choice and are in the EI step (Kailer and Hora, 2017). However, this age group faces unemployment (IOM, 2015). In DRC, more than 50% of the labor force is made up of young people (ILO, 2017). According to the report of the National Institute of Statistics of DRC (2012), it appears that 3.2% of youth jobs created since 2007 were in the administration or in a public or parapublic company, 2.6% in public companies and 1.7% in formal private companies.

Third, girls are marginalized and do not receive the same recruitment opportunities as men (Mama Radio Report, 2018). This is how many women use entrepreneurship to empower themselves in order to

overcome this problem due to exclusion related to recruitment. Despite the presence of some previous studies on the role of social fund on the entrepreneurial intention of young people (Liñán& Santos, 2007; Malebana, 2012, 2016), few studies have examined this link in the DRC. To our knowledge, very few empirical studies analyze the effect of social fund on the entrepreneurial intention of young finalist girls in Bukavu town. The contribution of social fund in explaining entrepreneurial intention is evident in that previous research in entrepreneurship indicates that entrepreneurs differ from non-entrepreneurs in the environment in which they operate (Santos et al., 2016), and the social relationships that they hold (Liñán& Santos, 2007; Malebana, 2012, 2016)

So, this study fills this gap by examining the relationship between social fund and entrepreneurial intention for the empowerment of young girls in Bukavu town.

## **1. Review of litterature**

### **2.1 Entrepreneurial intention, a reliable variable of entrepreneurial behavior**

Entrepreneurial intention is attracting increasing attention from a large number of researchers in the entrepreneurial field (Ajzen, 1991; Liñán & Santos, 2007; Liñán et al., 2008; Liñán & Chen, 2009; Malebana, 2012; Maâlej, 2013; Malebana, 2016; Amanamah et al., 2018) ( ;Liñán and Chen, 2006). It is considered to be the most reliable variable for predicting entrepreneurial behaviour (Kolvereid, 1996). Entrepreneurial intention is defined in various ways (Ajzen, 1991; Liñán & Santos, 2007; Liñán et al., 2008; Liñán & Chen, 2009). Without this will to act, which leads the person to take steps to promote the advent of his goal, we cannot speak of entrepreneurial intention but of desire (understood as a fleeting intention, not followed by act), dream or imagination. Bird (1988) indicates that entrepreneurial intention is a process that arises from the needs, values, habits and beliefs of the individual.

Krueger & Carsrud (1993) cited by Owoseni O., (2014), defines entrepreneurial intention as a commitment by a person to start a new business. For his part, Ajzen (1991) mentions that intentions are indicators of willingness to try, of genuine motivation and of the effort one is willing to make to behave in a certain way. In the context

of this study, *entrepreneurial intention may be considered as a personal feeling that pushes a person to a commercial activity, business, individually or cooperatively for the purpose of economic fulfillment.*

As a result, intentions capture the motivational factors that influence the behavior, indicating the effort exerted by individual plans to put this behavior into practice (Liñán& Santos, 2007). So, the greater the intention to undertake, the greater its probability will be. Thus, the theoretical approach to entrepreneurial intention is the subject of several explanatory theoretical models of the formation of entrepreneurial behavior and is essentially based on two theories: the model of the entrepreneurial event of Shapero&Sokol (1982) and the theory of planned behavior of Ajzen (1991). According to the theory developed by Shapero&Sokol (1982), individuals decide to start a business (develop their intentions and become potential entrepreneurs) when a precipitating event makes them perceive entrepreneurial activity as more desirable or feasible than other alternatives. Particularly, according to Shapero&sokol's (1982) model, the established intentions are based on two perceptions: *the*



*perception of desirability*: measure the attraction degree that a person feels towards a particular behavior, like being an entrepreneur for example.

*The perception of feasibility*: refers to the degree to which an individual feels that they are able to start a new business. They are built on factors such as support for creation, availability of advice, financial means, help from close friends and training for business creation. It should be noted that for encouraging the intention, it is better to react simultaneously on the perceptions of desirability and feasibility (Krug et al, 2000). Thus, entrepreneurial desirability will depend on social fund and the means put into play for feasibility and profitability. Let us understand then that entrepreneurial intention is a combined effort of several factors (psychosocial and material), desirability and feasibility are then two essential elements for the achievement of an entrepreneurial intention (Bassem S., Younes B., (2013). In a similar way but in greater detail, Ajzen (1991) developed the ...It should be noted that there is a reason to reformulate the model of Ajzen's intention. It is known that human fund is very important in the formation of human cognitive abilities (Liñán&

Santos, 2007) where perceptions of feasibility and desirability should be included. However, according to (Coleman, 1988) cited by Liñán& Santos (2007), social relations are the most important elements in the creation of this human fund. Therefore, the inclusion of different constructs representing an individual's social relations (not just social norms) will seem to be an important way to improve the explanatory capacities of the intention-based model.

## **2.2 Social fund in the development of attitudes associated with entrepreneurial behavior.**

Many entrepreneurship researchers are increasingly interested in social fund (Anderson & Jack, 2002; Liñán& Santos, 2007; Liñán et al., 2008; Malebana, 2012; Felício et al., 2012; Malebana, 2016; Baluku, 2016) (; K. Hindle et al., 2009; Olawale O., 2011; Isabel N. et al., 2013). This growing number of studies focusing on social fund has given rise to different meanings for this concept. The essence of social fund (Felício et al., 2012) is the network of relationships that include family, friends and casual relationships as providers of important resources of knowledge, information and support. However, being linked to the existence of social relations, social fund emerges from a

process of investment in human relationships, for which resources and more precisely time are required (Lin, 2002).

Thus, Bourdieu (1980) defines social fund as the overall actual and potential sum of resources that are linked possessing a lasting network of more or less institutionalized relationships of knowledge and mutual recognition. In this formulation, social fund is linked to the existence of social relations. (Putnam, 2015) defines social fund as: "the characteristics of social organization such as networks, norms, and trust, which facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit." From this point of view, social fund refers to social trust, which is its main component (Fukuyama, 1996). According to Nahapiet&Ghoshal (1998), social fund is the sum of the actual and potential resources integrated, available and derived from the network of relationships processed by an individual or a social unit. However, social fund is a multidimensional concept that can be described in three dimensions including the structural, relational and cognitive dimension. (Malebana 2016)

Liñán& Santos (2007) on the other hand, address social fund in three dimensions including the macro dimension or social level which

focuses on the potential benefits for society of the social networks of individuals and organizations such as income improvement, the micro or individual level dimension focuses on the potential benefits of network relationships for the person such as the creation of the company or the success of the company (Lin, 2002 ; Davidsson&Honig, 2003 cited by Liñán& Santos, 2007) finally the meso or organizational dimension that focuses on the potential benefits of network relationships for organizations such as increased efficiency.

Considering the above facts, in this study we have adopted the definition that social fund refers to the set of social relations that an individual can have. These relationships can be strong when the individual has intense interactions with the people around him including his relatives and close friends or weak when these interactions are non-intense with those around him, thus allowing him to have easy access to information and resources for his economic and social development. However, social fund is analyzed as an element that can influence the entrepreneurial intention of an individual in the sense that it includes the values attached to

entrepreneurial activity in a close environment and in society in general, the presence of role of entrepreneurial models (Malebana, 2016), the approval of business creation in an immediate environment (Liñán& Santos, 2007) as well as the social support of weak and strong link (Maleba 2012).

Researchers shows that entrepreneurs come across many resources and supports from their strong link in order to create companies. In addition, individuals are more probable to recognize good business opportunities in the creation of a company when they recognize other entrepreneurs (Malebana 2012).

As a result, it should be noted that the multidimensional nature of social fund is discussed and thus social fund can be divided into four categories, which constitute the dimensions of social fund. These categories are such as knowing an entrepreneur, valuing entrepreneurial activity, assisting friends, relatives and others as well as supporting the culture of the country (Malebana, 2012, 2016). Thus, the theoretical model is strongly inspired by the study of Malebana (2016). However, we focused on four dimensions of social fund, namely knowledge of entrepreneurs, valuing entrepreneurial

activity, assisting family, friends or other people, and supporting the country's culture. As a result, we examined the direct links between these dimensions and the entrepreneurial intention of the finalist girls from Bukavu town. As a result, it should be noted that the multidimensional nature of social fund is discussed and thus social fund can be divided into four categories, which constitute the dimensions of social fund. These categories are such as knowing an entrepreneur, valuing entrepreneurial activity, assisting friends, relatives and others as well as supporting the culture of the country (Malebana, 2012, 2016). Thus, the theoretical model is strongly inspired by the study of Malebana (2016). However, we focused on four dimensions of social fund, namely knowledge of entrepreneurs, valuing entrepreneurial activity, assisting family, friends or other people, and supporting the country's culture. As a result, we examined the direct links between these dimensions and the entrepreneurial intention of the finalist girls from Bukavu town.

### **2.3 Women's empowerment in gender promotion:**

According to Ramos (2011), autonomy refers to the idea that the individual gives himself his own rules. It is considered as a positive

perception of oneself, towards which the individual tends; It is therefore a category of identity, which implies that the individual must participate more in the elaboration of this world, of the universe in which he lives. Autonomy results from the ability given to it by its reason to be able to live and act by itself. The characteristic of the human individual is in fact to be able to decide for himself on the basis of representations and norms emanating from his critical reflection, which he is able to translate into strategies and actions. Autonomy is an idea that the individual gives himself, his own rules, a positive perception of himself, towards which the individual tends. A category of identity. Autonomy is then a matter of subjectivity.

Empowerment is a process by which individuals acquire, after resistance or coercion power in various forms, the ability to create new opportunities, the power to become a main actor in a group, the power of recognition and self-respect (Samman and Santos, 2009). ECA (2017) defined women's economic empowerment as a process by which women increase their human, financial and material fund as opportunities arise. The African woman, long marginalized, is rebuilding herself from her ability to make effective choices not only

for herself and her offspring but also for the entire nation. The promotion of gender and the empowerment of women has attracted the attention of international organizations of human rights and development and the eradication of poverty in the world: World Bank, UN, OCDE... in order to arrive to the equality of sex and the atomization of all women in order to contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of sustainable development.

To define women's economic empowerment, the United Nations (2008) alludes to three dimensions, which include economic opportunities fostered by actions such as the growth of women's employability, the growth of women's entrepreneurship, the promotion of a financial sector with banks and microfinance institutions that give women access to financial products and credit adapted to their needs. Improving women's legal status and rights, which involves women's access to property, inheritance and inheritance. The enjoyment of one's rights must be guaranteed through clear legislative frameworks and the abolition of discriminatory cultural practices.



The participation and inclusion of women in economic decision-making valued through the appointment, election and encouragement of women in decision-making positions in the public sector. Thus, the elimination of gender disparities is important to boost the development and evolution of society (World Bank, 2012) through women's entrepreneurship. The girl from Bukavu town, does not tire whatever the obstacles (unemployment, fund, cultural barriers) to embark on entrepreneurship in order to increase the inclusive economy.

## **2.4. Hypothesis of the study**

### ***2.4.1. Relationship between entrepreneur knowledge and entrepreneurial intention***

The knowledge of an entrepreneur family member, the acquaintance of a close entrepreneur friend, the knowledge of an entrepreneur as well as the knowledge of successful entrepreneurs in the community are the three types of knowledge considered in our study. Shapero&Sokol (1982) indicated that the knowledge of a family member, a close friend who is an entrepreneur and that of other

entrepreneurs can influence entrepreneurial intent. The underlying argument is simple: entourage and influence groups including friends and other close people and ethnic groups are often linked to entrepreneurial activity. They go on to say that entrepreneurial intention can be suggested by friends who are keen to partner in order to create a business together.

Maâlej (2013) realised that people having parents who are business managers or engaged in entrepreneurial activity have greater entrepreneurial intention compared to those who do not. The reason for this is that children benefit from the knowledge of their parents' providers. These relationships ensure that these people can obtain payment facilities from these providers but also because the loans granted by the parents are a good comfort to the creator. Malebana (2016) found that individuals are incentivized to start a business when they have the knowledge of successful entrepreneurs and when they think they will receive support from others who can support them in their business creation processes. In view of the above, we postulate that:

*H1: knowledge of entrepreneurs positively influences girls' entrepreneurial intention;*

#### **2.4.2. Relationship between the valorization of entrepreneurial activity, the approval of family, friends and others and the entrepreneurial intentions of young girls.**

Valuing entrepreneurial activity has an influence on girls' entrepreneurial intention (Malebana, 2016). The underlying argument is related to the fact that the more entrepreneurial activity is valued in a positive way, the intention to undertake will be greater. This valorization can be addressed, for example, by encouragement, material and financial support by those who are close to the person with the idea of entrepreneurship (Liñán & Santos, 2007). Thus, the individual having in his possession this support, this encouragement will have strong convictions that will lead him to entrepreneurial behavior and this will increase his intention.

The approval of family, friends and others also appears as an element that can influence an individual's entrepreneurial intention (Liñán & Santos, 2007). Indeed, the fact that the entrepreneurial idea that an

individual possesses, the decision to become an entrepreneur is accepted and approved by those who are close to him as well as society in general will make that the desire to become an entrepreneur will be great and thus the individual will feel more able to embrace the career of entrepreneur and this will increase his level of business intention (Malebana, 2012). So, we postulate that:

*H2: There may be a positive relationship between the valorization of entrepreneurial activity and the entrepreneurial intention of young girls;*

*H3: there may be a positive relationship between the assistance of family, friends and the entrepreneurial intention of young girls;*

#### **2.4.2. Relationship between government support for girls' entrepreneurial activities and their entrepreneurial intentional**

By government support, we mean that a country positively promotes the entrepreneurial culture by making it easy to access credit, reducing the burden of administrative procedures, financing young people with promising entrepreneurial projects, etc. This will lead to

the young person having the desire to embark on an entrepreneurial activity and will thus see his intention to undertake increase. In view of the above, we postulate that:

*H4: There is a positive relationship between support for the country's culture and the entrepreneurial intention of young girls;*

### **3. Methodological approach**

#### **3.1. Study Area**

This study was conducted in Bukavu town, chief-tancy of the province of Sud Kivu, in the east of the Democratic Republic is made of 60 km<sup>2</sup>. With an estimated population of one million, Bukavu town is among the most populous towns in the DRC. This demographic growth can be explained by three factors: rural exodus caused by armed conflicts and the activity of armed groups (1), commercial opportunities (2), and land use planning problems in the outskirts of the town (3) (Nyenyenzi Bisoka et al., (2021).

Bukavu town contains 37 higher education and university institutions, including 9 public institutions and 28 private institutions

(MINESU, 2021). The education system of Bukavu in particular and the DRC in general is organized to train young men and women with the skills that make them ready for the job market. It is in this context that there has been an increase in public and private higher and university institutions in the city in recent decades to meet the increased need for training at the higher level, but with which opportunities?

### **3.2. Sampling and Data collection**

This study is cross-sectional and relied on the quantitative approach and random sampling. The sample consisted of 220 of the finalist girls (i.e. those in their final year) from universities and colleges in Bukavu town. The age of the respondents is between 22 and 30 years. This study was conducted between August and September 2019. The investigations took place in academic institutions in Bukavu town. A written authorization and the list of finalist students were granted by the academic authorities to allow us to interview their finalist students. During the survey, we had a duty to explain the

questionnaire, and the respondent was free to verbally consent to participate in the study.

The survey questionnaire was given to the student who did not have time to respond directly to the survey. The interviewer should spend some time afterwards to collect the questionnaire already completed by the student. This survey was carried out in four institutions including two universities (private public well reputable in the city). The Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB) 60 students and Official University of Bukavu (UOB) 60 students. And two higher institutes of the place including the Teacher Training Colleges (ISP / Bukavu) 50 students and the Higher Institute of Rural Development (ISDR / Bukavu) 50 participants. Regular follow-up allowed us to retrieve 220 well-completed questionnaires on the relevant variables of our study.

### *Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents*

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Modality</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Age	22-26 Years	166	75
	27-30 Years	54	25

Sex	Feminine	220	100
Marital state	Single	220	100
StudyLevel	Undergraduate	110	50
	Bachelor	110	50
University	UCB	60	27
	UOB	60	27
	ISP	50	23
	ISDR	50	23
Religion	Protestante	95	43
	Catholique	112	51
	muslum	13	6

### 3.3. Empirical Modal

Entrepreneurial intention is the dependent variable. It is measured using 7 items. These items were inspired by previous studies (Liñán &



Chen, 2009; Liñán& Santos, 2007) (Liñán et al., 2010) and allowed us to identify to what level young girls are ready to start their own businesses. After exploratory factor analysis, we obtained a reduced scale of 6 items. The reliability test ( $\alpha = 0.82$ ) shows that the scale is reliable.

Social fund is an independent variable and captured by a scale of 13 items subdivided into four dimensions: knowledge of entrepreneurs, valorization of entrepreneurial activity, assistance from family, friends and others, support for the culture of the country. These items were based on previous studies (Malebana, 2012, 2016). After the Exploratory Factor Analysis, 8 items were selected that show internal consistency ( $\alpha=0.73$ ), subdivided into 4 dimensions that explain 64.6% variance in social fund. Factor analysis was used to purify the scales of entrepreneurial intention and social fund. The dimensions we selected exhibited an eigenvalue  $> 1$ , proving that they were better than a single item to synthesize the data (Giannelloni and Vernet, 2012). The use of the structural coefficient made possible the obtention the correlation of items to the main factors. Multiple regression was used to test whether social capital affected girls'

social entrepreneurial intention. Model 1: regression of entrepreneurial intention on the dimensions of social capital thus retained after factor analysis.

$$IE = \alpha + \beta_1 CE + \beta_2 VAE + \beta_3 ASEF + \beta_4 SCP + s$$

CE: Knowledge of the entrepreneurs; VAE: valorization of the Entrepreneurial activity; ASEF: Families' and friends' assistance; SCP: Support to other country's culture.

## 4-Results and Discussions

### 4.1. Results of factorial analysis

It appears through the ACP that the entrepreneurial intention construct is one-dimensional made of 6 items divided into one dimension. Entrepreneurial intention is considered a reason that pushes a person to move towards entrepreneurial behavior. It shows how ready a person is to embrace the entrepreneurial career. Thus, several reasons can lead to business creation, including wanting to take on challenges, independence and autonomy, personal attitude, etc. (GasseYvon, 2007).

It emerged from the ACP that the "social fund" construct is multidimensional made of four dimensions including knowledge of entrepreneurs, valorization of entrepreneurial activity, assistance from family, friends and others as well as support for the culture of the country. The first component is "valuing entrepreneurial activity" and explained 15.9% of the variance. Thus, if the entrepreneurial career is positively valued in the surrounding environment, the desire to become an entrepreneur will be greater. The second component is "knowledge of entrepreneurs".

It turns out to be the most important of the components and explains 31.2% of the variance. An entrepreneur's knowledge emerges as a factor in the environment that has the greatest influence on entrepreneurial intentions (Audet, 2001) (Audet, Riverin and Tremblay, 2005). A person who is likely to recognize the opportunities to start a business when they know other people who are entrepreneurs (Malebana, 2016). Indeed, if a young girl knows an entrepreneur in her family or in her immediate environment, it can be a source of inspiration and learning and can have an impact on her entrepreneurial intention (De Carolis&Saparito, 2006; Malebana,

2016) (Kwon and Adler, 2014; De Carolis et al., 2009; Klyver and Schøtt, 2008; Dohse and Walter, 2012 cited by Malebana, 2016).

The third component refers to "assistance from family, friends and others" and explained 14.1% of the variance. This goes hand in hand with the results of Liñán & Santos (2007) who mentioned that if the idea of starting a business is approved in the immediate environment; Individuals will feel more capable of moving towards the entrepreneurial act. Thus, being assisted by other entrepreneurs has an influence on young people's attitudes towards entrepreneurial behaviour. This may be because it can convey values to individuals. The fourth component is "support for the culture of the country" and explained 13.6% of the variance.

This component includes a good entrepreneurial culture in the country where the young people live. The more importance a country places on entrepreneurship by focusing on a good business climate, facilitating access to credit and promoting young people with good entrepreneurial ideas, the greater the desire of young people to engage in entrepreneurial activity.

### Results of the regression

**Table 1 multiple regression results**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Regression 2</b>
<b>Entrepreneurial Knowledge</b>	0,0555124 (0,001)*
<b>Valorisation of entrepreneurial activity</b>	.2420163 (0.000)*
<b>Friends' and family assistance</b>	-.0674816 (0.297)
<b>Support to the culture of the country</b>	.0132343 (0.808)

The results of the regression (Table 1) indicated that the valuation of entrepreneurial activity ( $p=0.000$ ) significantly and positively influences the entrepreneurial intention of young girls. These results allowed us to confirm our second hypothesis, which stated that there is a positive relationship between the valorization of entrepreneurial

activity and the entrepreneurial intention of young people. Such results have shown that the more entrepreneurial activity is valued in the environment close to the girl, the more the girl will be pushed to move towards entrepreneurial behavior. Our results were supported by Malebana (2016) who found that young people are more likely to intend to start their own business when they think that entrepreneurial activity is positively valued by those close to it and society in general.

The results of Liñán et al. (2008) also corroborated in the sense that the authors mentioned that the more entrepreneurship is valued in a positive way by individuals in the immediate environment and in society in general, the stronger the entrepreneurial intention of young girls.

The knowledge of an entrepreneur ( $p=0.005$ ) positively and significantly influenced the EI of young girls in Bukavu town. Thus, we confirm our first hypothesis which stipulated that the knowledge of entrepreneurs positively influences the entrepreneurial intention of the finalist girls of Bukavu town. These results revealed, for example, that knowing a person who is an entrepreneur in his or her

immediate environment emerges as a factor in the environment that has the greatest influence on entrepreneurial intentions (Audet, 2001) (Audet, Riverin and Tremblay, 2005). Young girls can use their parents' role model to start their own businesses.

However, because their parents are entrepreneurs, the young finalist girls have the opportunity to meet people who can be useful to them in launching their entrepreneurial activities (Nyaminani, 2015 cited by Baluku, 2016).

These results converged with those found by Malebana (2016) who mentioned that the fact that a young person knows an entrepreneur in his family or in his close environment makes the person a source of inspiration and learning and thus it shapes his entrepreneurial intention. He goes on to say that knowing a familiar entrepreneur as well as successful entrepreneurs leads a young person to intend to undertake. Liñán& Santos (2007) corroborated this argument when they indicated that the knowledge of an entrepreneur in the family of a young person could stimulate in him the desire to become an entrepreneur. Thus, these entrepreneurs become role models for young people in that they often provide the necessary information,

advice, set a good example and provide support and this will motivate and inspire young people to become entrepreneurs.

### **Conclusion :**

The results of this work indicated that social fund positively and significantly influences girls' entrepreneurial intention. As a result, on the four dimensions of social fund, the valorization of entrepreneurial activity and the knowledge of entrepreneurs have positively and significantly influenced the entrepreneurial intention (EI) of young girls in Bukavu town. We also found that the positive and significant influence of valuing entrepreneurial activity on EI is induced by the fact that if entrepreneurial activity is enhanced by the environment close to the girl, it arouses in her the desire to embark on this activity. The positive and significant influence of entrepreneurs' knowledge of EI may be due to the knowledge of friends, close acquaintances who are entrepreneurs in its environment. The environmental factor has more influence on the entrepreneurial intention.



Everything considered, it is wise for young girls with entrepreneurial parents or who know an entrepreneur in their immediate environment to hold on to their people by asking for advice that can help them better adapt in the entrepreneurship sector and this will allow them to be autonomous. Women's empowerment helps to improve their socio-economic outcomes in both urban and rural areas. It is the advancement of women that promotes development. Thus, the development of women, reducing violence in its forms, bringing many social and economic gains, helps to solve problems related to poverty, unemployment and birth control

It can assist in the nation-building process by joining in defense forces, social services, politics, education and corporate levels. Women's empowerment leads to integral development.

In this study, we have tried, through the results, to bridge the limitations of previous studies in establishment a link between entrepreneurial intention and social fund. However, this research is not immune to criticism, as there are some limitations and could be taken into account in future studies. A study that takes this limitation into account would likely improve this analysis by examining the

moderating effect of social fund in the relationship between human fund and youth entrepreneurial intention or the moderating effect of human fund in the relationship between entrepreneurial intention and social funds to see if any of the elements could strengthen this relationship.

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