

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CASE OF THE SEME-PODJI COMMUNITY

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**Abstract:** *The main objective of this study is to show this importance of the entrepreneurship in the process of the local development almost in the local government of Sèmè-Podji. This study is a qualitative one and took into a count the six local area of Sèmè-Podji and as well as the enterprises, the employees and the owners of the enterprises. The study occurs so far, the development sociology and politic sociology way of search. Thus, unemployment, insecurity and job precariousness will be resolved and both the government and the local one could collect taxes, revenues and so one. In a word, entrepreneurship is beneficial to all. Our studies in Sèmè-Podji area is a proof of such situation. Therefore, authorities have to create favorable conditions to the in their area and the owners of those enterprises also have to play their part. As the matter of fact, 58% of the entrepreneurs, taken into account by our study come from over outside of Sèmè-Podji even if they stay in and are supposed to spend in this area.*

**Key Words:** *entrepreneurship, local development, unemployment, Sèmè-Podji area.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The problem of the fight against poverty and therefore that of development has always been one of the major concerns of the rulers. Today, combating poverty-related nuisances is a challenge that the international community is struggling to address. However, the question of development arises not only in terms of actions, programs, development projects, the promotion of Income Generating Activities (AGR), but also and above all in terms of participation of grassroots populations in all these actions.

To achieve this, proximity to the administration of the citizens, taking into account the real needs of the populations and their management, their participation, etc. Are all situations that led Benin to opt for decentralization in 1999 and to implement it in 2003.

For example, Law DCC 98-080 of 07, 14 and 20 October 1998, on the Organization of the Municipalities in the Republic of Benin, states in article 1: "The municipality is a territorial community with legal personality and financial autonomy. It shall be administered freely by an elected council under the conditions laid down by this law".

Therefore, municipalities must of course obtain aid, subsidies or other powers from the central state in order to develop their locality, but they now have the heavy responsibility to form partnerships in various ways. , And therefore create wealth, then rely on the participation of other actors. Development must therefore begin from the bottom and require the participation of all.

In this process, all actors, both individual and collective, are solicited. It is this necessity of the participation of populations, especially of companies, in the development of the localities in which they are founded, which is the basis of our choice of theme: "Entrepreneurship and local development in Benin: the case of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji".

This research aims to measure the importance of entrepreneurship in the local economic development of the municipality of Sèmè Podji. To achieve this, it is necessary to identify the types and roles of entrepreneurship in

Sèmè-Podji; To analyze roles, ie their importance in terms of reducing unemployment, eliminating job insecurity, etc., promoting entrepreneurship in Some economic and social take-off in Sèmè-Podji; To evaluate the measures needed to ensure that these roles can be sustained, so that companies can play these roles as job creators efficiently and fully, and then to attract interest from both the political and administrative authorities Actors of local development to make companies real sources of income.

To achieve these objectives, we have assumed as a general assumption that the entrepreneur is the precursor of a local economy. This hypothesis is declined in a specific hypothesis such that:

- the higher the values of education, professional experience and entrepreneurial culture, the more efficient the company is in terms of job creation;

## 2. THEORETICAL DATA:

One of the main objectives of Benin's decentralization is the autonomy of the grass-roots communities as stipulated in article 1 of the DCC 98-036 law of 07, 14 and 20 October 1998: "the commune is a territorial community with legal personality and financial autonomy. It shall be administered freely by an elected council under the conditions laid down by this law"

Thus, in order to administer freely, both the municipal authorities and the populations (individually or collectively) create or carry out income-generating activities to supplement or sometimes replace the central state. Indeed, transfers of competence are still at a very low rate (up to 4% of the national budget in 2014 instead of 15% fixed in the WAEMU countries). In this context, where municipalities do not have enough resources, natural as well as others, where the transfer of competence is slow to become a reality despite the increasingly high rate of unemployment, entrepreneurship, Other solutions, is one of the solutions available to the authorities at the grass-roots level in order to relieve young people of their time in a permanent quest for employment. It is precisely this vital importance that entrepreneurship as one of the bulwarks of this youth has made it possible to be the focal point of numerous seminars, colloquia, debates, articles and others. That is to say, this research theme has been widely explored.

As part of this review, we will start with the writings of the various authors on the concept of local development (locality) in order to develop the aspect that makes the entrepreneur a lever of local development through Support organizations.

In the European and North American literature, we find two central expressions to describe efforts to upgrade resources at the local level. These include local development and community economic development (Katalyn Kolosy, 1989). Some authors or organizations have created or use hybrid expressions to the two terms mentioned. For example, the use of the concept of Local Development Organization by Brodhead, Lamontagne and Peirce (1990), Sustainable Community Development by Bryant (1991), and Local and Community Economic Development by Lemelin and Morin (1989). In terms of the terms used by some organizations, the Parallel Institute at Point St-Charles spoke of Regional and Community Development in 1969, while the Montreal YMCA spoke of Economic and Community Development in 1984. Finally, since the late 1980s, a new term has been used in Europe to describe both local and community initiatives in urban or rural areas. This is the Urban Social Development or Local Social Development (Jacquier, 1991).

Local / community development is therefore not a new concept (Katelyn, Kolosy, local horizon, 1997). The endogenous development theory was developed in the late 1950s by Friedmann and Stohr (The Spatial Structure of Economic Development in the Tennessee Valley, Department of Geography, University of Chicago, 1955). For these two authors, local development is a voluntarist approach focused on a limited territory that conceives development as a bottom-up approach, favoring endogenous resources. Particular emphasis is placed on the integration of cultural values and the use of cooperative methods.

But today, local or community development has a political and economic reference that is taking off with the decentralization policies of the years 1999; 2003 to the present. The profound changes in the economy, and in particular the forms of competitiveness, are reversing the modes of production: the market chain is now responsible for the organization of the production chain. When a crisis affects a region whose economy is characterized by mono-activity, it is the entire social fabric that collapses. Thus, local or community development, that is, the search for a local balance through a certain self-sufficiency that is based on the diversification and integration of activities can be an effective response. The crisis leads to privilege the local plan in relation to the national plan and encounters on the ground social and cultural pushes. The local appropriates the development in some ways to make it a concept and a global practice, an integrated, solidarity and sustainable territorial strategy.

Thus, between national stakes and local realities, planning is based on local levers of development by involving the actors at the grass-roots level in the elaboration of local plans and by helping to formulate development projects Community.

Beyond its social, economic, cultural, spatial and sustainable dimension, local development is often interpreted as a process of transformation that accompanies growth in a long-term evolution (P. TEISSERENC, 1985). This process is closely linked to the concept of progress, a central notion of community or local development policies and strategies, based on a voluntary approach of actors gathering on a territory to envisage the future of their territory. Other levels of government and other political levels of the nation. It is a local vision in the global, which sees the territory as a system in relation with other systems and other actors. The actors are working to improve the living conditions of their territory, including through the development of production activities, health, education, employment and deepening of democracy and Local governance.

Some authors, including Kolosy, will say of local development: "It is a voluntary process of actors coming together on a territory of human size to envisage the future of their territory. And other political levels of the nation. This is a vision of the local in the global, which sees the territory as a system in relation with other systems and other actors. The actors are working to improve the conditions of life in their territory, which in particular involves development and employment "(Kolosy, 1989).

This concept (local development) refers both to a posture with regard to the question of development, a method for the development of local territories and a framework for analyzing its springs.

From an operational point of view, local development is based on methods that generally involve three main elements (TEISSERENC, 1985):

- the development of tools for the production of information and knowledge in order to identify the resources of the territory (example: territory diagnosis);
- the setting up of tools for consultation, mobilization and cooperation between actors aimed at enhancing the resources in question and, if necessary, developing new ones (eg forums, working groups, etc.);

The development and implementation of projects through a more or less formalized system of management and decision-making.

Entrepreneurship according to Hejer ZHIRI (1994) is therefore a vast field of activities combining both opportunity, business sense, risk-taking, innovation, creativity, intuition, perseverance, organizational sense, etc. To create wealth ... The creation of the company will be the result of the educational values, the culture, the educational and professional itinerary and the personal experience of the entrepreneur. In summary, the entrepreneur is considered to be: the actor explaining the economic dynamics.

The ideal entrepreneur fulfills three major functions: the mobilization of financial capital in order to benefit from it, the mobilization of the resources available within its organization so as to make it efficient and then innovation in the economic circuit, thus contributing to "The dynamics of economic evolution ".

Training, Capital and the Environment are therefore the three characteristic elements of an entrepreneur. Marshall's "industrial district" concept (1890-1919) also explains why the milieu plays a role in access to information and why the link between demand and supply of information opens up the development (In Proulx, 1994, pp. 264-265). Originally, Marshall demonstrated how proximity between firms could create an industrial atmosphere when they are networked. For example, "in 2010, each business start-up process takes 213 days in Guinea-Bissau, compared with 3 days in Rwanda" (World Bank, 2011).

In Benin, the late government (President BONI YAYI II's government) advocated the creation of a company in twenty-four hours. These examples, selected from among many others, make it possible to realize that the conditions diverge significantly in different countries and that it is impossible to generalize findings or recommendations to the continent as a whole.

According to Vachon; 1993, an awareness of the problems to be overcome by local actors is a prerequisite for taking charge of the living environment (natural and built environment), the living environment (social and cultural environment) and the level of (Economic environment). Similarly, according to Ninacs (in Tremblay et al., 2002 and in Bélands, 2003), to participate and be responsible for local development projects, individuals must first acquire power and control over Developing local roles, development goals in terms of processes, mutual aid and cooperation activities, informal links, organizational autonomy, and the value of collaborative work (community empowerment). In order to achieve this state of responsibility, Ninacs sees partnership as an essential element. The State, while being the guarantor of the social welfare of all the people in a locality, is also encouraged by the local representatives to participate in it with the participation of other local actors in order to provoke A "Trickle-down effect" or an oil stain effect in order to boost the development of their locality. This role in Benin, especially in the Commune of Sèmè-Podji is played by small, medium or large local enterprises. NGOs, village groups, development associations, in short collective or individual actors also play their part.

### 3. PROBLEM:

Poverty reduction remains and remains one of the major challenges that humanity as a whole is embarking on today. To this end, genuine policies and programs have been developed and adopted at local, national and international levels. In this context, we can distinguish, in the context of our country, the Declaration of National Policy (DEPOLIPO) which aims to "contribute to the enhancement of human capital through the strengthening of human resources capacities to increase national productivity", The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DDSRP), which sees poverty as a major scourge to be tackled. Documents on the National Policy of Decentralization and Deconcentration; Act No. 97-029 of 15 January 1999 on the organization of municipalities in the Republic of Benin, which stipulates in article 82 "The municipality has its own powers as a decentralized territorial authority. In addition, it exercises, under the supervision of the supervisory authority, other functions which fall within the competence of the State. It co-operates with the State and other local authorities, administration and spatial planning, economic, social, health, cultural and scientific development, as well as the protection of the environment and the improvement of the environment. living environment. ". The Second Generation Communal Development Plan of Sèmè-Podji, which aims to "Make Sèmè Podji to 2025, a well-governed, well-managed, prosperous, respectful and gender- Environment, where the safety of people and goods, and social well-being for all ". Etc...

On the basis of the last document enumerated (the second generation PDC of the Commune of Sèmè-Podji), it is easy to see that it is not the basic initiatives or documents lacking in programs or projects, Intention of the youth. However, since this commune is made up of young people for the most part, it will be said that this search for "social welfare" in the commune of Seme-Podji cannot be effective if the resolution of the crucial problem of youth Employment is not a reality.

Notwithstanding these various attempts and policies to reduce poverty, we must note the recurrence of this phenomenon in certain areas, particularly in rural areas (World Bank, 1996). Most of the development projects and programs that have been developed have not achieved the expected results (UNDP, 1998). Any effort at political emancipation will be meaningless as long as the populations concerned remain in a state of economic stagnation as desperate as that which exists here.... The initial difficulty seems to be to break the vicious circle of the immense misery of the rural mass (P. KALCK, 1959). The Commune of Sèmè-Podji, although it is a periurban municipality, does not escape the scourge of poverty, unemployment among young people, and precariousness of employment. All this constrains, according to our observations, the young people of the Commune to move to urban centers like Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Nigeria etc., in search of a probable well-being, hence the phenomenon of the rural exodus very pronounced.

However, the Commune of Sèmè-Podji clearly has the necessary assets to face these problems. We can quote among others; the geographical situation of the municipality that places it between the three big cities such as Cotonou, Porto-Novo and Badagri. These cities constitute potential markets for the disposal of agricultural products, the importation of products for local industrialization, and the formation of their use and services of various kinds. The existence of large uninhabited areas conducive to controlled and harmonious urbanization, the availability of shallows and large areas of flooded land favorable to off-season crops and other agricultural activities, the existence of water bodies constituted by the fluvio-lacustrine complex conducive to the development of inland fisheries, tourism and river-lagoon transport, the existence of sand and yellow lateritic earth quarries constitutes a substantial source of currency for the commute of Sèmè-Podji, a population Which is a great asset for both the municipality and the whole of Benin as it is a factor that allows the arrival of many Nigerians in Benin. This single activity makes an oil task and impacts all other areas on both the municipal and national levels. This means that the municipality of Sèmè-podji is highly influenced by Nigeria.

But besides these assets, many development problems arise. Indeed, the Commune of Sèmè-Podji is passively witnessing a decrease in agricultural land due to urbanization; Inadequate means of production and financial support for agriculture, livestock, fisheries and handicrafts; Inadequate road infrastructure and sanitation; insufficient socio-community facilities (markets, sports, culture and recreation); Low electricity and water coverage; A desertion of the classes by the young people in school in favor of precarious lucrative activities; This situation is corroborated by a study carried out by the UN system.

Indeed, this study carried out in 2005 identified the Commune of Sèmè-Podji as being part of the zones of risk of food insecurity in Benin because it has to import almost all the products that it needs for its food. The town is currently facing an urban development which is accelerating day by day; But this is to the detriment of the development of economic activities worthy of the name especially agricultural ones leaving unresolved the problem of employment and especially food self-sufficiency in the commune.

From the examination of the problems and advantages mentioned above, we are led to ask ourselves the question whether the local development of the Commune of Sèmè-Podji should not go through the promotion of

companies. By encouraging and encouraging young people to move into this sector, would the political and administrative authorities, notably the local authorities, solve the problem of youth unemployment and job insecurity? Would they not contribute to the reduction of the problem of food insecurity, and to the limitation at a time of the rural exodus in this commune? In undertaking, by giving more facilities to businesses and by giving entrepreneurship a taste for young people, would the authorities not have worked for the development of their locality?

#### 4. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH:

##### 4.1 Type of study and framework

This is an analytical study carried out by quantitative survey in the six districts of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji in the South of Benin (West Africa), which are the districts of Ekpe, Podji, Kraké, Tohouè, Djèrèbé, and Aguégués.

##### 4.2 Target population and sampling

The target population is that of entrepreneurs who operate in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji and an authority of the Municipality of the municipality. A probabilistic sampling technique (simple random sampling) served as the basis for the determination of our survey sample in this research. Given that we have to deal with two target groups, the sample size was determined at the level of each target group. The sample size varied according to the target group. For entrepreneurs, it is only the entrepreneurs operating in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji. Therefore, sampling is done by rounding, taking into account a summary census. The investigation concerned the person in charge of the company or the representative according to whether it is an individual or collective enterprise. The commune of Sèmè-Podji consists of six (06) arrondissements, the size of this group is then sixty subjects (60). These sixty companies are distributed, not on an equitable basis by borough, but rather on a proportional basis in relation to the number of businesses located in the territory of each borough. The six districts are listed first in alphabetical order. Companies selected by borough also. To get the companies to be included in our sample, we first divided 241, which represent the total number of companies listed by 60; which gives significantly 4. To get the companies so we started in steps of four and selected the company that corresponds to it as the target of our research; from the first to the last arrondissement. A second group consisting of a head of the Town Council of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji. This is achieved through a reasoned choice.

This methodological approach has enabled us to arrive at some results which we present here succinctly.

##### 4.3 Data Collection tools and techniques

The survey was carried out by questionnaire and an interview grid, containing various compartments relating to the subject of our research. The two tools were first submitted to 12 entrepreneurs (ie 02 per district) during the pre-survey in order to test the level of understanding of the questions. Two questions were reworded to this effect.

##### 4.3.1 Conduct of the investigation

The survey itself was carried out by self-administering the questionnaire. Business promoters completed the questionnaire (with our assistance for the illiterate) that we handed them. This survey was carried out simultaneously in the six districts of the commune under the supervision of the 06 trained investigators.

##### 4.3.2 Statistical analysis

The data collected were processed using the Word and Excel 2007 software. The results were presented in tables

#### 5. PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS:

##### 5.1 Survey results from contractors

**Table 1: Distribution of entrepreneurs according to their origin**

Variables	Yes	No
Originally from the municipality of Sèmè-Podji	25	35
Percentage	42	58

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Table 1 shows that only 42% of the entrepreneurs surveyed are from the commune of Sèmè-Podji, compared with 58% from other parts of Benin. As a result, we can say that the municipality of Sèmè-Podji is an attractive municipality for entrepreneurs of various hordes.

**Table 2: Distribution of resident contractors in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji**

Variables	Yes	No
Residents of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji	45	15
Percentage	75	25

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Table 2, contrary to the results presented by the previous one, reveals that 75% of these entrepreneurs reside in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji. This can generate a lot of spin-offs on the economic situation of the commune.

**Table 3: Distribution of entrepreneurs by level of education**

Level of education	Effectif	(%)
Illiterate	09	15
Out-of-school	05	8
Primary	08	13
Secondary ((undergraduate)	09	15
Secondary (2nd cycle)	17	29
University (undergraduate)	09	15
Supérieur (2nd cycle)	03	5
Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, September 2014

From table 3, we can see that the vast majority of entrepreneurs in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji have upper secondary education. While illiterates account for 15% of the total number of contractors in the municipality. It will be said that this category of entrepreneurs will not be too easy to carry out this activity.

**Table 4: Distribution of contractors according to the link between the training received and the activity performed**

Variables	Size	(%)
Contractors in their field of study	36	60
Entrepreneurs not practicing in their field of study	24	40
Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, September 2014

This table shows that 60% of entrepreneurs surveyed are in their area of expertise. Note that the tertiary sector is the one that gains the upper hand. It should therefore be noted that trade is the most conducted and most beneficial activity in this commune

**Table 5: Distribution of enterprises according to their life experience**

Variables	Size	(%)
More than 10 years	33	55
Between 10 and 5 years	12	20
Less than 5 years	15	25
Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, September 2014

From this table, it appears that 55% of companies have more than 10 years of existence and therefore have a certain base.

**Table 6: Distribution of enterprises according to their compliance with standards (registration, payment of taxes and declaration of employees).**

Status	Size	(%)
Registered companies	22	37
Companies reporting their employees	15	25
Companies paying their taxes regularly	35	58

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Table 6 shows that almost two-thirds (2/3) of the firms surveyed are working in the informal sector. However, 58% paid their taxes regularly and still very few (15%) reported their employees. From the analysis of this table, we can say that the companies of Sèmè-Podji exercise for the most part in the informal. This can be an obstacle to the development of these enterprises and to the proper functioning of the municipal administration.

**Table 7: Distribution of enterprises according to the reasons for non-payment of taxes**

Reasons of non-payment of taxes	Size	(%)
Insufficient profit	16	64
High tax rate	04	16
Other	05	20
Total	25	

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Between those who do not pay their taxes regularly, 64% justify their behavior by a lack of profit while 16% estimate the level of taxes high. The remaining 20% explain this, either by a lack of will, a lack of information or even a reproach as to the method of recovery of these taxes or by the mismanagement.

**Table 8: Distribution of enterprises according to the entrepreneurial culture**

Variables	Size	(%)
Grand parents	07	12
Parents	14	23
Guardian	08	13
The entrepreneur himself	31	52

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Table 8 shows that only 7% of entrepreneurs have a very large culture of entrepreneurship, while 58.33% have very low culture. It can be understood from this table that the entrepreneurs of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji are for the most part self-taught because they have non-entrepreneurial parents.

**Table 9: Distribution of firms according to whether the activity carried out by the contractor meets its needs**

Variables	Size	(%)
Yes	45	75
No	15	25

Source: Field survey, September 2014

From Table 9, it should be noted that 75% of entrepreneurs say they are satisfied, because their entrepreneurial activity fills their needs, while 25% are unsatisfied. It is clear, therefore, that entrepreneurs whose needs are not met by these activities seek other opportunities and stay there until they have better opportunities.

**Table 10: Distribution of enterprises following the receipt of tax exemptions or other assistance**

Variables	Size	Percentage (%)
Yes	04	7
No	56	93

Source: Field survey, September 2014

Table 10 shows that 7% of enterprises acknowledge that they have benefited from local authorities

**Table 11: Distribution of enterprises according to the type of facility obtained from local or national governments**

Type of facility	Effectif	Pourcentage en (%)
Active policy	04	100
Passive Policy	00	00

Source: Field survey, September 2014

In this table, the four companies that have acknowledged that they have once benefited argue that it was active. So does not take into account all the contractors of the commune.

**Table 12: Summary table of problems encountered by young people in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji according to the entrepreneurs**

Nature of problems	Size	Percentage (%)
Lack of training	06	10
Inadequate training and employment	09	15
Lack of capital	28	47
Lack of will	04	7

Source: Field survey, September 2014

From the analysis in Table 12, contractors found that the recurrent problem among young people in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji is that of capital because, although trained, young people in the locality have enormous difficulties in to settle.

It should also be noted that the total number of employees employed by these enterprises is 191 persons, ie an average of 3 persons per company.

## 6. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS:

Surveys of the contribution of entrepreneurship to local development in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji led to the investigation of a sample of 60 entrepreneurs and an authority of the town hall. It appears that the municipality of Sèmè-Podji is very attractive because, 58 % of entrepreneurs who operate there do not originate from it. This situation is certainly due to the geographical position of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji which places it between three large cities (Nigeria, Porto-Novo and Cotonou). Similarly, infrastructure such as used car parks, the toll and Weigh Bridge, and the availability of farmland are also attracting investors. Better, we can easily see from Table 2 that 75% of these entrepreneurs reside in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji. This implies that the gains made by these entrepreneurs are still reinvested in one way or another in the commune. This can have an impact on other sectors. For example, a businessman who resides in the commune will have to buy food, drink and so on. In others in this commune. As for the intellectual level of entrepreneurs, it can easily be seen with Table 3 that 15% of entrepreneurs are illiterate, all things that could not promote the rapid and normal emergence of their economic activities. More importantly, this could explain the fact that a good fringe of entrepreneurs in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji is not registered, therefore do not pay their taxes (58%) and thus, illegally and informally. And to justify the reason for non-payment of taxes, 64% of entrepreneurs in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji, alleges insufficiency of profit while 20% find these taxes too exorbitant. Indeed, the fact that these entrepreneurs are illiterate disadvantages both the company and the municipality. For the company, the illiterate promoter will find it difficult to cope with duties as well as administrative fees, accounting documents (paying taxes, for example) and negotiating easily with partners. The same illiterate entrepreneur who does not feel the need to pay taxes will jeopardize the development of the municipality, since the municipality has no other resources enabling it to effectively meet its development obligations. Contrary to the allegations made by President BONI YAYI's regime, no entrepreneur, subject of our study, was able to formalize his enterprise in less than a week. On the contrary, 36% had to wait two weeks before doing so (Table 7). This situation is not likely to encourage entrepreneurs who want to formalize their business, time being money among entrepreneurs. On the other hand, Table 8 allows us to pinpoint one of the sources of difficulties faced by the entrepreneurs of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji.

Indeed, these are for the most part self-taught. So they have a very small entrepreneurial culture. This is not of a nature to facilitate the task for them, because without having had parents contractors, not having lived too much the realities of the entrepreneurial world, they are obliged to grop, What for a good time. Notwithstanding this precarious situation, 75% of entrepreneurs say that their activities enable them to deal effectively with their needs and those of their families.

This study also allows us to understand that the greatest evil facing the young people of the commune of Sèmè-Podji is indeed the lack of capital. Indeed, even after receiving training, obtaining, or writing a business plan, young people in the municipality are without funding and therefore left to their own devices. "Since idleness is the mother of all vices", these young people who are left to their own devices can be tempted and thus be insecure in the commune of Sème-Podji. To these difficulties are added those relating to the incomplete transfer of the powers and financial resources of the State to the local authorities. Indeed, although territorial administrations have a certain degree of autonomy, they remain limited, especially since they do not have sufficient mineral resources in their territories to deal effectively with development problems. The decentralization that has become effective since 2003 has a lot of lead in the wing since it is difficult to be fully applied. In such a situation, territorial administrations are obliged to place their responsibilities on companies (especially private ones) that are within their jurisdiction. In some cases, they have strong hands, which does not favor a good atmosphere between companies and decentralized administrations.

## CONCLUSION

At the end of our analysis, it should be mentioned that the municipality of Sèmè-Podji constitutes a space whose development requires special attention, on the part of the government, the local authorities as well as the citizens. The locality has unsuspected assets and potentialities. Sustainable development of the latter could certainly make the commune a real economic hub at the national level, a hub of trade between Benin, Nigeria and various countries of the West African subregion. Among the income-generating activities carried out by the people of Sèmè-Podji, there are entrepreneurial activities that have a great impact on the lives of the populations of this locality. But this entrepreneurship is facing enormous difficulties, which justifies the *raison d'être* of our study. This situation with regard to entrepreneurship has forced us to focus our research on the combination of the three factors that condition it: training, capital and the environment. This state of affairs has led us to conclude that the conditions appear to be good for entrepreneurs in the tertiary sector, in particular importers or wholesalers who invest fully in them, given the geographical situation and the assets of the municipality of Sèmè-Podji. It should therefore be remembered that entrepreneurship can play its part in economic development in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji, but only on the condition that enterprises are formalized and are in close collaboration with local authorities. The results of this study allow us to formulate a few specific actions to lead the people of Sèmè-Podji, especially entrepreneurs, to flourish in their activities. The main thrusts to be promoted include the development of activities such as poultry breeding, their imports (controlled and limited), the sale or import of building materials. Effective implementation of decentralization laws.

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