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## **Autonomous Orientation and Delinquent Behavioral Change: A Case Study of Ex-Juvenile Entrepreneurs in Katsina State, Nigeria.**

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### **Abstract**

Contemporary Entrepreneurship argument discovered the importance and the positive influence of autonomous orientation as one of the Entrepreneurial orientations (EO) towards organizational performance and profitability. However, discussion of autonomous orientation in the context of individuals such as entrepreneurs behavioral change influence still silent, especially in the context of ex-juvenile entrepreneurs that can give an insight into the Entrepreneurship body of knowledge. Therefore, the purposes of this research are to understand the role of autonomous orientation behaviors as one of the Individual Entrepreneurial Orientations (IEO) towards the delinquent behavioral change of ex-juvenile entrepreneurs. This study forms the EO autonomous orientation behaviors influence towards ex-juvenile delinquent behavioral change through qualitative single case study, the study employed thematic analyses and NVivo 12 Pro computer software to organize the empirical data obtained through an in-depth

interviews 10 cases of ex-juvenile entrepreneurs who are operating entrepreneurial activities in Katsina state, Nigeria. This study argues that entrepreneurial orientation influence towards delinquent behavioral change. The study found that ex-juvenile entrepreneurs are autonomous and more importantly autonomous orientation behaviors has a positive influence on ex-juvenile entrepreneurs' delinquent behavioral change. This finding provides a fresh knowledge about the IEO potential in the entrepreneur self-development and understanding into the entrepreneurship and to policymakers. Lastly, we conclude some implications for future research to expand the research (Theoretically, Conceptually and Empirically) of the IEO autonomous orientation behaviors among individuals' behavioral changes particularly, delinquent populace behavioral change in entrepreneurship context.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial Orientation, Ex-juvenile Entrepreneurs, Delinquent Behavioural Change, Autonomous Orientation, Qualitative Study, Katsina State Nigeria.

## Introduction

Entrepreneurship Orientation (EO) is significant due to its influence on the economic development, social change, and job creation (Chowdhury et al., 2018; Goktan & Gupta, 2015; Klofsten, et al. 2019). The influences are promoted from the determination of entrepreneurs through their entrepreneurial activities that create value and make important influence. According to the literatures, the spectrum of EO dimensions ranges from "*autonomous, competitiveness, proactiveness, innovativeness, and risk-taking behavior*" (Lumpkin & Dess 1996)". Nonetheless, considerable number of the EO studies focus on firms' performance (Hughes & Morgan, 2007; Berrone, et al., 2012; Debicki, et al. 2016), but less on individual entrepreneurial orientation (IEO) business performance and success context particularly delinquent populace specifically on ex-juvenile entrepreneur argument and their autonomous orientation behaviors. (Kollmann et al., 2007; Kollmann et al., 2014) Alleged, limited studies conducted on EO at individual level.

The shortage of theoretical and empirical studies on individual EO is outrageous due to the views and dispositions of authors and managers form the entire strategic pathway of their firms (Dickson & Weaver, 2008). Remarking on the shortage of the EO at individual level in literature, called for studies introducing individual entrepreneurship orientation Krauss et al., (2005). Consequently, in replying to Dickson and Weaver, Bolton, & Lane, (2012) in their study found that, IEO resulting to in three various factors that authorize the validity of risk-taking innovativeness and proactiveness, which interrelated with entrepreneurial purposes. Correspondingly, Gupta & Gupta 2015; Wales, 2016) suggest that entrepreneurial orientation implementation at different levels of combination and that properly modified indicators (Miller, 2011). Likewise, academics have revealed that in EO concept multidimensional would be measured jointly (Runyan et al., 2008; Lumpkin et al., 2009) or individually (Lumpkin & Dess, 2001; Wang, 2008), liable to the context. In this study single dimension of the IEO theory autonomous dimension will be study. Individuals autonomous to practice their freedom and stimulus ability to succeed in their entrepreneurial notions. Although several studies confirm the influence of EO such as Rauch et al., 2009; Ingram et al., 2016) the EO Autonomous orientation influence.