




FIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE IMPACT ON THE WORLD

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Seasoned entrepreneurs know that opportunities can be discovered and/or created. If you desire to have impact on the world, then in nutshell, the following five areas can be sought after:

1. Infrastructural Investments in Africa. The typical time-lines for investment returns, and business models which fit well in most countries may not always work in Africa. And yes, Africa is one of those regions that truly tests your patience. But it seems all the positive and enticing signals are pointing to Africa right now!

According to 'Regional Economic Outlook' report of 2019 by IMF: "Growth is projected to remain strong in non-resource-intensive countries, averaging about 6%. As a result, 24 countries, home to about 500 million people, will see their per capita income rise faster than the rest of the world. In contrast, growth is expected to move in slow gear in resource-intensive countries (2½ %). Hence, 21 countries are projected to have per capita growth lower than the world average. Reducing risks and promoting sustained and inclusive growth across all countries in the region requires carefully calibrating the near-term policy mix, building resilience, and raising medium-term growth." (imf.org, 2019)



The IMF report of 2019 on ‘Competition, Competitiveness and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa’ states that “Firm markups are about 11% higher in sub-Saharan African countries relative to other emerging market economies and developing countries and are more persistent. State-owned firms are also more prevalent.” (imf.org, 2019)

According to IMF, increasing competition can boost real per capita GDP growth rate by about 1% point through improved export competitiveness, productivity growth, and investment. So, those entrepreneurs and investors who are patient enough and committed to close the gaps in Africa, may indeed expect a fair return and a rewarding experience from there.

Still the lack of infrastructure hinders the growth of imports, exports, and regional business; therefore, investment on roads, rails, ports, airports, power grids and IT can make a real difference. For Africa to share its beauty, natural resources and capabilities with the rest of the world and to benefit from imports and modern technology, it requires proper infrastructure and connectivity.

Remember that Africa is institutionally transforming, and their macroeconomic gains are encouraging external competitions and improvement productivity.



2. Mental Health Services in North America. This is a growing social and work-place issue, which needs to be tackled urgently. According to National Alliance on Mental Illness: “19.1% of U.S. adults experienced mental illness in 2018 (47.6 million people). This represents 1 in 5 adults. 16.5% of U.S. youth aged 6-17 experienced a mental health disorder in 2016 (7.7 million people). People with depression have a 40% higher risk of developing cardiovascular and metabolic

diseases than the general population. People with serious mental illness are nearly twice as likely to develop these conditions.” (nami.org, 2019)

According to UNICEF Canada, "Canada's youth are not immune to the problem either". The Mental Health Commission of Canada states that "as income and social inequality has widened over the past fifteen years, we are seeing a generational rise in poor mental health, including anxiety and depression. By adolescence, an estimated 1 in 5, or 1.2 million, children and youth in Canada are affected by mental illness". (unicef.ca, 2018)

Developing mental health program, interventions, clinics, and supporting services can truly impact communities and societies at large.



3. Managing Disruptive Strategies. A fast-growing consulting service area in the US & Canada, but tragically slow in the UK and EU. The wave of changes in North America's Political-economy, trade, and world order will soon hit the European shores, hence predictably need for consultants/advisors/coaches with deep insights on managing disruptive strategies.

Assessing and understanding disruptive innovations and policy decisions, opportunities and potential threats, and maintaining disruptive scope are among the techniques that executives and organizations may need to work on and develop. This may include provision of formal and

informal training and seminars to meet the forthcoming demand in Europe and beyond on managing disruptive strategies.



4. Re-engineering the Process of Refugees' Employment and Employability at National Level. This may include programs, interventions and strategies to facilitate recognition of foreign talents, talent development and their adaptability to their new environment. It may also include job creation and self-employment assistance/strategies. With growing tensions between countries, West may face yet another mass immigration and refugee crisis, and with it – the need for new employability designs.



5. Arts and Cross-cultural Engagements . Using Arts and Cross-cultural productions/events as a Medium for establishing dialogue and interactions between people and small / medium size companies to improve sustainability, product and service recognition, increase revenues, public satisfaction/enjoyment, and forming Cultural Entrepreneurship – benefiting the public.

Remember, art, especially performing art has unifying power through which, many new platforms can be forged.

Be it to create new opportunities or enhance existing ones, as an entrepreneur who advocates for constant improvement, I encourage you to facilitate growth, and get engaged in projects that empowers communities. Projects that help people to grow richer, feel dignified and happier. Because people who feel good, produce well.

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