

Topic 5

Education and Enterprise: Black Agency and Achievements

- a) As a response to the combined challenges of precariousness in the labour market, productive restructuring (unemployment, low wages, flexible/informal work), and systemic racism, the production and consumption of products and services offered by Black entrepreneurs have been a **strategy to confront the economic and social vulnerability** of the Black population. However, for **Afro-entrepreneurship** to be a genuinely emancipatory solution and promoter of development and the guarantee of human rights for the Afro-descendant population, **government programs or private sector initiatives, whether for social or profit-making purposes, must take a collective perspective rather than an individual entrepreneurship approach.** Understood as a **self-employment** strategy as an option to precariousness and unemployment, entrepreneurship runs the risk of complicity in and deepening of inequalities stemming from political and economic power systems, disproportionately affecting women, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and immigrants, among others.

- b) In the context of alternatives to individualistic entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship can be carried out cooperatively and aligned with local initiatives or community organizations, as well as a way of valuing Black identity. This practice reflects the values and practices of ancestral and originative social relations based on collectivity. In fact, the strategy of associating with Black entrepreneurs has been a way to face the challenges imposed both by the market and by racism, as a means of strengthening and sustaining businesses. In this context, **States should create preferential treatment for private companies owned by Afro-descendants or those committed to voluntarily promoting racial equality policies.**

- c) **States should create credit policies for Afro-descendant entrepreneurs, focusing mainly on black women.**

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