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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Understanding Intent and Setting Future Research Priorities

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ABSTRACT

In the face of global issues like growing unemployment, entrepreneurship is essential for boosting a country's economic competitiveness, encouraging growth, and guaranteeing sustainability. However, after enjoying the rewards of entrepreneurship, it became clear that it had a negative effect on the environment due to resource exploitation and rising carbon emissions. There is still a significant void in the scholarly synthesis of sustainable entrepreneurship, despite its increasing significance. In order to provide nuanced insights, this chapter reviews research by combining systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis. The chapter's research questions cover the state of sustainability and entrepreneurial intentions today, as well as influential papers, successful researchers, themes, trends, and research gaps. This review, which looks at 291 academic papers from Web of Science and Scopus, directs future research on entrepreneurship, especially in relation to sustainability principles. In order to help achieve the SDGs and promote a more sustainable future, this paper aims to advance academic knowledge and guide the course of significant research in sustainable entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intentions, Sustainability, Bibliometric analysis, Research publications

INTRODUCTION

Business operations today have observed tremendous transformation with the shift of focus of policymakers and government from economic sustainability to climate sustainability. The introduction of sustainable development goals (SDGs) as an agenda for most of the countries has given a new dimension to entrepreneurship, which leads to addressing employment issues in most of the economies and brings improvement to the quality of life (Bozhikin et al., 2019). The sustainable entrepreneurial ventures and the improvement they bring in ecological balance by reduction in carbon footprint have gained momentum in world economies (Todeschini et al., 2017; Bapoo et al., 2022). Today, many researchers are exploring this nuanced dimension of entrepreneurship development (Paiva et al., 2019). It is also posited through academic inquiry that entrepreneurial ventures which improve quality of life

and are also environmentally friendly are the outcome of entrepreneurial intentions (Nunes de Souza, 2020). This idea also explores how the sustainability orientation of an entrepreneur affects entrepreneurial intentions and the factors which play a significant role in the shaping of this body of knowledge (Shrivastava, 2021; Thompson, 2009; Liñán and Chen, 2009; Liñán and

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Fayolle, 2015; Barba-Sánchez *et al.*, 2022; Crals and Vereeck, 2004). This integration of entrepreneurial intentions with principles of sustainability has made an effort to harmonize the impact of entrepreneurial activity for sustainable economic development (Parrish, 2010; Contreras-Pacheco *et al.*, 2017).

Kuckertz and Wagner (2010); Marulanda-Valencia et al. (2019) the systematic literature review, along with bibliometric network analysis, facilitates the identification of patterns in the scientific inquiry in this domain (Klavans and Boyack, 2006; Van Eck and Waltman, 2009). Within the scope of this study, the focal points encompass entrepreneurial intention and sustainability. This article presents a comprehensive exploration involving bibliometric analysis and a systematic review. The primary focus extends to delineating the advantages derived from this integration. Moreover, a thorough examination is conducted to identify and comprehend the significant obstacles encountered during the evolution of such applications. The overarching objectives of this investigation are articulated through the formulation of probing research questions (R.Q.s), which effectively outline the scope and direction of the study. RQ1. What are the research patterns in terms of publication, citation, and contribution in the field of Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Intentions?

RQ2. What are the prospective research frontiers that need further exploration for better insights?

Evidence of Role of Entrepreneurial Intention and Sustainability (Sustainable Entrepreneurship)

Entrepreneurial Intentions has gained momentum with Shapero's seminal work (1980), and several theories have strengthened the theoretical foundation. Since the 1990s, there has been a remarkable surge in scholarly investigations employing models centered around entrepreneurial intentions, substantiating the versatility of this concept across diverse contexts. Not with standing the availability of substitute models,

indications exist that underscore the coherence of these intention-centric frameworks (Boyd and Vozikis, 1994; Krueger Jr *et al.*, 2000).

Numerous inquiries have been conducted concerning aspiring entrepreneurs' contemplation of entrepreneurial intentions, a thoroughly explored domain within entrepreneurship (Meoli, 2019; Zhang and Feldon, 2022). However, there needs to be more focus on investigating nascent entrepreneurs, denoting those individuals navigating a progression of behaviors toward establishing a business (González-López, et al., 2021). Furthermore, individuals embarking on their inaugural entrepreneurial initiatives are nascent entrepreneurs (Lanivich et al., 2021). Nevertheless, there is a compelling need for a more comprehensive inquiry into this pivotal cohort actively engaged in noteworthy entrepreneurial pursuits. Sustainability entails entrepreneurs' ethical commitment to economic growth and enhanced workforce well-being (Crals, 2004). Sustainability also encompasses environmental care, prudent resource utilization, and poverty alleviation. Integrating sustainability with entrepreneurship prompts the adoption of sustainable practices in business establishments, fostering sustainable development (Brandão Paiva, et al., 2018; Raufflet et al., 2014). This interplay influences the economy, society, and environment (Abdelwahed, 2022; Vuorio, 2018).

In this scholarly investigation, we explore the intersection of entrepreneurial intention and sustainability, an area that has yet to receive much attention in prior research. Exploring this relationship holds the potential to significantly enhance the development and refinement of these respective domains of scientific inquiry. This endeavor assumes particular importance in identifying and establishing connections between studies that investigate these phenomena.

Scientific publications shape trends and influence a broad spectrum of knowledge domains. They serve

 Table 1: Literature Review of Entrepreneurial Intention and Sustainability (2011-2023)

Author(s)	Objective / Methodology	Findings	Recommendation for Future Research
Entrepreneurial Intent	ion (EI)		
Chaoyun Liang <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Investigate traits, creativity, and social capital on green socioentrepreneurial intentions; CFA.	Effects vary between Taiwan and Hong Kong, contributing to education.	Assess personal-context interactions; explore green socio-entrepreneurial aspects.
Martínez-González et al. (2019)	Create a model explaining intentions among young adults in Spain and Poland; SEM PLS.	Subjective factors trigger intentions; include more variables and longitudinal studies.	Conduct diverse population analysis; broaden geographic exploration.
Su et al. (2021)	Assess university support influence on student intentions; SEM PLS.	University support notably impacts attitude; employ longitudinal designs.	Incorporate additional factors like creativity; study family impact.
Yan et al. (2018)	Clarify personality traits' influence on college students' intentions; SEM PLS.	Traits significantly impact sustainable intentions; gather larger samples.	Incorporate time series data; develop suitable scales.
Qazi et al. (2021)	Examine traits and institutional support on green intentions; CFA, SMART PLS.	Positive link between traits and green intentions; explore public sector students.	Compare private and public sector perceptions.
Lacap et al. (2018)	Examine antecedents' effects on social entrepreneurial intent among Filipino and Indonesian university students; PLS-SEM.	Social problem experience impacts intent; apply framework elsewhere.	Explore cross-national differences; analyze varied social capital types.
Shabeeb Ali et al. (2023)	Assess antecedents predicting green intent in higher education students; PLS-SEM.	Internal factors more predictive; explore more antecedents.	Investigate interactions among variables.
Mei et al. (2017)	Explore associations between traits and intentions in Chinese context; SEM.	Certain traits positively linked; employ comprehensive methodologies.	Ensure replication and precision.
Yasir et al. (2021)	Investigate values' impact on intentions; Empirical Study.	Values indirectly influence intentions; replicate with new statistics.	Analyze curricula for intention formation insights.
Chaoyun Liang <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Investigate traits, creativity, and social capital on green intentions in Taiwan and Hong Kong.	Effects differ between regions; assess personal-context interactions.	Investigate green socio- entrepreneurial aspects.
Sustainable Entrepren			
Bapoo, Mivesh, <i>et al.</i> (2022)	Assess knowledge, culture, practices, and commitment impact on intent among Malaysian business school students; explore mediation.	Commitment directly affects intent; track employment longitudinally.	Expand samples; explore broader longitudinal analysis.
Sharma et al. (2023)	Explore university support, environmental awareness, and SDG knowledge influence on intentions; CFA and PLS-SEM.	University support impacts attitudes; consider external variables.	Broaden sustainability areas; expand frameworks.
Yasir et al. (2021)	Investigate inclination toward sustainable entrepreneurship using modified theory; incorporate additional constructs; SEM AMOS.	Attitudes positively influence intentions; analyze varied opportunities.	Explore mediation analysis involving social norms.

as catalysts for transformative scientific developments and, by extension, contribute to advancing our collective scientific comprehension.

METHODOLOGY

Systematic reviews can take diverse approaches, including theory-based, theme-based, framework-based, theory development, hybrid, and bibliometric analyses (Paul and Criado *et al.*, 2020; Canabal and White, 2008; Dabic *et al.*, 2020). This article employs a hybrid review to depict the intellectual landscape of entrepreneurial intention and sustainability.

Prisma

PRISMA is widely adopted in academia for systematic reviews and meta-analyses, enhancing objectivity and enabling quality assessment (Moher and Shamseer *et al.*, 2015). Researchers advocate PRISMA's utility in management-related studies for clarifying research questions via inclusion/exclusion criteria, facilitating efficient and accurate database exploration (O'Leary *et al.*, 2016).

Database, Keywords, and Inclusion Criteria

For the bibliometric analysis, we consulted the primary collection of the Web of Science (WoS) database and employed the following search equation: Topic: ("Entrepreneurship* Intent*" AND "Sustainability*"). Using the asterisk (*) allows for including any character clusters related to entrepreneurial intention and sustainability, encompassing synonymous terms

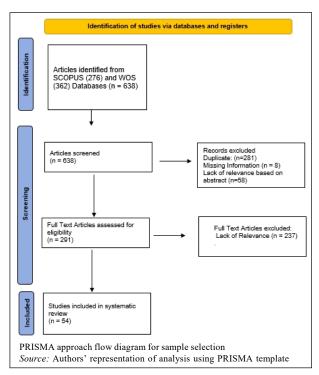


Figure 1: PRISMA Diagram used for Systematic Literature Review

within the titles, abstracts, and keywords. The search was further refined to include only Article or Review document types and was limited to publications in the English language. The time frame for the search spanned from 2011 to 2023. We also selected the indices SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, and A&HCI. By applying the refined search equation, we identified 276 documents, comprising 210 Articles and 66 Reviews from the Web of Science and 297 documents,

Table 2: Criteria for data extraction

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria	
Publications released from 2011 to June 2023 in the Web of Science and Scopus Databases	Any publication before the year 2011 and after June 2023	
Academic journals	Non-academic Resources Including Books, Online Sites, Conference Materials, Papers, Working Papers from Research Groups, Technical Reports, etc.	
Publication as an article and Review article	The publication does not qualify as an article.	
The articles are composed in the English language	The articles are composed in a language other than English	

including 276 Articles and 21 Reviews from the Scopus database, all in English.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The overview of data analysis presented in Table 3

The Present Status of Research Within the Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Intentions Field

The research's current status is gauged by analyzing the growth rate in research and publications, quantified by paper output from various entities (e.g., journals, institutions, countries) within a specified timeframe. Entrepreneurial Intentions and Sustainability exhibit a robust growth rate of approximately 36% (Table 3). Furthermore, the publication trend displays a significant upsurge from 2016 to June 2023 (Figure 2). The global discourse on climate change and sustainable enterprises, as exemplified by Martins *et al.* (2022), has garnered considerable momentum.

Collaborative Network among Diverse Authors

Figure 3 illustrates the collaborative network among diverse authors. In this visualization, individual nodes signify authors' names, while the connections (links) represent co-authorship relationships. The size of each

Table 3: Overview of Data Analysis

Main information about data			
Timespan	2011 to 2023		
Sources	121		
Documents	291		
Annual Growth Rate %	36.27		
Average citations per doc	10.56		
Keywords Plus (ID)	618		
Author's Keywords (DE)	825		
Authors	883		
Co-Authors per Doc	3.54		
International co-authorships %	23.71		

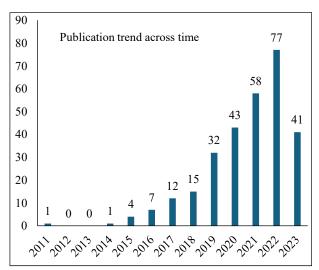


Figure 2: Growth in Publication (2011 to June 2023) *Source:* Authors' representation

node corresponds to the volume of publications attributed to the respective author.

From the outcomes of the co-authorship network analysis, it is evident that authors Liang C, Elshaer I, and Huang L prominently emerge due to the cumulative strength of their connections. Notably, Liang and Yasir have demonstrated scholarly interests encompassing the evaluation of entrepreneurial intention (E.I.) within cross-cultural contexts regarding the sustaining role of education in shaping E.I., explorations into innovation, and investigations into the personality traits and motivations that underlie entrepreneurial endeavors.

Themes Affecting the Field of Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Intentions' Intellectual Environment

The following section outlines the research focal points, presented through three visual tools: the Trend Topics diagram (Figure 4), the Thematic map (Figure 4), and the Keyword Co-occurrence network (Figure 4). Figure 5 organizes these focal points, which are extensively discussed in the research.

An overview of research trends in Entrepreneurial Intentions and Sustainability is given in Figure 4,

Figure 3: Collaboration Network of top Authors in the field of Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Intentions Source: Collaboration Network (authors) created by Biblioshiny)

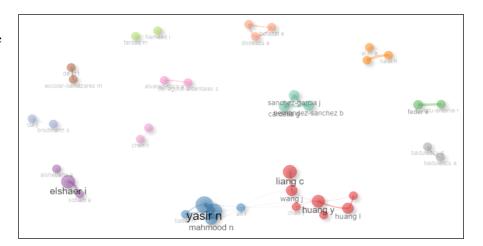
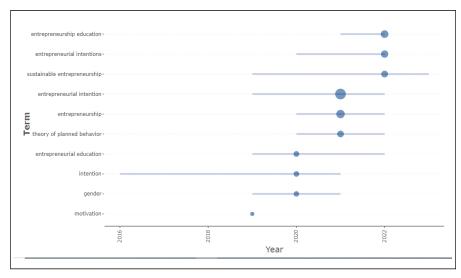


Figure 4: Trending Topics in Context of Entrepreneurial Intentions and Sustainability *Source*: Biblioshiny output



which also highlights the variety of issues that have been studied in this area. The subject's temporal evolution shows that, starting in 2018, there has been a greater focus on sustainable entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intentions. The figure provides insights into the changing landscape of study areas by illustrating both established and new research topics. Changes in research priorities are also depicted graphically. The main themes from 2018 to 2020 were gender, intentions, and entrepreneurship. But after 2020, there has been a discernible change in emphasis toward sustainability. Notably, a key focus of sustainability research is the theory of planned behavior and how it relates to entrepreneurial

intentions. The years 2021–2022 emphasize the need for more research.

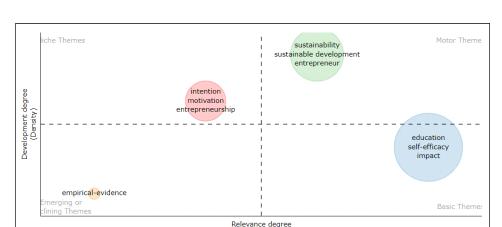
The thematic map visually arranges keyword clusters according to their centrality and density, as shown in Figure 4. Every theme element is represented by a bubble. Interestingly, "Entrepreneurship Mindset" stands out in the upper right quadrant as a crucial and extremely pertinent theme, garnering a lot of interest and significance in the industry. The synergy between education and self-efficacy in the lower right quadrant leads to the derivative theme of "Entrepreneurial Intention," which is still an important topic that needs more study. Emerging and niche themes are revealed by distinct patterns within the network. The

network

importance of "Sustainable Entrepreneurship" is highlighted by its prominent and well-connected position.

On the other hand, "Entrepreneurial Mindset" emphasizes its importance and close connection. We also categorize the literature based on the conceptual contributions it makes. Clearly, the literature on sustainability and entrepreneurial intentions can be divided into four color-coded clusters, each of which corresponds to a different conceptual category.

Figure 5: Thematic Map of Entrepreneurial Intention and Sustainability Research *Source:* Biblioshiny output



(Centrality)

The visualization of the keyword co-occurrence

Keyword analysis is a common bibliometric analysis

used in research on sustainability and entrepreneurial

intention. Six hundred seventeen unique terms were

produced by building a network structure based on

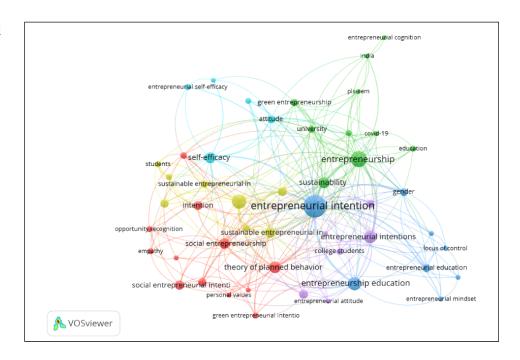
terms found in abstracts, titles, and keywords. Fifty-

two important keywords were identified using a co-

occurrence criterion of three instances. For analysis,

these were divided into four clusters (Figure 6).

Figure 6: The keyword cooccurrence network visualization



Entrepreneurial intentions were the focus of Cluster 1 (blue), which included phrases like "entrepreneurial mind-set" and "self-efficacy." Among the terms found in Cluster 2 (green) were "entrepreneur" and "theory of planned behaviour." Notably, entrepreneurship research is greatly influenced by the Theory of Planned Behavior, particularly when it comes to gender and education. Clusters 4 (yellow) and 3 (red) indicated areas for additional research by emphasizing sustainable and social entrepreneurship, respectively.

Finding Current Research Gaps and Future Research Directions Needing Investigation

With its relatively low centrality and density, entrepreneurial intention presents opportunities for further empirical research. Summary of the research gaps, along with prospective research avenues:

Low Centrality and Density of Entrepreneurial Intention

- Existing studies provide limited insights into the central and dense factors driving entrepreneurial intention.
- Research Avenue: Conduct further empirical research to deepen the understanding of the dynamics of entrepreneurial intention.

Inadequate Attention to Themes like Triple Bottom Line

- There is a lack of focus on critical themes such as the triple bottom line, empathy, and youth.
- Research Avenue: Future research should explore these themes within the context of sustainability and entrepreneurial intention.

Methodological Gaps in the Landscape of Entrepreneurial Intention and Sustainability

- Limited use of advanced methodologies to assess entrepreneurial intention and sustainability.
- Research Avenue: Employ methodologies such as Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) to investigate these relationships further.

Influence of Sustainability Orientation on Entrepreneurship

- Limited research on how sustainability orientation affects entrepreneurial intent, particularly among students.
- Research Avenue: Study sustainable entrepreneurship intentions among diverse student fields, incorporating the mediating role of opportunity recognition.

Precursors of Sustainable Entrepreneurial Intentions

- The need for a deeper understanding of the precursors to sustainable entrepreneurial intentions.
- Research Avenue: To extend existing models and explore intrapreneurial approaches to enhance insights into sustainable entrepreneurial intentions.

CONCLUSION

The complex connection between sustainability and entrepreneurial intention was examined in this chapter. Liang (2023) promoted structural equation modeling (SEM) by highlighting the roles of self-efficacy and social support in social entrepreneurial intentions. Cross-regional differences in green socioentrepreneurial intentions were discovered by Liang (2019), highlighting the need for further research. Paiva (2023) found new themes that suggested using different databases. Bapoo (2022) highlighted the need for in-depth investigation and demonstrated the complex impacts of sustainability orientation on students' intentions. The impact of support mechanisms was emphasized by Risco (2021). Ali (2023) found predictors of intentions to engage in green entrepreneurship, calling for thorough investigation. The complexity of sustainable entrepreneurial intentions was made clear by Agu (2020). Clemente (2021) illustrated changing research patterns and recommended comparisons. These

observations guide future discussions and the development of policies pertaining to sustainability and entrepreneurial intention.

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