

How Do University Students Navigate Entrepreneurial Intention? Insight and Trends from Bibliometric Analysis



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Abstract

This paper will offer a bibliometric review of the literature on entrepreneurial intention among university students. The study uses a dataset of 942 Scopus-indexed articles published between 2016 and 2025 to analyse trends in publications, leading authors, institutions, journals, and countries and important thematic changes in the area. VOSviewer and RStudio were used to carry out bibliometric methods like co-citation analysis, keyword co-occurrence, bibliographic coupling and thematic mapping. The results show that the volume of research has increased significantly, and the highest number is found in 2025. The International Journal of Management Education became the most popular source, and Duong c.d was the most fruitful author. The greatest country and institutional contributors were Spain and the National Economics University, respectively. The analysis points out the prevalent themes, namely the entrepreneurship education, self-efficacy, the theory of planned behaviour, and the emerging ones, including sustainable, social, and digital entrepreneurship. The findings also affirm some conformity to the Law of Bradford, and the Law of Lotka shows that a few authors make a lot of contributions to the discipline. The research offers great insights into the intellectual framework and development of the study of entrepreneurial intention, which can guide future research and policy formulation.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intention, University students, Bibliometric analysis, Entrepreneurship education, VOSviewer

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship has been considered one of the most critical potential antecedents of the national economy of both developed and emerging nations in recent decades (Wang et al., 2023).

Entrepreneurship has emerged as 'the significant solution to the problem of underemployment and various challenges generated by global crises over the last two decades' (Xu et al., 2021). It is seen as a driver of the nation's economic development by creating jobs. Currently, it is attracting significant interest from researchers and academicians (Lekmat & Chelliah, 2014). Today's society is continually experiencing change. Accordingly, entrepreneurial research has also seen substantial improvements. Numerous research studies have recognised the capability of the intention approach, which concentrates on forecasting intended action to understand the foundations of intentions (Krueger et al., 2000). Entrepreneurial intention is explained as "the desire or intent to launch a novel business venture by an individual (Souitaris et al., 2007). It embodies the mindset of those who prefer to become their own boss rather than work for someone else (Phuong et al., 2020). Students' entrepreneurial inclinations are significantly shaped by their involvement in educational programs and

mentorship (Ghouse et al., 2018). Entrepreneurship education is essential for shaping individuals' entrepreneurial goals and enhancing imaginative thinking, proactivity, and risk tolerance in business endeavours (Hutasuhut et al., 2024). University students' entrepreneurial intention is affected by various determinants such as attitude towards entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial education, personality traits, government support systems, and educational support provided by the institutions (Chadha et al., 2025; Liñán & Chen, 2009a).

Bibliometric analysis has been widely used to map research trends, identify influential contributions, and understand the intellectual structure of entrepreneurship research. Over the past 35 years, research on ways to become an entrepreneur has rapidly developed. A diverse array of studies have examined many topics related to entrepreneurial goals (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015). However, only a limited number of studies have conducted bibliometric analyses or assessments of the existing literature on entrepreneurial objectives. The most substantial review study has been conducted by (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015). In a systematic examination of the literature of entrepreneurial goals from 2004 to 2013, they reviewed 409 studies. They focused on two aspects to clarify the subfields of

entrepreneurial purpose research. To classify the main specialisations, the authors analysed recent research using citation analysis. They recommended five classifications that have been further explored by several recent examinations: (1) the fundamental model on entrepreneurial intentions by (Munir et al., 2019) (2) individual-level variables (Haj Youssef et al., 2025; Şahin et al., 2019) (3) role of entrepreneurship education (Gieure et al., 2019), (4) contextual and institutional factors (Hueso et al., 2021; Su et al., 2021) and (5) the entrepreneurial process (Anjum et al., 2021). Further, they also suggested a sixth classification that covered new domain of research incorporating original contributions. These new studies focused on sustainable and social entrepreneurship, offering a fresh research opportunity.

In recent years, this shift towards sustainable and social entrepreneurship reflects the growing importance of aligning entrepreneurial activities with sustainable development goals, particularly in emerging economies where entrepreneurship is increasingly viewed as a mechanism for inclusive and responsible growth. The themes are emerging to reflect a shift of the traditional entrepreneurship to more sustainable and socially responsible and more innovation-based entrepreneurship practices. This field has attracted the attention of many academics, institutions, and scientific journals in

various themes, but because intentions are largely considered antecedents of acts as exemplified by Ajzen (1991).

The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) and the views on entrepreneurial ecosystems and entrepreneurship education are offering a dominant theoretical framework and influence the intellectual framework of the research on entrepreneurial intention. These frameworks do not only describe the individual entrepreneurial behaviour but also indicate the wider institutional and environmental settings that have an effect on the entrepreneurial activity.

Therefore, EIs have been observed as a fundamental ingredient in considering the new business formation procedure and entrepreneurship-related indicators, such as subsistence and progress (Bird, 1988).

To provide a clearer conceptual structure and enhance academic coherence, the literature relevant to this study is organised into thematic dimensions, including entrepreneurial intention theory, the role of entrepreneurship education, bibliometric studies in entrepreneurship research, and emerging themes in entrepreneurial intention research. Table 1 presents a comparative overview of previous literature reviews on entrepreneurial intention, highlighting their scope, methodology, and sample size in comparison with the present study.

Table 1. Comparative summary of previous literature reviews on entrepreneurial intention and the present study

Author /year	Keywords	Review Sample	Timespan	Type of Study
(Ruiz-Alba et al., 2020)	entrepreneurial and intentions	377	1993 -2016	Bibliometric
(Y.-S. Wang et al., 2022)	Entrepreneurial Intention	454	2000-2020	Bibliometric
(Nyoko & Hanafiah, 2024)	Entrepreneurial Intention	152	2000-2021	SLR
(Donaldson, 2019)	Entrepreneurship* AND Intent *	163	2014-2018	SLR
Our study	entrepreneurial intention* OR entrepreneur intention* OR start-up intention* OR entrepreneurship intention* OR entrepreneurial inclination* AND university student* OR undergraduate* OR postgraduate* OR higher education student* OR doctoral student*	942	2016-2025	Bibliometric

EIs can be defined as a person's endeavours to engage in entrepreneurial behaviour (Liñán & Chen, 2009b). In reaction to the TPB, these authors

developed the questionnaire for measuring the Entrepreneurial Intentions. It is composed of three dimensions: (1) individual attitude toward start-up,

(2) social norms (sense of societal pressure to engage in entrepreneurial behaviours), and (3) perceived capability (perception of how easy or difficult it is to become an entrepreneur). Deciding to start your own business is considered intentional (Krueger et al., 2024). Consequently, it is essential to first understand the role of intents in the decision-making process, particularly in the initialisation of a business initiative.

Entrepreneurship education and institutional support play a significant role in shaping entrepreneurial intentions among university students. Given the dominance of these theoretical frameworks, a bibliometric approach becomes essential to systematically map the evolution, intellectual structure, and emerging trends within entrepreneurial intention research. Such an approach enables the identification of key theoretical influences, including TPB, entrepreneurship education, and ecosystem perspectives, thereby offering a comprehensive understanding of the field.

Despite the popularity of the EI subject, no one has earlier attempted to identify the productive writers, universities, or journals researching EIs with their productivity through various laws. Only Liñán & Fayolle (2015) have conducted a comprehensive analysis of the literature on EIs, but with a different objective than the present study. Dolhey (2019) conducted a bibliometric analysis on entrepreneurial intention with the objectives to find trends in entrepreneurial research from the year of 2000-2018, utilising VOSviewer software to analyse the bibliometric data. Despite the numerous entrepreneurial intention studies that have been conducted over the past few decades, there are research gaps that require further investigation to provide a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the subject. As per the author's knowledge, no study outlined a unique intellectual structure, bibliographic coupling, co-citation analysis of references and examined the author's and journal's productivity through Bradford's law and Lotka's law. By examining all intellectual combinations in the context of entrepreneurial intention among university students, this study contributes to the ongoing investigation of EI among university students and offers a comprehensive overview of knowledge and trends over the specified period. It aimed to summarise the previous studies on entrepreneurial intention by analysing the literature. The present study identified a viable approach for analysing the EI of university students from 2016 to 2025 using bibliometric data. The results of the study will serve as a foundation for further studies to update the literature on entrepreneurship. Moreover, this study helps policymakers and universities to better understand the entrepreneurial goals of young university students.

This is particularly relevant in the Asian context, where rapidly developing economies are actively promoting entrepreneurship as a driver of sustainable development, innovation, and socio-economic transformation.

This study aims to analyse research on EI with the purpose of identifying the most productive journals, institutions or research centres, and significant authors. This study also examines keyword analysis, the most trending research topics, and theme clustering. This work uses mapping and clustering approaches to analyse bibliometric data and answer research issues. The study examined 942 papers published in Scopus-indexed journals between 2016 and 2025. The study's key contributions are offered in the results section, which follows a discussion of the data and findings.

2. Research Objective

The focus of this analysis is to delve into research on university students' intentions towards entrepreneurship and to provide important insights into the current topic using bibliometric techniques. The issues we seek to solve are outlined in the following study questions:

RQ 1. What are the trends in publications associated to the entrepreneurial intention of university students from 2016-2025?

RQ 2. Who are the most influential authors, organisations, sources, and countries in the context of entrepreneurial intention of university students?

RQ 3. What documents have the highest citations and influence in the subject of entrepreneurship?

RQ 4. Analyze the bibliographic coupling and keyword intellectual structure in this area.

RQ 5. Do the outcomes adhere to bibliometric principles like Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law?

RQ 6. Analyzing the thematic network on university students' entrepreneurial intentions from 2016-2025.

RQ 7. What are the current study's limitations, and what are some recommendations for further research in the field?

3. Methodology

The study carries out a bibliometric analysis to examine studies on entrepreneurial intentions from 2016 to 2025. A bibliometric analysis is utilised to determine quantitative changes in a certain research field, identify publication trends on a particular subject, and uncover publication tendencies within that discipline (De Bakker et al., 2005). This study has employed the PRISMA framework to identify appropriate research papers, as it helps limit the risk of error throughout the selection phase (Liberati et al., 2009). Bibliometric analysis is characterised as a share of scientometrics, which applies scientific and statistical approaches to examine scientific activity in a field of research (Callon et al., 1991).

3.1 Eligibility Criteria

The selected publications underwent inclusion and exclusion procedures to ensure their academic quality and relevance. The inclusion criteria were publications that focused on students' entrepreneurial intention and were published between 2016 and 2025. The exclusion benchmark included removing identical data, non-English publications, and works that did not fall within the defined topic areas of business, management, and accounting; economics, econometrics, and finance; and social sciences. Articles, rather than other types of documents, were chosen for this study. This is because articles are the documents that best exhibit the novelty of the research study (Benavides Velasco et al., 2011). The authors retrieved 1,547 records from the first search on the Scopus database. Then we filtered our results based on subject criteria for relevance to our study objectives. It resulted in the exclusion of 205 studies. The results were filtered by time span, and 178 studies were excluded. Further, the resulting studies were filtered by publication type to include only articles, thereby excluding 148 studies. The results were subsequently refined to include only English-language studies, resulting in the exclusion of 32 studies. According to Kaur & Kaur (2026) the bibliometric study's parameters mandated that all publications be in English, thereby excluding research articles published in other languages. After applying all exclusion and inclusion criteria, 984 studies published between 2016 and 2025 were identified. Authors manually screened the data to ensure validity and reliability by reviewing the title, abstract, and keywords. 42 studies were found to be out of scope and excluded from the resulting data. The filtering process yielded a final pool of 942 studies, covering the period of 2016 to 2025 for data analysis (see Figure 1).

3.2 Source of information

The dataset used for the bibliometric evaluation was obtained from the Scopus database, a recognised database maintained by Elsevier. The evaluation process considered several factors that contributed to selecting the Scopus database. The Scopus database serves as the key source for achieving the objectives of the current study, and it is commonly used in bibliometric analysis (Anand et al., 2021; Palmaccio et al., 2021). It is known for its comprehensive coverage of numerous scientific areas and its vast archive of peer-reviewed articles from journals, conference proceedings, and other scholarly works. It was chosen for this study because it contains articles from a wide range of subjects since 1970, incorporating high-impact journals, and effective connections with major scientometrics tools, such as RStudio and VOSviewer. Scopus provides more comprehensive coverage of journals in the social sciences, gender

specific studies, business management and entrepreneurship, all of which are relevant to this evaluation (Veer & Khiste, 2017). It is a popular research mapping tool because of its extensive bibliometric analysis capabilities, including reference data, author connections, and keyword indexing. This study utilised the Scopus database due to its comprehensive data coverage and specific features.

3.3 Search strategy

This strategy enhanced the retrieval of relevant information and decreased the inclusion of non-related entries (Valencia-Arias et al., 2024). The authors examined synonyms and other terms relevant to university students' entrepreneurial intentions, using Boolean operators and platform-specific filters to narrow the search and ensure thorough, accurate results. The search was conducted on Scopus database utilizing the following Boolean operators and keywords to ensure transparency and reproducibility: TITLE-ABS-KEY ("entrepreneurial intention*" OR "entrepreneur intention*" OR "start-up intention*" OR "entrepreneurial inclination*" OR "entrepreneurship intention*") AND ("university student*" OR "undergraduate*" OR "postgraduate*" OR "higher education student*" OR "doctoral student*") in the abstract, keywords, and article title. The search was restricted to works disseminated in English between 2016 and 2025 and was limited to subjects such as Business and Management; Accounting, Economics, Econometrics, and Finance; and Social Sciences.

3.4 Data Management

The initial dataset was obtained in the form of 1,547 records that were retrieved in the Scopus database. The process of systematic filtering was followed according to the PRISMA framework, to guarantee the relevance and quality of the data. First, records were narrowed down to the subject area criteria which left out 205 studies. Additional filtering by the given time span (2016-2025) resulted in the elimination of 178 records. Then, the document type was limited to journal articles only and 148 records were excluded. Filtering of the language was then carried out and 32 non-English publications were cut. When these database-level filters were applied, 984 records were left.

These records were then manually screened with titles, abstracts and keywords followed to ensure the records were in line with the goals of the study. At this point, 42 records were detected as being irrelevant and were excluded. This led to final dataset of 942 documents, which were believed to be perfect to be included in bibliometric analysis.

To be further analysed, bibliographic metadata such as article titles, author affiliations, keywords, abstracts, the year of publication, author names and

source titles were saved. The downloaded data in CSV format was prepared and analysed with VOSviewer and with the Microsoft Excel. VOSviewer offered a useful tool of managing big body of bibliometric information and allowed visualising

and mapping of the research field in a structured manner (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). Figure 1 shows the general search strategy, filtering steps, and the selection of data.

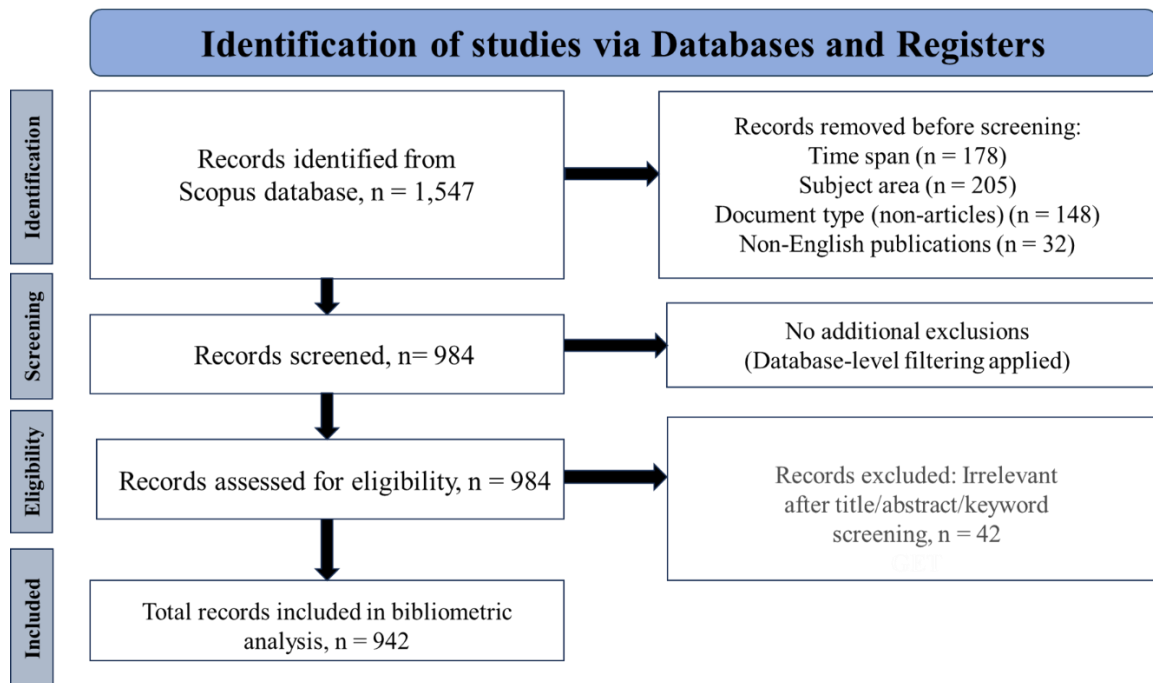


Fig. 1: Flow diagram showing the literature search and process of selecting documents for bibliometric analysis: PRISMA Protocol

4. Analysis of Data and Discussion

All scientometrics analysis methods will be divided into two: Performance assessment and science mapping (Donthu et al., 2021). The performance analysis brings out the trend in terms of contributions by organisations, journals and authors within a given field. Science mapping outlines the correlation of all these elements and clarifies the intellectual paradigm of a particular field (Maurya et al., 2026). Both techniques were applied in this paper to achieve the objectives of the study.

4.1 Main Information about the Data

The first figurative table gives significant information on the data set on which the investigation is carried out. The relevant data set, which has been thoroughly polished and filtered, contains 942 papers collected in 2016-2025. Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics of the bibliometric record, the pattern of publication, the pattern of authorship and citation.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the bibliometric dataset

Description	Results
Time span	2016-2025
Total Sources	345
Total Number of Documents	942
Annual Growth Rate (percentage)	25.99
Average number of citations per doc	22.77
Authors' Keywords	1891
Total number of authors of documents	2511
Single-authored docs	100
International co-authorships (percentage)	32.59
References in 942 articles	4459

The sample will include 942 articles in 345 journals. Table 1 shows that the annual growth rate of publications was 25.99% from 2016 to 2025,

indicating a notable expansion in scholarly activity and emerging interest among authors in this subject. The average number of citations is 22.77 in

each document, which shows that the sources in question are very topical and effective. The data consists of 1,891 distinct keywords and 4,459 references, which prove the extensive selection of research topics in the field. The set of documents includes 100 single authors, as a result of which there are both personal associations and joint work in this sphere. Table 1 provides a full overview of

the key information and data that have been gained based on the dataset.

4.2 Yearly Publication Overview

Figure 2 illustrates the annual growth in publications on entrepreneurial intention among university students from 2016 to 2025.

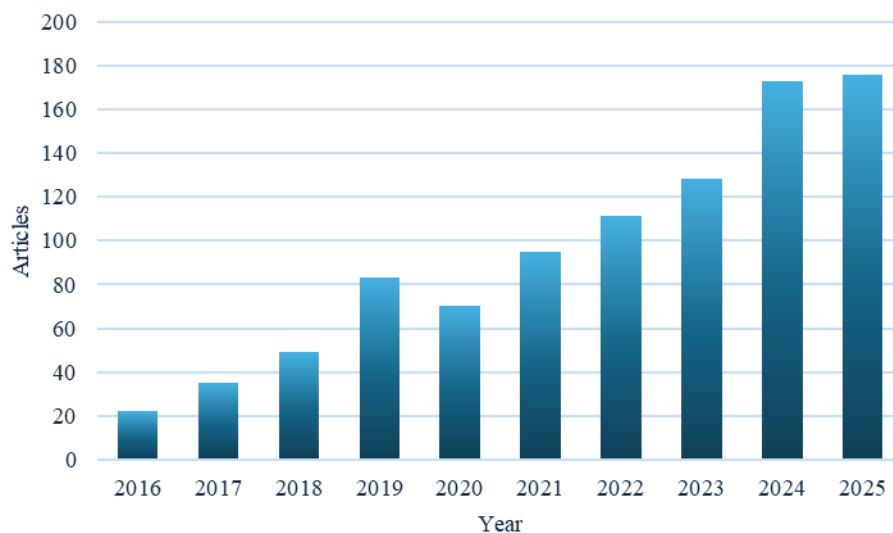


Figure 2. Annual scientific publication trend on entrepreneurial intention research (2016–2025)

The trend analysis of the number of publications revealed that the number of academic and professional papers has gradually increased, reaching 22 in 2016 and 83 in 2019. The reported increase means that there is an increase in the attention of scholars on interrelated issues. The available data collected in 2021 and 2022 point to the continued growth in the research activity that has not been disrupted by the pandemic. The rise up to 176 publications in the year 2025 is a significant improvement in the field. This number shows that the volume of publications is about eight times higher than that in the first year.

4.3 Leading Authors

A list of prolific authors who demonstrate the peak of productivity in Students entrepreneurial intentions in university have been listed in Table 2. A total of 942 papers with 2511 authors and their g-index and h-index are included in the analysis.

According to Table 2, the most active and prominent author, Duong C.D., had a consistent and leading involvement in the present entrepreneurship field with 28 works published and 373 references. Other contributors, such as Valencia-Arias A., also have the highest number of publications with 123 citations, so to speak, 13 articles, whereas Gomes S., Lopes J.M., and Wibowo A. have 9 articles with 123,197 and 243 citations, respectively. This tendency reveals the ongoing adherence to scholarly work, as well as the importance of such activity as distinguished practitioners in the field. The most influential writer is Hassan A., who has 627 citations as compared to Anwar I., Narmaditya BS., and Şeşen H., who have made seven contributions to the academic literature. Table 2 shows the most prolific authors in entrepreneurial intention research who show their output in terms of publications, citation impact, and bibliometric indices.

Table 2. Top prolific authors in entrepreneurial intention research based on articles, citations (TC), and bibliometric indices (h-index and g-index)

Rank	Author & Year	Articles	H index	G index	TC
1	(Duong, 2021)	28	11	19	373
2	(Valencia-Arias, 2018)	13	7	11	123
3	(Gomes, 2021)	9	7	9	197
4	(Lopes, 2021)	9	8	9	243
5	(Wibowo, 2019)	9	7	9	216
6	(Anwar, 2020)	7	6	7	596
7	(Narmaditya, 2021)	7	4	7	186

8	(Şeşen, 2021)	7	5	7	111
9	(Hassan, 2017)	6	5	6	627
10	(Le, 2021)	6	4	6	80

Further, Le Tal contributed with six publications and 80 citations. Although their output is relatively modest, these authors remain engaged and influential figures in the scientific literature. The H-index quantifies an author's productivity. A H-index of the first leading author is 11, indicating the author published a minimum of 11 publications, each receiving at least 11 citations. The G-index is established by the distribution of citations from the

writings of an author. Duong CD has a G-index of 19, indicating that the writer has published at least 19 papers with 373 citations. The top two authors, Duong CD and Valencia-Arias A, possess high G-index ratings and account for 3.18% of total publications (942). Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of author productivity in entrepreneurial intention research in accordance with Lotka's Law.

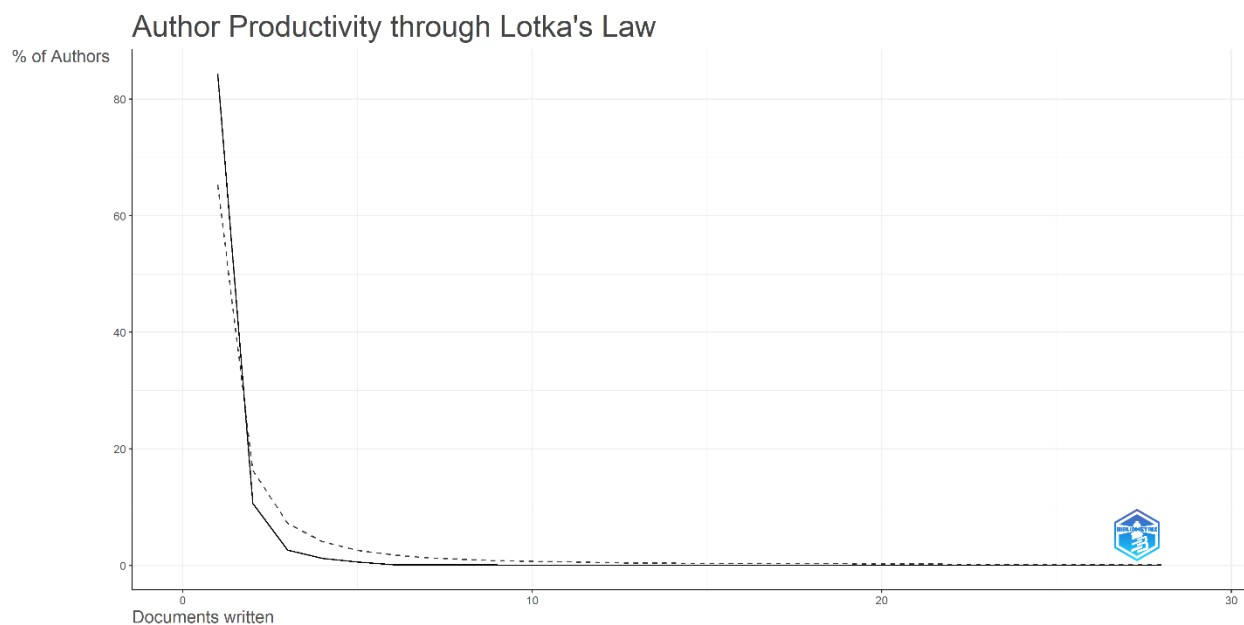


Figure 3. Author productivity distribution based on Lotka's Law showing the frequency of authors by number of documents written (Source: RStudio output)

In 1926, Lotka formulated a bibliometric principle, now known as Lotka's law, used to evaluate an author's scholarly output in each domain. Lotka based his principles on the following: 60% of writers publish 1 paper, 15% publish 2 papers, and 6.6% publish 3 papers. This rule addresses the efficiency of writers' and researchers' output in proportion to the square of the quantity of published work, which Lotka showed is inversely correlated with the number of authors producing that quantity of articles. (Adeoye et al., 2023). Figure 3 reveals that 84.34% (n=2118) of 2511 writers have published a single paper, 10.67% (n=268) have produced two papers, and 2.66% (n=67) have contributed three papers. Interestingly, most writers (84.34%) produce only one paper, far above the 60% threshold of the Lotka law. Also, the percentage

of two or three releases is less than what the Lotka law allows. This means that the author's work in the field does not meet the standards for Lotka's law. In the context of entrepreneurial intention, Lotka's rule differs. The analysis shows that only a few well-known writers are making significant contributions and leading this field.

4.4 Leading Organisations

Certain organisations serve as central nodes in the development of specific domains of knowledge. The universities that specialise in EI can be assessed by the volume of publications by their faculty members. Table 3 presents the top contributing universities to entrepreneurial intention research, along with their respective countries and publication output.

Table 3. Top 10 universities contributing to entrepreneurial intention research based on the number of published articles

Rank	University Name	Country	Articles
1	NATIONAL ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY	Vietnam	36
2	UNIVERSIDADE DA BEIRA INTERIOR	Portugal	22
3	KING FAISAL UNIVERSITY	Saudi Arabia	18
4	INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO METROPOLITANO	Colombia	13
5	UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA	Spain	13
6	UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA KELANTAN	Malaysia	12
7	UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	Spain	11
8	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA	Malaysia	11
9	ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY	India	10
10	UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO	Spain	10

Source: Author's Compilation

An extensive analysis of prominent academic institutions reveals that the National Economics University of Vietnam stands out as the top institution, with 36 published papers on entrepreneurial intentions. After this, as illustrated in Table 3, two additional institutions with over 15 publications are King Faisal University and Universidade da Beira Interior. Several institutions have been identified as producing over 10 publications, including Instituto Tecnológico

Metropolitano, Universidad de Sevilla, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Out of the ten universities in the ranking, only one is from India. Furthermore, three organisations in the ranking are from Spain, concentrating on an interesting knowledge centre in this region. Table 4 presents the leading journals contributing to entrepreneurial intention research, along with their publishers, publication output, and total citations.

Table 4. Top journals publishing research on entrepreneurial intention based on the number of articles and total citations (TC)

Rank	Source	Publisher	Articles	TC
1	<i>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT EDUCATION</i>	Elsevier	47	1577
2	<i>EDUCATION AND TRAINING</i>	Emerald	41	1789
3	<i>SUSTAINABILITY (SWITZERLAND)</i>	MDPI	41	1482
4	<i>INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT JOURNAL</i>	Springer	21	1047
5	<i>SAGE OPEN</i>	SAGE	18	295
6	<i>COGENT BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT</i>	Taylor and Francis	16	273
7	<i>STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION</i>	Taylor and Francis	16	1248
8	<i>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOR AND RESEARCH</i>	Emerald	14	1228
9	<i>INDUSTRY AND HIGHER EDUCATION</i>	SAGE	13	231
10	<i>JOURNAL OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP</i>	Taylor and Francis	13	304

Source: Author's Compilation

Table 4 highlights the topmost ten sources which have published the highest number research output on entrepreneurial aspirations. The topmost productive journal in the field of EI of University Students is *IJME*, with 47 papers and 1577 citations, followed by *EAT* with 41 papers and 1789 citations. *Education and training* are the most prominent journals, with 1789 citations in the top 10. Among the prominent journals, three are associated with

Taylor and Francis. There are two publications associated with Emerald publishers, two with SAGE publishers, and one with Springer publishers. Several additional sources, such as Elsevier and MDPI, contribute to the distribution of the remaining journals. Figure 4 shows that several articles published in bibliographic-coupling journals share a common thematic focus.

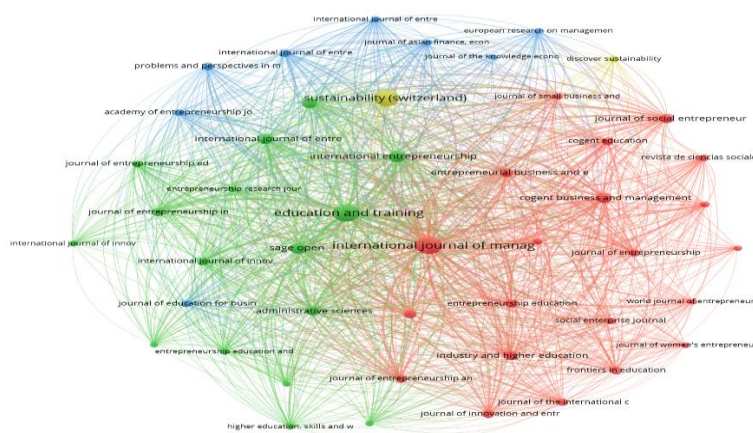


Figure 4: Bibliographic coupling of journals related to EI

Source: VOSviewer

Bibliographic coupling is used to comprehend the intellectual connections between documents, sources, and authors (Pandey et al., 2025). Bibliographic coupling analysis depicts that the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship* is a highly productive scientific journal with a primary focus on university students' entrepreneurial intention. *The Journal of Entrepreneurship*, *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, and *Journal of Women's Entrepreneurship* are the most prominent sources, indicating a significant convergence in the literature they reference. The *EAT* journal and the *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies* exhibit a significant relationship. Simultaneously, *Sustainability (Switzerland)* and the *IJME* serve as pivotal publications that promote the

integration of research in entrepreneurship, sustainability, and management.

4.5 Prominent Countries with Total Publication and Citation

Table 5 demonstrates the data based on the country that is a leader in the current topic of research, number of articles, single publications (SCP), multiple publications (MCP) and total citations (TC). The geographic spread of intellectual activity can be observed with the analysis of the contributions by the countries, where the authors are located in the world. The most productive countries in the field of research on entrepreneurial intention are shown in Table 5, and they indicate the volume of publications, the influence of citations, and the tendencies of applying international collaboration.

Table 5. Top contributing countries in entrepreneurial intention research based on articles, citations (TC), and collaboration indicators (SCP and MCP)

Country	Frequency	Articles	TC	SCP	MCP	Avg. article citations
Spain	166	65	2582	49	16	39.70
Malaysia	164	53	1275	38	15	24.10
China	147	59	1313	31	28	22.30
India	119	48	1269	38	10	26.40
Indonesia	114	39	623	30	9	16.00
Portugal	95	26	766	21	5	29.50
Colombia	81	21	540	13	8	25.70
Pakistan	80	16	269	9	7	16.80
Saudi Arabia	74	26	849	14	12	32.70
USA	64	22	967	10	12	44.00

Source: Author's Compilation

Table 5 shows the review of scientific articles production per country, total production and average citation of the articles. It reveals that Spain is the best performer, having 166 papers and 2582 citations and Malaysia has the second highest

number of publications and citations of 164 and 1275 respectively. In addition, Chinese and Indonesian researchers (59 and 39 articles) occupy important places, and the concentration of activities in the European and Asian countries is active. India

was in the fourth position as 48 papers (38 SCP and 10 MCP) and 1269 citations were recorded. This allocation indicates the global research interests and spotlights the geographical priorities, devoting attention to the entrepreneurship and ecosystems in accordance to the corresponding educational frameworks. The average citation rates are also high in Saudi Arabia and Portugal. China, with 28, boasts of the highest number of publications in different countries. Pakistan generated 16 articles that had 269 citations. The USA is the country with the highest average citation rate of 44.00 although it has low frequency and low article production.

4.6 Analysis of keyword occurrences

Table 6 contains the 20 most common terms and demonstrates the frequency of their occurrence in the studies of entrepreneurial aspirations in higher education students, indicating the existing and new motifs of the existing amount of research. Table 6 has the most commonly appearing keywords in the entrepreneurial intention research pointing to the dominant themes and areas of conceptual focus in the field.

Table 6. Most frequently occurring keywords in entrepreneurial intention research based on the number of occurrences

Rank	Words	Occurrences	Rank	Words	Occurrences
1	entrepreneurial intention	411	11	entrepreneur	52
2	Entrepreneurship education	176	12	Students	52
3	Entrepreneurship	162	13	entrepreneurial self-efficacy	50
4	entrepreneurial intentions	158	14	student	50
5	university students	86	15	gender	40
6	theory of planned behavior	84	16	education	34
7	self-efficacy	83	17	attitude	30
8	higher education	74	18	Social entrepreneurship	30
9	entrepreneurial education	73	19	university sector	26
10	theory of planned behavior	61	20	entrepreneurial passion	25

Source: Author's Compilation

The central role of "entrepreneurial intention" in this area is supported by its frequent occurrence, totalling 411 instances. This is followed by "entrepreneurship education" (176 occurrences) and "entrepreneurship" (162 occurrences), indicating a notable focus on the educational and conceptual foundations of entrepreneurial intention studies. The thematic emphasis of the subject is further highlighted using the plural form "entrepreneurial intentions" (158 occurrences). The widespread application of student samples and recognised behavioural theories in elucidating entrepreneurial intentions is evident in the moderately frequent terms "university students" (86 occurrences), "theory of planned behaviour" (84 occurrences), and "self-efficacy" (83 occurrences). The terms "entrepreneurial education" (73 occurrences) and "higher education" (74 occurrences) reflect a sustained focus on the institutional and pedagogical landscape. Overall, the image of distribution shows that the research of entrepreneurial intention is centred on education and theory-based concepts, especially in the case of university students.

4.7 Analysis of Co-occurrence of all keywords

Comerio and Strozzi (2019) contend that though a keyword analysis is necessary to come up with the conceptual structure of the phrases employed in the current literature, the themes of research, areas of emerging research, and research gaps. The authors use VOSviewer software to investigate the keywords that are found at least fifteen times within the prepared data set related to the entrepreneurial intention of the university students. Four clusters of 42 keywords were, therefore, obtained by VOSviewer as seen in Figure 5.

Cluster 1 is symbolised by "red bubbles." The most significant phrases in this segment are "creativity," "entrepreneurial attitude," "entrepreneurial behavior," "entrepreneurial intention," "entrepreneurial motivation," "entrepreneurial passion," "entrepreneurship education," "Malaysia," "personality traits," and "self-efficacy." Green-coloured bubbles represent cluster 2. The fundamental terms in this group include "education," "entrepreneur," "higher education," "innovation," "perception," "Saudi Arabia," "student," "sustainable development," "sustainable entrepreneurship," and "university sector." Figure 5

illustrates the co-occurrence network of keywords in entrepreneurial intention research, highlighting

the relationships and clustering of major thematic areas.

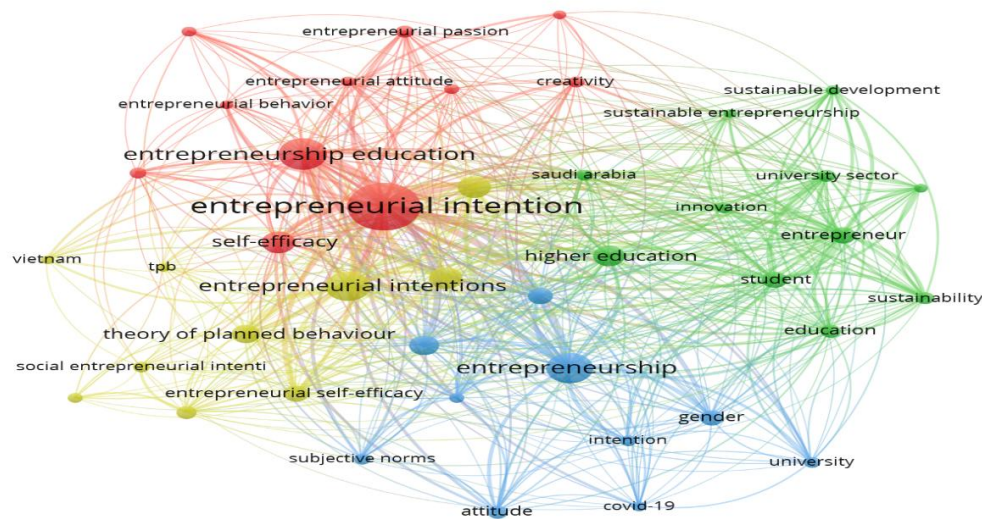


Figure 5. Co-occurrence network of keywords in entrepreneurial intention research showing thematic clusters and interrelationships

Source: VOSviewer

Cluster 3, highlighted in blue, comprises terms such as “attitude,” “covid,” “entrepreneurial education,” “entrepreneurship,” “gender,” and “intention.” Cluster 4 is shown in yellow colour. The prominent terms in this cluster include “entrepreneurial intentions,” “social entrepreneurial intention,” “social entrepreneurial intentions,” “theory of planned behaviour,” “TPB,” “university students,” and “Vietnam.”

4.8 Citation Networks Analysis

A citation network analysis was performed on a dataset of 942 papers. To conduct a “local and global citation” analysis, authors utilised the “R Biblioshiny” program. Table 7 provides details on the ranking of the ten articles with the highest global citations, along with their local citations. Within the broader research context, the local citation demonstrates the influence of an article relevant to the current topic. When other academic journals and fields cite an article, the global citation count indicates how many times it has been cited. The highest number of citation counts demonstrates their significant influence in developing both academic and policy-driven strategies to advance entrepreneurial education.

The maximum cited research work, with total 497 citations, is “The Impact of Entrepreneurship Education, Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy and Gender on Entrepreneurial Intentions of University Students in the Visegrad Countries” (Nowiński et al., 2019). The subsequent highest-cited paper, Bacq & Alt (2018) has 388 citations. This investigation

examined the relationship between compassion and social start-up aspirations among 281 students. Additionally, the next most cited paper by (Vuorio et al., 2018) has 325 citations. They explored the key determinants shaping the sustainable entrepreneurial intention of 393 university students. The fourth most cited paper by (Vamvaka et al., 2020). The study, with 263 citations, explored how TPB antecedents relate to the EI of the 441 undergraduate IT students. Besides, the next most cited paper by Neneh (2022) has 253 citations. It extended the inquiry to examine the entrepreneurial passions and intentions of 500 Students enrolled at a South African university.

Further, Nowiński & Haddoud (2019) emphasised the relevance of role models in making the choice to establish an individual enterprise. Data was gathered from 423 university students in Poland. It also demonstrated that entrepreneurial attitudes and self-efficacies significantly influenced students' inclinations to initiate entrepreneurial ventures.

Elnadi & Gheith (2021) examined the influence of students' perceptions of entrepreneurial ecosystem characteristics on their entrepreneurial desires, both directly and indirectly via entrepreneurial self-efficacy (ESE), using the PLS-SEM approach. The data were collected using an online questionnaire from 259 undergraduate business students at a public university in Saudi Arabia. Gieure et al., (2020) examined the variables that affect students' entrepreneurial aspirations.

According to (Bogatyreva et al., 2019) core features of national culture determine the relationship

between entrepreneurial ambition and subsequent activity. They collected data from 537 respondents from 24 countries. Lastly, (Al-Jubari et al., 2019) integrated the social cognitive viewpoint of the (TPB) and the organismic method for motivation from the perspective of self-determination (SDT) inside the TPB. To be more specific, it investigated the function of the fundamental psychological requirements of independence, skill, and connection, as defined by SDT, in the construction of attitudes and intentions toward entrepreneurship among college students studying in their third and

fourth years at four Malaysian universities were surveyed, totalling 438 individuals. The outcomes of this research demonstrate that the SDT and the TPB model offer complementary interpretations of the driving mechanisms underlying entrepreneurial action. The conclusions of this study open the way for additional research into how multiple factors may affect the development, survival, and performance of new business enterprises. Table 7 presents the top 10 most influential articles in entrepreneurial intention research based on global and local citation metrics.

Table 7. Top 10 highly cited articles in entrepreneurial intention research based on global and local citations

Sr. No.	Articles	Authors	Sources	Publication year	Global Citations	Local Citations
1	"The Impact of Entrepreneurship Education, Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy and Gender on Entrepreneurial Intentions of University Students in the Visegrad Countries"	(Nowiński & Haddoud, 2019)	<i>Studies in Higher Education</i>	2019	496	1
2	"Feeling Capable and Valued: A Prosocial Perspective on the Link between Empathy and Social Entrepreneurial Intentions"	(Bacq & Alt, 2018)	<i>Journal of Business Venturing</i>	2018	360	28
3	"Drivers of Entrepreneurial Intentions in Sustainable Entrepreneurship"	(Vuorio et al., 2018)	<i>International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research</i>	2018	324	1
4	"Attitude toward Entrepreneurship, Perceived Behavioural Control, and Entrepreneurial Intention: Dimensionality, Structural Relationships, and Gender Differences"	(Vamvaka et al., 2020)	<i>Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship</i>	2020	262	1
5	"Entrepreneurial Passion and Entrepreneurial Intention: The Role of Social Support and Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy"	(Neneh, 2022)	<i>Studies in Higher Education</i>	2022	253	0

6	"The Role of Inspiring Role Models in Enhancing Entrepreneurial Intention"	(Nowiński & Haddoud, 2019)	<i>Journal of Business Research</i>	2019	247	0
7	"Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy, and Entrepreneurial Intention in Higher Education: Evidence from Saudi Arabia"	(Elnadi & Gheith, 2021)	<i>International Journal of Management Education</i>	2021	245	0
8	"The Entrepreneurial Process: The Link between Intentions and Behaviour"	(Gieure et al., 2019)	<i>Journal of Business Research</i>	2020	236	4
9	"When Do Entrepreneurial Intentions Lead to Actions? The Role of National Culture"	(Bogatyрева et al., 2019)	<i>Journal of Business Research</i>	2019	214	4
10	"Entrepreneurial Intention among University Students in Malaysia: Integrating Self-Determination Theory and the Theory of Planned Behaviour"	(Al-Jubari et al., 2019)	<i>International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal</i>	2019	213	31

4.9 References Co-Citation Analysis

Figure 6 presents the bibliographic co-citation analysis of references obtained through VOSviewer. Co-citation is defined as the occurrence where two references are linked through their concurrent citation in various scholarly works (Kaur & Kaur, 2026). The dimensions of each graphical node represent the aggregate citation count, whereas the spatial arrangement of the circles illustrates the degree of similarity or association between the two articles. The analysis employs a threshold of 10 citations to examine co-citation. An aggregate of 4,459 references were used across 942 articles, resulting in an average of 4.7 references per article. Consequently, of 4,459 references, only 109 met the established standards and were grouped into six groups. As shown in Figure 6, Cluster first (blue colour) comprises 26 items. Cluster second (green) has 21 items. Additionally, cluster three (red) comprises 21 items, Cluster four (yellow) comprises 18 items, Cluster five (purple) comprises 16 items, and Cluster six (light blue) comprises 7 items. There is clear connectivity between the four groups. As a result, the study fields are more strongly linked when there is greater connectivity between the clusters. The findings indicate that references within the blue cluster make substantial contributions to research on university students' entrepreneurial intention.

However, the article "The Effect of Entrepreneurship Education on the Determinants of Entrepreneurial Behaviour among Higher Education Students: A Multi-group Analysis" by (Adeel et al., 2023) and "A survey of business and science students' intentions to engage in sustainable entrepreneurship" by (Agu, 2021) stand out as the most significant references in the blue cluster. Similarly, the articles from the green group also exert a significant impact. This includes the article "The Impact of Role Models on Entrepreneurial Intention and behavior: A Review of Literature by (Abbasianchavari & Moritz, 2020) and from clusters 3 and 4, "Entrepreneurship Intention among Students: The Antecedent Role of Culture and Entrepreneurship Training and Development" by (Adekiya & Ibrahim, 2016) and "Specialised Entrepreneurship Education: Does it really matter? Fresh evidence from Pakistan," by (Ahmed et al., 2017) demonstrates a vital encouragement for students' EI. The two additional clusters, represented in purple and light blue, exhibit notably significant references.

It includes "Bridging the entrepreneurial intention-behaviour gap: The role of commitment and implementation intention" by (Adam & Fayolle, 2015) and "From intentions to behavior: Implementation intention, commitment, and conscientiousness" by (Ajzen et al., 2009). Figure 6 illustrates the co-citation network of references in

entrepreneurial intention research, highlighting key

influential authors and their interconnections.

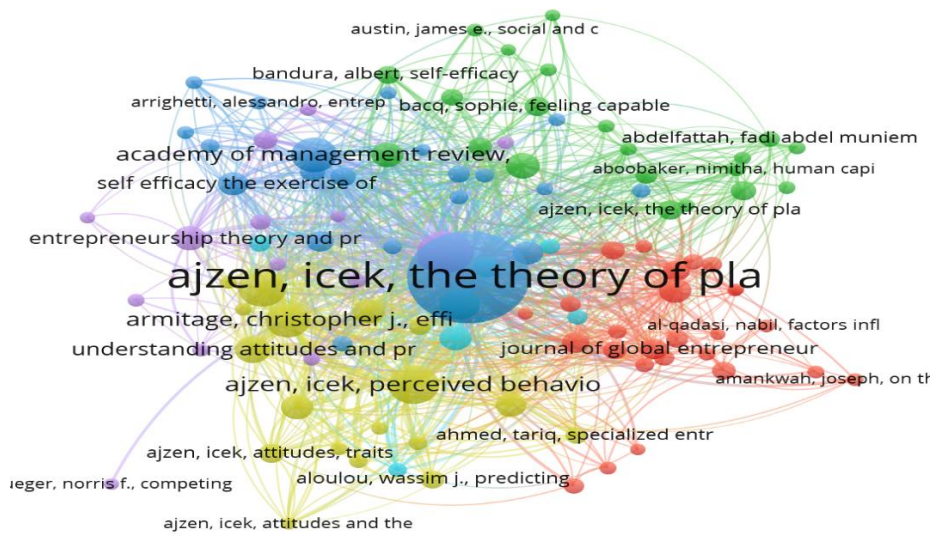


Figure 6. Co-citation network of references in entrepreneurial intention research showing influential authors and their relationships

4.10 Tree Map

Another useful technique to display visually the appearance of keywords and hierarchical order is a tree map, which gives the opportunity to manipulate the angles and arrangement of mats, which are stacked on top of each other (Choi et al., 2011). The value of each rectangle is proportional to the size of that rectangle. The analysis indicates the proportions and the count of the usage of the terms.

The rhythmic analysis of the tree diagram indicates that the entrepreneurial intention is the most discussed issue in the available literature that covers 18 per cent of all events. In Figure 7, the tree map of the frequency of key words in the entrepreneurial intention research is provided, which demonstrates the frequency and priority of key themes in the research.



Figure 7. Tree map of keyword occurrences in entrepreneurial intention research showing the proportion and prominence of major themes

This focus is deeply intertwined with entrepreneurship education (8%) and entrepreneurship (7%), underscoring the importance of educational environments in shaping entrepreneurial performance. The high dominance of theoretical typologies like the TPB and self-

efficacy reflects the reliance of the field on the cognitive-behavioural frameworks in explaining entrepreneurial goals. The study mainly concentrates on the intentions of students in higher educational institutions, and it is imperative that the universities have a vital role to play in developing

the entrepreneurial attitude of the students. There are also small but important themes that include innovation, creativity, sustainability, social entrepreneurship, gender and higher education that this may point to the gradual broadening of the field to more comprehensive, socially integrated views. The existing literature has provided a strong base in the intention-based models and has gone further to bring more contextual, social and emergent factors in the study of entrepreneurship.

4.11 Thematic Map

In Figure 8, the thematic map is depicted with a vertical axis reflecting the degree of development or density, and a horizontal axis denotes the degree of relevance or centrality. The term "density" indicates the theme's development, and "centrality" indicates the importance of a certain research topic (Lizano-Mora et al., 2021). This thematic map implies four separate quadrants. The upper-right section depicts the core driving themes, with their strong density and prominence. The figure 8 illustrates that the primary themes include (students, COVID-19, and digital entrepreneurial intention). It indicates that

these themes are significant for further investigation. The niche themes are quantified in the upper-left section of the figure. In this quadrant, there are two clusters and their respective subthemes. It includes (1) Social entrepreneurship, (2) social entrepreneurial aim, and (3) social entrepreneurial intentions comprise one category, and three additional themes, Malaysia, innovativeness, and the necessity for achievement comprise the other. However, they remain classified as investigative despite their advanced frameworks. The lower right corner identifies the basic themes essential to the field of inquiry. This sector includes 2 clusters and their respective sub-themes: (1) entrepreneurship education, (2) entrepreneurship intention, (3) student, (4) higher education, and (5) entrepreneur. Ultimately, the themes that are either on the rise or in decline are highlighted in the lower-left area, with particular emphasis on attitude, gender, and entrepreneurship. Figure 8 presents the thematic map of entrepreneurial intention research, illustrating the distribution of themes based on their centrality and development.

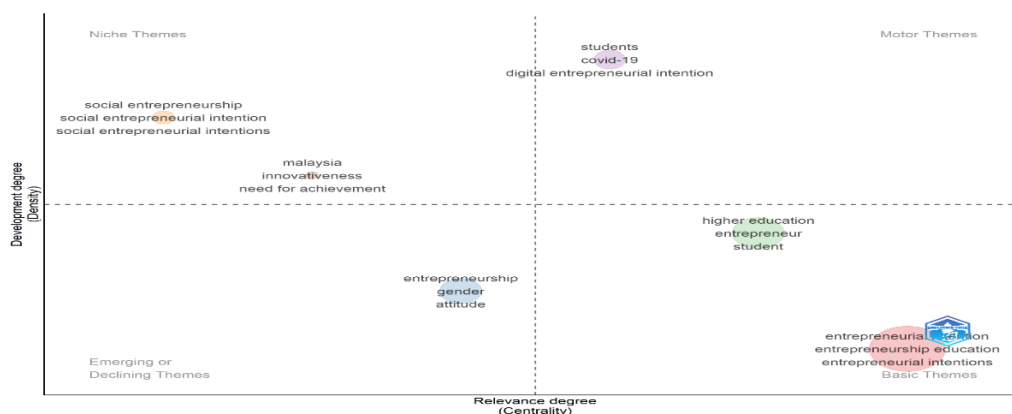


Figure 8. Thematic map of entrepreneurial intention research showing motor, niche, basic, and emerging or declining themes based on centrality and density

4.12 Analysis of Bibliometric Trending Topics

The study of terminology within the framework of the entrepreneurship domain enables one to obtain important insights into key subjects and the future trends in the literature. Research demonstrates that, from 2020 onwards, the occurrence of terms such as "theory of planned behaviour" and "self-determination theory" has increased, underscoring their emergence as trending topics. Figure 9 also confirms the findings. Statistics show that between

2022 and 2024, the concepts of green entrepreneurial intention and social and sustainable development were dominant. The increased significance of digital literacy, artificial intelligence, and green entrepreneurial intentions presents significant prospects for future investigations. Figure 9 illustrates the trending topics in entrepreneurial intention research, highlighting the evolution and frequency of key themes over time.

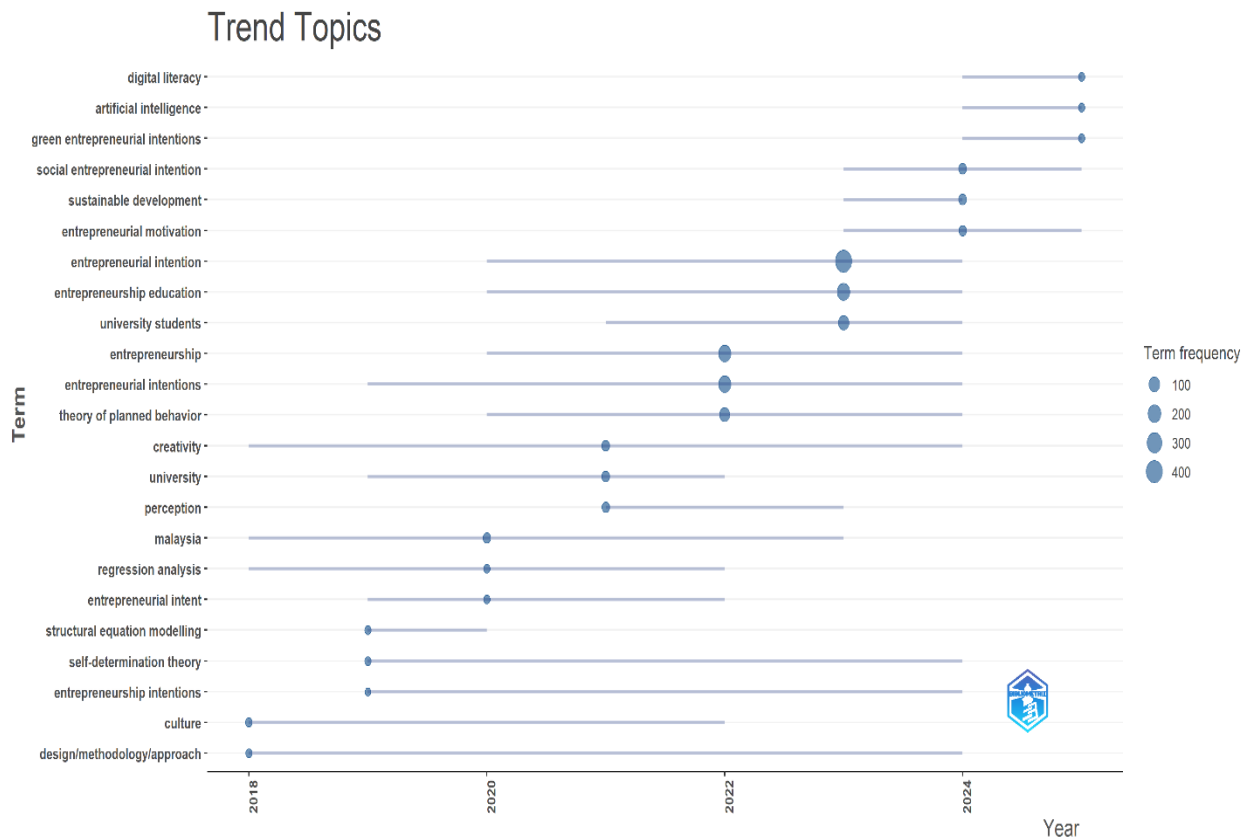


Figure 9. Trending topics in entrepreneurial intention research showing the temporal evolution and frequency of key terms

4.13 Bradford’s Law

This analysis categorises sources by decreasing article output, dividing them into three distinct zones, with each contributing more than one-third

of the total publications. Table 8 presents the distribution of journal articles across Bradford’s Law zones, highlighting the concentration of publications among core and peripheral sources.

Table 8. Distribution of journal articles according to Bradford’s Law showing source count and publication share across zones

Zones	Source Count	Publication Count	%
Core zone	17	313	33.22
Zone II	90	320	67.19
Zone III	345	309	32.80
Total	452	942	100

However, as the transition between one zone and another occurs, the number of items per zone increases significantly as the transition involves the next zone. According to this legislation, there is a limited number of sources (First Zone) that distribute the first one-third of articles, underscoring their significant role in shaping the field of entrepreneurship. A broader array of sources (Second Zone) accounts for the subsequent one-third, whereas the most significant compilation of sources (Third Zone) supplies the final one-third of the articles (Tepe Gencay et al., 2022). The initial area’s primary sources exhibit a significant degree of specialisation within the field. This section investigates the fundamental sources of entrepreneurial intention, employing the concepts

of this law. Table 8 shows that the first zone of 17 sources contributed 313 articles, the second zone of 90 sources contributed 320 articles, and the last zone of 345 sources contributed the rest of the publications. The results in this section correspond with the work of (Tepe Gencay et al., 2022), confirming that current investigations align with principles of Bradford’s law. The findings demonstrate that all categories account for almost one-third of the articles. Further, it provides insights into significant sources that publish relevant publications, including IJME, EAT, and IEMJ. Figure 10 illustrates the distribution of core journals in entrepreneurial intention research based on Bradford’s Law, highlighting the concentration of publications across sources.

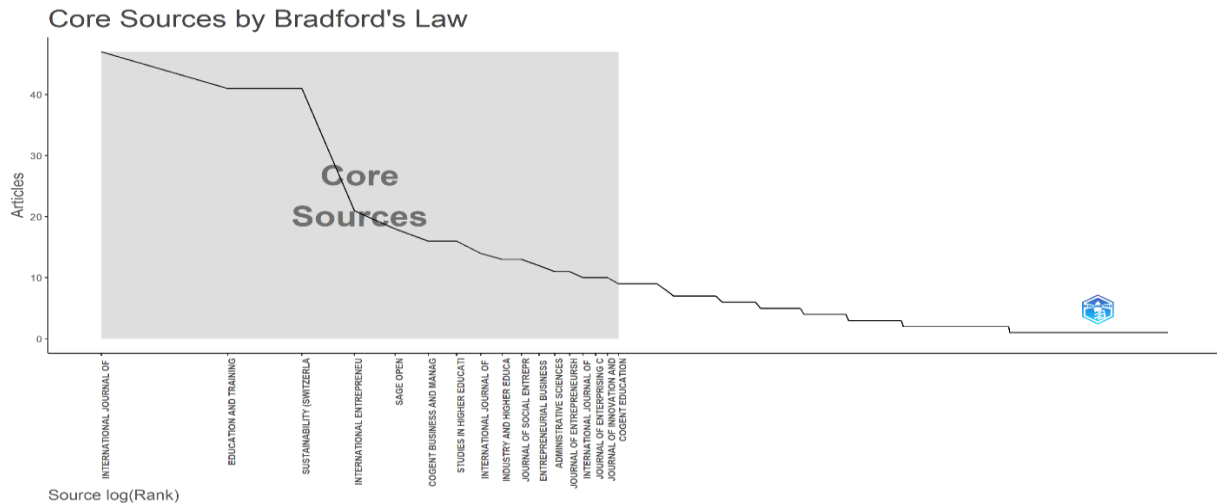


Figure 10. Core sources identified using Bradford's Law showing the distribution of articles across ranked journals

5. Discussion

EI is a united area of investigation within the broad discipline of entrepreneurship, not just due to the abundance of research articles published throughout the past few years, as evidenced by the results, but also due to the quantity of journals, organizations, and writers involved in this research domain, as displayed in this article. In brief, the most prominent journals in this field were *the "International Journal of Management Education" (47 articles)*, *"Education and Training" and "Sustainability (Switzerland)" (41 articles each)*, *"International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal" (21 articles)*, and *"Sage Open" (18 articles)* (see Table 4). Despite this, when we consider citations as a quality indicator, the *Studies in Higher Education journal* has published 2 of the 10 most-cited studies, and the *Journal of Business Research* has published 3 (see Table 7). While the most prolific writers were Duong CD (28 articles), Valencia-Arias (13 articles), and Gomes s, Lopes, and Wibowo (9 articles), and the most productive universities linked to entrepreneurial intention of university students were National Economics University (36 articles) and University of Beira Interior (22 articles) (see Tables 2 and 3).

Indeed, as illustrated in Figure 1, the number of published articles in this field has grown substantially since 2018. EIs as a field of study are expected to continue to expand in the future because of this trend. To guide potential researchers, it is crucial to understand the methodology and motivation behind research in this field. The analysis of the most productive countries shows that Spain emerged as the top producer (65 articles), followed by Malaysia (53), China (59), and India (48) (see Table 5). Among the most frequent keywords, entrepreneurial intention (411 occurrences) and entrepreneurship education (176 occurrences) are prominent, and the co-occurrence keyword map also shows four influential keyword

clusters (see Table 6 and Figure 5). Amongst them, creativity, education, attitude, and entrepreneurial intentions prevailed as keywords. Finally, this study examined the thematic map and trending topics related to students' entrepreneurial intention. Green entrepreneurial intention and sustainable entrepreneurship intention are emerging topics in recent years. Digital entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship were also seen as trending topics in the analysis (see figures 8 and 9). This inference supported a different perspective from that of Liñán and Fayolle (2015). As (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015) provided a foundational review of entrepreneurial intention research and highlighted the prominence of the TPB, while the present study synthesises recent developments, as several new articles on these topics have been published that include different perspectives, as we see in the results of trending topics. Exploring the influence of creativity, ocean traits, social and green or sustainable entrepreneurial intention and entrepreneurial passion linked to the entrepreneurial intention of university students (Farooq et al., 2019; Garcez et al., 2025; Rohanaraj, 2023; Zhuang et al., 2022). Furthermore, the tree map distribution shown in Fig 7 supports the theoretical foundations of entrepreneurial intention research. Prominent keywords, such as the theory of planned behaviour, highlight the strong theoretical grounding of the current field of entrepreneurship. Additionally, terms like self-efficacy reflect the relevance of ESE (entrepreneurial self-efficacy) in explaining students' confidence to start a new venture. The bibliometric research provides important information regarding the increasing research trend in the subject of entrepreneurship. The earlier studies have focused mainly on antecedents of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), whereas the recent studies indicate the situational factors like personality traits, the effect of entrepreneurship education, the entrepreneurial ecosystem, digital

entrepreneurial intention, social entrepreneurial intention, and sustainable entrepreneurial intention. This set of results has significant implications for the policy of entrepreneurship education. The fact that entrepreneurship education and self-efficacy make up the prominent portion of the analysis indicates that policymakers need to focus on experiential and skills-oriented learning methods over strictly theoretical education. The policies ought to be concerned with enhancing entrepreneurial skills, promoting an innovation orientation of mind, and incorporating real-world exposure, i.e., through incubators, internships and startup simulator systems in higher education. This shows that efficient policy frameworks should not be limited to teaching in the classroom but should also facilitate enabling environments that will be actively involved in promoting entrepreneurial behaviour with the students.

The findings have serious implications for entrepreneurship policy and education. Policymakers ought to develop and promote initiatives and an accommodative ecosystem that will nurture the entrepreneurial intentions of university students. Churches should encourage entrepreneurship in universities by providing a support system and funding. It must also embrace entrepreneurship training, experience and mentorship to inculcate a sense of entrepreneurial thinking in students.

Besides, the results also indicate the importance of universities and innovation ecosystems as crucial in entrepreneurship intention. The fact that productive institutions and countries are concentrated suggests that universities are the hubs of wider entrepreneurship ecosystems. This implies that colleges and universities must be proactive in bringing industry, government bodies and startups together to create linked innovation systems. Exposing and capacity building of students in terms of entrepreneurship can be greatly improved through the development of incubators and accelerators, as well as interdisciplinary innovation hubs in universities. These ecosystem-based solutions can act as a bridge between the intentions to start up a venture and the reality of its start-up.

Besides, the introduction of topics like sustainable entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and digital entrepreneurship can be considered a turning point of the research topic. The sector is shifting to more impact-driven and sustainability-oriented approaches to the previously traditional and profit-oriented entrepreneurship. This shows that new entrepreneurial practices are geared towards global problems like the sustainability of the environment, inclusion, and technological revolution. Policy makers and universities should hence evolve by encouraging green entrepreneurship, digital skills and businesses that are socially responsible. Such trends also imply that

entrepreneurial intention studies are taking a turn towards the societal and developmental aspect especially in the developing economies where sustainable growth is a major concern.

6. Implications

The findings of this bibliometric study are highly beneficial to both academic scholars and practitioners. Based on the bibliometric results, the following are the theoretical and practical implications.

6.1 Theoretical Implications

Emphasises the predominance of theories: A bibliometric analysis performed in this study highlights the dominance of theories used in the entrepreneurship literature. University Students' entrepreneurial goals are significantly shaped by the theory of planned behaviour. Antecedents of this theory include attitude towards entrepreneurship (ATE), subjective norms (SN), and perceived behavioural control (PBC). Bibliometric findings also reveal the extension of TPB with other contextual variables. It contributes theoretically by emphasising the need to move beyond traditional models to modern concepts of entrepreneurship.

Emergence of new constructs: Figure 8 of the thematic analysis provides details on emerging and declining themes in the current field. It also provides details on basic, motor, and niche themes. Results of the bibliometric analysis help to identify unexplored constructs, such as social entrepreneurship, sustainable entrepreneurship, and digital entrepreneurial intention. The emergence of these themes reflects a shift from traditional profit-oriented entrepreneurship to digital or social-oriented entrepreneurship.

6.2 Practical Implications

Integration of entrepreneurship education into the curriculum: The outcomes of the bibliometric analysis suggest that universities should offer entrepreneurship education across all relevant disciplines. It should be associated with students who participate in courses, seminars, and activities that encourage their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Policy development and implementation: The bibliometric analysis provides policymakers with empirical insights into the key factors shaping students' entrepreneurial intentions. This understanding helps formulate targeted, inclusive entrepreneurship policies that address education, financial support, and institutional frameworks.

Understanding the entrepreneurship ecosystem: A bibliometric analysis shows that students' entrepreneurial intentions are embedded in a multifaceted ecosystem comprising educational frameworks, institutional support, financial accessibility, and social networks. This study advances understanding of the interactions among

primary research clusters and keyword co-occurrences within this ecosystem, which collectively influence entrepreneurial intention.

7. Limitations and Future Directions

Despite its contributions, a few limitations were associated with this study. The first limitation concerns the study's timeframe, as data collection was conducted only between 2016 and 2025. As a result, the results must be revised periodically to reflect new developments and sensitisation within the discipline. This practice will enable future research to employ the same methods and compare data. The other weakness is the use of only the Scopus database. The problem can be resolved by integrating multiple databases and removing redundancy. The current research establishes that the issue has been addressed across fields such as corporate management, accounting, economics, and finance, as well as in the subject of social sciences. It is suggested that more attention be paid to transdisciplinary research. Additional studies can be conducted in the future to examine the relationship between top institutions and the adoption of entrepreneurship courses in their programs. Furthermore, this research was limited to university students. Future research should also involve college and university students to offer diverse perspectives. Furthermore, future research on entrepreneurial intention should concentrate on emerging themes, including sustainable or green entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, and digital entrepreneurship. Additionally, studies conducted in emerging economies should be prioritized due to the substantial disparity between their institutional and social contexts in relation to developed countries. In order to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and practical implications of entrepreneurial intention research, systematic literature reviews or empirical investigations can be used in combination with bibliometric findings. Despite these restrictions and future recommendations, the present analysis shows significant growth in EIs research. Knowledge of the variables that boost entrepreneurial desire may serve as a basis for decision-making about business creation and the formation of new enterprises.

8. Conclusion

The paper presents a systematic review of the literature on entrepreneurial intention by university students regarding the intellectual framework and development of the area of interest with the help of a bibliometric method. The results suggest that the scholarly output has increased significantly in the last ten years, which serves as a sign of the increased academic and policy concern on the matter of entrepreneurship as a means of economic growth. This analysis reveals that major

contributors to the field include major contributors of articles, institutions, and nations, and this shows the global character of the research in this field, and that Spain, Malaysia, China, and India are the main contributors to the same. The research confirms that entrepreneurship education, self-efficacy, and the Theory of Planned Behaviour are the predominant theoretical frameworks. Meanwhile, new trends, including sustainable entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, and digital entrepreneurship, suggest a change in more impact-focused and innovation-focused approaches. Such trends imply that entrepreneurial intention studies are moving out of the conventional models to counter the current global issues. The results also show that there is a relatively small number of authors who make disproportionate contributions to the field, which goes together with the principles of bibliometrics, whereas journal distribution goes in line with the Law of Bradford. In practical terms, the findings support the need to integrate experiential entrepreneurship training, enabling supportive ecosystems, and enhancing university-industry partnerships. The study, overall, will contribute to the literature by mapping the trends in research, revealing the gaps in the knowledge, and providing a basis for future research. These findings can be used by policymakers and educators to come up with more effective policies for encouraging entrepreneurial intentions among university students.

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