

Trends and Development of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes: A Systematic Literature Review and Bibliographic Analysis.

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper is to determine the trends of research in the area of entrepreneurship development programme. The study reviewed the extent literature on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for the period of six years from 2020 to 2025 using Google Scholar database. The study adopts PRISMA guideline with a specific keyword "entrepreneurship development programmes OR entrepreneurship training programmes AND evaluation OR small business development programmes" AND success factors" on 12th April 2025. The total number of 160 articles were selected for the bibliometric analysis using VOS viewer software. The result indicates the most cited articles with 10 and above citations are articles published between 2020 and 2023 with an article title "Role of business incubators as a tool for entrepreneurship development: the mediating and moderating role of business start-up and government regulations" in the MDPI journal recording highest citation of 203 followed by Emerald and JSSI with 109 and 71 titled "A new approach to stimulate rural entrepreneurship through village-owned enterprises in Indonesia" and "Rural entrepreneurship: towards collaborative participative models for economic sustainability" respectively. The findings further reveal four clusters base on keyword analysis on entrepreneurship development programs (EDPs) and identified four key themes as: key success factors for women entrepreneurs, success factors for women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship training programs, and effectiveness, highlighting the significance of EDPs for small and medium enterprises, especially for women entrepreneurs which serve as a guide to future researchers.

Keyword: *Entrepreneurship Development Programs, Entrepreneurship training programs, Small Business Development Programs, Bibliometric and Systematic Review*

I. Introduction

Entrepreneurship development programmes are designed to play a crucial role in fostering the growth and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are regarded as the pillars of many economies. These programmes are aimed at equipping aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with the necessary critical knowledge, skills and tools to successfully start, manage and grow their businesses. Training in business planning, financial management, marketing and innovation, as well as sources of funding, greatly assists in the growth and development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Entrepreneurship development programmes aim to provide both a theoretical and practical basis for entrepreneurial concepts and shape entrepreneurs' thinking, attitudes, and behaviours. These programmes do not only provide the practical skills needed for the growth and

sustainability of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), but they also promote a culture of innovation, resilience, and development.

Bibliographic analysis, also known as bibliometrics, is a quantitative method used to study scholarly publications and their impact. It involves analysing various aspects of literature, such as publication trends, citation counts, and author networks to understand the evolution and intellectual structure of a particular field of research. This analysis can reveal influential authors, journals, and institutions, as well as emerging themes and trends within a discipline. Systematic reviews, on the other hand, aim to provide a comprehensive and unbiased summary of existing research on a specific question by using rigorous methods to identify, select, and evaluate studies to enhance replication.

This paper attempts to provide researchers with the trend and development of entrepreneurship development programmes, a systematic review, and a bibliometric analysis of literature. The analyses of the study papers present several contributions that include the directions of studies on the entrepreneurship development programmes and clusters, of which such insight will be of significant relevance to future studies to gain a scientific overview of existing literature in the area. Bibliometric analysis in this study exposed the existing gap and the shortcomings in previous studies. Moreover, in addition to the introduction, other sections of this paper include methodology, presentation and analysis of results and conclusion, as the whole study is about a review of existing literature on the topic.

Objectives of Study

By using bibliometric analysis, this study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Identify the most influential article in the field of entrepreneurial development programmes.
- ii. Analyse publication productivity and trends over the study period.
- iii. Determine the direction of studies on entrepreneurship development programmes during

II. Literature Review

2.1 Concepts of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs)

The perceived economic benefits associated with successful entrepreneurship ventures worldwide have led to a growing interest in entrepreneurship development studies. These benefits include, but are not limited to, employment generation, wealth creation, and a long-term boost in capital market activity, ultimately contributing to overall economic growth.

In developing economies, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) are essential tools for fostering entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprise (SME) development. These programmes help mitigate structural barriers that often hinder entrepreneurship, such as inadequate infrastructure, limited access to financing, and insufficient business education. Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) contribute to poverty reduction by creating jobs and generating income for individuals and communities (Ismail et al., 2017). Moreover, they play a pivotal role in promoting innovation and diversifying the economy by encouraging the establishment of businesses in non-traditional sectors (OECD, 2019).

Research has shown that effective entrepreneurial development programmes (EDPs) significantly increase the likelihood of business success and sustainability. For instance, a study conducted by the World Bank (2020) found that entrepreneurs who participated in Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) were more likely to scale their businesses and create jobs compared to those who did not receive such support. Additionally, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) help address gender disparities in entrepreneurship by providing targeted support for female entrepreneurs, who often face additional challenges such as discrimination and limited access to resources (Ribeiro-Soriano, 2017).

Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) are comprehensive initiatives that provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, resources, and networks necessary to succeed in business. By addressing key barriers to entrepreneurship, such as a lack of training, finance, and support services, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) play a crucial role in fostering the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly in developing economies. The effect of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) on promoting entrepreneurship and economic development underscores their importance as policy tools for governments and development agencies. Given the importance of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), this study aimed to systematically review and analyse published research to find the main topics and how much research has been done on EDPs around the world.

2.2 Concept of Bibliometric Analysis

A bibliometric analysis can be employed to quantify and visualise the increasing trend in entrepreneurship development studies, revealing useful information about the research landscape and knowledge structure of this field. By applying bibliometric analysis, researchers can identify patterns, trends, and relationships within the literature, shedding light on the economic benefits and implications of entrepreneurship development. Bibliometric analysis is a research methodology that employs mathematical and statistical techniques to examine existing published literature. This approach was first introduced by Pritchard in 1969 and has since been employed within specific fields of study.

The primary purpose of bibliometric analysis is to assist researchers in understanding the intellectual structure of their area of interest. This is achieved by identifying major themes, visualising the relationships between concepts, and mapping the evolution of research within a particular field (Cobo et al., 2011; Grant et al., 2000; Vogel and Güttel, 2013). Bibliometric analysis encompasses a range of methods, which vary according to the type of information utilised in the dataset. Common techniques include citation-based analysis, keyword co-occurrence analysis (also known as co-word analysis), and co-authorship collaboration analysis (Van Raan, 2005; VanEck and Waltman, 2014).

Citation-based analysis is a subset of bibliometric analysis that can be further classified as bibliographic coupling, citation analysis, and co-citation analysis (Van Eck & Waltman, 2014). Among these methods, co-citation analysis is the most widely used (Ding et al., 2001). This approach examines two publications that appear together in a single paper (Small, 1973).

When two papers are frequently co-cited by other authors, it suggests that these references share a common theme or concept (Benckendorff & Zehrer, 2013). Co-citation analysis helps find groups of papers that are often cited together, giving researchers a clearer view of how scientific research is connected and how it has developed over time. By mapping these clusters, researchers can identify emerging trends and influential works within specific disciplines, which ultimately facilitates a deeper understanding of the evolution of scholarly discourse and the interconnections between various fields of study.

Co-citation analysis is considered superior to other bibliometric analysis methods in showcasing disciplinary structures (Bichteler & Eaton, 1980; Chang et al., 2015). However, it has limitations in providing a comprehensive picture of research topics. To address this issue, co-word analysis was developed (Callon et al., 1991). Co-word analysis involves examining the frequency of the co-occurrence of author keywords used in reviewed studies (Whittaker, 1989). This approach measures the strengths of keyword co-occurrence links and visualises the associations between keywords (Callon et al., 1991; Su and Lee, 2010). Keywords are terms that represent the core of a research paper, and co-word analysis is often used to explore concept networks, research topics, and trends in a specific discipline (Callon et al., 1991; Ding et al., 2001). However, co-word analysis has limitations, particularly in terms of stability over time.

Term changes over time can pose a weakness to co-word analysis (Leydesdorff, 1998; Astrom, 2002).

These methods enable researchers to quantitatively assess the existing literature and provide valuable insights into the patterns, trends, and relationships within a specific field of study. By applying bibliometric analysis, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of their research areas, identify gaps in existing literature, and inform future research directions.

This study employs bibliometric analysis to track the trend in literature on entrepreneurship development programmes over a six-year period, from 2020 to 2025. This method is considered efficient and effective when analysing publication performance over time.

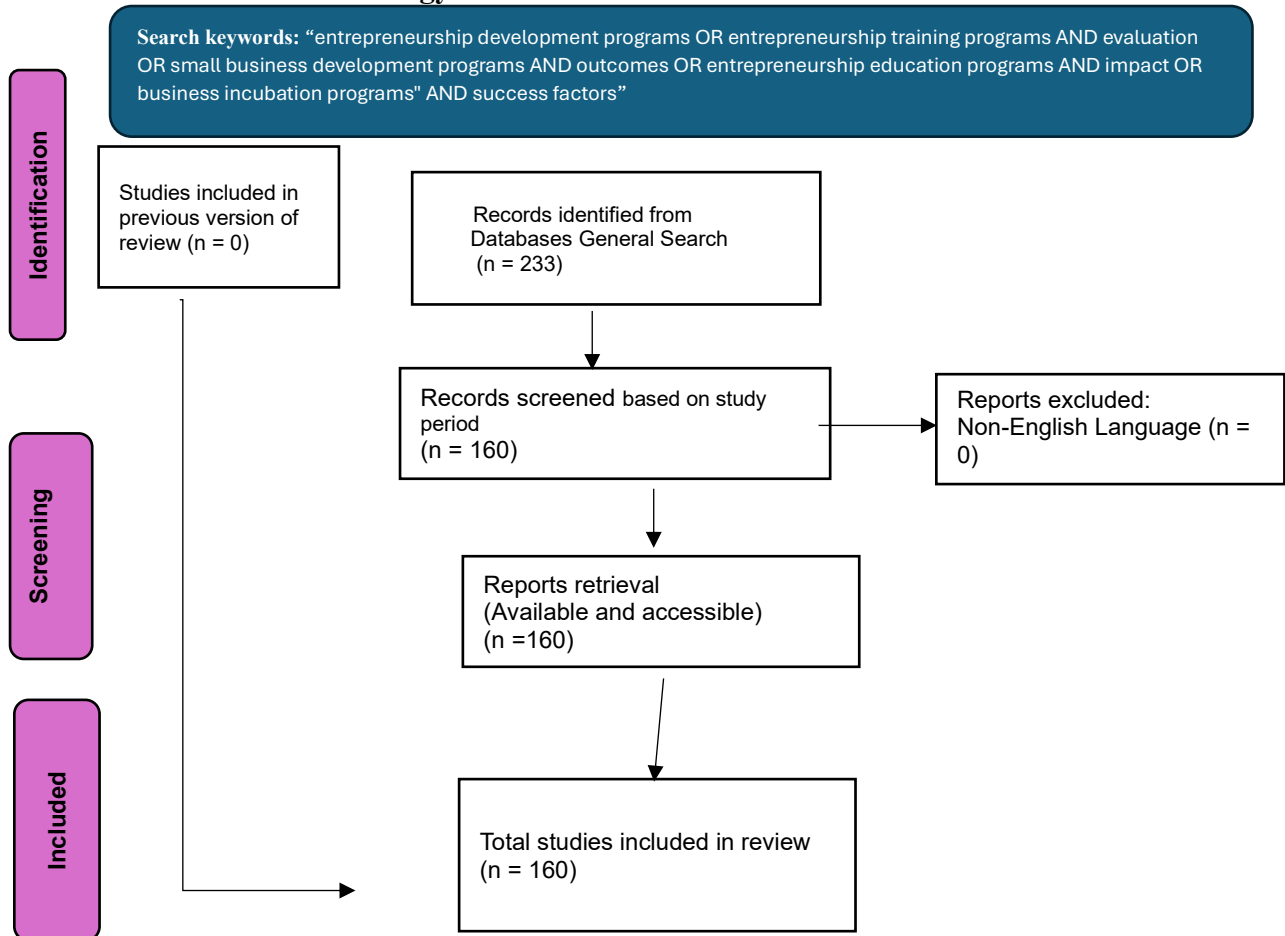
III. Methodology

This study adopted a systematic and structured approach to analyse the literature on entrepreneurial development programmes to ensure a comprehensive and transparent review process, the study utilised the Prepared Reporting Items for Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines (2020).

A systematic search was conducted on Google Scholar Database on Saturday, 12th April 2025, at 06:23pm using specific keywords: ("entrepreneurship development programmes OR entrepreneurship training programmes AND evaluation OR small business development programmes AND outcomes OR entrepreneurship education programmes AND impact OR business incubation programmes" AND success factors). The search results are presented in Table 3.1 below. We conducted bibliometric analysis on the literature using VOSviewer as a tool. This approach enabled the examination of publication performance over time, identification of the most influential papers, publication productivity, and direction of studies on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes.

The methodology employed in this study is consistent with previous research in the field (Alhamzah et al., 2020; Satish et al., 2022; Abdullahi and Aliyu, 2024). Moreover, the use of Prepared Reporting Items for Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines 2020 and bibliometric analysis is recognized as a scientific inquiry approach, with applications in various disciplines (Donthu et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2021; Zupic & Cater, 2015).

Table 3.1 Research methodology



Source(S) Figures by Author (2025)

Table 3.1 above indicates that, a comprehensive search in the Google Scholar Database yielded 233 papers, of which 160 were included in the review and 73 were excluded based on the study period (2020-2025)

IV. Bibliometric Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Dominant Authors and Journals

Table 2 below presents the top 20 influential authors and journals contributing to research on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs). These entities are defined along with their corresponding metrics, including Total Publications (TP), Total Citations (TC) and Total Link Strength (TLS), which indicate the overall strength of the nodes based on their collaborations or linkages with other nodes during the research period. Within the sample, C Li, N Ahmed, SA Qalati, A Khan, S Naz (2020), I Kania, G Anggadwita, DT Alamanda (2021) and W Dhewanto, S Ratnaningtyas, A Permatasari (2020) emerged as the most prolific authors, with the highest number of citations of 203, 109 and 71, respectively, in 2020 and 2021, followed by S Sharma and DP Goyal, A Singh (2021), M Chhabra, R Gera, R Hassan, and S Hasan (2020) with total citations of 46 and 41, respectively. Table 22 below presents the twenty most prominent authors based on cited count and publisher, with 10 and above citations in the field of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes based on Title, citations, Authors, and the Year of publication in order to provide an understanding of the trend and the area of high impact of consideration among previous studies for the period of six years (2020-2025).

Table: 4.1 Distributions of Twenty (20) Most Cited Authors and Publishers

S/N	YEAR	AUTHORS	TITLE	PUBLISHERS	TOTAL CITATIONS
1	2020	C Li, N Ahmed, SA Qalati, A Khan, S Naz	Role of business incubators as a tool for entrepreneurship development: the mediating and moderating role of business start-up and government regulations	mdpi.com	203
2	2021	I Kania, G Anggadwita, DT Alamanda	A new approach to stimulate rural entrepreneurship through village-owned enterprises in Indonesia	emerald.com	109
3	2020	W Dhewanto, S Ratnaningtyas, A Permatasari...	Rural entrepreneurship: towards collaborative participative models for economic sustainability	jssidoi.org	71
4	2021	S Sharma, DP Goyal, A Singh	Systematic review on sustainable entrepreneurship education (SEE): A framework and analysis	emerald.com	46
5	2020	M Chhabra, R Gera, R Hassan, S Hasan	An exploratory study of cognitive, social and normative dimensions of female entrepreneurship within transition economies: Evidence from India and Vietnam	econstor.eu	41
6	2020	M Bakracheva, D Pavlov, A Gudkov...	The intergenerational family businesses as a stress management instrument for entrepreneurs (Vol. 1)	academia.edu	33
7	2023	L Zeng, JH Ye, N Wang, YS Lee, J Yuan	The learning needs of art and design students in Chinese vocational colleges for entrepreneurship education: From the perspectives of theory of ...	mdpi.com	32
8	2020	A Pliakoura, G Beligiannis, A Kontogeorgos	Education in agricultural entrepreneurship: training needs and learning practices	emerald.com	29
9	2022	J Banu, R Baral	Career choice, growth and well-being of women entrepreneurs' community: insights on driving factors in India	emerald.com	28
10	2022	I Santana-Domínguez, JL Ballesteros-Rodríguez...	An application of training transfer literature to the analysis of training for entrepreneurship: A conceptual model	Elsevier	25
11	2020	S Rajan, S Panicker	The concept of entrepreneurial ability-evidence from women in MSMEs of Karnataka state	inderscienceonline.com	24

12	2023	A Biswas	Construing drivers of firm competitiveness: coalescing pursuit of excellence with entrepreneurial competencies	emerald.com	23
13	2022	FJ Eller, MM Gielnik, J Yeves...	Adjusting the sails: Investigating the feedback loop of the opportunity development process in entrepreneurship training	journals.aom.org	22
14	2022	U Guelich	Gendered Entrepreneurship Education and the Fear of Failure.	ERIC	17
15	2021	D Saxena, N Dhall, R Malik	Sustainable Banking: A roadmap to sustainable development	virtusinterpretations.org	16
16	2021	M Lima	Entrepreneurship and innovation education: frameworks and tools	John Wiley & Sons	14
17	2021	C Margaça, BR Hernández-Sánchez...	Impact of the optimistic perspective on the intention to create social enterprises: a comparative study between Portugal and Spain	frontiersin.org	14
18	2023	NH Mohd Noor, A Mohamad Fuzi...	Institutional support and self-efficacy as catalysts for new venture performance: a study of iGen entrepreneurs	emerald.com	13
19	2022	NB Manjaly, G Joseph, KN KS	Entrepreneurial Intention of Indian Women University Students		13
20	2022	T Kille, R Wiesner, SY Lee, M Johnson Morgan...	Capital factors influencing rural, regional and remote women's entrepreneurship development: An Australian perspective	mdpi.com	10

Source(s) compiled by the author

The result reveals that out of 160 papers under review for the study period, the top paper with 10 and above citations were papers published between 2020 to 2023. With the paper titled “Role of business incubators as a tool for entrepreneurship development: the mediating and moderating role of business start-up and government regulations” by C. Li, N. Ahmed, SA Qalati, A. Khan, and S. Naz (2020), recorded the highest citation of 203, which qualified them as the lead authors in the study area, followed by a paper titled “A new approach to stimulate rural entrepreneurship through village-owned enterprises in Indonesia” in the same year, 2021, recorded 109 citations. The lowest cited paper for the period under review was titled “Capital factors influencing rural, regional and remote women's entrepreneurship development: An Australian perspective” by T Kille, R Wiesner, SY Lee, and M Johnson Morgan, with 10 citations. (See Fig. 4.1: The Most Influential Authors.)

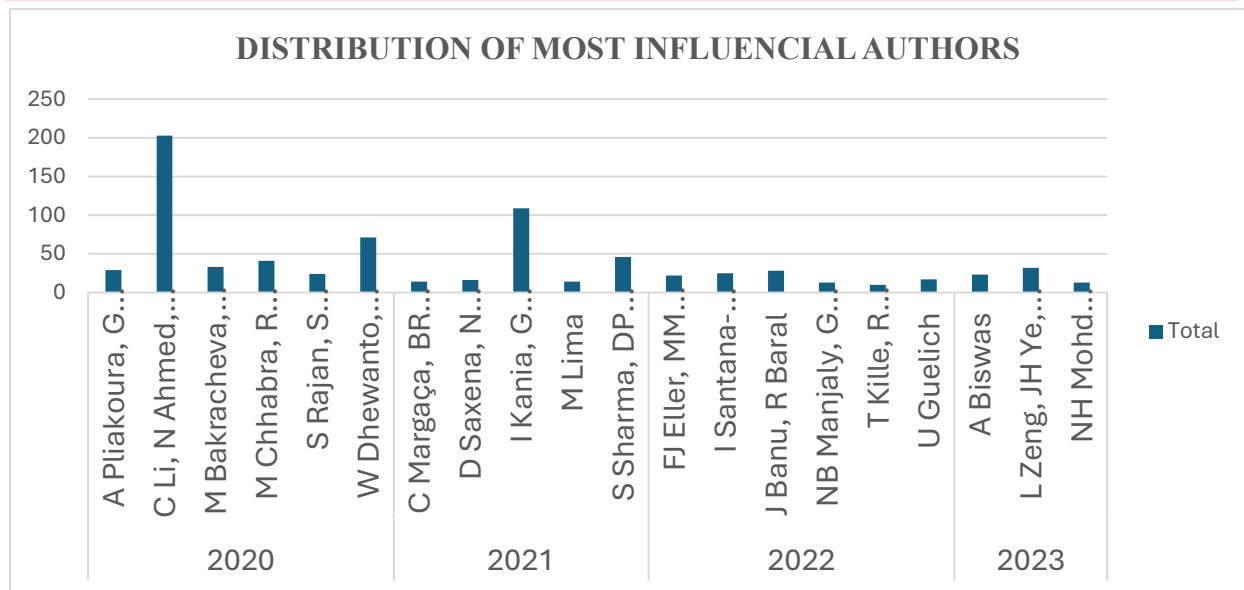


Fig. 4.1 the most influential Authors
Source(s) Author compilation

The above figure presents the most influential authors on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) studies for the period under review; the study conducts an analysis of the total number of publications to determine the most productive journal over time regarding Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) using the most cited paper and journal. The result of the analysis reveals that the paper published in 2020 by MDPI journal records the highest citation of 203, followed by a paper titled "A new approach to stimulate rural entrepreneurship through village-owned enterprises in Indonesia" in the same year, 2021, which recorded 109 citations, while the lowest cited paper for the period under review was titled "Capital factors influencing rural, regional, and remote women's entrepreneurship development: An Australian perspective" by T. Kille, R. Wiesner, SY Lee, and M. Johnson Morgan, with 10 citations. (See Fig. 4.1, The Most Influential Authors.)

4.2 Publication Productivity

To provide an answer on the question, what is the publication productivity of the study on entrepreneurship development programmes?' The study analyses the Google Scholar database for the period of six years (2020 – 2025) to explore the trend of productivity in literature as shown in **Fig. 4.2 below**. The findings reveal that Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) is an emerging field of study with few publications between 2020 to 2025 recording total publications.

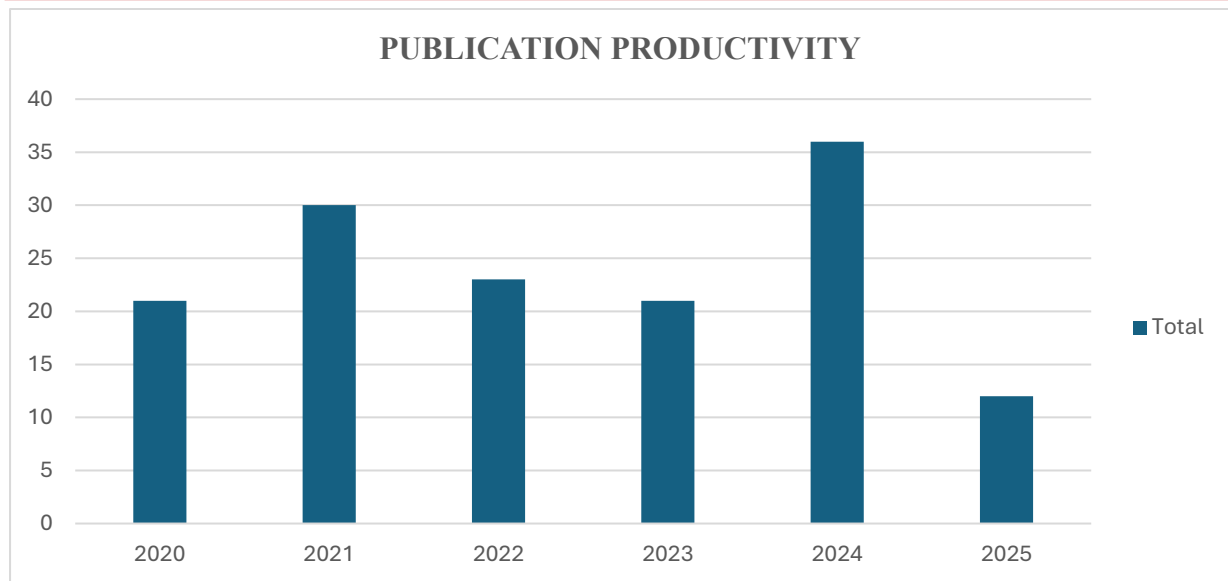


Figure 4.2: PUBLICATION PRODUCTIVITY

4.3 Social and Intellectual Structure

The social structure highlights collaboration among authors, institutions and countries. An analysis of authors collaboration using Vosviewer visualisation software revealed associations between three authors, *Harkeh, Hussen, and Youssef*, in their work titled “The role of microfinance in funding small & medium enterprises: Harekello Town of Goro Dolla District in Focus, Ethiopia” (Hussen et al., 2021), Framework for conceptualising transition readiness from emergency response to rebuilding livelihoods in Mogadishu, Somalia (Hauser & Mugonya, and *Brief on Entrepreneurship in Lebanon Unlocking Potentials: Addressing Barriers and Empowering Entrepreneurs in Lebanon* (Youssef et al., 2024). While these collaborations signify growth in contributions to the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, more cooperation is required among authors due to the relatively limited number of collaborations. Leveraging the expertise and unique knowledge bases of scholars across the continent through increased collaboration would facilitate a more critical comparison of the effects of entrepreneurship development programmes. See figure 2 below.

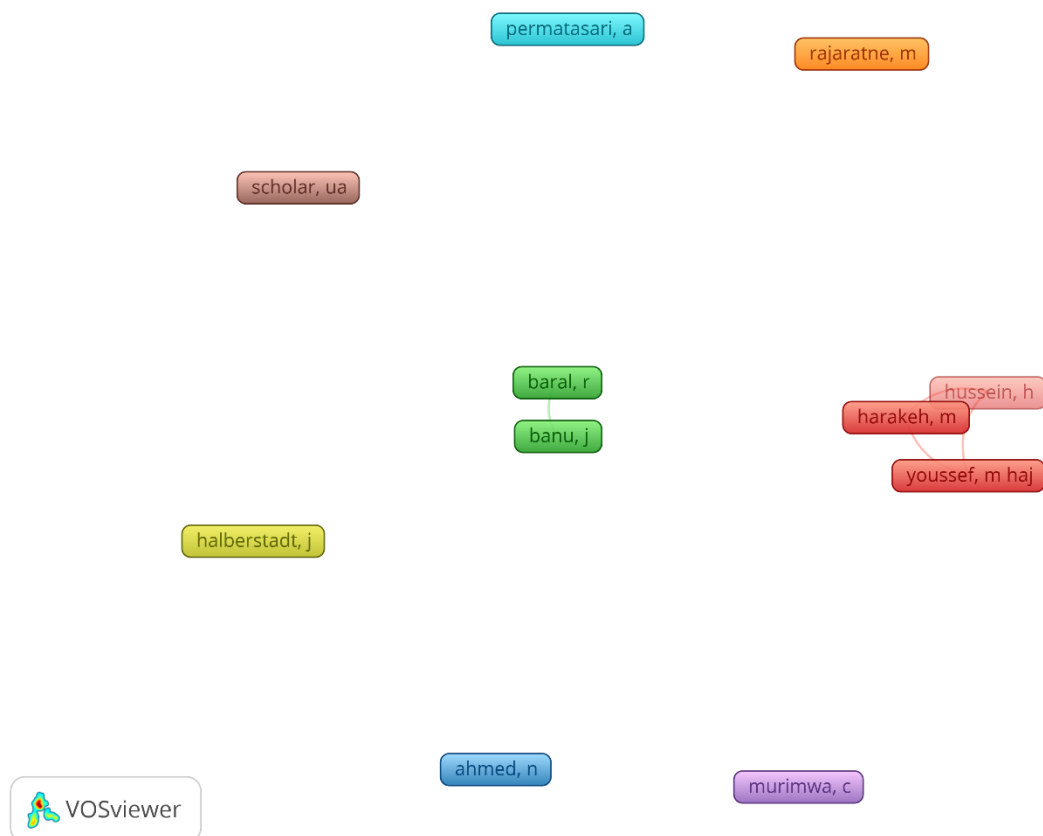


Fig. 4.3 Screenshot of bibliometric map created based on co-authorships (VOS viewer output)

4.4 Conceptual structure

This section employs a co-word analysis using author keywords to assess the knowledge structure within the literature on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs). Figure 4.3 shows the co-occurrence network of dominant keywords. We identified seven keywords using a parameter that necessitates at least two occurrences. The keyword co-occurrence network revealed two different clusters through link strength associations. Node sizes represent keyword occurrences, while colours and links denote connections to other items and their associated clusters.

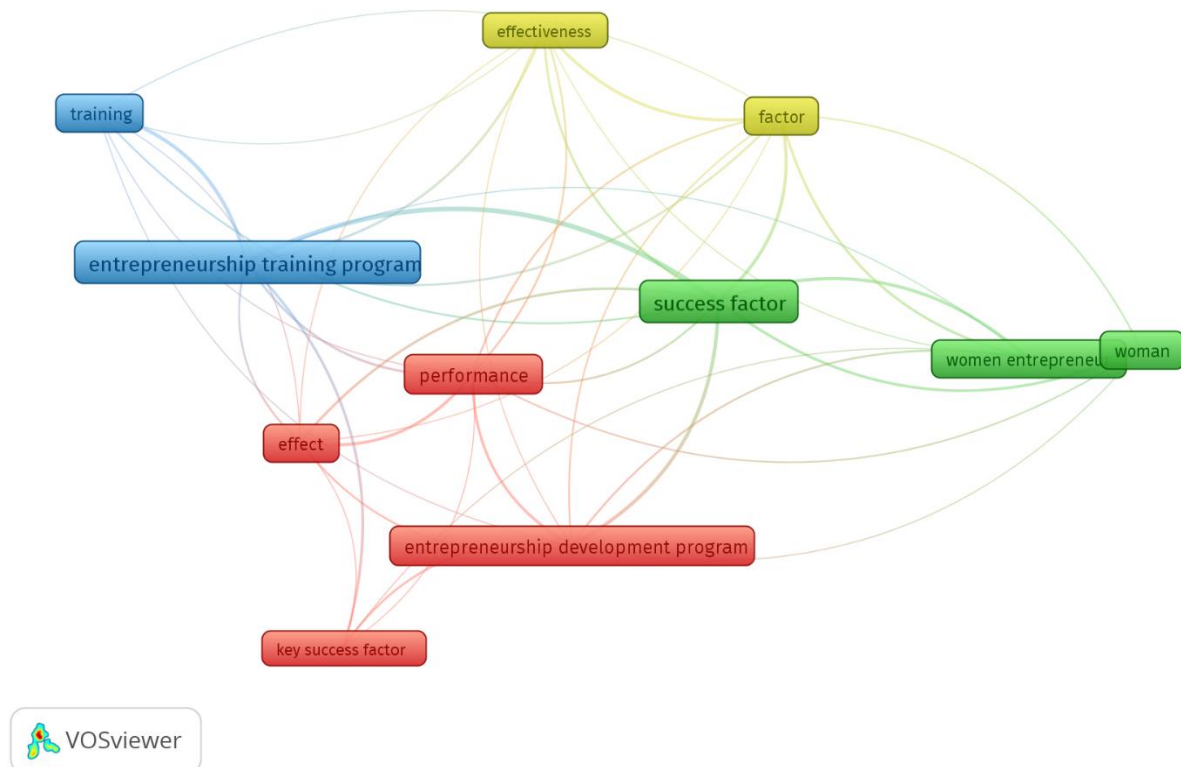


Fig. 4.4 Screenshot of Bibliometric Map Created Base on Keyword Co-Occurrence (Vosviewer Output)

The number of author keywords in a paper determined the formation of the keyword clusters, each containing a minimum of two keywords. Cluster 1 (red) has a total link strength of 13 and consists of five items, encompassing keywords like entrepreneurship development programmes, entrepreneurship training programmes, performance, effect and women entrepreneur. These keywords suggest a focus on Key Success Factor (KSP). Cluster 2 (Green) has the total link strength of 65 with 9 links and total occurrences of 48, focusing on success factors and women consisted of nine items, encompassing keywords like Women Entrepreneurship, Women, Factors, Effectiveness, Performance, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Effects, Entrepreneurship Training Programmes and Training. Cluster 3 (Blue) has the total link strength of 52 with 8 links and total occurrences of 44, focusing on the Entrepreneurship Training Programmes consists of eight items, encompassing keywords like Effects, Performance, Key success factors, Training, Effectiveness, Factor, Success Factor, and Women Entrepreneur. Cluster 4 (Yellow) has the total link strength of 23 with 8 links and total occurrences of 11, focusing on Effectiveness consisted of eight items, encompassing keywords like factors, training, entrepreneurship training programmes, effect, performance, success factor, entrepreneurship development programmes and women entrepreneurs. This cluster emphasises the significant importance placed on studies considering the effects of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) on the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has achieved its objectives by identifying the most influential article in the field of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), analysing publication productivity and trends, and determining the direction of studies on EDPs. The findings reveal that the most influential article is "Role of business incubators as a tool for entrepreneurship development: the mediating and moderating role of business start-up and government regulations" by C. Li et al. (2020). The study also indicates that EDPs is an emerging field with steady growth in publications between 2020 and 2025. Furthermore, the direction of studies on EDPs is focused on key success factors, women entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship training programmes, and effectiveness. These findings provide valuable insights into the current state of research on EDPs, highlighting the importance of collaboration, identifying key success factors, and promoting women's entrepreneurship. The study's results offer a foundation for future research and practical implications for policymakers and stakeholders in the field of entrepreneurship development.

5.1 Findings

This study's findings reveal that the most influential article in Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) is "Role of Business Incubators as a Tool for Entrepreneurship Development" by C. Li et al. (2020), with 203 citations. The study also shows that Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) is an emerging field with a steady growth in publications between 2020 and 2025. Furthermore, the direction of studies on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) focuses on key success factors, women entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship training programmes, and effectiveness, highlighting the importance of collaboration and promoting women entrepreneurship.

5.2 Limitations and opportunities for future research

Although bibliometric analysis offers valuable insights, it is not without limitations. The study depends on the availability and completeness of the data in the selected database. In addition, linguistic biases and the exclusion of non-English publications may affect the scope of the analysis. To address these limitations, future research could explore additional databases and include non-English publications. Furthermore, longitudinal research could provide a broader view of the lasting impact of influential work and the development of research trends.

The results of this systematic review and bibliometric analysis have several implications for future research on Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs). The interrelated thematic clusters suggest a need for interdisciplinary exploration within the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP). The study cites influential works that have made significant contributions to the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP). Future research should focus on understanding the practical implications of these works, facilitating the practical application of the knowledge acquired.

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