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Ecosystem of Social Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries: A Bibliometric and Network Analysis

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Abstract

This study analyzes the worldwide intellectual framework of research on social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations through a comprehensive bibliometric and network analysis of Scopus-indexed publications. By employing VOSviewer, the study systematically maps co-occurrence patterns, co-authorship structures, and cross-country collaboration networks to identify the principal research themes, influential authors, and collaborative dynamics that shape this scholarly domain. The results reveal that “social entrepreneurship” functions as the core thematic cluster, strongly interconnected with concepts such as social innovation, sustainable development, inclusive growth, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. These associations demonstrate how social entrepreneurship in developing countries is increasingly positioned as a multidimensional catalyst for socio-economic transformation. The network visualizations further highlight strong linkages between innovation-oriented studies and sustainability-driven research streams, underscoring the systemic and interdependent characteristics of social entrepreneurship. These connections suggest that researchers increasingly view entrepreneurial initiatives not only as economic activities but also as mechanisms for addressing societal challenges, empowering communities, and strengthening local resilience. Country-level analysis indicates that the United States and the United Kingdom remain predominant contributors, yet there is a notable surge in scholarly output from emerging economies across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, reflecting growing academic interest and practical relevance in these regions. Research deepens theoretical understanding of social entrepreneurship ecosystems while offering practical insights for policymakers, development agencies, and practitioners seeking to cultivate supportive environments for socially driven ventures.

Keywords: Social Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Social Innovation, Sustainable Development, Bibliometric Analysis, Developing Countries, Vosviewer, Network Mapping.

1. Introduction

Social entrepreneurship has become a crucial catalyst for equitable and sustainable development in numerous developing nations. In contrast to conventional entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship combines the generation of economic value with social impact and community empowerment, tackling societal challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, and restricted access to public services. Academics increasingly contend that social entrepreneurs are essential in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially for poverty alleviation, job creation, gender equality, and community resilience [1][2]. As the sector progresses, comprehending the wider ecosystem that facilitates or hinders social entrepreneurship is essential for realizing its revolutionary potential.

In developing nations, the efficacy of social entrepreneurship ventures is frequently influenced by many institutional, cultural, and resource-related factors. Social enterprises generally function inside institutional gaps characterized by deficient legal frameworks, constrained financial infrastructure, and insufficient support systems, necessitating innovative and adaptive strategies [3]. These contextual constraints necessitate that social entrepreneurs depend more significantly on networks, collaborations, community trust, and alternative resource mobilization strategies. Consequently, the ecosystem of social entrepreneurship in developing regions significantly contrasts with that of industrialized nations, influencing the focus of research in this field. Recent research underscores the significance of multi-actor ecosystems that encompass government entities, non-governmental organizations, funders, impact investors, academic institutions, and community organizations [4], [5].

The notion of entrepreneurial ecosystems has evolved, illustrating how interconnected players, institutions, social norms, and resource flows all impact entrepreneurial activity [6]. The ecosystem view, when applied to social entrepreneurship, offers a thorough framework for analyzing supporting mechanisms including policy frameworks, social capital, financial access, incubators, training, and collaborative networks. The advancement of this conceptual framework of social entrepreneurship in developing nations has been inconsistent, fragmented, and scattered across various disciplines, including management, development studies, sociology, and public policy. Consequently, delineating the knowledge framework of this domain is essential for consolidating current discoveries and uncovering novel intellectual avenues.

Bibliometric analysis has become a robust methodological instrument for systematically mapping and quantifying scientific output, conceptual frameworks, and developing trends within a research domain. Bibliometrics utilizes citation analysis, co-authorship patterns, keyword co-occurrence, and network mapping to elucidate the evolution of knowledge over time and across disciplinary boundaries [7]. Bibliometric studies in social entrepreneurship research have started to reveal topic progression, leading authors, significant journals, and key conceptual clusters. Most current assessments mostly concentrate on social entrepreneurship broadly or analyze entrepreneurial ecosystems without distinguishing between developed and poor nations [8].

Due to the distinct institutional frameworks of developing nations, there are persistent knowledge deficiencies regarding the conceptualization, structuring, and analysis of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in current academic literature. Network analysis, encompassing both co-authorship and co-citation, can elucidate patterns of collaboration, prominent scholars, and intellectual paradigms within this domain. Simultaneously, co-occurrence analysis of keywords can elucidate prevailing themes such as effect measurement, sustainability, innovation, governance, stakeholder involvement, and resource mobilization. This integrated approach constructs a thorough understanding of the evolution of the academic discourse on social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations and indicates potential directions for future research.

These factors highlight the necessity of bibliometric and network analysis for enhancing the comprehension of social entrepreneurship ecosystems in underdeveloped countries. This study consolidates current data and identifies research boundaries, regional disparities, methodological trends, and conceptual clusters that might guide policy, scholarship, and practice. This study carefully maps the research environment, offering a foundational understanding of the theorization and operationalization of social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations.

Despite a swift rise in publications concerning social entrepreneurship, the literature examining its ecosystem in developing nations remains disjointed, lacking cohesive knowledge mapping across conceptual, geographical, and methodological aspects. Current research predominantly emphasizes case studies, conceptual frameworks, or sector-specific assessments, lacking a thorough overview of the field's intellectual structure. Understanding of scholarly collaboration is restricted, with unclear dominant topics in discourse, the evolution of the discipline throughout time, and existing conceptual gaps. As a result, policymakers, scholars, and practitioners possess an insufficiently unified evidence base to inform the establishment of supporting ecosystems for social entrepreneurship in developing nations. This fragmentation signifies the necessity for a comprehensive bibliometric and network based analysis of the domain.

This study intends to systematically delineate and examine the global research landscape of social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations through bibliometric and network analysis. The objectives are to: (1) identify publication trends, influential authors, leading journals, and prominent countries in the field; (2) analyze collaboration networks and co-authorship patterns; (3) elucidate the conceptual structure through keyword co-occurrence, co-citation, and thematic clustering; and (4) delineate emerging research hotspots, intellectual gaps, and future research opportunities. This method aims to offer a comprehensive grasp of the emerging knowledge domain and enhance the theoretical and practical advancement of social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing countries.

2. Research Methods

This research utilized bibliometric analysis to extensively delineate the scholarly landscape of social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations. Bibliometric analysis is acknowledged as a potent quantitative approach for investigating trends in scientific output, citation frameworks, and topic evolution across time [7], [9].

The Scopus database was chosen as the principal data source because of its extensive coverage of high-impact publications, wide disciplinary representation, and strong metadata dependability [10]. Keywords including “social entrepreneurship,” “ecosystem,” “developing countries,” “social enterprise ecosystem,” and “entrepreneurial ecosystems” were employed in various Boolean combinations to obtain pertinent data. The preliminary dataset comprised peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and reviews published from 1990 to 2025. Following the application of inclusion and exclusion criteria such as topic relevance, English-language publications, and conceptual alignment duplicates were eliminated, resulting in a finalized dataset for subsequent analysis.

Subsequent to data retrieval, quantitative bibliometric analyses were performed utilizing the Bibliometrix package in R and its web-based interface, Biblioshiny. These instruments provide descriptive analysis encompassing annual publication growth, citation trends, notable authors, journals, institutions, and contributions by nation [9]. A co-occurrence analysis of author keywords was performed to discern emergent conceptual frameworks and theme clusters within the domain [11]. Co-citation analysis was conducted to elucidate the intellectual roots of the study domain, while historiographic mapping was employed to illustrate the progression of significant studies and conceptual trajectories across time [12]. These methodologies jointly offer a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the academic evolution pertaining to social entrepreneurship ecosystems.

This study augmented the bibliometric findings by employing network analysis through VOSviewer software, which enables the visualization of scientific networks, including co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence [13]. Network analysis elucidates collaboration patterns across authors, institutions, and countries, demonstrating the flow of knowledge within the research community and identifying which places or scholars function as essential nodes in the discourse on social entrepreneurship ecosystems. The integration of bibliometric and network analyses offers macro-level insights and micro-level relational dynamics, facilitating a thorough comprehension of the evolution, consolidation, and diversification of study on social entrepreneurship in developing nations over the decades.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Network Visualization

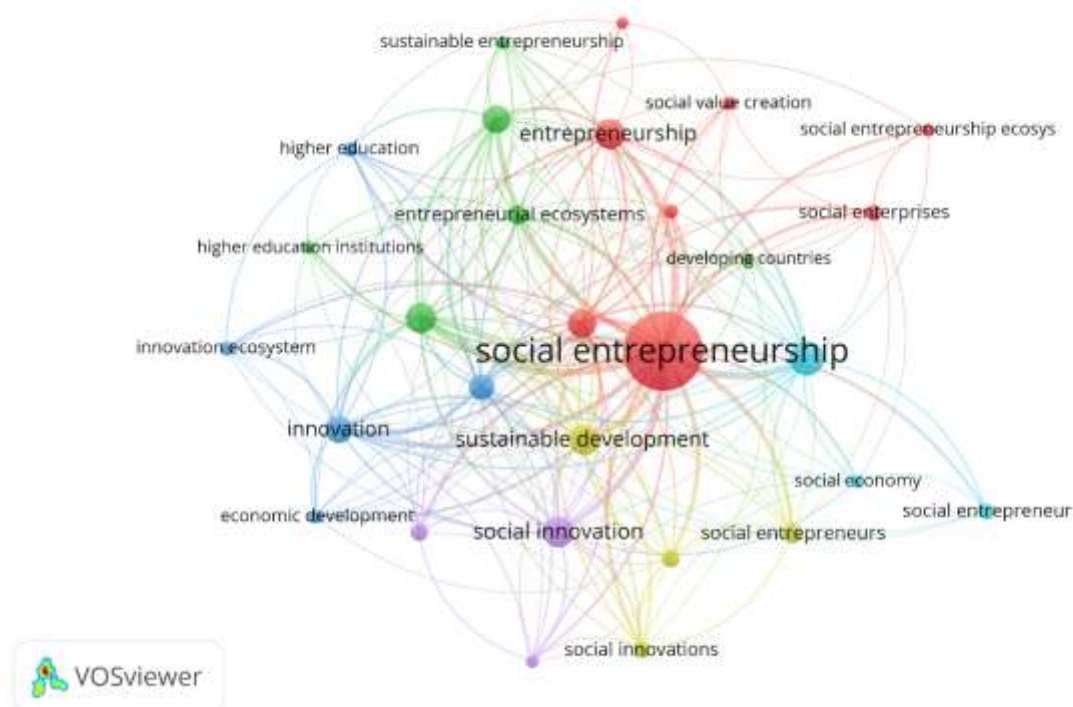


Figure 1. Network Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

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The VOSviewer network visualization identifies "social entrepreneurship" as the central and most prominent node, as seen by its largest size and greatest connectedness. This indicates that social entrepreneurship is the central conceptual framework in the literature, closely associated with several complimentary issues such as social innovation, sustainable development, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and innovation. The concentration of links surrounding this key node indicates that study in this area is profoundly interdisciplinary, incorporating elements from entrepreneurship, sustainability studies, development studies, and innovation management. The pronounced clustering around this idea indicates that social entrepreneurship is a dynamic domain that amalgamates various theoretical and practical viewpoints.

A prominent theme cluster in the graphic pertains to creativity and innovation ecosystems, denoted by blue nodes such as "innovation," "innovation ecosystem," and "higher education." These clusters demonstrate the essential function of creative capabilities and institutional support—especially from universities and research institutions—in fostering social entrepreneurial endeavors. The relationships between innovation-focused entities and sustainable development demonstrate that technological and organizational innovations are essential for social enterprises to tackle societal concerns more efficiently. This cluster indicates that innovation ecosystems in poor nations are progressively focused on addressing social issues rather than solely pursuing commercial goals.

A significant cluster, depicted in green, pertains to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Terms like "entrepreneurship," "entrepreneurial ecosystems," and "sustainable entrepreneurship" highlight the systemic perspective that social entrepreneurship functions interdependently, relying on a supportive network of stakeholders, resources, policies, and institutions. The relationships among these nodes illustrate academic focus on how facilitating environments—such as infrastructure, policy assistance, financial frameworks, and community involvement—affect the success and scalability of social enterprises in developing nations. This corresponds with the increasing acknowledgment that ecosystem thinking is essential for comprehending the emergence and sustainability of social enterprises amid resource limitations.

The red cluster signifies themes associated with social value creation and social business models, encompassing nodes such as "social value creation," "social enterprises," and "social entrepreneurship ecosystem." This indicates a study focus on the measurable social effect generated by social companies and the role of ecosystem structures on value creation. The references to "developing countries" underscore a contextual framework wherein social entrepreneurship is purposefully employed as a tool to tackle poverty, inequality, restricted access to public services, and various developmental obstacles. The tight interconnections within this cluster indicate a growing scholarly focus on comprehending social enterprise performance, hybrid business structures, and social impact trajectories.

The cluster focused on sustainable development and "social innovation," shown in purple, yellow, and related hues, signifies a cohesive narrative in which social entrepreneurship is increasingly recognized as a catalyst for sustainability transitions. Terms like "sustainable development," "social innovation," and "economic development" indicate the congruence of social entrepreneurship with the overarching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. The emergence of words such as "social economy" and "social entrepreneurs" indicates that the literature is broadening to include wider societal frameworks, highlighting collective value, inclusivity, and systemic transformation. The image demonstrates a shift from firm-level study to a systemic and ecosystem-based understanding of social entrepreneurship's role in long-term societal transformation.

3.2 Overlay Visualization

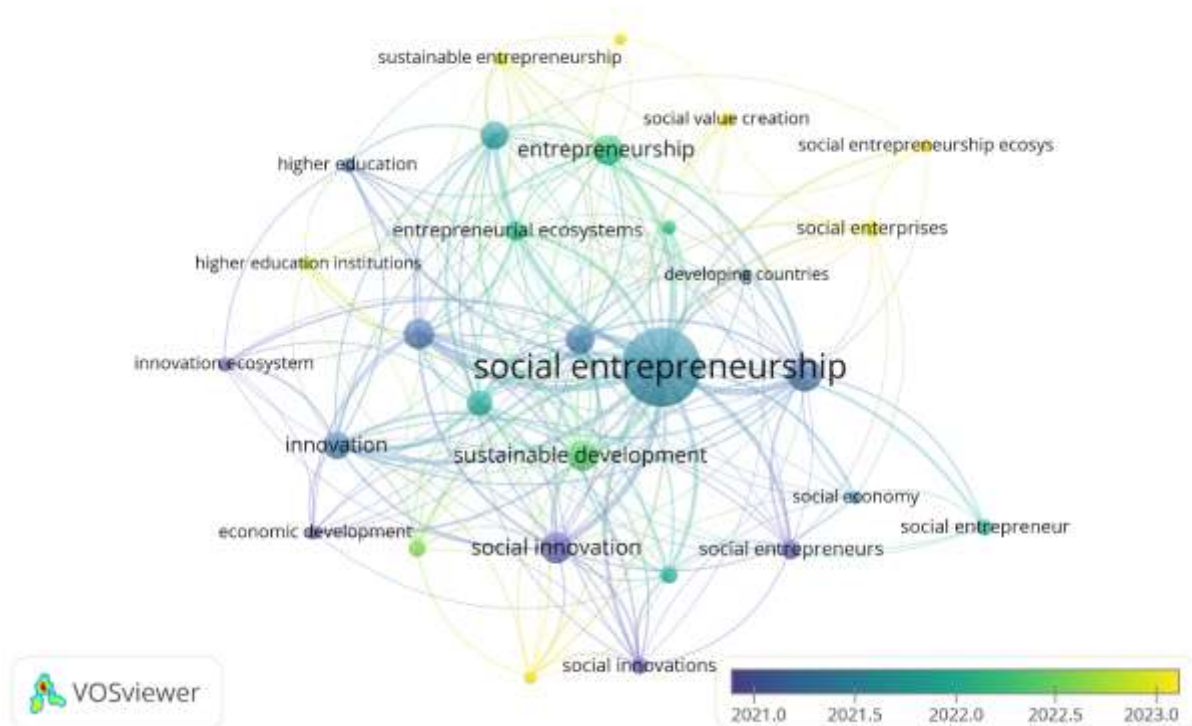


Figure 2. Overlay Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

The overlay graphic depicts the temporal progression of research on social entrepreneurship in developing nations. The color gradient—from dark blue (representing earlier articles, circa 2021) to brilliant yellow (denoting current publications, 2023)—illustrates the evolution of scholarly attention throughout time. The term "social entrepreneurship" is prominently highlighted, indicating its status as a well-established and constantly central concept throughout the time. Adjacent concepts such as innovation, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and higher education are depicted in cooler hues, indicating their role as foundational clusters that influenced the preliminary theoretical and conceptual advancements in the subject.

As research advanced into 2022 and 2023, the appearance of yellow-shaded nodes underscores contemporary academic interests. Terms like "social value creation," "social entrepreneurship ecosystems," "social enterprises," and "sustainable entrepreneurship" are becoming prominent, reflecting a modern transition towards ecosystem-oriented viewpoints, sustainability-focused models, and value-driven results. This indicates a shift in the field from a broad definition of social entrepreneurship to an analysis of how ecosystems and institutional contexts influence impact generation in developing nations.

A significant trend is the increasing focus on sustainable development, social innovations, and the interrelated functions of economic development and higher education institutions, which are grouped within both established (blue/green) and emerging (yellow) phases. This signifies a sustained attention with developing subtleties. Initial study mostly conceptualized these features, but contemporary studies empirically implement them within ecosystem frameworks. The visualization illustrates a dynamic, evolving field where theoretical foundations established in 2021–2022 now underpin more advanced, ecosystem-level analyses in 2023, indicating a transition from isolated entrepreneurial efforts to more comprehensive systemic, institutional, and sustainability-focused strategies.

3.3 Citation Analysis

An analysis of the most significant articles in social entrepreneurship and ecosystem research establishes an essential basis for comprehending the evolution of scholarly discourse, especially in emerging nations. High-impact studies frequently influence theoretical frameworks, methodological choices, and empirical discussions, pro

viding insights into the role of social entrepreneurship in fostering innovation, sustainability, and socio-economic change. The table below displays the foremost articles ranked by citation counts sourced from the Scopus database, emphasizing notable authors, publication years, and foundational contributions that have substantially progressed the examination of entrepreneurial ecosystems, social innovation, sustainable development, and institutional roles in emerging economies. This compilation functions as an intellectual framework that facilitates the identification of prevailing themes, conceptual intersections, and probable knowledge deficiencies in the literature.

Table 1. Top Cited Research

Citations	Authors and year	Title
259	Biggs, R., Westley, F.R., Carpenter, S.R.	Navigating the back loop: Fostering social innovation and transformation in ecosystem management
249	Thompson, T.A., Purdy, J.M., Ventresca, M.J.	How entrepreneurial ecosystems take form: Evidence from social impact initiatives in Seattle
218	Rahdari, A., Sepasi, S., Moradi, M.	Achieving sustainability through Schumpeterian social entrepreneurship: The role of social enterprises
186	Khavul, S., Bruton, G.D.	Harnessing Innovation for Change: Sustainability and Poverty in Developing Countries
153	Surie, G.	Creating the innovation ecosystem for renewable energy via social entrepreneurship: Insights from India
127	Roundy, P.T.	Social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems Complementary or disjoint phenomena?
126	Ratten, V.	Coronavirus (Covid-19) and entrepreneurship: cultural, lifestyle and societal changes
122	Suchek, N., Ferreira, J.J., Fernandes, P.O.	A review of entrepreneurship and circular economy research: State of the art and future directions
113	Bozhikin, I., Macke, J., da Costa, L.F	The role of government and key non-state actors in social entrepreneurship: A systematic literature review
109	Del Giudice, M., Garcia-Perez, A., Scuotto, V., Orlando, B.	Are social enterprises technological innovative? A quantitative analysis on social entrepreneurs in emerging countries

Source: Scopus, 2025

The table delineates a varied array of significant works that jointly establish the intellectual framework of social entrepreneurship research within ecosystem and development contexts. These seminal works underscore multiple recurring themes, notably the significance of social innovation in reshaping societal systems [14], the development and dynamics of entrepreneurial ecosystems motivated by social impact [15], and the crucial function of social enterprises in promoting sustainability via Schumpeterian innovation [16]. Numerous extensively referenced studies highlight the significance of social entrepreneurship in tackling poverty, environmental issues, and the adoption of renewable energy in underdeveloped nations [17], [18]. Moreover, researchers like [5]. and [19]. enhance the comprehension of ecosystem interdependencies by examining the influence of government, non-state actors, and institutional frameworks on social entrepreneurship endeavors. These significant papers establish a vital knowledge foundation that directs current research and shapes future inquiries into the operation, evolution, and societal value generation of social entrepreneurship ecosystems, especially in emerging and resource-limited contexts.

3.4 Density Visualization



Figure 3. Density Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

The density map illustrates social entrepreneurship as the focal and most vigorous domain of research effort, denoted by the bright yellow area. This indicates that in the wider academic context, social entrepreneurship is the most prevalent and intricately linked keyword. Adjacent to this dense core are interrelated themes including sustainable development, innovation, entrepreneurship, and social innovation. Their closeness and transition from yellow to green indicate robust co-occurrence patterns, demonstrating that these subjects are integral to the discipline and are frequently examined in conjunction. The intensity concentration in this central cluster indicates that scholars perceive social entrepreneurship as intrinsically linked to sustainability and innovation processes, especially in tackling social issues.

The map features numerous somewhat thick green and blue regions that signify new or complementing topics, including innovation ecosystems, higher education institutions, economic development, and developing nations. While these terms are less prevalent than the primary keywords, their occurrence signifies a growing academic interest in comprehending how institutional contexts, ecosystem dynamics, and contextual development variables influence social entrepreneurship. The gradual dispersion of density towards the periphery indicates that the field is expanding—linking conventional social entrepreneurship rhetoric with emerging areas such as renewable energy, social value generation, and circular economy frameworks. The density graphic illustrates a dynamic, interconnected research landscape characterized by a robust central foundation and increasing theme variety.

3.5 Co-Authorship Network

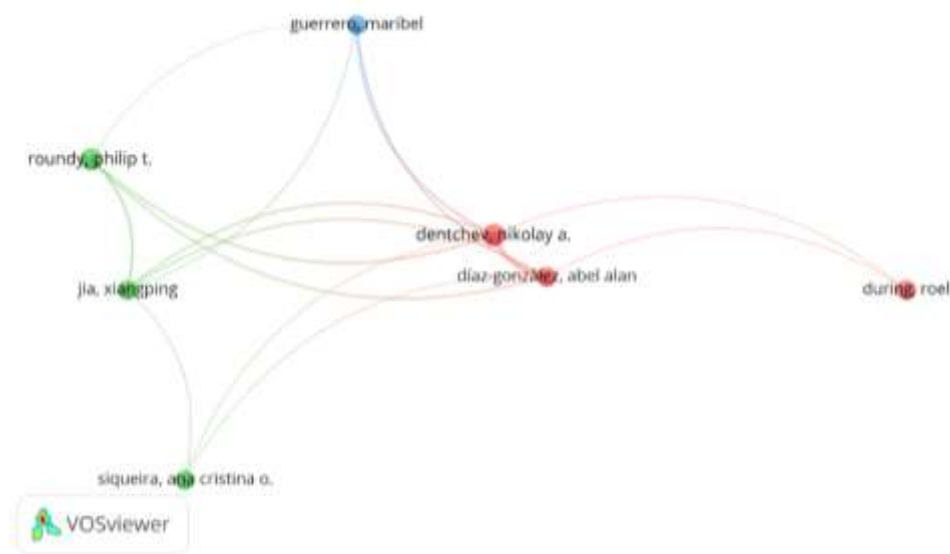


Figure 4. Author Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

The depicted author-coauthorship network reveals a notably concentrated collaborative framework in the domain of social entrepreneurship research. Several key scholars, particularly Nikolay A. Dentchev and Abel Alan Díaz-González, have pivotal positions that link several research clusters, highlighting their significant importance in synthesizing divergent academic viewpoints. Their recurrent coauthorship in several groups indicates that they serve as intellectual anchors, facilitating the consolidation of subject conversations and the dissemination of emergent insights throughout the network. On the left side of the map, Philip T. Roundy, Xiangping Jia, and Ana Cristina O. Siqueira constitute a separate cluster marked by numerous internal linkages. This pattern indicates robust, continuous collaboration and a common thematic emphasis, presumably concerning entrepreneurial ecosystems and the institutional frameworks that influence social enterprise operations. The thickness of the connecting lines signifies persistent co-publication trends, illustrating a consistent and fruitful research collaboration. This cluster simultaneously sustains indirect yet significant connections to the primary researchers, illustrating how their work contributes to wider discussions while furthering a distinct intellectual agenda. The network has a structure wherein a few number of well-connected researchers enable inter-cluster knowledge transfer, while smaller groupings preserve focused subject expertise. This pattern illustrates the increasing interdisciplinarity of social entrepreneurship research, wherein concepts from management, sustainability, innovation, and institutional theory converge through joint work.

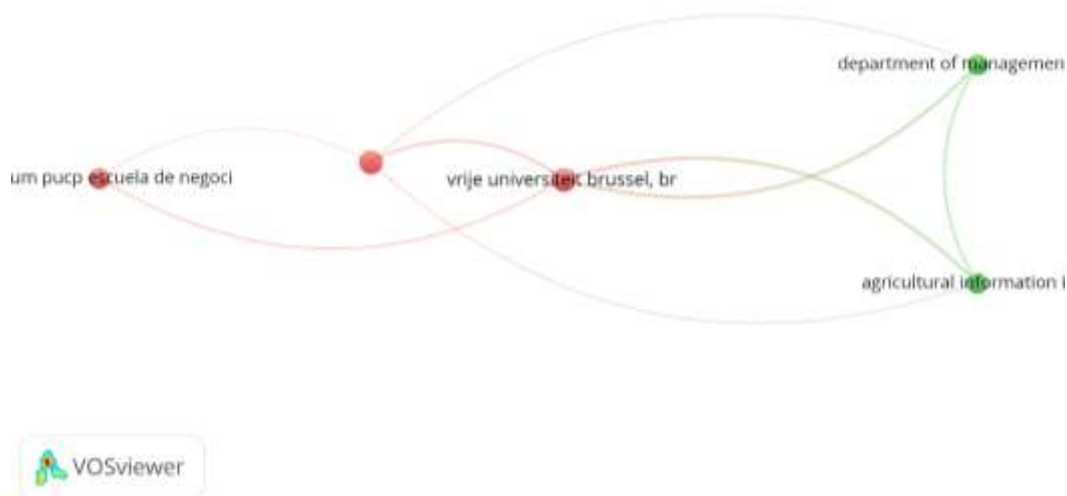


Figure 5. Affiliation Visualization
Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

The affiliation network map illustrates a compact yet well-integrated array of institutional relationships within the domain of social entrepreneurship research. The Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) serves as the primary institutional nexus, connecting Latin American academic institutions, such as PUCP Escuela de Negocios, with European or sector-specific organizations like the Department of Management and the Agricultural Information Institute. The connecting lines signify co-authorship activities or collaborative research outputs, indicating that VUB serves a crucial mediating function in promoting knowledge transfer across geographies and disciplines. The cluster connecting management and agricultural information departments illustrates the amalgamation of organizational studies with development-focused research issues prevalent in social entrepreneurship literature. The network's structure reveals that, although collaborations are few, they encompass a wide range of geographical and thematic areas, highlighting the interdisciplinary and cross-regional aspects of social entrepreneurship research.

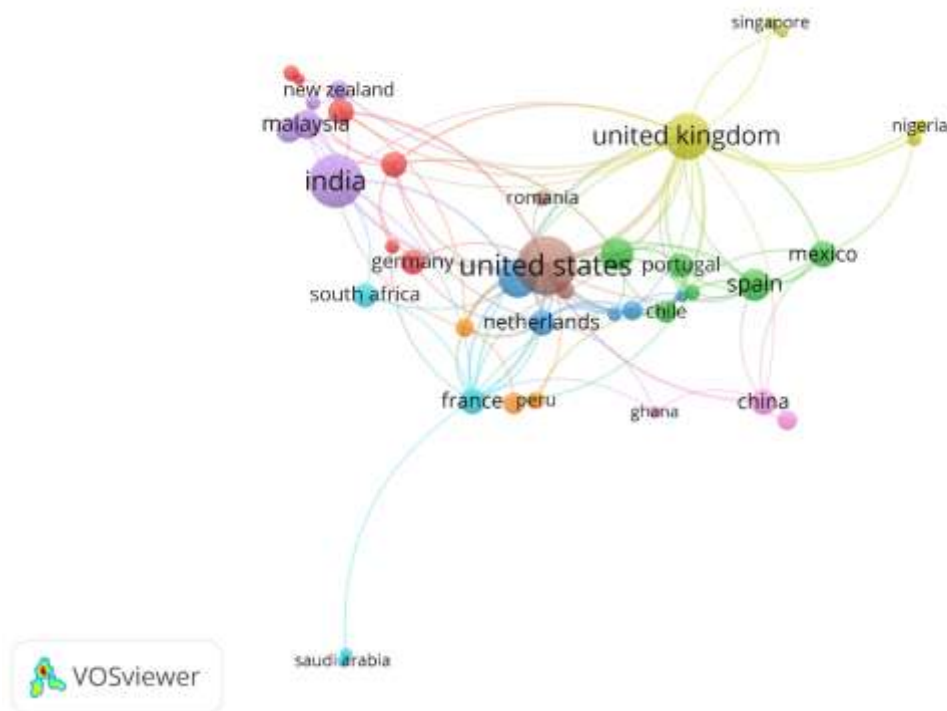


Figure 6. Country Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2025

The country-collaboration map depicts a densely integrated worldwide research environment in social entrepreneurship, with the United States and the United Kingdom identified as the principal centers of academic collaboration. Their substantial node sizes and central placement signify significant research output and broad collaborations with both developed and developing nations. Robust connections link these centers with India, Portugal, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Malaysia, and New Zealand, demonstrating that social entrepreneurship scholarship is rooted in international academic collaboration. Emerging economies, like India, China, South Africa, Mexico, Chile, Ghana, and Nigeria, are increasingly significant in the network, indicating a rising scholarly focus on social entrepreneurship in these contexts. The existence of cross-regional connections—specifically among Europe, Asia, and Latin America—indicates that the domain is influenced by varied socio-economic experiences and cooperative information transfer across continents. The pattern indicates a worldwide research ecosystem in which high-income nations serve as intellectual anchors, while underdeveloped countries progressively provide context-specific insights into the problems and prospects of social entrepreneurship.

Discussions

Practical Implications

This study presents numerous practical implications for politicians, development agencies, academic institutions, and practitioners of social entrepreneurship in developing nations. The bibliometric mapping underscores the pivotal significance of social entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development as interrelated fields,

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indicating that policy frameworks ought to emphasize cross-sector collaboration to expedite ecosystem maturation. Governments can leverage these insights to formulate targeted interventions—such as financial initiatives, incubation assistance, and regulatory reforms—that enhance entrepreneurial ecosystems and facilitate the scaling of social ventures' impact. Furthermore, development organizations and NGOs can gain from comprehending the changing knowledge framework, enabling them to synchronize capacity-building initiatives with global trends in social innovation, sustainable value generation, and ecosystem-oriented tactics. The findings highlight the necessity for institutions to include ecosystem thinking into their curricula and to establish collaborations with industry and community groups. Practitioners can utilize network insights to strategically position their initiatives within the broader ecosystem, identifying which capabilities—such as innovation, alliances, or sustainability focus—are essential for long-term success.

Theoretical Contributions

This study theoretically enhances the academic comprehension of social entrepreneurship in developing countries by integrating disparate findings into a unified ecosystem-based framework. The study used bibliometric and network analysis to elucidate the intellectual structure of the area, revealing clusters such as entrepreneurial ecosystems, sustainable development, innovation ecosystems, and social value creation as fundamental theoretical pillars. This mapping enhances current frameworks by illustrating the growing intersection of social entrepreneurship research with sustainability science, inclusive innovation, and institutional theory. Moreover, the temporal and density visualizations indicate a developing research trajectory, transitioning from initial conceptualizations of social enterprises to more intricate, systems-oriented assessments. This enhances theory by positioning social entrepreneurship not only as an organizational occurrence but as a dynamic, multi-actor ecosystem influenced by governmental policies, institutional contexts, and socio-economic factors specific to developing nations. The work reinforces the conceptual basis for comparative ecosystem research and emphasizes new theoretical avenues for future investigation.

Limitations

This work, albeit its merits, is constrained by various constraints. The bibliometric analysis predominantly depends on publications indexed in Scopus, which, although extensive, may omit pertinent studies from regional journals, non-English publications, or nascent research databases—thereby potentially skewing the representation of knowledge from developing nations. The interpretation of network visualizations relies on computational clustering and co-occurrence patterns, which may inadequately reflect the contextual subtleties present in the literature. Third, keyword-based analysis presupposes terminological consistency; nevertheless, the domain of social entrepreneurship frequently experiences conceptual ambiguity and disparate definitions across different locations. The study is descriptive rather than explanatory; it delineates linkages but does not empirically examine the causal mechanisms behind ecosystem evolution. Ultimately, disparities in publishing trends among countries may indicate changes in research infrastructure rather than genuine differences in ecosystem maturity. These limitations must be recognized when interpreting the results and may inform future research to utilize mixed-methods approaches, broaden dataset sources, or perform country-specific comparison studies.

4. Conclusion

This study offers an extensive bibliometric and network analysis of the worldwide intellectual framework for social entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing nations. The findings indicate that social entrepreneurship is the predominant issue in academic discourse, acting as the core around which related concepts like social innovation, sustainable development, and entrepreneurial ecosystems are centered. The network visualizations demonstrate that these concepts are significantly interconnected, implying that social entrepreneurship in developing contexts should be perceived not as a standalone organizational strategy but as an integral component of a broader ecosystem that encompasses innovation, sustainability, and collaborative governance. This underscores the more systemic character of social entrepreneurship research, wherein several stakeholders—government, academia, corporate sector, and civil society—collaborate to foster conducive environments for social value generation. Moreover, the examination of international collaboration indicates that industrialized economies, including the United States, United Kingdom, and Netherlands, predominantly lead in academic output, but developing nations such as India, Malaysia, and South Africa are increasingly becoming notable contributors. This transition signifies a growing acknowledgment of social entrepreneurship as an effective means to tackle socio-economic issues in the Global South. The comparatively restricted international collaboration indicates potential for improved knowledge exchange and global learning partnerships. This study enhances comprehension of the thematic evolution, inte

Intellectual framework, and collaborative dynamics influencing the domain of social entrepreneurship ecosystems. By delineating the present landscape of study, it offers scholars a more defined trajectory for forthcoming inquiries, particularly in the realms of ecosystem governance, inclusive innovation, and policy integration within developing nations. The findings provide practical insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to develop resilient and socially impactful business ecosystems. As emerging nations confront social and environmental challenges, enhancing social entrepreneurship ecosystems is essential for sustainable transformation and enduring societal resilience.

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