

Immigrant entrepreneurship and gender dimensions: A systematic review

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper discusses whether the gender dimension of immigrants influences their entrepreneurial activities in host societies. Human capital theory, social capital theory, and disadvantage theory are used to explore immigrant entrepreneurship and its understanding as a migration research field worthy of more attention.

Design/methodology: A systematic review of the literature is used, selecting articles from Scopus, Jstor, Elsevier, Research, Web of Science, Google Scholar databases, Taylor & Francis Online and Google's search engine. The studies obtained between 2000 and 2021 were screened, and only those measuring the entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants on the basis of gender were included in the final data set. The revision of the selected paper provides deductive perspectives on a common trend in immigrant entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

Findings: Out of 200 studies, only 20 fulfilled the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Throughout these 20 studies, it was found that female immigrant entrepreneurs face many challenges in sustaining their businesses based on human capital, social capital, and disadvantage perspectives, as well as obtaining family support for their business activities. In some host societies, immigrant women entrepreneurs face discrimination not only because of gender but also because of discrimination on the basis of race. The dominance of male migrants in the host societies continues.

Social implications: Female immigrant entrepreneurs face more difficulties than male immigrants in terms of human capital skills and possessing sufficient social capital skills to create an enterprise. Therefore, the study implies that destination countries (which are defined as those countries receiving immigrants and offering them domicile) should have start-up visa programs, specialized business incubator and accelerator programs, outreach and incentive programs, and other governmental strategies used to draw high-potential immigrant entrepreneurs.

Originality/value: In this study, we specifically consider female immigrant enterprises to be as important as male enterprises in supporting the social and economic integration of immigrants. On the other hand, this study also shows the disadvantages female immigrant entrepreneurs face before and after establishing a business and starting their entrepreneurial activities.

Keywords: Immigrants, Entrepreneurship, Gender, Female immigrants, Start-up

Jel Codes: J24, J61, M54, O15

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1. Introduction

The entrepreneurial activities of immigrants in host countries societies have become an important, and indeed critical, aspect of the economic development of their countries of destination as well as of their countries of origin. Moreover, because it is present on both national and international levels, immigrant entrepreneurship is a very significant topic, and the way immigrants operate entrepreneurs has been analysed from different perspectives (Vertovec, 2004). However, despite its importance, there are several gaps in the concepts and theories on immigrant entrepreneurship, particularly regarding the gender dimension and ethnic enclaves, and how these factors shape and influence immigrant entrepreneurship, specifically female entrepreneurship (Billore, Zainuddin, Al-Haj & Halkias, 2010; Pedersen, 2014; Shinnar & Nayır, 2019). It shows that the first gap comes with the fact that there is no equal distribution among male and female immigrants (Minniti, 2009; Brieger & Gielnik, 2021). Another gap about less entrepreneurial activity is reported among female immigrants than among male immigrants, which is typically attributed to a combination of lower entry rates and higher exit rates (Hopp & Martin, 2017). The second gap about immigrant entrepreneurship regarding ethnic minorities is only perceived among groups with high entrepreneurial motivation compared to natives. Moreover, combinations of factors influencing the creation of new ventures by male and female immigrants and ethnic minorities still remain as another gap (Dabić, Vlačić, Paul, Dana, Sahasranamam & Glinka, 2020). An additional gap is that the ethnic entrepreneurship literature often examines immigrant women as unpaid, exploited labor in family businesses rather than as entrepreneurs (Anthias & Mehta, 2008). However, gender should be treated as a process rather than a variable, according to critics of both sets of literature, who have advocated for deeper investigation. Importantly, despite the increased interest in social networks, few studies have looked at gender variations in entrepreneur networks and how they may affect business performance (Azmat, 2013; Chen, Tan & Tu, 2015).

Immigrant entrepreneurship is important not only for economic development but also to help accelerate the integration process in destination countries. From this perspective, failing to give sufficient attention to female migrant entrepreneurship will also cause problems in the integration process itself (Van Riemsdijk & Basford, 2022). This is why female entrepreneurship has become a well-developed research area compared to immigrant entrepreneurship, which is very much lacking in terms of both theoretical contexts and studies conducted (Pyong & Bozorgmehr, 2018).

In this study, we aim to answer the question “Does the gender dimension affect immigrant entrepreneurship?” In asking this question, we focus on both male and female immigrant entrepreneurs and the advantages and disadvantages they face as a result of their gender. However, although the corporate world, particularly the world of start-ups, has historically been dominated by men, subsequent GEM reports have revealed that this is changing and rather quickly in some nations. For good reason, many countries include supporting female entrepreneurs in their portfolios of economic and social development policies. In many economies, raising the percentage of female entrepreneurship to that of male entrepreneurship will significantly boost the number of new enterprises, creating new jobs and income opportunities, and frequently for those who need them most (GEM, 2021). To provide a better understanding of immigrant entrepreneurship for female and male immigrants, we used human capital theory, social capital theory, and disadvantage theory.

The twenty articles used for this study were gathered between 2000 and 2021. In the second part of the study, the conceptualization of immigrant entrepreneurship and the gender dimension in immigrant entrepreneurship are discussed. Following this, the methods used in the study and the results reported by the overview articles are presented. We close the study with a discussion and conclusion.

2. Conceptualization of immigrant entrepreneurship

To provide a definition of immigrant entrepreneurship and ethnic entrepreneurship, an understanding of who classifies as an immigrant plays a crucial role. Although there is no universally accepted definition of the term “immigrant”, yet it can be defined as a foreign individual who chooses to leave their country of origin and settle in another country to seek better life opportunities (Dheer, 2018).

The terms immigrant entrepreneurship and ethnic entrepreneurship are frequently used interchangeably. In this context, ethnic entrepreneurship is defined as a business activity in which people who are immigrants share a

common ethnic background (Chand & Ghorbani, 2011; Dana, 2007). In contrast, immigrant entrepreneurship has been defined as a kind of process where immigrants exploit the economic opportunities provided by destination countries to use them to create new ventures in the receiving societies (Malki, Uman & Pittino, 2020). This constitutes the main difference between immigrant and ethnic entrepreneurship.

Different immigrant and ethnic groups also have their own impact, based on their educational and national backgrounds and on the gender preferences for entrepreneurial activities in the context of the socioeconomic mobility of receiving countries. The latter represents a topic that has been studied differently in studies of ethnic enterprises (Razin & Langlois, 1996). Similarly, we start by investigating the question “Why are immigrants more likely to be entrepreneurs in destination countries?” and elaborate on immigrant entrepreneurship theories. Many studies have found that highly skilled immigrants, in particular, are more entrepreneurial in starting new businesses than natives (Guerrero, Mandakovic, Apablaza & Arriagada, 2021; Duleep, Jaeger & McHenry, 2021; Naudé, Siegel & Marchand, 2017). Based on neoclassical and human capital theory, highly skilled immigrants choose to be involved in entrepreneurship activities to maximize their earnings and life satisfaction (Constant & Zimmermann, 2006; Máté, Sarihasan, Popp & Oláh, 2018). Moreover, Dabić et al. (2020) and Guerrero et al. (2021) also point out that when highly skilled immigrants are offered insufficient wages in destination countries, they choose self-employment to gain a higher income. As a result, wage disadvantages for immigrants caused by assimilation in the receiving country's labour market become the main motivation for immigrants to start new ventures, primarily due to the need to overcome the various obstacles that prevent them from working (Srivastava, 2019; Malki, et al., 2020).

Self-employment rates in destination countries influence immigrant motivation to start a business (Razin & Langlois, 1996). Moreover, as pointed out in disadvantage theory, immigrant entrepreneurs are pushed into entrepreneurship activities because of labour market disadvantages in the host countries (Fatoki & Patswairi, 2012). Recently, a growing body of research has focused on the various disadvantages that immigrants face in being part of the labour market due to lower employment opportunities and lower earnings compared to natives (Kingston, McGinnity & O'Connell, 2015; Máté, Sarihasan & Dajnoki, 2017). This shows labour market inequality, since it is characterised by wage unfairness (Ruhs & Vargas-Silva, 2017). Additionally, based on discrimination theory, entrepreneurship is a kind of strategy for immigrants to survive and be part of the economic system (Teixeira, Lo & Truelove, 2007). Furthermore, discrimination theory also pays attention to institutional segmentation based on gender (being a male or female immigrant) and ethnic minorities (Wang, Guo & Cheng, 2015).

Institutional segmentation appears in the primary and secondary sectors, where the primary sector represents jobs with good pay and favourable working conditions, while the secondary sector is characterised by the opposite conditions (Collins, 2008). Employers in the destination countries tend to hire natives (citizens of the country) for the primary sector, yet for the secondary sector, ethnic minority groups are preferred (Thijssen, Lancee, Veit & Yemane, 2021).

Some immigrants attempt to cross this barrier by becoming self-employed to interact with others, whereas others are unable to complete the integration process and develop more loyal feelings toward their traditional way of life in destination countries (Zhou, 1992). As a result, it is observed that some immigrant groups are very well integrated into their host countries, while others cannot complete the integration process, even if years have passed (Schinkel, 2018). This usually occurs irrespective of the country of origin. On the other hand, discrimination against ethnic minorities and immigrants in paid employment is a contributing factor to the overrepresentation of minority workers in self-employment (Kushnirovich, Heilbrunn & Davidovich, 2018).

Consequently, both discrimination and disadvantage theories highlight the initial challenges that immigrants face when entering the labour market and why they find self-employment to be more convenient than any other solution (Cruz, et al., 2014). Labour market participation and obtaining an occupation are two important steps for full integration after the migration process (Van Tubergen, Maas & Flap, 2004). Achieving sufficient integration of immigrants requires their economic and cultural participation in society together with the citizens of their host country (Heikkilä, 2005).

On the other hand, social capital theory determines that knowledge obtained from other immigrants is a very important aspect of immigrant entrepreneurship in terms of reducing the costs and risks of investment (Garip, 2008). This is because social capital aids in understanding the dynamics of socially embedded economic exchanges (Robison, Malone, Oliver, Bali & Winder, 2020). In this way, obtaining information from other immigrants affects the ability of entrepreneurs to conduct activities and use resources more effectively. It is already a well-known fact that to sustain a business in a foreign land, sufficient social resources play a crucial role (Kritikos, 2014). As a result of the immigrant entrepreneur's lack of access to formal networks, as well as the difficulty in finding information and estimating market opportunities, an effective integration process in the host labour market is critical for finding new business opportunities and resources (Turkina & Thai, 2013). This also assists them in efficiently mobilizing resources for their entrepreneurial endeavors.

2.1. The gender dimension in immigrant entrepreneurship

In this second section of the literature review, we will investigate the question of whether the gender dimension matters in immigrant entrepreneurship. This question will be answered on the basis of human capital, social capital, and disadvantage theories.

The gender dimension in immigrant ventures and the roles played by males and females in business activities do not receive much attention, despite the growing body of literature on immigrant entrepreneurship. It is important to bear in mind that the gender difference in entrepreneurship is one of the key aspects of starting up a business in destination countries (Collins, 2003). From another perspective, the question of how gender segregation influences immigrants' entrepreneurial activities in host societies has emerged as a topic that has received little attention (Hedberg & Pettersson, 2012). The reason behind this is that the literature ignores female immigrant entrepreneurs and focuses on males (Dheer, 2018). This causes a complete lack of understanding of the involvement and diversity of immigrant entrepreneurship, in which both female and male immigrants take part (Collins & Low, 2010). Similarly, numerous dimensions, such as ethnicity, race, gender, and regional and religious background, intersect to define structural circumstances in which there is a great difference between the country of origin and the experience of immigrants in running a business in a host country (Nazareno, Zhou & You, 2019). Along with this, Waldinger (1986) pointed out that immigrants are more likely to succeed in entrepreneurship when their host environment resembles their society of origin.

Concerning gender differences in immigrant entrepreneurship, Verheul (2005) stated that the difficulties that female immigrants face demonstrate their potential to contribute to a country's economic performance. This can either occur through being part of the labour market or starting a venture. As a result, female immigrants have a lower labour force participation rate than males, which has an impact on their lower likelihood of becoming entrepreneurs (Verheul & Thurik, 2001). This is sometimes due to male dominance. Female immigrants may assist their husbands in entrepreneurship activities in some cases, but this cannot be defined as full participation in business activities (Jansen, De Kok, Van, Sten & Zoetermeer, 2003). Although, as Azmat and Fujimoto (2016) emphasized, the entrepreneurship involvement of women immigrants in a host society is influenced by their family members, this topic is also given little attention as a research topic.

Moreover, female entrepreneurs are considered one of the sources of economic development since they also contribute to the diversity in immigrant entrepreneurship, although their numbers lag behind their male counterparts (Billore, et al., 2010). Along with this, female immigrants using entrepreneurship also change their lives in the destination country and sometimes also change their location (Munkejord, 2017). In fact, there is an interesting point made by Pagano (2018), namely, that female immigrants are more collaborative in entrepreneurship in regard to management and care about their customers' needs better than male immigrants (Pagano, 2018; Hedberg, 2009). However, immigrant entrepreneurship and the role of male and female immigrant self-employment still need to be viewed from a longer perspective (De Luca & Ambrosini, 2019). Figure 1 shows the dimensions and factors of immigrant entrepreneurship.

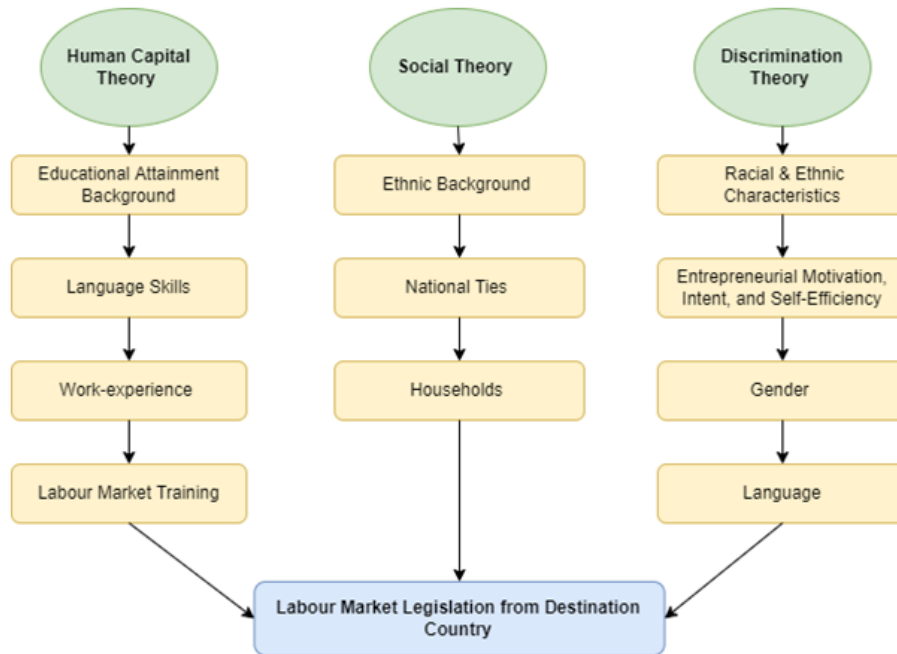


Figure 1. Motivational Factor of Immigrant Entrepreneurship

2.2. Gender differences in the role of human capital in immigrant entrepreneurship

As emphasized earlier, human capital plays an important role in immigrant entrepreneurship because human capital also differs by gender (Sanders & Nee, 1996). It has been found that female immigrants do not have sufficient human capital components compared to male immigrants (Al-Dalahmeh, Sarihasan & Dajnoki, 2021; Sarihasan, 2017).

The main component of having sufficient human capital elements for an immigrant to begin entrepreneurial activities is a good knowledge of the destination country's language. The relationship between a lack of language proficiency and entrepreneurial activity is linear, which means that having good language proficiency will make the start-up venture easier at first. Immigrants who are not fluent in the language, on the other hand, face significant challenges in their entrepreneurial endeavours (Mesch & Czamanski, 1997). It has been observed that female immigrants have lower language proficiency than male immigrants. This lack of human capital also influences the social environments of immigrants pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities.

2.3. Gender differences in entrepreneurship: A social-capital perspective

In terms of social capital, the self-employed female immigrant also affects female immigrants' success in entrepreneurship (Yetim, 2008). In this regard, Poon, Thai and Naybor (2012) shed light on the fact that too many personal relationships also cause chaos in new ideas and that closed networks negatively affect levels of entrepreneurial success. However, female immigrant entrepreneurs usually do not create networks but have small informal networks through their household ties or through friends (Stone & Stubbs, 2007). It is already a well-known fact that the family has a very important role in the migration process as well as in the creation of businesses by immigrants. As a result, the family is also considered one of the social-capital components in regard to involvement obligations (Al-Dalahmeh & Dajnoki, 2021).

On the other hand, using the informal sector is a symptom of ethnically based limitations, gender isolation, family responsibilities, and a lack of human capital, all of which limit female immigrants' access to and participation in formal business networks (Azmat, 2013), since having networks with other immigrants who have entrepreneurial activities makes the adoption process easier in those business activities that are a function of the resources used in the establishment of their enterprises (Marger, 2001).

Furthermore, these networks clearly demonstrate the barriers that immigrants face in obtaining financial capital that can be used to start and sustain a business (Agius Vallejo & Canizales, 2016). These barriers also include the

obstacles that female immigrants face in the labour market and in their entrepreneurial activities. However, despite these factors, immigrant entrepreneurial activities by female immigrants are growing and creating revenue and employment opportunities for other female immigrants in destination countries. Figure 2 shows gender differences in immigrants' entrepreneurship from a social capital perspective.

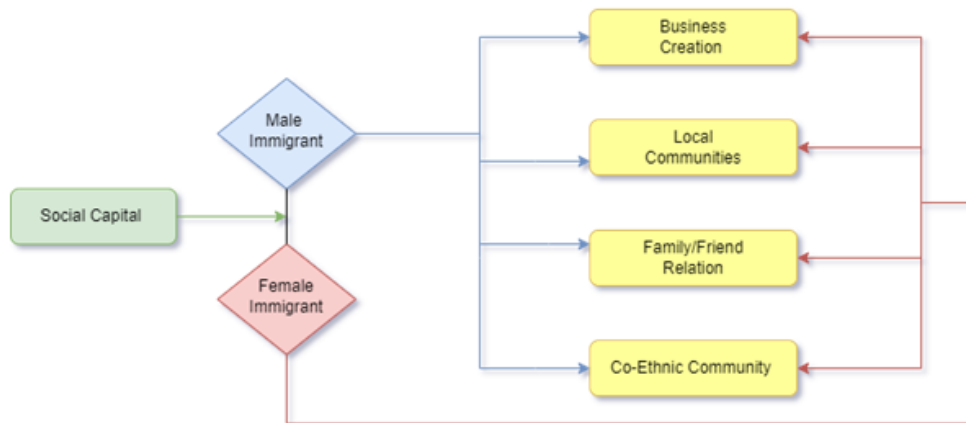


Figure 2. Gender Differences in Immigrants' Entrepreneurship from a Social Capital Perspective

2.4. Gender differences in entrepreneurship: A disadvantage theory perspective

Disadvantaged entrepreneurs can appear in a variety of contexts in immigrant entrepreneurship. However, the most widely known form is the disadvantage resulting from gender differences and sexual orientation in immigrant entrepreneurial activities (Vorobeva, 2022). Therefore, the double disadvantage not only focuses on problems faced by female immigrant entrepreneurs in the host society but also focuses on racial and ethnic discrimination experienced by women because of their gender. In this regard, disadvantaged immigrant entrepreneurs vary depending not only on their gender but also on their attributes (Maalaoui, Ratten, Heilbrunn, Brannback & Kraus, 2020).

However, in disadvantage theory, how different genders respond to entrepreneurial activities is not well understood. Disadvantage theory also emphasizes the motivational factors that persuade immigrants to pursue self-employment, but how those motivational factors differ between male and female immigrants has not been sufficiently examined (Hajro, Caprar, Zikic & Stahl, 2021). This causes a problem with properly identifying immigrant needs in entrepreneurship activities. As a result, it is essential to give sufficient importance to developing understanding in terms of the disadvantage theory aspects of immigrant gender segmentation (Robertson & Grant, 2016).

On the other hand, it is essential to mention that discrimination towards immigrant entrepreneurs differs based on the host countries. With respect to this, Jasinskaja, Liebkind, Jaakkola and Reuter (2006) pointed out that discrimination towards immigrants influences many factors and limits their labour market participation. Hence, it is a well-known fact that taking a role in entrepreneurial activities is also part of labour market participation. Based on this, receiving countries' identification of sociodemographic background of immigrants, applying some acculturation strategies, degree of acculturation and ethnic identity, and labour market legislation differ from country to country, most of the time creating discrimination towards immigrants (Carillo, Lombardo & Venittelli, 2022).

3. Methods

3.1. Select articles using a search strategy

To conduct the systematic literature review, six databases (Google Scholar, Jstore, Elsevier, Google search engine, and Toylar & Francis Online) were used. Appropriate papers were chosen from between 2000 and 2021. The related research search began on 1 January 2022 and ended on 1 February 2022. Search terms contained the headings "immigrant venture", "self-employment immigrants", "entrepreneurs' immigrants", and "female and

male immigrant-owned businesses” to perfectly locate related research on the topic. These search headings were used in “All Fields” of each database, as well as in the title and abstract. After a scrutiny of the papers, a choice was made of only 20 articles that address in depth immigrant entrepreneurship and human-capital, social-capital, and disadvantage theories, based on gender as explained in the criteria emphasized above. The time frame was the primary factor in selecting these 20 articles. Another reason for choosing these articles is that they provide current insights into the entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants based on the gender aspects and theories chosen for this study to explain topics and answer the research questions. Reference lists of full-text articles were reviewed to ensure that no studies were overlooked.

This review explores whether the gender dimension affects immigrant entrepreneurship. Our systematic review consists of 20 academic articles selected according to the following criteria: (1) published in peer-review international academic journals between 2000 and 2021, (2) published in English, and (3) included, whether in the keywords or in the abstract, at least one of the subject terms: immigrant entrepreneur, immigrant entrepreneurship, immigrant self-employed, immigrant self-employment, male/female immigrant employed. Electronic databases, such as Taylor & Francis and Google Scholar, were searched. Articles that were not available in full text or in an electronic format were removed from consideration during the data search, which gave preference to full text availability of the topic. More than 200 items, including conference proceedings, books, dissertations, and redundant and irrelevant content, were produced in stage one. The titles, key words, and abstracts of the publications that were returned were examined. The second stage of the research resulted in the exclusion of 15 articles from our initial data collection of 35 since they did not particularly address immigrants' entrepreneurial activity based on the gender dimension. Finally, 20 articles were chosen.

Despite the reduction in the movement and trade of foreign entrepreneurs, the number of immigrant entrepreneurs has significantly expanded globally since 2000 (Patrickson & Hallo, 2021). In addition, growth in the immigrant population after 2000 drastically increased the number of self-employed. Choosing self-employment among immigrants has also contributed to entrepreneurship in destination countries (Martinson, 2017). Due to the increasing importance and number of immigrant entrepreneurs in 2000, the study chose to examine articles published between 2000 and 2021. Table 1 shows an overview of the included studies.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: European Management Journal (Elsevier)					
Author/year: Chreim, Spence, Crick and Liao (2018)					
Systematic Review	What aspects of the macro host country and coethnic contexts influence female immigrant entrepreneurship?	N/A	N/A	Female immigrants' entrepreneurial human capital features are not as good as male immigrants'. This has limited their entrepreneurship activities.	In the immigrant entrepreneurship search, the nongender-specific literature has highlighted The existence of gender differences specifically. It is worth focusing on gender segmentation, too.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Journal of the American Planning Association (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Huang and Liu (2019)					
Quantitative Analyses	What are the current immigrant entrepreneurship development programs undertaken by local governments in nontraditional immigrant receiving communities? How well do these policy initiatives address gaps and challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs?	USA	Hispanic/Asian	Female immigrants have lower social capital than male immigrants.	Host countries need a well-designed program despite the gender of the immigrants. It will also be beneficial for female immigrants to enhance their social capital with other immigrant entrepreneurs with similar demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.
Journal: Entrepreneurship and Regional Development (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Collins and Low (2010)					
Quantitative Analyses	How the impact of ethnic diversity and gender on entrepreneurship	Australia	Asian	Even if female immigrants have sufficient human-capital and social capital networks, their entrepreneurial activities are shaped by their family members.	Research into immigrant entrepreneurship does not elaborate on how the influence of ethnic variety and gender on entrepreneurship can be theorized. It should be well developed in the future.
Journal: The Journal of Social Sciences (Taylor&Francis)					
Author/year: Fatoki and Patswawairi (2012)					
Qualitative Analyses	What are the motivations (triggers) of immigrant entrepreneurship in South Africa. 2. What are the obstacles (barriers) to the performance of immigrant entrepreneurs in South Africa.	South Africa	N/A	Male immigrants are taking more roles in entrepreneurship activities.	Regardless of gender, finance, skills, markets, and support as barriers to the performance of immigrant entrepreneurs should be more deeply researched.
Journal: Transformations in Business & Economics (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Dinu, Grosu and Saseanu (2015)					
Quantitative Analyses	If entrepreneurship is manifested by males, younger immigrants, the ones with a higher educational attainment, and the ones who had/have a role model?	Spain	Romanian	Romanian male immigrants in Andalusia are more focused on becoming entrepreneurs in comparison to Romanian female immigrants.	It plays a crucial role in identifying disadvantageous factors in the host country's labour market to see what makes entrepreneurship a career option among immigrants. In this way, it will be much easier to see obstacles to female immigrants in entrepreneurship activities.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (Taylor & Francis) Author/year: Malerba and Ferreira (2020)					
Systematic Review	What are the strategic issues approached by academic research on immigrant entrepreneurship? What are the strategies applied by immigrant entrepreneurs in their business creation, survival and growth?	N/A	N/A	Female ethnicity has an influence on female immigrant entrepreneurship activities, Thus, female immigrants do not have social capital and instead copy the old strategies, which reduce their survival rates drastically.	Destination countries categorize the strategies taken by immigrant entrepreneurs or their responses to the governmental and macropolicies that target both female and male immigrants.
Journal: Journal of Business Venturing (Google Scholar) Author/year: Bird and Wennberg (2016)					
Quantitative Analyses	How do family resources influence whether previously 4 unemployed immigrant entrepreneurs remain in entrepreneurship, exit to unemployment, or exit to paid employment?	Sweden	N/A	Family human capital impacts on female immigrant entrepreneurship more than male immigrant entrepreneurship . This occurs especially in the nascent enterprise type.	Future research should concentrate on more mature immigrant entrepreneurs, who are mostly spread across generations and genders.
Journal: Journal of Chinese Overseas (Google Scholar) Author/year: You and Zhou (2021)					
Quantitative Analyses	Significance of simultaneous embeddedness and gender in understanding contemporary immigrant entrepreneurship.	USA	Chinese	Female immigrants are more vulnerable in terms of social-capital and human capital in entrepreneurship .	Future research should focus on simultaneous embeddedness and gender in understanding current immigrant entrepreneurship.
Journal: Sustainability (JStor) Author/year: Barth and Zalkat (2020)					
Quantitative	What challenges do immigrant entrepreneurs perceive during the entrepreneurial process, and what strategies are applied to eliminate or overcome these challenges?	Sweden	N/A	The number of female immigrants has increased, but male immigrants continue to play a larger role in entrepreneurship .	As a future direction of study, researchers have to focus on gender differences in migration based on motivations, mindsets, and risk tolerance, in order to identify the factors more deeply.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift (Taylor & Francis)					
Author/year: Webster and Kontkanen (2021)					
Qualitative	How space and place are articulated, presented, and interpreted within immigrant entrepreneurship literature in and about the Nordic context.	Nordic Countries	N/A	Most studies focus on male immigrant entrepreneurs, despite the presence of female immigrant entrepreneurs. This is creating a gender gap in migration studies.	As a future study direction, the gap in migration gender studies of entrepreneurship and other social categories should be taken into consideration for female immigrants in their ventures in the destination countries.
Journal: Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Wang and Morrell (2015)					
Quantitative	What is the female entrepreneurship processes from the initial creation of businesses, to their daily operations, to the way in which women business owners mobilize resources as embedded within local communities, and finally to their direct giveback activities.	USA	Peruvian	Since female immigrant owners are increasing, they face different challenges than males, such as capacity building and socioeconomic changes within communities.	In the future, needs such as the social and institutional capital of female immigrants with local and long-term and regional entrepreneurship implications should be more developed.
Journal: Sociological Papers (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Kushnirovich (2015)					
Quantitative	Whether immigrant women entrepreneurs experience a double disadvantage regarding resources, ongoing business operations and business outcomes	USA	Jew	The key finding of the study are that both female and male immigrants face difficulties in their entrepreneurial activities, yet female immigrants face this due to ethnicity-specific and not gender-specific reasons.	In the future direction of study, immigrant women entrepreneurs are disadvantaged because they are part of an immigrant group and not because of their gender. This causes a double disadvantage, and it should be taken into consideration.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Critical Sociology (Google Scholar) Author/year: Park (2010)					
Literature Review	1) what structural factors make Korean immigrants turn to small business ownership as an alternative to low-wage employment? 2) what variables facilitate the establishment of Korean small businesses and affect the success of such businesses?	USA	Korean	Female immigrant entrepreneurs are more likely to be relegated to second rung jobs. This segmentation also influences their entrepreneurial activities in a negative way.	It is critical for female immigrants, as well as immigrant activities, that a small business realm be established to achieve upwards social and economic mobility.
Journal: International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (Google Scholar) Author/year: Angeline (2008)					
Quantitative	What contributions do immigrants make? Do immigrants take jobs from nonimmigrants? Do immigrants create jobs?	Australia	Asian	Despite being few in number compared to male immigrant entrepreneurs, female immigrant entrepreneurs are very beneficial for the economic development of the country.	Future research on immigrant women's entrepreneurship will need to take a longitudinal approach to study their capacity to shape businesses over time, including looking at the number, size, type, and gender specifics of businesses.
Journal: Journal of International Migration and Integration (Google Scholar) Author/year: Duan, Kotey and Sandhu (2021)					
Systematic Review	The complex motives for the entrepreneurship of immigrant women within the care sector, particularly home-help services for elderly people.	N/A	N/A	Due to their social status, female immigrant entrepreneurs face a double disadvantage in host societies.	Transnational links will encourage more female immigrant entrepreneurs to engage in entrepreneurship and contribute to economic development.
Journal: Latino Studies (Toylar & Francis) Author/year: Valdez (2011)					
Mixed Methods	How does gender mediate access to business ownership and business development?	USA	Peruvian/Salvadoran	Female migrants in their entrepreneurial activities are more collectivist when accessing the resources of the market and financial institutions.	Another topic to focus on should be the national-origin groups of immigrant entrepreneurs, based on their gender, to achieve a more comprehensive picture of socioeconomic incorporation.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Billore, Zainuddin, Al-Haj and Halkias (2010)					
Quantitative Analyses	Who are the female immigrant entrepreneurs and where are they from? What types of businesses are they involved in and where are they located? What are the experiences at varying stages of their business?	Japan	N/A	FIEs with such substantial talent and skill can also serve as a very strong motivation factor for the population in general.	Being an international phenomenon, a cross cultural comparative study can also be built up by comparing FIEs from developing and developed countries to specifically explore the differing approaches to problems and challenges and how important it is for them to establish an identity through enterprise.
Journal: International Small Business Journal (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Wang and Warn (2018)					
Mixed Method	How policy decisions shape interactions across the factors of the mixed embeddedness framework, where immigration policies selected potential immigrant entrepreneurs on a limited range of attributes but failed to account for the complex interactions that underpinned opportunity structures?	Australia	Chinese	Chinese immigrant (both male and female) entrepreneurship in Australia has not been simply culturally predisposed, but has involved the complex interplay of multiple factors, including changes in the socioeconomic context and immigration policies, individual resources as well as the capacity by the entrepreneur to link to resources within the ethnic Chinese community.	Australian government policy is that it needs to accommodate the varying needs of immigrant entrepreneurs, the availability of coethnic resources and the nature of extant market opportunities.

Study Design	Research Question	Host Country	Ethnicity	Key Findings	Future Directions
Journal: Economic Geography (Toylar&Francis Online)					
Author/year: Colombelli, Grinza, Meliciani and Rossi (2021)					
Quantitative Analyses	Whether the existing stock of immigrant firms induces more new firms of the same nationality in the same sector and province	Italy	N/A	No difference in the effect between men and women in entrepreneurship, instead, found with reference to the degree of gender inequality in the destination.	While attractiveness effects are a crucial channel for stimulating immigrant entrepreneurship, further work is needed to explore whether networks have an impact on firms' performance, including firms' growth and survival probability, and whether the impact varies by gender. Last, the roles of factors leading to sectoral diversification of immigrant entrepreneurship could also be explored, since diversification may help avoid some adverse outcomes of the pulling effect, such as lock in and segregation.
Journal: The Stockholm University Linnaeus Center for Integration Studies (SULCIS) (Google Scholar)					
Author/year: Hedberg (2009)					
Quantitative Analyses	Which ethnic and gendered niches/sectors can be found in the Swedish entrepreneurial landscape?	Sweden	N/A	Among immigrants, increasing involvement of immigrant women as entrepreneurs in this sector would mean improving inclusion in the Swedish economy. Accordingly, at least in certain sectors, entrepreneurship might be viewed as a means of inclusion in the Swedish economy.	A nuanced focus should be applied to entrepreneurial research, which recognizes diversity along the axes of both immigrant status and gender. Entrepreneurial processes could lead to both exclusion and inclusion of minority groups in the labour market.

Table 1. Overview of the Included Studies

4. Discussion

According to the elaborated articles, the vulnerability of female immigrant entrepreneurial activities in receiving societies and the challenges they face when compared to male immigrants are frequently highlighted.

Most of the challenges female immigrants face are due to their human capital background and insufficient social capital support. From this perspective, it has been found that female immigrants have lower human capital skills and social capital support than male immigrants. Supporting this, Collins and Low (2010) discovered that the family structure of immigrants also has an influence on their business activities in the destination countries. For

example, in some cases, even if a female immigrant has enough human capital skills and social-capital network to start an own enterprise, their family structure creates barriers for them to not have their own enterprise.

On the other hand, another reason might be that male immigrants tend to have a greater role in entrepreneurial activities in the destination countries. Accordingly, male immigrants searching for more opportunities enhance their social capital network for the sustainability of their businesses. Furthermore, Fatoki and Patswairi (2012) state that male immigrants are engaging in more activities in the hope of starting new businesses in their host countries. Moreover, Dinu et al. (2015) note that Romanian male immigrants focus more on being entrepreneurs than female immigrants in Spain.

Additionally, the advantages of human capital or large social capital networks are not only the reasons female immigrants do not take enough role in entrepreneurship. However, sometimes ethnic background also creates limitations to entrepreneurship. As mentioned, social capital is a key aspect of immigrant entrepreneurship. The ethnic background of a female immigrant may mean that there are biases towards them while they are trying to expand their social capital. Malerba and Ferreira (2020) shed light on ethnicity bias not limited to female immigrant entrepreneurship activities but also examine male immigrant activities in destination countries. Moreover, social capital support also plays a crucial role in the survival rate of immigrant businesses, irrespective of gender.

In particular, if the type of enterprise is nascent, immigrants need the support of social capital. Family support as a form of social capital at the beginning of nascent immigrant enterprises has a great effect. In this regard, Bird and Wennberg (2016) and You and Zhou, (2021) have mentioned that even among Chinese migrants in the USA, female immigrants struggle more in terms of social and human capital compared to male immigrants while starting their own enterprises. For these reasons, even though the number of female immigrant entrepreneurship activities in the destination countries is increasing, the dominance of male immigrants continues (Barth & Zalkat, 2020). This also became a reason in the immigrant entrepreneurship literature to focus more on male immigrants in regard to labour market participation in all forms (Webster & Kontkanen, 2021).

Immigrant participation in the labour market in destination countries has always been very problematic. Because of labour shortages for foreigners in the destination countries, immigrants are compelled to create their own work by becoming entrepreneurs. Immigrant entrepreneurship represents a source for immigrants to find jobs. In this way, they also contribute to the country's economic development and increase GDP by producing and servicing new products. However, before becoming totally involved in entrepreneurial activities, immigrant entrepreneurs carefully investigate the business opportunities available to them. Thus, particularly in nascent immigrant enterprises, the entrepreneur starts by deciding how to pursue these opportunities, which leads to the creation of the new venture. This recognition of opportunities starts with human capital, social capital, and the disadvantageous position of immigrants. Moreover, to become an immigrant entrepreneur, an individual also needs the capability to use favourable and desirable resources. Thus, as immigrants pursue entrepreneurial activities, they need to build relationships with relevant networks. These factors change based on the differences among immigrants, such as their gender.

In this research, we have studied the roles of human capital, social capital, and disadvantage theory in the entrepreneurship activities of immigrants in destination countries. We have examined how human capital, social capital, and disadvantage theory differ between female and male immigrants. We have also shown host society and ethnicity differences as discussed in various collected papers to demonstrate that female immigrants can settle in different countries or societies, but the challenges they face in entrepreneurship activities are nearly identical. Additionally, by studying human capital, social capital, and disadvantage theory simultaneously, we were able to see whether and to what extent the effects of human capital, social capital, and disadvantage are over- or undervalued.

First, it has been observed very clearly that with regard to human capital in immigrant entrepreneurship, female migrants are far behind in having sufficient human capital features to sustain their business. This contributes to the lower survival rates of female immigrant entrepreneurs. Chreim et al. (2018), Collins and Low (2010), You and Zhou (2021) and Bird and Wennberg (2016) also found that female immigrants do not have sufficient language knowledge or information about the labour sector in their destination countries. These are the first

challenges they face as they begin their entrepreneurial endeavours. As discussed earlier, the proportion of female immigrants is also lower in the migration process. Most of the time, they join their husbands and move to another country because this is seen as the role of the wife. After arrival, they take care of the home and children. Sometimes, they take part in entrepreneurship activities if their husbands are involved, but this is partial participation. As a result, most of the time they do not have the time or courage to improve their human capital skills.

In terms of the social capital perspective, it has also been observed that female immigrants tend to have lower social capital than male immigrants in terms of entrepreneurship (Huang & Liu 2019, Malerba & Ferreira 2020). In their study, Wang and Morrell (2015) found that female immigrants are very attached to their families because of their lack of access to the wide range of human capital. Female migrants tend to have a small circle of family members and friends from whom they obtain information and who shapes their entrepreneurial activities. In the long run, economic change and a lack of adequate information and support from the outside environment make it difficult for female immigrant entrepreneurs to survive.

In regard to disadvantage theory, Fatoki and Patswawairi (2012), Kushnirovich (2015), and Duan et al. (2021) emphasized that female immigrant entrepreneurs face more disadvantages as they enter the labour market and start a business. In immigrant entrepreneurship, disadvantage theory cannot be discussed without reference to human capital and social capital theory. Since it is a very well-known fact that female immigrants suffer from a lack of several elements of human-social capital, it is expected that they will experience more disadvantages compared to male immigrants in entrepreneurship. Table 2 shows the results of the definite findings of the reviewed articles.

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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Despite the benefits of the destination country, female immigrants face more discrimination and socioeconomic challenges than male immigrants in entrepreneurial activities. 2. Female immigrants are weaker in human capital skills than male immigrants in entrepreneurship. 3. Destination countries do not provide sufficient programs to educate immigrants about entrepreneurship activities. 4. Destination countries do not provide enough opportunities for female migrants to enhance their social capital skills. 5. Discrimination against both male and female migrants in entrepreneurship in receiving societies is not adequately addressed in migration studies. 6. The ethnic minority factor effects of female immigrants venture negatively in the destination countries. 7. Female immigrants are more vulnerable to start-up activities in receiving societies than male migrants. |
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Table 2. Definitive results from the reviewed articles

5. Implications

Primarily, it is important to pay attention to how each destination country applies different practices in terms of the labour market participation of immigrants, even regarding obtaining an employment position or being involved in entrepreneurial activities.

However, it is obvious that gender segmentation creates a barrier for female immigrants to become a part of the labour sector in receiving societies. Thus, there is an obligation to simplify entrepreneurship activities among female immigrants to reduce the disadvantages related to being female or ethnicity. From this perspective, this study implies that destination countries should support female migrants' efforts to improve their language, educational, and entrepreneurial skills by providing them with enough training. This will lead to more benefits for female immigrants but also for the country they move to, so that they can be a part of economic growth.

On the other hand, there is no systematically reviewed topic in immigration studies about the challenges that female immigrants face as entrepreneurs. Especially when they move from emerging to industrialized countries, there are very limited sectors in which female immigrants can have enterprises. In this sense, this study implies that destination countries should create a network where female immigrant entrepreneurs can easily find and attract several other new immigrant entrepreneurs. This will also help other immigrants who are drawn to immigrant businesses and want to find jobs where they can work in the most comfortable way.

Recognition of opportunities for migrants linked to their gender and ethnicity. Immigrant gender and ethnicity differences contribute to an immigrant mindset that excludes entrepreneurship activities. Highlighting those gaps

and weaknesses will provide a broader and richer perspective for future immigrant entrepreneurship policies in receiving countries.

Family strategy has a great impact on the entrepreneurial activities of immigrants. This can provide advantages to immigrant entrepreneurial activities or vice versa. From a gender-specific perspective, it creates specific obstacles of financial capital and social capital that make it harder to survive as a female immigrant entrepreneur in destination countries. From this perspective, immigrant entrepreneurship studies should also focus on gender, ethnicity and how this factor shapes immigrant entrepreneurial behaviours and plays the role of discrimination in receiving societies. Moreover, the study implies that the destination countries where female immigrants end up should do something to improve their human and social capital to make up for the problems they face.

6. Conclusion and future directions for research

The aim of the study was to show how gender differences among immigrants influence their entrepreneurial activities. In terms of the study design, a systematic review was used for this study. Twenty articles were collected using different electronic databases between 2000 and 2021. It has been found that female immigrant entrepreneurs lag far behind their male counterparts. Additionally, it has been observed that the immigration literature gives more importance to male immigrants than to female immigrants, which contributes to a misunderstanding of the gender dimension of immigrant entrepreneurship. The study is restricted to immigrant entrepreneurial opportunities based on gender processes that predominantly consist of three stages: opportunity recognition, opportunity evaluation, and opportunity exploitation. However, this paper only considered how those factors differ between female and male immigrants in a general context. Thus, the paper lacks inclusive perspectives on the entrepreneurial opportunity process.

Future research should validate this proposed conceptual framework. In addition, future researchers must consider the three stages of the entrepreneurial opportunity process so that an in-depth understanding of the immigrant entrepreneurship activities of male and female immigrants with a social capital, human capital, and disadvantage structure can be better comprehended. Additionally, female immigrants' ventures, their struggles, advantages and disadvantages should be widely discussed to enable the creation of proper policies to support female immigrants in destination countries.

On the other hand, immigration entrepreneurship needs to be better understood in terms of factors with a gender perspective that influence the type and entrepreneurial strategies of immigrants in destination countries. These factors include ethnicity, educational background, family structures and obligations, religion, cultural tides and age. Moreover, immigrant entrepreneurship studies of different regions can allow making comparisons of which strategies from destination countries provide a better chance of survival in the long term. In conclusion, we believe that giving importance to this topic, especially from a gender perspective, will advance the knowledge of receiving societies to conduct new supporting policies for female immigrant entrepreneurship survival rates.

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