








Factors that determine female entrepreneurial intention: A systematic review of the literature

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Abstract

Purpose: The interest of women in entrepreneurship is considered a catalyst for economic growth in developing countries. However, female representation among entrepreneurs remains comparatively low in relation to their male counterparts, a phenomenon that has garnered the attention of numerous researchers. The present study aims to analyze the entrepreneurial intentions of university students through a systematic review of the extant literature. It seeks to identify the most salient thematic trends, understand the factors that determine these intentions, and highlight the challenges and opportunities in this field. The study's overarching objective is to furnish a framework to guide future research by exploring existing gaps and potential connections between key theories and variables within the context of female university entrepreneurship.

Design/methodology/approach: A systematic review of the literature is carried out based on PRISMA 2020, which synthesizes the quantitative and qualitative literature on female entrepreneurial intention.

Findings: Research on entrepreneurial intention among university women has grown exponentially, focusing on “self-efficacy.” Concepts such as “Covid-19” and “entrepreneurial passion” among the most current topics regarding the study phenomenon. The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) was identified as the predominant theory, providing a robust framework for understanding attitude, subjective norms, self-efficacy, entrepreneurial education, and behavioral control. Gaps include preferences for TPB and a lack of understanding of emerging economies and gender. A comprehensive agenda is needed to address these gaps and to advance the understanding of entrepreneurial intentions among university women.

Originality/value: This study's originality lies in its comprehensive systematic review of the literature on entrepreneurial intentions among university women. It stands out for its detailed analysis of dominant theories, key variables, and identified research gaps in this field. Additionally, the study's cross-cutting focus on the concept of “self-efficacy,” the inclusion of emerging themes such as entrepreneurial passion and social support, and the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic add a

current and relevant dimension to understanding women's entrepreneurial motivations in the university context.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intention, Women, University students, Gender gap, TPB, Self-efficacy, Entrepreneurial skills, Entrepreneurial attitudes

Jel Codes: J16, L26, M13, O15

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1. Introduction

Entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions are fundamental elements for the economic development of countries; however, despite the importance of entrepreneurial attitude, young people lack entrepreneurial skills and experience increased unemployment which is detrimental to economic development (Jena, 2020; Molino, Dolce, Cortese & Ghislieri, 2018). Therefore, it is important to inquire about the impact of entrepreneurial skills on this sector of the population and the role that university students play, considering the findings of Law and Breznik (2017), who express that motivation to learn has a strong relationship with innovation, which in turn influences the purpose of the venture, in addition to identifying other components that could intervene in this relationship, such as the importance of curiosity in business passion (Syed, Butler, Smith & Cao, 2020).

Similarly, women's interest in entrepreneurship is considered a stimulus for growth in developing countries, just as young people are a strong driver of economic development (Mehtap, Pellegrini, Caputo & Welsh, 2017). However, the representation of women has a lower percentage of participation among entrepreneurs compared to the opposite gender; therefore, it is necessary to conduct studies beyond statistical data, considering elements that relate intention to behavior (Shinnar, Hsu, Powell & Zhou, 2018), including social evaluation, as a relevant antecedent in this decision (Srivastava & Misra, 2017).

In addition, it is important to approach the issue considering that the perspective is different depending on the social aspects in which it operates, for example, some of the conditions that the behavioral models of the business profile address in the context of the Brazilian woman propose to generate an impact on business intention and the development of skills such as planning, identifying opportunities, sociability, and leadership (Krakauer, de Moraes, Coda & Berne, 2018), while a study conducted with Saudi university students considers that this low representation has nothing to do with access factors to finances, physical or cultural infrastructure, but with government policies, support, and social and educational factors (Ali, Ali & Badghish, 2019). On the contrary, the proposal of Goel and Madan (2019) contributes that from a financial point of view, the results show a positive effect in statistical terms but agree with the influence of circumstances that promote entrepreneurial motivation.

Similarly, Italian students expressed that social pressure influences their intention to work as an entrepreneur, which is influenced by perceived behavioral control (Ferri, Ginesti, Spanò & Zampella, 2018). The above is in line with the study of Polas and Afshar-Jahanshahi (2021), which expresses a significant relationship between perceived ability and social perception with women's entrepreneurial intention, as is the case in a study conducted with Ghanaian women, where the results show that uncertainty avoidance and power distance cultural orientations have an impact on women's participation (Anlesinya, Adepoju & Richter, 2019).

Previous studies have highlighted the need to understand both contextual and individual factors in women's entrepreneurial intention to develop effective strategies that promote female entrepreneurship. Scholars have emphasized that both the environment in which women operate and their personal characteristics significantly influence their entrepreneurial intention (Ettl & Welter, 2010). Contextual factors such as institutional support,

economic opportunities, and social barriers can either facilitate or hinder women's access to entrepreneurial resources and opportunities (Santos, Marques, Ferreira, Gerry & Ratten, 2017). At an individual level, aspects such as self-efficacy, personal motivations, and social capital play a crucial role in the decision to engage in entrepreneurship (Dileo & García-Pereiro, 2019). Therefore, integrating these factors would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs.

Entrialgo and Iglesias (2017) suggest that factors such as exposure to role models suggest different perceptions depending on gender, with women being mostly influenced in their behaviour by external factors such as business education and parental training. Thus, training programs based on active learning and student-centered approaches are important for psychological development and to address qualities such as training retention, self-confidence, tolerance of ambiguity, innovation, and achievement motivation (Bhatti, Al-Doghan, Mat-Saat, Juhari & Alshagawi, 2021).

The study of women's participation in university settings is crucial because of its significant impact on economic and entrepreneurial development. Previous research has underscored that women's entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions play an essential role in a country's growth (Mehtap et al., 2017). Moreover, the underrepresentation of women among entrepreneurs compared to their male counterparts suggests the existence of barriers that go beyond statistical figures, demanding a deeper analysis to comprehend the underlying factors. Shinnar et al. (2018) highlight the need to explore elements beyond statistical data, considering aspects that link intention to behavior, while Srivastava and Misra (2017) point to social evaluation as a relevant antecedent in entrepreneurial decision making. Through research in this field, the aim is not only to identify specific barriers that women face on the path to entrepreneurship, but also to propose strategies and policies that promote gender equity and empower the role of women in economic development.

Therefore, the role of women in entrepreneurship is not diminished by the lack of any of the determinants of entrepreneurial intention, but rather goes hand in hand with implicit barriers such as aptitude and personality, which is why it is necessary to promote soft skills to bridge the gap, especially in the areas of creative thinking, risk-taking, problem solving, and leadership development (Miranda, Chamorro-Mera & Rubio, 2017; Shahin, Ilic, Gonsalvez & Whittle, 2021).

Considering the literary background of this study, it is difficult to identify a single cause that explains the controversy surrounding the gender gap in entrepreneurial intention since it varies depending on the cultural, social, and economic aspects of the environment in which each region operates. In fact, even in studies such as that of Armuña, Ramos, Juan, Feijóo and Arenal (2020) the authors argue that although in their research, it is usually pointed out that women value their entrepreneurial skills less than men, within their research work they did not find significant differences by gender.

In the university context, it is relevant to highlight the cultural considerations that influence entrepreneurial participation and attitudes, particularly when addressing the diversity of contexts and communities within educational institutions. Different cultures may hold unique perceptions of entrepreneurship, the role of women in the business domain, and associated expectations. These cultural considerations can impact university students' willingness to explore entrepreneurial opportunities and shape the social norms and expectations they encounter, creating a distinct context at each institution. Therefore, understanding and addressing these cultural considerations are crucial for designing effective strategies that foster an inclusive and diverse entrepreneurial environment within the university setting.

Hofstede's theory, which has been widely discussed in Sattorovich (2020) research on cross-cultural differences, defines culture by five key dimensions: power distance, uncertainty avoidance, individualism versus collectivism, masculinity versus femininity, and long-term versus short-term orientation. These dimensions provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the influence of cultural values on various aspects of human behavior, including attitudes towards entrepreneurship and business dynamics. This is crucial for the analysis of female entrepreneurial intention in different cultural and geographical contexts.

Numerous systematic reviews have explored female entrepreneurship from broad perspectives. However, the present study aims to offer a novel approach by providing a detailed and updated analysis of entrepreneurial intentions among university students, setting it apart from prior works.

Contrary to the broad-brush examinations of female entrepreneurship in the past, such as those conducted by Yadav and Unni (2016), which assessed the impact of entrepreneurship on emerging economies and identified general barriers encountered by women, this study focuses specifically on the entrepreneurial intentions of university students, a subfield that has received scant attention. This targeted approach enables an in-depth examination of the key factors that shape entrepreneurial intentions in academic and educational settings.

Moreover, while Cardella, Hernández-Sánchez and Sánchez-García (2020) delineated the scope of scientific literature on female entrepreneurship through a global synthesis, this study incorporates emerging concepts such as the impact of the pandemic, self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial passion. By incorporating these recent developments, the review not only updates existing trends but also connects them with established theoretical frameworks, offering a more dynamic and contemporary understanding of the phenomenon.

Contrary to the findings of Garg and Agarwal (2017), who identified general issues and perspectives on female entrepreneurship, this review provides a more profound analytical synthesis. By examining dominant theories such as the TPB and its extensions, alongside proprietary models developed in recent studies, this work moves beyond merely summarizing articles. Instead of merely summarizing articles, it identifies relevant patterns, connections, and research gaps, offering a framework to advance knowledge on entrepreneurial intentions in female university students.

The present review proposes a research agenda that builds on Hughes, Jennings, Brush, Carter and Welter's (2012) call to expand research on female entrepreneurship in new directions. Key research questions address thematic, geographical, and contextual gaps, with a particular emphasis on emerging economies and the cultural and social barriers women face in these regions. This approach is twofold: it provides a framework for future studies and offers practical tools for researchers, educators, and policymakers. In sum, this work reinforces the relevance and utility of research on female entrepreneurship and its potential to inform and advance related fields.

For this reason, this study aims to contribute to the discussion by analyzing the entrepreneurial intentions of university students through a systematic review of the literature, with the aim of exploring research trends on women's entrepreneurial intentions, considering their relevance in the current context, and identifying challenges and possible future scenarios, resorting to the formulation of the following research questions:

RQ1: What are the research trends on entrepreneurial intentions among university women?

RQ2: What elements should a research agenda integrate with the identified gaps in growing and emerging topics in research on entrepreneurial intentions among university women?

To answer these questions and thus achieve the research objective, this study presents an introductory section that provides the definitions, importance, and problems of the topic. The methodological section is then presented, and the method of conducting the study is explained. Subsequently, the results section, its discussion, and analysis are discussed. Finally, there is a conclusion regarding the main aspects of this research.

2. Theoretical Framework

Previous studies have been interested in investigating the factors that determine entrepreneurial intention. Such is the case of Pérez-Macías, Fernández-Fernández and Vieites (2022) who reviewed the existing literature and showed the state of the art regarding the factors that influence the entrepreneurial intention of individuals based on a systematic review of 177 articles. This study contributed to the existing literature by showing lines of research on the subject, cognitive variables of entrepreneurial intention models, personality and psychological variables and personal values, as well as sociodemographic variables and personal motivators and disincentives for entrepreneurship.

Other review studies have sought to synthesize the factors that affect university students' entrepreneurial intentions by identifying seven main factors: cognitive, personality, environmental, social, educational, contextual,

and demographic determinants of entrepreneurial intention (Maheshwari, Kha & Arokiasamy, 2023). For their part, studies such as Alomar (2023) have focused on identifying the constructs that affect Saudi female students' intentions to start a new business after professional degree programs. Their findings allowed proposing an integrated model of the theory of planned behavior and an event model of entrepreneurship.

The study by Tetteh, Tasavori, Bhattarai, Zaefarian and Rajwani (2024) focused on factors related to the macroeconomic environment and strives to provide a more complete understanding of the critical factors in these areas that can affect entrepreneurial intention. This study provided details of key cultural, regional and economic factors, as well as governmental and political factors, and highlights how they affect entrepreneurial intent. In the same vein, Yangailo and Qutieshat (2022) reviewed the dominant characteristics that predict entrepreneurial intention and entrepreneurial success in the 21st century. The results highlight that self-efficacy, conscientiousness, locus of control, need for achievement, and innovativeness are the key personal characteristics that both predict entrepreneurial intention and guarantee entrepreneurial success.

In addition, more specific studies such as that of Gomes, Santos, Sousa, Oliveira, Oliveira and Lopes (2022) assess the entrepreneurial intention of women in Portuguese academia, denoting which entrepreneurial intention is influenced by environmental factors such as closer valuation and social valuation and motivational factors such as attitude towards behavior, subjective norms and perceived behavioral control. In Amadi and Adim (2020) study, a conceptual review was conducted with the objective of examining the environmental factors that influence women's entrepreneurial intentions and found that women entrepreneurs operate in an unfavorable business environment, characterized by various challenges ranging from poor infrastructure, low access to and high cost of finance, weak institutions and many barriers to formal economic participation.

In terms of the influence of history and cultural context Agarwal (2024) emphasizes the significance of historical and cultural context in shaping the future trajectory of female entrepreneurship. History and cultural context play a pivotal role in the genesis of female entrepreneurial intentions. Historical impediments and region-specific cultural norms can profoundly influence the perception of feasibility and the desire for entrepreneurship among women. Moreover, the author underscores the necessity of investigating the influence of governmental policies and initiatives on the historical trajectory of female entrepreneurship.

In turn, studies on entrepreneurship in family businesses, such as the one conducted by Bağış, Kryeziu, Kurutkan and Ramadani (2023) investigated female entrepreneurship within the context of family businesses. Their findings indicate that women in these businesses face unique challenges related to family expectations and power dynamics. Nevertheless, they also benefit from the substantial support of their families, which can facilitate risk-taking and the creation of new business opportunities. The authors propose that strategies to encourage female entrepreneurship should take these dynamics into account and provide specific resources to support women in family businesses.

Jiang, Jiang and Chen (2024) provide a detailed view of female entrepreneurship in China, using a bibliometric approach. The review reveals that factors such as government support, access to financing, and educational training are crucial in fostering entrepreneurial intention among women in China. It is evident that these factors play a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurial intention among women in China. Furthermore, the study highlights the influence of social networks and positive role models as crucial motivating elements. In light of these findings, it is imperative to adapt policies and support programs to the specific characteristics of the regional context.

For its part, entrepreneurship in the STEM fields, the review by Poggesi, Mari, De-Vita and Foss (2020) focused on female entrepreneurship in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. The authors identify significant barriers to women's entrepreneurial intention in STEM fields, including gender stereotypes and a lack of role models. Nevertheless, opportunities for improvement are also identified, such as the growing availability of mentoring programs and targeted educational initiatives that can assist in overcoming these obstacles. This suggests that future interventions should prioritize the elimination of stereotypes and the creation of inclusive environments.

On the other hand, Woldesenbet-Beta, Mwila and Ogunmokun (2024) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the literature on female entrepreneurship in Africa and proposed a future research agenda. Their findings indicate that African women face unique challenges due to factors such as poverty, lack of access to resources, and restrictive sociocultural norms. Nevertheless, potential avenues for advancement are also identified in the form of economic empowerment programs and community support. The authors advocate for a comprehensive approach that considers both the challenges and opportunities inherent to the African context, with the aim of fostering a more conducive environment for female entrepreneurship on the continent.

In relation to trends on women's entrepreneurial intention, recent studies have highlighted the role of entrepreneurship education and how it positively influences entrepreneurial intention (Kong & Kim, 2022). Therefore, entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intention have received increasing attention in entrepreneurship research, becoming a trend within the field of female entrepreneurship (Ramadani, Rahman, Salamzadeh, Rahaman & Abazi-Alili, 2022). Thus, the literature has explored how female college students with entrepreneurial backgrounds exhibit high entrepreneurial intentions (Westhead & Solesvik, 2016).

Previous studies have also shown a trend towards entrepreneurial self-efficacy and its influence on women's entrepreneurial intention. It has been established that an individual's confidence in her ability to start a new venture and her belief that she possesses the necessary skills increase women's desire for entrepreneurship, which has attracted the attention of many researchers (Bouarir, Diani, Boubker & Rharzouz, 2023). This is supported by self-regulation theory, which helps to explain how women entrepreneurs' action contributes to their perceptions of enactive mastery and self-evaluation processes that enhance their entrepreneurial self-efficacy (Simarasl, Tabesh, Munyon & Marzban, 2024). Thus, the literature has recognized self-efficacy as a fundamental factor in women's entrepreneurial intention.

Along the same line of influential factors, trends also lean towards women's entrepreneurial attitudes, revealing that attitudes towards entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial self-efficacy are significantly related to women's entrepreneurial intention (Alzamel, 2021). In this sense, scholars have been interested in women's management skills and competencies, including entrepreneurial attitude, business plan development, finance, and technical knowledge (Corrêa, Brito, Lima & Queiroz, 2022). Thus, attitudes towards entrepreneurship become an important issue in the field of female entrepreneurship (Cardella et al., 2020).

In addition, studies on the subject have sought to understand the role of women in society, arguing that motivations towards entrepreneurship are driven by social goals rather than by economic and material issues (Cardella et al., 2020). In that sense, there has also been an emerging interest on the part of researchers towards social entrepreneurship. This is because previous studies indicate that socially conditioned perceptions also influence entrepreneurial behavior, suggesting that women may be more likely to engage in social ventures than in commercial ventures (Llados-Masllorens & Ruiz-Dotras, 2022).

Thus, scholars on the subject have sought to understand female entrepreneurship based on literature reviews, with the objective of identifying the factors that influence women's entrepreneurial intention, based on consolidated theories such as the TPB (Mandongwe & Jaravaza, 2020; Miranda et al., 2017; Sarwar, Ahsan & Rafiq, 2021; Wang & Ortiz, 2022). Also, the role of psychological, socioeconomic, and cultural factors has been explored (Jannesari, Zolfagharian & Torkzadeh, 2022; Liu, Li, Li & Zeng, 2022; Wardana, Narmaditya, Wibowo, Fitriana, Saraswati & Indriani, 2021), to achieve a more complete understanding of the research phenomenon.

3. Materials and Methods

In accordance with the objective and research questions proposed in the introductory section of this article, this study proposes to carry out a systematic review of the literature, defined as a synthesis article of the available evidence, in which a review of quantitative and qualitative aspects of primary studies is conducted, with the aim of summarizing the existing information on a given topic (Manterola, Astudillo, Arias & Claros, 2013). This methodology is based on the criteria described in the PRISMA 2020 statement for literature reviews, through which eligibility criteria, source of information, search strategy, and management of the data obtained from the execution of this strategy are defined. for the selected data source (Page, McKenzie, Bossuyt, Boutron, Hoffmann, Mulrow et al., 2021).

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility guidelines provided in the PRISMA 2020 statement are distributed in two groups: the inclusion criteria that focus on the association of articles that contain in their metadata, especially the title and keywords, the entrepreneurial intention in women, and their synonyms, and another group conformed by the exclusion criteria, which in turn are delimited in three serial phases called screening. First, all elements considered typological indexing errors for each information source were discarded. Then comes the phase of deleting the full-text records, and finally, after analyzing the resulting full-texts, all scientific articles are excluded that do not fully demonstrate models of entrepreneurial intention in women as the basic purpose of the research, in order to finally have only scientific articles that respond to what was investigated in the study.

3.2. Sources of Information

The information sources of this research concern scientific articles related to entrepreneurial intention in women, housed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases, which present a wide spectrum of scientific publications, as well as great availability in the subject and breadth. in all scientific disciplines (Ejdys & Szpilko, 2022).

3.3. Search Strategy

In addition, to carry out an efficient search in both databases so that all the keywords defined as inclusion criteria can be integrated, two similar specialized search equations are drawn up, whose only variation is given by the search interface of each database. This results in the following search equation.

For the Web of Science database TI=((intention AND entrepr*) OR (intention AND new AND venture) OR (intention AND "start up") OR (intention AND "new business") OR (intention AND "new firm")) OR AK=((intention AND entrepr*) OR (intention AND new AND venture) OR (intention AND "Start up") OR (intention AND "New business") OR (intention AND "New firm")) AND (TI=(female OR male) OR AK=(female OR male)).

For the Scopus database: TITLE ((intention AND entrepr*) OR (intention AND new AND venture) OR (intention AND "start up") OR (intention AND "new business") OR (intention AND "new firm")) OR KEY ((intention AND entrepr*) OR (intention AND new AND venture) OR (intention AND "Startup") OR (intention AND "New business") OR (intention AND "New firm")) AND (TITLE (woman OR woman) OR KEY (woman OR woman)).

3.4. Data Management

After defining the search strategy, 1,527 documents were retrieved from the Scopus and Web of Science databases. Of these, 194 corresponded to Scopus and 1,333 to the Web of Science. These documents were analyzed in two different phases. In the first phase, all data were examined before excluding articles without access to the full text, with the aim of identifying trends related to bibliometric components. The second phase focused on the analysis of articles obtained after three stages of exclusion. At this point, the analysis focused on exploring theories and variables related to women's entrepreneurial intentions. To perform this analysis, a combination of computer tools was used, specifically Microsoft Excel and the free software VOSviewer. The application of the criteria established in the PRISMA 2020 Declaration, an essential guide for the preparation of systematic reviews, is fundamental in all stages of the research process, guaranteeing the transparency and reproducibility of the methodological procedures (Fuentes, 2022).

3.5. Selection Process

According to the PRISMA 2020 guidelines, as addressed in the research by Page et al. (2021), it is crucial to reveal whether an internally developed automated classification system was implemented to support the bibliographic selection process, as well as to highlight the application of internal or external validation to assess the possibility of omitting relevant studies or classifications. wrong. In accordance with these methodological premises, the present study used automation tools available in Microsoft Excel® as an internal tool. This tool was developed collaboratively by a group of researchers who participated in this study. Similarly, each researcher used the tool independently during the application of the inclusion and exclusion criteria in the article selection

process. This strategy was adopted with the aim of reducing the possibility of omitting relevant studies or ambiguities in the classification, promoting the convergence of results, and strengthening the integrity of the systematic review.

3.6. Data Collection Process

In the present study, the automated tool Microsoft Excel® was used to carry out the data collection process derived from the two selected databases. To ensure methodological rigor, all the authors of the present study assumed the role of reviewers, thus contributing to the validation process. It should be noted that this validation was performed independently by each author, and collectively, a cross-verification and consensus of the collected data was achieved. This collective approach and the subsequent iteration until an absolute convergence of the results was reached guaranteed the fidelity and reliability of the data obtained in the course of this systematic review.

3.7. Data Elements

In the context of the systematic review that focused on women's entrepreneurial intentions, the following guidelines were followed: For the outcomes sought, all aspects for which the data were collected were listed and defined. The search included all studies that are in line with the research objective following the search equations designed for each database, which implies the inclusion of all articles that deal with women's entrepreneurial intention. In cases where incomplete or unclear information is presented in the texts, they are excluded under the category of "texts without methodological rigor" because they do not contribute to a solid understanding of the basic knowledge of the subject. This strategy ensures consistency with the objectives and scope of the research and guarantees the quality and relevance of the results.

3.8. Assessment of Study Risk of Bias

In the context of the systematic review focused on women's entrepreneurial intention, considerations related to the assessment of the risk of bias in the included studies are addressed. In accordance with the guidelines, and because the data collection process involved the participation of all authors, the risk of bias was assessed in a similar manner. The automated tool Microsoft Excel®, which has already been used for data collection, was used. The same tool allowed the evaluation to be performed in a collaborative and consistent manner, thus ensuring the quality and integrity of the results obtained in this investigation.

3.9. Measures of Impact

In the context of a systematic review of women's entrepreneurial intention, it is necessary to specify the effect measures used in the synthesis or presentation of the results for each aspect studied. Although these measures are more common in primary research, they are treated in a special way in this review, based on secondary sources. Instead of conventional effect measures, such as risk ratio or mean difference, this review focuses on the analysis of different indicators. These include the number of publications, number of citations, and temporality of the use of each keyword, as well as an individual analysis of the articles to determine the theories and variables of women's entrepreneurial intention addressed by the authors. These analyses were carried out using Microsoft Excel®, which allows a methodical and systematic approach to the processing of secondary research sources and the evaluation of the main patterns and trends.

3.10. Synthesis Methods

In this research, bibliometric indicators of quantity and quality were carried out according to the approach proposed by Durieux and Gevenois (2010). These indicators were automatically implemented using Microsoft Excel® for all documents that passed the three exclusion phases. In addition, an individual study of each article was conducted to identify the theory and variables related to women's entrepreneurial intention. This multifaceted approach ensures a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation of the studies and facilitates the synthesis and presentation of results.

3.11. Assessment of Reporting Bias

In the context of this systematic review, which focused on women's entrepreneurial intention, it is crucial to recognize the possibility of bias towards certain synonyms identified in thesauri, such as IEEE or UNESCO. This bias was reflected in the inclusion criteria, search strategy, and data collection. In addition, it should be considered that the inclusion of studies without methodological rigor, together with the exclusion of articles with incomplete indexing and documents without access to the full text, may lead to the omission of valuable information that could significantly contribute to the construction of knowledge in the subject area covered.

3.12. Assessing Certainty

Finally, the certainty of evidence for the outcomes was assessed. In this systematic review, unlike primary studies that assess certainty individually, certainty was addressed globally. This is achieved through the independent application of inclusion and exclusion criteria in the selection of articles, definition of bibliometric indicators, and identification and reporting of possible biases in the methodological design. In addition, the limitations of the research are explicitly presented in the discussion phase, which contributes to a transparent and complete evaluation of the reliability and scope of the results obtained in this study. Finally, Figure 1 presents the flowchart recommended by the PRISMA-2020 statement to consider the methodological design.

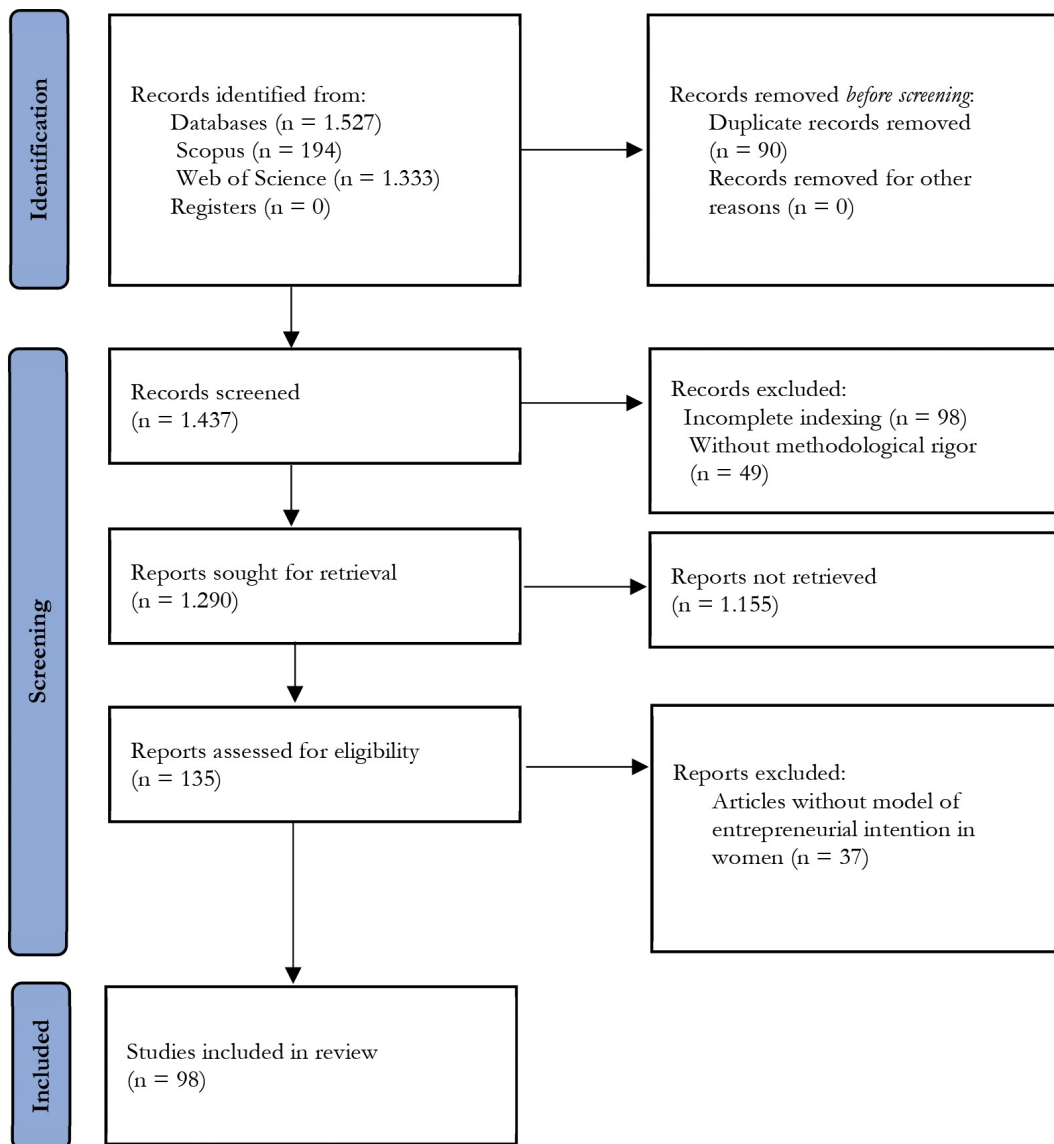


Figure 1. PRISMA flow chart. PRISMA flowchart. Own elaboration based on Scopus and Web of Science

In summary, the first phase of identification is shown, which collected 1,527 articles because of the materialization of the search strategy in both databases, then there was the second phase was called screening, where the three defined exclusion phases were detailed; finally, 98 articles were obtained that were observed in this systematic literature review.

4. Results

As previously discussed in the methodological section on data management, the results of this study are presented in two distinct phases. The first phase focused on the identification of bibliometric elements, while the second focused on an in-depth analysis of theories and variables related to women's entrepreneurial intention. These two phases allowed for a holistic and systematic approach to the review, covering both quantitative and qualitative trends in the research field.

4.1. Bibliometric Aspects of the Literature on Women's Entrepreneurial Intention

In the first instance of the present study, where it is approached from a bibliometric analysis, a graph is made, as observed in Figure 2, which allows the study of scientific production per year, based on the total number of articles on entrepreneurial intention in women, published according to each record obtained, evidencing publications between 2000 and 2023, and an exponential growth of 96.03% in the volume of articles, allowing the identification of the most relevant years for the subject, which are 2022, 2021 and 2020, respectively. This section answers the first research question.

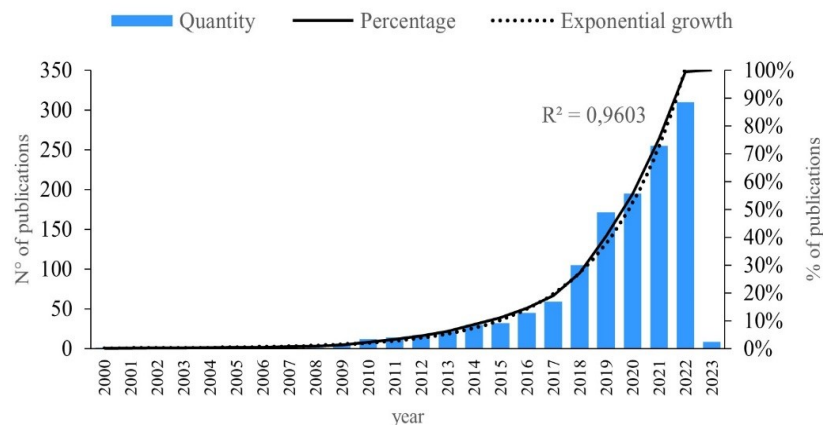


Figure 2. Publications per year

In 2022, the field of female entrepreneurship was the focus of a notable increase in the number of studies, reflecting a growing interest in understanding the factors that influence women's entrepreneurial intention. Various investigations provided significant perspectives on this topic. In a study conducted during this period, it was determined that in specific contexts, entrepreneurial passion and self-efficacy are the most significant factors influencing female entrepreneurial intention, emphasizing the pivotal role of social support in this process (Neneh, 2022). Additionally, other researchers have identified creativity and proactive personality as key factors influencing women's entrepreneurial intention, which are mediated by entrepreneurial self-efficacy (Kumar & Shukla, 2022).

Moreover, Ramadani et al. (2022) investigated the influence of entrepreneurial education on graduates' entrepreneurial intentions, emphasizing the potential impact of gender on these outcomes. To gain deeper insights, they employed a multi-group analysis approach with AMOS. Polas, Raju, Muhibbullah and Tabash (2022) concentrated on the attributes of rural women in Bangladesh and their correlation with sustainable entrepreneurial intention, proposing that these attributes are pivotal for economic growth in specific contexts.

Conversely, Laouti, Haddoud, Nakara and Onjewu (2022) concentrated on the attributes of rural women in Bangladesh and their correlation with sustainable entrepreneurial intention, proposing that these attributes are pivotal for economic growth in specific contexts.

Finally, for the year 2020, various studies have been carried out to understand how individual and contextual factors influence the entrepreneurial intention of women, as in the case of Jena (2020) who carried out a case study to measure the impact of business management students' attitudes towards entrepreneurship education on their entrepreneurial intention, finding a positive relationship between the attitude of students towards education and their entrepreneurial intention.

Subsequently, in the present bibliometric phase of the systematic review of literature on entrepreneurial intention in women, an evaluation is made of scientific productivity factors associated with the number of publications, as well as the academic impact based on the total number of citations, as shown in Figure 3. It is possible to identify the reference authors in the scientific literature. In this sense, from the analysis of productivity and impact, three segmentations of authors were obtained. The first refers to the main authors in the field, who are positioned among the most productive and with the greatest impact.; second, those who, if good, have few articles, account for a high number of citations; and finally, those who appear among the most productive without positioning themselves among the most cited.

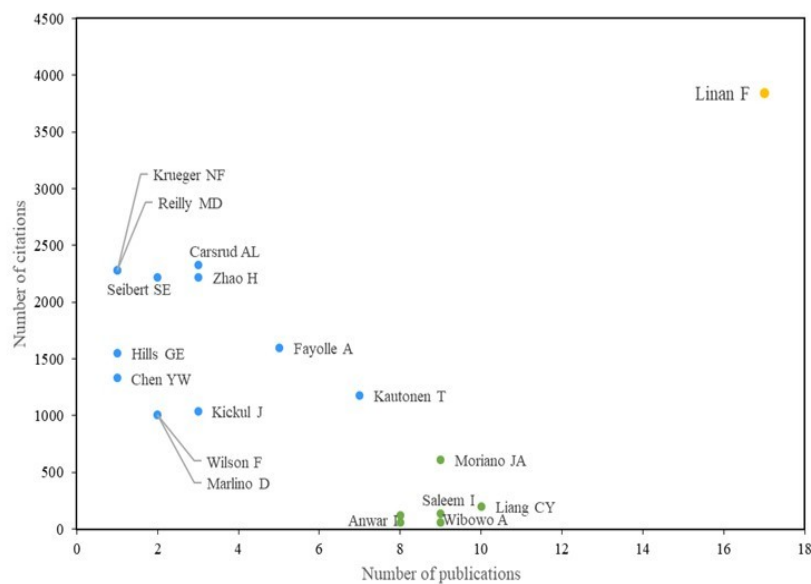


Figure 3. Main authors

The main reference in the scientific literature on the subject is Linan F, owing to his outstanding scientific productivity and academic impact. Some of their published articles include the development and application of a specific tool to measure entrepreneurial intentions in different cultures, as in a study that allowed a comparative analysis and a better understanding of the factors that influence the subject (Liñán & Chen, 2009). Moreover, in this study, the author conducted a comprehensive systematic review of the literature on entrepreneurial intentions, which helped to identify the main trends and research topics in the field in the past, where he proposed a research agenda for the future in this area (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015). Finally, it highlights the need for more research on entrepreneurial intentions in different contexts and cultures, as well as at different stages of the entrepreneurial process (Fayolle & Liñán, 2014).

Regarding the authors who appear in the second group, those who, despite publishing little, are positioned among those with the greatest impact Krueger NF, Reilly MD, and Carsrud AL, who are also important references in the field of entrepreneurial intention in women, where their most prominent contribution presents different models to explain entrepreneurial intention and explores how individual and contextual factors influence this intention (Krueger, Reilly & Carsrud, 2000).

Another prominent author within this segment is Carsrud AL, who in one of the leading articles in the field, entitled "Government Bureaucracy, Transactional Impediments, and Entrepreneurial Intentions," examines the role of government bureaucracy and transactional impediments on women's entrepreneurial intentions (Griffiths,

Kickul & Carsrud, 2009). Similarly, Zhao, despite not having many publications, has widely cited in academic literature. One of the most influential articles in this area is “The Relationship of Personality to Entrepreneurial Intentions and Performance: A Meta-Analytic Review,” which examines the relationship between personality and entrepreneurial intentions and business performance (Zhao, Seibert & Lumpkin, 2010), this author also examines the role that self-efficacy plays in the development of entrepreneurial intentions (Zhao, Seibert & Hills, 2005).

Subsequently, in the analysis of references during the bibliometric phase of this systematic literature review, the main journals publishing on women’s entrepreneurial intention were identified. Scientific productivity was evaluated based on the number of publications, and the impact of these publications was assessed according to the number of citations, as shown in Figure 4.

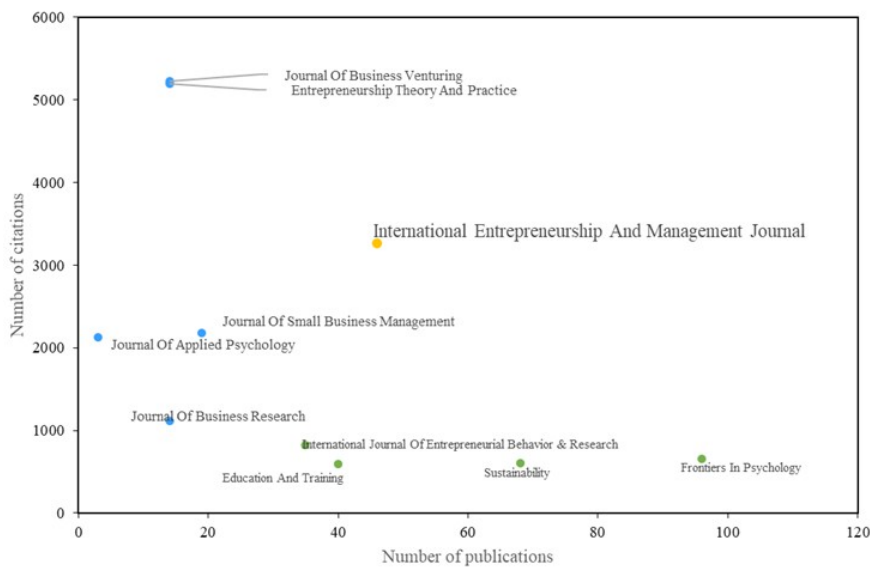


Figure 4. Main journals

First, the International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal is mentioned as an outstanding benchmark in entrepreneurship research, both for its high scientific productivity and academic impact. Some of the most outstanding contributions of the journal related to the entrepreneurial intention of women are an analysis of the factors that influence the level of entrepreneurial intention of university students, highlighting the role of education in this process (Liñán, Rodríguez-Cohard & Rueda-Cantuche, 2011). Other studies suggest that entrepreneurship education programs can have a significant impact on the formation of entrepreneurial intention, where the relationship between entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intention among university students has been thoroughly examined (Zhang, Duysters & Clodt, 2014). The results of other studies derived from this journal suggest that entrepreneurship education may be an important predictor of students’ entrepreneurial intention (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015).

The Journal of Business Venturing is the most cited journal in the field, although it is not among the most productive. Among his major contributions are articles discussing whether entrepreneurship programs increase the entrepreneurial intention of science and engineering students and demonstrating that learning, inspiration, and resources are important factors influencing entrepreneurial intention (Souitaris, Zerbinati & Al-Laham, 2007). Similarly, another study examined the role of sustainability orientation in entrepreneurial intention, examining how business experience influences this relationship, showing that sustainability orientation has a positive effect on entrepreneurial intention, especially among entrepreneurs with prior experience (Kuckertz & Wagner, 2010). Other seminal articles in the literature, such as that of Krueger et al. (2000) speak of two competing models of entrepreneurial intention, focusing on opportunity perception and willingness to undertake.

Likewise, the journal “Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice” is considered an important benchmark in the field of entrepreneurship in terms of academic impact and is positioned as the second most cited journal in the field.

Some of its most important articles analyse the relationship between entrepreneurial self-efficacy and entrepreneurial career intentions among women, which has important implications for entrepreneurship education and the promotion of entrepreneurship among women (Wilson, Kickul & Marlino, 2007). In another important study, based on a meta-analytic review of the relationship between education and entrepreneurial intentions, the authors found that entrepreneurship education has a significant impact on increasing entrepreneurial intentions, whereas the implications of these results for public policy and future research (Bae, Qian, Miao & Fiet, 2014). In addition, another study developed and validated a specific instrument to measure entrepreneurial intentions in different cultures, which is important for the accurate measurement of entrepreneurial intentions among women and other stakeholders (Liñán & Chen, 2009).

Subsequently, the analysis of the last area of research references will analyze the main countries where the most publications on women's entrepreneurial intentions have been published, as well as the most cited, reflecting elements of productivity and scientific impact, as shown in Figure 5.

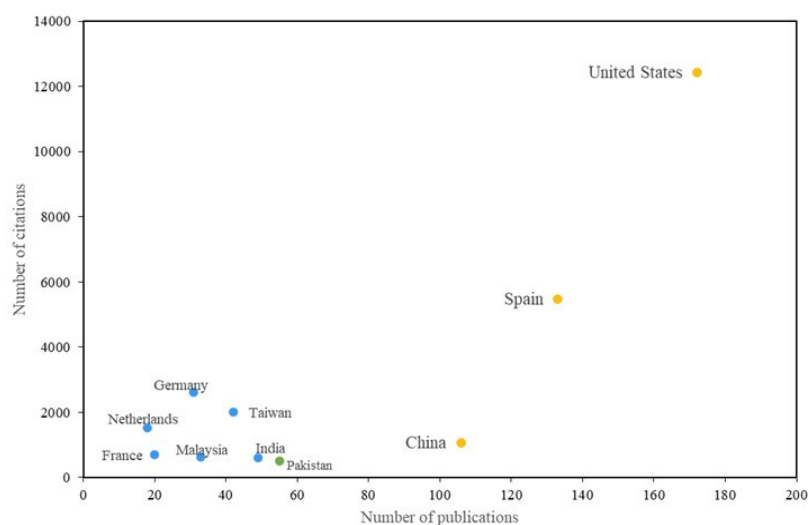


Figure 5. Main countries

It is evident that the main countries within the scientific body are the United States, Spain, and China, understanding that they publish the most and have been cited the most, being considered the main references in terms of scientific productivity and impact. In the case of the United States, a great deal of research has been carried out on women's entrepreneurial intentions, highlighting two important studies, one of which proposed different models of entrepreneurial intentions, highlighting the importance of personality and the social environment in the formation of these intentions (Krueger et al., 2000). Another article discusses the mediating role of self-efficacy in the development of entrepreneurial intentions, which is an important contribution to the knowledge of entrepreneurial intentions (Zhao et al., 2005).

Spain, the second country, reports several relevant investigations carried out in this country, where a study on regional differences in entrepreneurial cognitions and entrepreneurial intentions of university students in Spain stands out (Liñán, Urbano & Guerrero, 2011). Likewise, another study developed a specific instrument to measure entrepreneurial intentions, which has been used in different cultural contexts (Liñán & Chen, 2009). In another study, a systematic review of the literature on entrepreneurial intentions was conducted, identifying different themes and trends in research (Liñán & Fayolle, 2015). The third country, China, has made some important contributions, including studies that examine the role of creativity, proactive personality, and entrepreneurial vigilance on entrepreneurial intentions (Hu, Wang, Zhang & Bin, 2018). Another prominent study discusses the role of entrepreneurial self-efficacy, creativity, and education on entrepreneurial intention (Shahab, Chengang, Arbizu & Haider, 2019).

Finally, the scientific importance of a country like Taiwan is mentioned, which may not be high in terms of the number of publications, but is a benchmark in terms of academic impact due to its high number of citations.

Two studies that stand out in the field of entrepreneurial intention in Taiwan discuss, on the one hand, the effect of narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism on entrepreneurial intention (Wu, Wang, Zheng & Wu, 2019). In contrast, a moderate mediation model extends the relationship between self-efficacy and entrepreneurial intention (Tsai, Chang & Peng, 2016).

4.2. Thematic Components of the Literature on Women's Entrepreneurial Intention

Subsequently, the present systematic literature review, stemming from the bibliometric phase, enabled an analysis of the thematic evolution within the scholarly body addressing women's entrepreneurial intention. This analysis considers the keywords that have been most frequently explored between 2005 and 2023. This time frame represents a period during which the same keyword gained significant attention at least three times, as illustrated in Figure 6. The figure was constructed based on scrutiny of the most investigated keywords in each analyzed year. This section answers the second research question.

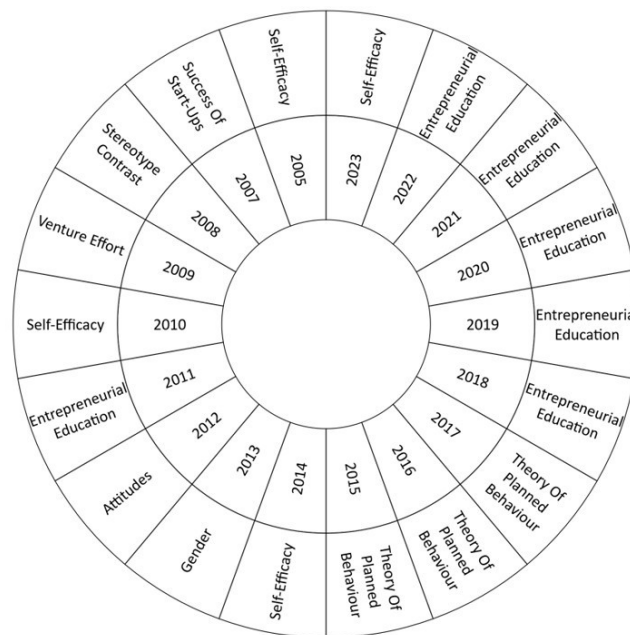


Figure 6. Thematic evolution

In 2005, the most important factor was self-efficacy, a crucial psychological construct in the development of women's entrepreneurial intentions. They state that self-efficacy is an important variable in the formation of entrepreneurial intention because people with higher self-efficacy perceive that they have the ability to achieve their entrepreneurial goals and feel more confident in their entrepreneurial abilities. In addition, self-efficacy can help women entrepreneurs overcome obstacles to their business success. Another study states that self-efficacy is a mediating variable in the relationship between personal characteristics and entrepreneurial intention, suggesting that self-efficacy is a key factor in determining women's entrepreneurial intention (Zhao et al., 2005).

By 2015, the TPB had been widely used in research on women's entrepreneurial intention. The TPB suggests that attitudes, subjective norms, and perceptions of behavioral control influence the formation of intention and subsequent entrepreneurial action. This study confirms that TPB is a robust theory for predicting both entrepreneurial intention and entrepreneurial action among women (Kautonen, van Gelderen & Fink, 2015). According to these authors, TPB can explain 50% of the variance in entrepreneurial intention and 25% of the variance in entrepreneurial action. On the other hand, the following article analyzes the effect of prior exposure to entrepreneurship on the formation of entrepreneurial intention among women (Zapkau, Schwens, Steinmetz & Kabst, 2015). The authors found that TPB is an adequate theory to explain the relationship between prior exposure to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intention, as the perception of behavioral control seems to be a determining factor in the formation of entrepreneurial intention.

On the other hand, from 2021 to 2022, entrepreneurship education is the most studied concept in the scientific literature. Entrepreneurship education is an increasingly important topic in research on women's entrepreneurial intentions. The literature suggests that entrepreneurship education is a key factor in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to start a successful business. In another publication, they found that entrepreneurship education has a positive effect on university students' entrepreneurial intentions of university students (Anwar, Alalyani, Thoudam, Khan & Saleem, 2022). Furthermore, they found that this effect occurred through the mediation of entrepreneurial self-efficacy and gender inhibition. The following analysis examines the relationship between educational support and entrepreneurial intention in Vietnam (Maheshwari & Kha, 2022). The authors found that entrepreneurship education has a positive effect on entrepreneurial intention through the mediation of entrepreneurial self-efficacy and the theory of planned behavior. Entrepreneurship education is an important topic in research on women's entrepreneurial intentions and can be a key factor in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to start a successful business.

Finally, the importance of self-efficacy, a person's belief in their ability to achieve their goals, has been identified as a key factor in the formation of entrepreneurial intention. The following article discusses how self-efficacy can significantly influence entrepreneurial intention and new venture creation (McIntyre, Silva-Quaye, Anning-Dorson, Lanivich & Adomako, 2023). Self-efficacy may be an important predictor of entrepreneurial intention, because people with higher self-efficacy are more likely to pursue opportunities and persevere in challenging situations (see Figure 7).

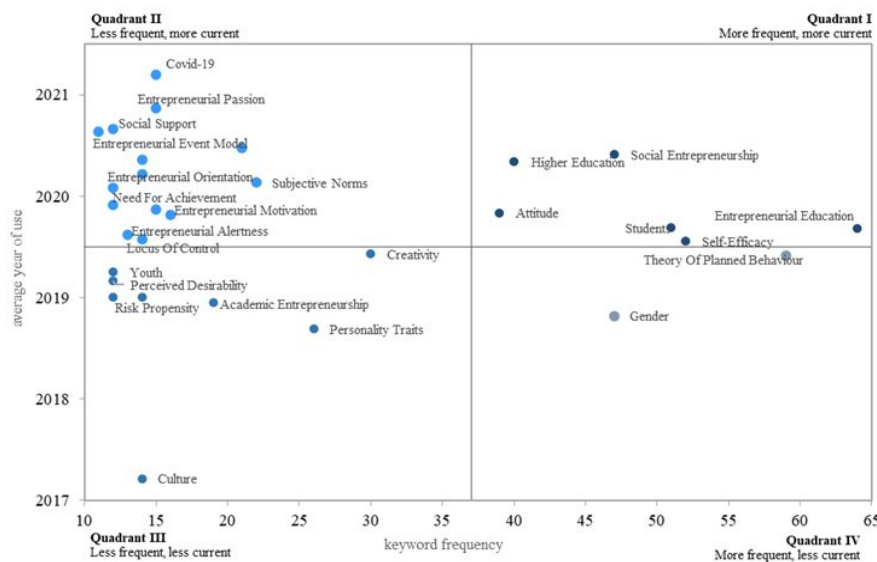


Figure 7. Keyword validity and frequency

4.3. Theories Used to Understand Women's Entrepreneurial Intention

Next, the results obtained in relation to the theories used are related, allowing an understanding of the analysis of the data that guides the design of the investigations and the interpretation of the results, improving the theoretical perspectives that underlie the included studies and how they are applied. used various theories to explain these phenomena. According to the results of Table 1, it can be observed that a total of seven theories have been identified that are applied to understand entrepreneurial intention in women, highlighting the TPB as the most used in relation to the object of study, since it has been implemented in a total of 36 related studies, which is why most authors have focused on analyzing the relationship between attitudes, social norms, and perceived control of women entrepreneurs and their intention to undertake. It is also worth noting its relevance as a basis for other studies, considering that in the second place at the top are extended versions of it. This section answers the second research question.

The dominant theories identified in the literature on entrepreneurial intention among women largely consist of models based on established behavioral theories, with a particular emphasis on the TPB. This theory, referenced

frequently in the literature (Acuña-Duran, Pradenas-Wilson, Oyanedel & Jalon-Gardella, 2021; Agolla, Monametsi & Phera, 2019; Al-Jubari, 2019, among others), serves as a foundational framework for understanding entrepreneurial intentions. Additionally, the TPB has been extended in various studies to address specific contexts and variables (Apasieva, Rajh, Budak & Davčev, 2021; von Arnim & Mrozewski, 2020). The prevalence of these models highlights their robustness and adaptability in explaining entrepreneurial behavior. The significant number of studies employing their own models (47 instances) also underscores the ongoing evolution and customization of theoretical frameworks to better fit diverse research contexts. These custom models often build upon established theories like TPB to address specific nuances and emerging trends in entrepreneurial intention research.

Model*	Frequency	Authors
TPB	36	Acuña-Duran et al., 2021; Agolla et al., 2019; Al-Jubari, 2019; Almohammad, Durrah, Alkhalaf & Rashid, 2021; Alzamel, 2021; Arroyo, Cárcamo-Solís, Cuevas-Vargas & Estrada-Rodríguez, 2021; Ashari, Abbas, Abdul-Talib & Mohd-Zamani, 2021; Asimakopoulos, Hernández & Peña-Miguel, 2019; Bazan, 2022; Bazkiaei, Heng, Khan, Saufi & Kasim, 2020; Boubker, Douayri, Aatar & Rhazrouz, 2021; Bui, Nguyen, Tran & Nguyen, 2020; Dhakal, Wiesner & Maraseni, 2022; Dodescu, Botezat, Constăngioară & Pop-Cohuț, 2021; Fatoki, 2020; Haddad, Haddad & Nagpal, 2021; Li, Pervaiz & He, 2021; Li, Li & Chen, 2022; Li & Islam, 2021; Li, Zhang, Zhou, Kang, Feng, Zeng et al., 2022; Lihua, 2022; Lingappa, Kamath & Mathew, 2022; Lingappa, Shah & Mathew, 2020; Mandongwe & Jaravaza, 2020; Mei, Lee & Xiang, 2020; Miranda et al., 2017; Molino et al., 2018; Otchengco Jr. & Akiate, 2021; Padi, Dzisi & Eshun, 2022; Santos, Marques & Ferreira, 2021; Sarwar et al., 2021; Sweida & Sherman, 2020; Turulja, Veselinovic, Agic & Pasic-Mesihovic, 2020; Vuong, Phuong, Huan & Quan, 2020; Wang, Cao, Zhuo, Mou, Pu & Zhou, 2021; Wang & Ortiz, 2022
TPB extended	14	Apasieva et al., 2021; Bagis, 2022; Chien-Chi, Sun, Yang, Zheng & Li, 2020; Hoda, Ahmad, Gupta, Alam & Ahmad, 2021; Lu & Wang, 2018; Misoska, Dimitrova & Mrsik, 2016; Ndovela & Chinyamurindi, 2021; Prabowo, Ikhsan & Yuniarty, 2022; Shodipe & Ohanu, 2020; Vega-Gómez, Miranda-González, Chamorro-Mera & Pérez-Mayo, 2020; von-Arnim & Mrozewski, 2020; Wardana et al., 2021; Ye, Zhou, Anwar, Siddiquei & Asmi, 2020; Zhu, Zhao, Long, Huang & Huang, 2022
SCT	1	Hasan, Hatidja, Rasyid, Nurjanna, Walenta, Tahir et al., 2020
SDT	1	Al-Jubari, 2019
EEM	1	Bui et al., 2020
SOEI	1	Fatoki, 2020
EET	1	Lingappa et al., 2022
Own model	47	Akhtar, Albarrak, Ahmad, Akram & Ciddikie, 2022; Awwad & Al-Aseer, 2021; Barba-Sánchez & Atienza-Sahuquillo, 2018; Bigos & Michalik, 2020; Dong, Malik, Liu, Elashkar, Shoukry & Khader, 2021; Dong, Wang, Cao & Higgins, 2022; Fawaid, Triyono, Sofyan, Nurtanto, Mutohhari, Jatmoko et al., 2022; Franzke, Wu, Froese & Chan, 2022; Gao & Huang, 2022; Gao & Qin, 2022; Hassan, Igel & Shamsuddoha, 2022; Hassan, Sobaih & Elshaer, 2022; Herrera-Valverde, Mora-Esquivel & Leiva, 2020; Hou, Su, Qi, Chen & Tang, 2022; Hu et al., 2018; Huang, Xie, Huang, Li, Cai & Apostolidis, 2021; Huston, 2018; Jannesari et al., 2022; Khawar, Amin, Zulfqar, Hussain, Hussain & Muqaddas, 2022; Kong & Kim, 2022; Krieger, Block, Stuetzer, Obschonka & Salmela-Aro, 2022; Kusumojanto, Wibowo, Kustiandi & Narmaditya, 2021; Li, Li et al., 2022; Li & Islam, 2021; Li, Zhang et al., 2022; Linfang, Khalid, Raza, Chanrawang & Parveen, 2021; Liu et al., 2022; Mukhtar, Wardana, Wibowo & Narmaditya, 2021; Nițu-Antonie, Feder, Stamenovic & Brudan, 2022; Nițu-Antonie, Feder & Stamenovic, 2022; Nuseir, Basheer & Aljumah, 2020; Onalan & Magda, 2020; Romero-Galisteo, González-Sánchez, Gálvez-Ruiz, Palomo-Carrión, Casuso-Holgado & Pinero-Pinto, 2022; Shaikh, Nili, Dwibedi & Madhavan, 2020; Širola, 2020; Tripopsakul, 2018; Velástegui & Chacón, 2021; Wu, Jiang, Wang, Yu, Wang & Pan, 2022; Yang, Pu & Guan, 2019; Yin, Yang & Liu, 2020; Yuan, 2022; Zhang & Huang, 2021; Zhao & Wibowo, 2021; Zhao & Xie, 2020; Zhao, 2022

*In this study, several theoretical frameworks are referenced, each represented by an abbreviation: TPB (Theory of Planned Behavior), SCT (Social Cognitive Theory), SDT (Self-Determination Theory), EEM (Entrepreneurial Event Model), SOEI (Predictive Model of the Determinants of Sustainability-Oriented Entrepreneurial Intentions), and EET (Entrepreneurial Event Theory).

Table 1. Theories of women's entrepreneurial intention

Current studies use TPB to examine various factors that influence students' entrepreneurial intentions, such as the academic curriculum, institutional support, family, and peer effects (Lingappa et al., 2020). Entrepreneurship education is considered an important way to influence the competitiveness of any country or industry (Fang, Razzaq, Mohsin & Irfan, 2022). Academic entrepreneurship influences the process by which knowledge generated from research is used to establish commercial enterprises, especially business schools, which play an important role in influencing entrepreneurial intentions and behaviors (Haddad et al., 2021; Miranda et al., 2017).

In addition, special attention has been paid to gender issues (Dhakal et al., 2022), as women in developing countries often face marginalization and difficulties in survival. In this situation, entrepreneurship can be an opportunity to improve their conditions, being an effective way to empower women and promote their economic autonomy (Mandongwe & Jaravaza, 2020).

These approaches are applied from different perspectives according to the characteristics of the context in which each study takes place, including open and distance learning (Acuña-Duran et al., 2021), but respecting the basic indications of the TPB model applied to the analysis of the relevant studies, with entrepreneurial intention, planned behavior, and effective behavior, considering formal and informal institutional factors, as well as the individual characteristics of innovation and need for achievement (Arroyo et al., 2021).

Other variables considered are the business educational environment, personal characteristics, perception of viability, business support, and financial accessibility, as well as the direct and indirect effects of meeting basic psychological needs (Al-Jubari, 2019; Vuong et al., 2020). In addition, a complex mediation chain is established in a network of relationships linking the benefits of entrepreneurial education with entrepreneurial self-efficacy, attitudes, perceived behavioral control, and subjective norms in estimating entrepreneurial intentions (Dodescu et al., 2021).

Likewise, extended models of TPB applied to the subject have been identified, within which 14 related studies have been identified, characterized by taking as a basis the theory of planned behavior and adapting it with new variables depending on the context and perspective of available resources (Shodipe & Ohanu, 2020), understanding entrepreneurial intention from different cultural perspectives and cognitive values, which are significantly different depending on the country (Hoda et al., 2021; Mukhtar et al., 2021; Prabowo et al., 2022).

Therefore, the studies investigate the entrepreneurial potential of students by adapting the theory of planned behavior with other antecedents that are used to examine the effect of variables at the personal and contextual levels (Apasieva et al., 2021), and adding constructs from other models, such as the partial least squares approach to structural equation modelling (von-Arnim & Mrozewski, 2020; Misoska et al., 2016), the Krueger model, social cognitive theory, the theory of reciprocal determinism triadic (Chien-Chi et al., 2020), and entrepreneurial vigilance (Lu & Wang, 2018).

Other models identified in the search had less influence, considering that only one study was found for each of them. However, it is necessary to consider their contributions to the scientific community from an understanding of business intentions. Among these research proposals, social cognitive theory (SCT), which focuses on the concepts of reinforcement and observation (Hasan 2020); self-determination theory (SDT), which aims to test the direct and indirect effects of satisfying psychological needs, including autonomy and competence (Hasan, 2020); self-determination theory (SDT), which aims to test the direct and indirect effects of satisfying psychological needs, including autonomy and competence (Al-Jubari, 2019); the entrepreneurial event model (EEM), which is considered a reliable model of entrepreneurial intention (Bui et al., 2020); the predictive model of the determinants of sustainability-oriented entrepreneurial intentions (SOEI), which focuses on the intention to start a business with economic, social, and environmental goals (Fatoki, 2020); and Entrepreneurial Event theory (TEE), which analyzes how the perception that a business idea is feasible and attractive influences the decision to start (Lingappa et al., 2022).

However, independent of the theories mentioned above, 47 publications were identified that proposed studies based on their own models. These proposals allow researchers to consider specific factors and develop strategies that are more focused on the reality of their environment to promote gender equality and improve women's access to entrepreneurial resources and opportunities, seeking to identify the competencies that influence

subsequent decisions to start a business (Bigos & Michalik, 2020). Therefore, it is necessary to consider these factors when adapting existing models or creating new ones that respond more effectively to the needs of each specific context in which they are developed, taking into account these studies as a key input for policy development. policies and business strategies in the territories where they are carried out and adaptable to new realities, with the intention of focusing training efforts according to entrepreneurial skills and intentions (Fawaaid et al., 2022).

4.4. Main Variables of Entrepreneurial Intention Among Women

Table 2 shows the results obtained from the different studies on the subjects analyzed. From this, the 12 main variables most used in the models and theories were identified, ordered by frequency of use, with the most used being the first on the list. This approach made it possible to identify the most relevant concepts for measuring entrepreneurial intention. For a better understanding of the collected information, the main variables were defined according to the publications in which they were used.

The most frequent theories and factors in the literature on women's entrepreneurial intention are justified by the need to understand the theoretical foundations and key variables influencing this phenomenon, considering that behavioral theories are commonly used to comprehend entrepreneurial intention as a research phenomenon. Furthermore, the most recurrent theories and factors provide a comprehensive view of the elements that have been consistently validated in previous studies, allowing for the identification of emerging patterns and trends. In this sense, this approach offers two major benefits: first, it helps consolidate existing knowledge; and second, it provides a solid foundation for future research and the development of strategies that can more effectively foster entrepreneurial intention among female students.

Variable	Frequency
Attitude towards entrepreneurship	34
Subjective norms	29
Self-efficacy	23
Entrepreneurial education	21
Perceived behavioral control	17
Proactivity	9
Innovation	8
Environmental factors	7
Extraversion	4
Cultural values	4
Sympathy	4
Internal locus of control	4

Table 2. Main variables of entrepreneurial intention among women

Attitudes towards entrepreneurship appear to be the most important, with a frequency of 34 publications. According to the study of Alzamel, Nazri and Omar (2022), this variable refers to the way a person feels about a situation, whether positive or negative. This attitude is formed based on the beliefs and evaluations they have about the business in question; therefore, along with generating wealth and gaining control, they have a strong relationship with the induction of entrepreneurial behavior, significantly influencing female students' entrepreneurial intention through entrepreneurship education and self-perceived creativity (Cheah, Chen, Tee, Al-Mamun & Salamah, 2022).

Subjective norms have a share in 29 publications and refer to how a person perceives social pressure to participate in commercial activities. In addition to legal constraints, other factors, such as the opinions of parents, friends, and role models, have a subjective impact. Similarly, beliefs shared by society influence the attitudes of individuals, which predict their intentions to perform certain actions (Chowdhury, Shamsudin & Ismail, 2012).

Self-efficacy, on the other hand, ranked third with 23 occurrences. Y is defined as a motivational component that can significantly influence individual activity choices, goal levels, persistence, and performance in various situations (Zhao et al., 2005). Furthermore, as expressed by Foo, Uy and Baron (2009), it has been shown that the variable has a strong effect on the level of effort. The importance of self-efficacy lies in its ability to positively influence various aspects of human behavior to be more effective in achieving goals and objectives.

For its part, business education appears in fourth place, recognized as one of the most innovative and influential forces that drive competitive economic growth in any country, based on the design of appropriate subjects to foster a business culture (Jena, 2020). In addition, it is identified as a variable to reduce the gender imbalance in entrepreneurship, in this way seeking greater participation of women in the sector, making them aware of the opportunities to start businesses through educational practices (Westhead & Solesvik, 2016).

Finally, the analysis of the variables allows a deeper understanding of the theories analyzed in the previous section and can serve as a basis for future similar research proposals. In addition, an analysis of these concepts makes it possible to identify patterns and trends in the data collected to formulate hypotheses regarding university students' entrepreneurial intentions. However, it should be noted that although the frequency of the concepts makes it possible to identify current trends in the literature, they must be selected according to the cultural and social context in which the study is carried out, and depending on the interests and objectives of each researcher.

5. Discussion

Based on the results presented in the systematic literature review, a discussion has been raised on the practical implications of the bibliometric phase and the identification of research trends related to women the entrepreneurial intention of women entrepreneurs. The main limitations of this research have also been considered, and a comparison with other similar studies has been made to demonstrate the value proposition. In addition, gaps in existing research have been identified to guide future studies that address these theoretical gaps, aligned with a proposed research agenda that integrates current trends in this area of study.

5.1. Analysis of Results

The results section provides a robust analysis of bibliometric and thematic trends in female entrepreneurial intention. However, a critical review reveals that the predominance of studies in regions such as North America, Europe, and Asia may reflect significant geographical bias. This focus leaves underrepresented the contexts of emerging economies, where social, cultural, and economic barriers can differ drastically. For instance, while studies in developed countries emphasize the influence of self-efficacy and entrepreneurial education, in emerging economies, factors such as limited access to financing and social restrictions play a more critical role. This discrepancy underscores the necessity to expand research into under-explored regions, taking into account the cultural and contextual particularities that influence entrepreneurial intentions.

While the TPB remains the prevailing theoretical framework, customized models are gaining traction by addressing specific nuances in certain contexts. However, these models are limited in terms of their applicability and generalizability across different regions. For instance, while TPB provides a robust foundation for studying attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control, adapted models can integrate contextual variables such as community support or the impact of governmental policies. This prompts further inquiry into the necessity of integrating universal and customized theoretical frameworks to enhance our understanding of female entrepreneurial intention on a global scale.

A critical aspect that merits further examination is the interaction between key variables such as self-efficacy, subjective norms, and entrepreneurial education. While these variables have been examined independently in numerous studies, a more comprehensive understanding may be achieved by exploring their combined relationship. For instance, research has demonstrated that self-efficacy plays a mediating role in the relationship between entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurial intentions, while subjective norms have the capacity to moderate this effect depending on the cultural context. These findings underscore the necessity to explore not only which variables influence entrepreneurial intentions but also how they interact to shape entrepreneurial behavior.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge the limitations imposed by the utilization of descriptive data, which restricts the depth of comprehension of the underlying implications of the findings. It is imperative to examine why certain factors, such as self-efficacy, have emerged as a focal point in recent research and to identify unaddressed gaps. Furthermore, exploring the potential of these trends to inform public policies, such as educational programs focused on specific skills for women in emerging economies, could significantly enhance the practical value of the research. This more critical and comparative approach enables not only the comprehension of existing trends but also the establishment of the foundation for more inclusive and customized interventions.

It is imperative to fortify the correlation between the identified lacunae in research and prevailing thematic tendencies. This will elucidate the manner in which the findings address or accentuate these lacunae. For instance, while the prevalence of the TPB and its extensions has advanced understanding of entrepreneurial intentions, the growing prominence of emerging variables such as entrepreneurial education and subjective norms emphasizes the need for contextualized research, particularly in underrepresented regions. The incorporation of non-academic sources, such as the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reports, could offer a more comprehensive perspective on these trends. GEM data, as exemplified by the insights from the 2023/24 Women's Entrepreneurship Report, offer a more comprehensive and representative global perspective by highlighting socio-cultural norms, institutional support, and access to financing as critical factors influencing female entrepreneurial intentions. The integration of GEM reports with academic findings serves to address the existing gaps in regional representation, offering practical implications that align with thematic trends. These thematic trends include the pivotal role of education and self-efficacy in shaping entrepreneurial behavior.

The results of the present study align with previous research identifying the TPB as a dominant framework for studying entrepreneurial intentions. Nevertheless, alternative models, such as SCT and SDT, have gained prominence in certain contexts, offering more nuanced perspectives. TPB places significant emphasis on attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control. In contrast, SCT integrates the influence of observation and reinforcement, and SDT focuses on intrinsic motivations such as autonomy and competence. These frameworks offer a more comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurial intentions by considering psychological and environmental factors that may be more pertinent to college women. For instance, in academic settings, women may find entrepreneurial motivation in mentoring opportunities or exposure to role models, both of which are addressed more directly by SCT and SDT. A more thorough examination of these alternative theoretical frameworks could offer a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence female entrepreneurial intentions. The extant literature on self-efficacy and entrepreneurial education is consistent with prior systematic reviews, which emphasize their central role in shaping entrepreneurial intentions. However, notable variations emerge when considering regional and cultural contexts. For instance, while studies in developed economies demonstrate a positive impact of entrepreneurial education on self-efficacy, research in developing economies highlights structural barriers, such as limited access to quality education or resources, that hinder these relationships. The integration of GEM reports strengthens this discussion by validating these trends at a global level. GEM underscores the pivotal roles of entrepreneurial education and social support in stimulating entrepreneurial activity, though their availability and effectiveness exhibit considerable variation across regions.

According to GEM research and data, developed countries benefit from greater access to financial resources, robust institutional frameworks, and social norms that support entrepreneurship. Conversely, women in developing countries frequently encounter cultural and infrastructural impediments that curtail their entrepreneurial prospects. For instance, while education and institutional support are critical factors in both contexts, their accessibility and quality are significantly higher in developed economies. This discrepancy necessitates the implementation of targeted interventions in emerging economies, such as community-driven support programs and policies tailored to local cultural dynamics.

A notable distinction emerges when comparing university-educated women entrepreneurs to their counterparts already engaged in the workforce or starting businesses at later stages in their lives. Their access to entrepreneurial education, academic networks, and exposure to innovation creates unique opportunities and challenges. Unlike their established counterparts, university-educated women frequently lack industry experience,

yet benefit from structured learning environments that foster creativity and risk-taking. Moreover, academic settings offer avenues for mentorship, access to resources, and collaborative opportunities that may not be as readily available to other groups. However, this group also faces barriers, such as balancing academic commitments with their entrepreneurial projects and managing societal expectations. A comprehensive understanding of these distinctive factors is essential for the development of targeted programs that can more effectively support female university entrepreneurs.

5.2. Implications

The theoretical implications of this study allow us to advance the understanding of entrepreneurial intention from a gender perspective. The most dominant theories and factors in the literature were identified, providing a deeper insight into how these theoretical frameworks apply specifically to women. Additionally, the study highlights areas for further theoretical exploration, suggesting that future research could build on these findings to develop more nuanced and comprehensive models that take into account gender-specific factors in entrepreneurial intention.

The results of the research analyzed the research activity of authors, journals, countries, and the number of publications per year since 2003, the year in which the first contribution to the topic was made. This review made it possible to identify the interest in the subject in the United States and in European and Asian countries, which have contributed significantly to production. In addition, the inclusion and exclusion criteria established in the methodology yielded 98 studies, which made it possible to establish a current perspective on the entrepreneurial intention of women, identifying eight theories and 12 main variables related to the object of study. Although the TPB model stands out as the most widely used, it is also recognized that in some cases, it is used in extended versions and, furthermore, in most of the selected studies, the elaboration of the models applied by the authors.

The practical implications of these results can contribute to decision-making for the development of public policies to design programs that encourage and support attitudes towards entrepreneurship among women. In particular, the attitude and self-efficacy of women entrepreneurs, as well as their relationship with subjective norms and education in this regard.

On the other hand, the results of this research can also be used to better understand the profile, motivations, and challenges of women entrepreneurs. A better understanding of the trends and patterns in women's entrepreneurial intentions can help design more effective strategies and may have a positive impact on the promotion of entrepreneurship. Women's entrepreneurship and the removal of barriers that limit women's access to business opportunities and economic growth by raising awareness of the importance of promoting gender equality in business may have a positive impact on the economy and society.

It is important to emphasize that a contribution is made to the scientific problem by highlighting the need for more attention to studies on emerging economies, especially in relation to the cultural, social, and economic barriers faced by women in these regions. A systematic review of the literature provides a basis for future research in these areas, and it is hoped that this will encourage a broader and more comprehensive approach to the problem.

Development of Inclusive Public Policies, the results highlight the need to develop specific public policies that encourage and support female entrepreneurship, this includes educational programs designed to strengthen the attitudes and self-efficacy of women entrepreneurs, as well as policies that promote favorable subjective norms towards entrepreneurship among women, policies should be adapted to address the specific cultural, social and economic barriers that women entrepreneurs face in different contexts, especially in emerging economies.

Promoting Gender Equality in Business, the research highlights the importance of promoting gender equality in business as a means to improve the economy and society in general. Policies aimed at removing barriers that limit women's access to business opportunities can have a positive impact on economic inclusion and sustainable economic growth, this could include initiatives to increase awareness about the importance of gender equality in entrepreneurship, as well as programs that facilitate equitable access to financial resources and business support.

While the systematic review draws primarily on academic sources from Scopus and Web of Science, incorporating data and insights from non-academic yet credible sources like the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) enhances the analysis by offering a broader perspective. Key global insights into trends, challenges, and opportunities for female entrepreneurs are provided in reports such as the Women's Entrepreneurship Report 2018/2019 by Elam, Brush, Greene, Baumer, Dean, Heavlow et al. (2019) and the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2023/24 Women's Entrepreneurship Report (GEM, 2023).

The GEM reports emphasize critical factors influencing women's entrepreneurial intentions, including socio-cultural norms, access to funding, and support from entrepreneurial ecosystems. For instance, Elam et al. (2019) highlight that women in emerging economies face unique barriers such as restricted access to financial resources and gender-biased societal expectations, findings consistent with the challenges identified in this review. However, GEM also identifies opportunities, such as the rise in entrepreneurial education programs targeting women, aligning with the academic literature that underscores the significance of education in shaping entrepreneurial intentions.

A significant contribution of GEM (2023) is its regional analysis, which complements the systematic review's emphasis on geographical disparities. While academic studies frequently concentrate on developed economies, GEM's findings offer insights into the distinctive characteristics of emerging markets. For instance, the 2023/24 report reveals that women in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa demonstrate high levels of entrepreneurial activity despite constrained access to institutional support. This phenomenon stands in contrast to the observations in developed economies, where institutional resources are more abundant yet entrepreneurial activity among women remains comparatively lower.

Synthesizing academic literature with GEM data offers a more nuanced understanding of female entrepreneurial intentions. The integration of these two sources validates several findings of the systematic review, including the pivotal role of self-efficacy and education, while also contrasting regional and socio-cultural influences. This integration underscores the importance of adopting a holistic approach to understanding female entrepreneurship, thereby bridging academic and practical insights to inform policy and practice effectively.

The findings of this study offer valuable insights that universities in developing countries can leverage to better support women entrepreneurs. The implementation of entrepreneurship education programs that are focused on developing key skills such as self-efficacy, creativity, and resilience has the potential to empower female university students and prepare them to face the challenges of entrepreneurship. These programs must be complemented by access to mentoring networks and collaboration opportunities, leveraging the resources and knowledge available within the academic environment. Moreover, it is imperative to integrate these initiatives with broader public policy frameworks, as emphasized in the GEM reports. For instance, the adoption of strategies that promote equitable access to financing, strengthen institutional support, and combat restrictive cultural norms can foster a more inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs. At the global level, developing countries stand to benefit from the incorporation of successful practices from developed countries, with adaptations to suit their unique contexts, to overcome systemic barriers and encourage women's participation in entrepreneurship.

5.3. Limitations

One of the major limitations of this study is the incomplete collection of information. As it was not possible to obtain detailed information on all texts found in the database, some texts were not included in the systematic literature search and analysis of thematic components related to variables and theory. This is because not all the texts are publicly available.

Another limitation is that the variables that influenced the results were directly related to the characteristics and factors of each region. For this reason, most studies have developed their own models that suggest the need to apply these theories in a specific way, according to the needs and particularities of each context. This means that the models are not applicable in all cases and it is necessary to adapt them to each situation. In addition, there is a lack of research on emerging markets, which is an obstacle to the development and implementation of appropriate strategies in these regions, making it necessary to promote research in these areas.

The present study also faces the inherent limitations of the quality and completeness of the data available in the database used. Owing to the nature of the texts and the variability of the information structure, some publications may lack essential details in terms of variables and theories. This could influence the incorrect inclusion or exclusion of texts during the search and selection process, potentially affecting the integrity of the results obtained.

Another limitation is possible publication bias. Since studies with negative or non-significant results are less likely to be published, the systematic review could be biased towards studies with positive or relevant results. This phenomenon could distort the general presentation of the field of study and affect the objectivity of conclusions drawn from the review.

In addition, it is important to note that the literature search focused on two specific databases: Scopus and Web of Science. Although these databases are widely recognized and cover a wide range of disciplines, their coverage may not be exhaustive. This may lead to the omission of relevant studies hosted on other platforms or sources not included in this review, which could limit the representativeness and understanding of the research landscape on women's entrepreneurial intention.

For future studies on cultural influences on female entrepreneurial intention in emerging economies, it is essential to delve into how unique cultural perceptions and specific social expectations shape the attitudes and dispositions of university women toward entrepreneurship. It is recommended that research analyzes the differences and similarities among various cultures within educational institutions, identifying cultural barriers and facilitators that impact female participation in entrepreneurial activities. This will enable the design of strategies tailored to each cultural context, promoting an inclusive and diverse environment that facilitates the development of women-led entrepreneurial initiatives in these emerging settings.

5.4. Other Studies

Franzke et al. (2022) present a review of the existing bibliography on female entrepreneurship, from which theoretical and managerial implications are drawn, analyzing the cultural, religious, regional, and social factors that influence it. However, this study focuses only on the Asian context, indicating its rise and focusing on specific business characteristics that are influenced by the cultural values and social norms of the continent. Similarly, Vercruyse (2018) conducted a systematic review of the literature on the current state of business education and the gender gap over the last decade. The review recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship for economic growth but also highlights the reality that there are significantly more men than women working as entrepreneurs. To address this issue, this study presents a map of research on the subject, including a descriptive analysis of the samples in the European context.

Other identified studies, such as that of Bazan, Gaultois, Shaikh, Gillespie, Frederick, Amjad et al. (2020), carry out a systematic review of the literature that aims to understand the influence of the environment and support from the university in relation to the social entrepreneurial intention of students, but from a point of view overview, without focusing on the gender factor. Likewise, Liñán and Fayolle (2015) contributed to the identification of subfields in the study of entrepreneurial intention by focusing on two aspects. First, they performed a citation analysis to categorize the main areas of specialization, followed by a thematic analysis to identify the specific topics investigated within each category.

For their part, Maheshwari and Kha (2022) agree that the TPB model and cognitive factors dominate this area of research in a study in where they identify the most studied factors in the literature and the least studied factors to measure entrepreneurial intention in a systematic review of studies carried out between 2005 and June 2022.

In line with the above, the present study adds value by proposing a systematic analysis of the literature on women's entrepreneurial intention. It is important to highlight that although there are various studies that address this issue, they usually do so in a general manner, without segmentation by gender. In cases where segmentation is carried out, it is usually performed in a specific context, considering the region in which the study is conducted.

5.5. Research Gaps

Recent research has highlighted several important gaps in the existing knowledge of women's entrepreneurial intentions. To gain a more complete understanding of the factors influencing this issue, more extensive and detailed research is needed in the key areas highlighted in Table 3. To help researchers focus their efforts on these critical areas, a number of research questions have been identified to guide the conduct of new studies. By addressing these questions, an understanding of the factors influencing women's entrepreneurial intentions can be significantly improved, allowing for a more effective approach to developing appropriate solutions.

Issue	Identified gap	Questions for future research
Theories of technology adoption and use	1. Existing research shows a clear preference for the TPB model and its extended version. However, in recent years own models have become much more important.	PIF1. What are the advantages of proprietary models over the TPB model and its extended version?
		BIP2. What are the limitations of one's own models in terms of applicability and generalization to different contexts?
Entrepreneurial Intention in Emerging Economies	1. Although entrepreneurship education remains one of the key concepts of women's entrepreneurial intention, it is surpassed by newer concepts on the subject such as attitudes and subjective norms. 2. It is noted that the studies of entrepreneurial intention mainly respond to the needs of the United States, European and Asian countries, ignoring the variables in the contexts of emerging countries.	PIF1. What are the factors driving the shift towards an emphasis on attitudes and subjective norms rather than entrepreneurial education for women entrepreneurs?
		PIF 2. What are the main variables that determine women's entrepreneurial attitudes in the context of emerging economies?
		PIF3. How do the determinants of entrepreneurial intention compare between developed and emerging economies?
Context of women entrepreneurs' intentions	2. Although there is a growing interest in social entrepreneurship, there is still a lack of understanding of how women can benefit and how they can overcome gender barriers, especially in emerging economies.	PIF4. What is the impact of cultural and social factors on entrepreneurial intention in emerging economies?
		PIF1. What are the best practices for promoting gender equality in social entrepreneurship in emerging economies and how can they be effectively implemented to support women entrepreneurs?

Table 3. Identification of research gaps on women's entrepreneurial intention

5.6. Research Agenda

The goal of this systematic review is not only to identify gaps in the literature but also to propose a research agenda that will advance knowledge about this phenomenon in the future. To this end, emerging and cutting-edge topics, such as those presented in Figure 8, will be explored. These concepts are considered crucial for understanding the dynamics and challenges of women's entrepreneurial intentions and to continue their thematic development towards the development of new proposals to reduce the gender gap. This section answers the second research question.

The research agenda proposal consists of identifying the 30 most important concepts related to the factors that influence women's entrepreneurial intention. These concepts were selected based on two criteria: the study period and the most relevant year for each concept in the scientific literature. Priority is given to the most recent concepts and those whose most relevant years are closest to the present. Therefore, the most recent and relevant scientific literature was sought in this study.

Self-efficacy is the main concept that refers to a person's belief in their ability to perform a task effectively. The oldest on the list, studied since 2005, is still one of the most relevant and studied factors, and its relevance has been demonstrated in 23 of the selected studies. If a person believes he or she can perform a task, he or she is more likely to do so and be successful, making self-efficacy important for understanding women's motivation and performance in entrepreneurship. In 2019, it was considered particularly important for research and its

understanding is expected to have important implications for personal and professional development in the future.

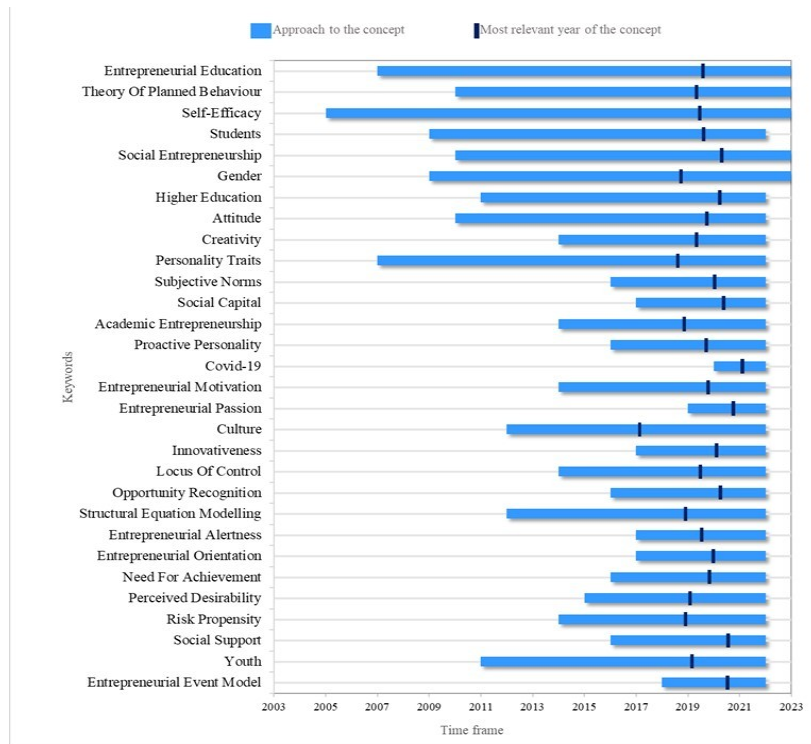


Figure 8. Research agenda

Entrepreneurship education is a field of constant evolution that has gained importance since 2007 and continues to be a priority, especially in 2020. Several studies have been conducted on this topic, with a total of 21 studies meeting the selection criteria. The focus on entrepreneurship education aims to foster women’s entrepreneurial skills and innovative attitudes, recognizing their importance in creating a positive social impact.

To understand the factors that influence women’s entrepreneurial intention, the scientific literature has been using the TPB since 2009 to analyze the beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions that influence their decision to start a business. According to the results obtained in the table of models, TPB is still very relevant today, with 2019 being the most relevant year for the concept, considering that there has been a boom in the development of its own models as a theoretical basis.

Finally, Social Entrepreneurship can bring new perspectives to the subject, the concept that has had the greatest impact recently, with 2020 being its most important year. Future studies could explore the differences in perceptions and approaches between men and women in the field of social entrepreneurship. Specifically, it explores how women can take advantage of the opportunities offered by this concept to overcome gender barriers and achieve business success. It would also be interesting to examine how social and cultural factors may influence women’s decisions to participate in social entrepreneurship initiatives and to what extent they may contribute to gender equality.

6. Conclusions

In conclusion, there has been exponential growth in the study of entrepreneurial intentions among university women. The outstanding productivity and impact of Linan F and the prominence of the International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal indicate its importance. Moreover, the leading countries in this research are the United States, Spain, and China. In addition, it is concluded that the thematic development has given a transversal approach to the concept of “self-efficacy”. In addition, “Covid-19,” “Entrepreneurial Passion” and “Social Support” emerge as relevant concepts. In parallel, “social entrepreneurship,” “higher education,” “attitude,” “student,” “self-efficacy” and “entrepreneurial education” are consolidated in the scientific corpus.

In summary, the dominant theories are TPB, its extended version, and the models empirically validated by the authors. These theories provide a solid framework for understanding the relationship between entrepreneurial behavior and intentions among college women. The key variables in the literature on entrepreneurial intentions among university women are attitudes towards entrepreneurship, subjective norms, self-efficacy, entrepreneurial education, and perceived behavioral control. These variables provide a complete understanding of the factors that influence entrepreneurial intention.

In consideration of the aforementioned findings, several research gaps emerge, among which the preference for the TPB model is particularly noteworthy, as it excludes the dimensions of other existing models. The article places particular emphasis on emerging areas of research, including attitudes and subjective norms. Furthermore, there is a paucity of knowledge regarding entrepreneurial intentions in emerging market contexts, as well as a dearth of insight into how women can surmount gender-related obstacles in social entrepreneurship. The research agenda synthesizes the fundamental concepts from the scientific literature, the prevailing theories, and the pivotal variables. In this way, the identified gaps are comprehensively addressed and significant progress is made in understanding the entrepreneurial intentions of university women.

It is of paramount importance to investigate the influence of specific contexts, such as emerging markets and less-studied regions, on the entrepreneurial intentions of university women. This could entail examining the potential for adapting government policies and local initiatives to better support female entrepreneurs in diverse and dynamic environments. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to investigate the continued impact of global events, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, on entrepreneurial decisions and the ways in which women can adapt and thrive in these changing circumstances.

Another fundamental aspect is the deepening of the underlying theories that explain entrepreneurial intentions. Beyond the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) model, it would be beneficial to explore other theoretical frameworks and empirically validated models that could provide a more precise understanding of the motivations and decisions of women in entrepreneurship. This includes the integration of models that consider specific cultural, socioeconomic, and psychological aspects that may influence entrepreneurial intentions.

By addressing these areas of research, knowledge can be significantly advanced on how to effectively foster and support the entrepreneurial aspirations of university women in different global and local contexts. Further research will not only expand the existing knowledge base but will also contribute to the development of more effective and tailored strategies to promote female entrepreneurship around the world.

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The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

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