

Abstract

In Search of Innovation, Sustainability and Digitalisation in the Education of Women Entrepreneurs: A Scientometric Analysis [†]

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1. Introduction

Education plays an important role in fostering and developing entrepreneurship, building innovation skills and creating sustainable business solutions, thus promoting economic growth [1]. Digitalisation has facilitated access to education, business opportunities and market access [2,3]. Although women tend to be better educated, they are often disadvantaged in complex entrepreneurial environments [4,5]. Introducing gender-sensitive education can promote women's entrepreneurship and support gender equality [6,7]. We investigate how women's entrepreneurial education relates to digitalisation, innovation and sustainability using a scientometric approach.

2. Methodology

Scientometrics uses comprehensive mathematical methods to quantify scientific research and describe scientific development. Relevant publications on women, entrepreneurship and education were extracted from the Web of Science database and further narrowed down to publications on innovation, sustainability and digitalisation. Various analyses were conducted to describe both qualitative and quantitative performance indicators in this research area. Appropriate visualisation techniques were used to graphically represent the relationships between the research components.

3. Results

A total of 908 relevant publications published in the last 10 years were found, with an average of 12.78 citations per publication and a significant increase in the number of publications and citations in the last 3 years. The University of Southampton and England were cited most frequently. Pronounced keywords were gender, innovation and sustainability. *Sustainability* was the most cited journal, followed by several journals related to entrepreneurship and management, such as the *International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship*.

4. Implications

This review paper presents important work in the field that can be used for educational or research purposes to gain an understanding of the connections between the topics presented, provide practical examples or generally promote women's entrepreneurial education, with a focus on innovation and sustainability. The findings are primarily useful for researchers, but also for educators and managers interested in issues related to female entrepreneurship and education.



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5. Originality Value

The focus on the currently important and specific topics of innovation, sustainability and digitalisation in women's entrepreneurship education research sets our study apart from the existing literature.

6. Contribution

Gender equality and quality education are some of the most important Sustainable Development Goals. We contribute to existing research by quantitatively and qualitatively examining the main research components of existing research on innovation, sustainability and digitalisation in women's entrepreneurial education. With our contribution, we aim to advance research in this field to highlight women's potential in entrepreneurship, promote women's entrepreneurship and close the gender gap by addressing education in areas without gender-specific topics.

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