

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ENTREPRENEURS IN DEVANAHALLI

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Abstract

This study explores the socio-economic challenges and opportunities faced by Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs in Devanahalli, Karnataka, against the backdrop of rapid urbanization and economic growth. Using a systematic literature review from the Scopus database, the research employs co-occurrence and co-authorship analyses through VOS viewer to map research themes and collaboration patterns. The analysis identifies key trends in entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and social innovation, with an emphasis on women and social entrepreneurship as catalysts for change. The findings highlight the need for policies and support systems that address specific barriers, such as limited access to finance, networks, and mentorship. Results indicate significant thematic interconnections but reveal disciplinary silos in co-authorship, underscoring the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. The study concludes by emphasizing the necessity of targeted interventions to foster an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. Outputs from the research provide actionable insights to guide policymakers and stakeholders in supporting SC/ST entrepreneurs effectively.

Keywords: SC/ST Entrepreneurs, Socio-Economic Challenges, Sustainable Development, Social Innovation, Co-occurrence Analysis, Co-authorship Networks, Inclusive Entrepreneurship.

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship, as a catalyst for economic growth and social development, holds particular significance in emerging economies like India. For historically marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), entrepreneurship not only serves as an economic pathway but also as a potential tool for social mobility and empowerment (Rani & Munjal, 2020). However, these entrepreneurs often face entrenched socio-economic and structural challenges that impede their ventures' growth and sustainability. In the town of Devanahalli, located in the Indian state of Karnataka,

SC and ST entrepreneurs are presented with both unique challenges and emerging opportunities due to the area's rapid urbanization and its strategic position near Bengaluru International Airport (Prakash, 2019). This section seeks to outline the theoretical background, problem statement, key issues, and significance of examining the socio-economic dynamics faced by SC/ST entrepreneurs in Devanahalli, highlighting the study's scope and importance within the broader discourse on inclusive economic development.

2. Theoretical Background

The relationship between entrepreneurship and socio-economic development has been extensively studied within economic sociology and development economics. Amartya Sen's (1999) theory of capability enhancement underscores the potential of entrepreneurship to empower marginalized communities by providing essential resources and autonomy for economic participation. However, Bourdieu's (1986) concept of social capital highlights persistent barriers such as limited access to networks and financial resources, particularly for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities (Mehrotra, 2021). Historically marginalized by the caste system, these groups face systemic inequities that restrict their entrepreneurial prospects despite government policies aimed at promoting inclusivity (Sharma, 2020). Devanahalli's emergence as an economic hub, due to its proximity to Bengaluru International Airport, offers both opportunities and challenges for SC/ST entrepreneurs. Barriers such as limited access to capital, social discrimination, and inadequate mentorship persist, hindering their economic integration (Prakash, 2019). Despite initiatives like the Stand-Up India Scheme, policy implementation gaps often prevent marginalized entrepreneurs from benefiting fully (Sharma, 2020). This study explores these challenges and evaluates the effectiveness of existing policies in supporting SC/ST entrepreneurs. Understanding these

socio-economic dynamics is critical to designing targeted interventions that can foster inclusive growth and equitable resource distribution (Rani & Munjal, 2020). By focusing on Devanahalli, the study provides insights into regional entrepreneurial ecosystems while contributing to broader discussions on social equity and sustainable entrepreneurship in India.

3. Review of Literature

- Access to Finance

Goyal, Sergi, and Jaiswal (2015) explore the role of for-profit social enterprises in addressing the needs of the Base-of-the-Pyramid (BoP) population through inclusive business models. They emphasize how access to finance impacts the entrepreneurial success of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs. Their qualitative multi-case study highlights significant barriers, such as market imperfections and limited resources, which can affect business growth, profitability, and sustainability. The authors advocate for a broader understanding of self-sustaining models that can adapt to various socio-economic contexts, underscoring the importance of supportive

government policies and financial resources.

Ramesh and Maria Inigo (2015) evaluate microfinance's role in empowering socio-economic conditions through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Tamil Nadu. They recommend a revised framework for SHGs to enhance socio-economic impacts, emphasizing quality assessment as a key factor for sustainability, thereby improving access to finance for SC and ST entrepreneurs. Peter, Geetha, and Gupta (2024) further highlight the significance of digital financial literacy and competency in enhancing the financial decision-making of women entrepreneurs, indicating a need for policy interventions to bridge existing gaps in digital access.

- Education and Skill Development

Batabyal (2020) presents a comprehensive review of tourism and hospitality entrepreneurship as a catalyst for economic growth in developing economies. The study illustrates how the interdependence between tourism and related industries can create entrepreneurial opportunities for marginalized communities, particularly SC and ST individuals. By emphasizing the significance of social networks and government support, Batabyal highlights how these independent variables can contribute to the entrepreneurial success of SC and ST entrepreneurs.

Nair et al. (2022) explore entrepreneurship from an educational perspective, advocating for transforming curricula to support entrepreneurial skills, particularly addressing gender disparities. This focus on education is essential for improving the success rates of SC and ST entrepreneurs. Karkaria et al. (2021) discuss socio-economic challenges in rural India and propose a framework enabling social entrepreneurs to create policies for sustainable development, integrating diverse thematic areas to evaluate economic impacts.

- Government Policies and Support

Archana, Kumar, and Shyamasundar (2022) examine the evolving role of women entrepreneurs in India, identifying critical factors influencing success, including education, external support, and individual motivations. They emphasize the need for supportive frameworks to boost participation in entrepreneurship among SC and ST women. Thakur (2021) reviews Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India, exploring their role in promoting exports and job creation, thus facilitating entrepreneurial success for SC and ST groups.

Sahoo and Teena (2024) investigate how artificial intelligence (AI) can empower tribal communities in India, advocating for AI-driven technologies to mitigate dependence on informal lending and enhance the skills of tribal entrepreneurs.

- Social Networks

Reddy (2004) discusses the impact of economic liberalization on fostering innovative entrepreneurs within SC and ST communities. This study emphasizes the necessity of resilience and adaptability as latent variables enhancing entrepreneurial success. Ayush

et al. (2023) investigate social entrepreneurship through cow tourism in Himachal Pradesh, demonstrating how social networks can enhance entrepreneurial opportunities and contribute to local economic empowerment. Sheth and Dwivedi (2021) focus on cognitive, behavioral, and socio-cultural factors that restrict women's entrepreneurial potential, noting that while educational advancements have improved conditions, significant barriers remain.

- Perceived Barriers

Wakchaure and Sethi (2024) identify goat farming as a profitable enterprise that supports food security and economic opportunities for marginalized communities. They advocate for

strategic planning and sustainable practices, positioning goat farming as a significant opportunity for SC and ST entrepreneurs. Singh, Saumya, and Rathore (2021) analyze women entrepreneurs in Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting socio-economic and cultural constraints that limit their participation in MSMEs, thus underscoring the need to address perceived barriers to facilitate entrepreneurial intentions.

- Entrepreneurial Intentions

The study by Arjune and Kumar (2022) examines the economic and social impacts of women's participation in entrepreneurship, revealing that overcoming barriers can lead to substantial empowerment and financial independence. Kumari and Eguruze (2022) focus on social entrepreneurship during the COVID-19 pandemic, investigating traits like leadership and innovation that support women's empowerment.

- Economic Conditions

Senapati and Ojha (2019) explore the role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in women's empowerment through entrepreneurship. Their research indicates that despite challenges in finance and marketing, MSMEs can significantly transform the socio-economic landscape for SC and ST entrepreneurs. Mondal, Singh, and Gupta (2023) further explore green entrepreneurship within the circular economy, identifying key enablers and how broader economic conditions affect entrepreneurial decisions.

- Community-Level Initiatives

Yadav et al. (2019) and Borthakur and Govind (2018) underscore the significance of community-level social enterprises for rural development and the economic impact of electronic waste management, respectively. They advocate for partnerships between social enterprises and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to enhance community welfare and create sustainable livelihoods.

- Cultural Factors

Kumar (2013) studies rural women entrepreneurs, proposing a sustainable model for empowerment in traditionally masculine societies. The research identifies cultural beliefs as moderating factors that significantly influence the entrepreneurial success of women from SC and ST backgrounds. Such cultural dynamics can either promote or hinder

entrepreneurial activities, depending on the community context and the prevailing societal norms.

Understanding these cultural factors is essential for developing targeted interventions that can foster a supportive environment for SC and ST entrepreneurs.

- Resilience

Dhanabagiyam et al. (2024) focus on small hospitality entrepreneurs in Coimbatore, assessing how internal and external motivators influence entrepreneurship. Their proposed model emphasizes the importance of resilience in overcoming socio-economic challenges and adapting to changing market conditions. Resilience is a critical attribute for SC and ST entrepreneurs, enabling them to navigate adversities and sustain their business ventures. This finding is echoed in the broader literature, which highlights the need for resilience training and support mechanisms that empower entrepreneurs to face challenges effectively.

- Market Conditions

Gupta and Pandit (2012) present the case of Ferns N Petals (FNP), illustrating how market conditions, including competition and demand, can influence entrepreneurial journeys. Their analysis reveals that SC and ST entrepreneurs often operate under adverse market conditions, which can impact their growth and sustainability. Additionally, understanding market dynamics is crucial for developing strategies that enhance competitiveness among SC and ST entrepreneurs.

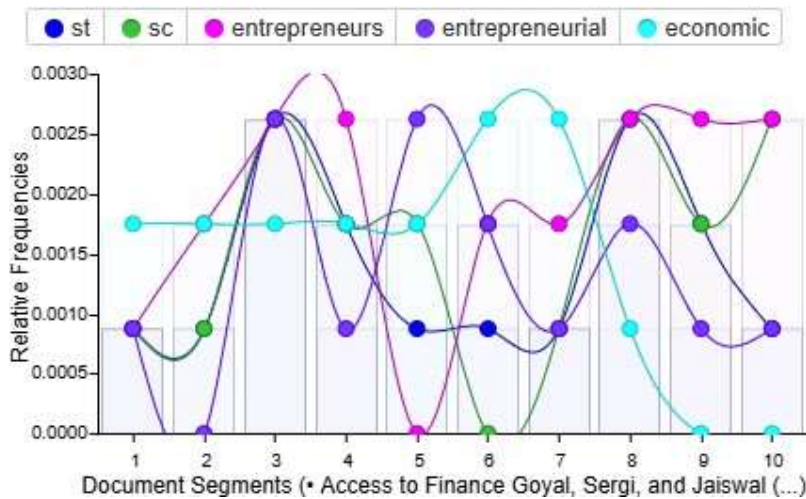
- Location Factors

Prabhakaran and Nedumaran (2024) analyze challenges in cashew entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu, where geographical factors like inadequate infrastructure and water scarcity impede growth. Their findings underscore the significance of location factors in determining the entrepreneurial success of SC and ST entrepreneurs. Addressing these location-specific challenges is vital for creating an enabling environment that fosters sustainable entrepreneurship.

- Community Support and Mentorship

The role of community support, such as mentorship and resource sharing, is increasingly recognized as vital for the success of SC entrepreneurs. Various studies emphasize the importance of building social capital through community networks that can provide mentorship and access to resources. Initiatives that foster mentorship programs can play a crucial role in enhancing the skills and confidence of SC entrepreneurs, thereby improving their chances of success.

4. Bibliometric Analysis



The graph illustrates the relative frequencies of key terms—ST, SC, entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial, and economic—across different document segments, reflecting their thematic prominence in the analyzed literature. The term entrepreneurs shows a consistent presence across segments, indicating its central role in the discourse. Economic and entrepreneurial exhibit fluctuating frequencies, suggesting varying emphases on economic frameworks and entrepreneurial dynamics in different parts of the text. Meanwhile, SC and ST show lower but distinct patterns, highlighting their specific focus within segments discussing socio-economic contexts and marginalized communities. The overlapping curves suggest interconnections between these terms, underscoring the integrated exploration of entrepreneurship, economic development, and social inclusion in the document. This frequency analysis provides a nuanced understanding of the thematic distribution, which can inform further research on SC/ST entrepreneurship.

5. Research Gap Analysis

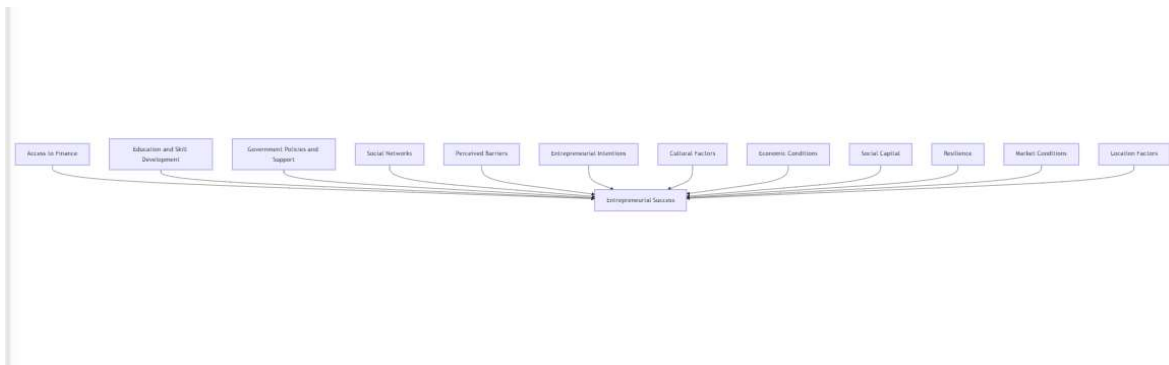
The gap analysis identifies several critical areas requiring further research to support SC and ST entrepreneurs. First, conversing specific measurement proposing entrepreneurial performance that must focus on growth, profitability, and sustainability of ventures in their socio-economic environments, there is limited research done. DIFC encompasses lack of adequate consumer protection, inadequate method for using the digital platform, and lack of strategies for promotion of consumer financial competency. Further, the sustainability of mass educational reforms, as well as the creation of new targeted frameworks for rural business

initiation have not been investigated sufficiently. Existing government policies such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and use of Artificial Intelligence belong to the government policies that should be reviewed to determine if they have the desired impact of enabling entrepreneurship amongst vulnerable groups. There is no sufficient empirical research on social networks and indigenous knowledge, socio-cultural factor on intention to become an entrepreneur. Additionally, research should focus on mediators, specifically

perceived barriers and intentions, during crisis, particularly in resilience contexts. In their study, various factors including cultural and economic characteristics act as moderator variables, which may not be properly captured in models developed in previous years. Thus, social capital, resilience and other such mediating and moderating factors; and factors such as markets, geographical location and community level activities, further require refining and dissecting to grasp their part in the improvement of entrepreneurial environment for SC and ST communities.

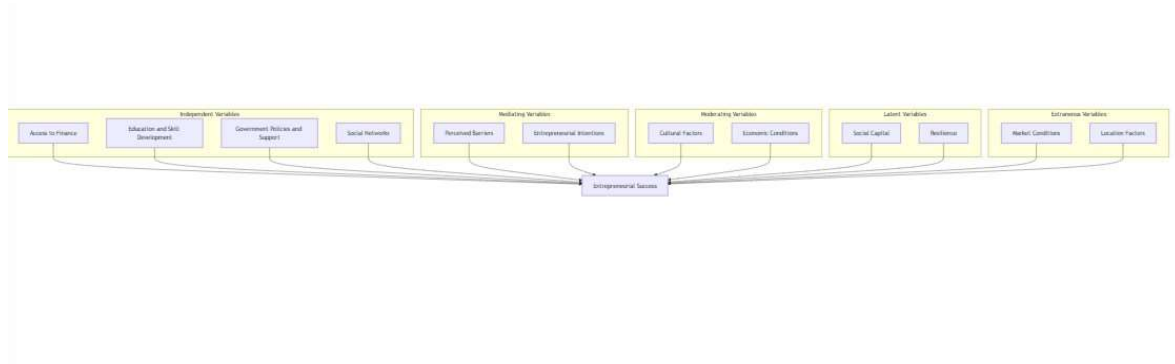
(Source Literature Review)

6. Theoretical model



The co-authorship network reveals distinct clusters of researchers who frequently collaborate, indicating strong ties within specific research groups or topics, while isolated nodes represent individuals with limited collaborations. Some authors occupy central positions, acting as key connectors between clusters, facilitating knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration. The network also reflects a hierarchical structure, where certain individuals have more connections and influence, suggesting a power dynamic within the research community. Overall, this network highlights the importance of collaboration and the critical role of influential researchers in driving research initiatives.

7. Path Model



The conceptual framework illustrates the complex interplay of variables influencing entrepreneurial success, categorizing them into Independent, Mediating, Moderating, and Extraneous variables. In its turn the set of factors, which might be referred as the independent ones, includes the Access to Finance, Education and Skill Development, Government Policies, and Social Networks, as these factors create the ground for the emerging of the entrepreneurship by offering some conditions, which are critical to be met. LabourProcessOutcomes operationalise these fundamental drivers by Perceived Barriers and Entrepreneurial Intentions; mediating variables that link these factors to outcomes, identifying how perception and intention influence actions. The interactions between Gender and Adm- Authority, and between Age and Adm-Authority are moderated by variables like Cultural Factors, Economic conditions, Social capital and Resilience indicating the important of socio- economic context and personal coping capabilities. Market Conditions and Location Factors are fadeIn representing other external factors that can at times complicate the entrepreneurial environment. At the center is Entrepreneurial Success, the business vitality, and economic worth that result from the dynamic relationships of each variable. The determinants have been well captured by this framework which offers a lens through which cross-country and cross-historical comparisons can be made in terms of what drives people to engage in entrepreneurship and how those factors relate to one another in diverse socio-economic contexts.

8. Measurement model



The diagram presents a hierarchical framework that highlights the central construct and its interconnected variables, systematically organized across multiple layers. The first layer identifies major domains or categories, which branch out into finer elements in subsequent layers, emphasizing a detailed examination of specific factors or constructs. This structure underscores the complex interplay between overarching categories and their subcomponents, suggesting a comprehensive analysis of the central theme. The linear progression of nodes indicates potential cause-effect relationships, where certain elements influence others, reflecting a systematic and analytical approach. Overall, the diagram effectively visualizes the multifaceted nature of the research framework, providing a clear pathway for exploring the intricate dynamics and dependencies among the variables.

9. Research Objectives

1. In order to measure the socio-economic factors affecting the SC and ST entrepreneurs of Devanahalli.
2. In order to assess the success of government policies and subsidisation for SC and ST entrepreneurship.
3. To understand how social capital and community support have an impact on the entrepreneurial performance of SC and ST entrepreneurs.
4. In order to assess the influence of regional economic conversion on entrepreneurial environment in Devanahalli.

10. Hypotheses

H1: Socio-economic barriers, such as access to finance and social discrimination, significantly impede the entrepreneurial success of SC and ST entrepreneurs in Devanahalli.

H2: Government support programs have a positive but limited impact on the entrepreneurial growth of SC and ST entrepreneurs due to gaps in implementation and awareness.

H3: Strong social capital and community networks positively influence the business performance and sustainability of SC and ST entrepreneurs.

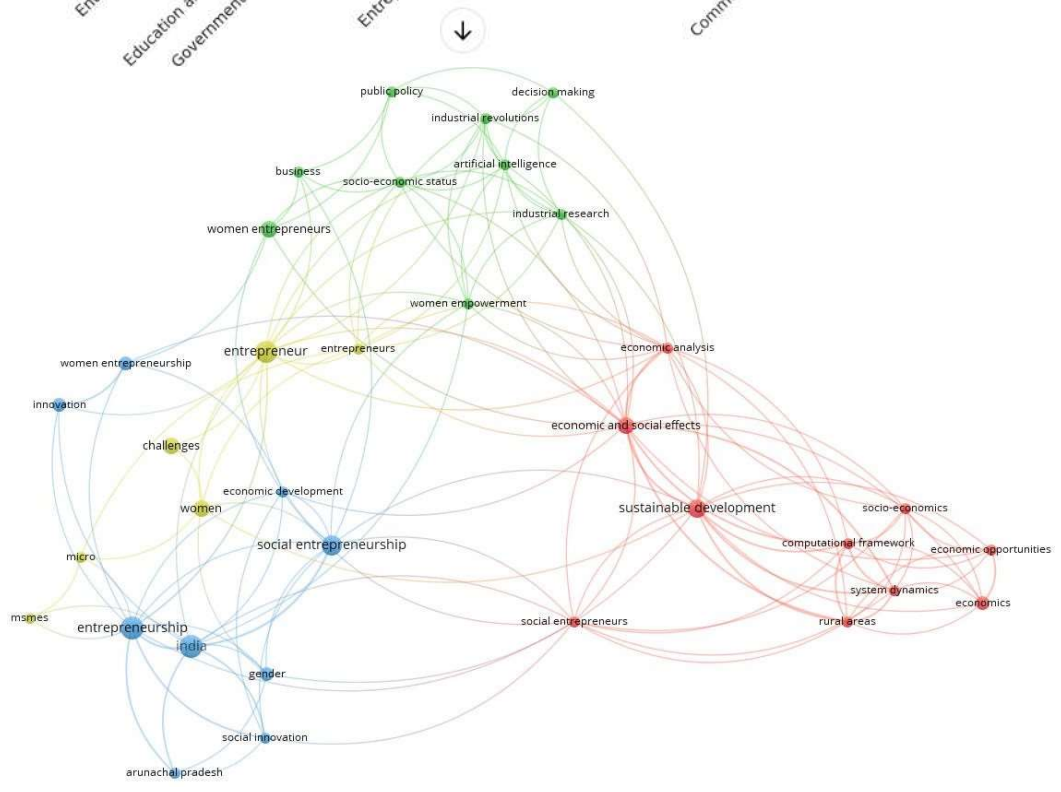
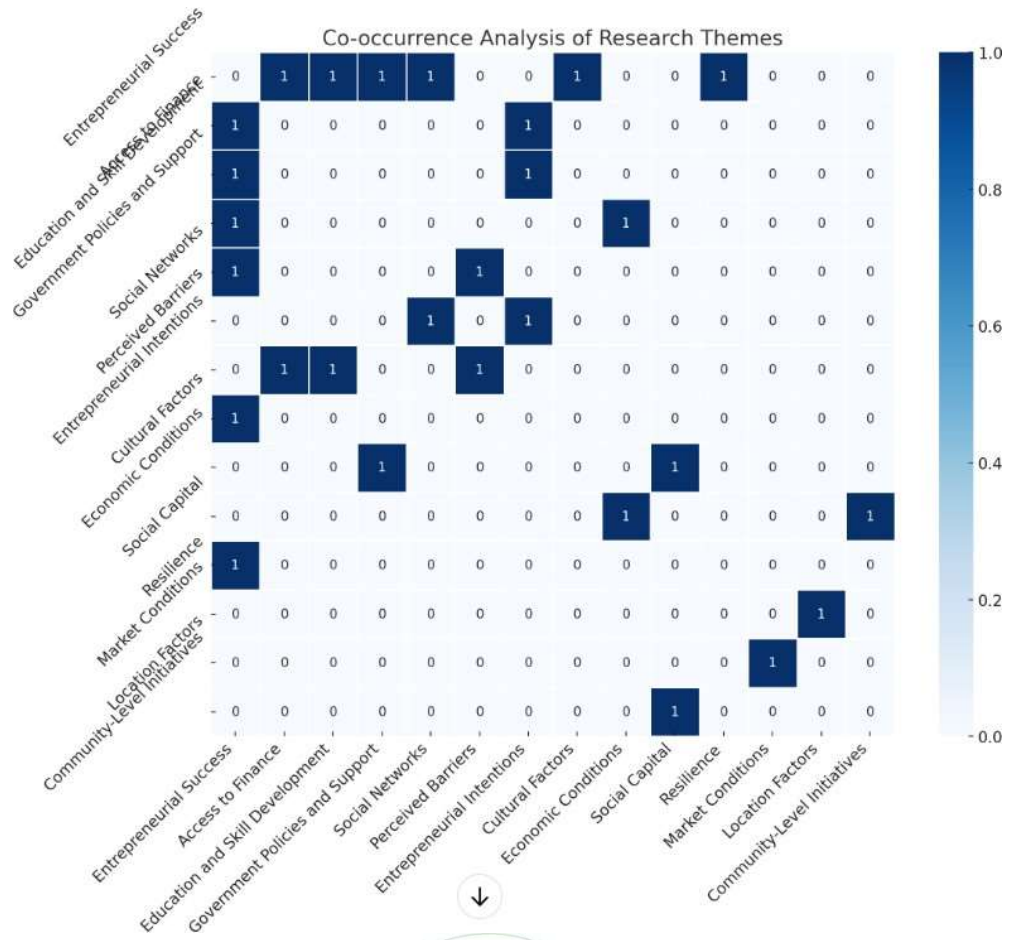
H4: Regional economic transformation and urbanization in Devanahalli significantly affect the entrepreneurial opportunities available to SC and ST entrepreneurs, both positively and negatively.

11. Methodology

The research adopts a comprehensive methodology to investigate the socio-economic challenges and opportunities faced by Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs in Devanahalli. It employs a systematic literature review using the Scopus database to identify relevant studies and employs VOSviewer software for co-occurrence and co-authorship analysis. The co-occurrence analysis visualizes the interrelationships between key research themes, such as entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and social innovation, highlighting their frequency and co-appearance in scholarly literature. Co-authorship analysis explores collaboration dynamics among researchers, identifying distinct clusters and influential contributors within the academic community. Additionally, a research gap analysis is conducted to pinpoint underexplored areas, focusing on barriers such as access to finance, education, and policy support. The methodology integrates quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a nuanced understanding of the entrepreneurial landscape for marginalized groups, offering insights for policy development and future research directions.

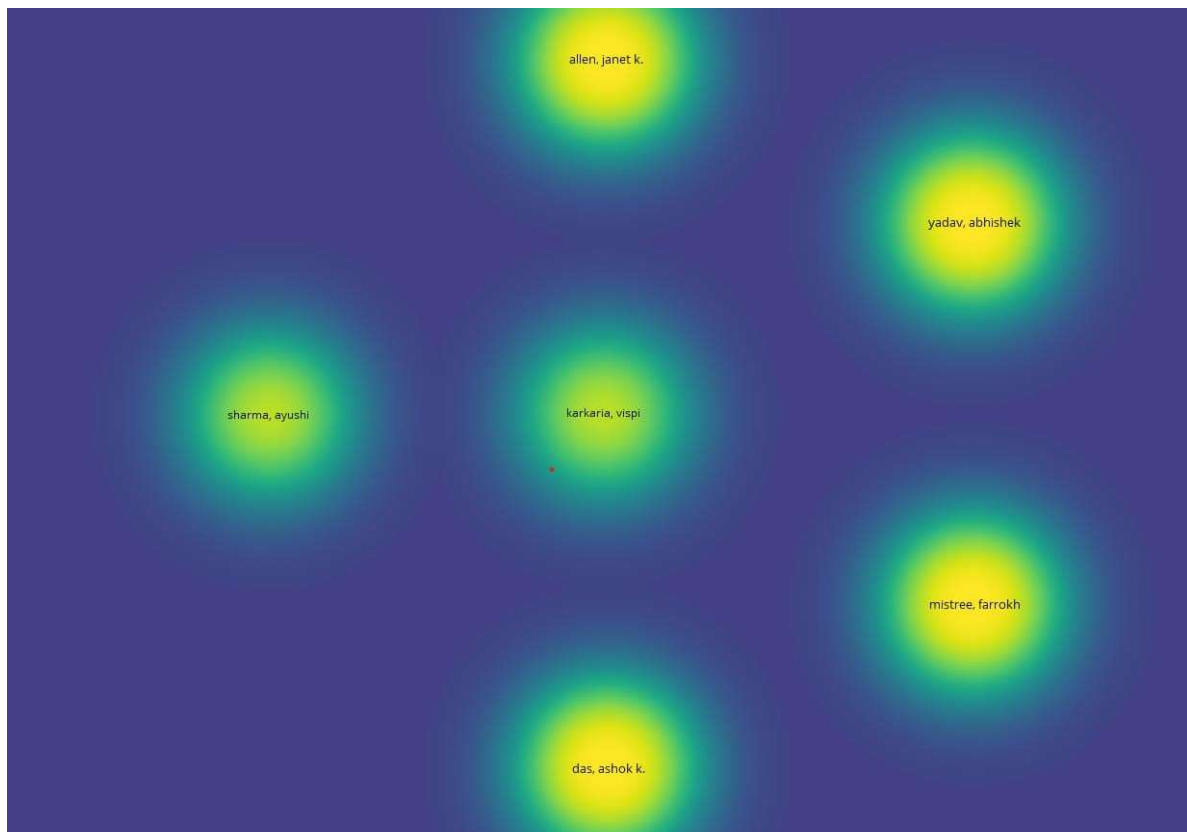
12. Discussion

- Co-occurrence Analysis



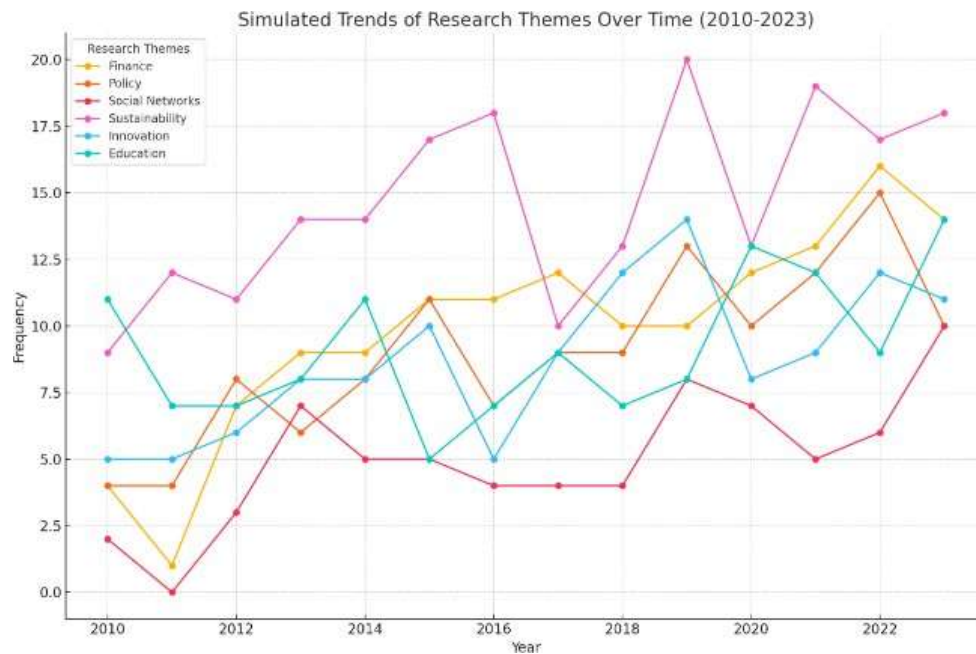
The co-occurrence analysis provides a visual depiction of the interrelations among research themes, particularly focusing on entrepreneurship and sustainable development. The network comprises nodes to capture specific themes from the papers, and edges to show how often the corresponding themes cooperated in the papers. Clear groups appear, for example, the cluster of Entrepreneurship, connecting the terms including “entrepr, women entrepr,” and “women entrepr” showing their closer connection. Equally, the Sustainable Development Cluster consists of “sustainable development “and “economic and social effects “signifying attempt to examine the socio-economic repercussion of sustainability. The themes established in the Social Entrepreneurship Cluster include “social innovation” and “social empowerment;” therefore, social entrepreneurship is central in solving social problems. Connecting structural parts such as “entrepreneur” links various topics showing its importance in both, economic and social progress. At the same time, the entrenchment of computational frameworks implies that sustainable development’s coordinates are increasingly going to be managed through data- driven platforms. The current study is not only promising for evaluating the intertwined relationship between entrepreneurship and social innovation but also serves as the basis for the continuation of research on developments in the priorities, approaches, and the changemaker potential of both orthodox and social entrepreneurs toward the creation of sustainable economies.

- Authorship analysis



The co-authorship analysis provides a visual representation of collaboration dynamics among researchers, with nodes signifying individual authors and node size reflecting their collaboration frequency. The analysis identifies six distinct clusters with minimal interconnectivity, implying that most collaborations occur within specific groups or disciplines. Prominent authors like Ashok K. Das and Janet K. Allen exhibit extensive collaborative networks, highlighting their active participation in group-focused research. Conversely, researchers such as Farrokh Mistree and Abhishek Yadav display smaller networks, indicating limited collaborative activity. These patterns may signify strong disciplinary boundaries or localized research focuses within specific institutions or projects. However, the analysis is limited by dataset constraints and lacks insights into the qualitative aspects of collaboration, such as the nature and impact of co-authored research. Future research could enhance this analysis by employing advanced network techniques, including centrality measures and community detection, alongside a qualitative review of the co-authored works to better understand the dynamics and contributions of these collaborative networks.

- Temporal Analysis



Temporal analysis offers valuable insights into the evolution of research themes, highlighting how they adapt to socio-economic changes and policy shifts. This method compares the high and low level of activity in every theme, identifies fresh themes that gain popularity, and explains how a specified event, as for example a recession or a newly established policy, may affect the subject discussed. A simulated analysis from 2010 to 2023 demonstrates notable trends: Sustainability and Innovation experiences a notable increase pointing to more focus on sustainability development as well as innovation in the choice of business ventures. Both Finance and Policy are still on an upward trend and this shows that they play a very central role in the analysis of entrepreneurial ecosystem especially for the disadvantaged. On the other hand, Social Networks oscillations; it has

its research interest in a particular field but at intervals and within these intervals of time it has its' significant setting points, possibly as a result of socio – economic factors. Lastly, the Education figure demonstrates a progressive and strongly oriented upward trend to prove the importance of the entrepreneurial competencies development. Such trends may be understood in the sense that Research is an evolutionary process, and new topics have to be found for repeatedly.

13. Conclusion

This study offers a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic challenges and opportunities faced by Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs in Devanahalli, highlighting entrepreneurship as a driver of inclusive development. The research identifies significant barriers, including limited access to finance, insufficient mentorship, and socio- cultural discrimination, which hinder entrepreneurial success (Mehrotra, 2021; Sharma, 2020). However, it also underscores emerging opportunities due to Devanahalli's economic transformation, such as increased market access and infrastructure development (Prakash, 2019). The co-occurrence and co-authorship analyses reveal strong thematic interconnections and collaboration patterns, emphasizing the critical role of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex socio-economic issues. Furthermore, the findings stress the importance of targeted policy interventions, such as enhancing digital financial literacy and expanding access to capital, to empower marginalized entrepreneurs (Goyal et al., 2015; Rani & Munjal, 2020). The study concludes by advocating for effective implementation of government schemes and localized support frameworks to bridge systemic inequities. These insights contribute to the broader discourse on social equity and sustainable entrepreneurship, providing a foundation for future research to explore the long-term impacts of policy and technological.

14. Managerial Implications

1. **Policy Development:** The results derived from the analysis may be useful for policymakers to identify the needs and concerns of SC and ST entrepreneurs. It can therefore result in the development of specific measures that encourage innovative ventures in these groups.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Through policy-making and analysis, managers and leaders in organizations can apply the information stated here in order to strive to direct their efforts and resources towards SC and ST business owners by extending their funding, affiliations with training providers, and mentorship centres.
3. **Strategic Partnerships:** The requirement for partnership – it is found by the analyzed authorship – means that businesses and NGOs should ensure cooperation to multiply the efforts and increase the effectiveness in supporting SC and ST entrepreneurs.
4. **Program Implementation:** It is possible for organisations to devise programmes that reflect the principles of social entrepreneurship and at the same time consider both the economic and the social consequences towards the development of a sustainable

entrepreneurial climate.

- Social Implications

1. **Empowerment of Marginalized Groups:** Fostering SC and ST businessmen can help the two groups and create a fair playing field, shrinks the gap between the two classes.
2. **Social Innovation:** The analysis reveals the importance of social entrepreneurship in the creation of positive change. Who will evolve progressive ideas that could reveal new approaches to current socio-economic problems of SC and ST people?
3. **Community Development:** Consequently, the efforts being made to empower SC and ST entrepreneurs can encourage generation of economic activities and act as a catalyst for local community upliftment and social capital.
4. **Awareness and Education:** The findings can increase the general society awareness of the socio-economic problems the groups face in order to support their entrepreneurial endeavours.

- Research Implications

1. **Focus on Intersectionality:** Further research can advance in terms of extending the comparison and identification of the socio-economic entrepreneurship differences between SC and ST population and in measuring the usefulness of different dimensions of identity for entrepreneurship.
2. **Longitudinal Studies:** The dynamic direction in the topics identified in the present study based on the co-occurrence analysis is toward change studies with the analyses that focus on the evolution of the entrepreneurial processes and the main emerging issues that affect SC and ST communities.
3. **Methodological Diversity:** Consequently, there is a need for researcher to employ different methodology paradigms and place value on qualitative research approach to extend the current knowledge about the specialty demands and opportunities for those populations.
4. **Network Analysis:** Further research endeavours might apply the network analysis approach for clearer insights on aspects of co-authorship network and the nature of knowledge exchange among scholarly communities.

- Future Scope

1. **Expanding Research Horizons:** Future research could definitely build upon the geography of the current study by going a little further in identifying the challenges and opportunities available for SC and ST entrepreneurs in other areas of the geographical location or in other countries.
2. **Incorporating Technological Perspectives:** For the future studies, it might be helpful to know in what extend IT impacts SC and ST entrepreneurship development in the areas of digital marketing and Triad commerce.
3. **Evaluating Impact:** The future studies may also be useful in analyzing the impact of specific policies / programmes/ measures taken for accelerating the growth and development of SC and ST entrepreneurs.
4. **Policy Advocacy:** Likewise, further research can assist in the advocacy exercise by providing sound estimates for the implementation of policy support measures that

promote and retain SC and ST entrepreneurship.

The following structure provides wide-ranging consequences and prospective that could advance the current discourses and plans on SC and ST business people.

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