

## SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW: DETERMINANTS OF THE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION

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### ABSTRACT

Amid complex global challenges such as social inequality, economic crises, and demands for sustainable development, Social Entrepreneurial Intention (SEI) has attracted increasing attention in entrepreneurship research. However, existing findings remain fragmented and lack systematic synthesis. This study conducts a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using the Scopus database following PRISMA guidelines, resulting in 80 eligible articles. The results highlight three main patterns. First, the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) emerges as the dominant theoretical framework in explaining SEI, with limited integration of alternative perspectives. Second, quantitative approaches—particularly survey-based methods using SEM and PLS-SEM—strongly dominate the methodology, while qualitative and mixed methods remain underutilized. Third, most studies rely on student samples, leading to population bias and limiting the generalizability of their findings. This study contributes by providing a structured synthesis of SEI literature and identifying key theoretical, methodological, and contextual gaps. It also suggests future research directions that incorporate a broader range of theories, methodological approaches, and populations to address contemporary social challenges better.

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### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Social Entrepreneurial Intention (SEI) has garnered increasing attention amid growing global challenges such as social inequality, climate change, and economic crises. Social entrepreneurship is viewed as an approach capable of generating innovative solutions grounded in social values and sustainability (Duong et al., 2021), as well as contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, SEI has become a key factor influencing the emergence and sustainability of social entrepreneurship practices, particularly among young people and students (Fox et al., 2023; Naznen et al., 2023). As research has evolved, various theoretical approaches have been employed to explain the formation of SEI, such as the Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1991), the Value-Belief-Norm Theory (Naznen et al., 2023), and the Social Cognitive Career Theory (Al Issa et al., 2025). Empirical studies also indicate that individual, institutional, social, and cultural factors shape SEI, with recent

developments beginning to integrate technological dimensions such as digital literacy and artificial intelligence (C. D. Duong, 2023; Ip, 2024; Marjerison et al., 2025; Salamzadeh et al., 2022).

Nevertheless, the SEI literature still exhibits several limitations that warrant attention. Most studies focus on individual and psychological factors, while institutional, cultural, and technological dimensions have not yet been analysed in an integrated manner (Lingappa et al., 2022; Younis et al., 2021). Additionally, the geographical context in SEI research remains limited, so cross-cultural understanding has not yet fully developed. Previous review studies, such as Luc (2024), have also been limited to a single database—Web of Science—and thus may not fully represent the overall development of SEI research. This situation highlights the need for a systematic review that integrates diverse approaches and provides a more comprehensive overview.

Based on these gaps, this study offers a contribution through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using the Scopus database to expand the scope of SEI literature synthesis. Unlike previous studies, this research not only maps the literature but also considers contemporary issues such as digital transformation, post-pandemic dynamics, and shifts in social values, with a particular emphasis on sustainability. This approach enables the identification of variables increasingly relevant in the modern context, such as digital technology, artificial intelligence, social media, and environmental awareness (Gomes & Wisenthige, 2025; Marjerison et al., 2025). Furthermore, the use of Scopus as the primary database is expected to broaden the scope of the literature, as previous studies were limited to the Web of Science (Luc, 2024). Thus, this SLR not only strengthens the theoretical foundation of SEI but also provides a more comprehensive synthesis for the ever-changing global landscape.

Specifically, this study aims to: (1) analyse the development of SEI research based on publication trends, geographic distribution, journal classification, theoretical and methodological approaches, and population characteristics; (2) identify gaps and limitations in the SEI literature; and (3) formulate directions for future research relevant to contemporary social and technological contexts.

## **METHOD**

This study employed a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method that followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines as introduced by Moher et al. (2009). PRISMA was chosen because it has been proven to enhance reporting transparency, reduce methodological bias, and is widely used across various fields of science to ensure the consistency and quality of systematic reviews (Panic et al., 2013; Siddaway et al., 2019). A detailed flowchart of the SLR process is shown in Figure 1, illustrating all the PRISMA stages used in this study.

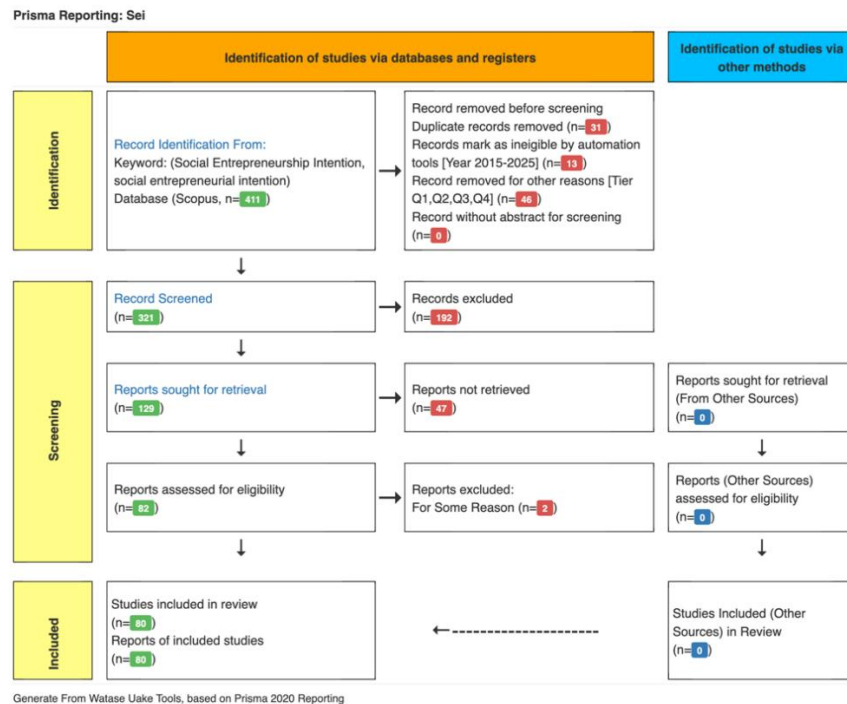


Figure 1. PRISMA (Haddaway et al., 2022)

The first stage is identification, which begins with a systematic search of the Scopus database using the keywords “social entrepreneurship intention” and “social entrepreneurial intention.” Scopus was selected because it has very strict indexing standards, provides high-quality literature, and excludes predatory journals, making it more reliable than other search engines such as Google Scholar (Bergman, 2012; Hariningsih et al., 2025; Rocha et al., 2019). The inclusion criteria comprised peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2015–2025, indexed in Q1–Q4 journals, and explicitly addressing SEI, while exclusion criteria included non-relevant topics, non-journal publications, and inaccessible full texts. The initial search yielded 411 articles. Next, a screening process was conducted, which included removing 31 duplicate articles, 13 articles that did not fall within the 2015–2025 publication range, and 46 articles that were not classified as Q1–Q4 journals. No articles were excluded due to a lack of an abstract. After this stage, 321 articles remained and proceeded to the screening process. During the screening stage, articles were analyzed based on their titles, abstracts, and keywords to ensure their alignment with the research focus. The review revealed that 192 articles did not meet the study’s relevance criteria, leaving 129 for full-text retrieval. Of these, 47 articles could not be obtained due to access limitations. The remaining 82 articles proceeded to the eligibility assessment stage. During this eligibility stage, each article was analyzed based on conceptual relevance, methodological appropriateness, and empirical contribution. A structured coding process was applied to classify articles based on theory, method, and research context. Two articles did not meet the eligibility criteria and were excluded.

The inclusion stage yielded 80 articles that met all criteria and served as the basis for the research synthesis. These articles represent the most relevant and credible studies related to SEI. To ensure consistency, the classification results were validated through cross-checking and iterative review among the researchers. The integration of the PRISMA procedure and this thematic analysis ensures that the SLR process is not only systematic and transparent but also consistent with international methodological standards and yields robust findings to support research development

in the field of SEI. However, this study is limited to the use of the Scopus database, which may exclude relevant studies indexed in other databases.

## RESULT

### Country Classification

Trends based on Figure 2, research on Social Entrepreneurial Intention (SEI) appears to be heavily concentrated in developing countries, particularly in Asia. The bar chart in Figure 2 shows that Vietnam and China are the most common research locations, each with 10 published articles, followed by Bangladesh with 7. Vietnam emerges as the most dominant research location, focusing on factors such as karmic beliefs, empathy, and regulatory support, which are influenced by collectivist values and religious practices such as Buddhism (C. D. Duong, 2023, 2024). China is also an important research hub for studies on social awareness and institutional support, as stated by Wu et al. (2021), which show that achievements in the sharing economy enhance SEI through increased perceptions of social value and self-efficacy. Meanwhile, India and Bangladesh exhibit strong research trends in integrating theories such as TPB and VBN (Naznen et al., 2023; Tiwari et al., 2022) and in focusing on institutions or institutional support in influencing students' SEI (Iqbal et al., 2024). This pattern suggests that SEI research in developing countries tends to emphasize contextual factors, such as cultural values, institutional environments, and socio-economic challenges, in explaining entrepreneurial intentions. Figure 2 shows that the Asian region is far more densely populated and more extensively studied than Latin America, Africa, and Europe, indicating an imbalance in representation in the SEI literature.

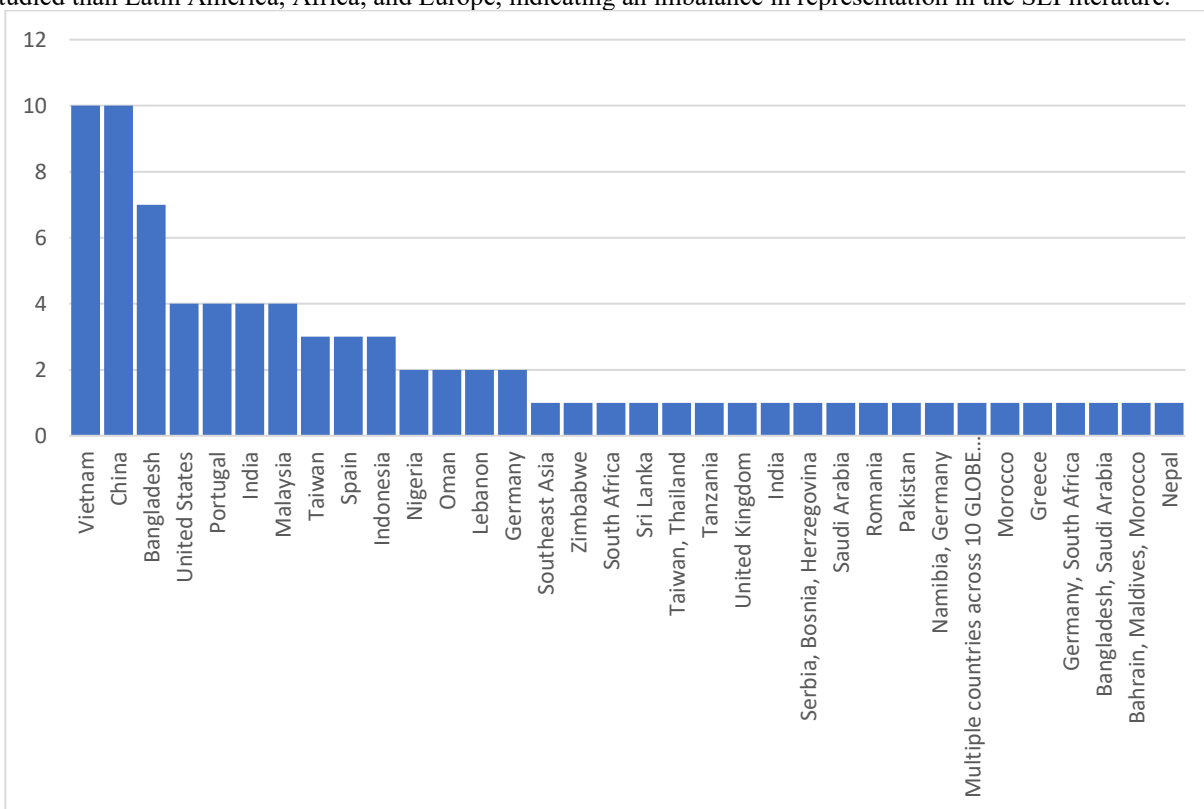


Figure 2. Country Classification

On the other hand, developed countries such as the United States, Spain, and Portugal also contribute to SEI, albeit to a more limited extent. Research from these countries tends to focus on psychological aspects such as empathy,

social motivation, and external support (Cardella et al., 2024; Fox et al., 2023); for example, Fox et al. (2023) found that social support has a significant influence on SEI, whereas institutional support does not have a direct impact. In contrast to developing countries, this suggests that SEI in developed contexts is more frequently explained through individual-level cognitive and psychological mechanisms rather than structural or institutional factors. Analysis of country classifications indicates that research from developing countries makes a strong contribution by offering contextual perspectives on socio-economic challenges. Meanwhile, research from developed countries enriches theoretical development through the integration of psychological and cognitive approaches (Claeyé et al., 2022; Santos et al., 2021).

**Year Article Classification**

The publication trend for SEI, as shown in Figure 3, indicates a steady increase from 2019 to 2025. The bar chart in Figure 2 shows that in 2019, only one published article originated in Zimbabwe (Rambe & Ndofirepi, 2021). Starting in 2020, the number of published articles increased to 9, with contributions from countries such as China, Germany, and South Africa (Chipeta et al., 2022; Younis et al., 2021). The number of articles published in 2021 remained stable at 9, but the research's geographical scope expanded to include Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the United States (Q. H. Duong et al., 2021; Santos et al., 2021; Tu et al., 2021). A significant increase was observed in 2022 and 2023, reaching 15 and 17 published articles, respectively, with strong contributions from developing countries such as Indonesia, Nigeria, Malaysia, Bahrain, Oman, and Morocco (Nwosu et al., 2022; Paramita et al., 2022; Razzak & Al Riyami, 2024; Salamzadeh et al., 2022; Simmou et al., 2023). The year 2024 recorded the highest number of article publications at 19, followed by 10 publications in 2025, many of which originated from South Asian and Southeast Asian contexts, including Bangladesh, Vietnam, and India (Iqbal et al., 2024; Nguyen et al., 2025; Srivastava & Singh, 2025).

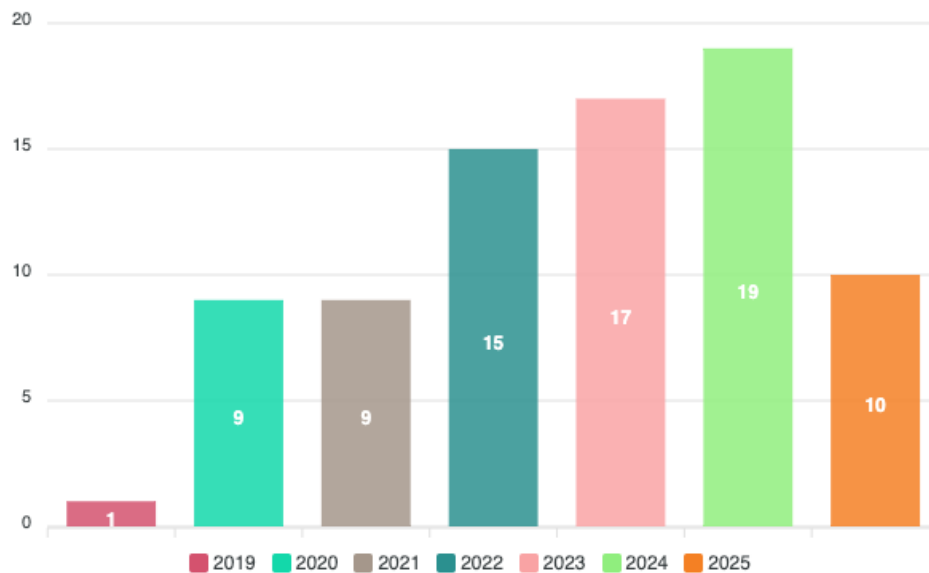


Figure 3. Yearly Classification of Articles

The data in this bar chart clearly indicate that academic interest in SEI is growing rapidly and expanding across various socioeconomic contexts; however, overall, the graph in Figure 3 shows a stable, strengthening growth pattern. This development reflects an increase in academic interest in SEI alongside the emergence of various global social and economic dynamics, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has prompted researchers to examine the role of social entrepreneurship as a solution to various emerging social issues (Q. H. Duong et al., 2021; Lukman et al., 2021). Thus, the increase in publications through 2024 suggests growing opportunities in SEI.

### Journal Classification

An analysis of journal classifications based on Table 1 regarding SEI publications shows that the Journal of Social Entrepreneurship is the most dominant journal with 10 published articles (Dickel & Johnson, 2024; Handrito et al., 2024; Hirianna & Jaya Prakash, 2025; Peter et al., 2024), demonstrating its position as a specialized journal and primary reference in the development of SEI. This dominance is followed by Frontiers in Psychology and the Social Enterprise Journal, each containing 5 published articles (Cheah et al., 2023; Mgueraman & El Abboubi, 2024; Soltwisch et al., 2023; Xiang & Zhang, 2022), affirming that SEI is not solely rooted in the realm of social entrepreneurship but is also strongly integrated into psychological and behavioral perspectives. Furthermore, The International Journal of Management Education, with 4 published articles (Al Issa et al., 2025; Donaldson et al., 2024; Nwosu et al., 2022; Salamzadeh et al., 2022), reflects the growing attention to the role of management and entrepreneurship education in shaping social entrepreneurial intentions. Other journals such as Sustainability, Administrative Sciences, Journal of Business Research, Studies in Higher Education, and Management Decision feature a limited number of articles—ranging from 1 to 3—indicating that SEI is a cross-disciplinary topic spanning management, education, and the social sciences.

Table 1. Journal Classification

Journal	Count
Journal of Social Entrepreneurship	10
Frontiers in Psychology	5
Social Enterprise Journal	5
The International Journal of Management Education	4
Sustainability	3
Administrative Sciences	2
Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies	2
Journal of Business Research	2
Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education	2
Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity	2
International Journal of Innovation Science	2
Journal of Public Affairs	2
Management Decision	2
Humanities and Social Sciences Communications	2
Social Sciences	2
Society and Business Review	2
Studies in Higher Education	2
The Journal of Entrepreneurship	2
Cogent Business & Management	2
Scientific Reports	1
Psychology Research and Behavior Management	1

Journal of Research in Marketing and Entrepreneurship	1
Systems	1
Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	1
Journal of Further and Higher Education	1
VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations	1
Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication	1
Business: Theory and Practice	1
Current Psychology	1
Data in Brief	1
Digital Policy, Regulation and Governance	1
Economic Research-Ekonomika Istra?ivanja	1
Education + Training	1
Empirical Research in Vocational Education and Training	1
Gender in Management: An International Journal	1
Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy	1
Interactive Learning Environments	1
International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal	1
International Journal of Educational Management	1
International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research	1
International Journal of Ethics and Systems	1
International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship	1
International Review of Applied Sciences and Engineering	1
Journal of Business Venturing Insights	1

The distribution of these publications also shows that the majority of articles on SEI were published in high-impact journals indexed in the Scopus Q1 quartile (48 articles), followed by Q2 (26 articles), with only a small number in Q3 (5 articles) and Q4 (1 article). This pattern indicates that SEI is positioned as a research theme that has developed theoretically and methodologically, thereby meeting strict academic standards and possessing high international visibility. This pattern regarding journal classification confirms that the empirical contributions of SEI research have become part of the mainstream of reputable international literature.

#### **Theory Classification**

According to Table 2, the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) is the most dominant theoretical framework in SEI research, with 19 published articles. This dominance indicates that TPB serves as the primary foundation for explaining how SEI is formed through the constructs of attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control (Ajzen, 1991). The use of TPB is reflected in various empirical studies, such as those by Lukman et al. (2021), Duong (2023), and Simmou et al. (2023), which examine SEI across diverse social and geographical contexts. Additionally, there is a strong trend toward combining TPB with other models of entrepreneurial intention, such as the

Entrepreneurial Event Model by Shapero and Sokol and the Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model by Mair and Noboa (Tan et al., 2021). The results of this theoretical classification underscore the flexibility of TPB as a primary framework, frequently enriched by contextual perspectives and triggering events in social entrepreneurship.

Table 2. Theory Classification

Classification	Count
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)	19
NA	8
Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT)	3
Value-Belief-Norm (VBN) theory	2
Social Cognitive Theory (SCT)	2
Social Capital Theory	2
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Shapero's Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero & Sokol 1982), Mair and Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model	2
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT)	2
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Mair and Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model	2
Social Learning Theory (SLT), Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT)	1
Social Cognitive Theory (SCT), Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)	1
Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT), Human Capital Theory (HCT)	1
Social Constructivism	1
Upper Echelons Theory	1
Social entrepreneurial intentions model (Hockerts, 2017), Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT).	1
Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), Mair and Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model	1
Social exchange theory (SET), resource exchange theory	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Theory of Reasoned Action (Ajzen & Fishbein, 19), Shapero's Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero & Sokol 1982), Mair and Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model	1
Social Learning Theory	1
Socio-Technical Systems Theory	1
Socioemotional Selectivity Theory	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Shapero's Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero & Sokol 1982), Integrated Model of Entrepreneurial Intentions (Krueger 2009)	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and Entrepreneurial Event Model (EEM)	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero and Sokol 1982)	1



Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Entrepreneurial Event Model, Mair and Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model.	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Family Embeddedness Perspective (Aldrich and Cliff 2003)	1
Institutional Theory, Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)	1
Affective Events Theory, Trait Activation Theory, Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)	1
Big Five Personality Model	1
Complexity theory and configurational theory	1
Construal Level Theory (CLT)	1
Entrepreneurial Event Model (Shapero and Sokol, 1982) and Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991)	1
Human Basic Needs Theory (McClelland); Locus of Control Theory	1
Human Capital Theory (HCT)	1
Human Capital Theory (HCT), Self-Determination Theory	1
Institutional Theory (Kostova, 1997) and Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991)	1
Institutional Theory (North, 1990)	1
Social Cognitive Theory (SCT), Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), Shapero's model of the entrepreneurial event are also foundational but SCT is explicitly referenced for self-efficacy and role modeling.	1
Jones issue-contingent ethical decision-making model	1
Justice Motive Theory integrated with Stimulus-Organism-Response framework	1
Kanfer's (1990) distal-proximal-motivation framework	1
Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory, Social Cognitive Theory (SCT).	1
Mair & Noboa's Social Entrepreneurial Intention Model (2006)	1
Milliken's (1987) typology of three types of uncertainty (state, effect, response uncertainty)	1
Self-Determination Theory (SDT) and Social Cognitive Theory (SCT)	1
Social Capital Theory, Triple Helix Model, Theory of Planned Behavior	1
Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and Five-Factor Model.	1

Additionally, another relatively prominent theory is the Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT), which appears both independently and in combination with other theories, as well as the Social Cognitive Theory (SCT), which specifically emphasizes the role of self-efficacy, social learning, and role modeling in the formation of social entrepreneurial intentions (Nwosu et al., 2022; Younis et al., 2021). Table 2 also highlights additional supporting theories, including Value-Belief-Norm Theory, Social Capital Theory, Institutional Theory, Human Capital Theory, and Self-Determination Theory. A significant number of articles do not rely on a grand theory, suggesting that some studies are exploratory or do not explicitly state a primary theoretical framework (Karim et al., 2025; Luc, 2024).

### Research Design Classification

Based on Figure 4, which classifies research designs, it is evident that quantitative approaches dominate SEI research. Of the 80 articles analyzed, 72 employed a quantitative approach, as indicated by the tallest bar in the histogram in Figure 4, surpassing other research designs. This approach generally employs survey-based methods (Lukman et al., 2021; Simmou et al., 2023). Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) is the most frequently used data analysis technique, whether in the form of Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) or Covariance-Based Structural Equation Modeling (CB-SEM) (Nguyen et al., 2025; Peter et al., 2024). The majority of PLS-SEM usage in SEI research is attributed to its ability to handle complex predictive models and its flexibility regarding sample size and data distribution (Hair & Alamer, 2022).

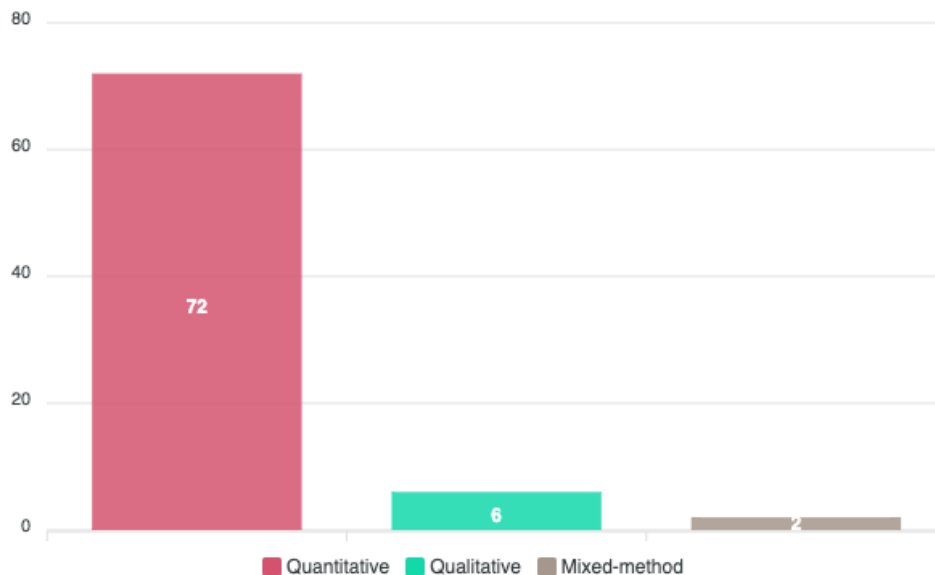


Figure 4. Research Design Classification

Furthermore, the use of qualitative and mixed-methods research designs remains relatively limited, as shown in Figure 4: only 6 articles employed a qualitative research design, and only 2 articles used a mixed-methods research design. Qualitative research in SEI studies is generally used to deepen contextual understanding of the SEI formation process, including through narrative analysis and the grounded theory approach (Claeyé et al., 2022). Nevertheless, the use of mixed-method research designs—whose primary aim is to combine the generalizability of quantitative approaches with the depth of qualitative analysis—remains very limited in the SEI literature (Chakra & Jardali, 2023). Based on this research design, there appears to be a methodological gap regarding SEI, where the focus remains heavily on quantitative approaches, while qualitative and mixed-methods approaches require further development to capture SEI more comprehensively.

### Population Type Classification

Based on Figure 5, the student population dominates research on SEI. Of the 80 articles analyzed, 63 used students as the primary research subjects, 14 focused on non-student groups, and 3 involved a combination of students and non-students. This dominance of the student population aligns with findings across various SEI articles that position students as the primary target group, primarily because of the ease of sampling and the alignment with the context of entrepreneurship education being implemented (Lukman et al., 2021; Simmou et al., 2023; Younis et al., 2021). Furthermore, other articles indicate that studies focusing on students are frequently conducted in developing countries, such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia, where higher education is viewed as a means to

foster social entrepreneurship as an effort to address social and economic challenges (Q. H. Duong et al., 2021; Handrito et al., 2024; Naznen et al., 2023; Salamzadeh et al., 2022).

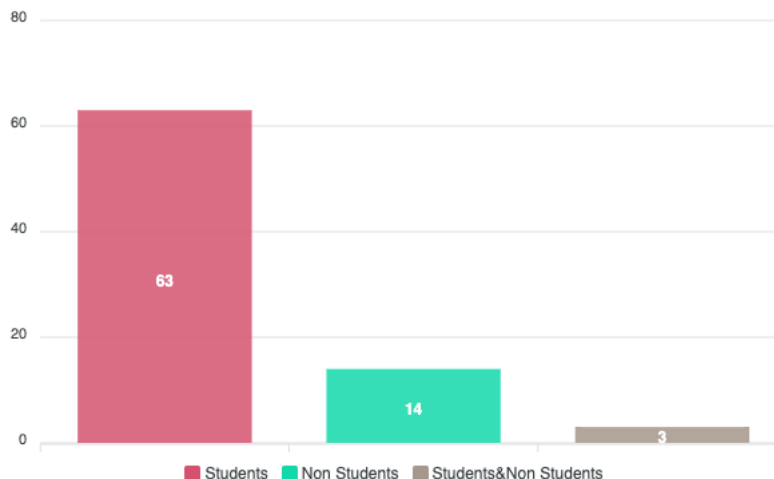


Figure 5. Classification of Population Types

Furthermore, the proportion of studies using non-student subjects remains relatively limited, comprising only 14 published articles. Research on non-student groups generally focuses on social entrepreneurs and local community members, aiming to capture the dynamics of SEI in real-world contexts beyond the formal educational environment (Fox et al., 2023; Hiriyanna & Jaya Prakash, 2025). Nevertheless, there remains a scarcity of research that combines students and non-students as research subjects, such as the study by Aloulou & Algarni (2022), which used both groups. Research employing both subject groups enables a comprehensive examination of SEI across life stages, enriches the diversity of respondents' social experiences, and enhances the validity and generalizability of empirical findings. Based on the population types shown in Figure 5, there appears to be a bias in the SEI literature, suggesting that the findings describe SEI only among students.

## DISCUSSION

The results of the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) in this article indicate that SEI is shaped by various combinations of interacting psychological, social, and contextual factors. This article analyzed 80 Scopus-indexed articles—spanning Q1-Q4 journals—that confirmed that empathy, perceived social support, and moral obligation are determining factors of SEI across several countries. These findings also reinforce the conceptual model of the Social Entrepreneurial Intention (SEI) proposed by Mair and Noboa (2006) and further developed by Hockerts (2017), which positions empathy as the initial driver of social awareness, which is subsequently translated into SEI. Empathy in various Asian contexts, such as Vietnam and India, indicates that sensitivity to suffering or social issues serves as the primary foundation of SEI, particularly in societies facing high socio-economic challenges and strong collectivist values (C. D. Duong, 2023; Tiwari et al., 2022).

Subsequently, in the results of the theory classification and research design, the TPB emerged as the most dominant theoretical framework for explaining SEI. The use of TPB allows researchers to explain how attitudes toward social entrepreneurship, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control contribute to the formation of SEI (Ajzen, 1991). However, the results of this theoretical classification indicate that TPB rarely stands alone in a study. Several studies integrate it with SCT or the SEI model by Mair and Noboa to capture the roles of self-efficacy, social learning, and prior social experiences (Lukman et al., 2021; Rambe & Ndofirepi, 2021; Xanthopoulou & Sahinidis, 2025; Younis et al., 2021). This integration indicates that research on SEI no longer focuses solely on individual factors but also considers the role of social context and institutional support in shaping SEI.

From a geographical and methodological perspective, research on SEI is predominantly conducted in developing countries and employs quantitative approaches such as SEM and PLS-SEM, suggesting that SEI has been extensively studied as a response to real-world constraints and social issues. Countries such as Vietnam and China emphasize the role of cultural values, moral beliefs, and regulatory support in shaping SEI, while research in developed countries highlights social support and individual psychological factors (Cardella et al., 2024; C. D. Duong, 2023, 2024; Fox et al., 2023). These findings underscore that SEI is highly contextual, so cross-cultural and cross-national generalizations must be made with caution. Thus, the results of this SLR article not only confirm previous findings but also clarify that understanding SEI requires integrating intention theory, emotional factors, and the surrounding socio-cultural context.

## LIMITATION

This SLR article highlights several research limitations that warrant attention. First, the majority of research on SEI still focuses on students as the primary population, thereby limiting the generalizability of findings to non-student groups such as professionals, social entrepreneurs, or local communities, who naturally possess different social experiences and motivations. Second, research on SEI still relies heavily on survey-based quantitative designs and SEM; while statistically robust, these approaches tend to be less capable of capturing the dynamics of SEI formation in depth and over time. Third, the geographical distribution of research on SEI indicates that disparities remain, particularly in Africa and Latin America, limiting understanding of SEI across different socio-economic contexts and potentially introducing contextual bias into the global literature on SEI.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research is recommended to focus not only on students but also on non-student groups, such as professionals, social entrepreneurs, and local communities. The involvement of these non-student groups is important for more accurately capturing SEI formation, given their differences in practical experience, social interactions, and direct exposure to social issues compared to students. By expanding the research population, future studies are expected to yield more representative findings that can be more robustly generalized in explaining SEI.

Furthermore, future research is advised to broaden its methodological approaches—such as qualitative and mixed-method designs—to explore the underlying psychological and social processes driving the shift from SEI to social entrepreneurial behavior. Longitudinal studies are also essential to test whether SEI can truly lead to sustainable social entrepreneurial action, as well as to understand the role of educational interventions and field experiences in strengthening SEI. Additionally, research should be expanded to include African and Latin American countries to obtain a more representative picture of SEI. Integrating contemporary issues such as digital transformation and artificial intelligence is also necessary, given that global social change is increasingly influenced by technology and multidimensional crises. By combining cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and methodological perspectives, future SEI research can develop a more comprehensive and relevant theoretical framework to address global social challenges.

## CONCLUSION

This SLR article attempts to synthesize developments and provide a comprehensive overview of the evolution of SEI research, including annual publication trends, geographic distribution, journal classifications, theoretical frameworks employed, methodological approaches, and the types of populations that have dominated previous studies. The synthesis results indicate that SEI has emerged as a significant field of research, with a primary focus on psychological and social factors, such as empathy, perceived social support, and moral obligation, as key drivers of SEI. SEI research has been conducted extensively across various countries, particularly in developing nations in the Asian region, highlighting the strong influence of socio-cultural contexts and local socio-economic challenges on SEI. Nevertheless, contributions from developed countries such as the United States, Spain, and Portugal remain crucial in enriching the development of theory and methodology, indicating that SEI is a phenomenon that is both contextual and transcends cultural and national boundaries.

From a methodological and developmental perspective, research on SEI remains dominated by quantitative approaches based on SEM and PLS-SEM, relying on the Theory of Planned Behavior and Social Cognitive Theory as the primary theoretical foundations. The study populations are predominantly students, and the limited use of qualitative and longitudinal methods suggests room for further development in SEI research. Therefore, future research needs to expand the geographical context, involve non-student groups, and integrate cross-methodological approaches to more comprehensively capture the formation of SEI. Thus, SEI research will not only be academically relevant but also hold strategic potential in supporting the development of sustainable social entrepreneurship solutions to address global social challenges.

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