

Trends, theories, and antecedents of entrepreneurial intention: a systematic literature review

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Abstrak

Niat berwirausaha menempati posisi sentral dalam proses penciptaan usaha, namun tinjauan komprehensif yang menata perkembangannya secara utuh masih jarang dilakukan. Penelitian ini bertujuan menyajikan sintesis sistematis atas perkembangan, kerangka teoretis, anteseden, konteks, dan metode dalam riset niat berwirausaha selama sepuluh tahun terakhir, sekaligus memetakan kesenjangan dan agenda riset yang relevan. Kajian ini menerapkan metode tinjauan pustaka sistematis yang mengacu pada protokol PRISMA 2020 terhadap 70 artikel terindeks Scopus pada rentang tahun 2016 hingga 2026, lalu dianalisis melalui analisis tematik kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan tren publikasi yang meningkat tajam dengan puncak pada tahun 2022 dan 2024, dominasi riset pada kawasan Asia, serta keunggulan Theory of Planned Behavior sebagai landasan teoretis utama. Efikasi diri kewirausahaan dan pendidikan kewirausahaan tampil sebagai anteseden paling konsisten, sedangkan tema kewirausahaan sosial, hijau, digital, dan berkelanjutan menandai arah baru riset. Penelitian selanjutnya disarankan memperluas cakupan basis data, memperkaya rangkaian kata kunci, dan memadukan analisis bibliometrik kuantitatif guna memperkuat keterandalan hasil.

Kata kunci: analisis tematik; efikasi diri kewirausahaan; pendidikan kewirausahaan; prisma

Abstract

Entrepreneurial intention occupies a central position in the venture-creation process, yet comprehensive reviews that coherently organize its development remain scarce. This study presents a systematic synthesis of the development, theoretical frameworks, antecedents, contexts, and methods in entrepreneurial intention research over the past decade, while mapping the prevailing gaps and a relevant research agenda. Guided by the PRISMA 2020 protocol, a systematic literature review was conducted on 70 Scopus-indexed articles published between 2016 and 2026, which were then examined through qualitative thematic analysis. The findings reveal a sharply rising publication trend peaking in 2022 and 2024, the dominance of research within the Asian region, and the prominence of the Theory of Planned Behavior as the

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principal theoretical foundation. Entrepreneurial self-efficacy and entrepreneurship education emerge as the most consistent antecedents, whereas social, green, digital, and sustainable entrepreneurship mark an emerging research direction. Future research should broaden database coverage, enrich the keyword set, and integrate quantitative bibliometric analysis to strengthen the reliability of the findings.

Keywords: entrepreneurship education; entrepreneurial self-efficacy; prisma; thematic analysis

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Introduction

Entrepreneurship has long been positioned as one of the principal engines of economic growth because of its role in creating jobs, stimulating innovation, and enhancing national competitiveness (Selvan et al., 2025). Persistently high unemployment rates, particularly among young people and university graduates, have led many governments to place the cultivation of new entrepreneurs at the center of their strategic policy agendas (Maheshwari et al., 2022). Becoming an entrepreneur, however, does not occur spontaneously; it begins with an intention that forms well before any concrete action is taken (Kong et al., 2020). Within this framing, entrepreneurial intention occupies a central position, serving both as the initial cognitive stage in the venture-creation process and as the strongest predictor of entrepreneurial behavior (Tsou et al., 2023).

Theoretically, entrepreneurial intention has developed from two principal frameworks that continue to dominate this field: the Theory of Planned Behavior and the Entrepreneurial Event Model (Maheshwari et al., 2022). The first framework treats intention as a function of attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control, whereas the second emphasizes perceived feasibility, perceived desirability, and the propensity to act. Thompson (2009) defines entrepreneurial intention as a self-acknowledged conviction that a person intends to establish a new business venture and consciously plans to do so at some future point. This definition frames entrepreneurial intention as a measurable, conscious conviction located along a continuum rather than a binary choice between pursuing entrepreneurship or not. Over the past decade, empirical work has broadened understanding of this construct by identifying diverse antecedents, ranging from entrepreneurial self-efficacy (Newman et al., 2019) to entrepreneurship education, which cultivates learners' attitudes, competencies, and self-confidence (Selvan et al., 2025).

Despite the steady accumulation of empirical evidence, the entrepreneurial intention literature remains marked by several limitations. A number of prior systematic reviews have sought to organize the field, yet each leaves unanswered gaps. Abbasianchavari and Moritz (2021) confined their review to a single antecedent the influence of role models on entrepreneurial intention and behavior and therefore did not map the overall structure of antecedents. Maheshwari et al. (2022) offered a broader review but restricted it to student populations and concentrated on the Asian region, narrowing its generalizability. Newman et al. (2019) centered their synthesis solely on the construct of entrepreneurial self-efficacy, while Hueso et al. (2021) traced only the pathway from personal values to intention, and Bazan et al. (2020) limited their scope to the university environment and social entrepreneurial intention. Nyoko and Hanafiah (2024) affirm that a genuinely comprehensive systematic review of entrepreneurial intention remains rare, leaving the field's knowledge map incompletely and unevenly assembled. The link between entrepreneurial intention and action likewise remains only partly explained, as it is highly contextual and not always strong (Tsou et al., 2023). Prior reviews have thus tended to fragment around a single theme, population, region, or construct, and none has integrated the mapping of trends, theories, antecedents, contexts, and methods within a single, coherent synthesis. This gap underscores the urgency of the present systematic review.

This study addresses that need through a systematic literature review guided by the PRISMA guidelines (Page et al., 2021), covering 70 selected articles from the Scopus database published between 2016 and 2026. The choice of Scopus provides broad coverage of reputable journals, while the ten-year window captures recent dynamics, including the shift toward digital entrepreneurship and the post-pandemic context. The novelty of this review lies in its comprehensive synthesis, which integrates the mapping of theories, antecedents, contexts, and methods within a single coherent framework, thereby distinguishing it from earlier reviews that were typically limited to one theme, one population, or one geographic region.

Building on this rationale, the research problem is formulated as a set of interrelated questions. The first concerns how entrepreneurial intention research has developed and trended across Scopus publications from 2016 to 2026. The second addresses which theories and antecedents are most dominant in explaining the formation of entrepreneurial intention. The third examines the contexts and methodological approaches that characterize these studies. The fourth identifies the remaining research gaps and the agenda that should be developed in the future.

In line with these questions, this study aims to present a systematic synthesis of the development, theoretical frameworks, antecedents, contexts, and methods in entrepreneurial intention research over the past decade, while mapping the relevant gaps and research agenda. Through a PRISMA-based systematic literature review that combines structured retrieval with thematic synthesis, the study is expected to make a theoretical contribution in the form of an organized knowledge map for developing entrepreneurial intention models, together with practical benefits for policymakers and educators in fostering entrepreneurial intention more effectively and contextually.

Research Methods

This study was designed as a systematic literature review, with reporting procedures following the PRISMA 2020 statement (Page et al., 2021), a standard framework that organizes every step from retrieval to reporting. This protocol was selected for its capacity to maintain procedural transparency while enabling replication by other researchers. The review focused on the entrepreneurial intention construct together with the range of factors that shape it. Scopus served as the single data source, chosen primarily for the selectivity of its indexing process and the breadth of high-quality journals it covers. The search string was constructed by combining the phrase “Entrepreneurial Intention” with the term “Influence” using the Boolean operator AND. The publication window was restricted to 2016–2026 in order to capture the most recent developments across a full decade. Article retrieval from Scopus was carried out in August 2026. Coverage for 2026 includes only articles indexed up to the month of retrieval; consequently, only one article was found for that year. This limited count indicates that 2026 publications remain sparse because the publication process is still ongoing and not all articles issued that year had been indexed in the database at the time of the search. The initial search returned 195 entries, which became the starting point for screening.

The article selection proceeded through four phases, summarized in Figure 1. The identification phase removed 41 entries before screening began, comprising 0 duplicates, 19 articles outside the 2016–2026 window flagged by automation tools, 22 articles published in non-quartile Scopus journals, and 0 articles without abstracts. The remaining 154 articles entered the screening stage, two of which were excluded, leaving 152 articles whose full texts were sought. Full texts for 82 articles could not be accessed, so 70 articles advanced to the eligibility assessment. The eligibility assessment retained all 70 articles without further exclusion, and this set constituted the final corpus for analysis. Searches through channels outside the database added no additional articles ($n = 0$). Article selection rested on a set of inclusion and exclusion criteria. An article was eligible for inclusion if it was published between 2016 and 2026, appeared in a Scopus-indexed journal ranked in quartiles Q1 to Q4, contained an adequate abstract, and clearly addressed entrepreneurial intention and its determinants. An article was excluded if it was a duplicate, fell outside the specified year range, originated from a journal without a Scopus quartile ranking, or deviated from the core topic. The detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria underlying article selection are presented in Table 1.

Figure 1
PRISMA flow diagram of the article selection process

Prisma Reporting: Entrepreneurial Intention

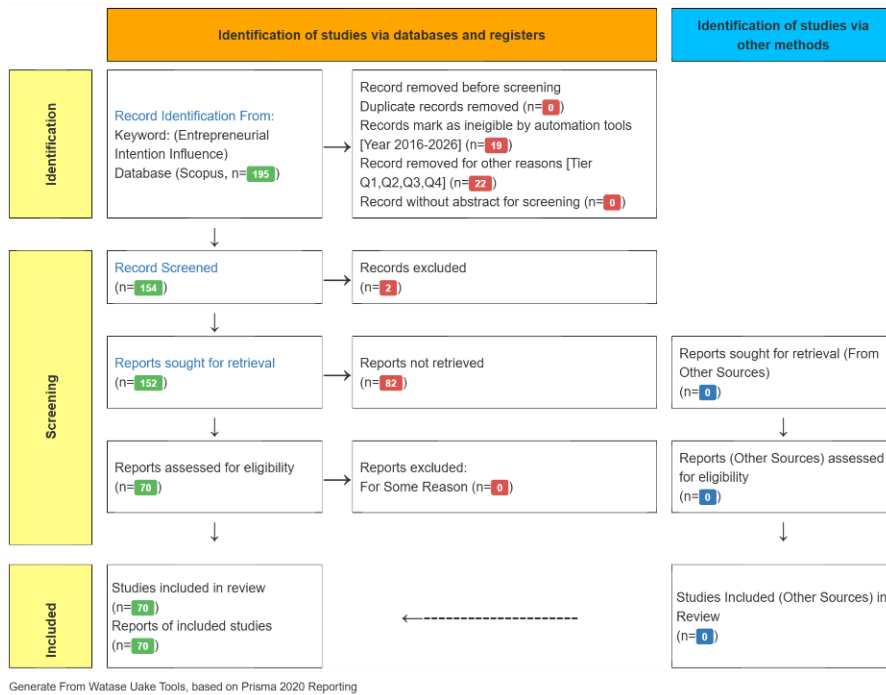


Table 1
Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for Article Selection

Aspect	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Year range	Published between 2016 and 2026	Published outside the 2016–2026 range
Source and indexing	Published in a Scopus-indexed journal ranked Q1 to Q4	Sourced from a journal without a Scopus quartile ranking
Manuscript completeness	Contains an adequate abstract and an accessible full text	Lacks an abstract, or the full text is inaccessible
Topical relevance	Clearly addresses entrepreneurial intention and its determinants	Deviates from the core topic of entrepreneurial intention
Entry status	A single entry that is not a duplicate	A duplicate entry

The retrieval and documentation of the selection flow were supported by the Watase Uake application, accessible at <https://watase.web.id/> (Watase Uake, 2024). The application generated the PRISMA diagram, grouped articles into categories, and visualized the selection flow. Its role was supportive rather than a substitute for the authors' authority in deciding article eligibility; judgment and interpretation of each article remained with the authors to preserve the quality and traceability of the results. The study combined two complementary analytical approaches: descriptive bibliometric mapping and a systematic literature review with qualitative thematic analysis. Descriptive bibliometric mapping was used to depict the distribution of publication years, the geographic origin of studies, journal quality by Scopus quartile, and keyword frequency, whereas qualitative thematic analysis was used to synthesize the theoretical foundations, antecedents, contexts, and methods across articles. Qualitative thematic analysis was applied to all 70 selected articles. The authors examined each article in full and extracted information on its theoretical foundation, antecedents, contextual setting, and methodological design into a uniform data-

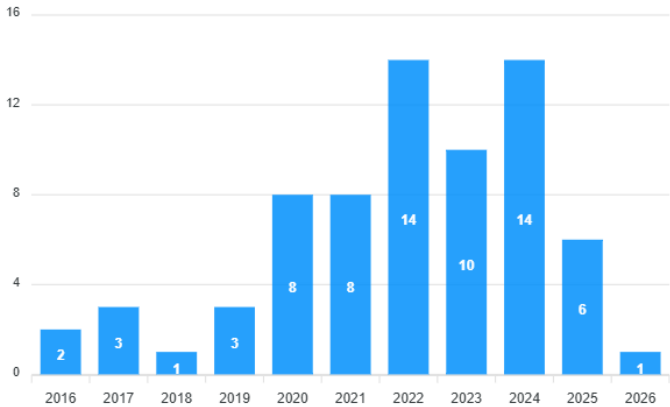
extraction sheet. Thematic coding proceeded in stages, beginning with open coding of each article's information, followed by grouping similar codes into categories, and culminating in the identification of themes recurring across articles. To safeguard interpretive reliability, the coding results were reviewed periodically through consistent comparison of codes across different articles, so that the resulting themes did not depend on momentary interpretation. The consolidated themes were oriented toward producing a holistic picture of the tendencies and foci of entrepreneurial intention research over the past decade. Tests of normality, heteroscedasticity, and autocorrelation were not relevant to this study, because it employs a systematic literature review approach with thematic analysis of textual literature rather than the testing of numerical data that would require such statistical assumptions.

Results and Discussion

Research Results

The systematic search yielded 70 selected articles for analysis. The presentation of findings begins with a bibliometric mapping of the distribution across years, regions, and journal quality, followed by a thematic synthesis of keywords and the theoretical frameworks employed. This mapping aims to depict the landscape of entrepreneurial intention research over the past decade comprehensively. The distribution of publication years reveals a rising trend of attention to entrepreneurial intention throughout 2016 to 2026. The year 2016 contained only 2 articles, gradually increasing to 3 articles in 2017, 1 article in 2018, and 3 articles in 2019. The subsequent period showed a sharper increase, with 8 articles each in 2020 and 2021. Publications peaked in 2022 and 2024 with 14 articles each, while 2023 contained 10 articles, 2025 contained 6 articles, and 2026 contained only 1 article because the year was still in progress. This pattern signals growing academic interest in entrepreneurial intention during the second half of the decade. Figure 2 presents the distribution of articles by publication year.

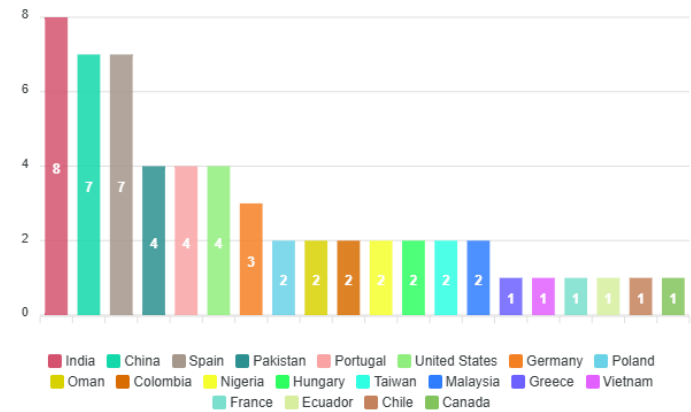
Figure 2
Distribution of articles by publication year
Yearly Article



The geographic distribution shows the dominance of the Asian region alongside representation from developed countries in entrepreneurial intention research. India occupied the top position with 8 articles, followed by China and Spain with 7 articles each. Pakistan, Portugal, and the United States each contributed 4 articles, while Germany contributed 3. Several other countries Poland, Oman, Colombia, Nigeria, Hungary, Taiwan, and Malaysia contributed 2 articles each, whereas Greece, Vietnam, France, Ecuador, Chile, and Canada were each represented by 1 article. Research in developing countries frequently highlights the influence of entrepreneurship

education, motivation, and the institutional environment, whereas research in developed countries places greater emphasis on psychological and individual factors. Figure 3 displays the distribution of articles by country of origin.

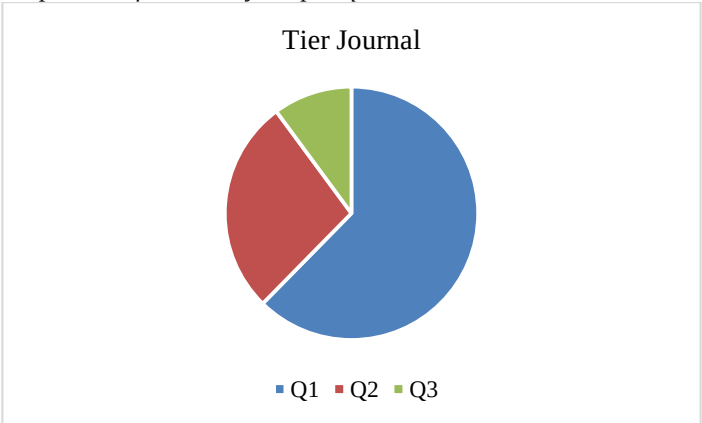
Figure 3
Distribution of articles by country of study origin
Country Classification



Socioeconomic context appears to shape the focus of entrepreneurial intention research. Studies in developing countries often emphasize the role of education, institutional support, and cultural factors in fostering entrepreneurship, whereas studies in developed countries lean more toward individual psychological factors such as entrepreneurial self-efficacy, psychological ownership, and entrepreneurial orientation. This difference in emphasis opens opportunities for cross-cultural research using longitudinal designs and mixed methods to capture the dynamics of how intention changes over time.

The quality of the source articles was high according to the Scopus quartile classification. Articles from Q1 journals dominated with 43 articles, or 62.3 percent, followed by Q2 journals with 19 articles (27.5 percent) and Q3 journals with 7 articles (10.1 percent), with no articles from Q4 journals. Figure 4 presents the proportion of articles by Scopus quartile. The dominance of Q1 journals indicates that entrepreneurial intention is a dynamic field that attracts interest in highly reputable outlets. Most articles applied quantitative methods, particularly Structural Equation Modeling and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling, to explain complex relationships among variables.

Figure 4
Proportion of articles by Scopus quartile



The keyword mapping reveals a thematic structure centered on internal-individual factors and the context of entrepreneurship education. The terms “entrepreneurial intention” and “entrepreneurship education” appeared most dominantly, while the Theory of Planned Behavior and its elements attitude, subjective norm, and behavioral control as represented by self-efficacy formed a consistent theoretical foundation. Figure 5 presents the keyword map as a word cloud. Students emerged as the most common research population, with entrepreneurship education positioned as an intervention that influences psychological factors such as self-efficacy, passion, and attitude in order to enhance entrepreneurial intention.

Figure 5
Keyword map of the articles (word cloud)



Regional keywords such as India, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia signaled substantial attention to entrepreneurship development in developing and emerging economies. Variants of intention social, green, digital, and sustainable entrepreneurship also stood out as research responses to the sustainable-development agenda and digital transformation. This pattern reflects a priority on understanding the psychological mechanisms that form intention as well as the effectiveness of educational interventions across diverse cultural and economic contexts. The scarcity of keywords addressing ecosystem factors, such as institutional support and financial access, implies room that remains open for bridging intention toward concrete action.

The classification of theories confirms the Theory of Planned Behavior as the most dominant framework in entrepreneurial intention research. The theory explains intention through three main constructs: attitude toward the behavior, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control. Its application is widely found in higher-education contexts and student populations across countries. Social Cognitive Theory emerges as a complementary framework emphasizing social learning and self-belief, particularly in developing countries. The dominance of the Theory of Planned Behavior opens a need for enrichment through moderating and mediating variables, the integration of other theories, and attention to the contexts of the COVID-19 pandemic, digitalization, and sustainability in order to address contemporary challenges.

The synthesis across these five dimensions portrays a field of entrepreneurial intention that is developing rapidly, rests on classical frameworks, and expands toward contemporary issues. Research remains dominated by the Theory of Planned Behavior and individual psychological factors, while ecosystem support, the transition from intention to action, and the digital and sustainability contexts constitute spaces that demand deeper inquiry. Future directions point toward cross-cultural studies, longitudinal designs, and the integration of complementary theories to address the challenge of sustainable venture creation.

Discussion

The first finding shows a surge in entrepreneurial intention publications peaking in 2022 and 2024 with 14 articles each. This upward pattern aligns with the review by Maheshwari et al. (2022), which recorded rapid growth in entrepreneurial intention research during the most recent period. The surge in the second half of the decade appears linked to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic and the acceleration of digital transformation, which stimulated academic interest in entrepreneurial career paths. This pattern complements the observation of Nyoko and Hanafiah (2024) that comprehensive syntheses of entrepreneurial intention remain rare, leaving the post-pandemic publication surge incompletely mapped. Differences in temporal coverage are the primary explanation, since some earlier reviews concluded before the period of digital acceleration and thus did not capture the surge that emerged only after 2020.

The second finding reveals the dominance of the Asian region, with India as the largest contributor of articles, followed by China and Spain. This finding reinforces the observation of Maheshwari et al. (2022) regarding the concentration of entrepreneurial intention research in Asia and the prominent representation of developing countries. The high contribution of developing countries relates to the pressure of youth unemployment and economic-development needs that position entrepreneurship as a policy solution. This composition differs from classical frameworks that are rooted in and largely tested within North American and Western European contexts. The difference stems from a shift in the locus of research, as classical frameworks are now frequently tested in developing countries to assess their applicability across differing sociocultural contexts (Karan et al., 2023; Ma et al., 2025).

The third finding confirms the high quality of the corpus, evident in the dominance of Q1 journals with 43 articles (62.3 percent) and the absence of Q4 articles. This finding indicates that entrepreneurial intention has become an established field reaching highly reputable outlets, as also seen in the synthesis by Tsou et al. (2023), which appeared in a strongly indexed journal. The high proportion of Q1 articles also relates to the complexity of the methods used, particularly Structural Equation Modeling and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling, which demand rigorous reporting standards. This composition differs from some systematic literature reviews that accommodate articles across quartiles more loosely (Nyoko & Hanafiah, 2024). The difference originates from the inclusion criteria, since this study restricted its sources to Scopus-indexed journals in quartiles Q1 to Q3, thereby filtering out low-quality articles from the outset.

The fourth finding shows a thematic concentration on internal-individual factors and the context of entrepreneurship education, with entrepreneurial self-efficacy as a repeatedly examined antecedent. This finding aligns with the review by Newman et al. (2019), which positions entrepreneurial self-efficacy as a consistent predictor across contexts. The concentration on internal-individual factors also appears in the review by Hueso et al. (2021), which traced the pathway from personal values to entrepreneurial intention, while the centrality of entrepreneurship education reinforces the finding of Selvan et al. (2025) regarding its role as both a moderator and a trigger of self-efficacy. The keyword mapping in this study adds a new nuance in the scarcity of ecosystem-factor terms, such as institutional support and financial access, which differs from the emphasis in some recent literature on the importance of the institutional environment and university support systems in shaping entrepreneurial intention (Bazan et al., 2020). This difference stems from the unit of analysis, as most selected articles focus on the individual level, leaving macro-level ecosystem factors underrepresented in the keywords.

The fifth finding confirms the Theory of Planned Behavior as the most dominant theoretical framework, with Social Cognitive Theory as a complement. This dominance aligns with the conclusion of Maheshwari et al. (2022), which positions the Theory of Planned Behavior as the principal foundation of entrepreneurial intention research. The framework explains intention through attitude, subjective norm, and behavioral control, and remains the most widely adopted model because of the simplicity of its constructs and its adaptability across cultures (Maheshwari et al., 2022). This dominance simultaneously implies a limitation, since the focus on the antecedents of intention has not addressed the intention–action gap emphasized by Tsou et al. (2023). This difference in emphasis stems from research design, as most selected articles are cross-sectional and

treat intention as the final outcome, whereas demonstrating the transition from intention to action requires longitudinal designs that remain rarely applied (Kong et al., 2020).

The sixth finding reveals the emergence of contemporary themes social, green, digital, and sustainable entrepreneurship as a new direction in the second half of the decade. Their emergence aligns with research responses to the sustainable-development agenda and digital transformation, which recent studies also highlight (Cardella et al., 2024; Garcez et al., 2023). This thematic expansion marks a shift from generic entrepreneurial intention toward intention variants laden with social and environmental value. This condition differs from the early-decade corpus, which was still dominated by conventional entrepreneurial intention without differentiation of types. The difference is driven by global contextual dynamics, since sustainability and digitalization issues intensified significantly only after the mid-decade, thereby shaping the research foci of articles published during that period. To deepen these six findings, an examination of all 70 articles that passed the screening reveals a richer distribution of discussion than the initial recapitulation suggested. Presenting this distribution is important so that the discussion does not rest on a small number of articles but instead reflects the diversity of contexts, populations, and approaches assembled in the corpus.

In the developing-country context, India stands out as the most productive research locus, with studies highlighting the influence of entrepreneurship education, motivation, and the institutional environment on entrepreneurial intention (Karan et al., 2023; Chahal et al., 2023; Bharti et al., 2024; Katyal et al., 2024). China occupies the next position through studies on student populations that emphasize cultural and psychological factors such as self-efficacy and proactive personality (Wang et al., 2022; Chen, 2024; Ma et al., 2025; Liao et al., 2022). Pakistan features research exploring the role of gender, university support, and green entrepreneurship (Murad et al., 2024; Li et al., 2023; Khan et al., 2021), while Indonesia contributes through studies on social and psychological capital in forming entrepreneurial intention (Mahfud et al., 2020). This pattern confirms that in developing-country contexts, research emphasis is largely directed toward education, institutional support, and cultural factors as drivers of entrepreneurship, consistent with youth-unemployment pressures and economic-development needs.

In the developed-country context, research emphasis tends to shift toward psychological and individual factors. Studies in the United States concentrate on psychological ownership and entrepreneurial self-efficacy (Hamrick et al., 2024; Heinemann et al., 2022; McSweeney et al., 2022); Spain links national culture, entrepreneurship education, and entrepreneurial intention (Barrero et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2023; Cardella et al., 2024); and Germany examines gender stereotypes and individual entrepreneurial orientation (Kruse & Marquardt, 2025; Thomas, 2022). This difference in emphasis between developing and developed countries underscores the importance of the socioeconomic context in shaping entrepreneurial intention, while also showing that research in developing countries frequently draws on theoretical and methodological frameworks developed in advanced economies, particularly the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991).

In terms of antecedent themes, the corpus demonstrates the consistent role of internal-individual factors alongside an expansion toward new intention variants. Personality and individual traits are examined through proactive personality, narcissism, and the dark triad (Chen, 2024; Lee et al., 2023; Do & Dadvari, 2017; Laouiti et al., 2022), while the roles of passion, creativity, and curiosity are also tested as triggers of intention (Bignetti et al., 2021; Katyal et al., 2024; Heinemann et al., 2022). At the same time, the variants of social, green, digital, and sustainable entrepreneurial intention increasingly stand out as responses to the sustainable-development agenda and digital transformation (Peng et al., 2021; Sobczak et al., 2025; Abdelfattah et al., 2022; Shi et al., 2022; Lopes et al., 2023; Kanth & Sinha, 2025). The emergence of these themes reinforces the sixth finding that the research focus is moving from generic entrepreneurial intention toward intention laden with social and environmental value.

The role of family and the social environment is also recorded as a recurring antecedent, encompassing family business background, family social capital, and the influence of role models and parents (Szabo & Aranyossy, 2024; Elias, 2024; Wang et al., 2017; Douglas et al., 2024; Choukir et al., 2019). Regarding contextual and institutional factors, university support, entrepreneurship mentoring programs, and a supportive institutional environment are positioned as important drivers

of entrepreneurial intention (Murad et al., 2024; Liao et al., 2022; Shabbir & Pallares-Venegas, 2024; Olarewaju et al., 2022). This broad distribution of antecedents confirms that the corpus rests not only on core psychological constructs but also extends to family, social, and institutional factors, even though ecosystem keywords still appear relatively infrequently.

In terms of methods, most articles applied quantitative approaches using Structural Equation Modeling and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling to explain complex relationships among variables (Wang et al., 2017; Karan et al., 2023; Abdelfattah et al., 2022). Some studies employed multi-wave survey designs or added moderation and mediation analyses to test the mechanisms of intention formation (Hamrick et al., 2024; Elias, 2024; Ma et al., 2025). The dominance of cross-sectional designs simultaneously underscores the limitation noted earlier, namely the still-limited use of longitudinal designs to demonstrate the transition from intention to concrete action (Kong et al., 2020). Overall, this comprehensive examination of 70 articles reinforces the six main findings while showing that the knowledge map of entrepreneurial intention rests on classical frameworks, expands toward contemporary issues, and leaves room for deeper inquiry into ecosystem factors and cross-cultural longitudinal designs.

Conclusion

This systematic literature review maps the development of entrepreneurial intention research across 70 Scopus-indexed articles published between 2016 and 2026. The mapping shows a sharply rising publication trend in the second half of the decade, peaking in 2022 and 2024. The geographic distribution positions the Asian region as the largest contributor of articles, with India, China, and Spain leading the research contribution. The Theory of Planned Behavior dominates the theoretical foundation of the studies, while Social Cognitive Theory complements it through its emphasis on social learning and self-belief. Entrepreneurial self-efficacy and entrepreneurship education emerge as the most consistently examined antecedents across contexts. Contemporary themes such as social, green, digital, and sustainable entrepreneurship mark a new research direction in the most recent period. These findings offer a theoretical implication in the form of an organized knowledge map for developing entrepreneurial intention models. Policymakers and educators gain a practical implication in the reaffirmation of entrepreneurship education as a strategic intervention for fostering entrepreneurial intention. This study leaves several limitations that readers should note. The use of Scopus as a single source may exclude relevant articles from other databases such as Web of Science and Google Scholar. Restricting keywords to the phrase entrepreneurial intention combined with the term influence narrowed the range of articles captured. The qualitative thematic analysis, which rests on the authors' interpretation, introduces room for subjectivity in theme grouping. A fourth limitation concerns full-text access, as 82 articles, or 53.9 percent of the 152 articles whose full texts were sought, could not be fully accessed; this unavailability may affect the completeness and representativeness of the thematic analysis, since relevant information may reside in full texts that could not be examined. Future research should broaden database coverage, enrich the keyword set, secure more adequate full-text access, and integrate quantitative bibliometric analysis to strengthen the reliability of the findings.

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