



Evolution of Social Entrepreneurship: A Bibliometric Investigation

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Abstract

The phenomenon of social entrepreneurship is gaining salient popularity in academic research. Ironically, research studies on the evolving patterns of social entrepreneurship remain far less focused. The overriding aim of this study is to uncover the evolving patterns of social entrepreneurship between 2005-2022 using bibliometric analyses. For this purpose, three combinations of the keywords were merged with logical operators, “TITLE-ABS-KEY (“social entrepreneurship”) OR TITLE-ABSKEY (“social entrepreneur”) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (“social business”), thus making the span broader. A total of 867 documents from the Scopus database are analysed. Furthermore, this study performed a combined temporal analysis of co-citation and keyword co-occurrence using Bibliometrix R-package and VOSviewer software. Seven leading research clusters are revealed: *social entrepreneurship orientation, social innovation, crowdfunding, social capital, embracing solutions-driven innovation, collaborative dynamic, and entrepreneurial shared value*. Besides, future research areas are explored from the VOSviewer visualisation. It is found from the growing number of keywords in the literature that impact investing, social innovation, entrepreneurial identity, female entrepreneurship, social value co-creation, and social entrepreneurial intention have potential literature gaps. The analysis revealed that social entrepreneurship is still an emerging concept, and this review aims to aid contemporary scholars by providing an overview of the status quo of the domain.

Keywords: Social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurs, bibliometric analysis, entrepreneurship

