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POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is a global issue getting gaining attention from countries worldwide. Previous scholars have acknowledged that entrepreneurship is a solution to poverty alleviation. Since related discussions such as poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities remain fragmented, this study aims to explore the factors associated with the role of entrepreneurship in alleviating poverty and the position of education factor in this issue. Data in the present study were collected in the Web of Science (WoS) database and were compiled based on the year-published papers from 2017 until 2022. Out of 1279 papers found in the database, the final papers which were analyzed were 86 papers. The researcher used PRISMA to analyze the collected data. This study found twenty-nine research factors related to entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation. Based on past studies, financial support, women entrepreneurs, and policies were the most often discussed factors. At the same time, the education factor was rarely explored in poverty alleviation. This study's result helps explain the fragmentation of the role of entrepreneurial activity in poverty alleviation and enriches the business literature on poverty alleviation. In addition, the policymakers can adopt the relevant ways to alleviate poverty based on the best ways which had been implemented previously. Future researchers can utilize the findings of the present study to determine the research factors rarely explored in previous papers.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Poverty, Poverty Alleviation, Poverty Reduction



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INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a critical issue gaining attention from countries worldwide. Even if several parties have attempted to solve it, the number of those living in poverty does not necessarily decrease annually. Instead, it increased because of the pandemic. According to the data, in 2015, 10.1% of the world's population lived in poverty; by 2017, that number had decreased to 9.2%. However, in 2020, due to Coronavirus-19 or Covid-19, the poverty rate increased and was recorded as 9.4 percent. It was measured based on the worldwide poverty standard of \$1.9 per day (Worldbank.org, 2020). In addition, based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by The United Nations (UN), poverty is the first of seventeen issues that must be addressed in the world (un.org, 2022). This condition needs attention from various parties to solve this problem.

Scholars have acknowledged that poverty is a complex issue. It is related not only to the economic topic but also to political, social, and cultural (Karnani, 2017), educational (Alkire & Santos, 2014; Ari et al., 2021; Shepherd et al., 2021), healthy and psychological topic (Hair et al., 2015; Shepherd et al., 2021). In addition, according to Sutter et al. (2019), researchers and scholars in social science, from economics and finance to management and entrepreneurship, consider poverty the core issue.

Entrepreneurship is one of the tools to address poverty and is considered a way to generate income. Some previous studies have discussed solving poverty through entrepreneurship (Bruton et al., 2015; Goel & Karri, 2020; Shepherd et al., 2021). According to Dhahri and Omri (2018), entrepreneurship is a vehicle to increase income for people involved in entrepreneurial activities, and through entrepreneurial activities, poverty issues can be addressed (Wu & Si, 2018). Entrepreneurship drives economic development and creates employment opportunities (Susilaningsih et al., 2022). Entrepreneurship also changes people's mindsets from passive to active (Si et al., 2015, 2020).

However, the discussion about the role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation remains fragmented (Sutter et al., 2019). In addition, the previous studies view the role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation differently (Bruton et al., 2015; Sutter et al., 2019). Some researchers discuss women entrepreneurs (Katre, 2018; Lent, 2019; Semkunde et al., 2022; Seshie-Nasser & Oduro, 2018), financial support (Agarwala et al., 2022; Ajide, 2020; Bhuiyan & Ivlevs, 2019; Bruton et al., 2021; Doering & Wry, 2022; Garrity & Martin, 2018), entrepreneurial ecosystem (Mafimisebi & Ogunsade, 2021; Smith et al., 2019; Zhao et al., 2021), social entrepreneurship (Claeyé et al., 2022; Mouraviev & Kakabadse, 2022; Mungaray-Lagarda et al., 2020), innovation (Borchardt et al., 2022; Nakara et al., 2021; Slade Shantz et al., 2018), etc. Moreover, according to Filser et al. (2020), entrepreneurs and scholars who desire to understand how entrepreneurial activity performs and how it might be developed are confronted with various complex literature. In addition, based on the researcher's knowledge, no previous research summarizes the whole discussion of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation. Accordingly, the finding of this research summarizing previous research related the discussion about poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities will become novelty, especially within time 2017 until 2022.

The present study covers four aims. First, this study aims to answer fragmentations of the discussion that entrepreneurship is a tool to alleviate poverty. Second, this study aims to provide information on why those factors are essential to discuss entrepreneurship's role in poverty alleviation. Third, this study provides knowledge concerning the top three related to the factors on poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship. Fourth, this study explains the position of education on poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities. This research addresses these issues by identifying and analyzing articles published over the last six years. These pieces of information from this research are important because they can be utilized to expand the scope of entrepreneurship literature to reduce poverty and address the fragmentation issue related to the role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation. In addition, the result of this study can guide policymakers in adopting the best ways to alleviate poverty.

The structure of this paper was written in five sections. Section 1 provides the introduction. Section 2 describes the



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methodology and detail of the review process. Whereas Section 3 provides the results of the study. Section 4 describes the discussion. Lastly, Section 5 includes the study's conclusion and recommendations for future research.

METHODOLOGY

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To be included in this research, the articles must meet five criterias. Criterias aim to filter and keep the quality of articles that would be analyzed. First, the year of papers is published in the last six years, starting from 2017 until 2022. This criterion aims to keep the updated growth of the research related to this issue. Second, the paper must be in article form. Papers published in proceedings and books are excluded. Third, the field categories are business, economics, and management. Fourth, all articles must be written in English. Fifth, the impact scores of the journals publishing articles. For this criterion, the researcher determines the journals' impact score of at least 1,00. After filtering the article collection process based on the criteria, the researcher read articles containing the title and abstract one by one. It was intended to ensure that all of the papers collected were relevant to the topic. In contrast, the articles that do not meet the criteria are excluded from the analysis process.

Data Source and Strategy

This study followed Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) strategy. PRISMA is a guideline intended to assist writers in preparing a comprehensive report on their systematic review (Page et al., 2021). Figure 1 shows the selection of articles used in this article. In order to get the papers, this study utilizes the Web of Science (Wos) database. According to the topic of this research, the researcher employs the keywords "Entrepreneurship" AND "Poverty." All of the articles are identified according to inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Study Selection

Based on the keywords "Entrepreneurship" AND "Poverty" used in this research, the researcher found 1,279 articles. Using the first criterion: which is the year of publishing from 2017 to 2022, the researcher found 650 papers. The following criterion is that a paper must be in article form. This process resulted in 494 articles. The criterion is continued by business, economics, and management field categories. According to this criterion, the researcher found 210 articles. The following criterion is that the articles must be written in English, which results in 200 articles. In addition, the following criterion is the impact scores of the journals publishing articles. The articles included in this research have met the impact score of at least 1,00. According to this criterion, the researcher finds 128 articles. Based on 128 articles collected, the researcher read every title and abstract. The goal of reading each article's title and abstract is to check that all of the gathered papers are relevant to the issue. Based on this phase, the researcher takes 86 of the most relevant articles for in-depth analysis.



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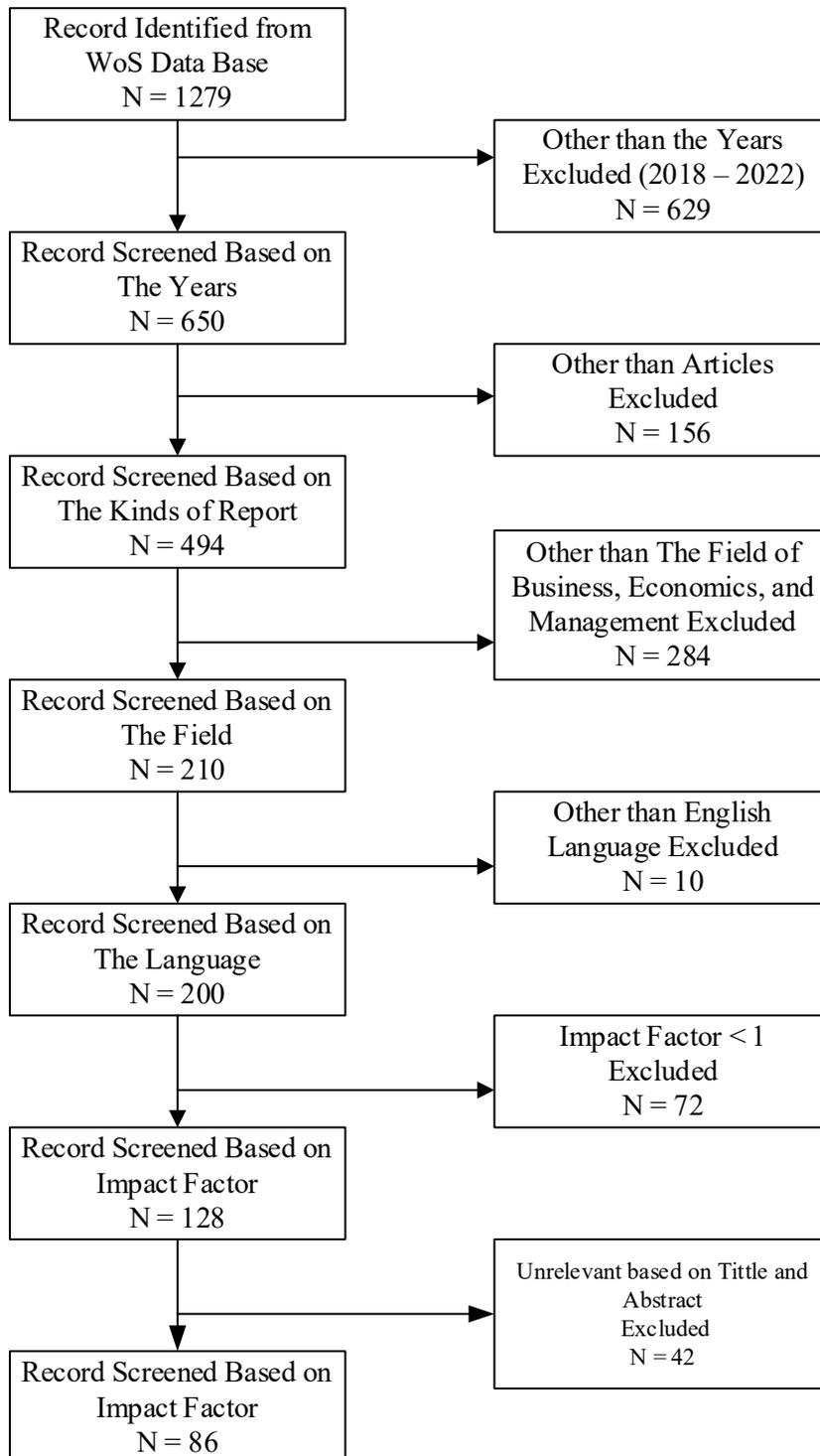


Figure 1. The Flow Diagram of Study Selection



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RESULTS

The following table shows detailed articles presenting the research factors on poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship.

Table 1

Distribution of Research Factors about Poverty Alleviation Through Entrepreneurship

No	The Research Factors	References
1	Entrepreneurial Opportunity	(Amorós et al., 2019, 2021)
2	Entrepreneurial Policies	(Aparicio et al., 2021; Blankson & Nukpezah, 2019; He, 2019; Madzivhandila & Musara, 2020; Santos & Neumeyer, 2021; Saridakis et al., 2021; Smith et al., 2019; Solomon et al., 2022)
3	Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	(He, 2019; Mafimisebi & Ogunsade, 2021; Smith et al., 2019; Vickerie et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2021)
4	Women Entrepreneurs (Gender)	(Ajefu, 2019; Apata, 2019; Chakraborty & Biswal, 2022; Dutta & Mallick, 2018; Katre, 2018; Lent, 2019; Nziku & Henry, 2021; Santos & Neumeyer, 2021; Semkunde et al., 2022; Seshie-Nasser & Oduro, 2018)
5	Business Implementation	(Asongu & Odhiambo, 2019)
6	Economic Development	(Amorós et al., 2019)
7	Education	(Naminse et al., 2018)
8	Empowerment	(Morris et al., 2020; Morris et al., 2018)
9	Entrepreneurial Competencies	(Al Mamun et al., 2019)
10	Entreprise Diversification	(McElwee & Wood, 2017)
11	Environment	(Semkunde et al., 2022)
12	Ethical	(Karanda & Toledano,



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No	The Research Factors	References
13	Entrepreneurship Financial Support	2018) (Agarwala et al., 2022; Ajide, 2020; Awuh & Dekker, 2021; Bhuiyan & Ivlevs, 2019; Bruton et al., 2021; Churchill & Appau, 2019; Doering & Wry, 2022; Garrity & Martin, 2018; Packard & Bylund, 2018; Rokhim et al., 2021; G. Santos et al., 2018)
14	Formal and Informal Entrepreneurship	(Luiz & Guchu, 2022; Nziku & Henry, 2021)
15	Digital Entrepreneurship	(He, 2019)
16	Health	(Xiao & Wu, 2021)
17	Innovation	(Borchardt et al., 2022; Nakara et al., 2021; Slade Shantz et al., 2018)
18	Issues Facing By The Poor	(Morris et al., 2022)
19	Marketing Strategy	(Blankson et al., 2017)
20	Motivation	(Bango et al., 2018; Dong et al., 2021; Kah et al., 2020)
21	Necessity Based Entrepreneurship	(Amorós et al., 2019; Dencker et al., 2021; Mohan et al., 2019)
22	Opportunity Based Entrepreneurship	(Amorós et al., 2019, 2021; Mohan et al., 2019)
23	Previous Experience	(Katre, 2018; Xiao & Wu, 2021)
24	Regional Characteristic	(Sohns & Revilla Diez, 2018)
25	Resources	(Cheng et al., 2021; König et al., 2022; Naminse et al., 2018)
26	Social Entrepreneurship	(Anderson et al., 2019; Claeyé et al., 2022; Imbert et al., 2019; MacDonald & Howorth, 2018; Mouraviev &Kakabadse, 2022; Mungaray-Lagarda et al., 2020; Pal & Altay, 2019)
27	Socio-Cultural	(Katre, 2018; Naminse et al., 2018)



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No	The Research Factors	References
28	State Fragility	(Amorós et al., 2019)
29	Training	(Barrera, 2018; Efobi & Orkoh, 2018)
30	Transitional Entrepreneurship	(Pidduck & Clark, 2021)

According to the journal resources, the following table shows the journals that have published the articles analyzed in this study.

Table 2
Journals Publishing on Poverty Alleviation Through Entrepreneurship

No	The Journal Resources	Percentage
1	Journal of Business Research	1%
2	Management Decision	1%
3	FIIB Business Review	1%
4	China Economic Review	1%
5	Entrepreneurship Research Journal	1%
6	Journal of Financial Economic Policy	1%
7	Local Economy	1%
8	Journal of Services Marketing	1%
9	Academy of Management Review	1%
10	International Journal of Entrepreneurship And Innovation	1%
11	Administrative Sciences	1%
12	Review of Economics of The Household	1%
13	South African Journal of Business Management	1%
14	Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal	1%
15	Kyklos	1%
16	Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy	1%
17	Management Research Review	1%
18	Journal of Development Economics	1%
19	Society and Business Review	1%
20	Intangible Capital	1%
21	International Journal of Innovation	1%
22	Journal of Business Logistics	1%
23	Journal of Research in Marketing and Entrepreneurship	1%
24	Global Business Review	1%
25	International Journal of Bank Marketing	1%
26	Industrial Marketing Management	1%
27	Journal of Macromarketing	1%
28	Chinese Management Studies	1%
29	Economies	1%
30	Journal of Evolutionary Economics	1%



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No	The Journal Resources	Percentage
31	International Journal of Value Chain Management	1%
32	European Business Review	1%
33	Energy Economics	2%
34	Journal of African Business	2%
35	African Journal of Economic and Management Studies	2%
36	Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development	2%
37	Social Enterprise Journal	2%
38	International Business Review	2%
39	Business Horizons	3%
40	International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship	3%
41	Journal of Small Business Management	3%
42	Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice	3%
43	Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies	3%
44	Africa Journal of Management	3%
45	Applied Economics	3%
46	Journal of Business Venturing	6%
47	Small Business Economics	6%
48	Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship	13%

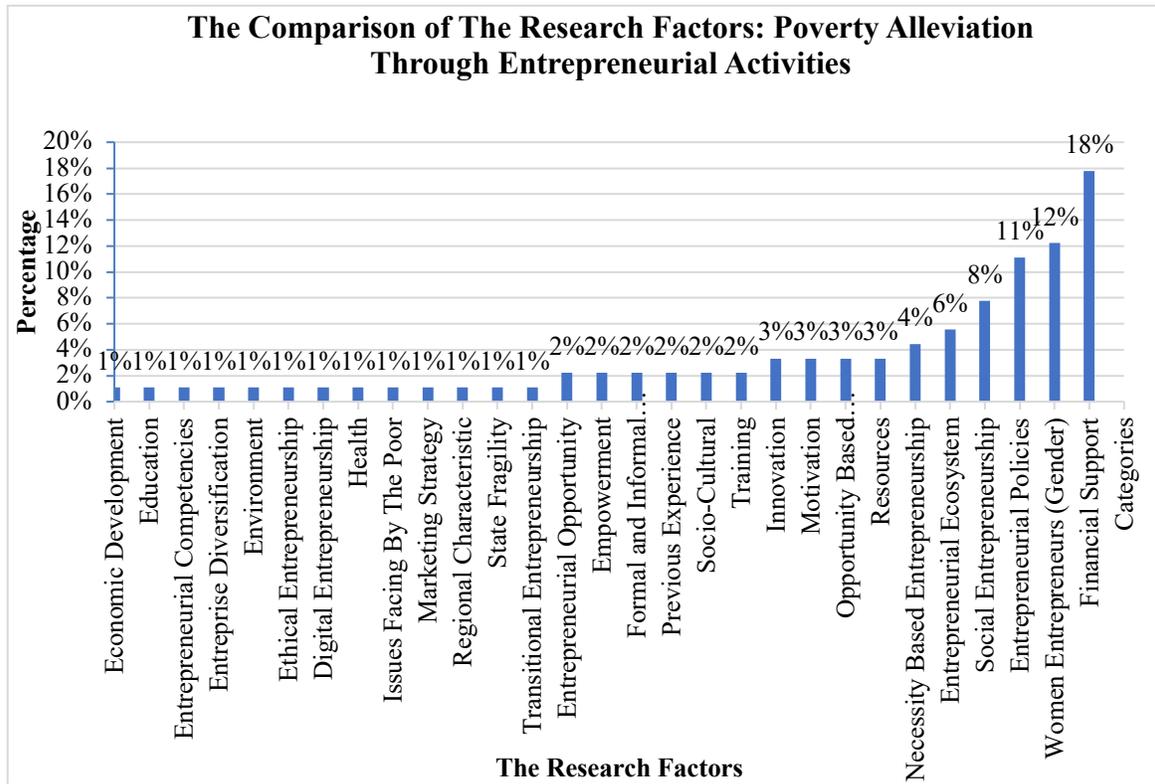
Based on the analysis of the present study, the top 3 journals publishing the relevant topic related to poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship were the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship (13%), Small Business Economics (6%), and Journal of Business Venturing (6%).

The following chart compares factors discussing poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship based on 86 articles collected from the WoS (Web of Science) database from 2017 until 2022.



Figure 1

The Comparison Research Factors of Poverty Alleviation Through Entrepreneurial Activities



Based on the findings of the present study, there are 29 research factors related to the role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation. The top three research factors are financial support (18%), women entrepreneurs (12%), and entrepreneurial policies (11%). Then, it is followed by social entrepreneurship (8%), entrepreneurial ecosystem (6%), necessity-based entrepreneurship (4%), resources, opportunity based-entrepreneurship, motivation, and innovation (3%). Meanwhile, for training (2%), there are social culture, previous experiences, formal and informal entrepreneurship, empowerment, and entrepreneurial opportunity. Lastly, this research has found only 1% for transitional entrepreneurship, state fragility, regional characteristics, marketing strategy, issues faced by the poor, health, digital entrepreneurship, ethical entrepreneurship, environment, enterprise diversification, education, and economic development.

DISCUSSION

The present study has found twenty-nine factors related to entrepreneurship's role in poverty alleviation, which starts from the most factors discussed in this issue, such as financial support, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial policies, to the least ones, such as economic development, education, and entrepreneurial competencies. These results shed light on the issue that poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities remains fragmented (Sutter et al., 2019). In addition, the result also shows the complexity of the poverty issue. As Si et al. (2020) explain, poverty is related to economic and other issues.

Consequently, addressing poverty requires cooperation from all parties, and every party has a different role in addressing this issue. Nevertheless, the role of internal factors from people living in poverty is no less critical, such as motivation and innovation. Internal factors such as motivation (Linna, 2013) and innovation (Baker & Nelson,



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2005; Di Domenico et al., 2010) encourage people to start a business, even though they have limited resources. Furthermore, the collaboration between internal and external actors is needed to address poverty. According to Khavul (2017), based on this interaction, external actors might have access to the local knowledge and expertise required to find possibilities in a new market. Additionally, internal actors have access to resources such as value chain and technological skills provided. This process generates a win-win situation for all parties concerned.

In addition, the top three research topics related to the role of entrepreneurship in alleviating poverty are financial support, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial policies. This discussion will explore why these elements are considered significant by academics and what their studies have covered. Furthermore, the last discussion also covers the position of the education factor in poverty alleviation.

Financial Support

Based on the findings of the present study, financial support is the most popular research topic related to entrepreneurship's role in alleviating poverty. There are some reasons why financial support is crucial for conducting the entrepreneurial activity. First, financial support is a critical issue for a business. It is one of the most significant barriers to entrepreneurial activity since they need capital to launch and build businesses (Ajide, 2020). Second, people with much financial support have a better chance of starting a business than those without (Blanchflower et al., 2001). People with higher access to financial resources have more opportunities perceived and exploited to become a venture (Lloyd-Evans, 2008; Simeh, 2011), even though not all opportunities perceived will be exploited to become a venture (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). One of the actions to exploit opportunities perceived to become a venture is gathering resources (Kuckertz et al., 2017), and financial support is a crucial resource in creating a venture (Kuckertz et al., 2017; Lassalle & McElwee, 2016). However, financial constraints are the main issue for entrepreneurs (Ajide, 2020).

In addition, microfinance, financial inclusion, and international crowdfunding are sub-factors related to financial support. *Microfinance* has historically been a crucial resource for entrepreneurs in developing countries seeking access to cash to launch their businesses. Microfinance provides small, non-collateralized micro loans to people wishing to launch entrepreneurial activities, particularly in rural areas (Jancenelle et al., 2018). Today, microfinance encompasses a variety of small-scale financial services and products, such as credit, savings, entrepreneur capacity building, insurance, and retirement plans (Souza et al., 2019). These services are made available for low-income families and people historically excluded from official borrowing and saving opportunities (Garikipati, 2017; Khavul, 2010). Micro-finance Institutions (MFIs) aim to produce social welfare, prosperity, and sustainability by accelerating financial development, eliminating poverty, and promoting economic growth through venture creation (Khavul, 2017; Souza et al., 2019).

Microfinance has been acknowledged as a tool to address livelihood and poverty issues (Awaworyi Churchill et al., 2021; Bhuiyan & Ivlevs, 2019). Especially for those from the disadvantaged economy, microfinance is crucial because it provides financial support for them to create and develop their venture (Doering & Wry, 2022). Entrepreneurs in developing countries rarely have access to conventional finance resources, such as bank loans, to launch their startups. Their lack of funds may commonly result in the loss of opportunities or even venture collapse (Jancenelle et al., 2018).

The existence of microfinance (MFIs) is intended for two purposes, one side is to help alleviate poverty, and one side is to increase product for SMEs. In Latin America, microfinance is focused more on product development than poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, the countries in South Asia are more focused on addressing poverty because poverty alleviation is their concern (Churchill & Appau, 2019). Most MFIs' clients are entrepreneurs who need financial support, and most live in rural areas (Souza et al., 2019). They are necessity entrepreneurs. Necessity entrepreneurs have an essential role in developing countries because their activities will result in income for individuals (Von Bloh et al., 2020) and lead to poverty alleviation (Doering & Wry, 2022).



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Even though microcredit has been regarded as a potential instrument for promoting livelihoods and reducing poverty (Bhuiyan & Ivlevs, 2019), its effectiveness remains a challenging topic for scholars (Churchill & Appau, 2019). Research related to these issues is still considered necessary. Furthermore, previous research paid different attention to the role of microcredit in poverty alleviation. Some scholars explore the performance of microcredit institutions (Churchill & Appau, 2019), lending strategy (Doering & Wry, 2022), financial security (Bhuiyan & Ivlevs, 2019), etc.

The next sub-factors are financial inclusion. Financial inclusion is a process involving people who lack formal financial services. Financial inclusion refers to a person's capacity to access and efficiently use standard financial services and products. Financial inclusion is more about the reverse of "financial exclusion"; it has a deeper significance (Adil & Jalil, 2020). Financial inclusion is a concept that includes all individuals in the financial system in such a method that they have access to equitable and efficient financial services, particularly low-income and financially disadvantaged individuals. Those involved in financial inclusion can access financial services, such as credit, insurance, remittance, and savings possibilities, which have been seen as vital generators of entrepreneurial activity (Ajide, 2020). This issue has emerged globally during the millennium era (Adil & Jalil, 2020).

Establishing financial inclusion in a nation may provide an immediate solution for the financial uncertainty encountered by every business. Financial inclusion can give appropriate financial services to micro businesses, impoverished farmers, and other low-income populations. It gives equal financial opportunity to all economic actors in an economy (Jiang et al., 2019). The main concern of financial inclusion is to facilitate economic growth. People involved in it can invest in education and business to open the way for poverty alleviation and economic development (Adil & Jalil, 2020).

In addition, financial inclusion can address poverty issues and inequality and support business startups (Ajide, 2020). Based on the research conducted by Ajide (2020), financial inclusion has a positive effect on entrepreneurship in Africa. Through financial inclusion policies, entrepreneurs have greater access to financial resources, and their financial constraints can be addressed. At the same time, empirical research conducted in Pakistan shows that the banks' greater size, geographic scope, and demographic scope will result in a more significant contribution to financial inclusion. The increase in soft consumer loans and small down payments strengthen the financial inclusion process (Adil & Jalil, 2020).

Financial inclusion also grows through MFIs to help poor people living in rural areas. The ability of MFIs to expand financial inclusion in rural areas is influenced by bank assets, ease of access, geographic region, and branch network level of the bank (Adil & Jalil, 2020). Even though the expansion of financial inclusion in rural areas meets some issues, such as higher transaction costs, higher risk, and a disadvantageous contracting environment (Lopez & Winkler, 2017), it can increase entrepreneurial activities (Nanda & Kaur, 2016). Eventually, it will impact economic growth and poverty reduction (Ajide, 2020).

The next sub-factors are international crowdfunding. Crowdfunding is a relatively new phenomenon, so it is unsurprising that the literature around it is still in its immaturity. In this funding method, people use internal finance instead of conventional external financial sources (e.g., bank loan, angel capital, venture capital) (Belleflamme et al., 2014). Recently, a new worldwide phenomenon known as prosocial crowdfunding has affected microfinance by introducing foreign lending capital (Moss et al., 2015). This transformation has been made available by emerging financial technology — crowdfunding platforms — that enables borrowers to expand their business from the internet without using conventional financial institutions (Jancenelle et al., 2018). Crowdfunding is derived from the broader concept of crowdsourcing, which includes obtaining ideas, comments, and solutions from the "crowd" to improve company operations. Crowdfunding is an open request, mainly on the internet, for the contribution of financial resources to support projects with defined goals. Using crowdfunding, an entrepreneur seeks external finance from a broad audience (the "crowd"), each of whom contributes a tiny amount instead of from a small number of professional investors (Belleflamme et al., 2014).



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Prosocial crowdfunding comes in many forms: equity-based, donation-based, loan-based, and reward-based (Jancenelle et al., 2018). The previous research paid attention to different research topics related to prosocial crowdfunding, such as highlighting narrative ventures (Allison et al., 2015), crowdfunding forms (Belleflamme et al., 2014), economic signals, and normative signals (Jancenelle et al., 2018). One provider of prosocial crowdfunding is kiva.org (Jancenelle et al., 2018). Crowdfunding is one of the solutions to address financial constraints faced by entrepreneurs. In implementing prosocial crowdfunding in entrepreneurship, Belleflamme et al. (2014) describe entrepreneurs with a business idea with limited financial resources. They will leverage prosocial crowdfunding from the internet. Next, the financial capital obtained from the internet will be utilized to run their business. Their business will generate income for them. Eventually, it will alleviate poverty (Goel & Karri, 2020; Si et al., 2019).

The information related to the financial support discussed in this research gives crucial knowledge for scholars and policymakers on how financial support helps to grow entrepreneurial activities. Financial support consisting of microfinance (Awaworyi Churchill et al., 2021; Bhuiyan & Ilevs, 2019), financial inclusion (Adil & Jalil, 2020; Ajide, 2020), and crowdfunding (Jancenelle et al., 2018) can support entrepreneurial activities. The scholar can utilize this insight to explore deeper topics related to financial support's role in accelerating entrepreneurial activities. At the same time, policy makers can provide the best policies through financial policies to support entrepreneurial activities leading to poverty alleviation.

Women Entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs are the second factor discussed in poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities. According to Santos & Neumeyer (2021), entrepreneurship is essential to reduce poverty, although the discussion related to entrepreneurship focuses on high economic growth and wealth-creating venture (Lent, 2019). Based on the finding of this study, the involvement of women in entrepreneurial activities to alleviate poverty attracts scholars' attention significantly. Discussions about women entrepreneurs are considered essential because the majority of the poor in the world are women (Santos & Neumeyer, 2021), and approximately 60 percent of them live in poverty (Lent, 2019). Even globally, it is estimated that over 126 million women have launched their businesses, and 98 million have expanded their businesses to provide job opportunities in their local areas (Nziku & Henry, 2021).

Women's role in entrepreneurship is mainly determined by several factors. *First*, there are factors that influence women's involvement in entrepreneurial activities. Those are having children (Ajefu, 2019) and health conditions (Churchill & Appau, 2019; Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Evidence shows that women with children are more likely to be self-employed. Self-employment will allow women to balance their job and family responsibilities (Ajefu, 2019). Having children is also related to the fertility rate (Ajefu, 2019; Dutta & Mallick, 2018), and fertility is one of the determinants of women entrepreneurs. The higher rate of women's fertility negatively impacts women's entrepreneurship. Countries with greater access to financial resources can lower fertility rates because the rate of women's involvement in entrepreneurship is higher (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Meanwhile, lower health problem becomes the other factor that makes them not meet the criteria determined by the labor market (Churchill & Appau, 2019). These conditions encourage women to involve in entrepreneurial activities leading them to generate income to meet their living needs. According to Dutta and Mallick (2018), the rejection condition from the labor market involves women in self-employment. Increasing income leads them to break out of poverty condition.

Secondly, there are barriers faced by women in business. The first of them is limited access to financial resources (Lent, 2019). Women may face financial obstacles due to a lack of credit histories, relationships, and collateral for banks to grant a loan (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). For example, in Pakistan, there remains a significant gender gap in terms of access to credit. Compared to males, women are less likely to access the financial sector (Adil & Jalil, 2020). Meanwhile, there still remains a gender gap (Dutta & Mallick, 2018; Lent, 2019). The research provides a minimal understanding of the elements that underlie gender variations in entrepreneurial activity, and there is no widespread agreement about these aspects (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Nziku and Henry (2021) were interested in



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identifying the government policies to address gender inequalities. Nonetheless, considerably disadvantaged situations in which women operate tend to represent a significant obstacle to the nation's socioeconomic development. In addition, countries in which female educational attainment is lower than male educational attainment tend to have a more substantial gender gap in performance. Reducing gender disparities in women's education and employment to strengthen their entrepreneurial leadership remains an enormous obstacle (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). The third factor is women's economic issues (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Even though the entrepreneurial effort may not necessarily result in economic expansion (Okolie et al., 2021), entrepreneurial activity is a tool to generate income (Autio & Fu, 2015; Bruton et al., 2013) and reduce poverty (Goel & Karri, 2020; Si et al., 2019). The final factor is socio-cultural (Dutta & Mallick, 2018; Katre, 2018). Women tend to accept the sociocultural contexts in which they were raised as normal, which may lead to actions supporting and reproducing these conditions. For instance, the women in many rural communities in India are seen as the keepers of their families' honor and reputation, and it is important that their sanctity be protected. To maintain these beliefs and out of fear of social rejection, women limit their interactions with male members, and this condition effects their involvement in entrepreneurial activities (Katre, 2018).

Thirdly, the solution is to overcome the barriers. The factors influencing women's involvement in an entrepreneurial opportunity are access to resources (Apata, 2019; Doering & Wry, 2022; Dutta & Mallick, 2018), sisterhood through model (Katre, 2018), cooperative form of entrepreneurship (Castellanza, 2022; Katre, 2018), better human capital formation and gender equality (Ajefu, 2019; Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Resource access is essential in entrepreneurship (Chliova et al., 2015; Shepherd & Williams, 2020). Lack of access to resources is the most significant barrier to entrepreneurial activities (Apata, 2019; Sutter et al., 2019). Scholars and researchers suggest addressing this issue to increase entrepreneurial activities and decrease poverty (Si et al., 2019; Sutter et al., 2019). The following solution is a sisterhood through the model as a solution to increase women's involvement in entrepreneurial activity (Katre, 2018). In addition, people in poverty also lack role models and mentors, which is essential in entrepreneurship (Morris et al., 2020). As a role model, sisterhood can motivate women to set new goals and actions to improve their lives. Most of the female role models are explored in Western countries, and it is inapplicable in other countries with different contexts (Katre, 2018).

The following solution to increase women's involvement in entrepreneurship is a cooperative form of entrepreneurship. Cooperative will facilitate women to make connections among members, reduce inequality, and motivate women to act entrepreneurially (Castellanza, 2022; Katre, 2018). In addition, members can access the resources needed in entrepreneurship by joining a cooperative or group (Castellanza, 2022). The other solution is better human capital formation (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). This solution is related to the gender issue, in which men have a greater chance in the labor market than women (Ajefu, 2019; Apata, 2019; Dutta & Mallick, 2018; Okolie et al., 2021). Women entrepreneurs need to be economically empowered. However, most are financially constrained (Doering & Wry, 2022; Dutta & Mallick, 2018). Gender issues must be addressed to result in better human capital formation (Dutta & Mallick, 2018). In addition, for women to alleviate poverty and gender inequality, they must be actively engaged in the mainstream economic system (Okolie et al., 2021).

Knowing the issues faced by women entrepreneurs is essential in order to assist them in leaving out poverty. Based on the data, most people, or about 60 percent of them living in poverty worldwide, are women (Lent, 2019). Addressing issues mentioned in the present study will lead women entrepreneurs to flourish. The existence of many parties is needed to reduce poverty issue. Because poverty is not a simple issue (Shepherd et al., 2021), parties can take their respective roles to increase the number of women entrepreneurs leading to poverty alleviation.

Entrepreneurial Policies

The institution's role in entrepreneurship as a tool to alleviate poverty gets worldwide attention from scholars and researchers (Aparicio et al., 2021; Blankson & Nukpezah, 2019; Madzivhandila & Musara, 2020). This topic is closely related to the policies made by policymakers to encourage entrepreneurial development and address poverty



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issues. It is considered an important topic to be discussed because to help their citizens get out of poverty, governments in developing nations have adopted programs to encourage business ownership (Saridakis et al., 2021). Nevertheless, copying strategies from another region without understanding the actual context results in failure (Aparcana, 2017).

The discussion on entrepreneurial policies is explored not only globally (Aparicio et al., 2021; Solomon et al., 2022) but also locally (Blanchflower et al., 2001; He, 2019; Madzivhandila & Musara, 2020; Saridakis et al., 2021; Smith et al., 2019). Globally, local economic development programs emphasize entrepreneurship as a means to mobilize local and indigenous economic potential (Madzivhandila & Musara, 2020). For instance, research conducted by Blankson and Nukpezah (2019) in Ghana pays attention to government policies to accelerate poverty reduction. The Ghana government focuses on strengthening the microeconomic sector by improving rural bank facilities and developing small businesses. They recommended that governments consider offering services to microentrepreneurs as a component of their economic development strategy. To develop microenterprises, the government needs to pay attention to market orientation strategy, in which customer orientation, competitor orientation, and inter-functional orientation are the three underlying behavioral components of market orientation (Blankson & Nukpezah, 2019).

An exciting role of entrepreneurs is related to changing concepts in entrepreneurial opportunities. Based on the entrepreneurial opportunity concept, entrepreneurs' ability to respond to changing situations (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000) by leveraging resources owned is important to make a profit (Kuckertz et al., 2017). It means entrepreneurs do not create a change to the situation but relate conditions apparently unrelated, such as market change, technology, government policies, etc. (Santos et al., 2020). This condition is different when entrepreneurs are involved directly in institution-making. Research on social progress orientation involving civic activism showed that a more stable institution would encourage the emergence of new entrepreneurial opportunities. Entrepreneurs can create institutional change through involvement in the political movement. In order to maximize the role of entrepreneurship in alleviating poverty, entrepreneurial policies have to focus on stimulating entrepreneurial activity and encouraging economic development by embracing disadvantaged communities (Aparicio et al., 2021). According to this issue, the involvement of entrepreneurs in creating policies related to the development of entrepreneurship is suggested because they have experiences and pieces of knowledge on how government policies can support entrepreneurial growth.

Based on this discussion, it can be summarized that the existence of institutions in a particular area is essential in entrepreneurship development. The involvement of entrepreneurs in creating policies related to the development of entrepreneurship is suggested. It is because they have experiences and pieces of knowledge on how government policies can support entrepreneurial growth. Unsupportive institutions will become a barrier to entrepreneurial activities and vice versa. So, entrepreneurs are not only actors in entrepreneurship but also part of institutional makers creating cooperative environments for entrepreneurship development.

Education

Poverty and education have a positive relationship (Naminse et al., 2018), and people living in poverty commonly suffer from low education (Aparcana, 2017; M. H. Morris et al., 2022). Education promotes the building of human capital for growth and may enhance an individual's business endeavors (Naminse et al., 2018). Education, especially entrepreneurship education, has an essential role in poverty reduction. Entrepreneurship education generates awareness and facilitates skill development, contributing to the formation of new businesses, decreasing poverty, and a positive shift in mindset (Kolade, 2018). Owning skills and knowledge through education positively impacts long-life improvement and leads to employment and better earnings (Naminse et al., 2018). In addition, intergenerational poverty can be prevented by efforts to improve educational opportunities for low-income people (Zhi & Zhao, 2021). Besides, previous research found that households headed by individuals with higher levels of



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education are less likely to be impoverished than those with lower education levels (Abaidoo, 2021). Even though education has an essential role in alleviating poverty, based on data found in this research, education included one of the least factors in poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship. It is because the importance of education in assisting citizens to escape poverty cannot be over-emphasized (Mohapatra et al., 2007; Naminse et al., 2018). In addition, research conducted by Liu et al. (2021) show that various levels of education have diverse impacts on rural poverty. Although education is included in the least factors discussing poverty, this does not mean that education is not essential in poverty alleviation because the search keywords utilized in the research probably do not refer to the importance of education in dealing with poverty. Still, it refers more to entrepreneurship and poverty.

One article discussing education's role in alleviating poverty was written by Shepherd et al., (2021). Their research was conducted in a slum area in India. They focused on the perceptions of entrepreneurs regarding how entrepreneurial activities may reduce poverty. Educational achievement is essential for reducing poverty (Feliciano & Lanuza, 2017). According to the report, their respondents feel their children's educational achievement is crucial in lifting their families out of poverty. They realize that living and working in slums are like two sides of a sword. On one side will be advantages such as low operating expenses, quick information of mouth, and a focus on group care. On the other hand, it will result in housing shortages, excessive population density, and dirty work conditions. When their business is prosperous, their children will have a higher education, which will result in a large employment income.

According to this discussion, education, especially entrepreneurial education, is essential in accelerating poverty reduction. Entrepreneurial education supports a positive mindset and facilitates skill development that can encourage people to be involved in a business. Accordingly, the role of education needs to be explored deeply by scholars and researchers, and policies encouraging educational equity and quality need to be accelerated to address poverty.

CONCLUSION

Poverty is an important topic that receives worldwide attention. Poverty is not merely an economic issue but also a political, social, cultural, educational, medical, and psychological issue. Entrepreneurship is a solution for alleviating poverty. Several prior studies have examined how entrepreneurship alleviates poverty. Moreover, the discussion on poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship has advanced significantly among academics. It has resulted in many papers on this topic in leading entrepreneurial and management journals. Nevertheless, the discussion related to this issue remains fragmented. It shows many points of view on the role of entrepreneurship in alleviating poverty.

This paper attempts to address this issue by providing a holistic insight and discussion of poverty alleviation based on an entrepreneurial view. Furthermore, the discussion also covers why some research topics are essential to be discussed and what has been explained based on the previous research. Based on 86 articles analyzed in this article, the researcher has found twenty-nine research factors on poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities (see Figure 2). Financial support, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial policies are the top three research factors discussed based on the previous research. Meanwhile, education is one of the least discussed on this issue.

The results of this study provide both theoretical and practical contributions. This paper helps academics and scholars in gaining a thorough comprehension of poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities. This paper also bridges future research in opening dialogues on this issue, especially for research topics rarely discussed (e.g., education, transitional entrepreneurship, state fragility, regional characteristic, etc.). In addition, this study also provides journals related to this issue. According to the analysis, the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship is the journal publishing most articles discussing poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities. This finding helps the researchers and scholars to determine the relevant journal publishing the research related to the issue of poverty alleviation through entrepreneurial activities. Nevertheless, this study shows a correlation between the



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factors found in this study to alleviate poverty. For instance, poverty alleviation cannot rely on external factors such as financial support and entrepreneurial policies. Internal factors such as motivation, innovation, and education must be involved. The policymakers can utilize this finding to involve the parties to contribute to poverty alleviation.

The researchers acknowledge that this study has some limitations. According to the research methodology, the data are limited to WoS (Web of Science) database resources. For future research, they can expand other database resources, such as Google Scholar, Scopus, EBSCO, etc., to enrich the knowledge. The keywords used in this study were limited to "Entrepreneurship" AND "Poverty Alleviation." Some other keywords can be varied to get a broader article for future research. The data which did not meet the criteria consisting of articles form, the year of publication: 2017 until 2022, impact factor < 1, and the English language are excluded from the data. The researcher hopes that future research can address these limitation issues for better data analysis. In addition, there are several suggestions for the future. Firstly, future research is suggested to explore the rare factors in poverty alleviation mentioned in this study, such as education, transitional entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial competencies, etc. Secondly, future research needs to empirically test the factors mentioned in this study in one research, whether these factors can increase entrepreneurial activities. Thirdly, research on the combinations of internal and external factors that are most useful for increasing entrepreneurial activities in real life would greatly help prospective business owners.

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