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A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE FIELDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Zeynep AKTAŞ ÇİMEN[1], Duygu GÜDEKLİ[2], Didem KUTLU[3]

Abstract

The aim of the study is to analyse the literature on international trade and women's entrepreneurship using the bibliometric method. A total of 45 English articles published in journals indexed in SSCI-Expanded, SSCI, and ESCI in the Web of Science database for the period 2007-2024 were analysed. The analysis, conducted using VOSviewer and Bibliometrix R software, focuses on authors, journals, countries, and keywords. Results show the peak number of publications in 2023, with nearly half classified under "business". Since 2013, "gender" has been the most frequently used keyword, while "export performance" emerged in 2023 and continued into 2024. The United Kingdom has the most scientific collaborations, while Alex Coad and Jaganaddha Pawan Tamvada are the most cited authors. The "International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship" and "Sustainability" are the top journals for publishing related research. Mansura Akter and Mahfuzur Rahman are identified as the most relevant and effective authors, and England is the most cited country. This bibliometric assessment aids researchers and policymakers in making informed decisions regarding international trade and women's entrepreneurship, contributing to a deeper understanding of trends and influential factors within this research area. Integrating more women into the entrepreneurial ecosystem via international trade serves as a catalyst for advancing women's economic empowerment.

Keywords: International Trade, Women Entrepreneurship, Bibliometrics, VOSviewer

JEL Codes: F14, L26

[1]Assoc. Prof., Akdeniz University, Social Sciences Vocational School, zaktas@akdeniz.edu.tr, https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0959-5314
[2] PhD-Lecturer, Akdeniz University, Forensic Vocational School, duygugudekli@akdeniz.edu.tr, https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4871-980X
[3]Assoc. Prof., Akdeniz University, Social Sciences Vocational School, didemkutlu76@yahoo.com, https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3354-5202

INTRODUCTION

The primary products of scientific work are documents published as articles, books, book chapters, reports, etc. (Jacobsson, 1997). Researchers produce a substantial number of scientific documents annually, which constitute a significant portion of the scientific literature. Analysing these works using various methods, identifying the most impactful publications, and introducing them to the scientific community enables continuous improvement and innovation. Bibliometric analysis findings and inferences play an important role in identifying trends and gaps related to the scientific field of research, and in the management skills and decision-making processes of enterprises (Romanelli et al., 2018).

This study aims to analyse the literature on international trade and women entrepreneurship through the bibliometric method. International trade (foreign trade) and entrepreneurship are critical to the economic development of every nation and are recognised as a force that supports technological and economic development (Adeyemo, 2023). Considered one of the main economic engines of modern society, entrepreneurship is recognised as a powerful tool to cope with rapidly changing conditions in the new competitive environment (Mortazavi & Bahrami, 2012). As a dynamic force driving innovation and economic growth, entrepreneurship transcends national borders and extends into the global economy, leaving a lasting impact on international markets (The impact of entrepreneurship on international markets, 2023). Accordingly, international trade and entrepreneurship are widely recognised as interrelated concepts that play a critical role in accelerating economic growth and development (Gautam & Lal, 2021; Kacapor et al., 2021). Women entrepreneurs hold a distinctive position in both social development and economic growth, and are increasingly recognized as key agents in reducing gender inequality and advancing national development (Alves et al., 2017; 2023/24 Women's entrepreneurship report: reshaping economies and communities, 2024). Globally, women-owned businesses represent one of the fastest-growing segments of entrepreneurship. Their contributions span employment generation, wealth accumulation, and innovation across all economies (Brush et al., 2004). There is a consensus among academics that women play a key role in the entrepreneurship phenomenon. Both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda establish a clear link between international trade and gender, recognising trade as an important engine for achieving development goals, along with productive and fair working conditions. These agendas emphasise the importance of women's economic empowerment (International Trade Centre [ITC], 2016). In alignment with these goals, ITC launched the SheTrades Initiative in 2015 to support women entrepreneurs in accessing information, resources, and networks (ITC, 2025a). The SheTrades Initiative implemented a project funded by the European Union in 2022 to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs in international trade. This project has established a gender-focused framework for facilitating trade for the

World Trade Organization (WTO) through e-commerce, investment facilitation, and public procurement (ITC, 2025b). According to data from the World Bank (WB), women constitute almost half of the global population (WB, 2024). Contributing to international trade in various roles such as consumers, producers, employers, and entrepreneurs, women play an active role in the global economy (Istanbul Mineral and Metals Exporters' Associations, 2025). Therefore, the contribution of women entrepreneurs to international trade has been attracting the attention of many nations for nearly a decade. Moreover, the results of the WB's 2023 entrepreneurship survey show that economies with a predominance of women entrepreneurs are more resilient to financial crises and experience fewer economic downturns (WB, 2023). These insights underscore the importance of conducting a comprehensive review and analysis of the existing literature on international trade and women's entrepreneurship.

In both international trade and women's entrepreneurship, numerous bibliometric studies have been conducted in the literature. However, no previous bibliometric study has specifically examined the intersection of these two domains. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the quantitative evolution of research on international trade and women entrepreneurship over time. It aims to identify the most prolific authors, journals, and countries, as well as the most frequently co-authored and cited authors and the most commonly used keywords. Accordingly, a comprehensive bibliometric analysis will be conducted to uncover the academic structure, development, and influence of the existing literature, thereby offering valuable insights for future research.

The study is structured into five main sections. The first section outlines the significance of international trade and women's entrepreneurship, establishing the foundational context for the research. The second section presents the literature review, integrating insights from academic publications across different countries and geographical regions, and synthesizing relevant studies. The third section discusses the current methods used to analyse large-scale databases to measure the effectiveness of academic research on the topic. The fourth section presents the findings of the analyses. Finally, the fifth section offer conclusions, summarizing key findings and highlighting implications for future studies in the field.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender inequality is a deep-rooted and widespread issue in all countries. Ensuring gender equality is critically important for sustaining sustainable development (United Nations, 2024). In recent years, initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women have gained significant momentum (Gudekli et al., 2023). However, scholarly research at the intersection of international trade and women's

entrepreneurship is still in its early stages, indicating a need for further exploration and academic attention in this emerging field.

Robinson and Loscocco (1991) examined the obstacles to the success of women entrepreneurs in small businesses in the United States of America (USA); Aslan & Atabey (2007) explored the entrepreneurial characteristics of Turkish women, their contribution to global competition, and efforts to increase women entrepreneurship. Sallan Gül & Altındal (2016) investigated the development of women entrepreneurship in Turkey, while Alves et al. (2017) analyzed the competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in terms of internationalisation and innovation. Akter et al. (2019) investigated the reasons for the low number of women entrepreneurs in international trade; Arpacı (2024) reviewed the literature on international studies on women entrepreneurship; Beloskar et al. (2024) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the management literature on gender equality and women empowerment; Edremitoğlu & Gültekin (2024) examined the branding activities of women entrepreneurs on international e-commerce sites. There is no bibliometric study on international trade and women's entrepreneurship in the literature, except for a bibliometric analysis study titled ‘Women Entrepreneurship in the Internationalisation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises’ by Anggadwita & Indarti (2025). In order to fill advance the field, this study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis using data from the Web of Science (WoS) database for the period 2007-2024 to reveal the studies on international trade and women's entrepreneurship. The WoS database is a prestigious platform that offers researchers a comprehensive data content from many different disciplines (Karakuş, 2024). The WoS database was selected for its rigorous indexing standards, multidisciplinary coverage, and robust citation tools, making it ideal for conducting a comprehensive bibliometric analysis. Its global scope and longitudinal data access further enhance the reliability and depth of scholarly insights.

METHOD

Since the early twentieth century, research methods in scholarly communication have undergone significant evolution. Initially, quantitative studies were conducted with small-scale and limited data. Over time, however, the emergence of large datasets and advanced analytical tools has transformed research approaches, giving rise to contemporary methods that integrate diverse techniques and technologies. This shift has profoundly influenced the evaluation of academic research and scholarly discourse. Statistical sciences, scientific visualisation, and network analysis have provided powerful tools and techniques for measuring and understanding academic impact. These tools offer a much broader perspective than traditional methods and enable more in-depth analysis.

Research Design

The flow followed for the current analysis is summarised in Table 1. All data were retrieved from the Akdeniz University Library website on 2 January 2025 using the following search terms in WoS.

Table 1: Flowchart of bibliometric analysis

Criteria for researched literature, queries and selected parameters	**Database**	WoS Core Collection
	Subject	International trade and women entrepreneurship
	Keywords	("gender entreprene*" OR "women entreprene*" OR "female entreprene*") AND ("international trade" OR "international commerc*" OR import OR export)
	Search fields	Title, abstract and keywords
	Screening date	02 January 2025
	Query preview	(TS=("gender entreprene*" OR "women entreprene*" OR "female entreprene*")) AND TS=("international trade" OR "international commerc*" OR import OR export)
	Link	https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/summary/ff16202b-0ecf-47f5-b630-619d3f35e153-0143ce3782/relevance/1
Overview of inclusion and exclusion criteria	**Records identified from WoS database search based on keyword sequence**	57 Documents (47 articles, 8 proceedings, 3 book chapters, 3 review articles and 2 early access)
	Inclusion criteria	Scientific articles from various disciplines in the field of international trade and women's entrepreneurship
	Exclusion criteria	Non-peer-reviewed books, book chapters, conference proceedings, practice reports, thesis/dissertation papers, and studies originating from predatory journals and articles that missed the link between international trade and women's entrepreneurship were excluded (n=47 articles)
	WoS index	SSCI-Expanded (n=5), SSCI (n=16), ESCI (n=24)
	Exclusion criteria(Year)	Early appearances were excluded using the Show final publication year filter (n = 45, Study period: 2007-2004)
Data analysis and visualisation	**Number of articles analysed**	*n* = 45
	Tools used to analyse the data set	VOSviewer, Bibliometrix R

Source: Data from the WoS database, edited by the authors.

For the analysis (TS=(women OR gender OR female)) AND TS=('international trade' OR 'international commerc*' OR 'foreign trade' OR 'foreign commerc*' OR 'foreign trade' OR 'foreign commerc*' OR import OR export) were used and the research area 'topic' was selected. The WoS database, widely accepted and frequently used for the analysis of scientific publications, provides comprehensive data on publications. The WoS database was selected as the primary data source for this study due to its inclusion of the most prestigious and influential journals across a broad spectrum of disciplines (Rey-Martí et al., 2016; Gong et al., 2019). In contrast, Google Scholar was excluded from the analysis owing to concerns regarding the accuracy of its citation metrics and the limited functionality of its search filters, which were not conducive to the requirements of bibliometric research. Although Scopus offers extensive journal coverage and robust tools for keyword and citation analysis, it was not utilized in this study due to its restricted archival range, which primarily includes articles published after 1995-rendering it less comprehensive than WoS for longitudinal analysis (Falagas et al., 2008; Ferreira Gregorio et al., 2018).

The publication period considered in this study covers the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2024. The research yielded 57 results, including 47 articles, 8 papers, 3 book chapters, 3 review articles, and 2 early access studies from 16 disciplines, with the oldest publication from 2007 and the newest from 2024. Article screening was performed both digitally and manually. Initially, digital scanning was planned to filter according to the research field, document type, WoS index, and publication language. However, since there were no irrelevant titles in the research areas and all publications were in English, no filtering was necessary in this regard. As the document type was selected only as 'article', 10 studies were excluded from the research. Selecting only articles ensures the inclusion of peer-reviewed, original research that meets rigorous academic standards. Articles typically present empirical findings, theoretical advancements, or methodological innovations, making them the most reliable and relevant source type for bibliometric analysis (Passas, 2024). Early views of 2025 were excluded by using the 'Show final publication year' filter, resulting in 45 articles being included in the study. Manual screening was performed by examining the titles and abstracts individually, and no studies unrelated to the field of international trade and women's entrepreneurship were found.

Bibliometric Analysis of Data

The origin of the term bibliometrics dates back to the 1930s when Otlet (1934) introduced the French term 'bibliométrie' (Ding et al., 2014). Bibliometric analysis has become a widely used tool in various research fields in recent years (Demir et al., 2024). This method, which provides a better understanding of the terms related to the field of study and the process and products of academic communication, is a

quantitative statistical analysis of large amounts of scientific data (Anggadwita & Indarti, 2025). Using mathematical and statistical tools, bibliometrics is widely used to measure the interrelationships and effects of publications in a particular research field and to make strategic decisions (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015; Lee et al., 2020; Khan et al., 2021; Arık, 2024; Ongun & Çuhadar, 2024).

Bibliometric analysis includes 2 main approaches: performance analysis and science mapping. The performance of the research is assessed through evaluation criteria such as publications, author contributions, and citations, etc., thus evaluating the effectiveness of researchers, institutions, and countries. Publication metrics and citation analysis are crucial tools for assessing the quantity, quality, and impact of research outputs. In addition to revealing the numerical size of the published research, these evaluation criteria reveal the impact of the research on the relevant field of science and the collaboration between researchers in the field. Scientific mapping helps to delineate the structure and dynamics of the research field. This analysis method examines data such as the number of publications, citations, author collaborations, journal frequencies, and keywords to reveal the academic structure, development, and effects of a scientific field (Passas, 2024). The limitation of bibliometric analysis is that it is based on a particular database and therefore does not fully cover the relevant literature in the field under investigation. This may lead to one-sided findings about the field under investigation. Therefore, the depth of the literature review is of critically important in bibliometric analysis, necessitating meticulous literature searches.

In this method, the Vosviewer computer programme is generally preferred for the bibliometric analysis of data obtained from large databases.

VOSviewer

Bibliometric tools such as VOSviewer enable researchers to perform in-depth analyses, including data visualisation and network analyses. By visually presenting relationships in large datasets, these tools enable users to more easily understand connections and trends in the literature. The emergence of databases such as Scopus, WoS, Google Scholar, etc., and the increase in the services and accessibility of these databases also facilitate the types of analysis, such as bibliometric analysis (Doulani, 2021; Kurnaz Çankaya, 2024). The Visualizing of Similarities concept is a robust methodological approach used to identify and interpret relationships and patterns within large datasets. It facilitates the visualization of similarities among data points, thereby enabling more effective analysis of structural connections within scholarly literature (Van Eck & Waltman, 2007). Building on this foundation, the Visualizing of Similarities concept was further developed into a freely accessible software application known as VOSviewer (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). VOSviewer is a Java-based application and was developed by the Center for Science and Technology

Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. VOSviewer is used to create and visualize bibliographic maps of data related to files downloaded from databases such as Scopus, WoS, PubMed, RIS and Dimension. Although there are numerous programs and tools for bibliometric analysis, such as CiteSpace, HistCite, and CitNetExplorer, VOSviewer has excellent visualisation capabilities and enables efficient import and export of data from various sources (Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020). The software supports the construction of networks involving journals, researchers, or individual publications, based on relationships such as citation, bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and co-authorship. VOSviewer also offers a text mining functionality that can be used to create and visualise concurrent networks of important terms extracted from a scientific literature (Welcome to VOSviewer, 2025).

Biblioshiny, the web interface of the R-based Bibliometrix programme, was used as another analysis tool in this study. The reason for using the R-based Bibliometrix programme together with alongside VOSviewer software is that VOSviewer only allows viewing networks, whereas Bibliometrix enables analyses at different levels, such as document and word analysis, source dynamics, source impact, etc. (Derviş, 2019).

Bibliometrix R

Bibliometrix R is an open, flexible, and rapidly upgradable tool that enables the analysis and mapping of bibliometric data (Aria & Cuccurulo, 2017). In order to use the Biblioshiny web interface, which allows R-based bibliometric analysis without the need to write code, the R programming (https://cran.r-project.org/) and RStudio (https://posit.co/) programs should be downloaded (Rashid, 2023).

Two different software programmes were used to elaborate and enrich the analysis. The Bibliometric analysis enables the understanding and evaluation of the development in the field of international trade and women entrepreneurship. In this study, the WoS database was selected as the main source. WoS is a comprehensive citation database dating back to the 1900s, allowing a wide range of scientific literature to be searched. WoS provides citations for a large number of journals, conference proceedings, books, and other academic resources (Li et al., 2010). This database is used in bibliometric analyses for many different purposes, such as evaluating the impact factors of scientific publications, discovering collaborative relationships, and monitoring new trends in research areas. Therefore, WoS is an important resource for anyone engaged in scientific research and academic work (Lee et al., 2020).

FINDINGS

In this study, which analyzes the development and trends within the literature on international trade and women entrepreneurship, citation metrics are used to evaluate the individual performance of researchers. Despite ongoing debates regarding their suitability for evaluating individual academic performance, citation metrics continue to play a central role in research assessment (De Silva et al., 2017). Their use enables a systematic and data-driven evaluation of scholarly impact, offering valuable insights into the visibility, influence, and development of academic contributions within the field.

Figure 1 illustrates the total number of publications and citations in the literature on international trade and women's entrepreneurship, indicating scholarly productivity and impact. The data show that the number of publications remained relatively limited during the 2007-2017 period. However, an upward trend is evident between 2018 and 2024, despite some fluctuations, with the highest number of publications (eight articles) recorded in 2023. In this study, which covers the years 2007 to 2024, it is notable that more than half of the articles (66.67%) were published in the last six years. This finding highlights a growing academic interest in the intersection of international trade and women's entrepreneurship. The increase in research suggests that the contribution of women entrepreneurs to economic growth and development through international trade is gaining recognition. At this point, the ITC SheTrades Initiative, launched in 2015, is considered influential in strengthening women's participation in trade by supporting women entrepreneurs globally in accessing information, resources, and networks. Furthermore, the Initiative’s implementation of a European Union-funded project aimed at developing a gender-focused framework for the WTO may have played a role in the rise of scholarly attention to women's entrepreneurship in international trade after 2015.

Figure 1. Number of articles published in WoS (2007-2024)

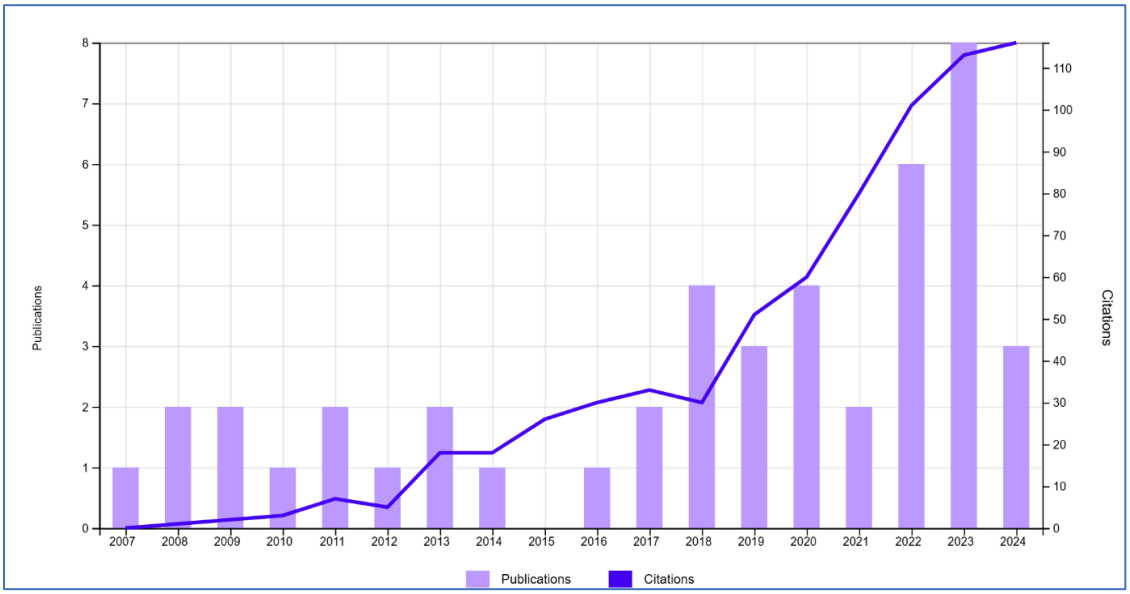


Table 2 shows the distribution of research on international trade and women's entrepreneurship in the WoS database by publication category. In the categorical ranking based on the criterion of more than one publication, “business” ranks first with 22 publications.

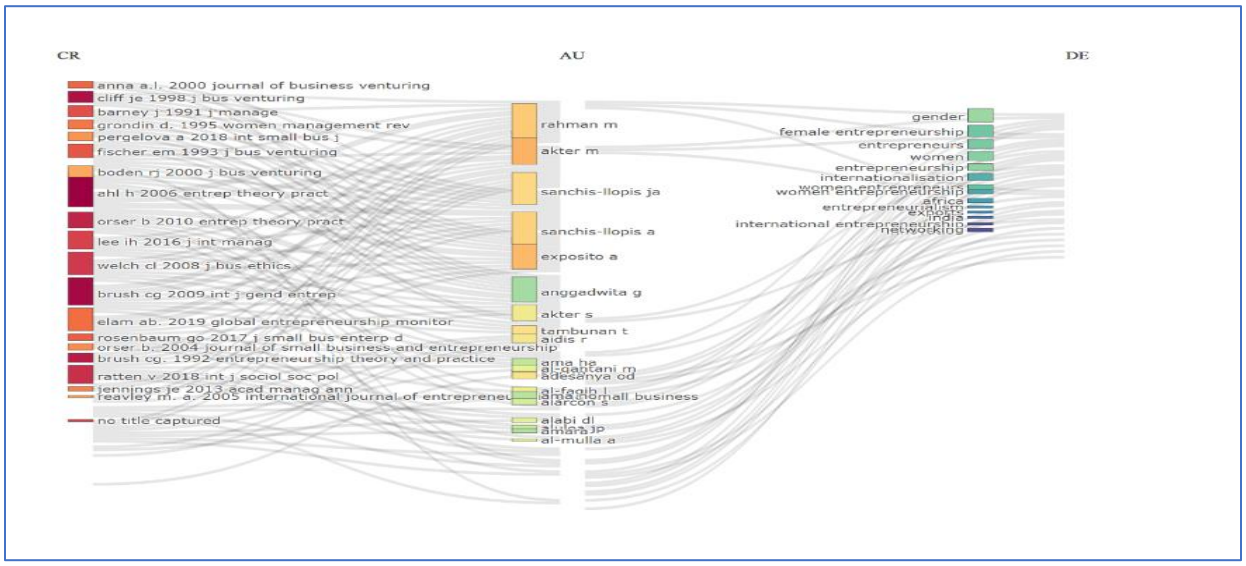
Table 2: WoS publication category

WoS Publication Category	Number of publications
Business	22
Economic	11
Management	11
Environmental Sciences	5
Enviromental Studies	5
Green Sustainable Scieince Tecnology	4
Women Studies	4

Source: Data from the WoS database, edited by the authors.

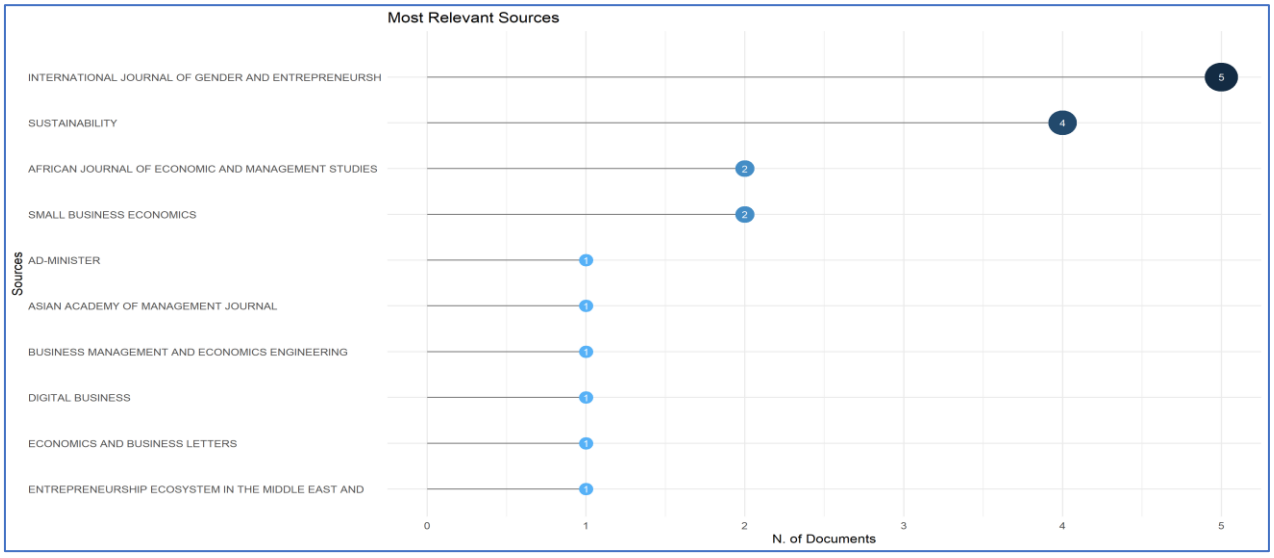
The interconnectedness of the articles in the study through keywords related to the research area, citation pathways, authors and citations is shown in Figure 2. The articles with the highest citation scores are in the fields of “gender”, “female entrepreneurship”, “women” and “entrepreneurship”.

Figure 2: The most cited keywords in the article titles and citation paths



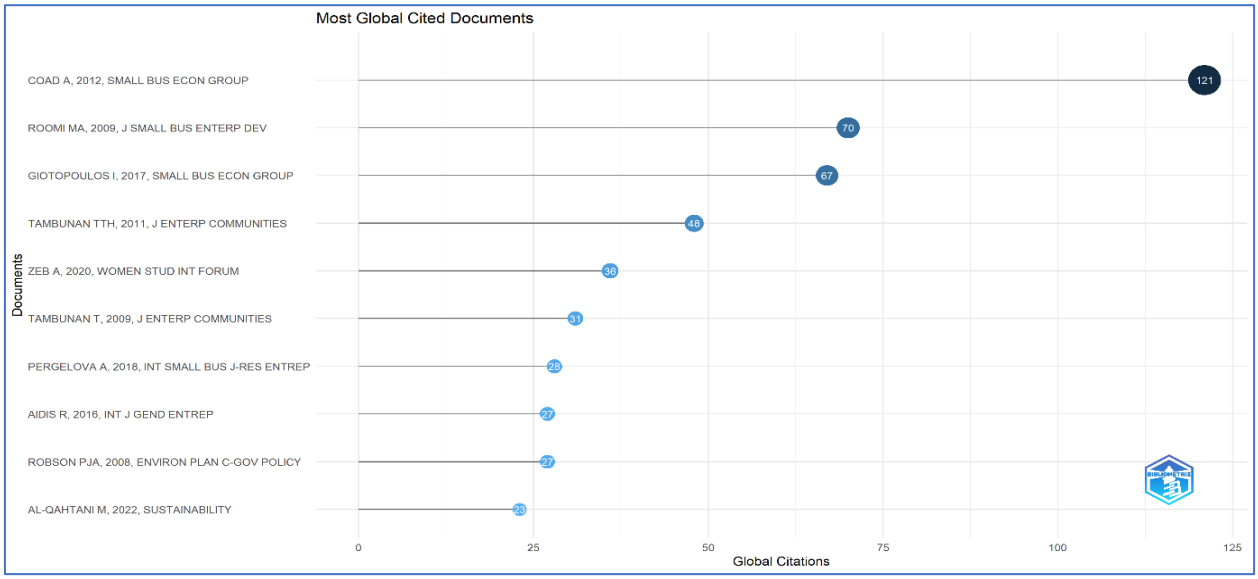
The most relevant sources on international trade and women entrepreneurship studies are shown in Figure 3. International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship (n= 5) and Sustainability (n= 4) are the main sources in the research field. African Journal of Economic and Management (n= 2) and Small Business Economics (n= 2) are the second most reliable sources in the research field.

Figure 3: The most relevant sources in the literature on international trade and women's entrepreneurship



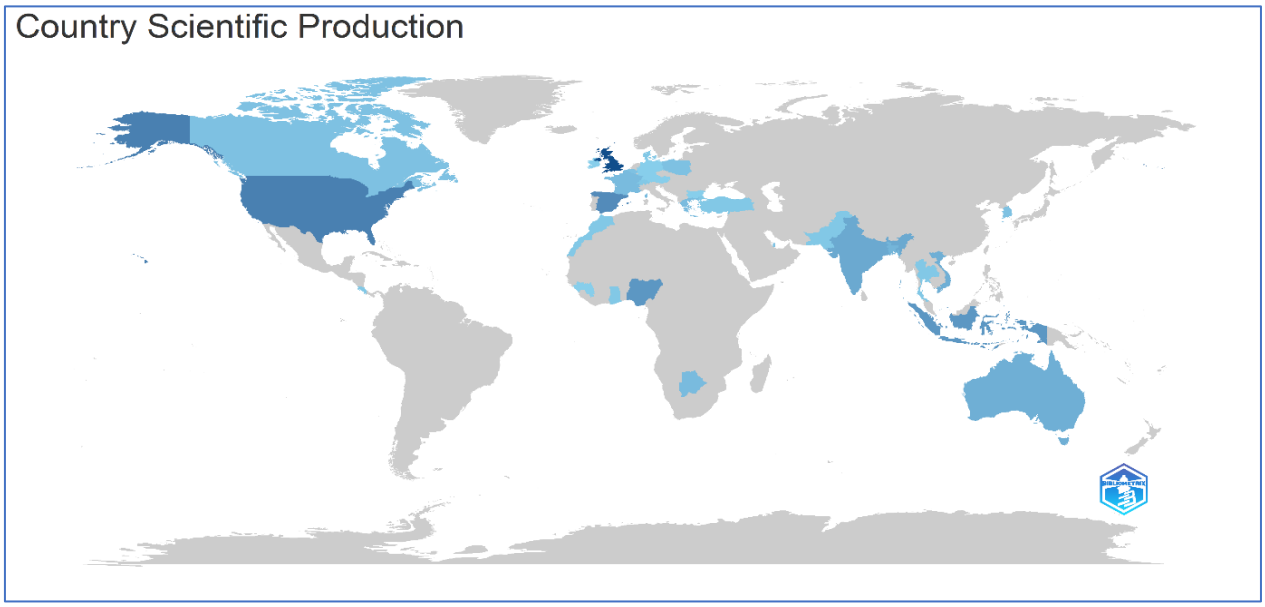
The most globally cited documents on international trade and women entrepreneurship studies are shown in Figure 4. Alex Coad (2012) is by far the most globally cited sources in the research field. Muhammad Azam Roomi (2009) is the second most cited document and Ioannis Giotopoulos (2017) is the third most cited documents globally.

Figure 4: The most cited documents in the literature on international trade and women's entrepreneurship



The analysis international trade and women's entrepreneurship covers a total of 30 countries. These are visually represented on the world map (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Country scientific production



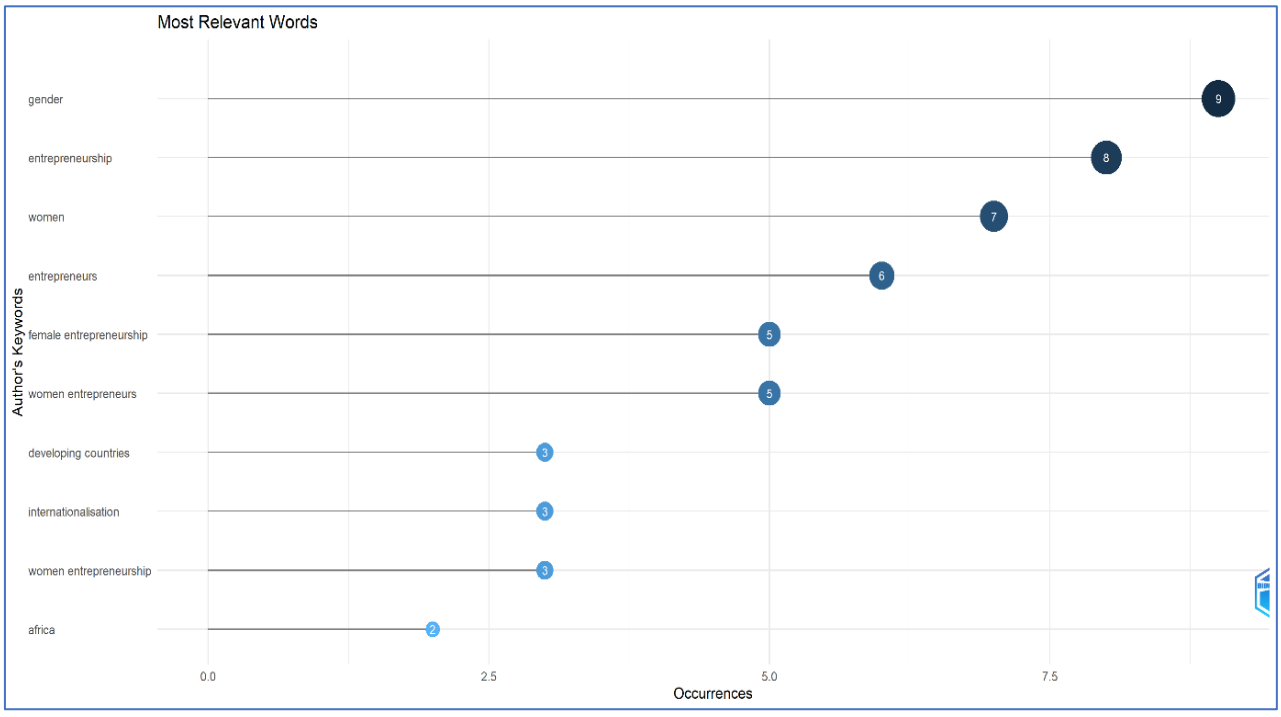
The rate of collaboration was highest in the United Kingdom (n = 23), followed by the United States (n = 14), Spain (n = 12) and Indonesia (n = 10), with Nigeria (n = 10) contributing the most to the research field. This finding proves that gender equality and women's entrepreneurship activities are closely related

to the economic development of a country (Olarewaju & Fernando, 2020). According to Halim (2020), the presence of women as employers is positively related to the income level of countries. According to the 2024 Nature Index Research Leaders report, the United Kingdom ranks fourth globally in high-quality research output, following China, the United States, and Germany (2024 Research Leaders: Leading countries/territories, 2024). The UK is a global center of scientific knowledge, ranking highly in both quantity and quality of research. The top 3 countries producing the most academic publications are China (21.7%), the USA (19.9%), and the UK (6.3%). Moreover, the UK hosts three of the world's leading universities, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, and Imperial College London (Palladino, 2024), which play a pivotal role in shaping global discourse on innovation, gender, and economic development. These institutions serve as incubators for research and policy thought leadership, reinforcing the UK's influence in advancing inclusive growth strategies.

Keyword Frequency

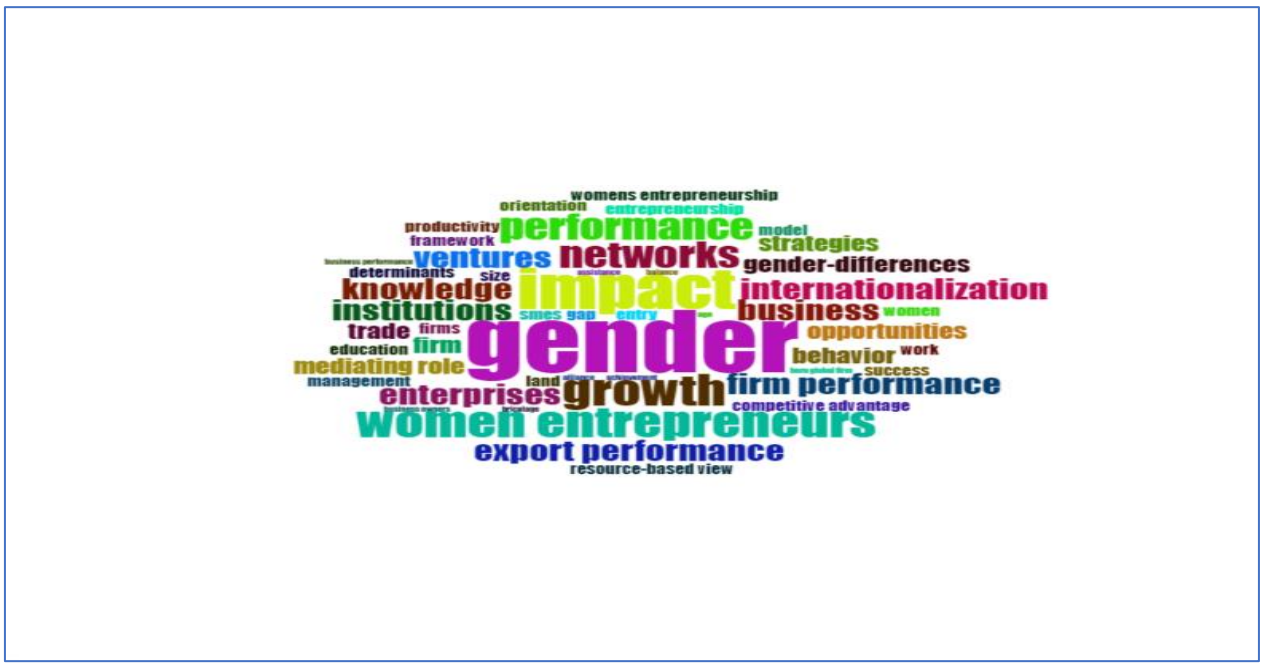
The findings of the analysis on the frequency of keywords used by the authors in the articles on international trade and women entrepreneurship are given in Figure 6. The keywords used by the authors, in descending order of frequency, are gender (n= 12), impact (n= 8), growth (n=6), women entrepreneurs (n=6), networks (n= 5), performance (n= 5), business (n=4), enterprises (n=4), export performance (n=4), firm performance (n=4), institutions (n=4), internationalization (n=4), ventures (n=4).

Figure 6: The frequency of keywords used by authors



The high-dimensional data are visualised in Figure 7 to highlight the focus, reduce the size, and clarify the clusters of article studies on international trade and women's entrepreneurship. Biblioshiny, the web interface of the R-based Bibliometrix program, was used for the visualization in the figure. The words "gender", "entrepreneurship", "female entrepreneurship" and "women entrepreneurship" stand out in the analysis of the dataset derived from the research body.

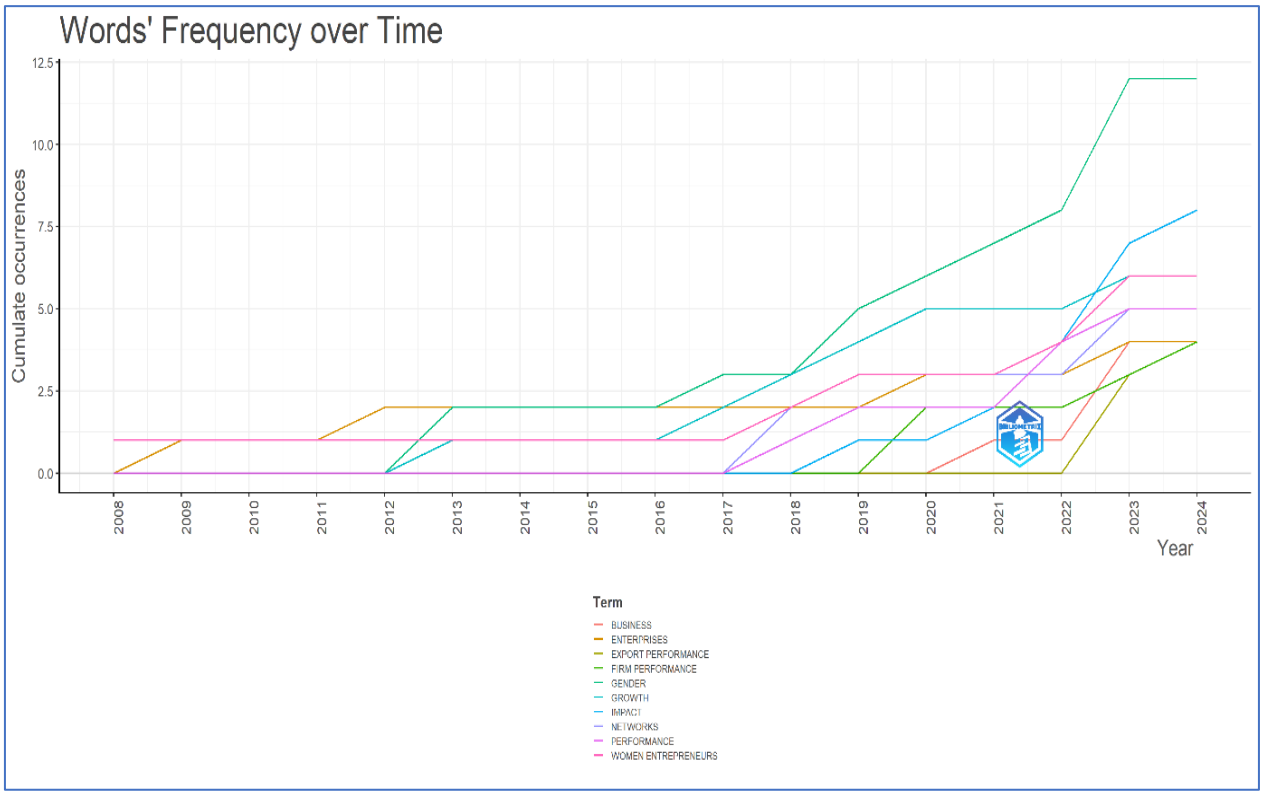
Figure 7: Keyword Analysis



These keywords are in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which successfully establishes a clear link between international trade and gender. This is because both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda recognize trade as an important engine for achieving development goals, along with productive and equitable working conditions. Both agendas also emphasize the importance of women's economic empowerment (ITC, 2016). The contribution of international trade and women's entrepreneurship to economic growth and development will be further enhanced by greater participation of women in trade. ITC's SheTrades Initiative aims to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs in international trade (ITC, 2025b). In addition, the WTO implemented a project in 2022, funded by the European Union, aimed at developing a gender-oriented framework (trade facilitation, e-commerce, investment facilitation, and government procurement) (ITC, 2025a). According to the results of the WB (2023) entrepreneurship survey, economies characterized by high levels of female entrepreneurial activity are more resilient to financial crises and experience economic slowdowns less frequently.

Figure 8 shows the change in the use of keywords over the years in research on the field, resulting from efforts to increase women's entrepreneurship. Although it is seen that the first use of keywords related to the research area was “women entrepreneurs” in 2008, the keyword “enterprises” was used in addition to this keyword between 2009 and 2012. In 2013, “gender” and “growth” were added to the previously used keywords. In 2018, the keywords “network” and “performance” were added, while “impact” was added in 2018, “firm performance” in 2020, and “business” in 2021. The years 2023 and 2024 were similar in terms of keywords and “export performance”, first included in 2023, continuing to be used in 2024. The International Labour Organization (ILO) strategy on women's entrepreneurship development (ILO-WED Programme), adopted in March 2008, which recognizes the importance of women's entrepreneurship development in achieving inclusive growth, is also considered to be effective in the findings (ILO, 2023).

Figure 8: Keyword Plus' frequency over time



Co-authorship of authors Analysis

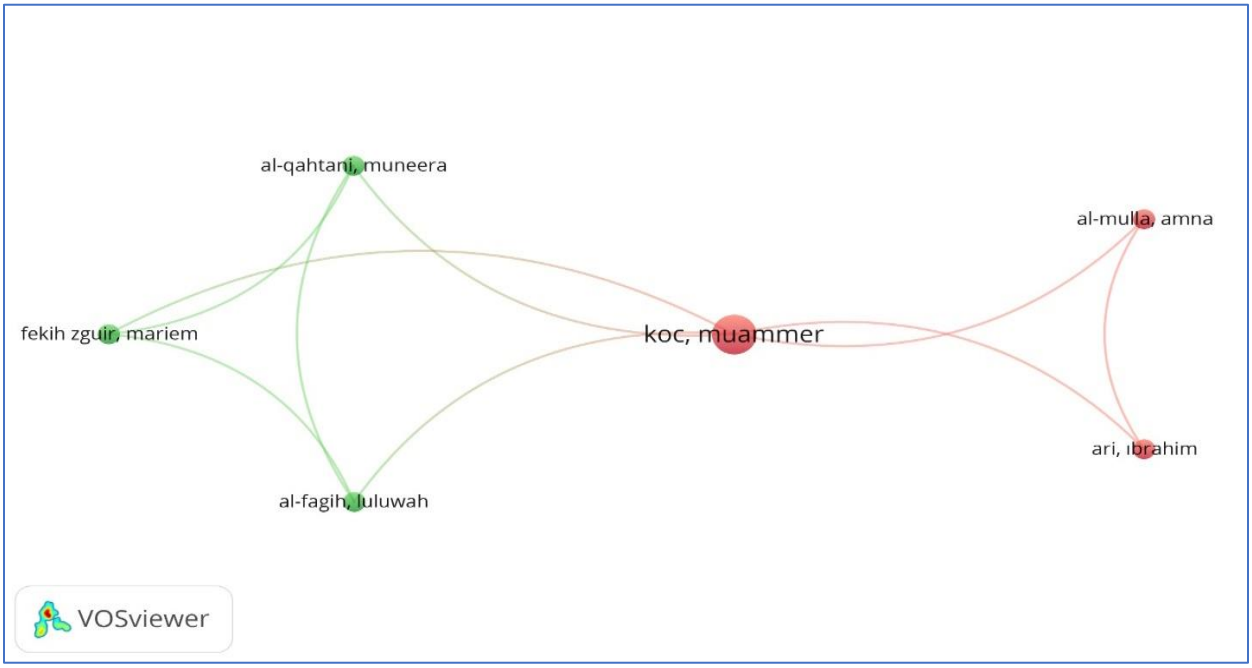
Scientific collaboration is a fundamental characteristic of academic research, linking different skill sets to produce a scientific output. Co-authorship is considered an indicator of knowledge sharing and collaboration between various research groups (Kumar, 2015). This continuous collaboration and closeness enables researchers to find easier and more effective solutions to problems using different perspectives and

methods, thereby accelerating scientific development and achieving more comprehensive results. The findings of bibliometric studies show that collaboration between researchers in different geographies and countries has increased since the 1980s (Aksnes & Sivertsen, 2023).

In the co-authorship analysis showing the collaboration between researchers, a network visualization was created with the criteria of at least 1 publication and 1 citation (Figure 9). The result of the analysis revealed that 84 authors (107 authors in total) met the threshold. As a result of the analysis, 6 clusters and 9 connections were identified. In terms of number of citations, Alex Coad (n=121) and Jaganaddha Pawan Tamvada (n=121) ranked first, while John Beaumont-Kerridge (n=70), Pegram Harrison (n=70), and Muhammad Azam Roomi (n=70) ranked second. In the co-authorship analysis, which shows the total strength of a researcher's links with other researchers, Muammer Koc, Mansura Akter, and Mahfuzur Rahman share the first place with a total of 5 links. This metric highlights their centrality within the research network and suggests their active engagement in interdisciplinary or cross-institutional collaborations.

Overall, the co-authorship network illustrates a moderately connected scholarly community, with a few key individuals serving as intellectual bridges across clusters. These findings underscore the importance of collaborative research in advancing knowledge production and enhancing the visibility of emerging themes such as gender-inclusive entrepreneurship in global trade contexts.

Figure 9: Co-authorship of authors network visual

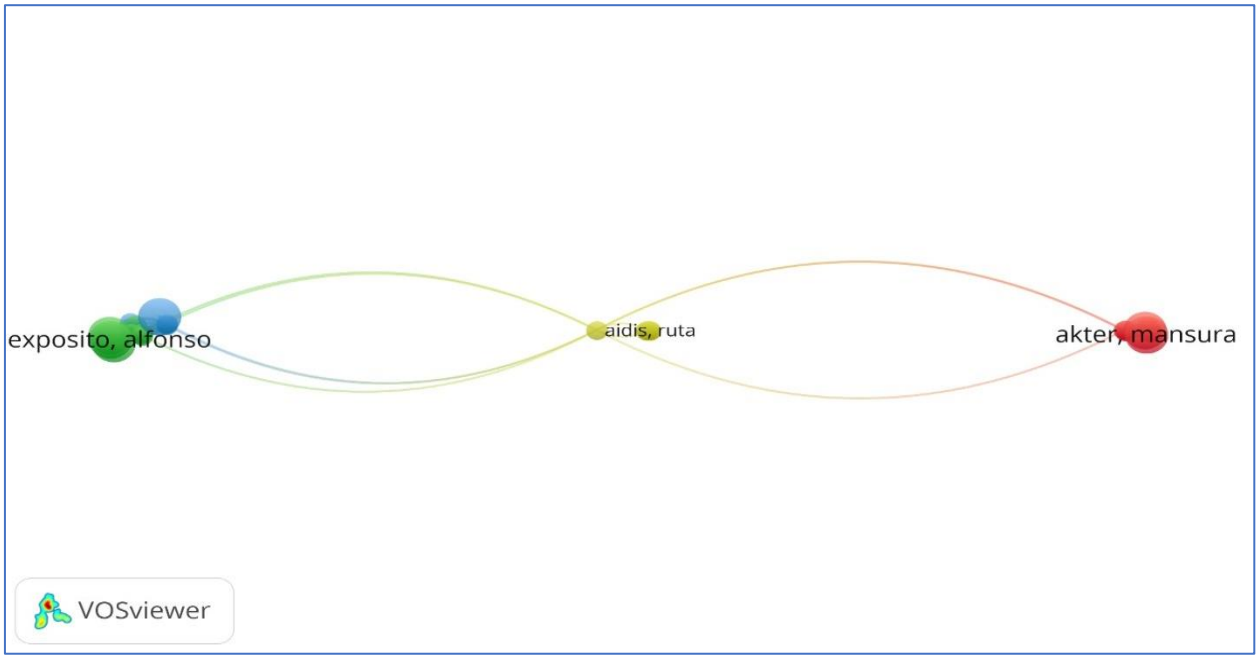


Citation of authors Analysis

Although citation habits can be influenced by many factors such as authors' prestige, gender, race, nationality, and social and cultural biases, citation in the academic world is recognized as an important prestige indicator to assess a researcher's impact and productivity (Ray et al., 2024).

In the study, 84 out of 107 authors met the threshold value in the analysis conducted on the research body, with the criteria of at least 1 publication and 1 citation. As a result, a network visualization was created by 84 authors with 4 clusters, 68 links, and 74 total link strength (Figure 10). According to the result of the analysis, Mansura Akter and Mahfuzur Rahman ranked first with 2 publications, 22 citations, and 6 total link strengths. However, Alex Coad and Jaganaddha Pawan Tamvada are the most cited authors with 121 citations (1 publication and 0 total link strength). The analysis reveals a diverse landscape of scholarly influence, where citation metrics and co-authorship strength do not always align. Albena Pergelova, Fernando Angulo-Ruiz, Desislaa, I. Yordanova, with a total link strength of 10, are the authors with the "highest total link strength" (1 publication and 28 citations). Pergelova et al. are the most cited authors with the article titled "Gender and International Entry Mode," published in the International Small Business Journal in 2018. In this study, the authors examine the internationalization strategies of male and female-led small and medium-sized enterprises. Alfonso Exposito (3 total link strength and 6 citations) and Tulus Tambunan (2 total link strength and 36 citations) have 2 publications, while Ruta Aidis has 1 publication (2 total link strength and 27 citations). Alex Coad and Jaganaddha Pawan Tamvada are the most cited authors (1 publication, 0 total link strength and 121 citations) for their study "Firm growth and barriers to growth and barriers to growth among small firms in India" published in Small Bus Econ in 2012. This study focused on analyzing small business structures in India and found that women-led businesses have lower-than-expected growth rates.

Figure 10: Citation authors network visual

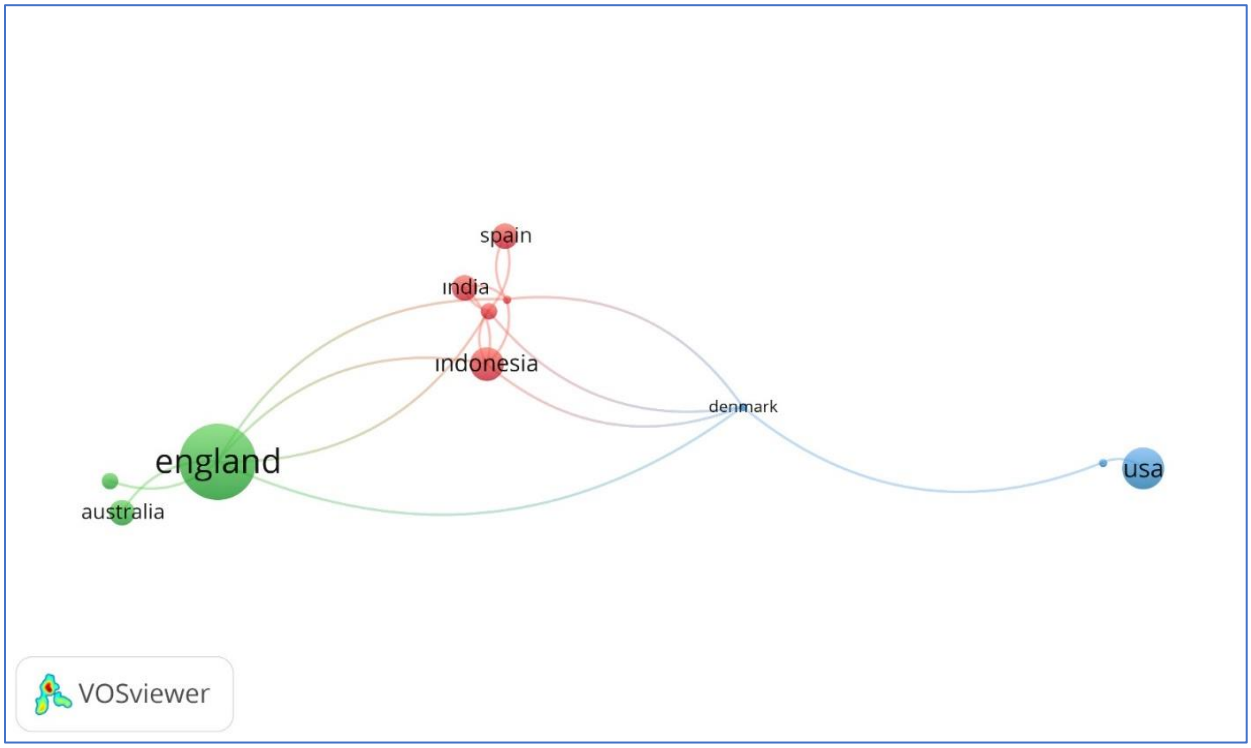


Citation of Countries Analysis

Countries can demonstrate their economic, technological, and social development through their scientific outputs. These outputs are typically measured by the quality (capacity to generate new knowledge) and quantity (number of publications, patents, citations, etc.) of research (Elango & Oh, 2022).

In the country citation analysis based on the criteria of at least 1 publication and 1 citation on the body of the study, 25 out of 32 countries meet the threshold. The top 10 most cited countries are England (280), Germany (121), Indonesia (90), USA (71), Greece (67), Canada (55), Pakistan (36), Bulgaria (28), Quatar (26), and Australia (24). Turkey (7) ranks 20th in this ranking. The UK ranks third in the world for published scientific research, with nearly 2,500 citable publications in 2020 alone (British Council, 2025).

Figure 11: Citation of countries analysis network visual

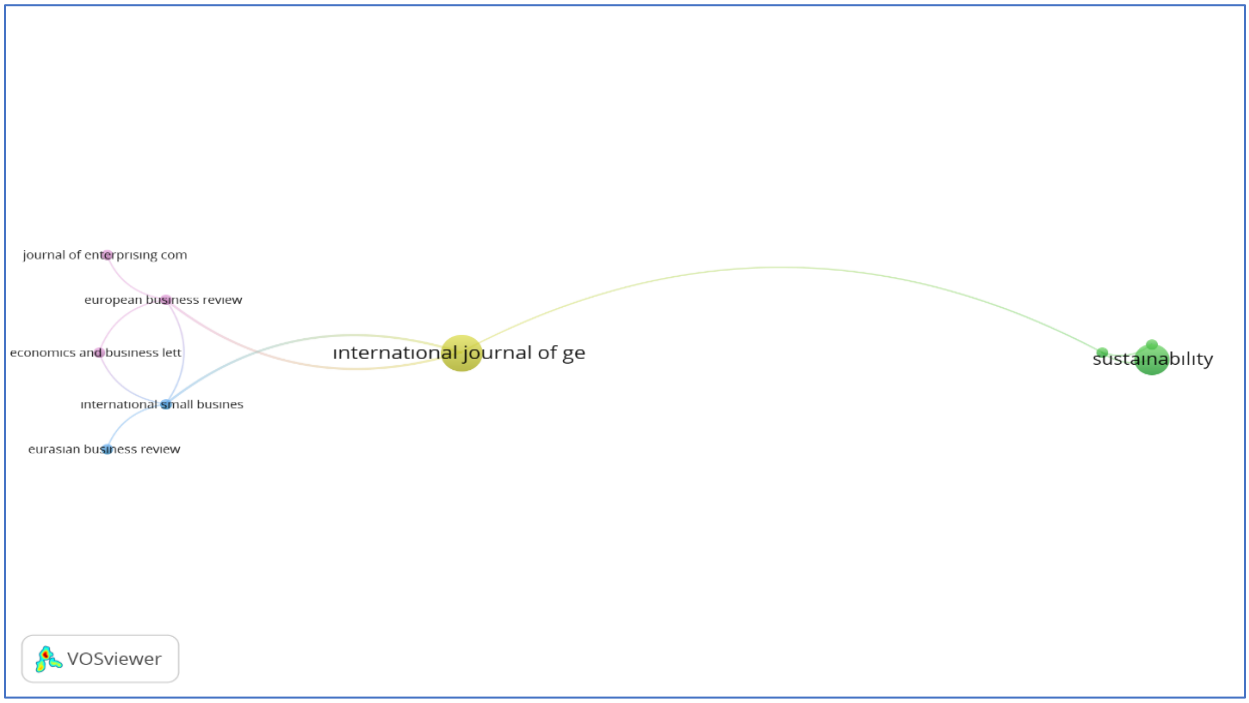


Citation Source Analysis

The journal in which a scientist publishes is recognized as one of the most important factors determining their career. Publications in prestigious journals with a high impact factor can enhance a scientist's reputation and create more opportunities in their academic career. Therefore, scientists aim to submit their best work to journals with the largest audience (Brembs, 2018).

Source citation analysis reveals the importance of a scientific source in the field. For the analysis, thresholds of at least 1 publication and 1 citation were selected for the analysis and 30 out of 36 sources met the threshold. As a result of the analysis, 4 clusters, 10 links, and 12 total link strengths were obtained. The top 3 journals with the highest number of publications related to the research topic, international trade and women entrepreneurship, are International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship (5 publications, 70 citations), Sustainability (4 publications, 50 citations), and Small Business Economics (2 publications, 188 citations) (Figure 12). The prominence of these journals highlights the growing academic interest in inclusive economic development and the strategic role of women entrepreneurs in global markets.

Figure 12: Citation source analysis network visual

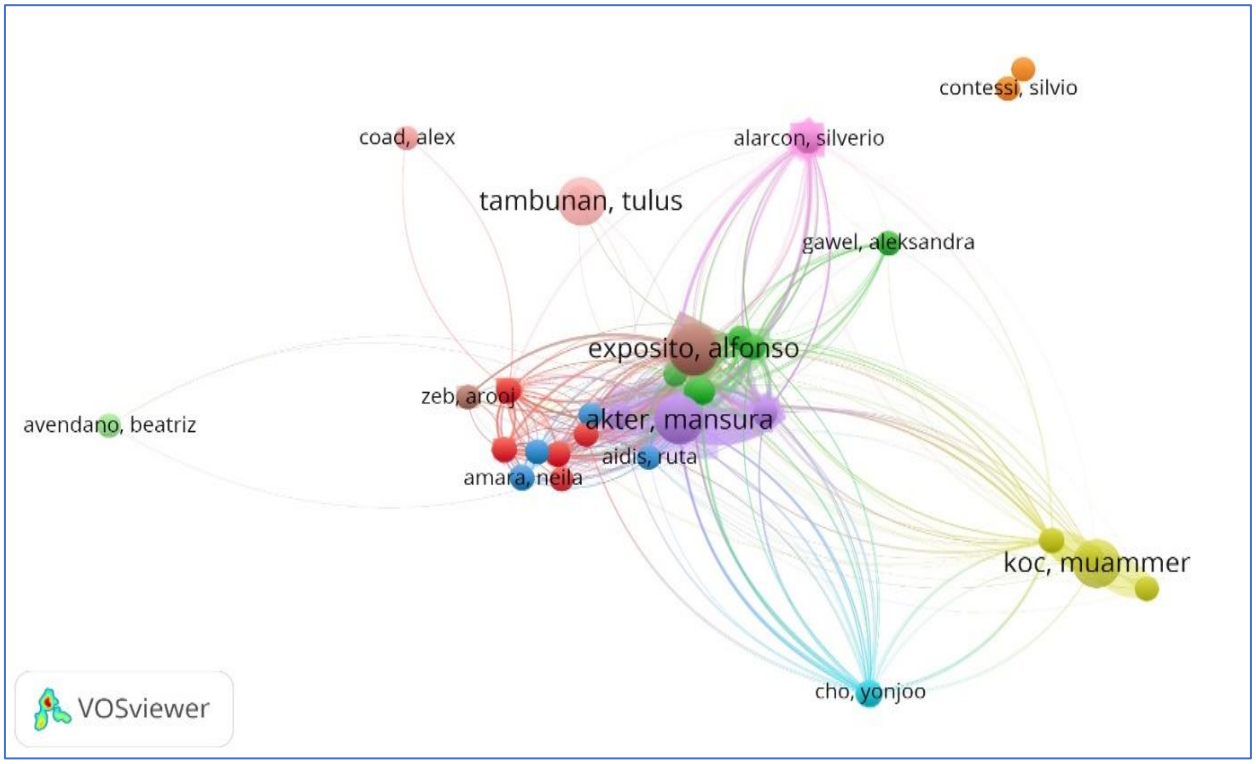


Bibliographic Coupling of Authors Analysis

Bibliographic matching, introduced by Kessler (1963), is an important method used to understand and map the relationships between academic works and publications. It is usually studied in the context of citation and attribution (McCain, 1990).

The preferred bibliographic matching network visualization to understand the scientific connections and interactions related to the researched field is presented in Figure 13. For the bibliographic match analysis of 107 authors, 84 authors who met the threshold of at least 1 publication and at least 1 citation were identified. As a result of the analysis, 11 clusters, 1359 links, and 11562 total link strength were obtained. Mansura Akter and Mahfuzur Rahman emerged as the most central figures in the network, withtwo publications, 22 citations, and a total link strength of 1,281. Their high connectivity suggests that their work is widely referenced across multiple studies, positioning them as key contributors to the field's intellectual cohesion. Ranked second are Alfonso Exposito, Amparo Sanchis-Llopis, and Juan A. Sanchis-Llopis, who collectively produced two publications, received six citations, and achieved a total link strength of 853. Dragana Radicic ranks third, with one publication, 21 citations, and a total link strength of 687.

Figure 13: Bibliographic coupling of authors analysis network visual

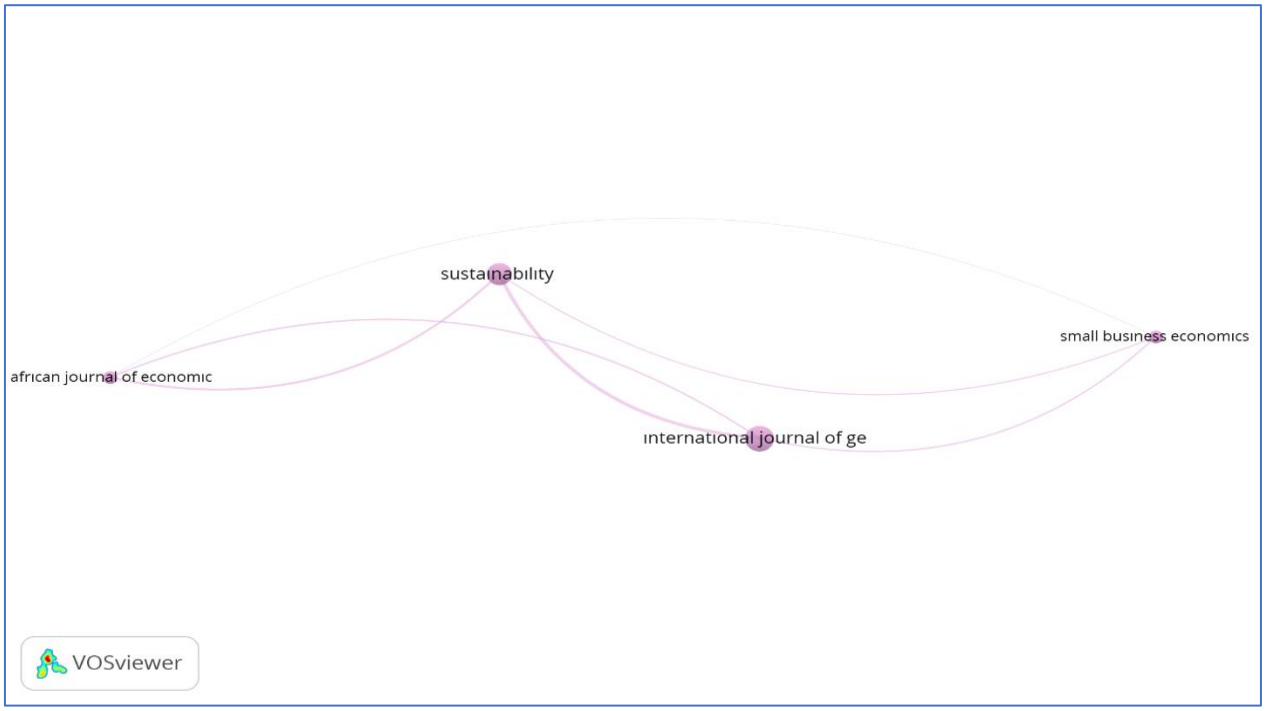


Bibliographic Coupling of Sources Analysis

Bibliographic coupling is a relationship established when two academic documents refer to a common source. This type of linkage means that both documents refer to the same source (article, book, report, etc.), thereby Bibliographic coupling defining the relationship between these two documents (Ma et al., 2022).

In the bibliographic coupling analysis of the journals, with the minimum number of documents set to 2 and the minimum number of citations set to "0", 4 out of 36 journals met the threshold. As a result of the analysis, 1 cluster consisting of 4 journals has 6 links and 58 total link strength (Figure 14). In the analysis, Sustainability Journal ranks first with 42 total linkages (4 publications, 50 citations); International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship Journal ranks second with 39 total linkages (5 publications, 70 citations); African Journal of Economic and Management Studies Journal ranks third with 22 total linkages (2 publications, 0 citations). These findings indicate that the journals are interlinked. Linkages between journals are often seen between publications that cover similar topics, follow developments in the same research area, or focus on a particular discipline. These links can increase knowledge sharing and help researchers gain a broader perspective and address issues from different perspectives. Additionally, It they can encourage interdisciplinary interactions.

Figure 14: Bibliographic coupling of sources analysis network visual



CONCLUSION

International trade and women's entrepreneurship are broadly related to economic growth and development. Creating equal opportunities for women and men entrepreneurs will significantly benefit individuals, but also for society and the economy as a whole. The contribution of international trade and women's entrepreneurship to economic growth and development will be further enhanced by greater participation of women in trade.

In study, a bibliometric analysis was conducted with data from the WoS database in order to evaluate the research on international trade and women entrepreneurship in the period 2007-2024. For the analysis, the search terms (TS=(women OR gender OR female)) AND TS=("international trade" OR "international commerc*" OR "foreign trade" OR "foreign commerc*" OR "foreign commerc*" OR import OR export) were used, and research area "topic" was selected. The study identified a total of 57 studies, including 47 articles, 8 papers, 3 book chapters, 3 review articles, and 2 early access studies from 16 disciplines. Article searches were conducted both digitally and manually. By selecting only "article" as the document type, 10 studies were excluded from the analysis. After excluding early access articles from 2025, 45 articles were included in the study. Manual screening involved by examining the titles and abstracts individually, and no studies unrelated to the field of foreign trade and women's entrepreneurship were found. The 45 articles are

indexed in SSCI-Expanded, SSCI, and ESCI, and the data were analysed using VOSviewer and Bibliometrix R software programs.

The results of the analysis show that the number of articles published in the field of international trade and women entrepreneurship has an increasing trend in the period 2018-2024, with the highest number of publications in 2023. Of the 45 articles in the study, 22 articles are categorized under "business" in the WoS. The articles with the highest citation scores focus on "gender", "female entrepreneurship", "women", and "entrepreneurship". The two most preferred journals for disseminating research in the field are "International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship" and "Sustainability". "The United Kingdom" is the country with the most scientific collaborations. Alex Coad and Jaganaddha Pawan Tamvada are the most cited authors. England is the most cited country. Mansura Akter and Mahfuzur Rahman are the authors with the highest scientific relevance and influence.

This study provides quantitative measures and indicators of the performance of research in international trade and women's entrepreneurship. Assessing research trends in the field of international trade and women's entrepreneurship is expected to help researchers, academics, governments, and decision makers to make and implement decisions related to the researched area. The primary limitation of this study is its exclusive reliance on data from the WoS database. Further studies can be conducted by using different databases such as Scopus and Google Scholar. In addition, by including scientific journals indexed outside SSCI-Expanded, SSCI, and ESCI, as well as conference proceedings, books, book chapters, theses, and technical reports, valuable research that may not be included in the index of existing databases can be captured. Thus, the field of international trade and women's entrepreneurship can be further deepened.

AUTHORS' STATEMENT

The authors declare that all contributions to this manuscript were made by the listed authors. The authors also declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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