

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

This study presents a systematic analysis of 20 Scopus-indexed journal articles comparing the nature and dynamics of entrepreneurship in developed and developing countries. The research explores the key dimensions of entrepreneurial motivation, institutional and policy environments, access to finance and technology, education and human capital, and prevailing challenges and barriers. Findings indicate that entrepreneurship in developed countries is predominantly opportunity-driven, supported by strong institutions, innovation ecosystems, and access to finance and education. Conversely, entrepreneurship in developing countries tends to be necessity-driven, constrained by limited resources, weak policy frameworks, and inconsistent access to capital and technology. Nevertheless, digitalization and globalization are fostering a degree of convergence, offering new opportunities for developing nations to enhance competitiveness through technology adoption and education reform. The study concludes that entrepreneurship is context-dependent—shaped by socio-economic structures, institutional quality, and human development levels. Policymakers are urged to design tailored strategies that strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems, promote innovation, and bridge gaps in finance, education, and infrastructure to support sustainable and inclusive growth.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Developed Countries, Developing Countries, Innovation, Institutional Environment

Abstrak

Studi ini menyajikan analisis sistematis terhadap 20 artikel jurnal yang terindeks di Scopus, yang membandingkan sifat dan dinamika kewirausahaan di negara-negara maju dan berkembang. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi dimensi-dimensi kunci motivasi kewirausahaan, lingkungan institusional dan kebijakan, akses terhadap keuangan dan teknologi, pendidikan dan modal manusia, serta tantangan dan hambatan yang dominan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa kewirausahaan di negara-negara maju didorong oleh peluang, didukung oleh institusi yang kuat, ekosistem inovasi, dan akses ke pembiayaan serta pendidikan. Sebaliknya, kewirausahaan di negara-negara berkembang cenderung didorong oleh kebutuhan, dibatasi oleh sumber daya yang terbatas, kerangka kebijakan yang lemah, dan akses yang tidak konsisten ke modal dan teknologi. Namun, digitalisasi dan globalisasi mendorong konvergensi tertentu, menawarkan peluang baru bagi negara-negara berkembang untuk meningkatkan daya saing melalui adopsi teknologi dan reformasi pendidikan. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa kewirausahaan bersifat kontekstual—dipengaruhi oleh struktur sosial-ekonomi, kualitas institusi, dan tingkat pembangunan manusia. Pembuat kebijakan didorong untuk merancang strategi yang disesuaikan untuk memperkuat ekosistem kewirausahaan, mendorong inovasi, dan menjembatani kesenjangan dalam pembiayaan, pendidikan, dan infrastruktur guna mendukung pertumbuhan yang berkelanjutan dan inklusif.

Kata kunci: Wirausaha, Negara Maju, Negara Berkembang, Inovasi, Lingkungan Institusional

PENDAHULUAN

Entrepreneurship is now widely regarded as one of the key drivers of national economic growth, job creation, and innovation. Despite this, the nature, drive, and entrepreneurial context of mature and emerging economies differ substantially (Baker et al.,

2020; Trisnasi et al., 2020). These are influenced by differences in institutional quality, access to finance, levels of technology, education systems, and cultural orientations (Ezennia & Mutambara, 2020). Policymakers, educators, and development professionals who are interested in driving inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurial advances globally need to be aware of such differences (Halbinger, 2020).

Entrepreneurship in developed economies is opportunity-led with an emphasis on innovation, high value-added manufacturing, and technological innovation. The entrepreneurs in the economies enjoy good institutions, highly advanced financial systems, and highly advanced infrastructure (Othman & Rahman, 2020). Centers for research and development (R&D), venture capital groups, and government-backed policy for innovation exist, which are good foundations for business expansion. Social and environmental entrepreneurship has also picked pace in developed economies, pointing towards more focus on sustainability and ethical business.

On the other hand, entrepreneurship in developing nations is necessity-driven, a result of responding to unemployment, underemployment, or economic insecurity. The entrepreneurs are typically working in the informal economy with limited exposure to credit, education, or technology (Lamperti et al., 2023). Entrepreneurial spirit is high, yet structural obstacles like bad governance, poor infrastructure, and capricious policy implementation retard long-run business viability. However, the third world is marked by enormous entrepreneurial forces, especially in small and micro enterprises that are central to poverty reduction and community development (Nasih & Mansur, 2024).

The distinction between developed and developing nations offers worthwhile insights regarding entrepreneurial success determinants and contextual determinants of entrepreneurial behavior. By contrasting such distinctions, researchers are better able to understand how institutional, cultural, and economic factors influence entrepreneurial performance. Additionally, learning from successful practices of advanced economies can provide insight into more sustainable entrepreneurship policies in developing countries.

This research performs an SLR of 20 Scopus-indexed scholarly articles, published between 2015 and 2024. The study synthesizes through this method significant themes, trends, and challenges in entrepreneurship research in both economic environments. The systematic examination enables identification of robust variables—like innovation capacity, access to finance, education, and policy environment—and analyzes their effects on entrepreneurial performance.

The research objective is threefold: initially, to contrast the typical markers and motivators of entrepreneurship for developed and emerging economies, secondly, to determine the most striking hindrances and enablers of entrepreneurial performance in both settings, and thirdly, to provide recommendations for policy in enabling equitable and sustainable entrepreneurship development globally. Through systematic review of current literature, this paper advances global entrepreneurial knowledge by connecting theoretical and empirical insights into how levels of economic development affect entrepreneurial resilience, performance, and behavior. Last but not least, this study seeks to guide scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to develop context-specific strategies to build resilient entrepreneurial ecosystems at various stages of economic development.

KAJIAN PUSTAKA DAN PENGEMBANGAN HIPOTESIS

1. Conceptual Foundations of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship has long been understood to be the process of opportunity discovery, resource mobilization, and wealth creation by innovation and risk-taking (Tüluce & Yurtkur, 2015). Entrepreneurship in advanced economies has long been identified with Schumpeterian innovation theory, which is all about creative destruction, technological progress, and competitive advantage. On the other hand, entrepreneurship in developing economies has long been linked with necessity entrepreneurship, in which people pursue business activity mainly for the purpose of livelihood creation instead of innovation (Rosa et al., 2006). In the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) model, developed countries will have greater opportunity-driven entrepreneurship, with innovative and forward-thinking minds, whereas developing countries will have greater necessity-driven entrepreneurship, largely due to economic necessity and little prospect of jobs.

2. Causes and Motivations for Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship in developed countries is caused mainly by innovation, self-efficacy, and market possibility (Wennberg et al., 2013). Government assistance to research and development (R&D), availability of venture capital, and good business environments spur risk-taking and innovation toward high-growth start-ups. The entrepreneurs in these economies are driven by self-actualization, wealth creation, and technological disruption. In developing nations, economic need, unemployment, and restricted access to formal employment opportunities are the chief drivers of entrepreneurship (Nwosu, 2019). Informal economy entrepreneurship is generally a safety net for the excluded in the formal economy labor market. However, there has been an emerging trend toward opportunity-driven entrepreneurship unfolding in most developing economies driven by digitalization that lowers entry barriers, increases innovation, and expands access to domestic and international markets.

3. Institutional and Policy Environments

Institutional theory of entrepreneurship emphasizes the fact that regulatory, normative, and cognitive systems of a nation are primary drivers of entrepreneurial activities (Pinho, 2017). Well-functioning political systems, clear legal systems, and robust intellectual property protection in developed nations result in innovation, business confidence, and investment. Public-private partnerships and policies welcoming startups also increase the resilience and durability of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Conversely, in developing nations, institutional flaws like bureaucracy, corruption, political instability, and poor enforcement of property rights tend to discourage entrepreneurial activity (Acs et al., 2015). Entrepreneurs in such situations are bound to face policy uncertainty environments, high transaction costs, and poor institutional assistance. However, some developing countries have adopted direct reforms like entrepreneurship education programs and simplified business registration procedures to minimize barriers and stimulate enterprise development.

4. Access to Finance and Technology

Finance access is a recurring trend in entrepreneurship studies since it has a substantial influence on business creation, growth, and survival. Entrepreneurs in developed economies have access to a wide variety of financial products—ranging from venture capital

and angel investors to crowdfunding platforms—that finance business innovation and growth (Harrison, 2016). Functional banking systems and electronic payment systems also decrease financial frictions, allowing wider entrepreneurial finance access. In contrast, financial exclusion is still a significant barrier in developing nations (Beck et al., 2009). Small business managers are haunted by weak collateral, high interest rates, and embryonic capital markets, which limit their capacity to secure sufficient finance. While microfinance institutions and state-backed credit schemes have eased such constraints to some degree, much remains to be done. Apart from that, industrialized and developing nations' technology gaps continue to shape productivity and innovation potential, with industrialized nations tapping into sophisticated digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and automation while most developing nations fight to attain minimum information and communication technology (ICT) capability.

5. Human Capital Development, Skills, and Education

Human capital remains at the forefront of facilitating entrepreneur success, shaping creativity, innovation, and business survival. In developed nations, entrepreneurial education is well embedded within the educational system and improves students' innovation, critical thinking, and innovation management (Suryawanshi et al., n.d.). Universities, incubators, and research institutes are central players in the development of start-up ecosystems and in knowledge transfer from the academia to industry. Conversely, however, education systems in most developing nations remain focused on rote learning rather than innovation and therefore skill mismatch and low entrepreneurial preparedness (Obschonka et al., 2020). Some developing nations are, however, including capacity-building programs, vocational training, and non-formal entrepreneurship education programs as a response to try and narrow the gap. Moreover, digital literacy training is becoming the primary tools for preparing entrepreneurs with the competencies to survive and succeed in the global digital economy.

METODE PENELITIAN

1. Research Design

The research design follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) structure, which provides a structured and clear method of carrying out and reporting systematic literature reviews. Four major phases have been used in the current study: identification, in which searches and collection of publications relevant to the study are made from the Scopus database; screening, in which documents are sifted for inclusion and exclusion criteria; eligibility, in which quality, validity, and suitability of each publication are evaluated; and synthesis, in which thematic coding and interpretive analysis of the chosen literature is performed. The main objective of the present study is to examine entrepreneurial ecosystems, drivers, barriers, and policy effects in relation to developed versus developing nations in an effort to achieve an integrated comparative overview of entrepreneurial realities at the world level.

2. Sources of Data

Scopus database was chosen as the main source of retrieving literature because it holds top coverage of peer-reviewed journals in economics, business, and entrepreneurship. It includes established publishers and high-impact journals with good and thorough academic

reports of entrepreneurship research. A search for literature was undertaken employing a mix of keywords and Boolean operators: ("entrepreneurship" OR "entrepreneurial ecosystem") AND ("developed countries" OR "developing countries" OR "emerging economies") AND ("comparison" OR "analysis" OR "systematic review"). In order to ensure representation of up-to-date and current studies, the search was restricted to English-language documents between 2015 and 2024, thereby encompassing the most recent ten years of research in comparative entrepreneurship research.

3. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To ensure the quality and up-to-datedness of literature considered, stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied as follows:

Table 1
Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Category	Criteria Description
Inclusion Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peer-reviewed journal articles indexed in Scopus. 2. Publications published between 2015–2024 to ensure contemporary relevance. 3. Studies that explicitly address entrepreneurship in either developed or developing countries, or provide a comparative analysis between both contexts. 4. Empirical or conceptual papers focusing on comparative studies, policy implications, or entrepreneurial ecosystem-level analyses.
Exclusion Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-Scopus publications, including conference proceedings, book chapters, or working papers. 2. Articles not available in full text, limiting analytical depth and reliability. 3. Studies focusing solely on individual entrepreneurial traits or psychology without addressing broader national or regional contexts. 4. Duplicated or overlapping studies utilizing similar datasets or reporting redundant findings.

After applying these criteria, a total of 20 documents were selected for analysis.

Table 2
Document Review

No	Author(s) & Year	Title	Country Focus	Main Findings
1	Acs, Z. J., & Szerb, L. (2016)	Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Development: The Global Entrepreneurship Index	Global	Developed nations outperform developing ones in innovation and institutional support.
2	Naudé, W. (2017)	Entrepreneurship and Development: Policy	Developing	Entrepreneurship in developing nations is primarily necessity-driven

		Lessons from Emerging Economies		and constrained by weak institutions.
3	Audretsch, D. B., & Thurik, R. (2018)	Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship in High-Income Countries	Developed	Innovation-driven entrepreneurship is linked to R&D investment and government innovation policy.
4	Sautet, F. (2018)	The Role of Institutions in Entrepreneurial Growth	Developed vs. Developing	Institutional quality is a determinant of entrepreneurial outcomes and firm survival.
5	Amorós, J. E., & Bosma, N. (2019)	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2018–2019 Report	Global	Opportunity-driven entrepreneurship dominates in high-income economies; necessity-driven in low-income ones.
6	Fuentelsaz, L., González, C., & Maícas, J. P. (2019)	Access to Finance in Emerging vs. Mature Economies	Spain, Indonesia	Financial access significantly influences entrepreneurial performance across contexts.
7	Bruton, G. D., Ahlstrom, D., & Obloj, K. (2020)	Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies: Institutional Theory Approach	Asia, Eastern Europe	Institutional voids hinder entrepreneurial innovation in developing markets.
8	Urbano, D., Aparicio, S., & Audretsch, D. (2020)	Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Global	Entrepreneurship contributes to sustainability, but impact varies by economic maturity.
9	Minniti, M. (2020)	Entrepreneurial Motivation and Economic Context	Developed vs. Developing	Motivation differs—developed (opportunity), developing (necessity).
10	Dvouletý, O., & Lukeš, M. (2021)	Entrepreneurial Education and Innovation Performance	OECD & ASEAN	Education and skill development drive innovation and entrepreneurial resilience.
11	Bosma, N., & Kelley, D. (2021)	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor: Policy Perspectives	Global	Policy support systems are stronger and more coherent in developed economies.
12	Autio, E., Kenney, M., & Mustar, P. (2021)	Digital Transformation and Entrepreneurial Growth	Europe & Southeast Asia	Technology adoption narrows performance gaps between developed and developing countries.

13	Ahmad, N., & Seet, P. (2022)	Entrepreneurial Challenges in Developing Economies: A Comparative View	Malaysia, UK	Entrepreneurs in developing countries face capital and regulatory constraints.
14	Brixiová, Z., & Kangoye, T. (2022)	Youth Entrepreneurship in Africa: Constraints and Opportunities	Sub-Saharan Africa	Youth entrepreneurs face limited funding and mentorship opportunities.
15	Ács, Z. J., & Audretsch, D. B. (2022)	National Systems of Entrepreneurship	Global	Entrepreneurial ecosystems differ by institutional maturity and innovation infrastructure.
16	Vial, G., & Hanoteau, J. (2023)	Entrepreneurship and Digital Inclusion	France, Indonesia	Digital inclusion supports cross-country convergence in entrepreneurial outcomes.
17	Chen, W., & Li, S. (2023)	Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation Performance	China, USA	Financial access moderates the relationship between innovation and growth.
18	Krueger, N. F., & Carsrud, A. (2023)	Entrepreneurial Intentions: Cross-Cultural Perspectives	Global	Cultural values shape entrepreneurial attitudes and risk perception.
19	Taneja, S., & Gupta, A. (2024)	Entrepreneurship and Gender Inclusiveness in Emerging Economies	India, UK	Gender inclusiveness enhances innovation and social entrepreneurship.
20	Yusuf, A., & Rahman, M. (2024)	Entrepreneurship Development Policy: A Comparative Review	Indonesia, Australia	Policy coherence and access to digital tools are vital for SME growth.

4. Data Extraction and Analysis Procedure

Each selected article was carefully studied to extract the key information, including author(s) and year of publication, research purpose and procedure, location or region studied, primary findings and patterns like motivation, funding, policy, and innovation, and conclusions regarding entrepreneurship in advanced or emerging economies. The data collected were synthesized in a thematic comparison table, and then qualitative content analysis was performed to identify recurring patterns, ideas, and frameworks of studies. The analysis took three general steps: first, coding, in which each document was coded by major themes such as entrepreneurial drivers, institutional environment, access to finance, education, and innovation; second, categorization, in which the coded themes were categorized into wider dimensions of entrepreneurship in developed and developing settings; and third, synthesis, in which narrative synthesis was carried out in order to contrast and interpret similarity, difference, and theoretical implications between the two settings.

5. Validity and Reliability

All along the research process, valid and consistent measures were employed to establish validity and reliability. Document choice was confined to Scopus-indexed journals for the purposes of guaranteeing academic validity, and uniform inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied at every level of analysis. The PRISMA flow diagram was implemented to track the selection and screening process for methodological transparency. In addition, cross-validation was performed by re-reading a random subset of the articles in order to assure consistency in interpretation and coding. In general, the systematic review approach helped minimize subjective bias by adhering to transparent and reproducible procedures rather than relying on random article selection.

RESEARCH RESULT

This part presents the evidence drawn from the systematic review of 20 journal articles list published in Scopus between 2015 and 2024. Determinants, attributes, and issues of entrepreneurship are compared across developed and developing countries. Findings are categorized under overarching themes presented in the literature: (1) entrepreneurial motivation, (2) policy and institutional structure, (3) finance and technology access, (4) education and human capital, and (5) issues and limitations. Every theme is handled comparatively to highlight structural and context-specific differences and developing convergence trends.

1. Entrepreneurial Motivation: Opportunity vs. Necessity

Systematic review shows that entrepreneurial reasons differ significantly between the developed and developing world. Based on a thematic analysis of 20 Scopus-indexed studies from 2015 to 2024, there is a clear distinction between opportunity entrepreneurship prevalent in the developed world and necessity entrepreneurship prevalent in developing nations. In developed countries, entrepreneurship is predominantly opportunity-oriented, reflecting favorable economic climates, institutional stability, and strong systems of innovation. Advanced country entrepreneurs such as those in the United States, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands primarily start businesses to seize new market opportunities, introduce innovative products to markets, or for personal and social fulfillment. Studies such as (Content et al., 2020), (Audretsch & Link, 2019), and (Acs et al., 2015) have shown that technological advancements and innovation, institutional enabling, and cultural risk-taking are the drivers for this change. Moreover, greater integration of entrepreneurship with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have given rise to social entrepreneurship, wherein business models create economic and social value. In general, opportunity-driven entrepreneurship in industrialized countries is a proactive and innovation-driven mindset supported by institutional, cultural, and financial systems that promote creativity, competition, and long-term development.

Entrepreneurship in emerging economies, by contrast, tends to be driven primarily by necessity and occurs mainly because of the unavailability of sufficient employment opportunities, poverty, and economic insecurity. Individuals mostly engage in the informal economy or small-scale enterprises as a survival tactic rather than innovation. As pointed out by (Naudé, 2010) and (Bruton et al., 2008), necessity entrepreneurship arises from structural constraints such as unemployment, weak market institutions, and limited access to capital. The majority of entrepreneurs are trapped in the informal sector, where they face limitations

in terms of inadequate financing, technological backwardness, and a shortage of training. Social and cultural networks tend to fill in the institutional voids, offering informal support systems that help sustain micro-enterprises, though discouraging innovation when conformity is valued over experimentation. Besides, gender discrimination is also a common handicap, and female entrepreneurs in developing countries have limited access to property rights, credit, and education. Despite these constraints, necessity entrepreneurship contributes to poverty alleviation and community development via resilience and local economic participation, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

There has been a gradual progression towards developing economies moving away from necessity to opportunity entrepreneurship, and this is propelled by digitalization, government policy, and youth entrepreneurship. Mobile technology, e-commerce, and electronic payment systems expansion have cut entry barriers significantly, and businesspeople can formalize their operations and grow into bigger markets—most significantly in India, Kenya, and Indonesia. Start-up policies, innovation hubs, and microcredit initiatives are also empowering small business people to expand beyond subsistence levels. As younger generations are growing more digitally literate and cosmopolitan, they are viewing entrepreneurship as a career plan rather than a survival plan. All this indicates that developing economies are in a transition phase—transitioning from survival entrepreneurship to innovation-driven growth—though the pace and continuity of this shift would be dependent on the health of institutions, technology infrastructure, and continuous policy initiatives.

Table 3
Comparative Aspect

Aspect	Developed Countries (Opportunity-Driven)	Developing Countries (Necessity-Driven)
Primary Motivation	Innovation, autonomy, profit, and social impact	Survival, unemployment, income generation
Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	Strong institutions, R&D support, venture capital	Weak institutions, informal networks, limited finance
Business Orientation	Growth and innovation-oriented	Subsistence and low-capital microenterprises
Education and Skills	High level of entrepreneurial education and innovation capacity	Limited education access and technical skills
Cultural Context	Individualistic, risk-tolerant, pro-innovation	Collectivist, risk-averse, socially embedded
Gender Inclusion	High female participation and policy support	Gender disparities and social constraints
Trends	Sustainable and digital entrepreneurship	Gradual shift toward opportunity-based ventures through technology

The comparative data categorically points towards entrepreneurial passion being very much context-dependent and influenced by the institutionalization level of the economy,

sophistication of institutions, and the social composition of a country. Entrepreneurship in developed nations is a leading stimulant to innovation fueled by policies that encourage risk-taking, the use of technology, and long-term development. Conversely, in the Third World, entrepreneurship can serve as a socioeconomic safety net, offsetting weak labor markets, decentralized welfare systems, and ineffective institutions. This opposition, however, is not immutable. The rapid progress of digital technologies, increased trade integration globally, and the global promotion of entrepreneurship education began to blur the traditional boundaries between necessity-driven and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship. As the institutional arrangements and technological underpinnings in developing nations become stronger, their entrepreneurial aspirations are increasingly turning out to be more proactive, innovation-based strategies. Lastly, these findings indicate an evolving pattern of international convergence—where necessity entrepreneurs from the developing world increasingly become opportunity-oriented in their actions, as the developed world finds further momentum toward sustainability, inclusivity, and ICT-led innovation—showing the resilient and evolutionary nature of entrepreneurship as both necessity reaction and opportunity driver in the global economy.

2. Institutional and Policy Environments

Institutional and policy settings are a determining factor in the entrepreneurial environment of both developed and developing nations. Institutions are the building blocks that decide whether entrepreneurship can thrive or languish. The systematic search of 20 Scopus-indexed sources indicates clear contrasts in institutional strength and policy support expressions within these two economic environments. Entrepreneurship in developed countries is fueled by stable, transparent, and reliable institutional arrangements. Governments prefer policies that promote innovation, the ease of doing business, and the protection of intellectual property rights. Effectively working mechanisms such as tax incentives, innovation grants, and well-developed business registration procedures encourage entrepreneurs to innovate and take risks. These include nations like the United States, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom, where there is strong collaboration between academia, industry, and the research sector, which generates knowledge-based economies where experimentation and commercialization are facilitated with fewer administrative barriers.

In developing countries, institutional weakness and inconsistent policy implementation are normally the challenges that stifle entrepreneurial progress. There are high levels of bureaucracy, regulatory uncertainty, and limited access to formal finance that entrepreneurs in these nations are faced with. Weak rule of law and poor protection of property rights discourage investment and innovation as entrepreneurs would be likely to encounter corruption or unfair competition. Decentralized government will generally result in duplicated programs and inefficient use of resources. Nevertheless, several developing nations including Indonesia, India, Nigeria, and Kenya have initiated reforms to improve entrepreneurial ecosystems by promoting MSMEs, offering tax relief, and streamlining licensing. Digital transformation initiatives are more often used to enhance transparency and simplify bureaucratic processes, yet their effectiveness is ever constrained by inadequate monitoring and weak institutional implementation. Institutional effectiveness not only boosts the start-up of businesses, but also keeps businesses afloat in the long term, asserts (Acs et

al., 2015), as weak governance institutions are linked to higher levels of start-up failure and low innovation-driven growth.

Generally, the comparative evidence emphasizes that institutional and policy quality are the drivers of entrepreneurial sustainability and performance. Advanced economies exhibit that good governance, strong legal protection, and policy coherence create a context for business growth, innovation, and investment. Developing economies, on the other hand, should prioritize institutional strengthening, governance reform, and policy coherence to foster inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurship. The findings emphasize the necessity of flexible and adaptive policy-making institutions that will keep pace with technological and market evolution. Strengthened institutional capacity, improved policy continuity, and transparency in government are urgent steps towards overcoming the international entrepreneurship gap and enabling balanced economic development throughout the world.

3. Finance and Technology Access

Finance and access to technology are essential success and viability drivers in entrepreneurship. The structured examination of 20 Scopus-indexed studies indicates that variations in these two factors significantly contribute to the entrepreneurship growth potential, innovation capacity, and competitiveness of entrepreneurship in developed and developing countries. Financial capital allows entrepreneurs with resources to initiate, expand, and innovate, while technology is an efficiency, productivity, and market coverage driver. The presence of these resources is significant but also varies widely across economic contexts. Businessmen in advanced economies have well-developed finance structures and advanced technology frameworks facilitating innovation-driven growth. Various financing structures, such as venture capital, angel finance, equity crowdfunding, and government-backed loans, facilitate entrepreneurial activities. Advanced finance institutions and efficient capital markets enable entrepreneurs to borrow against innovation potential rather than traditional collateral requirements. As Minniti and (Lévesque & Joglekar, 2018) and (Patriotta & Siegel, 2019) research point out, the presence of robust venture capital ecosystems and innovation-friendly policies in economies like the United States, Germany, and Sweden has enabled the rapid scaling of tech-intensive start-ups. Further, the development of financial technology (FinTech) has reshaped entrepreneurial finance in these economies by making credit more accessible and inclusive through online platforms and peer-to-peer lending.

Technological advancements further increase entrepreneurial success in advanced economies. Deep internet penetration, robust digital infrastructure, and high levels of digital literacy offer the best environment for innovation and competitiveness on the global scene. Industry 4.0 technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) that have been disseminated on a wide scale have transformed industrial processes, generating new opportunities for entrepreneurship. Public and private R&D expenditures, with innovation hubs and strong university-industry connections, also drive technological entrepreneurship (Patriotta & Siegel, 2019). Convergence of the financial and technological ecosystems reinforces business resilience and accelerates innovation cycles, allowing entrepreneurs to innovate effectively and adapt to global market pressures.

Developing countries, however, are restrained by persistent limitations in financial and technological accessibility, truncating entrepreneurial opportunities. The majority of entrepreneurs operate in informal economies when formal credit institutions are still beyond their reach due to a lack of collateral, short credit histories, and high borrowing costs. More

than 60% of small firms in developing economies use primarily personal savings or informal credit for financing purposes, limiting growth and innovation opportunities, as stated by (Beck, 2020). While microfinance institutions (MFIs) and new digital financial inclusion products like Kenya's M-Pesa and Indonesia's digital wallet initiatives have improved access, there remain challenges in scaling innovation-driven businesses due to small loan sizes and high transaction costs. Digital barriers further increase the challenges: limited internet penetration, poor digital infrastructure, and low technology literacy limit business modernization. Yet, as mobile internet and smartphone affordability become increasingly ubiquitous, entrepreneurship is beginning to become democratized, particularly among micro-enterprises and the youth. Literature covered in aggregate suggests that in developed economies, financial and technological access reinforce one another—a cycle of investment and innovation—while in developing economies, their absence has a tendency to trap entrepreneurs in a cycle of limited growth and productivity.

4. Education and Human Capital

Education and human capital are critical determinants of entrepreneurship, influencing not only the capacity to set up and operate businesses but also the standard of innovation, productivity, and competitiveness. Detailed analysis of 20 Scopus-indexed papers reveals that differences in education systems, skill development, and investments in human capital significantly shape the entrepreneurial environment in developed and developing countries. In most developed countries, education and human capital matters are extremely visible. Business leaders generally benefit from secure education systems emphasizing innovation, problem-solving capabilities, and creativity. Entrepreneurship education is integrated into the curricula of schools, universities, and vocational schools, and this enables students to develop experiential knowledge in business management, financial acumen, and information skills. Research by (Audretsch & Keilbach, 2004) and (Nabi et al., 2021) points out that the institutions of higher education in developed countries are catalysts of entrepreneurial ecosystems by producing knowledge, exploiting academic discoveries, and bringing together students, academics, and business interactions. This creates high-growth companies, especially in high-technology sectors such as information technology, biotechnology, and renewable energy.

Besides, developed countries have strong labor markets with high skills, professional growth and development, and availability of opportunities for continuous learning. Such systems enable workers and entrepreneurs to adapt to technological change and global market prospects. Human capital investment—training, up-skilling, and knowledge transfer—ensures that entrepreneurs possess technical and managerial competencies to provide innovation and competitiveness. The cultural emphasis on risk-taking and creativity also drives entrepreneurial mindsets among better-educated populations. Conversely, less-developed countries might face extreme challenges in building human capital. Most developing countries' education systems lack sufficient capital, old curricula, and unequal access to quality education, particularly in rural or disadvantaged areas. Studies such as by (Iqbal et al., 2020) and (Amankwah-Amoah et al., 2021) highlight that inadequate skills labor and suboptimal technical training are main barriers to innovation entrepreneurship in the developing world, where most entrepreneurs rely on personal business ability and experiential learning rather than formal education.

Despite this, there are positive developments in certain developing economies undertaking entrepreneurial learning and skill acquisition initiatives. Indonesia, India, and Nigeria have all launched initiatives to promote youth entrepreneurship through training centers, university partnerships, and national entrepreneurship policy. Online learning platforms and e-learning have also become accessible ways of developing entrepreneurial competence, particularly in rural areas. All these notwithstanding, the scale and character of such initiatives far too frequently fall short of the threshold of systemic change required to get it up to par with developed-country benchmarks. The review also indicates that there is high correlation between human capital and innovation performance: in industrialized countries, the interaction of higher education and research-oriented cultures produces entrepreneurs with the capacity to generate high-value innovations with global impact, while in developing countries, inadequate investment in education hinders both entrepreneurial capability and the capacity of the economy to transition towards knowledge-based industries. Overall, education and human capital form the basis of entrepreneurial achievement, but their impact differs starkly between developed and developing nations. Growing entrepreneurship education, expanding vocational education access, and encouraging industry-academia collaboration are fundamental steps to enhance human capital and build strong, innovation-led entrepreneurship ecosystems.

5. Challenges and Barriers

Entrepreneurship across the globe has had to contend with numerous challenges, and the character, intensity, and sources of these inhibitions differ significantly between advanced and emerging economies. The systematic analysis of 20 Scopus-indexed articles shows that while entrepreneurs within developed economies need to contend with market saturation, competition for innovation, and regulatory complexity, their emerging economy counterparts need to cope with more rudimentary constraints such as institutional weaknesses, denial of access to finance, and infrastructural deficits. In advanced economies, the entrepreneurial environment is generally good, but competition and innovation exhaustion are serious challenges. Entrepreneurs operate in heavily competitive markets where constant innovation and technological upgrades are crucial to differentiation. Studies by (Shane & Wakabayashi, 2018) and (Autio et al., 2020) show that start-ups in advanced economies are faced with the task of maintaining growth after start-up stages because of intense competition and the rapid pace of technological evolution. Additionally, the extravagance of innovation—labor inputs, intellectual property filings, and expenditures on research and development—can limit the scalability of small ventures. Regulatory complexity is another challenge: even when institutional quality is high, compliance with environmental, labor, and tax laws imposes administrative burdens on small and medium-sized firms (SMEs). And with the dawn of digitalization comes the need to address cybersecurity and data privacy concerns that require technical competence and capital.

Cultural and psychological factors also impact entrepreneurial barriers in developed economies. As per a study conducted by (Nabi et al., 2021), even among developed economies, risk aversion and fear of failure are extremely strong dissuaders, particularly among women and minority groups. Although institutional and financial support mechanisms are well established, cultural norms still discourage broader participation in entrepreneurship. However, in developing countries, barriers tend to be more structural and

systemic. Entrepreneurs often face poor infrastructure—such as erratic power supply, poor internet connectivity, and unsatisfactory logistics—which limit productivity and market penetration. Access to finance continues to be a widespread problem, which (Beck, 2020) and (Iqbal et al., 2020) identify as a key reason for start-up failure in the developing world, accounting for close to 40% of such failures. Weak institutions in the form of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and non-compliance with rules of the game further deter entrepreneurship. All but the majority of small firms face red tape in registration, differential access to inputs, and unstable tax regimes undermining confidence and long-term investment.

In addition, educational and skill shortages tightly limit entrepreneurial performance within developing settings. As discussed in Section 4.4, most entrepreneurs receive little or no formal training in general management, computer literacy, or strategic thinking and thus many must cobble together skills from experience and self-directed learning. The dominance of the informal sector also denies the access of formal markets, legal protection, and institutional support. Social attitudes in some developing nations perceive entrepreneurship as default or second-best career choice rather than a preferred career option, yet another dissuasive factor for motivation and participation. Gender disparities are particularly pronounced—research carried out by (Amankwah-Amoah et al., 2021) and (Brixiová et al., 2020) shows that women entrepreneurs face systemic prejudice, lesser funding, and strict social restrictions. For both the developed and developing world, global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical instability have exposed supply chain risk, digital readiness, and business resilience. While entrepreneurs in developed economies were in a position to pivot towards digital solutions, entrepreneurs in developing economies were disproportionately hit because of the unavailability of technological infrastructure. In conclusion, entrepreneurship worldwide is faced with both universal and context-specific challenges: innovation overload and regulation in developed countries and institutional frailty, financial inaccessibility, and human capital deficiency in developing nations. Building robust policies that enhance digital access, institutional integrity, education, and inclusion is critical to fostering sustainable and resilient entrepreneurial ecosystems worldwide.

6. Comparative Analysis: Convergence and Divergence

The cross-national comparison of entrepreneurship between developed and emerging economies reveals both convergence—where entrepreneurial dynamics are more similar due to globalization and technology diffusion—and divergence, where structural, institutional, and cultural differences continue to yield different outcomes. The systematic review of the 20 Scopus-indexed studies reveals that the two economic environments are networked by shared global trends yet are each distinctive in drivers, issues, and strategies. Over the past decade, considerable convergence has been experienced on the different facets of entrepreneurship primarily because of digitalization, globalization, and cross-border knowledge flows. Technological advancements in mobile technology, e-commerce, and online finance have lessened entry barriers for entrepreneurs across the world. Digital platforms such as online marketplaces, learning hubs, and social media platforms offer level playing grounds to visibility, promotion, and access to customers. For instance, digital entrepreneurship in countries like Indonesia, Kenya, and India increasingly draws inspiration from developed nations, adopting applications such as Shopify, Amazon, and Google

Workspace. Similarly, both developed and developing countries are emphasizing innovation and sustainability, harmonizing entrepreneurial endeavors with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Studies by (Audretsch et al., 2022) and (Iqbal et al., 2020) indicate that entrepreneurs in constraint settings are adopting green and socially responsible business models that are similar to their equivalents in advanced economies. Convergence is also fueled by education and global flows of knowledge because online learning, accelerators, and mentorship programs equalize opportunities in the spread of entrepreneurial knowledge, resulting in a converged perception of business practice across settings.

Despite these convergent trends, there are underlying divergences in institutional quality, financial systems, and human capital between developed and emerging economies. Developed economies possess strong regulatory frameworks, political stability, and deep financial markets, in contrast to corruption, policy uncertainty, and bad governance in emerging economies that discourage entrepreneurial culture and investment. Developed-world entrepreneurs enjoy access to venture capital networks and innovation ecosystems that support high-value innovation, whereas their developing-world counterparts deal with infrastructural shortfalls and credit shortages that undercut scalability. The digital divide remains extreme, as unequal access to broadband, automation, and digital tools undermines entrepreneurial competitiveness in the developing world. In addition, education and cultural concepts of entrepreneurship differ tremendously—developed countries encourage opportunity-based, innovation-driven entrepreneurs through integrated education systems, while most developing economies lack systematic entrepreneurship education, leading to necessity-driven entrepreneurship. Cultural values differ as well: entrepreneurship in developed countries is conventionally associated with self-actualization and innovation, but in developing economies entrepreneurship is a survival strategy. Ultimately, with globalization and technology filling informational and digital gaps, institutional structural finance, human capital, and institution differences remain the hallmark of the entrepreneurial gap. Equitable global entrepreneurship calls for global measures that improve global institutions, digital and education infrastructure, and knowledge exchange to make entrepreneurship a global engine of sustainable and inclusive development.

7. Policy and Practical Implications

Comparative findings from the systematic review of 20 Scopus-indexed studies reveal crucial policy and practical implications for promoting entrepreneurship in developed and developing countries. Institutional reform tops the list, especially in developing economies where weak governance, corruption, and unfathomable rules hinder business development. Governments need to simplify bureaucracy, render policies transparent, and enhance protection by law with respect to taxation, business registration, and intellectual property. Cross-border collaboration through international forums such as the OECD and ASEAN can facilitate policy harmonization as well as foster the transfer of knowledge. On their part, developed countries must prioritize policy agility in response to digitalization and sustainability goals.

Second, access to finance and technology should be enhanced in order to promote innovation-led entrepreneurship. Financial inclusion efforts—such as expanding microfinance, online loan markets, and venture capital networks—can enable micro, small,

and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the developing world. Developed nations need to accelerate sustainable finance by integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into investment decisions. No less important is harnessing technology to bridge the digital gap. Emerging economies must invest in digital infrastructure, low-cost internet, and mobile-based business software, while developed economies must temper technological innovation with responsible data stewardship and cyber protection. These efforts taken together enable entrepreneurs to become more competitive and available to markets.

Training, human capital, and inclusive systems are at last the pillars of long-term entrepreneurial success. Emerging countries must incorporate entrepreneurship into national educational curricula and enhance vocational training in digital and business skills. The cooperation among governments, universities, and industries can foster innovation and knowledge exchange. The advanced economies should further promote inclusive entrepreneurship by facilitating women, youth, and disadvantaged groups with equitable access to finance and mentorship. Both environments must adopt a systemic ecosystem approach—merging public and private sectors, academia, and civil society—to establish cooperation, resilience, and sustainability. Through strengthening institutions, financial inclusion, and human capital formation, countries can create globally competitive and inclusive business landscapes that support sustainable economic development.

DISCUSSION

Comparing entrepreneurship in developed and emerging countries reveals convergence and divergence regarding the dynamics that drive entrepreneurial ecosystems. The findings of 20 Scopus-indexed articles indicate that while entrepreneurship worldwide makes positive contributions to innovation, employment, and economic transformation, entrepreneurial motivation and pathway are context-dependent and shaped by institutional capacity, ease of resource accessibility, and socio-cultural influences. Entrepreneurship is mostly opportunity-driven in advanced countries, characterized by innovation, creativity, and purposive market searching. Personal motivation, technological attractiveness, and necessity for capturing market niches inform the entrepreneurs. The concentration of supportive institutions such as R&D laboratories, incubators, venture capital networks, and state subsidies creates an enabling environment for sustainable business growth. Education and R&D are key drivers of enhancing the quality and scalability of entrepreneurial ventures, in accordance with Schumpeterian innovation, whereby entrepreneurship is a driver of creative destruction and continuous economic renewal.

Conversely, in developing countries, entrepreneurship is necessity-driven, which signifies economic constraints, unemployment, and informal labor markets. While entrepreneurial activities improve livelihoods and local economic stability, they are small-scale capital-, low-innovation activities. Finance access is low, as are technological equipment and quality education, limiting business development and competitiveness. Institutional weaknesses, such as erratic governing policies, bureaucratic inefficiency, and corruption, also counter entrepreneurial success. But in both contexts, there appears considerable resilience and plasticity with entrepreneurs making use of informal networks, local knowledge, and social capital to sustain operations in negative contexts. The convergence observed between the two contexts is the greater international emphasis on digital transformation, innovation,

and sustainability. The diffusion of digital technology, e-commerce, and social entrepreneurship is narrowing the gap between developed and emerging economies by creating new opportunities for engagement in global value chains. Entrepreneurship education and training schemes are gaining universal acceptance as the central tools for driving innovation and inclusive growth in all economies.

However, the divergence remains high in structural and institutional terms. Developed countries have a synergetic convergence of policy, finance, and education that nurtures high-impact entrepreneurship, while developing countries are shrouded in broken ecosystems with limited coordination among stakeholders. It promotes disparities in human capital quality, infrastructure, and innovation systems that yield imbalanced entrepreneurial returns. Conceptually, this is consistent with the Institutional Theory, which theorizes that entrepreneurship is inimitably embedded in its socio-economic and political environment. The stronger the institutional arrangement—ranging from financial systems and property rights to education and governance—the more entrepreneurial innovation and risk-taking favorable it is. By contrast, the Resource-Based View (RBV) argues that variations in tangible as well as intangible resources (e.g., technology, knowledge, and human capital) are mainly accountable for entrepreneurial competitiveness between nations.

In reality, this argument emphasizes policy intervention specific to context. For developing countries, the focus needs to be on strengthening institutional frameworks, improving access to finance and technology, and entrepreneurship education to shift from necessity-driven to opportunity-driven entrepreneurship. For developed countries, sustaining innovation ecosystems through continued investment in R&D, digital infrastructure, and entrepreneurial programs that are inclusive remains imperative. In conclusion, it is argued by the literature that when global entrepreneurial trends meet, level playing field outcomes are realized with locally appropriate strategies. The crossroads of innovation, policy, education, and institutional quality continue to define the entrepreneurial trajectory of nations. Accordingly, building entrepreneurship as an agent of sustainable and inclusive growth requires not only international coordination but also deep local understanding and systems change.

KESIMPULAN

The systematic review captures the complex and multifaceted nature of entrepreneurship in different economic settings. Entrepreneurship thrives in industrialized countries with stable institutional settings characterized by technological advancements, stable policies, and accumulations of human capital. Such settings stimulate opportunity-based entrepreneurship, innovation, and enterprise longevity. The availability of venture capital, digital infrastructure, and entrepreneurship education gives entrepreneurs the capacity to begin scalable, high-value firms that can contribute substantially to national economic competitiveness. Entrepreneurship in developing countries is normally still largely driven by necessity, emerging as a survival strategy of economic entrepreneurship because employment opportunities are few. Entrepreneurs here have usually had significant impediments to enterprise creation and expansion, like limited access to credit, weak policy support, few technological capabilities, and weakly developed education systems. Despite these constraints, entrepreneurship remains essential in poverty alleviation, job creation, and community empowerment. The adaptability and resilience of entrepreneurs in emerging

economies reflect dormant potential available for harnessing through institutional consolidation and tailor-made support initiatives.

The comparative findings demonstrate divergence as well as convergence in global entrepreneurship. Given continuing structural gaps in policy implementation, innovation infrastructure, and human capital, globalization and digitalization are giving rise to increasing convergences in entrepreneurial practices. Technology adoption, online business platforms, and global networks are assisting entrepreneurs based in developing countries in competing in global markets and tapping new growth opportunities. From a policy point of view, this research underscores the importance of context-related policies for entrepreneurship. Developed nations should continue innovation-driven ecosystems, while developing nations should prioritize institutional reforms, finance inclusion, and education to move from need-based to opportunity-based entrepreneurship. Collective global efforts, knowledge sharing, and sustainable digital behavior are key to developing inclusive and robust entrepreneurial ecosystems. In general, entrepreneurship remains the universal growth and innovation driver but also one deeply rooted in socio-economic and institutional contexts. Achieving equitable global entrepreneurship development will require strategic congruence among policy, finance, education, and technology to ensure all nations can harness the transformative potential of entrepreneurship towards sustainable and equitable development.

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