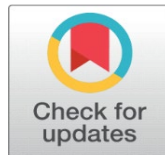
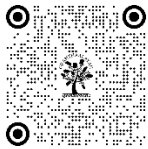


EMPOWERING POTENTIAL: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities represents a growing area of research that highlights their contributions to economic and social innovation. This bibliometric analysis aims to explore the evolution and current state of this field by utilizing biblioshiny and VOSviewer software for data visualization and analysis. The Scopus database was selected as the source of bibliographic data, ensuring comprehensive coverage of high-quality academic publications. The study examines annual scientific productions to identify publication trends over time. It highlights the most relevant authors, sources, and countries contributing to this research, offering insights into the key players in the field. Trend topics and thematic maps are analyzed to uncover central themes and emerging research directions. Bibliographic coupling of documents is performed to explore intellectual connections and shared references among studies. Co-occurrence of author keywords reveals the primary concepts driving research in this area. Country collaboration patterns are analyzed to evaluate the extent of international research partnerships. This study provides valuable insights into the scientific landscape of entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities and identifies opportunities for future research and collaboration.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Disabilities, Bibliometric Analysis, Biblioshiny, VOS viewer



1. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship has become a vital pathway for empowering individuals with disabilities, offering them opportunities for economic independence and social inclusion (Holub, 2001; Maritz & Laferriere, 2016). Traditional employment avenues often pose significant challenges, such as inaccessible workplaces, societal prejudices, and limited accommodations, making entrepreneurship an appealing alternative (Kitching, 2014). By creating and managing their own businesses, individuals with disabilities can overcome these barriers, capitalize on their strengths, and achieve financial stability while contributing to society (Maritz & Laferriere, 2016; Shaheen, 2016). In this context, entrepreneurship serves as both an economic activity and a tool for self-determination.

The entrepreneurial journey for individuals with disabilities is influenced by a unique set of challenges and opportunities (Ortiz García & Olaz Capitán, 2021a). On one hand, barriers such as restricted access to funding, limited availability of entrepreneurial training programs, and physical and digital accessibility issues can hinder their progress (Salamzadeh et al., 2022). On the other hand, technological advancements, inclusive policy frameworks, and increasing awareness of disability rights are creating a more supportive ecosystem (Halid et al., 2020). These developments have enabled disabled entrepreneurs to establish innovative ventures, often leveraging their lived experiences to identify niche markets and develop solutions that address real-world problems (Hsieh et al., 2019; Maritz & Laferriere, 2016).

Education and skill development play a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities (Balcazar et al., 2014; Holub, 2001; Shaheen, 2016). Tailored training programs, mentorship opportunities, and access to resources are critical enablers that help them navigate the complexities of entrepreneurship (Krüger & David, 2020). Additionally, the role of networks and communities cannot be understated, as they provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and support (Casado & Casaú, 2019). By equipping individuals with disabilities with the necessary tools and confidence, these initiatives empower them to overcome structural barriers and thrive in competitive business environments (Ortiz García & Olaz Capitán, 2021b; Widoyoko et al., 2018).

Beyond economic benefits, entrepreneurship offers profound social and psychological advantages for individuals with disabilities (Ostrow et al., 2019). It serves as a platform for building self-esteem, promoting self-reliance, and challenging societal stereotypes about disability [15]. Successful entrepreneurs with disabilities become role models, demonstrating that disability does not equate to inability (Martin, 2012). Their achievements inspire others within the community and drive broader societal change, fostering a culture of inclusion and respect for diversity (Iacomini et al., 2022). Furthermore, disabled entrepreneurs often create employment opportunities for others, contributing to community development and social cohesion (Escribano & Jiménez, 2019).

Despite the progress made, significant gaps remain in creating an equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem for individuals with disabilities (Caldwell et al., 2020). Addressing these gaps requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector (Muñoz et al., 2019). Inclusive policies, financial incentives, and targeted support programs are essential to bridge these gaps and unlock the full potential of disabled entrepreneurs (Balcazar et al., 2014). This paper aims to explore the dynamics of entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities, examining the challenges, opportunities, and transformative impact it holds for individuals and society at large (Williams & Patterson, 2019).

Entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities has gained increasing attention in academic research due to its potential to foster economic empowerment, social inclusion, and innovation (Victor-Aigbodion, 2023). This field explores the unique challenges and opportunities faced by disabled entrepreneurs, such as overcoming structural barriers, accessing resources, and leveraging their unique experiences to create innovative solutions (Saiful Bahry et al., 2023). To systematically understand the intellectual landscape of this growing research domain, bibliometric analysis offers a powerful method for identifying key trends, influential authors, seminal publications, and emerging topics (Abbas et al., 2021; Ali et al., 2022). Tools like Biblioshiny and VOSviewer enable researchers to analyze bibliographic data, providing insights into the evolution of scholarly discourse and collaboration networks (Ejaz et al., 2022; Gupta & Chakravarty, 2021; Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020).

Bibliometric analysis employs quantitative techniques to map and visualize knowledge structures in a given field, making it particularly useful for evaluating the research landscape of entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities. Biblioshiny, a web-based application in R, facilitates detailed data processing and visualization, allowing researchers to analyze publication trends, citation patterns, and thematic clusters (Huang et al., 2021; Komperda, 2017; Racine, 2012). Complementing this, VOSviewer specializes in creating graphical representations of bibliographic networks, such as co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence (Kuzior & Sira, 2022; Nandiyanto & Al Huseini, 2022; Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). Together, these tools provide a comprehensive view of the knowledge ecosystem, revealing connections and research gaps that inform future studies and policy interventions (Guleria & Kaur, 2021; Gupta & Chakravarty, 2021).

This study uses bibliometric methods to analyze the research on entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities, highlighting its growth trajectory, influential contributors, and thematic priorities. By leveraging data from prominent academic databases, the analysis identifies critical trends and explores how collaboration and knowledge dissemination have shaped this field. The findings not only shed light on the intellectual foundations and emerging areas of interest but also provide a roadmap for researchers and policymakers to further the discourse on inclusive entrepreneurship. Through the integration of Biblioshiny and VOSviewer, this analysis offers a nuanced understanding of the scholarly landscape, contributing to the broader conversation on economic empowerment and social equity for individuals with disabilities.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The primary source of bibliographic data for this study is Scopus, selected for its broader inclusion of high-quality journals compared to other databases. (Baas et al., 2020; Harzing & Alakangas, 2016). We retrieved publications using the query (TITLE-ABS-KEY (entrepreneurship) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (disability) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ("differently

abled")). The search was not limited to any specific language, and the dataset included articles from peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and conference papers. We collected 240 articles from 183 different sources, covering the period from 1993 to 2023. To ensure accuracy, we screened the Scopus records and removed any duplicates. The results were saved in a CSV file, and we conducted a bibliometric analysis of the data using VOSviewer and Bibloshiny software.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

3.1 MAIN INFORMATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

Table 1 summarizes the main information of the bibliometric analysis on entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities covering a time span of 1993 to 2023, analyzing 240 documents sourced from 183 journals, books, and other outlets. The field exhibits a strong annual growth rate of 12.58%, with an average document age of 7 years and 10.32 citations per document, reflecting a growing academic interest and influence. The dataset includes 9,930 references, with 684 Keywords Plus and 673 Author's Keywords, highlighting the thematic diversity. Contributions come from 603 authors, of which 45 have single-authored documents, indicating a collaborative research environment with an average of 2.96 co-authors per document and 16.25% international co-authorship. Document types primarily include 193 articles, followed by 27 book chapters and 20 conference papers, underscoring the prominence of journal publications in disseminating research findings in this field.

Table 1. Main Information of the Investigation

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1993:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	183
Documents	240
Annual Growth Rate %	12.58
Document Average Age	7
Average citations per doc	10.32
References	9930
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	684
Author's Keywords (DE)	673
AUTHORS	
Authors	603
Authors of single-authored docs	45
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	45
Co-Authors per Doc	2.96
International co-authorships %	16.25
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	193
book chapter	27
conference paper	20

3.2 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Figure 1 presents the annual scientific production, which shows a notable upward trend, indicating growing academic interest. Initially, publications were sparse, with only a few articles between 1993 and 2006, reflecting limited exploration during the early years. However, from 2007 onward, there is a steady increase in output, with significant

growth observed after 2016. The number of articles surged in 2019, reaching 41 publications, marking a peak in research activity. Although there was a slight dip in 2020 and 2021, the trend regained momentum in subsequent years, with 35 articles published in 2023. This trend highlights the increasing recognition of the topic's relevance and the expanding research community engaged in addressing issues related to entrepreneurship and disability. The consistent rise, especially post-2016, underscores the growing importance of inclusive entrepreneurship in academic and policy discussions.

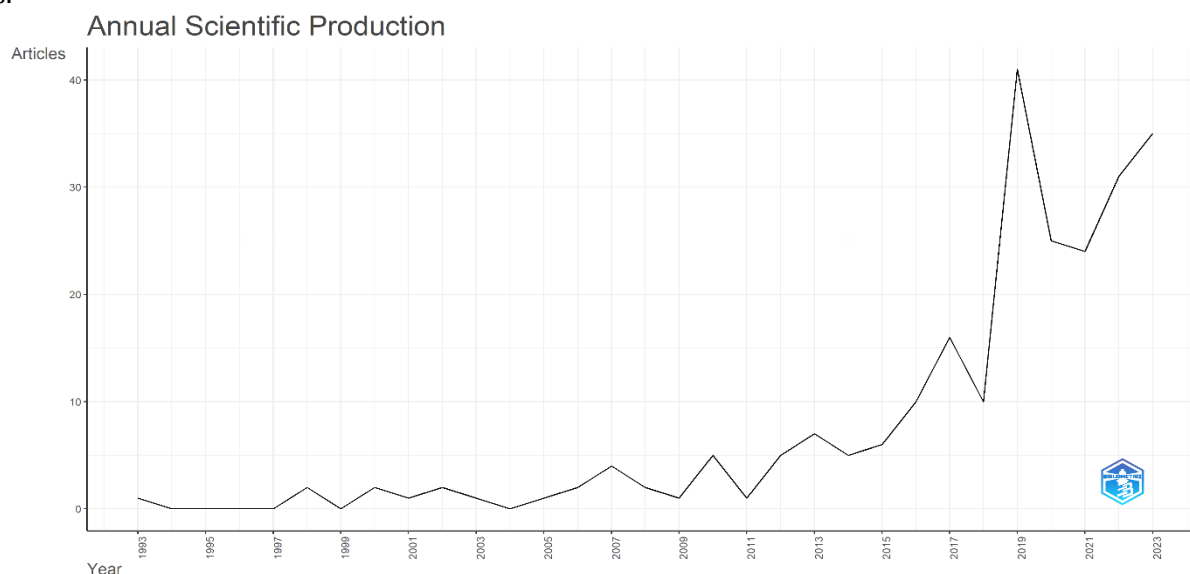


Figure 1. Annual Scientific Production

3.3 MOST RELEVANT AUTHORS

Table 2 highlights the most relevant authors contributing to the field. Kate Caldwell and Maija Renko lead the list with eight publications each, indicating their prominent role and influence in advancing research in this domain. Following them are Angel Olaz Capitán, Reuel Johnmark Dakung, Pilar Ortiz García, Sarah Parker Harris, and Yolanda Salinero, each contributing five articles, showcasing their active involvement in the scholarly conversation. Additionally, Per Germundsson, Maria Norstedt, and Laura Orobia have each authored four articles, demonstrating consistent contributions. This table underscores a concentrated group of researchers driving the field, reflecting a blend of foundational and ongoing contributions that shape the academic discourse on entrepreneurship and disability.

Table 2. Most Relevant Authors

Authors	Articles
CALDWELL, KATE	8
RENKO, MAIJA	8
CAPITÁN, ANGEL OLAZ	5
DAKUNG, REUEL JOHNMARK	5
GARCÍA, PILAR ORTIZ	5
PARKER HARRIS, SARAH	5
SALINERO, YOLANDA	5
GERMUNDSSON, PER	4
NORSTEDT, MARIA	4
OROBIA, LAURA	4

3.4 MOST RELEVANT SOURCES

Table 3 presents the most relevant sources in the field of research. The Journal of Entrepreneurship Education emerges as the leading publication outlet, with 15 articles, signifying its critical role in disseminating knowledge in this area. Following this, Disability and Society and the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation have each contributed 6 articles,

reflecting their focus on issues of social inclusion and professional development. Several other sources, such as Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, and the Research Handbook on Disability and Entrepreneurship, each with 4 articles, highlight their contributions to case-specific and theoretical advancements. Additionally, journals like Frontiers in Psychology, Information Communication and Society, Journal of Enterprising Communities, and Sustainability (Switzerland), each with 3 articles, provide diverse perspectives, ranging from psychological insights to sustainability and societal implications. This distribution underscores the multidisciplinary nature of the field, spanning entrepreneurship education, social science, psychology, and sustainability, and reflects a wide-ranging interest across academic disciplines.

Table 3. Most Relevant Sources

Sources	Articles
JOURNAL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION	15
DISABILITY AND SOCIETY	6
JOURNAL OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION	6
EMERALD EMERGING MARKETS CASE STUDIES	4
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR AND RESEARCH	4
RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON DISABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	4
FRONTIERS IN PSYCHOLOGY	3
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY	3
JOURNAL OF ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES	3
SUSTAINABILITY (SWITZERLAND)	3

3.5 COUNTRIES' SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Table 4 highlights the scientific production by country. The United States leads significantly with 60 documents, indicating its strong research focus and contributions to this field. Spain follows with 29 documents, showcasing its active engagement in related studies. The United Kingdom, with 19 documents, ranks third, reflecting a solid academic interest in the topic. Australia and India each contribute 10 documents, indicating growing research activity in these countries. Indonesia adds 9 documents, followed by Canada and Malaysia with 8 each, suggesting increasing regional interest. Italy and the Netherlands, with 7 documents each, round out the top contributors. This distribution reflects a global interest in the subject, with dominant contributions from Western countries like the United States, Spain, and the United Kingdom, while emerging contributions from countries like India, Indonesia, and Malaysia indicate expanding awareness and research efforts in developing regions.

Table 4. Countries scientific productions

Country/Territory	Documents
United States	60
Spain	29
United Kingdom	19
Australia	10
India	10
Indonesia	9
Canada	8
Malaysia	8
Italy	7
Netherlands	7

3.6 TREND TOPICS

Figure 2 illustrates the trend topics, highlighting the evolution and frequency of key terms over time. The topics show increasing attention to themes such as inclusion, disability entrepreneurship, disabled entrepreneurs, and inclusive entrepreneurship, reflecting the growing focus on promoting equity and accessibility in entrepreneurial activities for

individuals with disabilities. Terms like social entrepreneurship and self-employment also emerge prominently, indicating a strong interest in exploring alternative economic models that empower disabled individuals. The steady rise in these terms, particularly from 2015 onward, underscores a shift toward addressing structural barriers and fostering inclusive business practices. Additionally, terms such as employment, innovation, and disabilities reveal an intersection between entrepreneurship and broader issues like job creation and societal advancement. The prominence of innovation from 2013 reflects its role in enabling entrepreneurial ventures through technological and adaptive solutions. Meanwhile, the consistent frequency of disability and social enterprise highlights their foundational role in shaping this research field. The data showcases an increasing diversification of topics, with newer themes like inclusive entrepreneurship gaining traction in recent years, signifying an expanding academic and practical interest in creating equitable opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

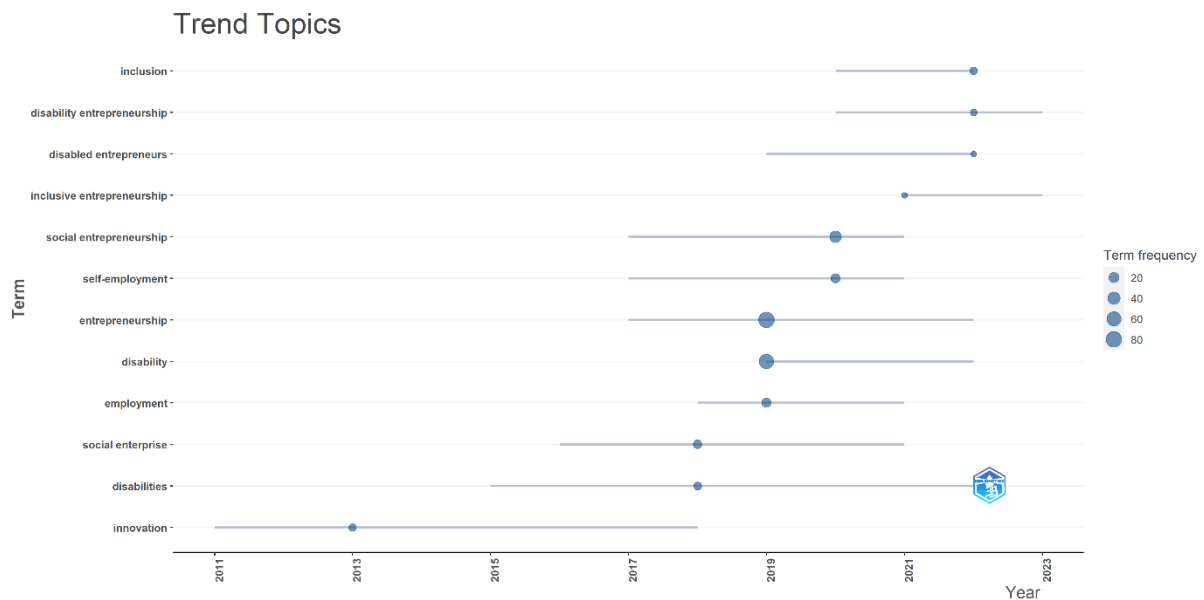


Figure 2. Trending topics in role of graph theory in network security

3.7 THEMATIC MAP

Figure 3 provides a thematic map, categorizing topics into four quadrants based on centrality (relevance) and density (development). Motor themes, located in the top-right quadrant, are both highly central and well-developed, making them key drivers of the field. Topics such as "entrepreneurship," "disability," and "self-employment" are prominent in this quadrant, reflecting their critical importance in shaping the discourse on empowering individuals with disabilities through entrepreneurial activities. These themes highlight the fundamental role of entrepreneurship as a pathway for economic independence and social inclusion.

Basic themes, positioned in the bottom-right quadrant, represent foundational yet less developed areas that are central to the research domain. Themes like "social innovation," "collaboration," and "disabled entrepreneur" fall into this category, showcasing their significance as core concepts that require further exploration to become more comprehensive. These topics lay the groundwork for understanding how collaborative efforts and innovative approaches can support entrepreneurial initiatives for individuals with disabilities, signaling opportunities for future research.

The Niche themes and Emerging or Declining themes offer insights into specialized and underexplored areas. Niche themes, in the top-left quadrant, include "digital entrepreneurship," "inclusive education," and "digital divide," which are well-developed but less connected to the broader field. These represent areas of specialized interest, particularly in understanding how digital tools and inclusive practices intersect with entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, the bottom-left quadrant highlights emerging or potentially declining themes, such as "intellectual disability," "self-determination," and "qualitative research." These topics may reflect nascent areas of inquiry or concepts requiring revitalized attention to remain relevant. Together, this thematic map underscores the diversity within the field and identifies areas for both reinforcement and innovation in future research.

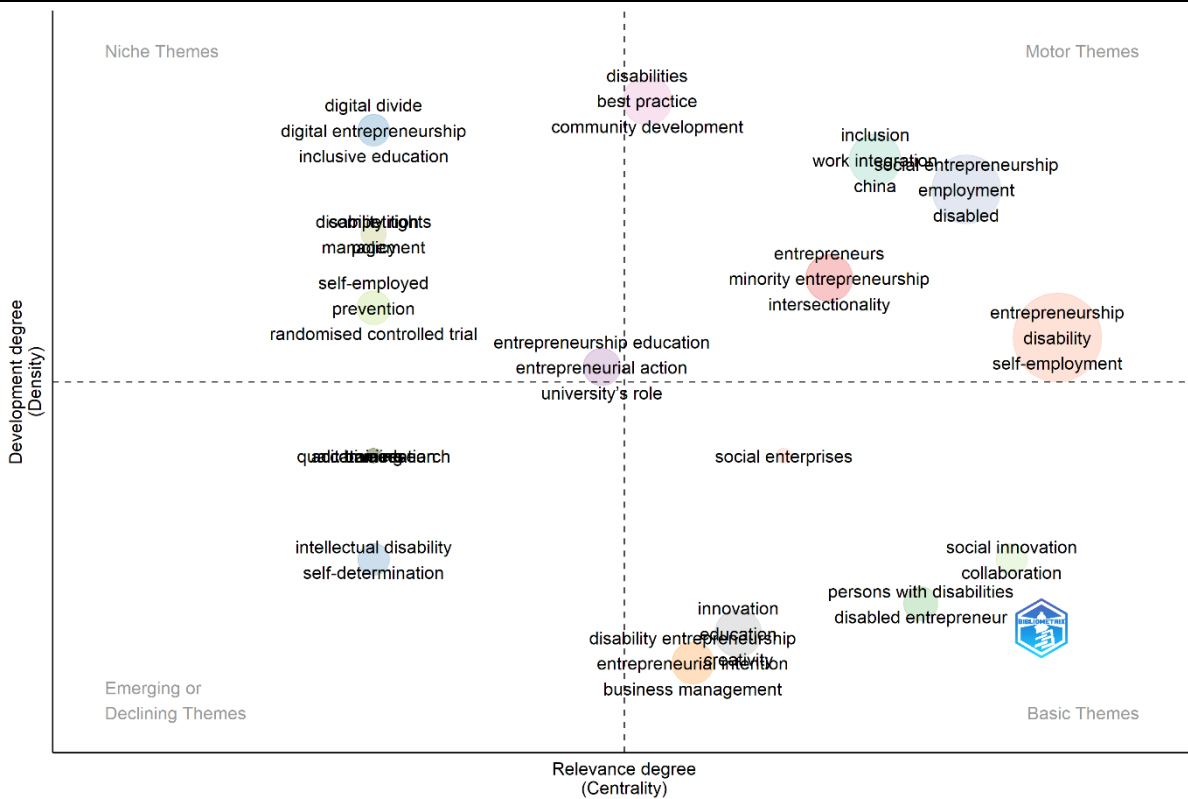


Figure 3. Thematic visualisation of keywords

3.8 BIBLIOGRAPHIC COUPLING OF SOURCES

Figure 4 illustrates the bibliographic coupling of documents visualized using VOSviewer. Bibliographic coupling occurs when two documents cite a common set of references, indicating a shared intellectual foundation or research focus. The size of the nodes represents the influence of each document, while the thickness of the connecting lines reflects the degree of coupling between them. Clusters of nodes in the same color denote groups of studies that are closely related in terms of their cited references. The figure highlights prominent works such as Haynie J.M. and Shepherd D. (2011), which appears as a central and significant node, indicating its substantial impact on the research field. This document is heavily coupled with other influential works, such as Renko M. and Parker Harris S., showing strong thematic alignment and shared intellectual roots. These connections reflect a network of foundational studies that address key themes like entrepreneurship, disability, and inclusion. Additionally, smaller clusters, such as those involving Pettinicchio D. (2013) and Kummitha R.K.R. (2016), suggest niche areas or emerging topics within the broader field. The diverse network of connections underscores the interdisciplinary nature of this research, linking studies across themes such as social innovation, policy development, and entrepreneurial behavior. This bibliographic coupling map reveals the collaborative and interdependent nature of research in this domain, identifying both the central documents that shape the discourse and the emerging clusters that contribute to its growth.

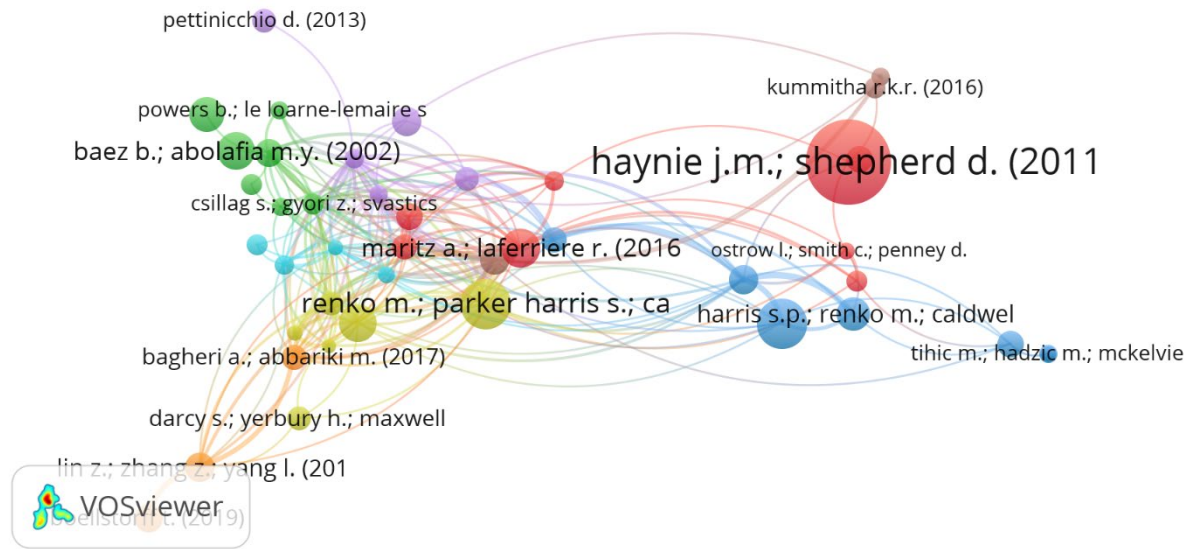


Figure 4. Bibliographic coupling of sources

3.9 CO-OCCURRENCE OF KEYWORDS

Figure 5 illustrates the network visualisation of co-occurrence of author keywords. The size of the nodes represents the frequency of keyword usage, while the connecting lines indicate the co-occurrence relationships between the keywords. Clusters of nodes in the same color denote thematic groups, highlighting distinct research areas within the field. The central keyword "entrepreneurship" dominates the map, with strong connections to terms like "social entrepreneurship," "disabilities," and "employment," signifying the core focus of the research field. "Social entrepreneurship" forms a significant subcluster, reflecting the growing interest in exploring how entrepreneurial ventures can address social challenges and promote inclusion. Related terms such as "education," "work integration," and "innovation" emphasize the importance of equipping individuals with skills and fostering innovation for sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

Other thematic clusters highlight specific aspects of the field. For instance, terms like "disabled," "financial self-sufficiency," and "disability rights" point to the emphasis on empowerment and independence for individuals with disabilities. The presence of terms like "minority entrepreneurship," "diversity," and "identity" reflects the broader context of inclusion and representation in entrepreneurial ecosystems. This map underscores the interconnectedness of diverse themes, illustrating the multidisciplinary nature of research in entrepreneurship for individuals with disabilities while identifying areas for further exploration, such as the role of microfinance and social innovation.

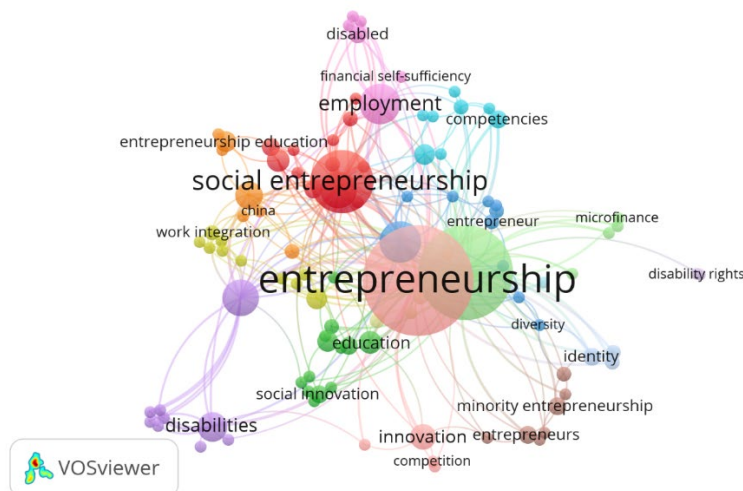


Figure 5. Co-occurrence of all keywords-

3.10 CO-AUTHORSHIP OF COUNTRIES COLLABORATIONS

Figure 6 represents the country collaboration network in the realm of research. Each node represents a country, with the size of the node indicating the volume of publications from that country. The lines connecting the nodes reflect collaboration between countries, and their thickness indicates the intensity of these collaborations. Clusters of nodes in similar colors represent groups of countries that frequently collaborate within the field.

The United States is the most prominent node, reflecting its leadership role in the research field and its extensive collaborations with other countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, and India. These connections suggest the United States' active involvement in global research efforts and its significant influence on advancing knowledge in this domain. The United Kingdom also appears as a central collaborator, linking with countries such as Norway, Australia, and the Netherlands, showcasing its role in fostering international partnerships.

Other notable clusters include collaborations involving Spain with countries like France and India, as well as regional partnerships in Asia involving Malaysia and China. These patterns highlight the global interest in the field, with both Western and emerging economies contributing to the research. However, some countries, such as Nigeria and Iran, show limited connections, indicating opportunities for expanding collaborative networks to further enrich research on entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities. This network visualization emphasizes the importance of cross-border collaborations in addressing the multidisciplinary and global nature of the research topic.

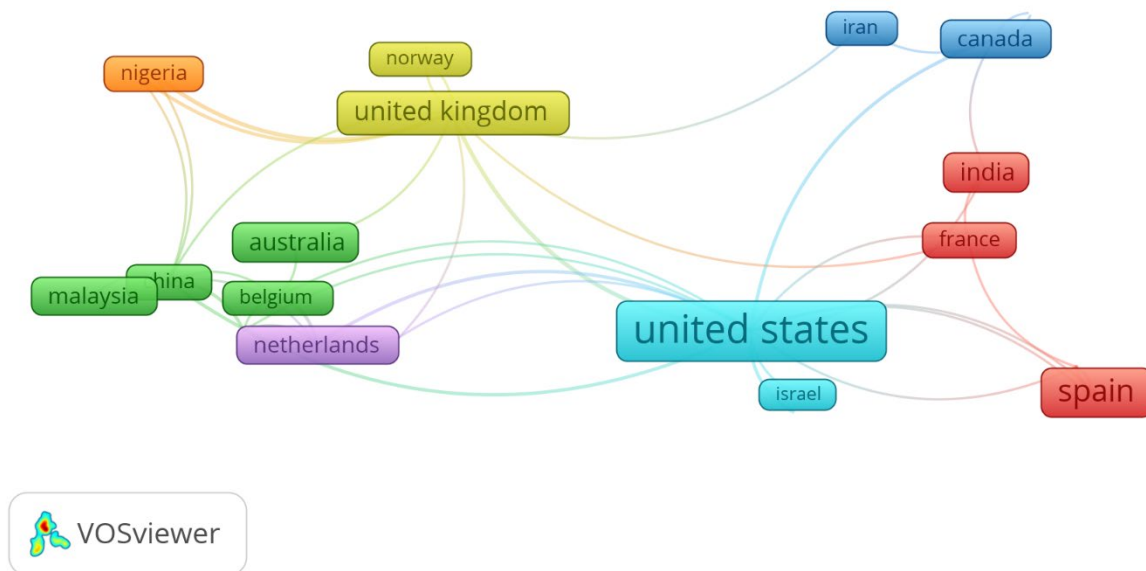


Figure 6. Co-authorship of countries

4. DISCUSSIONS

The bibliometric analysis reveals the dynamic growth of research on "Entrepreneurship Among Individuals with Disabilities" between 1993 and 2023. The annual scientific production demonstrates a significant increase post-2016, with the highest number of publications in 2019, reflecting growing academic and policy interest in fostering inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems. Thematically, "entrepreneurship," "disabilities," and "self-employment" emerge as motor themes, central to the discourse and highly developed. Topics like "social entrepreneurship" and "innovation" also show a strong connection, indicating the increasing relevance of innovative business models and their potential for social inclusion. The trend topics underline the critical focus on empowerment, self-sufficiency, and adaptive solutions for disabled entrepreneurs.

Despite these advancements, several research gaps persist. Emerging or declining themes, such as "intellectual disability" and "qualitative research," highlight areas that require renewed attention. Additionally, niche topics like "digital entrepreneurship" and "inclusive education" remain underexplored despite their potential significance in leveraging digital technologies and inclusive practices for entrepreneurial success. The limited representation of countries like Nigeria and Iran in collaborative networks also underscores regional disparities in research contributions, pointing to the need for a more globalized and equitable research framework.

The analysis of co-occurrence of author keywords emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of this field, integrating themes of social innovation, education, and diversity. Practical implications include the need for targeted policies and support systems to address structural barriers, enhance financial accessibility, and foster skill development for individuals with disabilities. Governments, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations must collaborate to create inclusive training programs and mentorship opportunities, aligning with the foundational themes identified in the thematic map.

From a collaborative perspective, the United States leads both in publication volume and international partnerships, underscoring its role in advancing global discourse. However, stronger cross-border collaborations, particularly with emerging economies, can diversify the knowledge base and introduce new perspectives. By bridging research gaps and implementing practical interventions, future studies can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem, driving social and economic transformation for individuals with disabilities.

5. CONCLUSION

The bibliometric analysis of entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities highlights the growing interest and contributions in this field across various regions and disciplines. The analysis reveals increasing annual scientific productions, key authors and sources, and significant collaborations between countries. Thematic maps and trend topics indicate a focus on innovation, inclusivity, and overcoming systemic barriers faced by individuals with disabilities in entrepreneurship. Despite these advancements, the field remains underexplored in terms of cross-cultural studies and practical interventions. To advance research and practice, it is recommended to foster greater interdisciplinary collaborations to address diverse challenges and opportunities within this domain. Additionally, policymakers should prioritize funding and support for inclusive entrepreneurial initiatives to empower individuals with disabilities. Finally, researchers are encouraged to conduct longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of entrepreneurship on the economic and social well-being of individuals with disabilities. By addressing these gaps, the field can continue to grow and contribute meaningfully to social and economic innovation.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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