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Author Name(s): Natalia Sari Pujiastuti, Bulan Prabawani, Ari Pradhanawati, Sari Listyorini

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Trends and challenges of Indonesian social entrepreneurship research: a systematic literature review (2013-2023)

Natalia Sari Pujiastuti^{1*}, Bulan Prabawani², Ari Pradhanawati², Sari Listyorini²

¹ Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Universitas Semarang, Indonesia

² Business Administration Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion of social enterprises in Indonesia reflects a growing response to pressing socio-economic challenges. Existing research on Indonesian social entrepreneurship often examines these issues in isolation, lacking a comprehensive, integrative perspective. This study addresses this gap by conducting a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) of 94 Scopus- and Google Scholar-indexed research articles, analyzed using Publish or Perish 8 and Covidence software. The findings reveal six interdependent dimensions shaping Indonesia's social entrepreneurship ecosystem: (1) organizational and policy frameworks, (2) business models and financial sustainability, (3) social and economic impact, (4) education and innovation, (5) religiosity and cultural influences, and (6) gender dynamics. Unlike prior studies that focus predominantly on descriptive narratives and case studies, this research provides a holistic, critical analysis, highlighting persistent gaps in policy implementation, financial accessibility, and cross-sector collaboration. The study also situates Indonesia's social entrepreneurship landscape within a broader global context, identifying key disparities and potential areas for alignment with international best practices. The findings carry significant implications: for academics, the study establishes a foundation for future research on policy interventions and sustainable business models; for policymakers, it underscores the urgency of developing structured financial support mechanisms and regulatory frameworks; and for social entrepreneurs, it provides a strategic roadmap to navigate challenges, leverage opportunities, and enhance impact. Ultimately, this research underscores the critical need for targeted interventions to strengthen Indonesia's social enterprise sector. Without a concerted effort to address systemic constraints, the sector risks stagnation, limiting its ability to drive inclusive economic growth and social transformation.



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Corresponding Author:

Natalia Sari Pujiastuti,
Universitas Semarang
Email: natalia@usm.ac.id

Introduction

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a vital force in addressing social challenges in Indonesia. As of 2020, Indonesia had approximately 342,000 organizations engaged in social enterprises, yet only 2,000 had been formally identified as such (British Council, 2018). Social enterprises operate with a clear social mission, utilizing a "bottom-up" approach where solutions to societal problems originate from founders who act as change agents (Pratono et al., 2019). Given this role, social entrepreneurship has the potential to contribute to an inclusive economy while addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indonesia's rich multicultural landscape, encompassing diverse cultures, languages, ethnicities, and religions, presents both opportunities and challenges for the development of social enterprises. Social problems at individual, family, institutional, and organizational levels—including in public services—require innovative and sustainable solutions, making social entrepreneurship a critical area of study.

The social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Indonesia has grown through various institutional and organizational initiatives. The establishment of the Indonesian Social Entrepreneurs Association (AKSI) in 2009 connected over 100,000 social entrepreneurs to share best practices and promote sustainable movements (Pratono & Sutanti, 2016). Other initiatives, such as ASHOKA and the British Council Indonesia, have provided structured support for community-based social enterprises, including incubation programs and university collaborations (Pratono et al., 2019). Despite these efforts, the sector continues to face structural challenges, including limited access to funding, regulatory constraints, and capacity-building limitations.

Previous studies have explored various aspects of social entrepreneurship using the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method. Spanuth and Urbano (2023) examined the legitimacy of social enterprises within institutional theories and entrepreneurial ecosystems, analyzing 72 journal articles from the Web of Science database (Spanuth & Urbano, 2024). Their study highlighted six key factors influencing social enterprise legitimacy, including resource acquisition, stakeholder engagement, and institutional adaptation. Meanwhile, Iskandar et al. (2022) investigated the Indonesian context and identified challenges such as economic instability, bureaucratic barriers, and cultural constraints (Iskandar et al., 2022). Harsanto et al. (2022) explored sustainability-oriented innovations (SOI) within social enterprises, emphasizing business model transformation and stakeholder management but also identifying major obstacles such as funding shortages and organizational inefficiencies (Harsanto et al., 2022).

Despite these valuable contributions, existing literature tends to focus on isolated aspects of social entrepreneurship rather than providing a holistic view of the ecosystem. There is a lack of comprehensive studies mapping the key dimensions shaping social entrepreneurship in Indonesia, particularly in relation to institutional support, business models, and socio-economic impact. Moreover, while previous research has highlighted individual challenges, there has been limited exploration of how these challenges interact within a broader ecosystem. This study seeks to fill these gaps by providing an integrated analysis of the Indonesian social entrepreneurship landscape.

This study uses a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) of 94 articles to analyze key dimensions of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia, including structures, business models, impact, education, religiosity, and gender. It examines challenges affecting sustainability, maps research gaps, and provides insights for strengthening the ecosystem through targeted policies and future studies.

Method

This study employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, a well-established methodology in medical research that is increasingly being applied in business studies. The systematic review method ensures transparency, reproducibility, and a structured synthesis of literature. In the context of social entrepreneurship, this method enables a comprehensive exploration of research trends, key challenges, and thematic developments in Indonesia. Given the fragmented nature of existing studies, the SLR approach provides a structured way to map the social entrepreneurship ecosystem and identify gaps in the literature.

To ensure the relevance and reliability of the selected literature, a rigorous screening and selection process was implemented. The study focuses on peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers that explicitly discuss social entrepreneurship in Indonesia. Articles were sourced from Scopus and Google Scholar, with Publish or Perish 8 software facilitating citation retrieval. The inclusion criteria required that articles explicitly mention terms such as "social entrepreneurship," "social enterprise," or "sociopreneurs" in combination with "Indonesia" in their title, abstract, or keywords. Additionally, the study incorporates research conducted by both Indonesian scholars and international researchers focusing on social entrepreneurship in Indonesia.

The selected timeframe spans from 2013 to 2023, a period chosen to capture significant developments in the field while maintaining historical depth. A ten-year window aligns with established practices in social entrepreneurship research, allowing for an examination of long-term trends while avoiding excessive temporal fragmentation. The selection of this period also ensures that studies reflect contemporary challenges, policy changes, and economic conditions relevant to social entrepreneurship in Indonesia.

The literature search initially identified 611 articles, which were refined through a systematic screening process. After removing duplicates and conducting an initial relevance assessment, 485 articles remained. These were further evaluated based on journal reputation, citation impact, and methodological rigor, resulting in a final dataset of 94 articles that met the quality and relevance criteria. Besides citation count, additional quality indicators included publication in reputable journals, methodological soundness, and alignment with the study's objectives.

The article selection process was conducted using Covidence software, which streamlined the systematic screening and ensured consistency in data extraction. Covidence facilitated blinded independent reviews of article relevance, minimizing selection bias. Each article underwent a multi-stage review, beginning with title and abstract screening, followed by full-text analysis. Independent reviewers assessed each article to ensure alignment with the research objectives. A secondary validation process was implemented to confirm that the selected studies adhered to academic standards and contributed meaningfully to the research questions.

To analyze the literature, qualitative coding techniques were applied, allowing for the systematic categorization of themes. The research team employed a grounded theory approach, iteratively refining thematic categories based on recurring patterns in the literature. Through this process, six key dimensions emerged as defining elements of the Indonesian social entrepreneurship ecosystem: organization and policy, business models, social and economic impact, education and innovation, religiosity, and gender. The categorization process was further validated through intercoder reliability testing, ensuring consistency in thematic classification. Additionally, descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to assess publication trends over time, providing insights into the evolution of research in this domain.

By employing a rigorous SLR framework, integrating Covidence for systematic screening, and utilizing qualitative coding for thematic analysis, this study ensures a structured and transparent methodology. The identification of six key dimensions offers a comprehensive perspective on the social entrepreneurship landscape in Indonesia, addressing existing research gaps and providing valuable insights for future studies. This methodological approach enhances the reliability of findings and establishes a foundation for further exploration into the evolving dynamics of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia.

The use of two databases, namely Scopus and Google Scholar in this systematic review to ensure that the broadest scope of primary research is identified, requires a thorough and complete literature search through two or more databases (Charrois, 2015). Both are accessed through the Publish or Perish (PoP) application. This application helps researchers take and analyze article databases that can be converted into a number of statistical numbers, such as h-index, number of citations, average citations in a year, year of publication, article pages, etc. This application that can be accessed for free also stores search data quantitatively and is easy for data processing ranging from CSV, Excel, RIS, etc. PoP is indeed designed to help academics present the impact of research (Aulianto et al., 2019). To identify the population of publications to be reviewed, the researcher used search keywords: "social entrepreneurs

OR social entrepreneurship [title], Indonesia [keyword]", "social enterprise OR sociopreneurs OR social entrepreneurship [title], Indonesia [keyword]", "social entrepreneurs [title], Indonesia [keyword]" and "social enterprise OR sociopreneurs OR social entrepreneurship [title], Indonesia "[keyword]"

The researcher placed the search for relevant keywords and words in the title or title and Indonesia in the keyword in order to get the appropriate article.

Table 1. Article Search Data

Query	Source	Papers
Social entrepreneurs [title], indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Google Scholar	200
Social enterprise OR sociopreneurs OR social entrepreneurship [title], indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Google Scholar	200
Wirausaha sosial OR wirausaha sosial, [title], Indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Google Scholar	148
Social entrepreneurs [title], indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Scopus	15
Social enterprise OR sociopreneurs OR social entrepreneurship [title], indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Scopus	48
Wirausaha sosial OR wirausaha sosial [title], Indonesia from 2013 to 2023	Scopus	0
Total Articles		611

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The initial search using the Publish or Perish application yielded 611 research articles from Scopus and Google Scholar. The first stage of selection involved removing duplicate entries and excluding articles with zero citations, ensuring that only high-quality, recognized studies were considered. The underlying assumption was that articles with higher citation counts reflect greater scholarly impact and credibility compared to those with no citations.

Table 2. Search Parameters

	Doc Type	Research Journal Articles
Inclusion Criteria	Access	Open Access, full article available
	Language	English or Indonesian
	Research Areas	Indonesia
	Time Range	2013 – 2023
	Research Object	Social entrepreneurs, Social entrepreneurs, <i>social entrepreneurs</i> , <i>sociopreneurs</i> in Indonesia
	Index	Sinta (1 – 5) and or Query (1 -3)
Exclusion Criteria	Keywords	Listed in the title
	Doc Type	Book chapters, editorials, papers, Community Service Journals, Thesis / Thesis / Conference Proceedings
	Access	Locked documents
	Language	Foreign Language (other than English)
	Research Areas	Outside Indonesia
	Time Range	Before 2012 or after 2023
	Research Object	Entrepreneurship and not the theme of social entrepreneurship
	Index	Articles are not in the database of indexed journals of sinta / scopus (No index, not yet assigned quartile, discontinued)
	Keywords	Not listed in the title

To systematically refine the selection, inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA 2000) guidelines. The screening process was conducted using Covidence software, which facilitated the organization and evaluation of articles. After removing duplicates and applying the inclusion/exclusion criteria, the

number of articles was reduced to 399. A subsequent abstract review, focusing on relevance and quality, further narrowed the selection to 243 articles. Finally, after individually verifying each article's indexing status in SINTA and SCOPUS, the final dataset comprised 94 articles (see Table 3).

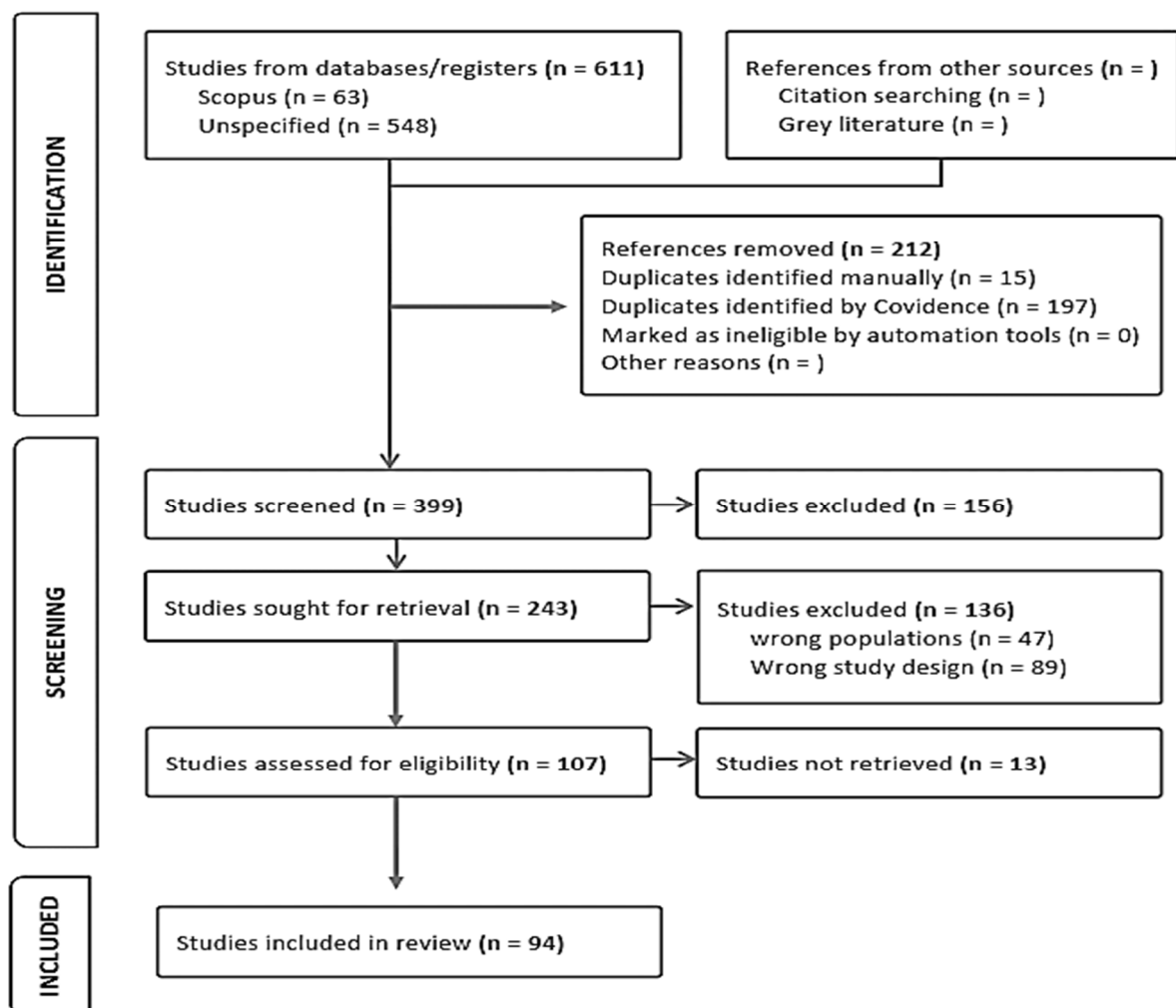


Figure 1 Proccol Covidence, PRISMA Chart

Results and Discussion

This study, utilizing a systematic literature review (SLR), identified 94 research articles indexed in SINTA and Scopus for further qualitative analysis. These articles provide insights into the dynamics of social entrepreneurship research in Indonesia over the past decade (2013–2023).

Research Quality and Indexing Standards

The selection of articles was limited to those published in SINTA and Scopus-indexed journals, ensuring a minimum standard of scholarly credibility and impact. SINTA, an accreditation system managed by Indonesia's Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, categorizes journals into six levels (S1–S6), with S1 representing the highest quality. However, most SINTA journals primarily focus on local and national issues, limiting their international exposure. In contrast, Scopus-indexed journals are recognized globally, classified into four quartiles (Q1–Q4) based on their impact factor, with Q1 representing the highest quality research output (Ahmar et al., 2018).

The indexing process involved manual verification through the official databases of SINTA (<https://sinta.kemdikbud.go.id/>) and Scopus (SCImago Journal Rank) (<https://www.scimagojr.com/>). While this method ensures credibility, it also introduces limitations—many high-quality Indonesian

studies remain unpublished in indexed journals due to barriers in academic publishing, including language constraints, funding limitations, and access to international networks.

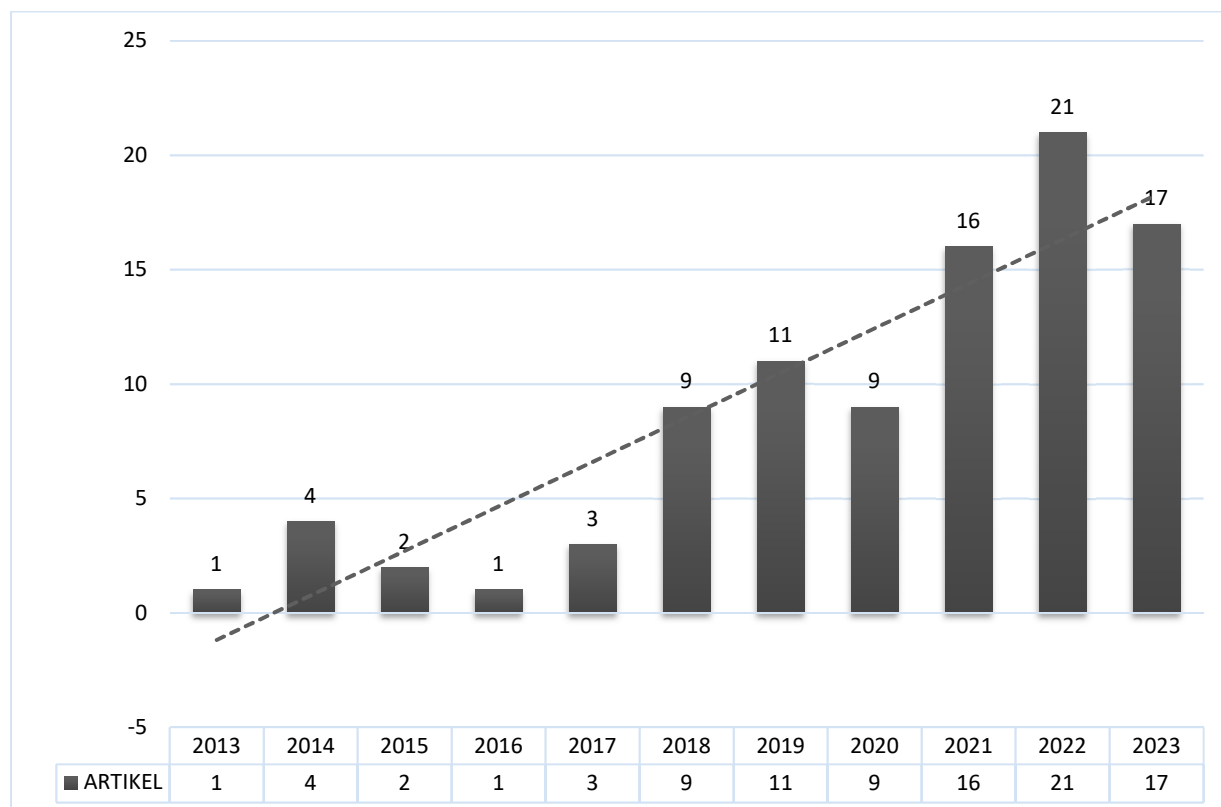


Figure 2 Total Article 2013-2023

Comparison with International Research Trends

Compared to social entrepreneurship research in other countries, Indonesia's research landscape remains underdeveloped in terms of theoretical contributions and empirical rigor. For instance, studies from the United States and Europe tend to focus on scalability, impact measurement, and policy implications (Dees, 2001; Zahra et al., 2009), whereas Indonesian research often remains descriptive, focusing on case studies and success stories rather than critical evaluations or long-term impact assessments.

Additionally, research from countries such as India and Bangladesh highlights the role of microfinance and grassroots innovation, whereas Indonesian studies lack substantial discussions on financial sustainability and policy interventions. This indicates a potential research gap that future scholars can address by conducting comparative studies and incorporating more robust theoretical frameworks.

Thematic Analysis and Key Research Dimensions

Through thematic coding and categorization, this study identified six key dimensions shaping Indonesian social entrepreneurship research: (1) Organizational and Policy Frameworks – Analyzing regulatory environments, government support, and institutional barriers. While government initiatives exist, studies reveal inconsistencies in policy implementation and support mechanisms; (2) Business Models and Financial Sustainability – Exploring revenue generation, impact investing, and scalability strategies. Most Indonesian social enterprises still rely on grants and donations, limiting long-term viability; (3) Social and Economic Impact – Assessing measurable contributions to employment, poverty reduction, and SDGs. However, many studies lack quantitative impact assessments, relying primarily on anecdotal evidence; (4) Education and Innovation – Investigating entrepreneurial learning, incubation programs, and knowledge dissemination. While several universities have integrated social entrepreneurship courses, their effectiveness remains understudied; (5) Religiosity and Cultural Influence – Examining the role of Islamic and local cultural

values in shaping social entrepreneurship. This aspect is more prominent in Indonesian studies compared to Western research; (6) Gender Dynamics – Understanding women's role in social enterprises. Despite a high participation rate, women-led enterprises often face limited access to funding and decision-making opportunities, a topic underexplored in existing research.

These themes highlight both strengths and gaps in Indonesian social entrepreneurship research. While existing studies contribute valuable case-based insights, they often lack methodological rigor, making cross-country comparisons and policy recommendations difficult.

Limitations and Future Research Directions

Despite its contributions, this study acknowledges several limitations: (1) Lack of quantitative meta-analysis: While this review provides a thematic synthesis, a statistical meta-analysis could offer deeper insights into patterns, correlations, and research trends; (2) Potential selection bias: Since only SINTA- and Scopus-indexed journals were included, high-quality but non-indexed research may have been overlooked. Future studies should consider a broader range of sources, including government reports, think tank publications, and industry white papers; (3) Limited comparative perspectives: This study highlights differences between Indonesia and other countries, but more empirical comparisons are needed to contextualize Indonesia's position in the global social entrepreneurship landscape.

By refining the research selection process, incorporating international comparisons, identifying research gaps, and emphasizing methodological limitations, this study provides a more critical perspective on social entrepreneurship research in Indonesia. Future research should focus on enhancing theoretical contributions, incorporating mixed-method approaches, and exploring interdisciplinary collaborations to strengthen the field.

Profile of Indonesian Social Entrepreneurship Researcher

For a decade, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) has been more committed to the development of Indonesian social entrepreneurship research with a total of 12 articles in 10 years of research published in Scopus and or Sinta indexed journals. This is the highest number compared to the other 56 research institutions indexed. The article was partially published in the "Journal of Social and Political Sciences" managed by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University (UGM) which is indexed by the Sinta 1 Journal with the Q3 Scopus category in the field of social and political issues. In addition, it was published in the "Journal of Indonesian Economy and Business Issues" managed by the Faculty of Economics and Business UGM, which is indexed by the Sinta 2 Journal with the Q3 category (Scopus) in the field of economics and business.

The object of comparison between countries is also a gap between researchers across countries and agencies to collaborate with each other. As done by Jean Paolo G. Lacap, Institute of Business and Management, City College of Angeles, Angeles City, Philippines in collaboration with Hendrati Dwi Mulyaningsih, Telkom University, Bandung, Indonesia and Research Synergy Foundation, Bandung, Indonesia with Veland Ramadani, South-East European University, Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia. Meanwhile, there is also Aida binti Idris, a researcher at the University of Malaya, Malaysia, in collaboration with Sri Rahayu Hijrah Hati, University of Indonesia who published several Indonesian social entrepreneurship research articles such as "Social Entrepreneurship in Indonesia: Lessons from the Past" (Idris & Hijrah Hati, 2013) and "The role of leader vs organizational credibility in Islamic social enterprise marketing communication" (Hati & Idris, 2019).

Individually, out of 94 research articles on social entrepreneurship in Indonesia in a period of 10 years, Yanto Chandra, as an academic, is fully committed to the issue. A total of 4 articles, all of which are included in the Scopus Q1 index, a category at the level of Scopus International journals that have the most influence among other categories. Chandra's research focuses on social entrepreneurship, governance in the context of technology and society, and digital public management. Yanto Chandra, a researcher from the Technology, Policy and Law Lab at City, Hong Kong is also a social entrepreneur who first published a comic about the principles of entrepreneurship and sustainability and has won international awards and prestigious awards such as the Best Paper Award at the Academy of Management 2022 Entrepreneurship Division, Kooiman Best Paper Award 2021, International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC) Award, and Emerald Literati 2010 Award.

Classification of Indonesian Social Entrepreneurship Research

Tabel 3. Research Dimension

Dimension	Theme Analysis	Researchers
Organization and Policy (28 articles)	Research literature on government organizations and policies in supporting the social enterprise ecosystem in Indonesia to form an environment conducive to the growth of social enterprises.	Nurshafira (2018), Rustandi (2023), Idris (2013), Nurhadi (2019), Margiono (2019), Anas (2019), Chandra (2012), Muryanti (2020), Maulinda (2018), Guritno (2019), Widjojo (2019), Sirine (2022), Retnaningsih (2023), Yerik (2023), Famiola (2019)
Education and Innovation (25 articles)	Education and innovation also have an important role in supporting the growth of social enterprises in Indonesia. Education can increase awareness of social issues and entrepreneurial skills, while innovation helps create more effective and efficient solutions.	Sofia (2015), Puspitasari (2018), Hadi (2018), Surniandari (2018), El Hasanah (2018), Margiono (2019), Wahyono (2019), Maksum (2020), Geraikaa (2020), Gumulya (2020), Anggadwita (2020), Setiadi (2020), Jatiningrum (2021), Chandra (2021), Kesumahati (2021), Farranhasat (2021), Hasanah (2022), Singgalen (2022), Yacub (2022), Wijaya (2022), Thayib (2022), Iskandar (2022), Lindawati (2022)
Business Models (16 articles)	The literature identifies various business models used by social enterprises in Indonesia, including empowerment models and hybrid business models. These models reflect efforts to create social value while remaining financially sustainable	Kusumasari (2015), Maulinda (2018), Famiola (2019), Cakranegara (2020), Permatasari (2021), Yatminiwati (2021), Jan (2022), Desiana (2022), Haira (2022), Sirine (2022), Prasetyo (2022), Wijonarko (2023), Prabawanti (2023), Retnaningsih (2023), Indarto (2023), Mukti (2023)
Religious (13 articles)	In the context of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia, existing research highlights the importance of paying attention to these factors in designing and implementing inclusive and sustainable social entrepreneurship initiatives.	Reginald (2014), Yuniarto (2016), Lord (2017), Hati (2019), Saputra (2021), Anggoro (2021), Safei (2021), Listyadewi (2022), Priyadi (2022), Hartati (2022), Fahmi (2022), Muhammad (2023)
Socio-Economic Impact (9 articles)	Research on social and economic impacts whose impacts include improving people's welfare, job creation, and increasing access to social services.	Firdaus (2014), Taftazani (2017), Chandra (2017), Lacap (2018), Sutowo (2020), Indriyani (2021), Dalimunthe (2021), Hasanah (2022), Hamdi (2023)
Gender (3 articles)	Although there is still relatively little research on gender	Imran (2019), Hartanti (2020), Ummiroh (2022)

In order to summarize and understand the research framework on Social Entrepreneurship in Indonesia over the past ten years, 94 articles are classified in 6 (six) main dimensions, namely (1) organization and policy, (2) business model (3) social and economic impact, (4) education and innovation, (5) religiosity and (6) gender. These dimensions were chosen because they reflect integral aspects of Indonesian social entrepreneurship. Organizations and policies describe the organizational structure and regulations that form the foundation of the work of social enterprise entities. Social and economic impacts discuss the tangible effects produced by social enterprise activities on local communities and economies. Education and innovation highlight the role of education and innovation

in shaping social entrepreneurship practices. Meanwhile, religiosity and gender enrich our understanding of cultural and social elements that can influence social entrepreneurship.

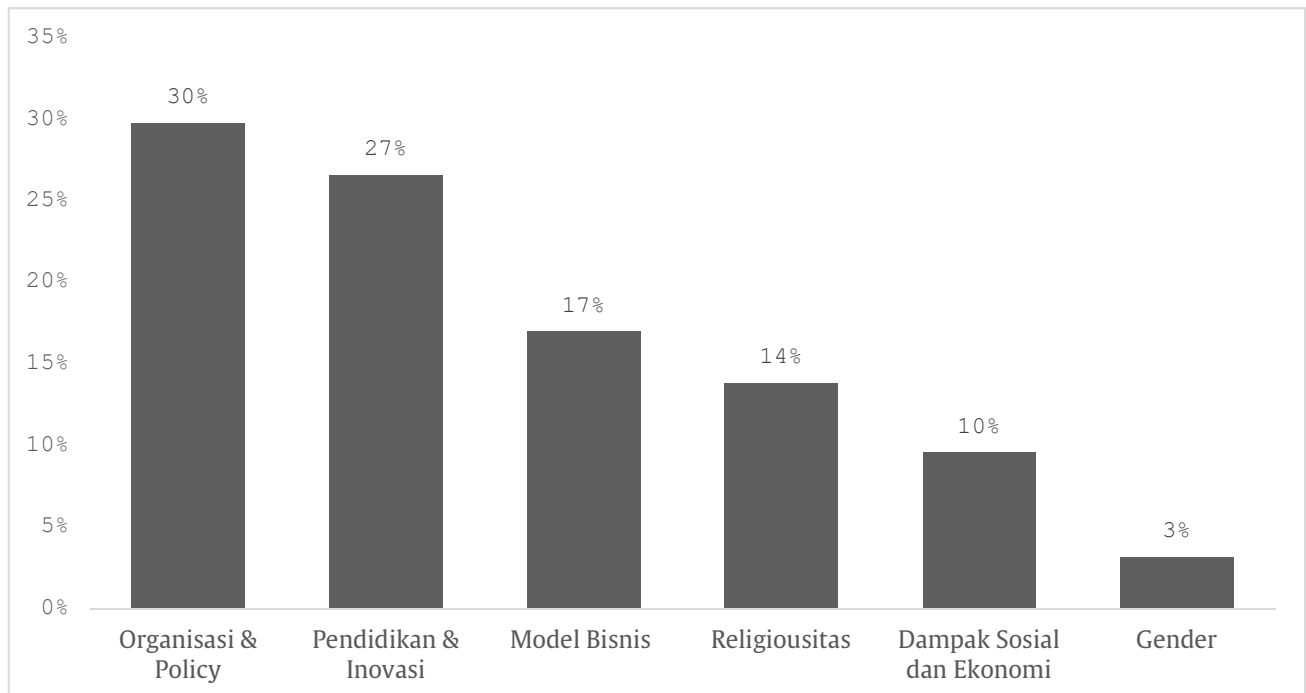


Figure 3 Dimensions of Social Entrepreneurship Research Articles (2013 – 2023). Source: processed by researcher

Organization and Policy

Social entrepreneurship in Indonesia was believed before independence in 1945 in the form of social movement organizations. The findings (Idris & Hijrah Hati, 2013) show that the policies enacted by the Dutch Government have a considerable influence on the growth of social movement organizations. Currently, the Indonesian social entrepreneurship movement is engaged in the fields of economic empowerment, family welfare, formal/non-formal education, health, natural environment sustainability, environmental cleanliness/health, and so on (Nurhadi, 2019; Pujiastuti, 2023).

Mentions have also undergone development with different terms, ranging from social entrepreneurship or social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship or sociopreneur which gives rise to the term even though its essence has not changed (Anas, 2019). For example, Sociopreneur and Social Entrepreneur have different terms but have the same meaning, namely someone who conducts a business or business that is oriented to social goals. Short term from Social entrepreneur to sociopreneur. Social Entrepreneurship is the most widely used keyword in the indexed articles in this study, then social enterprise, sociopreneurs, social entrepreneurship and social entrepreneur.

Meanwhile, the issue of policy, in this case the discussion of social enterprise policies carried out by the government, is also widely discussed by researchers. This is based on the fact that the government is considered neutral (does not support and does not reject) the growth of social enterprises because existing policies or programs are still limited to the goal of creating new entrepreneurs and supporting business growth from novice entrepreneurs. The Indonesian government also does not provide a special agency or institution to handle the development of social enterprises in Indonesia (Dewi Meisari Haryati et al., 2015). The government is also considered to have no intention to collaborate and jointly solve social problems of the community. The government is considered to have made too many promises, not acknowledging the existence of social enterprises and lacking support for the development of social enterprises in Indonesia (Dewi Meisari Haryati et al., 2015). Although social entrepreneurship has been proven to help the government overcome social problems, the government is still reluctant to take a role, coordination between the government and the private sector in mitigating social problems has not been well established (Rostiani et al., 2014).

There are at least three things that prove the insincerity of the Government of Indonesia towards the development of social entrepreneurship, first, the existing literature has only relied on cases that feature social activities or policy studies (Idris & Hijrah Hati, 2013). Second, there is no specific legal form for social enterprises in Indonesia, which implies ambiguity in the implementation of social enterprise activities. The definition of social entrepreneurship varies greatly depending on the context in various schools of thought (Defourny & Nyssens, 2010), and the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship in the Asian landscape is complex (Defourny & Kim, 2011).

In fact, the factors and actors of the social business ecosystem in Indonesia will develop if the government can maintain the existing social culture, interact to promote appropriate policies, arrange a suitable and accessible playing field, and form a consistent and inconsistent legal framework .

Therefore, a more in-depth analysis is needed to understand the model of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia and move forward in comparative analysis with other countries to find out this gap.

Education and Innovation

Indonesia as a unique and interesting country to be researched provides a variety of alternative research perspectives that can be revealed from the issue of social entrepreneurship. First, the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and geographical conditions in Indonesia creates very diverse challenges and opportunities for social entrepreneurship. Local innovations that emerge from local wisdom and the specific needs of the Indonesian people are a special attraction. Second, the high level of inequality and economic inequality in Indonesia has encouraged the emergence of various social enterprise initiatives that focus on empowering marginalized and marginalized communities (Wahyono et al., 2019).

Innovation is needed as an effort to be able to solve social problems better with the development of information technology, especially the use of social media for marketing or online media such as the web for social enterprise institutions (Listyorini, 2012; Surniandari et al., 2019). Other innovations can also be through the diffusion of business innovation trying to describe how the role of social entrepreneurship creates the characteristics of creative villages (Hadi & Rudiarto, 2018).

Social entrepreneurship is a tool to respond to deep and complex social problems, such as poverty, access to education, and gender inequality. The issue of social entrepreneurship education from an early age, both for the millennial generation (Palesangi, 2012), women former TKW (Kazhenov, 2023; Lindawati, 2018) to the results of research to change the mindset of terrorists to become useful human beings through social entrepreneurship activities (Yuniarto, 2016). Social entrepreneurship is one of the solutions that can be applied to distribute aid in a sustainable manner and can even empower the poor to be free from poverty without relying on aid.

The success of understanding a social problem and using entrepreneurial principles to organize, create and manage a business to drive social change in a social entrepreneurship program will not be optimally achieved if it is not properly prepared and managed. The training program is considered effective if: 1) it can improve knowledge, attitudes and skills related to a competency, measured by comparing pre-test and post-test training scores; 2) The treatment of training can change the behavior of trainees in the post-training period, towards improved performance, measured through training impact assessment (Indriyani et al., 2021).

Similarly, social entrepreneurial intentions are related to entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurial experience both directly and indirectly, which are related to moral obligations, self-efficacy, and social support for social entrepreneurial intentions (Noerhartati et al., 2019).

Business Model

Businesses run by social enterprises do not solely aim to ensure sustainable funding but must also have a specific business model pattern for social enterprises. Social entrepreneurs see the problem as an opportunity to form a new business model that is beneficial and has an impact in the form of empowerment for the surrounding community (Sofia, 2017; Yatminiwati et al., 2021).

There are four types of social entrepreneurship models in Indonesia according to (Kusumasari, 2016) which aim to solve social, economic, and environmental problems. Life is a mixed business model, a sharia business model, a voluntary business model and a cooperative business model. Another agent-based model approach that describes the behavior of creative social entrepreneurs and their

impact on socio-economic development and local resources of the region, there are three basic goals of entrepreneurs, namely economic, social and hybrid (Permatasari et al., 2021).

Furthermore, in order for more entrepreneurs to migrate as social entrepreneurs, the things that must be considered are: 1) The support of the government and related stakeholders is needed in realizing social entrepreneurship so that it can run in accordance with the company's goals and missions, 2) Reliable social entrepreneurs are needed in running social enterprises, through education and training, 3) The social business model must be able to be adjusted to the capabilities and needs of each business owned, and 4) the need for competition to find and produce social entrepreneurs from the ideas they have can be implemented in the community (Cakranegara et al., 2020).

Social and Economic Impact

To realize a sustainable social business requires networking and cooperation with various parties. The survival of social entrepreneurship is a concern for various groups, namely the government, society, companies, or educational institutions such as universities because the role of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia has a great impact on the economy in Indonesia because it can absorb many qualified workers and human beings who do not get opportunities in the formal sector (Sofia, 2017). In addition, the success or not of a social entrepreneur can be seen from the impact they create in society (Desiana et al., 2022).

As a form of business activity, social entrepreneurship aims to create social value that is beneficial to the community. For example, support for former religious-based terrorists from Indonesia who have succeeded in establishing social enterprises and empowering fellow former terrorists (Chandra, 2017). Likewise, researchers (Lacap et al., 2018) have proven that there is a significance between previous experiences and empathy, moral obligation, self-efficacy, and social support that are felt positively and significantly affect social entrepreneurship intentions. This proves that social entrepreneurship allows individuals to make positive changes to themselves and their social roles as well as a new future. To realize this, it is necessary to have components in developing social entrepreneurship, namely the potential of human and natural resources, motivators, the value of mutual cooperation and community partners (Dalimunthe et al., 2021). This component is strengthened by intensive participatory communication during activities and regular meetings by field facilitators as representatives of social enterprise actors (Yacub et al., 2022).

Therefore, understanding social problems for social entrepreneurs is very important because the causes of social problems are very complex, ranging from dimensions related to behavior patterns, interaction patterns, changes and value conflicts, to those caused by situations of injustice, neglect of human rights, and severe ecological damage (Taftazani, 2017).

Religiosity

Social entrepreneurship in Indonesia cannot be separated from religious culture because almost all religions teach generous and humanitarian behavior. As a country with a majority of Muslims, research articles based on Islamic religious thought in the field of social entrepreneurship have a fairly comprehensive research discussion.

For example, research to analyze the possibility of synergy between entrepreneurs and the community can provide benefits to overcome social problems (Saputra et al., 2021), the development of a social entrepreneurship ecosystem by the Indonesian Muslim community which is governed by Islamic values that prioritize the social dimension of humanity (Safei & Herdiana, 2021) in accordance with the model of developing Islamic philanthropic institutions that have capital from donors to be used in business with a profit-sharing model profits, as well as training and capital assistance to meet sharia principles (Listyadewi et al., 2022).

Research at the location of Islamic boarding schools to maintain economic activities, namely the task of conveying Islamic values (da'wah), business, and providing social values for the community around the Islamic boarding school as an area for the growth of the spirit of Islamic social entrepreneurship is also part of the research subject (Reginald & Mawardi, 2015). The concept of social entrepreneurship is implemented with elements of social entrepreneurship, namely Social Values, Innovation, Civil Society, and economic activities to provide benefits to many people, according to the concept of Islamic economics (Fahmi et al., 2022). Social entrepreneurship practices are also carried

out through the balance of the Company's social responsibility program, bottom of pyramid orientation and spiritual social entrepreneurship activities and reflected in holistic blended value, which means that it is the key to the existence and sustainability of the business formulated according to the teachings of Islam (Muhammad, 2023).

The application of social entrepreneurship in Islamic boarding schools is proven by the innovation of the establishment of social enterprise institutions based on the ideas and roles of civil society. Similarly, a person's socioeconomic status and religiosity did not have a significant effect on directing donations through Islamic social enterprises. What is significant is the advertisement of social companies that affects the intention of a person's support in giving donations or zakat (Rahayu Hijrah Hati & Idris, 2014). Zakat has been proven to contribute to reducing poverty in Indonesia through the spirit of mutual cooperation with economic empowerment mechanisms. The results of the study show that based on simulations, waqf land assets allow community empowerment and the formulation of a waqf land asset management model through the Islamic Social Entrepreneurship Model, and there are several implications for empowering the poor (Priyadi & Achiria, 2022). Social entrepreneurship is in line with the mission of zakat, emphasizing togetherness, sincerity of mustahiq, and ethical business principles. This creates sustainable benefits and self-contained solutions to poverty (Efendi, 2017).

Gender

In the discussion of social entrepreneurship, it is important to recognize the role of gender in influencing the dynamics of participation, access to resources, and the impact of social initiatives. This analysis is important to understand more deeply how gender equality can be championed through social enterprise initiatives, as well as to design more inclusive and sustainable strategies to address social challenges.

Almost all social enterprises act as organizations that encourage women to act and make positive changes through different types of activities to pursue equal opportunities, environmental protection, economic justice, and community welfare. Social entrepreneurship is an alternative chosen by women to be able to develop themselves and their abilities (Prabawanti et al., 2023). Women are also considered to be able to organize various activities to pursue equal opportunities and collectively will place women empowered and have the potential to create female leaders who function as agents of change that can increase socio-economic independence and well-being (Imron & Satrya, 2019) and can even help solve the problems of the surrounding community (Hartanti & Setiaji, 2020). Women even aggressively attend and group with each other to help fellow women to accommodate social needs and problems that need to be handled in daily life (Anggahegari et al., 2021).

Based on field research that describes several important dimensions of the social entrepreneurship process, women are described as an important core, but the condition of women social entrepreneurs in Indonesia is still considered to go unnoticed because they are only seen as the main helper or beneficiary object. There are still not many women who are considered as social entrepreneurs, because it takes skills to have social innovation to create social values so that the three points, namely women's social entrepreneurship, social innovation and social value creation, are ecosystems that still need to be realized (Anggahegari et al., 2021).

Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia through a systematic review of 94 research articles indexed in Scopus and SINTA. The findings reveal that while the social entrepreneurship sector in Indonesia has grown significantly over the past decade (2013–2023), several persistent challenges hinder its full potential. Six key dimensions define the landscape of Indonesian social entrepreneurship: (1) organization and policy, (2) business model, (3) social and economic impact, (4) education and innovation, (5) religiosity, and (6) gender.

The analysis highlights that the absence of a well-defined regulatory framework and institutional support limits the sustainability and scalability of social enterprises. Furthermore, while innovative business models are emerging, a lack of financial security and market access remains a major obstacle. Social enterprises have demonstrated positive economic and social impacts, particularly in community

development and poverty alleviation. However, their long-term effectiveness is constrained by limited educational initiatives and insufficient integration of entrepreneurial skills in academic institutions. Additionally, the role of religiosity in shaping social entrepreneurship practices is evident, yet it remains underexplored in policy and business strategies. Gender disparities persist, with women social entrepreneurs often facing greater barriers to resources and leadership opportunities. This study underscores the importance of a structured and supportive ecosystem for social entrepreneurship in Indonesia. Without targeted interventions, the sector risks stagnation, limiting its ability to drive inclusive economic growth and social transformation.

To strengthen Indonesia's social entrepreneurship ecosystem, several strategic recommendations are proposed. The government should establish clear legal frameworks, tax incentives, and streamlined business registration to support social enterprises, alongside improving financial inclusion through impact investments, grants, and market access via digital platforms and cross-sector partnerships. Integrating social entrepreneurship education into academic and vocational programs, along with mentorship initiatives, will enhance entrepreneurial capacity. A standardized framework for measuring social and economic impact should be developed to guide policymakers, investors, and academics. Leveraging religious and cultural values through faith-based organizations can promote ethical and sustainable business models, while advancing gender equity through targeted funding, leadership training, and networking opportunities will foster inclusivity. Future research should compare regional and international models, assessing long-term policy impacts to refine sector development strategies. Implementing these measures will create a more resilient and sustainable social entrepreneurship ecosystem, enhancing economic and social well-being.

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