

Exploring the Factors that Shape the Intentions of Namibian Youths Towards Social Entrepreneurship

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Abstract

This study investigates the factors influencing social entrepreneurial intentions among youth in Namibia and explores their relationship with social entrepreneurship. The research adopts a qualitative and quantitative approach. Data was collected through google form which was sent via Namibian WhatsApp group in India. 69 students participated in the study, where 42 were females and 22 males. The data are analysed using factor analysis and regression analysis. The findings show that among young Namibians, self-efficacy and prior experience are major predictors of social entrepreneurship goals. In addition, when asked about the obstacles preventing them from launching social initiatives, respondents stated that 68% cited restricted access to cash as the key barrier, 7% mentioned a lack of self-esteem and competence in the area of social entrepreneurship, and 4% mentioned a lack of support networks. These findings offer valuable insights into the primary factors influencing social entrepreneurship in the Namibian context, providing guidance for policymakers and practitioners aiming to promote social entrepreneurship among youth. Additionally, the study recommends that higher education institutions incorporate social entrepreneurship into their curricula across various subjects. By providing insights to educators, policymakers, and youth, this research underscores the positive impact of social entrepreneurship on communities, contributes to the ongoing discourse, and raises awareness about social entrepreneurship among young individuals.

Keywords -Social entrepreneurship; Empathy, Social support; Moral obligation; Self-efficacy and prior-experience.

Introduction

In recent years, social entrepreneurship has become a potent instrument for addressing the social and environmental issues that societies face globally (Mair & Martí, 2006). By creating sustainable and innovative solutions to these problems, social entrepreneurship aims to achieve positive social and environmental impacts (Austin et al., 2012). In particular, this practice has gained significant attention among youth in developing countries such as Namibia, where social entrepreneurship can play a critical role in alleviating issues like high unemployment rates, inequality, and poverty.

At its foundation, social entrepreneurship is a novel idea that uses economic techniques to solve issues while adding value to society. The goal of social entrepreneurship as opposed to other forms of entrepreneurship, is to create positive social impacts (Mitra, 2019).

There hasn't been much research on the factors influencing young people in Namibia to engage in social entrepreneurship, despite the field's growing popularity. Given the potential for social entrepreneurship to address social and environmental concerns in the nation, this study vacuum is crucial. In order to advance the practice, it is essential to look into the elements that affect young people in Namibia's decision to engage in social entrepreneurship.

Thus, this study aims to investigate the factors that drive Namibian youth's intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. By doing so, we hope to identify key factors that can encourage and support the growth of social entrepreneurship in Namibia, contributing to the country's sustainable development.

Social entrepreneurship

Over the past few years, social entrepreneurship has become increasingly popular as more individuals have recognized the potential to create social value in addition to financial returns. Social entrepreneurs are individuals who use entrepreneurial methods to develop innovative solutions to social problems (Maheshwari et al., 2022a). In other words, social entrepreneurship involves applying business principles to address social issues and potentially generate profits.

The primary goal of social entrepreneurship is to make a social impact through a number of endeavours through the funding of new organizations, the creation of new products and services, and adoption of novel procedures and organization structures (Law & Hung, 2009). The ultimate objective is to create market-based solutions that are scalable and sustainable for social issues.

Empathy, moral obligation, social support, self-efficacy, and prior experience are some of the factors that influence social entrepreneurship intentions. Each of these factors will be explored in-depth in this literature review to examine their relationship with social entrepreneurship.

Empathy and social entrepreneurial intentions

Empathy is the capacity to comprehend and identify with emotions of another person, while social entrepreneurial aspirations are the desire to launch a firm that solves a social or environmental issue. (Wood et al., 2012) emphasise empathy as a critical component of social enterprise leadership, highlighting that empathic people have traits including leadership and motivational skills. Without empathy, it is challenging to create something because you do not comprehend the issues and see it as it is, claim (Hockerts & Wüstenhagen, 2010a).

Empathy was found to be positively connected with social entrepreneurial ambitions in research by (Zahra et al., 2009). According to the study, people who were more empathic were more likely to have intentions to participate in social entrepreneurship. These people were driven to address social issues and enhance the lives of others, and they regarded social entrepreneurship as a means of doing so. The study found that empathy was positively associated with social entrepreneurial intentions.

Similar findings were made by Santos et al. (2015) in their study, which discovered that successful social entrepreneurs have high levels of empathy. According to the study, empathic social entrepreneurs are better able to recognise and comprehend the requirements of their target audiences and are more successful at creating and implementing social projects that address those needs.

The development of entrepreneurial thinking may also be influenced by empathy, according to other experts. Examples include the claim made by (Mair & Martí, 2006) that social entrepreneurs are inspired by a feeling of empathy and compassion for others, which helps them to perceive possibilities where others

may only see problems. These ways of thinking can be especially helpful in social entrepreneurship, where the capacity to spot and seize chances for beneficial social change is essential to success.

Therefore, in order to generate social value for the company, a potential social entrepreneur needs empathy. According to (Hockerts, 2017a), individuals who read literature on empathy tend to have high social entrepreneurial intention.

Social support and social entrepreneurial intentions

Social support as defined by (Bulsara et al., 2015; Chan, 2018) is the perception of support that a person feel they receive from their surroundings. This support can come in the form of cash, services, sympathy, information, or advice (Pacut, 2020a). In addition, individuals think about what type of funding or support they can request from their support system for their efforts (Hockerts, 2017a). (Meyskens et al., 2010) test perceived social support indirectly through a resource-based view and found that social entrepreneurs rely on resources as part of their value creation. Investment in social enterprises can be a powerful driver of social entrepreneurship, poverty reduction, and economic expansion (Abeysekera, 2019).

Research by (Fayolle et al., 2006) found that social support is positively associated with social entrepreneurial intentions. The study found that individuals who received more social support from their family, friends, and colleagues were more likely to have intentions to engage in social entrepreneurship. These individuals had access to resources and networks that could help them start and grow their social ventures.

Similarly, a study by (Kickul et al., 2008) found that social support was a significant predictor of social entrepreneurial intentions. The study found that individuals who received more social support from peers and mentors were more likely to have intentions to engage in social entrepreneurship. These individuals had access to guidance; advice and networks that could help them overcome challenges and succeed as social entrepreneurs.

Moral Obligation and social entrepreneurial intentions

Moral obligation is a sense of duty or responsibility to act in a certain way based on ethical principles or values (Carsrude Alan & Brannback Malin, 2011). Individuals may feel a moral obligation to use their skills, resources, and entrepreneurial spirit to address social and environmental challenges and create positive change. (Hockerts, 2017a) and (Ip et al., 2017) concluded that although moral motives play a significant role, their other motives such as personal fulfilment could contribute to entrepreneurial intent which can lead to disapproval of a positive link between intention and moral obligation. (Hockerts, 2017a) further attest that social norms signify a moral obligation to assist people contemplated as minors resulting in the formation of moral intent.

Research by (Hockerts & Wüstenhagen, 2010b) found that moral obligation is a significant predictor of social entrepreneurial intentions. The study found that individuals who perceived a strong moral obligation to address social problems were more likely to have entrepreneurial intentions. These individuals believed they had a responsibility to contribute to society and saw social entrepreneurship as a way to do so.

Similarly, a study (Mair & Martí, 2006) found that moral obligation was a key motivator for social entrepreneurs. The study found that social entrepreneurs are motivated by a desire to bring about positive social change and to fulfill their sense of moral obligation to solve social problems. These individuals saw social entrepreneurship as a way to align their personal values with their professional goals.

Self-efficacy and social entrepreneurial intentions

Self-efficacy is an important factor in determining the entrepreneurial mindset. As stated in (Dharmanegara et al., 2022), self-efficacy refers to a person's ability to control the environment in a given situation.

Several studies have found that self-efficacy can influence other factors that contribute to social entrepreneurial intention (Chan, 2018; Hockerts, 2017b; Pacut, 2020b). For example, individuals with high self-efficacy tend to be more confident in their abilities to identify and evaluate social problems, develop innovative solutions, and mobilize resources to implement their ideas. These factors, in turn, increase their likelihood of developing a strong intention to pursue social entrepreneurship.

Research by (Wei et al., 2020) found that self-efficacy is positively associated with the intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. The study found that individuals with higher levels of self-efficacy had a stronger intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. These individuals believed that they could successfully develop and implement innovative solutions to address social problems, which motivated them to pursue social entrepreneurship.

Similarly, a study by (Maheshwari et al., 2022b) found that self-efficacy was a significant predictor of intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. The study found that individuals with higher levels of self-efficacy were more likely to have the intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. These individuals believed they had the necessary skills and abilities to succeed as social entrepreneurs, which increased their motivation to pursue this career path.

Prior experience and social entrepreneurial intentions

Prior experience refers to the knowledge, skills, and expertise an individual has gained through past learning and work experiences. In many contexts, prior experience is considered an important factor that can impact an individual's current and future performance.

Research on social entrepreneurial intent suggests that prior experience can be a significant factor in predicting an individual's likelihood of engaging in social entrepreneurship. For example, research by (Dacin et al., 2017) found that individuals with prior experience in the nonprofit sector were more likely to have a strong intention to engage in social entrepreneurship than those without such experience. The authors suggest that prior experience can help individuals develop a deeper understanding of social issues and identify opportunities for social change, which can increase their motivation to pursue social entrepreneurship.

In addition to that, research (Kolvereid & Isaksen, 2006) found that prior experience in entrepreneurship can also be a significant factor in predicting social entrepreneurial intent. The study found that individuals with prior experience in entrepreneurship are more likely to have a strong intention to engage in social entrepreneurship than those without such experience. The authors suggest that prior experience in entrepreneurship can provide individuals with valuable skills and knowledge that can be applied to the unique challenges of social entrepreneurship.

Methodology**Research design:****Purpose of the study**

- Hypothesis testing

Type of investigation

- Casual relationship

Unit of Analysis

- Individual

Time horizon

- Cross-sectional

Data collection methods

- Survey questionnaire

Sampling Design

- Non-probability sample

Research method

- Mixed methods

Measurements

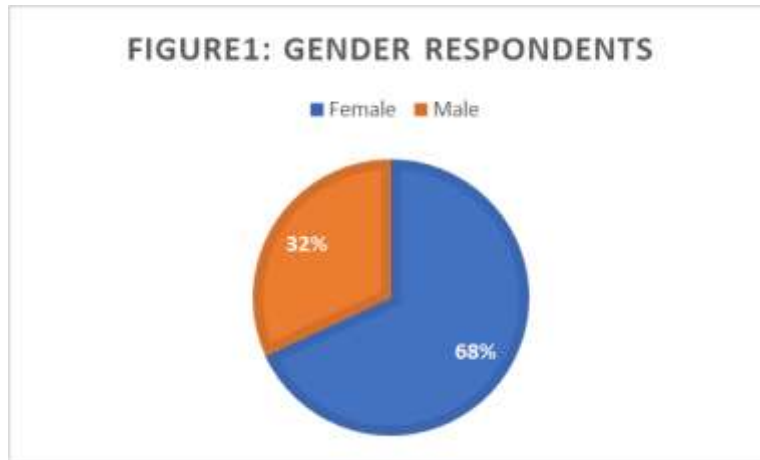
- Scaling

This study adopts a descriptive approach. The target population was Namibian students studying in India. convenience sampling was used to select 69 participants, who were reached via online survey questionnaires distributed through WhatsApp group. To ensure the reliability and validity of the measurements, the study adopted scales from previous studies. The study utilized six items to measure empathy, four items to measure social support, moral obligation, and self-efficacy, and three items to measure prior experience. Social entrepreneurial intentions were measured using six items that convey feelings and preparation dimensions. Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) 2 (disagree), 3 (natural); 4 (agree), and 5 (strongly agree). Any unanswered questions were considered missing values.

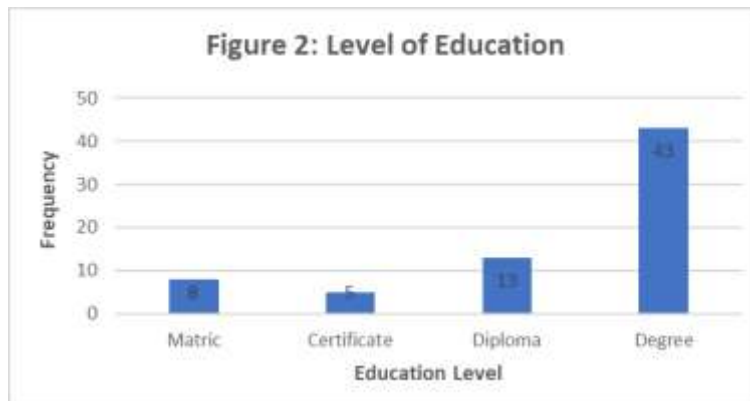
Analysis and discussions**Demographic analysis**

Only 69 responses were received. The first question was on age category but there was a technical error and it was deleted.

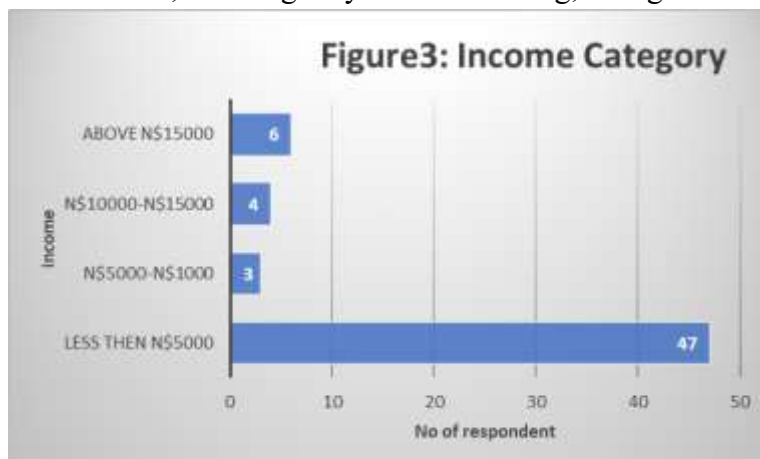
The below figure depicts the number of females who participated in this study were far more than males. Out of the total, female's respondent was 47 (68%) and males were 22 (32%) only.



Participants who participated on the study, four three (43) were either doing their degree or completed, fourteen (13) studying diploma or completed, eight (8) were still doing their matric or completed their metrics and five (5) completed and doing certificate as shown on the below chart.



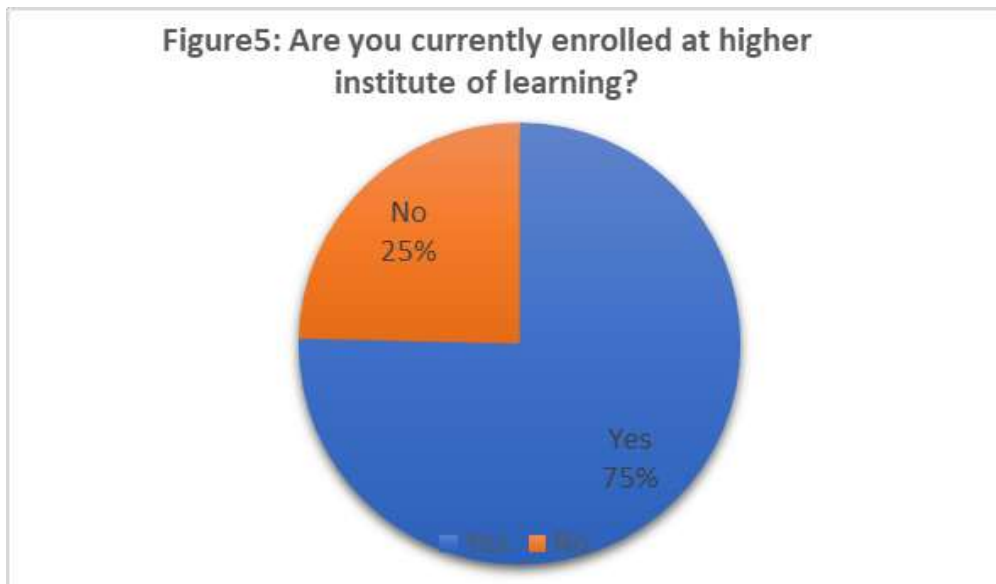
The chart below clearly shows that those who are employed majority are earning less than N\$5000 per month, this can be either those with certificate or matric or maybe working students. Only six are earning above N\$15000; four are earning between N\$10,000- N\$15000 while three between N\$5000-N\$10000. Nine respondents didn't not answer, meaning they are not working, it might be the full time students.



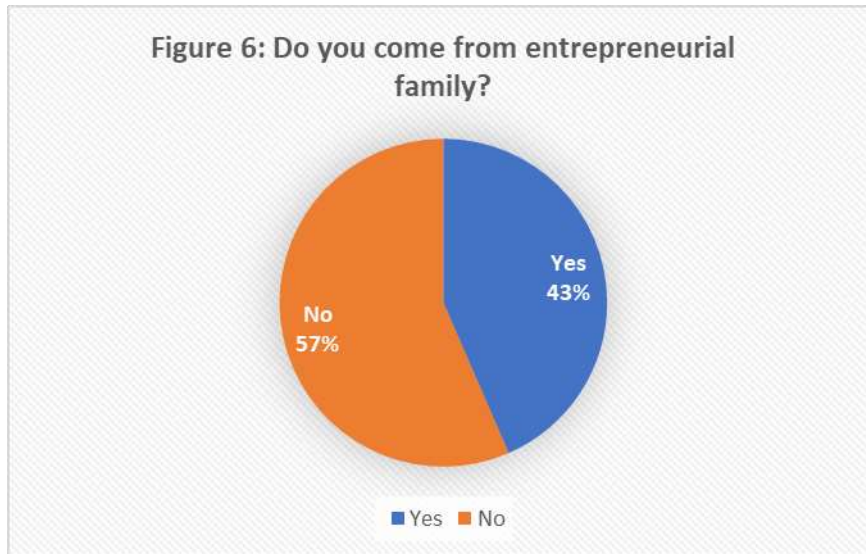
The below chart reflects the numbers of who are employed or not employed at all. And it clearly shows that 51 were not employed and 17 were employed or self-employed. This implies that the majority that were not employed are either student.



The below figure indicates the number of participants who are enrolled at high institute of learning and who are not enrolled. Out of the total, 52 participants were currently enrolled at high institute of learning while the 17 were not enrolled. We can easily assume that those who didn't enrolled either they have already completed their degrees, diploma or certificate and maybe they didn't continue after metrics or busy with their metrics.



Out of the total; 39 participants were from entrepreneurial family while the 30 were not from entrepreneurial family as shown on the below chart.



The below bar graph shows the percentages of those who are familiar with the term social entrepreneurship. 43 participants have the knowledge of social entrepreneurship while 26 participants have no knowledge.

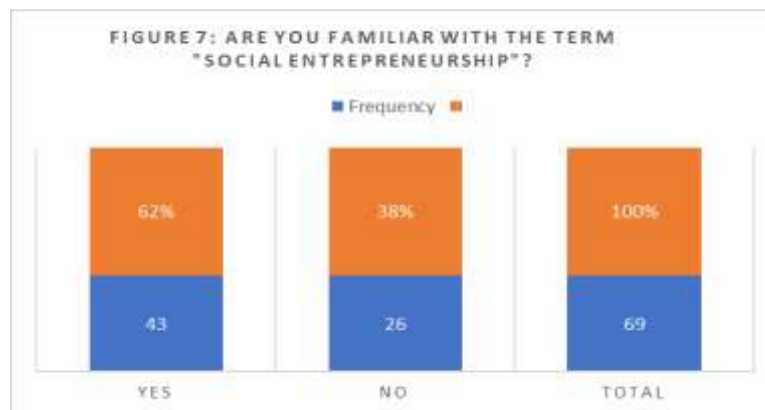


Table 1: Reliability Statistics			
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items	
.729	.739	6	

As indicated on the above table, Cronbach alpha is above 0.7 that indicates that the items of the scale are highly related to each other and are measuring the same construct.

Factor Analyses

The researcher did factor analysis using the maximum likelihood method with varimax rotation to analyse the structure and correlation between items in the scale as presented in table 1. Some items (E3, E5; E6; SS4; MO1; SE1; SS2, SE3; SE4; SEI1 and SEI2) were removed incremental as we didn't get the desired outputs. All items for self-efficacy (SE) were completely removed as all items were loading on other factors. After removing some items, we get the following results.

Table 2: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.			.712
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square		467.564
	df		120
	Sig.		.000

Sig. at 0.05 (2-tailed)

As shown on the above table, KMO value is above 0.50, this shows that the criteria of sampling is adequacy is met, which is $0.712 > 0.05$ and the Bartlett's reject the hypothesis which is $0.000 < 0.05$, this shows that our correlation matrix is statistically different from identity measurements as desired. Eigenvalue is greater than 1 and accumulated principal components extraction with matrix variation of 70.746% which is greater than 50%. All the factors are also greater than 0.50 which shows the validity of the study (as shown on table 3).

Table 3: Factor loading output excluding the removed variables.

Variables	Items	Coding	Loading factor
Empathy	I don't care how people feel who live on the margins of society.	E1	0.793
	I do not experience much emotion when thinking about socially excluded people.	E2	0.751
	I find it difficult to feel compassionate for people less fortunate than myself.	E4	0.729
Social support	If I planned to address a significant societal problem people would back me up.	SS1	0.810
	People would support me if I wanted to start an organization to help socially marginalized people.	SS2	0.778
	It is possible to attract investors for an organization that wants to solve social problems.	SS3	0.748
Moral obligation	It is one of the principles of our society that we should help socially disadvantaged people.	MO2	0.735
	Social justice requires that we help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.	MO3	0.757
	It is an ethical responsibility to help those less fortunate than myself.	MO4	0.846
Prior Experience	I have volunteered or otherwise worked with social organizations.	PE1	0.847
	I have some experience working with social problems.	PE2	0.880
	I know a lot about social organizations.	PE3	0.710

Social Entrepreneurship intentions	I expect that at some point in the future i will be involved in launching an organization that aims to help disadvantages people.	SEIs3	0.768
	I expect that at some point in the future i will be involved in launching an organization that aims to promote environmental sustainability.	SEIs4	0.836
	I wish to start a social enterprise that assist in alleviating environmental issues.	SEIs5	0.734
	I am going to do anything to become a social entrepreneur.	SEIs6	0.732
Eigenvalue			1.119
Accumulated variance			70.746
KMO			0.712

Source: Authors

Regression Analysis

The study performs a linear regression analysis to test for an association between the variables and based on the results (reference table 3), the model can be accepted as fit. R square measure the proportion of the variance in the Y variables (dependent) that can be explained by the X variable (Independent) in a simple regression model and it ranges from 0 to 1, and the high values indicates a better fit of the model to the data. So, R square is 0.501 and the adjusted $R^2 = 0.461$ which suggest that the independent variables explain over 46% of the variability of dependent variables. Durben -watson = 1.771, the result is close to 2, therefore, this suggest that there is no autocorrelation between the residuals. And the model is appropriate for hypothesis testing.

Table 4: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.708 ^a	.501	.461	.70494	1.771
a. Predictors: (Constant), Determinants of social entrepreneurial intentions (PE, Empathy, MO, Social Support, SE)					
b. Dependent Variable: Social entrepreneurship intentions (SEI)					

Table 5. shows the correlation analysis results against each variable. All items are statistical significant . Prior-experience and social entrepreneurial intentions yield a moderate significant of 0.620, followed by moral obligation and self-efficacy =0.584. Self -efficacy and social entrepreneurial intention =0.545, followed by self-efficacy and prior-experience = 0.381, then moral obligation and social entrepreneurial intention which is 0.325 and empathy and self-efficacy =0.322. the rest of the variables have a weak strength.

Table 5: Correlation analysis

	Empathy	SocialSupport	MO	SE	PE	SEI
Empathy	1.000					
Social Support	.266	1.000				
Moral obligation	.228	.233	1.000			
Self-efficacy	.322	.299	.584	1.000		
Prior-Experience	.137	.205	.179	.381	1.000	
SEI	.218	.264	.325	.545	.620	1.000

Note**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). Source: Authors

SEI= Social entrepreneurial intentions

Source: Authors

Table 6 indicates the results of ANOVA. ANOVA is used to determine whether there is a significance difference between variables and whether the data are fit for regression model. F statistics is 12.654 with a mean square of 6.288, and a p value= 000 which is less than 0.05 (P<0.05). this means that there is a significant difference between the data. Therefore assuming the probability of P<0.05 , we can suggest that there is a significant relationship between the depended variable and independent variable.

Table 6: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	31.442	5	6.288	12.654	.000 ^b
	Residual	31.307	63	.497		
	Total	62.750	68			

a. Dependent Variable: SEI

b. Predictors: (Constant), PE, Empathy, MO, SocialSupport, SE

Source: Authors

Table 7: Statistical significance of the independent variables model Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Conclusion
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
(Constant)	.406	.598		.678	.500	
Empathy	.042	.145	.028	.291	.772	Not supported
Social Support	.065	.110	.056	.590	.557	Not supported
1 Moral Obligation	.042	.132	.035	.320	.750	Not supported
Self-efficacy	.436	.166	.316	2.622	.011	Null rejected
Prior-experience	.394	.080	.478	4.928	.000	Null rejected

Dependent variable: Social entrepreneurial intention

Source: Authors

Assuming the prediction of $p < 0.05$, it suggests that there is a significant relationship between the dependent variable and independent variable.

H₁: There is no relationship between empathy and social entrepreneurial intention.

Referring to the readings above (table 7), empathy is statistically significant $p < 0.05$ ($B = 0.042$, $p = 0.772$). a positive Beta “0.042” claims that empathy contemporary a positive relationship with social entrepreneurial intentions. However, we cannot conclude that there is meaningful between empathy and social entrepreneurial intention as p value is high than 0.05. therefore, there is no enough evidence to accept or reject the null hypothesis. In this case, we can conclude that there no statistical evidence between empathy and social entrepreneurial intention.

H₂: There is no significant relationship between social support and social entrepreneurial intention

According to the readings above (table 7), social support is statistically significant $p < 0.05$ ($B = 0.065$, $p = 0.557$). A positive Beta of “0.065” implies that social support presents a positive relationship with social entrepreneurial intentions. $P > 0.05$ says there is no statistical significance between the two variables. Therefore, we cannot support the claim which say there is no relationship between social support and social entrepreneurial intention. Therefore, we can conclude that there no statistical significance between empathy and social entrepreneurial intention.

H₃: There is no significant relationship between moral obligation and social entrepreneurial intention

According to the readings above (table 7), moral obligation is statically significant $p < 0.05$ ($B = 0.042$, $p = 0.750$). A positive Beta of “0.042” implies that moral obligation presents a positive relationship with social entrepreneurial intentions. $P > 0.05$ says there is no statistical significance between the two variables. Therefore, we cannot support the claim which say there is no relationship between moral obligation and social entrepreneurial intention. Hence, we can conclude that there no statistical significance between moral obligation and social entrepreneurial intention.

H₄: There is no significant relationship between moral self-efficacy and social entrepreneurial intention

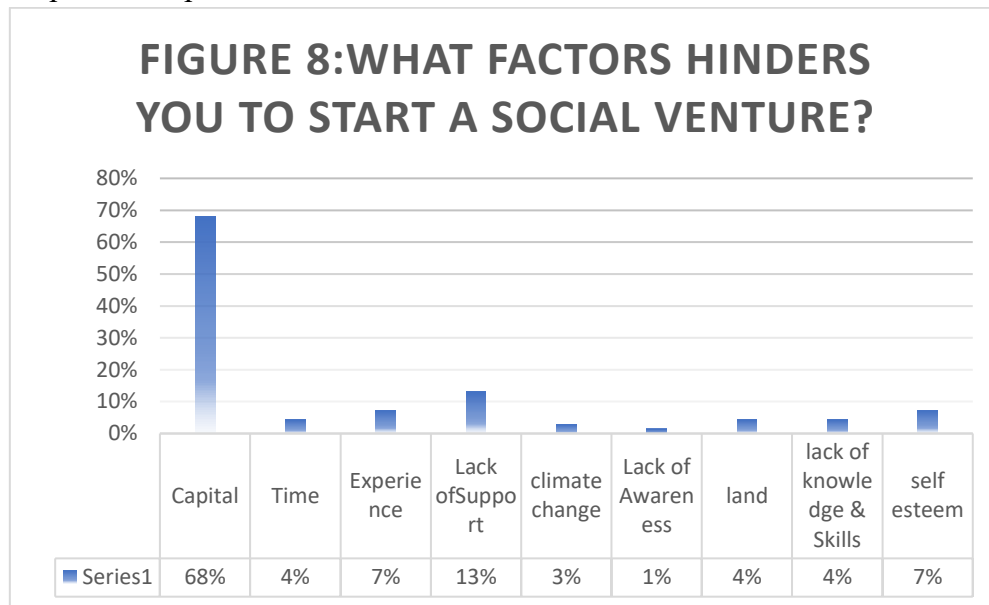
According to the readings above (table 7), self-efficacy is statically significant $p < 0.05$ ($B = 0.0436$, $p = 0.011$). A positive Beta of “0.0436” implies that self-efficacy contemporary a positive relationship with social entrepreneurial intentions. P -value is less than 0.05 ($P < 0.05$). Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between self-efficacy and social entrepreneurial intention.

H₅: There is no significant relationship between prior-experience and social entrepreneurial intention

Based on the above readings (table 7), prior-experience is statistically significant $p < 0.05$ ($B = 0.0394$, $p = 0.000$). A positive Beta “0.0394” implies that prior-experience present a positive relationship with social entrepreneurial intentions. P -value=0.000 less than 0.05 ($P < 0.05$). as a result, we reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between prior-experience and social entrepreneurial intention.

Question 28, as depicted in Figure 8, was an open-ended question that asked respondents to identify the factors hindering them from starting a social venture. The majority of respondents mentioned the lack of capital or access to finance as the primary hindrance. They expressed that high unemployment rates restrict their ability to secure funds for initiating a venture. Another significant factor highlighted was the lack of support systems or networks. Respondents stated that while they might have ideas, they often lack the necessary support from others. Additionally, 7% of respondents indicated a lack of self-esteem and insufficient experience in social ventures as barriers. Furthermore, 4% mentioned a lack of knowledge and

skills as the one that prevent them to start. some they mentioned awareness, meaning they don't know what social entrepreneurship is.



Source: Authors

Conclusion and future recommendation

In conclusion, this study aimed to examine the relationship between various factors and social entrepreneurial intention. The quantitative analysis revealed the following results:

- 1. Empathy:** The analysis showed that empathy does not have a statistically significant relationship with social entrepreneurial intention. Therefore, we cannot conclude that empathy plays a meaningful role in influencing individuals' intention to engage in social entrepreneurship.
- 2. Social Support:** Although the beta coefficient indicated a positive relationship between social support and social entrepreneurial intention, the p-value exceeded the threshold for statistical significance. Hence, we cannot support the claim that there is no relationship between social support and social entrepreneurial intention.
- 3. Moral Obligation:** The findings indicated a positive association between moral obligation and social entrepreneurial intention. However, the lack of statistical significance suggests that we cannot conclude a meaningful relationship between these variables.
- 4. Moral Self-efficacy:** The analysis revealed a statistically significant positive relationship between moral self-efficacy and social entrepreneurial intention. This suggests that individuals who possess higher moral self-efficacy are more likely to have the intention to engage in social entrepreneurship.
- 5. Prior Experience:** The results showed a statistically significant positive relationship between prior experience and social entrepreneurial intention. This implies that individuals with prior experience in social ventures are more likely to have the intention to pursue social entrepreneurship.

The qualitative analysis focused on identifying factors hindering individuals from starting a social venture. The majority of respondents mentioned the lack of capital or access to finance as the primary obstacle. Additionally, the absence of support systems or networks was highlighted as a significant barrier. Other factors mentioned included low self-esteem, insufficient experience, and lack of knowledge and skills. Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the factors influencing social entrepreneurial intention. It highlights the significance of moral self-efficacy and prior experience while revealing that empathy,

social support, and moral obligation may not play prominent roles in shaping individuals' intention to engage in social entrepreneurship. The identified barriers, particularly the lack of capital and support systems, underscore the challenges faced by aspiring social entrepreneurs.

These findings contribute to the existing literature and have practical implications for policymakers, educators, and aspiring social entrepreneurs. By understanding the factors that influence social entrepreneurial intention, stakeholders can develop targeted interventions and support mechanisms to facilitate the growth and success of social ventures. Additionally, addressing the identified barriers, such as improving access to capital and fostering supportive networks, can help create an enabling environment for individuals interested in pursuing social entrepreneurship.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the limitations of this study, including the specific context and sample size. Future research should consider a broader range of variables and explore different contexts to further enhance our understanding of social entrepreneurial intention.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the relationship between various factors and social entrepreneurial intention, shedding light on the complexities of this field. By continuing to explore and understand these dynamics, we can foster a more supportive ecosystem for social entrepreneurship and contribute to addressing societal challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Regarding this paper, the authors said they had no conflicts of interest.

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