

Determining factors in business creation by women: Systematic review based on PRISMA-2020

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Abstract: This study systematically examines the determining factors influencing business creation by women through a PRISMA 2020-based literature review. The objective is to identify and integrate personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal dimensions shaping female entrepreneurship. A structured search was conducted in Scopus and Web of Science, resulting in 38 peer-reviewed studies that met the established eligibility criteria. The findings reveal that personal factors such as risk-taking ability, self-confidence, and resilience interact with structural conditions, including family support, gender norms, access to financing, and government support programs. Family support emerges as the most frequently cited social determinant, while access to financing and restrictive gender norms constitute the most persistent structural barriers. Government initiatives and training programs appear as key enabling mechanisms within the political-legal dimension. The review highlights the interdependence among these dimensions and demonstrates that female entrepreneurship cannot be explained through isolated variables. The study contributes a multidimensional conceptual framework that integrates internal capabilities with external structural conditions. The findings underscore the need for coordinated public policies, inclusive institutional ecosystems, and sociocultural transformation to promote sustainable and equitable female entrepreneurship.

Keywords: *Determining factors, Female entrepreneurship, Gender equity, Inclusive policies, Structural barriers.*

1. Introduction

The positive impact of female entrepreneurship on the economic, social, and cultural spheres is widely recognized. Women entrepreneurs have been shown to contribute to job creation, the strengthening of local markets, and innovation. Moreover, their integration into the economic landscape has been demonstrated to be a catalyst for sustainable growth, a proponent of gender parity, and a facilitator of social integration [1]. Women entrepreneurs are distinguished by their innovative orientation, leadership skills, and proficiency in the efficient marketing of resources, which are essential competencies in competitive markets [1].

However, they encounter numerous challenges in establishing businesses. These challenges primarily include limitations in access to financial resources, the unequal burden of family responsibilities, and cultural norms that restrict their participation in entrepreneurial activities. These challenges are influenced by both internal factors, such as the need for achievement and self-confidence, and external factors, including socioeconomic and cultural aspects, which influence the success of their

projects [2]. Furthermore, political-legal factors, such as the absence of inclusive public policies and adequate regulatory frameworks, intensify the barriers that hinder female entrepreneurship [2]. Conversely, family businesses can offer a conducive environment for women to assume leadership roles and cultivate business initiatives. However, these dynamics also present challenges related to governance and family structures [3].

In order to overcome the barriers that exist in the way of female entrepreneurship, it is essential to understand the personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors that influence it. This knowledge can be used to create environments that encourage the personal and professional development of female entrepreneurs, as well as to implement effective strategies at the individual, organizational, and national levels. In this sense, the importance of promoting inclusive organizational cultures and support programs that encourage their growth and business success is highlighted [4].

2. Literature Review

The extant literature on female entrepreneurship has addressed the factors that influence the creation of companies by women in a fragmented way. Although some studies analyze aspects such as self-confidence, family responsibilities, and economic barriers, few works integrate these dimensions into a coherent analytical framework. This lack of integration limits the holistic understanding of the phenomenon and hinders the formulation of effective policies and strategies. Chouaibi et al. [5] posit that organizational characteristics, such as board diversity, have a positive effect on the quality of integrated reporting, suggesting that greater inclusion of diverse perspectives could also benefit inclusive policies for female entrepreneurship.

Personal factors, such as the need for achievement and perceived self-efficacy, are often studied in isolation, without considering their interaction with social and cultural factors. In addition, research on cultural norms and gender inequality does not explore how these relate to the availability of economic resources or access to finance. Ge et al. [6] highlight that women entrepreneurs can contribute significantly to household income, especially in rural contexts, emphasizing the need for a contextualized approach that considers regional and cultural variations in access to resources and support. Furthermore, political-legal factors, such as the absence of inclusive policies and regulatory frameworks that promote equity, are treated generally, without a detailed analysis of their impact in specific contexts.

Research gaps include a paucity of studies on the dynamic interactions between these dimensions. For instance, there is a paucity of research on how cultural norms affect women entrepreneurs' perceptions of self-efficacy or how political-legal frameworks modify the influence of economic factors on the viability of female entrepreneurship. Jha et al. [7] emphasize the significance of the capacity to utilize big data analytics technologies as a pivotal factor in the competitiveness and sustainability of entrepreneurship. Finally, Cardella et al. [8] emphasize the pivotal role of business education and institutional support in overcoming gender barriers. This theoretical fragmentation restricts the scope of interventions and limits their potential to transform social and economic dynamics in the communities where they operate.

In this regard, the objective of the research is twofold: firstly, to identify the factors that influence the establishment of companies by women, and secondly, to understand how they interact in the entrepreneurial process. The following research questions have been formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the personal factors that influence women's decision to undertake?
2. What are the social factors that influence women's decision to undertake?
3. How do cultural norms related to gender affect women's willingness to start a business?
4. What role do economic factors play in the viability of female entrepreneurship?
5. How do policies and legal frameworks around gender equity affect the process of business creation by women?

The article proposes a structure that commences with an introduction, in which the context, the problem, the objective, and the research questions are presented. The methodology describes the

Systematic Literature Review process, following the PRISMA-2020 framework. The results present the key findings obtained in the review. In the discussion, these results are analyzed in relation to the research questions, and recommendations are proposed for future research. Finally, the conclusions summarize the main contributions of the study.

3. Methods

The PRISMA 2020 methodology (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) is an internationally recognized approach to conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses in a rigorous and structured manner [9]. This method establishes a transparent framework that guarantees quality and consistency in the analysis of previous studies, facilitating critical evaluation and synthesis of evidence [9]. According to Page et al. [9], the PRISMA 2020 update incorporates significant improvements compared to previous versions, adapting to advances in research and scientific communication practices.

In this research, PRISMA 2020 is essential due to the multidimensional nature of the problem, which encompasses personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors related to women's business creation. The PRISMA 2020 methodology enables the systematic identification, selection, and analysis of the most relevant and reliable publications, ensuring well-founded results and contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria for this research were meticulously designed to encompass relevant and reliable studies that analyzed personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors related to the establishment of businesses by women.

Studies published in indexed scientific journals, accessible in English or Spanish, and focused on the establishment of businesses led by women were selected. Thematic content analysis was employed to assess the existing literature for determining factors of female entrepreneurship from personal, social, economic, cultural, or political-legal perspectives. Research employing analytical or empirical approaches that yielded pertinent data or conclusions to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation was given priority. The publication date of the studies was considered, aiming to reflect contemporary conditions in the analysis of female entrepreneurship.

The exclusion process was structured in three stages to ensure the quality and relevance of the selected studies. Studies with indexing problems in the databases were eliminated, since these errors complicated accurate classification and generated ambiguous results during the systematic search.

Articles for which the full content was not available, either due to access restrictions or institutional limitations, were discarded to ensure that all included studies were fully analyzed and to avoid partial or incomplete interpretations.

In the final phase, a qualitative filter was applied to discard studies that, although they met the basic inclusion criteria, did not provide significant information on the factors investigated or lacked direct relevance to the analysis of business creation by women. This final filter ensured that the selected studies were aligned with the research objectives and contributed significantly to the results.

3.2. Sources of Information

The information sources employed in this research were Scopus and Web of Science, which are internationally recognized for their comprehensiveness and broad coverage across multiple disciplines. These databases facilitate access to articles from scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings, ensuring the rigor and relevance of systematic analyses. Both platforms have been found to cover a wide variety of academic publications, thus consolidating their position as essential tools for rigorous research in various areas of knowledge [10].

Scopus, developed by Elsevier, is distinguished by its scope in social sciences, human sciences, and applied sciences. This database offers advanced tools to search and analyze academic literature, which

has allowed the identification of relevant publications on personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors in the creation of companies by women, guaranteeing a comprehensive perspective.

Web of Science, managed by Clarivate, encompasses a curated selection of high-impact publications. Its ability to monitor citations and analyze trends has enabled refinement of searches toward studies with greater relevance and academic weight, thereby facilitating more precise analysis.

3.3. Sources of Information

The search strategy was devised in accordance with clearly defined inclusion criteria, ensuring the identification of pertinent studies on the determining factors in the establishment of companies by women. Each database utilized a distinct equation to ensure the accuracy and representativeness of the results obtained.

In Scopus, the equation applied was TITLE ("women entrepreneur*" OR "female entrepreneur*") AND TITLE ("factors" OR "determinants"). This formula focused on identifying studies whose titles included terms directly related to female entrepreneurship and the determining factors.

In Web of Science, the equation was adapted according to the platform's requirements and was formulated as TI=("women entrepreneur*" OR "female entrepreneur*") AND TI=("factors" OR "determinants"). This format allowed specific searches to be carried out in titles, abstracts, and keywords of the studies.

The development of both equations was informed by the established inclusion criteria, focusing on research analyzing personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors. This methodological approach ensured a systematic, coherent search tailored to the specific research objective.

3.4. Selection process

The selection process for the studies was developed in three stages to ensure the inclusion of relevant and quality research. In the initial stage, the titles were reviewed to eliminate studies that did not address the determining factors in the creation of companies by women. In the subsequent stage, the abstracts were analyzed to verify that they met the established inclusion criteria. In the final stage, the full texts were evaluated to confirm their relevance and methodological quality.

Duplicates found in the searches were eliminated using automated tools and manual checks. Any discrepancies between researchers were resolved by applying a consensus system that included joint reviews of the studies in question. This approach ensured the selection of works aligned with the research objectives and relevant to the analysis.

The flowchart developed following the recommendations of the PRISMA 2020 declaration is presented in Figure 1. This diagram details the phases of the study selection process, including the stages of inclusion and exclusion of articles, to ensure transparency and systematicity in the review.

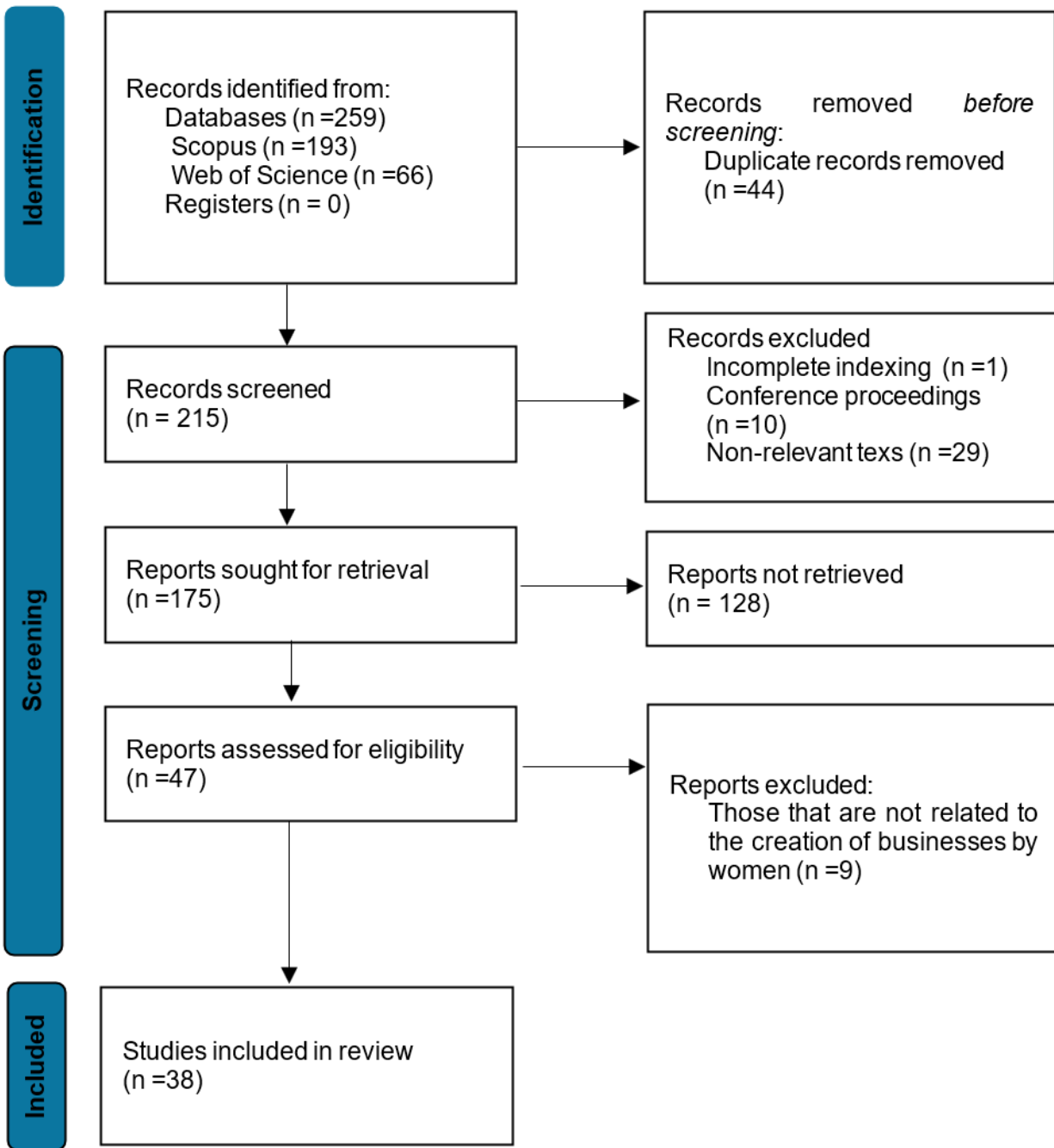


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart.
Source: Own elaboration based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text. 1. PRISMA flowchart showing the identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion stages of articles from Scopus and Web of Science.

3.5. Data Processing

The data extracted from the selected studies were then organized and analyzed in Excel, an effective tool for managing qualitative and quantitative information. A structured database was created with variables such as author, year of publication, country of study, type of methodology, factors analyzed (personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal), and main results. The variables were then subjected to categorization and coding, with the objective of facilitating comparisons and the detection of patterns between the studies. The application of filters, the creation of dynamic tables, and the generation of graphs that synthesized the information in a clear and systematic way were facilitated by Excel. This methodological approach ensured a rigorous analysis of the data and provided a solid basis for interpreting the factors that influence the creation of companies by women.

3.6. Risk of bias

The risk of bias was managed through a thorough evaluation of the selected studies, aiming to ensure unbiased and representative results. Potential biases identified included publication bias, which may exclude studies with non-significant results, and bias in interpretation, which was mitigated by applying rigorous inclusion and exclusion criteria. Risks related to the use of specific databases and search terms, which could limit the identification of relevant studies, were also recognized. The methodological and sample size limitations of the included studies were meticulously analyzed to assess their impact on the findings, thereby ensuring the validity and reliability of the conclusions derived from the research.

4. Results

The results are organized according to the research questions, analyzing the personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors that influence the creation of companies by women. Each dimension allows us to understand the elements that condition the decisions and strategies of female entrepreneurship, considering the particularities of the context. This methodological approach facilitates the identification of key patterns and trends. Table 1 provides a summary of the selected studies, as determined by the rigorous analysis process.

Table 1.
Studies included in the research.

Title	Authors
Motivation Factors for Female Entrepreneurship in Mexico	Cavada, et al. [11]
Motivational factors: drivers behind women entrepreneurs' decision to start an entrepreneurial venture in Croatia	Fosić, et al. [12]
Sociocultural factors as determinants of female entrepreneurs' business strategies	Cullen [13]
Unveiling the Crucial Factors of Women Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century	Ingalagi, et al. [14]
7B Using Structural Equation Modeling in the Analysis of the Relationship Between Internal and External Factors and Women Entrepreneurs' Success	Stanković, et al. [15]
Abilities and skills as factors explaining the differences in women's entrepreneurship	Manzanera-Román and Brändle [16]
Cultural factors and gender roles in female entrepreneurship	Rubio-Bañón and Esteban-Lloret [17]
Determinants of economic achievement for women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia	Beriso [18]
Determinants of female entrepreneurship in Iran: An institutional approach	Khyareh [19]
Determinants of female entrepreneurship success across Saudi Arabia	Al-Kwafi, et al. [20]
Determinants of the success of businesses of female entrepreneurs in Taiwan	Schröder, et al. [21]
Determinants of women's entrepreneurial performance: Evidence from Bangladesh	Akhter, et al. [22]
Determinants that influence the performance of women entrepreneurs in micro and small enterprises in Ethiopia	Alene [23]
Determining factors of female entrepreneurship in Ecuador: An individual and environmental perspective	Aguirre, et al. [24]
Developing Entrepreneurial Intensity among Women Entrepreneurs of Jammu &	Siddiqui and Jan [25]

Kashmir: Model Building through Confirmatory Factor Analysis	
Development of Antecedent Factors for Malaysian Women's Entrepreneurial Resilience Framework: A Fuzzy Delphi Method	Hazudin, et al. [26]
Economic and social factors and the impact of COVID-19 on the success and failure of women entrepreneurs: a study of governance context	Istaitayeh, et al. [27]
Environmental and individual determinants of female entrepreneurship in Algeria: Applying the structural equation modeling	Benhabib, et al. [28]
Explanatory factors of female entrepreneurship and limiting elements	Pérez-Pérez and Avilés-Hernández [29]
Exploring factors contributing to the success of women entrepreneurs in Malaysia	Arshad, et al. [30]
Factors affecting women entrepreneurs' success in Jordan	Zakzouk, et al. [31]
Factors affecting women entrepreneurs' success: a study of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the emerging market of Pakistan	Khan, et al. [2]
Factors Influencing the Success of Women Entrepreneurs in the International Market: A Comprehensive Analysis	Laxmi and Gochhait [32]
Factors Influencing Women's Entrepreneurial Intentions: A Case Study	Raudeliūnienė and Matar [33]
Factors influencing women's entrepreneurial success: A multi-analytical approach	Feng, et al. [34]
Factors motivating female entrepreneurs: A study conducted in a major urban area of Punjab	Saeed, et al. [35]
Factors of Women Entrepreneurship in Egypt: A Qualitative Perspective	Borham, et al. [36]
Female entrepreneurial leadership factors	Aparisi-Torrijo and Ribes-Giner [37]
Female Entrepreneurs and Motivational Factors	Kraja and Berberi [38]
Female entrepreneurs' business training and its effect on various entrepreneurial factors: Evidence from a developing country	Meyer and Hamilton [39]
Formal and Informal Institutional Factors and Women Entrepreneurship in Egypt: A Qualitative Perspective	Borham, et al. [40]
Key Determinants of Women's Entrepreneurial Intention and Behavior: The Role of Business Opportunity Recognition and Need for Achievement	Bouarir, et al. [41]
Personal Resources as a Success Factor Of Women's Entrepreneurship	Zorina [42]
Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Psychosocial Factors Affecting Women's Entrepreneurship	Peris-Delcampo, et al. [43]
Sociocultural factors and female entrepreneurship in Saltillo (Coahuila) and Oaxaca de Juárez (Oaxaca), México 2019-2020	Paredes Hernández, et al. [44]
The Challenging Factors Affecting Women's Entrepreneurial Activities	Khalid, et al. [45]
The determinants of the financial inclusion of Indonesian female entrepreneurs	Hendrawaty, et al. [46]
To Promote Entrepreneurship: Factors That Influence the Success Of Women Entrepreneurs In Pakistan	Qadri and Yan [47]

Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the most salient personal factors for women's entrepreneurship, as identified in the extant literature, are presented according to their frequency. The ability to take risks is mentioned 14 times, self-confidence 12 times, and resilience and motivation 10 times each. Entrepreneurial skills are mentioned seven times, adaptability six times, and the desire for independence five times. Factors such as educational level, creativity, leadership skills, and self-efficacy appear less frequently, reflecting moderate relevance in the studied context.

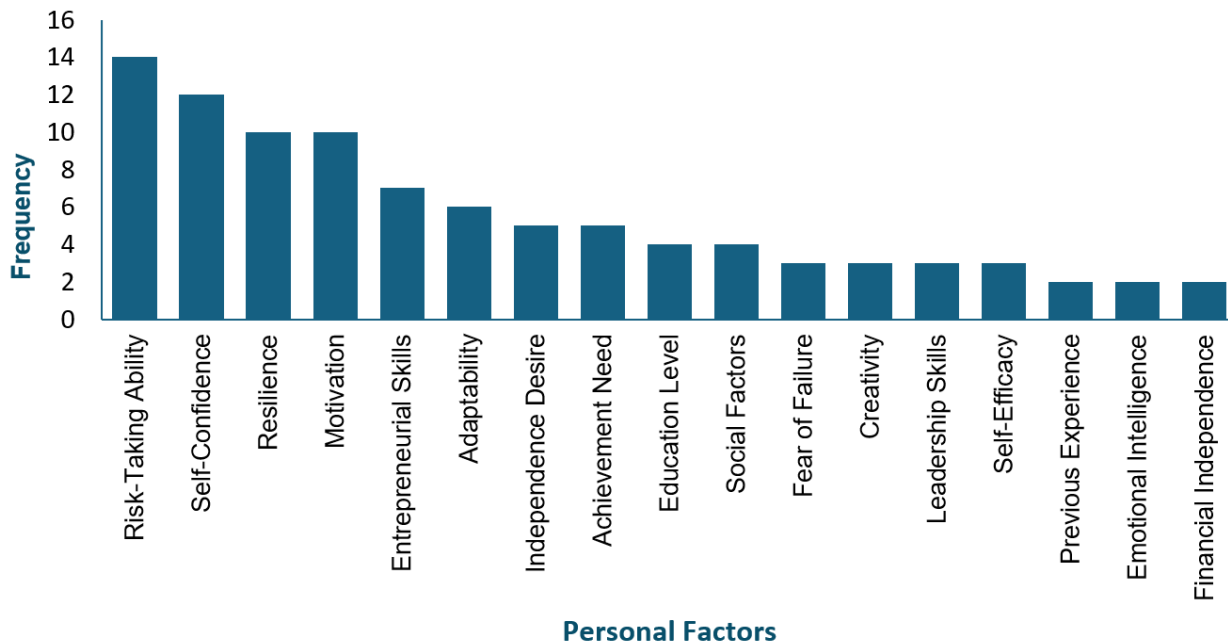


Figure 2. Frequency of personal factors in business creation by women.
Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text 2. Bar chart displaying the frequency of personal factors influencing women’s business creation based on data from Scopus and Web of Science.

Figure 3 shows the most relevant social factors in business creation by women according to their frequency in the literature. Family support emerges as the most frequently mentioned factor, with 28 mentions, followed by networking opportunities (11 mentions) and social support (7 mentions). Support networks, moral support, community support, professional networks, peer networks, and business networks each have 3 mentions. Female networks, work community, subjective norms, and social capital are recorded less frequently.

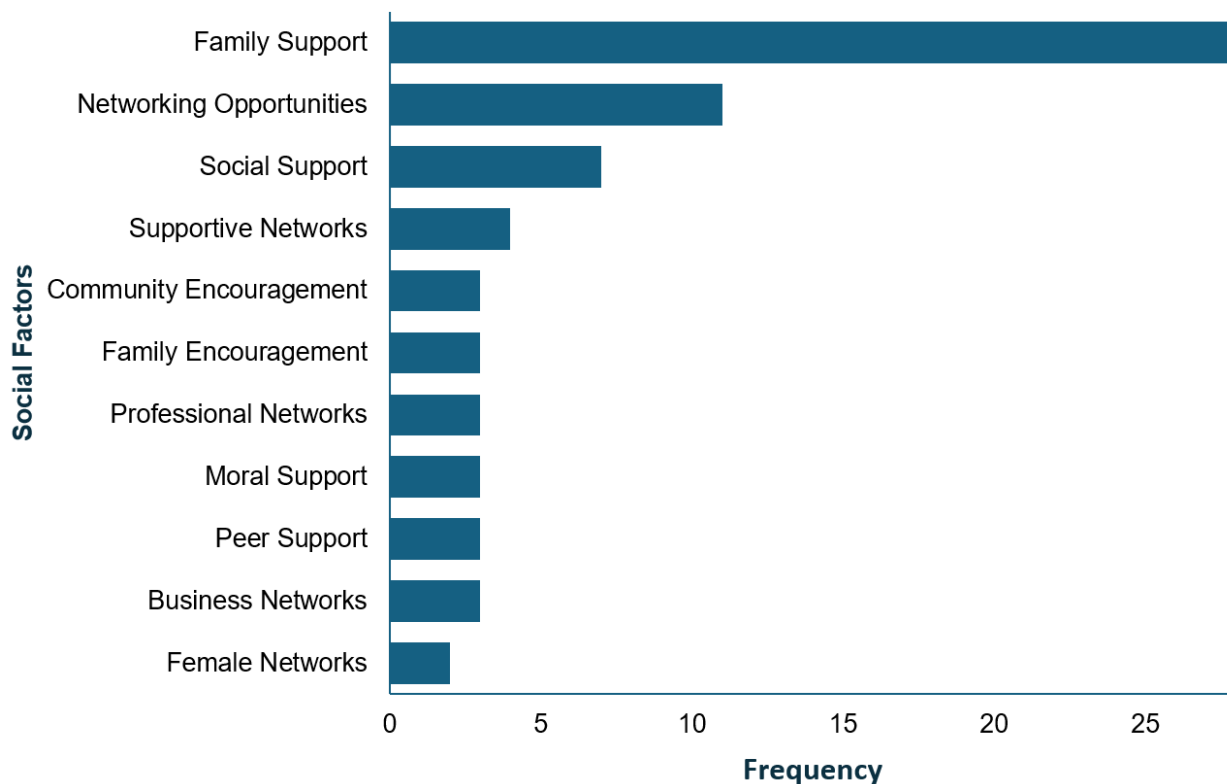


Figure 3.
Frequency of social factors in business creation by women.
Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text 3. Graph illustrating the prevalence of social factors affecting female entrepreneurship according to Scopus and Web of Science sources.

Figure 4 provides a detailed description of the most salient cultural norms in women's business creation, according to their frequency in the extant literature. The analysis reveals that gender norms are mentioned 18 times, followed by patriarchal norms with 12 mentions. Traditional gender roles and gender stereotypes are mentioned in an equivalent number, at seven mentions each. Social expectations and religious restrictions are mentioned in equal measure, with five mentions each. Traditional values are mentioned four times, while community expectations are mentioned three times. Work-family balance and cultural expectations, along with gender stereotypes, have two mentions each.

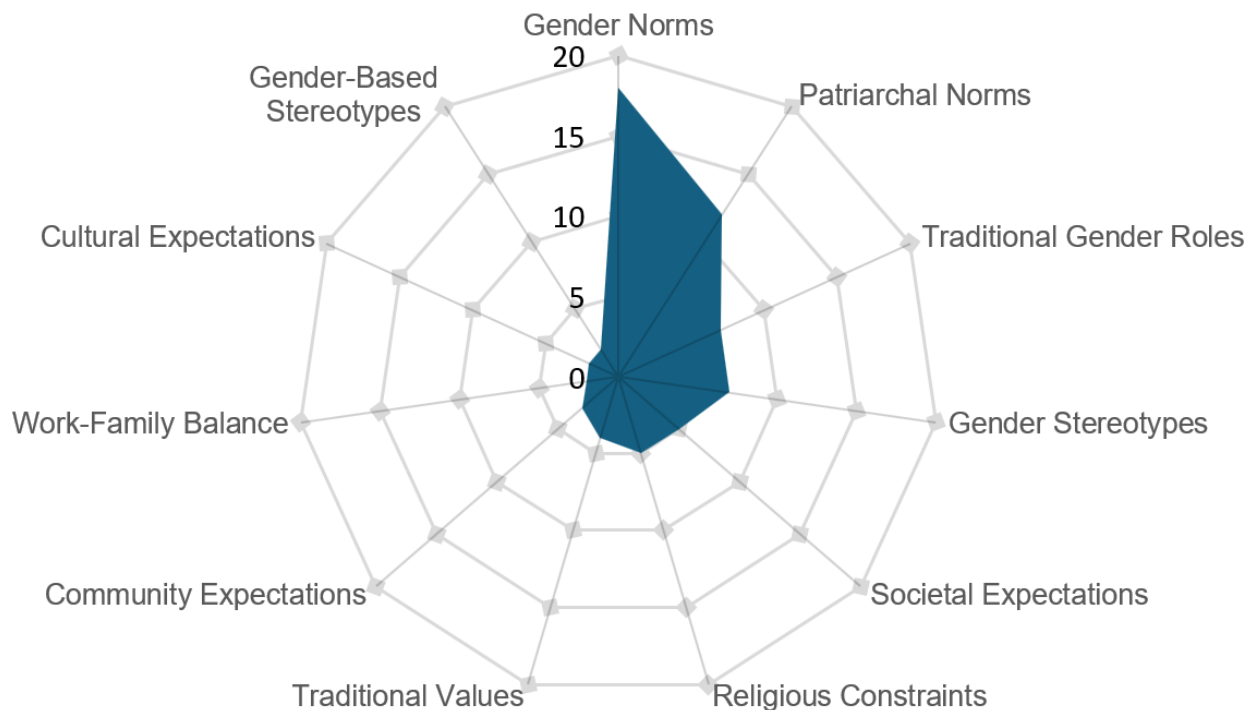


Figure 4.
Frequency of cultural norms in business creation by women.
Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text 4. Visualization of cultural norms impacting women's entrepreneurial activity, with data gathered from Scopus and Web of Science.

As illustrated in Figure 5, the most prevalent economic factors influencing women's entrepreneurial endeavors, as identified in the extant literature, are access to financing (14 instances), followed by lack of financing (11 instances) and limited resources (7 instances). Labour barriers, accessibility to resources, and economic challenges (5 instances each) also feature prominently. Market conditions and economic opportunities (4 instances each), and access to credit, income disparities, and economic stability (2 instances each) are also mentioned.

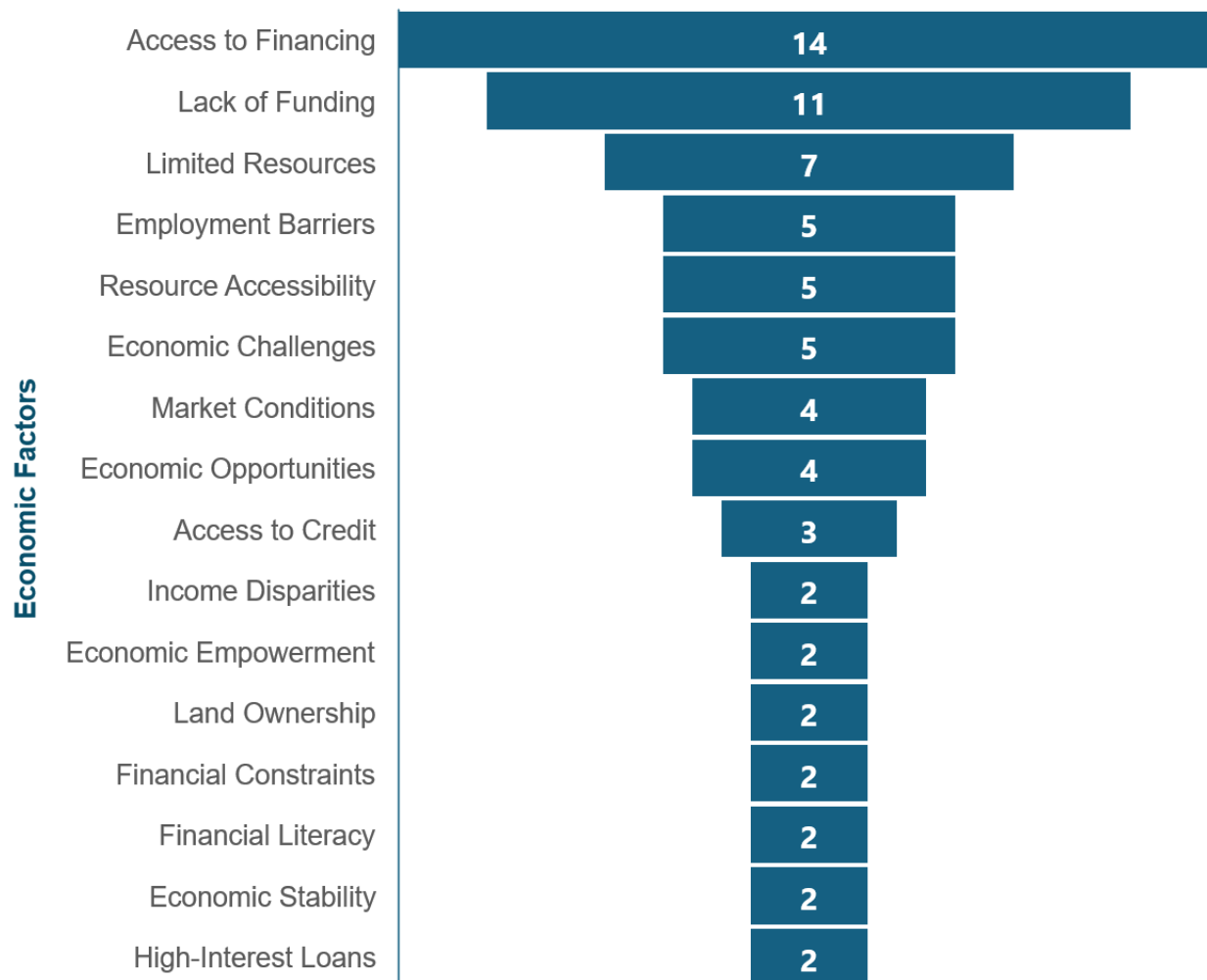


Figure 5.
Frequency of economic factors in business creation by women.
Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text 5. Chart representing the frequency of economic factors in women's entrepreneurship, derived from Scopus and Web of Science analysis.

Figure 6 shows the most relevant policies and legal frameworks in the creation of businesses by women according to their frequency in the literature. Government support programs register 16 mentions, followed by training initiatives with 13. Gender equality policies reach 6 mentions, while female empowerment strategies and policies that promote equality obtain 5 each. Other notable elements include institutional support (4 mentions), entrepreneurship support programs and bureaucratic challenges (3 mentions each), and tax incentives and legal reforms (2 mentions).

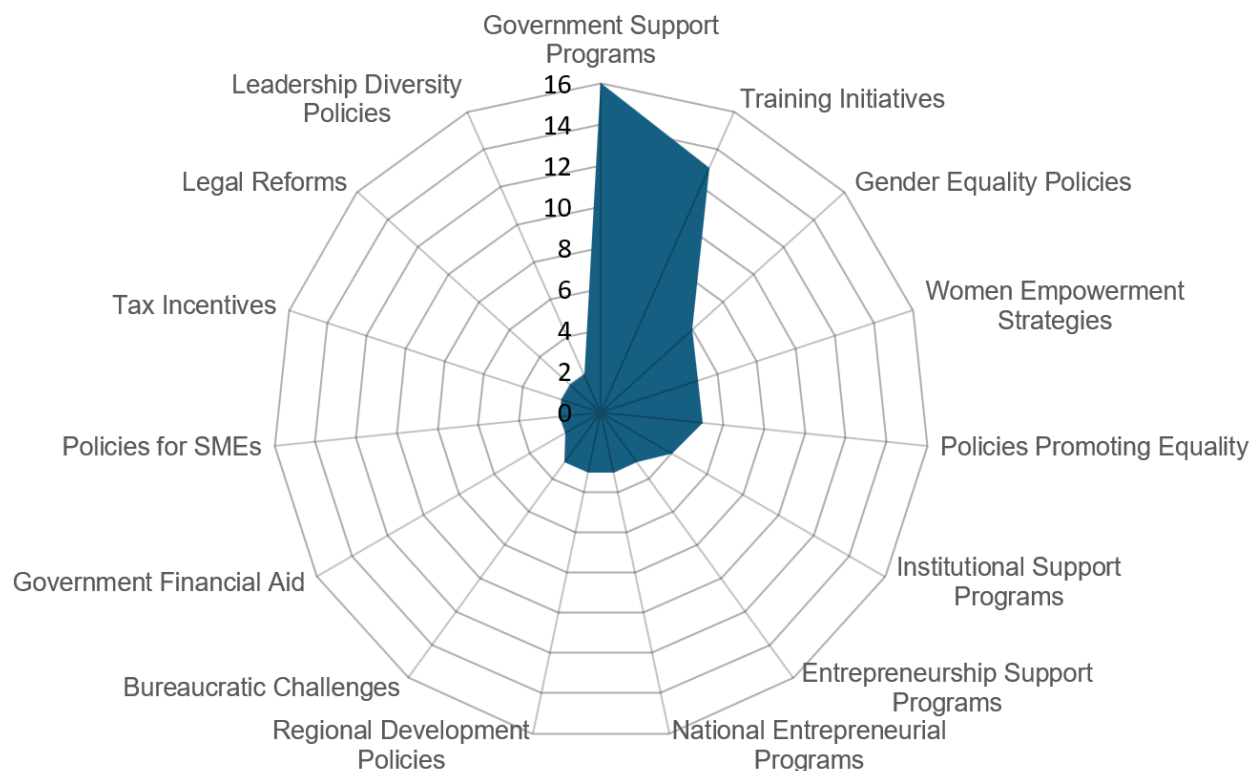


Figure 6. Frequency of policies and legal frameworks in business creation by women.
Source: Prepared by the authors based on Scopus and Web of Science.

Alt text 6. Graph showing the influence of policy and legal frameworks on women's business creation from Scopus and Web of Science data.

The results were structured into the following categories: personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors that influence the creation of businesses by women. The analysis identified individual capacities, social dynamics, cultural norms, economic conditions, and support policies as key elements that drive or limit this process. Each category highlights aspects that affect access to opportunities, overcoming structural barriers, and implementing empowerment strategies. These dimensions demonstrate the complexity of the phenomenon and the need to adopt comprehensive interventions to promote women's participation in entrepreneurship.

5. Discussion

The discussion then proceeded to analyze the personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors that influence the creation of businesses by women, highlighting their relevance to the results. Firstly, the findings were examined and compared with previous studies, identifying key similarities and differences. Then, a conceptual framework based on the results was proposed that synthesizes the determining factors. The theoretical, political, and practical implications derived from the findings were also discussed. Finally, the limitations of the study are presented, and future lines of research are suggested to delve deeper into this area.

5.1. Analysis of Results

The results presented in Figure 2 underscore the significance of personal factors in the context of female entrepreneurship, encompassing attributes such as risk-taking ability, self-confidence, and

resilience. These findings are consistent with the studies by Cullen [13], which highlight the influence of individual strategies shaped by cultural and social factors, and by Stanković et al. [15], which shows the direct impact of internal factors such as self-confidence and motivation. The importance of implementing support programs that strengthen these skills and mitigate cultural and economic barriers to promote female entrepreneurial success is emphasized by both studies.

The results in Figure 3 underscore the pivotal role of family support, networking, and social support as social factors in female entrepreneurship. Cavada et al. [11] identify that social and family networks are determinants in female entrepreneurship in Mexico, although traditional and conservative factors can act as disincentives. In a similar vein, Al-Kwifí et al. [20] emphasize that prior knowledge on how to start a business and social networks are essential to foster entrepreneurship among female students in Saudi Arabia. The aforementioned studies underscore the pivotal role of social support in the success of female entrepreneurship.

The results in Figure 4 demonstrate that cultural norms have a significant impact on business creation by women. The study identified gender norms, traditional roles, and stereotypes as significant determinants. In a related vein, Fosić et al. [12] emphasize that motivations to embark on entrepreneurial endeavors are intricately linked to economic and cultural factors, underscoring the imperative for the enhancement of entrepreneurial education. Beriso [18] further highlights that family and social expectations, in conjunction with economic factors, influence entrepreneurial success in Ethiopia. The findings of both studies underscore the pivotal role of educational programs and institutional support in overcoming cultural barriers.

The results in Figure 5 demonstrate that economic factors play a pivotal role in the process of business creation by women, underscoring the constraints imposed by financing and resource limitations. Paredes Hernández et al. [44] emphasize that the economic context exerts a significant influence on entrepreneurial motivations, contingent on the availability of external support and prevailing local conditions. Cavada et al. [11] underscore the crucial role of government programs and support networks in Mexico, despite the persistent challenges posed by economic and social barriers. The necessity to implement programs that improve economic access for female entrepreneurs and reduce existing constraints is emphasized by both studies. The results in Figure 6 demonstrate that policies and legal frameworks are essential to boost female entrepreneurship, with government support programs and training initiatives standing out as key factors. These efforts are complemented by gender equality policies, empowerment strategies, and legal reforms. Hazudin et al. [26] indicate that structural and psychological empowerment increase entrepreneurial success, highlighting the need for policies that encourage innovative behaviors. Khyareh [19] emphasizes that in Iran, informal factors prevail over formal ones, underlining the importance of designing policies that promote entrepreneurial networks and skills.

5.2. Comparison of Results with Other Studies

A comparison of the results of this study with those of the relevant literature reveals both similarities and differences. Government programmes, training initiatives, and female empowerment policies are identified as key factors, as highlighted by Hazudin et al. [26], who identify structural and psychological empowerment as determinants of entrepreneurial success in Malaysia. Khyareh [19] points out that in Iran, formal policies have a lower impact, highlighting the relevance of informal factors such as social networks.

Rashid and Ratten [48] emphasize how cultural and social barriers affect women differently in emerging economies, broadening the focus of this study. Sallah and Caesar [49] underscore the significance of intangible assets, such as social and human capital in Ghana, suggesting the need to complement institutional strategies with individual competencies.

Finally, Rosca et al. [50] demonstrate that female entrepreneurs in emerging markets encounter challenges with inclusive approaches, reinforcing the necessity for comprehensive policies that combine

individual empowerment with institutional support. This analysis emphasizes the importance of a multidimensional approach to foster female entrepreneurship.

5.3. Proposal for a Conceptual Framework

As illustrated in Figure 7, a conceptual framework has been developed to organize the key factors in female business creation into five dimensions: personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal. This framework highlights how individual skills, social support, cultural norms, economic conditions, and public policies interact to influence female entrepreneurship. It also identifies the relationships between these dimensions, pointing out the interaction between social and cultural factors and the effect of economic and legal policies in overcoming barriers. The proposed comprehensive approach emphasizes the need for an inclusive ecosystem to reduce structural limitations.

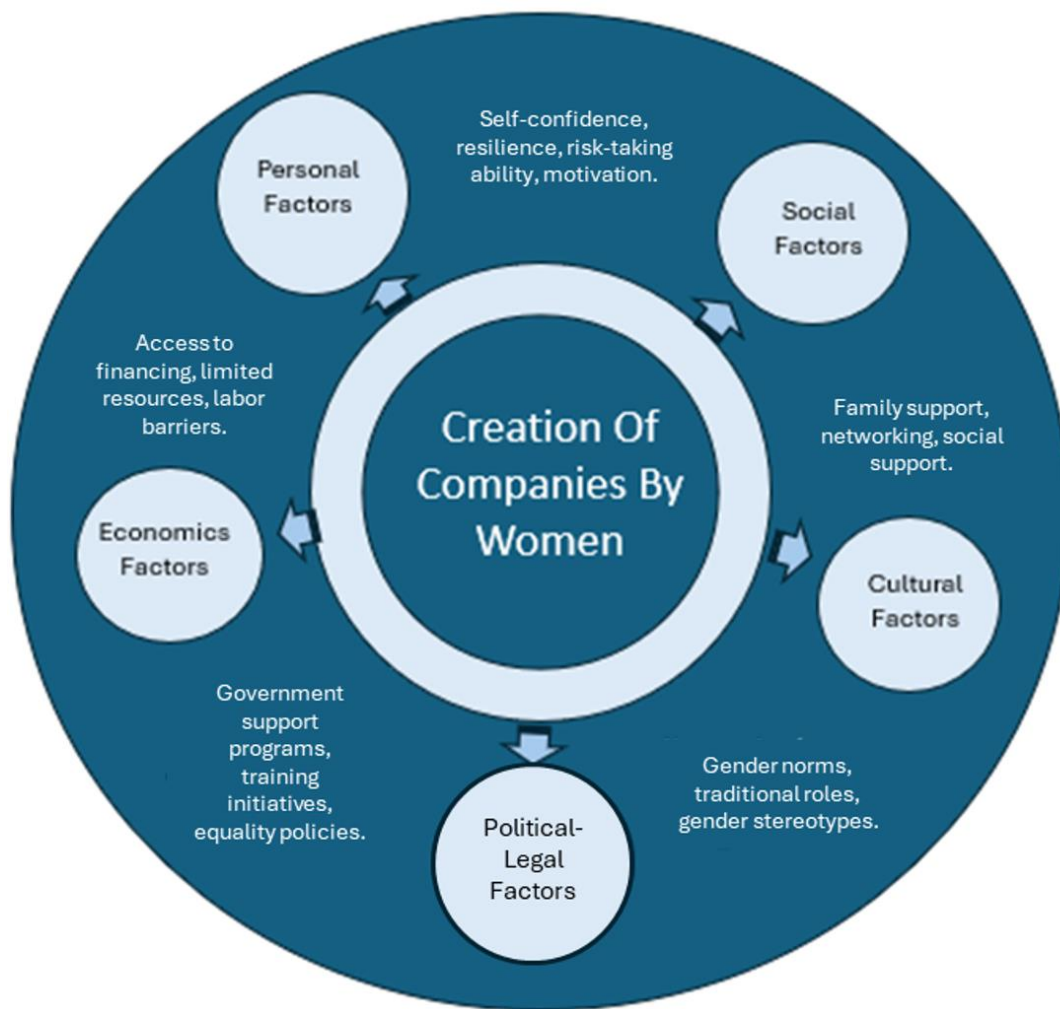


Figure 7.
Conceptual framework for female entrepreneurship.

Alt text 7. Conceptual framework illustrating interconnected personal, social, cultural, economic, and policy factors influencing female entrepreneurship.

5.4. Theoretical Implications

The study contributes to the existing literature on female entrepreneurship by integrating five fundamental dimensions that interact to explain the phenomenon. This multidimensional approach reflects the complexity of the entrepreneurial process, offering a conceptual framework that fills gaps in the literature and establishes foundations for future studies in diverse contexts. The study highlights self-confidence, resilience, and risk-taking ability as key personal elements, reinforcing previous theories on the individual characteristics necessary for entrepreneurship. However, the integration of external factors, such as social support and cultural norms, enables the exploration of the influence of social structures on individual decisions. This emphasizes the necessity for theories that examine the intersection between gender, economics, and politics, particularly in contexts characterized by persistent structural barriers.

5.5. Political Implications

In the domain of public policies, the findings underscore the pressing need to implement targeted strategies that address the barriers encountered by female entrepreneurs. The scarcity of access to financing and the presence of structural impediments underscore the necessity for policies that foster financial inclusion through the provision of subsidies, tax incentives, and seed capital funds. Social and cultural norms necessitate structural transformations that promote gender equality. Policies that address gender stereotypes, promote entrepreneurial education, and fortify professional support networks, such as mentoring and business incubators, are imperative to mitigate existing disparities.

Furthermore, legal frameworks must be simplified, bureaucracy reduced, and rights guaranteed to create an enabling environment. Legal reforms, complemented by educational campaigns, can position female entrepreneurship as a tool for economic and social development.

5.6. Practical Implications

The findings of the present study provide a practical framework for designing interventions aimed at fostering female entrepreneurship. Financial institutions are advised to create products tailored to the specific needs of female entrepreneurs, with a view to addressing barriers to access to credit. Furthermore, non-governmental organizations and incubators are well placed to develop training programs focused on critical skills such as resilience and risk-taking ability.

At the organizational level, inclusive strategies should be implemented that promote gender diversity in leadership positions and facilitate mentoring for female entrepreneurs. The establishment of collaborative networks among female entrepreneurs has been demonstrated to enhance their capacity to address challenges, exchange experiences, and establish strategic alliances.

In communities where restrictive cultural norms prevail, the role of local leaders and community organizations in promoting cultural change is paramount. Interventions of this nature must be based on a profound understanding of the social and cultural dynamics particular to each context, ensuring their local relevance.

6. Limitations

The present study acknowledges the methodological and interpretive limitations that should be considered when analyzing the results. The data collection process was based on existing literature, which may restrict the generalizability of the findings, especially in contexts where the dynamics of female entrepreneurship differ. The reliance on academic databases could exclude relevant research published in other formats or languages, affecting the representativeness of the identified factors.

The focus on five key dimensions could simplify the phenomenon, omitting additional contextual or individual factors. While the interaction between personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal dimensions has been analyzed, these relationships may require further empirical analysis to validate their impact.

Sociocultural and economic diversity may limit the uniform applicability of the conclusions, reducing their usefulness in countries or sectors with distinct characteristics. These limitations highlight the need for future research that integrates qualitative and quantitative analysis and includes comparative studies across regions and sectors to enrich and expand the findings of this study.

6.1. Lines of Future Research

This research identifies key areas requiring attention in future studies on the determining factors in women's business creation. Although progress has been made in integrating the five main dimensions, personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal gaps remain that can expand knowledge in this field.

Empirical studies are needed to validate the relationships between the analyzed dimensions. Future research can employ mixed methodologies, such as qualitative and quantitative analysis, to explore these connections in greater detail. Longitudinal studies would allow analysis of how barriers and opportunities evolve in different contexts and over time.

Addressing geographic and sectoral diversity is another priority, since current results do not accurately reflect the dynamics of female entrepreneurship in specific contexts, such as rural areas, emerging economies, or technological sectors. Comparing regions and industries could help identify unique patterns and design strategies tailored to each environment.

It is also essential to analyze the impact of public policies in promoting female entrepreneurship. The evaluation of the effectiveness of such policies in different countries, especially in developing economies, is a key priority for future studies. In addition, the role of tax incentives and training initiatives in overcoming structural barriers should be given due consideration.

Cultural and social factors require further attention, and it is important to investigate how gender stereotypes, cultural norms, and social expectations affect women's perceptions of their entrepreneurial capabilities. This includes exploring the role of media in constructing these perceptions and their evolution over time.

Finally, the role of support networks, such as mentors, incubators, and business communities, in strengthening skills and opportunities for women entrepreneurs should be explored in greater depth. The identification of best practices for fostering collaborative networks has the potential to significantly boost female entrepreneurship.

7. Conclusion

The research highlights the complexity of female entrepreneurship, influenced by multiple factors, including personal, social, cultural, economic, and political-legal factors. The study emphasizes the necessity for a multidimensional approach that integrates individual skills, such as resilience and self-confidence, with external conditions, including cultural norms, access to resources, and institutional support.

Social and cultural factors have the capacity to enhance or limit individual capabilities, while interaction with economic factors highlights some recurring structural barriers, such as a lack of financing. The study emphasizes that overcoming these challenges necessitates the implementation of sustained interventions, inclusive of public policies and cultural transformations aimed at reducing gender stereotypes and promoting women's participation in the business field.

The study underscores the significance of strengthening support networks and social capital in overcoming obstacles, and it calls for the strategic coordination of training programs, business incubators, and government policies to optimize outcomes. This study emphasizes the importance of a collaborative approach between institutions, companies, and communities, thereby ensuring an equitable and sustainable environment conducive to the promotion of female entrepreneurship.

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Transparency:

The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

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