

# Entrepreneurship In Vulnerable Populations Through The Perspective Of Migrant Women: Analysis Of Scientific Literatura

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## ABSTRACT

*By investigating the relationship between migrant women's status and entrepreneurial chances, the current bibliometric study tackles the intricate mechanisms that influence migrant women in their pursuit of economic opportunities in precarious circumstances. In order to do this, a review of the scholarly literature on entrepreneurship among migrant women has been conducted. Specifically, 299 publications published between 1986 and 2023 that were gathered from Scopus were examined. The findings showed that there was a 7.19% increase in scientific output, with 2021–2023 marking a significant high. With 54% of the articles, the United States, India, and the United Kingdom led the way in worldwide research. With seven publications apiece, Sustainability and the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship were the two most important journals. Covenant University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine proved to be the primary contributors. Achtenhagen L, Henoch B, Luong Q, Nathan M, and Nijkamp P were the most prolific writers. Ultimately, the most pertinent phrases found in the keyword analysis are "empowerment," "female," "Economics," and "entrepreneurship." The study's findings underscore the significance of comprehending entrepreneurship among migrant women in order to advance social and economic inclusion. It also provides a strong foundation for further research in this field and highlights the challenges that migrant women encounter while trying to find better living conditions and chances for economic advancement.*

**Keywords:** migration, migrants, entrepreneurship, vulnerable population, migrant women, bibliometric análisis.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is a vital force that drives economic growth, innovation and social development around the world. However, there are significant challenges faced by certain populations, especially those who are vulnerable (Anh et al., 2022). These populations face unique barriers that hinder their access to entrepreneurship and limit their ability to prosper economically. In this context, migrant women emerge as a particularly vulnerable population, facing a multiplicity of challenges that affect their ability to successfully undertake business. (Kalu & Okafor, 2021).

Vulnerable populations face a number of challenges when attempting to engage in entrepreneurial activities. These barriers may include lack of access to financial resources, limitations in business education and training, structural and cultural discrimination, as well as legal and administrative obstacles (Spitzer, 2021). Additionally, these populations may

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face social stigmas and gender barriers that further limit their entrepreneurship opportunities. As the world continues to experience significant demographic and migration changes, it is crucial to address these challenges to foster the economic and social inclusion of all communities (Ramírez et al., 2023).

Migrant women, within the broad spectrum of vulnerable populations, stand out as a group particularly prone to facing the challenges inherent to the business world. This demography is immersed in an environment of unique complexities that can hinder their active participation in business activities. Firstly, the lack of access to business support networks stands as one of the most significant barriers for migrant women who aspire to start a business (Haandrikman and Webster, 2020). These networks often provide key resources, knowledge and opportunities for business success, but migrant women may find themselves marginalized from these networks due to their immigration status, language and cultural barriers, or simply a lack of knowledge about how to access them. Furthermore, gender discrimination in the business environment can further exacerbate this exclusion, limiting financing, mentoring and market access opportunities for migrant women entrepreneurs (Noktes, 2023).

Another important challenge for migrant women who want to start a business lies in the problems associated with their immigration status and job instability. Many migrant women face difficulties in obtaining legal documents that allow them to work legally in their destination country, which can restrict their employment options and push them towards the informal economy or entrepreneurship as the only viable alternative (Ramírez et al., 2021). Additionally, the job instability inherent in migration can make long-term planning and investing in their own business difficult. Migrant women may face uncertainty about their legal status, the possibility of deportation, or lack of access to employment and social benefits, which can negatively impact their ability to establish and grow a business sustainably (Woldesenbet-Beta et al.).

In addition to economic and legal challenges, migrant women also face a number of family responsibilities and childcare-related obstacles that can make it difficult for them to participate in business activities. Many migrant women are the main caregivers for their families and face difficulties balancing work and family responsibilities (Sánchez-Domínguez and Guirola, 2021). Lack of access to affordable, quality childcare services may further limit migrant women's options for work or entrepreneurship, as they may not have the ability to pay for private childcare services and may not have access to public services or from the community. Additionally, a lack of family and community support can make it even more difficult for migrant women to find the time and resources necessary to pursue entrepreneurship (Osorio et al., 2020).

Ultimately, the relationship between entrepreneurship among vulnerable populations and migrant women is a complex and multifaceted issue that deserves careful and comprehensive attention on a global scale. By understanding the specific challenges faced by migrant women in the context of entrepreneurship, key areas for intervention and policy support can be identified (Webster, 2020). Studying this relationship can shed light on ways in which policies and programs can be designed to address the structural and systemic barriers that limit migrant women's access to entrepreneurship and to foster a more equitable and sustainable business environment (Aman et al., 2022). Additionally, by focusing on the unique experiences and perspectives of migrant women entrepreneurs, we can develop more effective strategies to promote the economic and social inclusion of this vulnerable group (Orser, 2022; Ranabahu & Tanima, 2022). In this sense, the present bibliometric study aims to explore and analyze the existing scientific literature on

entrepreneurship of migrant women in vulnerable situations, in order to identify trends, themes and gaps in knowledge that can inform future research and policies in this area.

For all these reasons, this bibliometric study has been developed with the purpose of knowing the state of knowledge in relation to entrepreneurship of migrant women in vulnerable situations. This study aims to identify the main trends, themes and debates in the scientific literature on this topic and explore the significant contributions that this research can provide to the knowledge of the situation of migrant women in intersection with entrepreneurship (Guerrero & Wanjiru, 2022). The findings of this study are expected to serve as a cornerstone for future field and practical research related to this issue, as well as to inform the design and implementation of policies and programs aimed at supporting migrant women's entrepreneurship around the world.

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to examine the literature on the population of migrant women and its link with entrepreneurial processes and possibilities, this article analyzes research publications that have been added to the Scopus metasearch engine. Bibliometric analysis studies the distribution of citations in scientific journal articles to evaluate the importance of publications (Kokol et al., 2021). Word frequency analysis has also been used for the analysis of published literature in other fields, offering insights into "hot" topics and topics that survived fads. In addition, bibliometric research, statistical identification of research, authors, journals, places and institutions related to a study topic and phrase co-occurrence analysis are carried out. (Ramírez-Duran et al., 2023).

Assuming the starting point of the bibliometric research suggested in the previous paragraphs, the variables to be investigated along with their corresponding descriptors were proposed as the first phase of the analysis.

**Table 1** Keyword standardization

Variable	Descriptor
<b>Entrepreneurship</b>	"Entrepreneurship" "Economic" "Leadership" "innovation"
<b>Migrant women</b>	"Female" "Migrant" "empowerment" "maternity"

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus

Based on the identification of these elements, the following search equation is proposed in the Scopus database: ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "entrepreneurship" ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "Economic" ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "Leadership" ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "innovation" ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "Female" ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "Migrant" ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "empowerment" ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "maternity" ) ). With the data obtained, a data analysis process was carried out with the support of the R Studio software in its Bibliometrix package and the VOS VIEWER software.

## 3 RESULTS

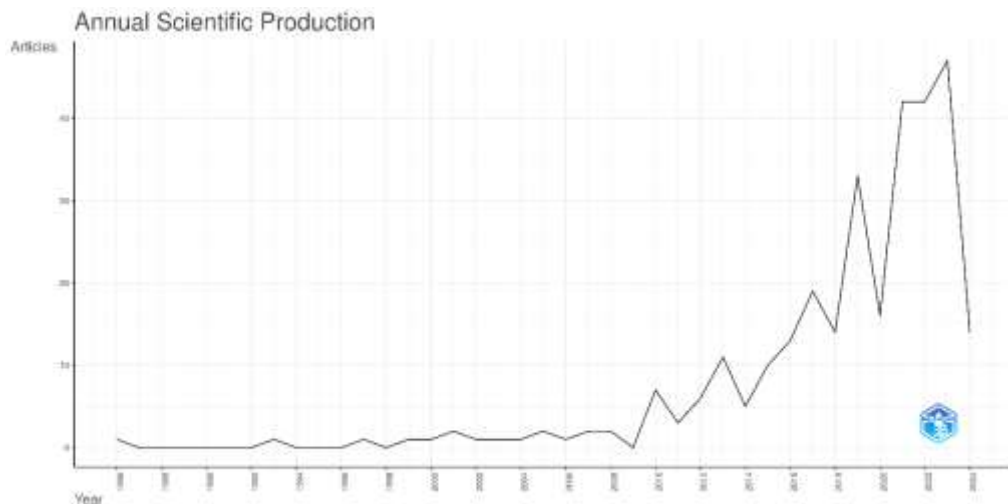
**Table 2** General search information

### MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA

Timespan	1986:202
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	244
Documents	299
Annual Growth Rate %	7,19
Document Average Age	5,53
Average citations per doc	10,69
References	15375
<b>DOCUMENT CONTENTS</b>	
Keywords Plus (ID)	818
Author's Keywords (DE)	876
<b>AUTHORS</b>	
Authors	711
Authors of single-authored docs	81
<b>AUTHORS COLLABORATION</b>	
Single-authored docs	84
Co-Authors per Doc	2,48
International co-authorships %	21,4
<b>DOCUMENT TYPES</b>	
article	205
book	11
book chapter	47
conference paper	20
conference review	3
editorial	1
erratum	1
review	11

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus

In the field of knowledge, where a recent increase of 7.19% has been recorded, table 2 allows to identify the general aspects linked to scientific production. There are 299 sources in total, with 711 authors included in those publications. Similarly, Figure 1 provides a clearer picture of the growth of scientific output. Of these, the years 2021 (42), 2022 (42) and 2023 stand out with 47 articles, since there was a notable increase in publications related to the research topic, with 43% of the total research carried out in these years occurring.



**Fig. 1.** Annual scientific production, source: author based on information from Scopus.

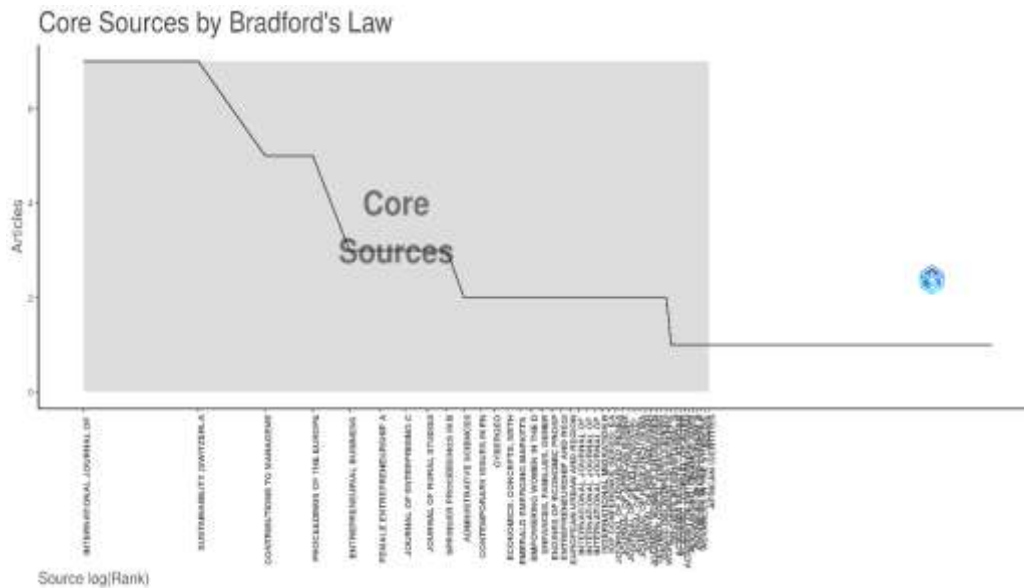
Next, the most relevant sources are shown based on the frequency of publication on the topic and through the percentiles shown using Bradford's law; this law classifies journals into three performance zones, each with an increase in the number of journals and a similar proportion of articles. Bradford's law was applied to determine the value of each of these indicators (Ramírez et al., 2023).

The percentages for each Bradford's Law Zone are shown in Table 3. It is worth mentioning that, with 33.11% of the titles in forty-four (44) journals, this zone has the highest concentration of publications. The most exemplary publications according to this rule are shown in Figure 2.

**Table 3** Bradford's Law

Zone	No. Journals	No. Titles	Percentages
Zone 1	44	99	33,11%
Zone 2	102	102	34,11%
Zone 3	98	98	32,78%

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.



**Fig. 2.** Bradford's Law, source: author based on information from Scopus.

Table 4 illustrates the current state of the field, with two sources leading with seven (7) articles, these being International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (Switzerland), and secondly, the five (5) publications of Contributions To Management Science.

**Table 4** Most relevant sources

Sources	Articles
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GENDER AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	7
SUSTAINABILITY (SWITZERLAND)	7
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANAGEMENT SCIENCE	5
PROCEEDINGS OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ECIE	5
ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS REVIEW	3
FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A DRIVING FORCE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL CHANGE	3
JOURNAL OF ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES	3
JOURNAL OF RURAL STUDIES	3
SPRINGER PROCEEDINGS IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS	3
ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES	2

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.

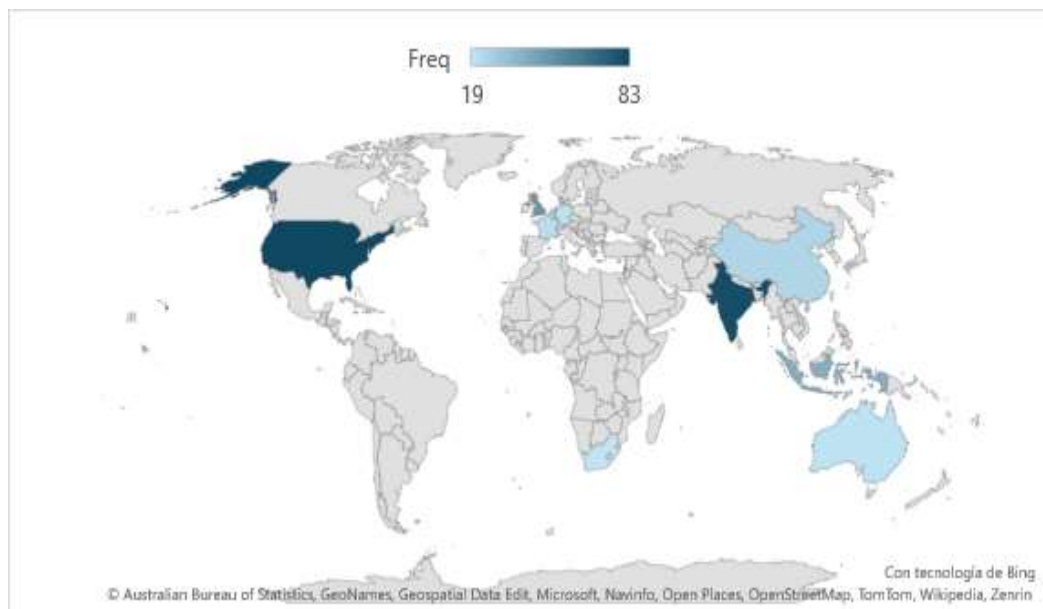
The only entrepreneurship journal focused exclusively on gender and entrepreneurship is the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship (IJGE), which offers a global academic platform for the exchange of cutting-edge, practical and provocative research that is relevant to academics, teachers, policymakers and professionals.

Next, Table 5 shows that, on the other hand, when it comes to nations, the United States leads with 83 contributions in terms of scientific productivity, alone contributing 11.58% of the publications found, followed by India with 81, United Kingdom with 52, Indonesia with 41, China with 25, France with 22, Netherlands with 21, and so on.

**Table 5** Scientific production by country

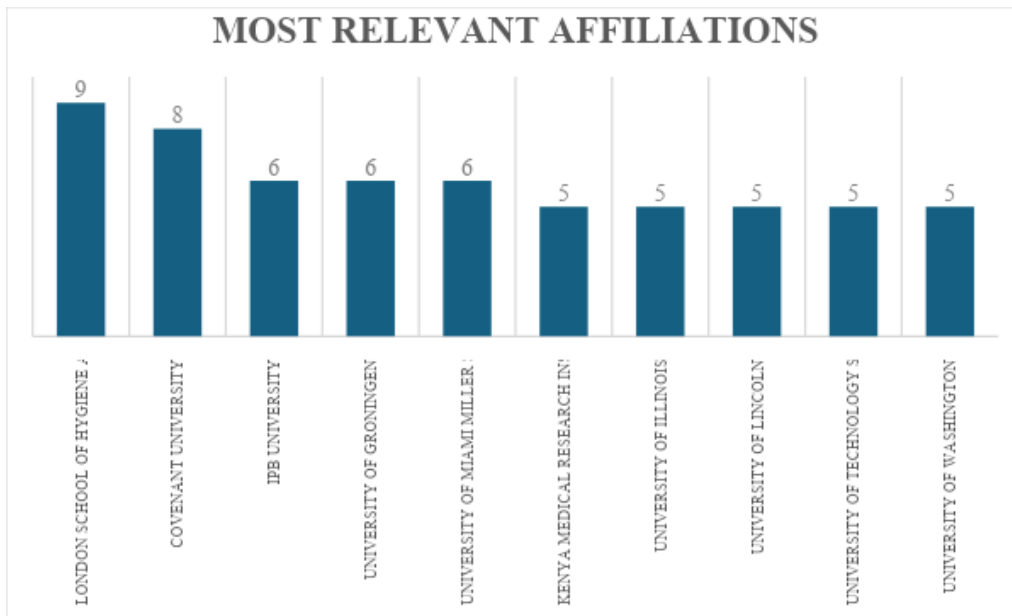
Country	Frequency
USA	83
INDIA	81
UK	52
INDONESIA	41
CHINA	25
FRANCE	22
NETHERLANDS	21
AUSTRALIA	20
GERMANY	20
SOUTH AFRICA	19

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.



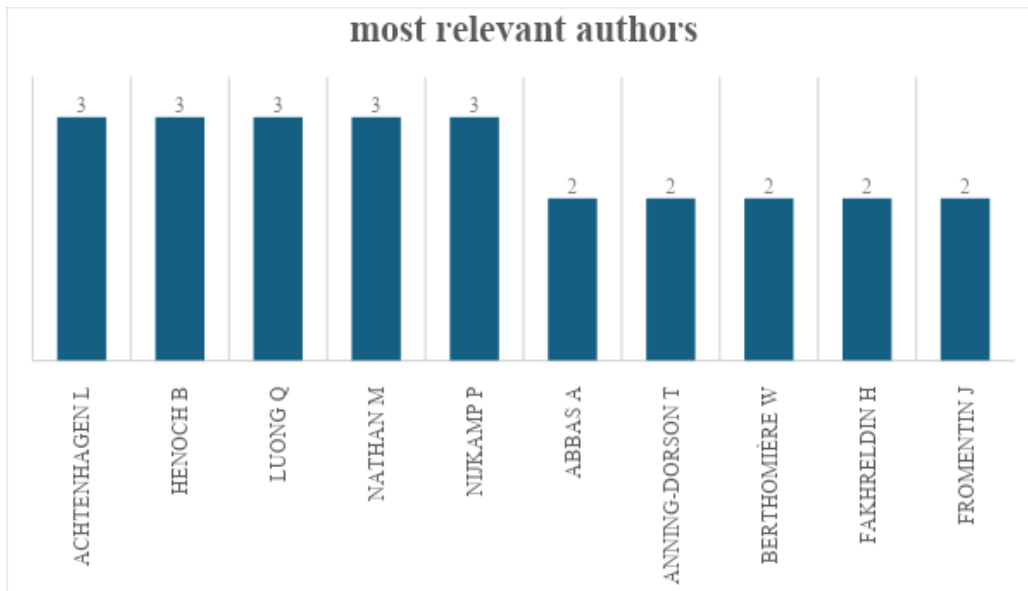
**Fig. 3.** Scientific production between countries, source: author based on information from Scopus.

The institutions that have contributed the most to the field of study are shown in figure 4 in the following order of ideas: Covenant University has contributed with eight (8), London School Of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine have contributed with nine (9), being the most productive, and finally, IPB University has contributed with six (6). Together, these institutions have contributed 4.82% of all publications.



**Fig. 4.** Most relevant affiliations, source: author based on information from Scopus.

The frequency index is used as a reference to calculate productivity per researcher. Figure 5 shows the leadership of Achtenhagen L, Henoch B, Luong Q, Nathan M & Nijkamp P, each of whom contributed three (3) articles.



**Fig. 5.** Most relevant authors, source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.

By using Lotka's law, it is possible to plot the production curve of the N authors and gain a clearer understanding of how writers contribute to the field of knowledge (Wijaya & Qamari.) Table 6 illustrates this, showing that 96.30% of writers have contributed only once, 3% have contributed at least twice, and the remaining 0.70% are divided equally between those who have contributed three times so far. From the above it is clear that most of the writers who analyze this topic are temporary.



**Table 6** Lotka's Law

Documents written	N. of Authors	Proportion of Authors
1	165	0,965
2	6	0,035

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.

Subsequently, Table 7 shows the 25 publications that have received the most citations in relation to the topic of the study; the three most notable are NATHAN M, 2013, ECON GEOGR, BOSWORTH G, 2011, ANN TOUR RES y KOBEISSI N, 2010, J INT ENTREP.

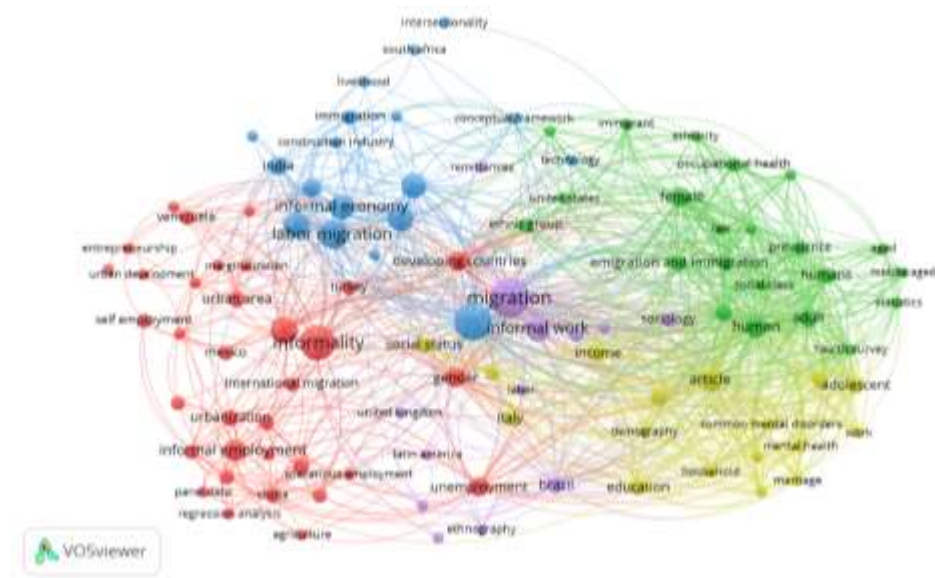
**Table 7** Most cited articles

Paper	DOI	Total Citations	TC per Year	Normalized TC
NATHAN M, 2013, ECON GEOGR	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/ecge.12016">10.1111/ecge.12016</a>	183	15.25	6.29
BOSWORTH G, 2011, ANN TOUR RES	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2011.03.015">10.1016/j.annals.2011.03.015</a>	140	10.00	2.50
KOBEISSI N, 2010, J INT ENTREP	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10843-010-0045-y">10.1007/s10843-010-0045-y</a>	106	7.07	2.83
GE T, 2022, FRONT PSYCHOL	<a href="https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.828040">10.3389/fpsyg.2022.828040</a>	95	31.67	11.43
KUMAR S, 2022, TECHNOL FORECAST SOC CHANGE	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2021.121393">10.1016/j.techfore.2021.121393</a>	84	28.00	10.11
MOVONO A, 2017, ASIA PAC J TOUR RES	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/10941665.2017.1308397">10.1080/10941665.2017.1308397</a>	83	10.38	4.45
GHOUSE S, 2017, INT J ENTREP BEHAV RES	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEBR-02-2017-0070">10.1108/IJEBR-02-2017-0070</a>	80	10.00	4.29
YU H, 2019, CHINA Q	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741018001819">10.1017/S0305741018001819</a>	74	12.33	5.81
GOLTZ S, 2015, J SMALL BUS MANAGE	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/jsbm.12177">10.1111/jsbm.12177</a>	73	7.30	4.68
STERNBERG R, 2007, TIJDSCHR ECON SOC GEOGR	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9663.2007.00431.x">10.1111/j.1467-9663.2007.00431.x</a>	72	4.00	2.00
NATHAN M, 2014, IZA J MIGR	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/2193-9039-3-4">10.1186/2193-9039-3-4</a>	72	6.55	3.19
AZAM ROOMI M, 2010, INT J GENDER ENTREPRENEURSHIP	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1108/17566261011051017">10.1108/17566261011051017</a>	70	4.67	1.87
MARTIN LM, 2005, INT J ENTREP BEHAV RES	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1108/13552550510590563">10.1108/13552550510590563</a>	70	3.50	1.82
NICHOLLS A, 2010, J BUS ETHICS	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-010-0581-3">10.1007/s10551-010-0581-3</a>	64	4.27	1.71
CHITSIKE C, 2000, GENDER DEV	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/741923408">10.1080/741923408</a>	60	2.40	1.00

NATHAN M, 2015, EUR URBAN REG STUD	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776412463371">10.1177/0969776412463371</a>	54	5.40	3.46
LIU CY, 2019, SMALL BUS ECON	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-017-9979-y">10.1007/s11187-017-9979-y</a>	51	8.50	4.01
KRIGE D, 2012, AFRICA	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0001972011000738">10.1017/S0001972011000738</a>	46	3.54	2.40
ENNIS CA, 2019, NEW POLIT ECON	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2018.1457019">10.1080/13563467.2018.1457019</a>	45	7.50	3.54
FROSCHAUER K, 2001, J ETHN MIGR STUD	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/13691830020041589">10.1080/13691830020041589</a>	44	1.83	1.44
CARÈ S, 2018, BUS HORIZ	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bushor.2017.12.001">10.1016/j.bushor.2017.12.001</a>	42	6.00	4.26
MUNKEJORD MC, 2017, EUR URBAN REG STUD	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776415587122">10.1177/0969776415587122</a>	39	4.88	2.09
KITSIOS F, 2018, INT J INNOV SCI	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1108/IJIS-06-2017-0055">10.1108/IJIS-06-2017-0055</a>	36	5.14	3.65
BETTS A, 2017, J MIGR HUM SECUR	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500401">10.1177/233150241700500401</a>	34	4.25	1.82
MARKANTONI M, 2012, J RURAL STUD	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2012.05.006">10.1016/j.jrurstud.2012.05.006</a>	32	2.46	1.67

Source: author using R software based on information from Scopus.

Finally, the cluster analysis using VOS VIEWER, Figure 6, shows the terms that have the greatest impact grouped by co-occurrence. It can be seen that several of the key terms associated with the knowledge area of analysis of entrepreneurship systems in migrant women are keywords such as “empowerment”, “female”, “economics”, “entrepreneurship”, “entrepreneur”, “education” and “article”.



**Fig. 6.** Co-occurrence of keywords, source: author using VOSviewer software based on information from Scopus.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

Of the 299 articles analyzed in this bibliometric study based on the information obtained from Scopus on the analysis of entrepreneurship systems in migrant women, it is plausible to affirm the following:

The highest peaks of publications occur in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, where 43.81% of the total published works are concentrated. The scientific production analyzed in the period from 1986 to 2023 shows a growth rate of 7.19%. Additionally, 54% of all publications are concentrated in the United States, India, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, China, France, the Netherlands, Australia, Germany and South Africa. On the other hand, the journals that publish the most on the subject are, *International Journal Of Gender And Entrepreneurship and Sustainability* (Switzerland), both leading the area with seven (7) Publications each, followed by *Contributions To Management Science* with five (5) publications, these contribute 13.71%, the rest of the publications are dispersed among different journals.

The institutions that have made the most contributions on the topic of study are London School Of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine with nine (9) contributions, followed by Covenant University with eight (8) contributions and finally IPB University with six (6) contributions; These contribute 4.82% of all publications. The authors with the most published articles are Achtenhagen L, Henoch B, Luong Q, Nathan M, Nijkamp P with three (3) publications each; this is taking into account that 21% of the researchers in this field are from international co-authorships. The keywords most related to the topic of study are “empowerment” “female” “Economics” “entrepreneurship” “entrepreneur” “education” “article”.

In the end, this bibliometric analysis offers a deep understanding of the state of the field as it relates to immigrant women entrepreneurship research. The results emphasize the need for further studies in this field to fill known knowledge gaps. Additionally, the importance of creating laws and initiatives that encourage migrant women to start their own businesses is emphasized, recognizing their contributions to the social and economic advancement of both their home and home countries.

It is recommended to develop qualitative research exploring the individual experiences of migrant women entrepreneurs to advance this field, as well as longitudinal studies that analyze the long-term effects of policies and interventions aimed at encouraging their participation in entrepreneurship. To deepen our knowledge of the variables that influence the possibilities and difficulties faced by migrant women in the business sector, it is also planned to investigate multidisciplinary approaches that integrate gender, migration and entrepreneurship perspectives. Future studies like this have great potential to shape laws and procedures that support a more equal and promising workplace for all immigrant women.

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