

Business Support for Migrant Entrepreneurs: A Structured Literature Review and Agenda for Future Research

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper systematically reviews the literature on business support for migrant entrepreneurs (MEs), focusing on how business support organizations (BSOs), networks, and structured training and education programs assist MEs in launching and growing their ventures. The study addresses three guiding questions: (1) Who supports MEs and who benefits from these support mechanisms? (2) How do these mechanisms function? (3) What outcomes do they generate for both MEs and supporting entities?

Methodology: A systematic literature review (SLR) was conducted on 105 peer-reviewed articles published in ABS-ranked journals. The analysis was guided by a coding grid and an organizing framework across three dimensions: actors and beneficiaries, forms of support, and outcomes.

Findings: The study identifies diverse actors (BSOs, networks, training programs) and forms of support (mentoring, coaching, financing, networking), highlighting the role of personal, incidental, and community-based enablers. It reveals that support mechanisms not only facilitate business creation and growth but also contribute to identity construction, integration, and resilience. The review also surfaces a set of theoretical and practical gaps in current research.

Research limitations/implications: The study is limited to ABS 3, 4, and 4* journals indexed in Web of Science. While this ensures high quality, it may exclude valuable grey literature or emerging research. Future studies should examine non-Western contexts and develop longitudinal insights into support outcomes.

Originality/Value: The paper contributes a structured organizing framework and a research agenda, offering theoretical refinement and actionable directions for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to enhance inclusive entrepreneurship through targeted support mechanisms.