



Bibliometric Analysis Of Published Theses On Social Entrepreneurship In Tourism: Comparison Of Turkey, The UK, And The USA

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Abstract

The study aims to examine postgraduate dissertations in the areas of social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship in tourism and entrepreneurship in tourism published in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States through bibliometric analysis. In the study, a total of 126 doctoral dissertations published between 2015-2020 were reached through Proquest Dissertations, YÖK National Dissertations Center, EThOS British Library and EBSCO Dissertations databases. Theses published since 2015 are included in the scope since social entrepreneurship has started to be recognized in doctoral dissertations. The obtained dissertations were discussed in line with parameters of country where the dissertations were prepared, type of the dissertations, publication year of the dissertations, university where the dissertations were prepared, field of study of the dissertations, and research method used in the dissertations. In conclusion, it was found that Turkey was behind the United Kingdom and the United States in terms of quantity of doctoral dissertations published about social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in tourism. Social entrepreneurship in tourism has been found to be a current issue that needs to be researched and has a literature gap for all three countries.

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INTRODUCTION

The formation of the theoretical infrastructure of the concept of entrepreneurship dates to the 18th century, Industrial Revolution (Mort et al., 2002). The definition made by the economist Richard Cantillon in 1755 is accepted as the first definition of entrepreneurship in literature and is stated as “*the work conducted by a person (entrepreneur) who organizes a business to make a profit and accepts the risks*” (Filion, 2021). While entrepreneurship is defined by Bird (1989) as “*the establishment of a new business with the aim making a profit and creating value, or development of a business and creation of new goods or services*”; Mueller and Thomas (2000) define it as “*the process of creating an organization to obtain perceived opportunities*” (Yilmaz & Sunbul, 2009). Although there are many different definitions of entrepreneurship in the literature, it can be summarized as “the activity of establishing or developing a business by taking risks to make a profit by realizing opportunities and making use of the opportunities in the ever-changing and developing competitive world market” (Ogutcu, 2015). The concept of entrepreneurship, which encompasses taking risks, looking for opportunities, pursuing innovations and creativity, also encompasses the ability to plan and manage the steps in the process of achieving goals (Basar et al., 2013).

Although today the concepts of entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship are accepted as related terms; until the 2000s the state of being “correlative” was not much mentioned and they were considered two separate terms. So much so that according to Skloot (1988), the idea of non-profit entrepreneurship (this discourse refers to social entrepreneurship) and the idea of entrepreneurship together constitute the use of two completely opposite or contradictory concepts, an oxymoron. In the relevant years, the concept of social entrepreneurship, separate from today’s perception, was regarded as completely non-profit-oriented organizations, and therefore was contradicted by the “goal of making a profit” which is at the heart of entrepreneurship. In other words, before the 2000s, the concept of social entrepreneurship had the same connotation as the activities of a non-profit organization. However, in the following years, this understanding was opposed, and new definitions of social entrepreneurship were developed. For example, according to Hasan (2005: 3), social entrepreneurship points to innovative activities aimed at increasing organizational efficiency and ensuring sustainability (as cited in Ozdevecioglu & Cingoz, 2009).

When the definitions of social entrepreneurship after the 2000s are examined, some researchers focus on social problem-solving innovation, while others emphasize the dual mission (the common use of economic and social missions) (Amini et al., 2018). When the different definitions of researchers are combined, a definition of a process that includes the creative use of resources for both economic and social values emerge. Therefore, in social entrepreneurship, commercial business principles are applied, and civil society principles are adopted, and the two management styles are blended in social enterprises (Kargin et al., 2018).

The basic assumption of social entrepreneurship is that the basic features of entrepreneurship can be used for the benefit of society without pursuing a mission of profit. The emphasis here is that profit is not a mission; in social entrepreneurship profit is a source of motivation to be used to achieve social goals. In other words, in social entrepreneurship, which combines social benefit and profit, free market-oriented methods are adopted in the process of solving social problems (Donmez, 2020). The scope of social problems in the field of social entrepreneurship is quite wide; human rights, animal rights, education, health, poverty reduction, development, environment, agriculture, and many other fundamental problems can be considered. The goal is to undertake social transformations towards these problems. It is worth investigating from what perspective social entrepreneurship is discussed in the literature, with which disciplines it is examined, and how it has developed quantitatively over the years. It is desired to investigate the place of tourism among the disciplines where social entrepreneurship is the subject of research, and to compare entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship studies in tourism literature.

When the literature is examined, there is an increase in studies on social entrepreneurship, especially in the last five years. On the other hand, it can be observed that there is still a very small number of social entrepreneurship studies in the field of tourism. This observation is essentially an outcome of the “social entrepreneurship in tourism” course given by the author of the study at the doctoral level for years. In line with the literature reviews that the author has conducted for years and the lectures he has conducted with his doctoral students, it has been deduced that the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship has not yet found its place due to the dominance of the reflection of capitalism in the field of tourism. Also, there are various studies in the literature that support this observation (Aquino et al, 2018; Jørgensen et al., 2021; Laeis & Lemke, 2016; Sheldon & Daniele, 2017). The necessity of putting this observation - which has been carried out for years- on a scientific basis has come to the fore. It is thought that the most appropriate analysis technique for this research is bibliometric analysis. In line with the situations explained, the scope of the study, which was set out to examine the place of social entrepreneurship in the tourism literature with bibliometric analysis, was limited with certain parameters. From this point of view, the aim of the study was determined as “to examine the postgraduate theses published in the fields of social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship in tourism and entrepreneurship in tourism with the determined parameters using the bibliometric analysis technique”.

In the study, graduate dissertations from Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States are discussed, thereby providing an opportunity to make a comparison between these countries. Since the leading countries in the sectoral practices of social entrepreneurship are the USA and the UK (ASHOKA, 2022; Dionisio, 2019; Granados et al., 2011; Persaud et al., 2018; Rey-Martí et al., 2016), it was decided to consider these countries within the scope of the study and to compare them with Turkey.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Dissertations are accepted as an indicator of the trends and the level of institutionalization in the relevant department and discipline (Aksoz & Yucel, 2020). When the literature is examined, it can be seen that there are many studies on bibliometric analysis of postgraduate dissertations published in different disciplines and fields; on the other hand, it can be seen that bibliometric analyses on both “social entrepreneurship” and “social entrepreneurship in tourism” and “entrepreneurship in tourism” are generally carried out in the form of article scanning.

2.1. Literature Review on Social Entrepreneurship

As a result of the examination of 286 articles by Granados et al. (2011), it was found that the United Kingdom and the United States of America dominated the field of social entrepreneurship; on the other hand, it was found that especially Southeastern Asia and Southeastern Europe had a weak command of the literature. Rey-Martí et al. (2016) examined 2,922 scientific sources (articles, papers, books, book chapters, meeting notes) and determined the studies on social entrepreneurship were focused, respectively, on the fields of business and economics, public administration, social sciences and educational sciences. In addition, in the period between 2003 and 2015, most of the work on the subject was conducted in 2012 (389) and 2014 (381); and the countries with the highest number of publications are the United States (892) and the United Kingdom (494). Similarly, Persaud et al. (2018) in their study examining 92 of the most cited articles on social entrepreneurship, revealed that the literature progressed with several core authors from the United States, England, and Canada, and was shaped around the business management discipline. In another study conducted by Dionisio (2019), the contents of the articles published on social entrepreneurship were examined and it was concluded that the studies in the field were mostly conducted in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Stating that the subject of social entrepreneurship has reached a certain level of “maturity” in the literature, Sassmannshausen and Volkmann (2013) found that the number of publications on social entrepreneurship increased more than twice from 2009 to 2011 and the H-index was quite high. Compos et al. (2019) confirmed that there is a lot of research on social entrepreneurship; however, they found that there is no study linking economic public benefit and social entrepreneurship. Kraus et al. (2014) examined 5,228 citations within the scope of 129 articles in their study, which aimed to provide an overview of existing research on social entrepreneurship by using the citation analysis technique. As a result of this analysis, they grouped the sub-topics examined in the field of social entrepreneurship under five headings as definitions and conceptual approaches, motives, personality, influence and performance, future research. Another grouping was carried out by Ferreira et al. (2017). In the study, which uses bibliometric analysis based on co-citations, the basic theoretical features of social entrepreneurship are discussed in four perspectives as social value, hidden well-being, internationalization, and institutionalism.

2.2. Literature Review on Entrepreneurship in Tourism

Li's (2008) work is the first to examine tourism and entrepreneurship with bibliometric analysis technique. In the study, the period between 1986 and 2006 was examined and the articles connecting entrepreneurship and tourism, published in seven leading hospitality and tourism management journals were examined. Between these years, a total of 4,917 articles were published in the seven journals included in the research; but it was concluded that only 97 of them (about 2%) referred to entrepreneurship. Accordingly, it was emphasized that more theoretical studies were needed to develop a framework specific to the field of entrepreneurship in tourism and related disciplines.

The study conducted by Solvoll (2015), aimed to review, and analyze the current literature on tourism entrepreneurship and to address a possible gap, thus articles published between 2000 and 2012 were examined. It was determined that a total of 40 articles were published in the period between 2000 and 2006 and 96 articles were published in the period between 2007 and 2012, thus emphasizing an increase in studies in the field of tourism and entrepreneurship. They found that despite the increase in articles on tourism and entrepreneurship, articles are still largely published in tourism journals, with very few published in other top-ranked journals. They stated that this finding either indicates that the quality of the research is lower than the standards of high-impact journals or that the topics discovered are not considered interesting outside the field of tourism. In addition, referring to Li (2008), who emphasized that the theoretical studies on tourism and entrepreneurship remained at a low level, it was stressed that although the studies in recent years have developed empirically, their theoretical foundations are still not solidified.

Fu et al. (2019) reviewed 108 SSCI publications published between 1995 and 2016. As a result of the research, it was determined that studies published on tourism and entrepreneurship spread from developed countries to

developing countries. In addition, it was emphasized that researchers in the field of tourism should participate in interdisciplinary research teams in projects and publications related to the subject of entrepreneurship and focus on subjects specific to individuals, companies, and destinations in order to investigate the complex nature of entrepreneurship. The authors also emphasized that more research is needed on how the destination environment can affect entrepreneurial activities in tourism. Isik et al. (2019a) examined 142 research articles using bibliometric analysis technique to examine the relationship between tourism and entrepreneurship and revealed that this relationship is gathered under three themes in related articles. These themes are listed as small and medium-sized tourism enterprises, types of entrepreneurships, and studies on entrepreneurship in the tourism sector. Isik et al. (2019b), in another bibliometric analysis conducted on entrepreneurship in tourism, reached 96 national scale scientific works and examined them under six parameters that are title of the publication, author name(s), year of publication, research/application area, methodology of the study (data collection method) and study result. As a result of the study, it was revealed that studies in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism started at the international level in the 1990s and gained momentum in the 2000s; and at the national level they started in the 2000s increasing after 2010. In addition, it was emphasized that the studies are generally formed around entrepreneurial characteristics, internal entrepreneurship, and female entrepreneurship.

There are more studies investigating entrepreneurship in tourism (and related disciplines; gastronomy, food-beverage, recreation, etc.) with bibliometric analysis than studies investigating tourism and social entrepreneurship with bibliometric analysis. The reason for this is thought to be that although the topic of entrepreneurship has been discussed in the literature since the early 1800s, social entrepreneurship came to the fore only in the late 1990s.

2.3. Literature Review on Social Entrepreneurship in Tourism

Celebi et al. (2020) accessed 20 articles in their bibliometric studies on social entrepreneurship on gastronomy tourism; and stated that most of these articles were conducted with qualitative analysis and situation analysis methods. They emphasized that the reason for this is the rarity of social entrepreneurship practices in gastronomy tourism. The authors determined six parameters for the articles they reviewed and listed them as title of the publication, keywords, author name(s), year of publication, methodology of the study, and result of the study. Saribas et al. (2020) examined 35 articles on social entrepreneurship in tourism accessed via national and international article databases and during this review, they made use of five parameters that are title of the publication, author name(s), year of publication, name of the journal, and field of research. In the study, it was found that most of the research on social entrepreneurship in tourism literature focuses on the hospitality sector and tourism management and associates social entrepreneurship in tourism with sustainable tourism, responsible tourism, eco-tourism, and rural tourism. It was also emphasized that there are few publications in both international and national tourism literature linking social entrepreneurship with tourism, and therefore social entrepreneurship in tourism is an open field for new research.

As a result of conducted examinations, it has been observed that the scope of bibliometric studies in the field of social entrepreneurship is kept quite wide. On the other hand, there is no study in the field of social entrepreneurship that only examines postgraduate dissertations. In addition, it has been revealed that bibliometric studies in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism and social entrepreneurship in tourism are more limited and are handled in the form of article scanning, while postgraduate academic dissertations are not examined. Therefore, the purpose and importance of this study is to examine the postgraduate dissertations in social entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship in tourism and entrepreneurship in tourism in terms of their bibliometric properties in the last five years (the period between 2015-2020); and to put forth a comparative table among Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

When the etymology of the concept of bibliometry is examined, it is seen that it is a combination of the words “*biblion*”, which means book in Ancient Greek, and “*metron*”, which means measurement (Tonta, 2009). The concept of bibliometry can be explained as a field of study based on counting, refers to the examination of published scientific resources (books, journals, articles, dissertations, etc.) with mathematical and statistical techniques (Al & Costur, 2007; Pritchard, 1969; Yilmaz, 2017). According to Diodato (1994), bibliometry is a method used in the analysis of academic research and enables the quantitative evaluation of scientific productivity. Also, Atsiz et al. (2022) emphasized that it is important to review and summarize the academic knowledge accumulated over time on a subject. Bibliometric analysis is defined as the numerical analysis of the publications produced by individuals or institutions in a certain period, in a specific area and in a specific region, and the relations between these publications (ULAKBİM, 2020). Thanks to bibliometric analysis, the development processes and characteristics of scientific studies are revealed; and we can examine who studies what, where, how, when and in what way (Aydin & Aksoz, 2019).

According to Koehler (2001), studies conducted with the bibliometric analysis technique are divided into four groups. These are (1) studies related to citation analysis, (2) studies related to co-citation analysis, (3) studies on the

efficiency of individuals, organizations, or countries in a particular field, (4) and studies focusing on information products such as books, articles, dissertations, and patents (Ozkose & Gencer, 2017). While citation is the use of previously produced ideas by other researchers by citing and revising to contribute to literature (Lluch et al., 2009; Polat et al., 2019); citation analysis is the creation of a link between the citing and cited sources (Smith, 1981; Al, 2008). There are two important techniques of citation analysis evaluated under bibliometric analysis and these are called bibliographic matching and co-citation. While citation of the same published material in two different sources is considered bibliographic matching; citation of two different published materials in one source is considered a co-citation (Al & Tonta, 2004). Studies on the productivity of individuals, organizations, or countries in a particular field, as can be deduced from the title, come to the fore in determining and evaluating the characteristics of the various disciplines in which researchers, organizations, and countries work. (Huang et al., 2006; Hotamisli & Erdem, 2014). Studies focusing on information products such as books, articles, academic dissertations, and patents, on the other hand, focus entirely on the contents of the publications (the research method used, keywords, etc.) (Polat, et al., 2019).

As a result of examinations made in bibliometric analyses, it is aimed to obtain various findings regarding scientific communication (Al & Costur, 2007; Guzeller & Celiker, 2017). In other words, bibliometric analysis, a powerful tool for studying the structure and dynamics of scientific fields, is seen as an important way for researchers to better understand their areas of interest (Wang et al., 2020). Sakar and Cerit (2013), Ulu and Akdag (2015) and Yilmaz (2017) emphasized that, thanks to bibliometric analyses, developments in related fields can be followed, problems and deficiencies can be identified, gaps in the literature can be found and solutions can be obtained to eliminate them (Polat et al., 2019). With these features, bibliometric analyses, which constitute an important road map for researchers, provide the opportunity to make the literature in a particular field statistical and make it possible to identify trends (Kasemodel et al., 2016).

When the study is approached within the framework of Koehler's (2001) classification; it is evaluated within the scope of bibliometric analyses that examine the productivity of countries in a specific area and focus on scientific resources. The study aims to examine postgraduate dissertations published between 2015 and 2020 in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America in the fields of *social entrepreneurship*, *entrepreneurship in tourism and social entrepreneurship in tourism* via various parameters.

There are two reasons the study includes Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The first is that the United States and the United Kingdom have been identified as leading countries in the social entrepreneurship phenomenon in studies by Granados et al. (2011), Rey-Martí et al. (2016), Persaud et al. (2018) and Dionisio (2019). The second is that among the top 15 countries with the highest number of ASHOKA fellows, which is the world's first and largest social entrepreneurship platform, the countries whose dissertations language is English are the United States (3rd) and the United Kingdom (11th) (ASHOKA, 2022). Since the official languages of the other countries in the top 15 are not English, they could not be included by the researchers. Also, as the statistics mentioned that, nearly 75% of all scientific publications are English. Besides that, dissertations written in English are common in more than 118 countries and are used as a scientific language worldwide. Since Turkey is the country where the authors live, the selected countries were compared with Turkey.

In studies conducted with bibliometric analysis technique, determination of parameters is an issue that directly affects the findings and thus the results of the study. Thus, in the process of determining the parameters, studies published by Guclu Nergiz (2014), Civelek Oruc and Turkay (2017), Yilmaz (2017), Aydin (2017), Sunnetcioglu et al. (2017), and Akkasoglu, et al. (2019) that examine postgraduate dissertations in tourism and related fields with bibliometric analysis have been used. Commonly used parameters in these studies were determined as “country where the dissertations were prepared, type of the dissertations, publication year of the dissertations, university where the dissertations were prepared, field of study of the dissertations, the research method used in the dissertations,” and were included in the scope of the study. The research questions determined in line with the purpose of the study and guiding the parameters are listed as follows.

- What is the distribution of postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects across the determined countries (Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States)?
- What are the types of postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects?
- What is the distribution of publication years of postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects?
- Which universities publish postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects?
- What are the fields of study of postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects?
- What are the research methods of postgraduate dissertations on the related subjects?

In order to access the postgraduate dissertations for the study ProQuest Dissertations (international), YOK National Dissertations Center (Turkey), EThOS British Library (United Kingdom) and EBSCO Dissertations (United States) databases were scanned. The Council of Higher Education (YOK), which gathers all higher education

institutions in Turkey under its roof, is a constitutional institution established in accordance with the basic principles of the higher education system determined by the 1982 Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (YOK, 2021). In line with the “directive on collecting, arranging and making access to graduate theses in electronic environment” prepared within the scope of the Higher Education Law in Turkey, all the theses (at master's and doctorate level) in Turkey were collected on the online platform called YOK National Dissertations Center. On the other hand, there is no online platform that gathers both master's and doctoral theses under a single roof in the UK and the USA. In support of this, there is the following statement on the home page of EThOS British Library, the thesis center of the United Kingdom: “Search over 500,000 doctoral theses.” Similarly, the statement on the homepage of EBSCO Dissertations, the thesis center of the United States, is as follows: “EBSCO open dissertations now includes the content from American doctoral dissertations.” In the United Kingdom and the United States, master's theses are available in the library of the university where the thesis was published. However, as it can be understood, an online platform that combines these theses under a single roof has not been found. Therefore, the research was carried out only on doctoral theses.

After the databases to be searched were determined, the scanning was carried out by *dissertations name, summary and keywords* between 2 November and 13 December 2020. During the process, “search keywords” were determined by the researchers in accordance with the purpose of the dissertations. To understand the search keywords more easily, they are represented in Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3 below, respectively.

Figure 1. Search keywords for the social entrepreneurship

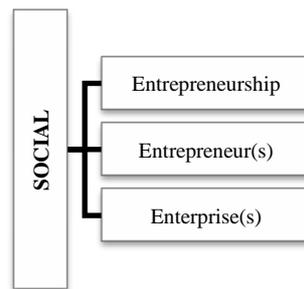


Figure 2. Search keywords for the social entrepreneurship in tourism

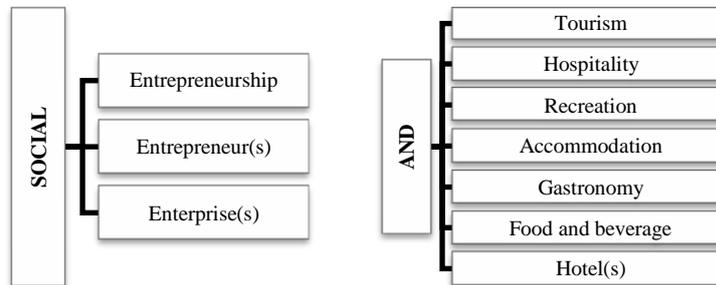
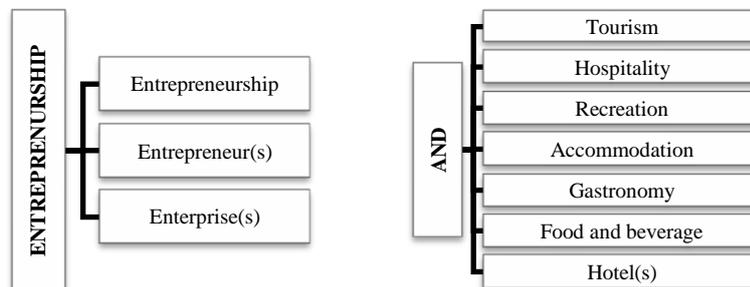


Figure 3. Search keywords for the entrepreneurship in tourism



After determining the parameters, databases, and search keywords, detailed research has been made through databases and as a result, 134 in the field of social entrepreneurship; 9 in social entrepreneurship and tourism; and 41 in the field of entrepreneurship and tourism, have been accessed with a total of 184 postgraduate dissertations. The

obtained dissertations were transferred to the Microsoft Excel file in accordance with the parameters and the analysis process were commenced.

4. FINDINGS

In the process of doing research through data bases, it was observed that the United Kingdom and the United States, do not have an infrastructure like the YOK National Dissertations Center in Turkey. While it was possible to reach both postgraduate dissertations and doctoral dissertations published in Turkey via YOK National Dissertations Center; it was been observed that the number of postgraduate dissertations uploaded to Proquest Dissertations, EThOS British Library and EBSCO Dissertations databases was almost non-existent. As a result, other databases to access post graduate dissertations were researched; but could not be found. For this reason, in the study, first a table showing the distribution of both postgraduate and doctoral dissertations was included, and then the comparisons were only made on the doctoral dissertations. The findings of the study, on the other hand, are examined under three headings: “social entrepreneurship”, “social entrepreneurship in tourism” and “entrepreneurship in tourism.”

4.1. Bibliometric Analysis Findings on Social Entrepreneurship

The distribution of the types of completed postgraduate dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States are shown on Table 1 below.

Table 1. Distribution of postgraduate dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by type and country

	PhD (n)	PhD (%)	Master's Degree (n)	Master's Degree (%)	Total (n)	Total (%)
TR	6	6%	36	100%	42	31%
UK	46	47%	-	0%	46	34%
USA	46	47%	-	0%	46	34%
Total	98	100%	36	100%	134	100%

As seen on Table 1, postgraduate level dissertations could not be accessed for the United Kingdom and the United States of America. While between 2015 and 2020, 46 each doctoral dissertation on social entrepreneurship were published in the United Kingdom and the United States; in the same period 6 doctoral dissertations and 36 postgraduate dissertations were published in Turkey. Since it is thought that postgraduate dissertations will reduce objectivity in comparisons, subsequent interpretations will only encompass 98 doctoral dissertations.

The distribution of doctoral dissertations published in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States per year can be found on Table 2 below.

Table 2. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by year and country

	TR (n)	UK (n)	USA (n)	Total (n)	Total (%)
2015	1	2	-	3	3%
2016	1	15	11	27	28%
2017	-	8	9	17	17%
2018	-	10	12	22	22%
2019	2	6	7	15	15%
2020	2	5	7	14	14%
Total	6	46	46	98	100%

When a review was conducted in the scope of years, it was seen that the year most dissertations were published was 2016 with 27 dissertations (28%), followed by 2018 with 22 dissertations (22%). The least number of dissertations were published in 2015, with just three (3%). The years most dissertations were published in Turkey are 2019 and 2020; 2016 for the United Kingdom; and 2018 for the United States.

In the United Kingdom and the United States institutes that publish the dissertations don't have a clear distinction such as, Social Sciences/Science/Education Sciences in Turkey. The distribution here is much more complex, and each university has a specifically named school/college. Due to this difference, it was thought that it was difficult to categorize the institutes where the dissertations were published, and the dissertations were grouped according to their fields of study depending on the departments. The study areas of doctoral dissertations published in the field of social entrepreneurship can be examined on Table 3 below.

Table 3. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by study field and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Management and Business	4	35	18	57	58%

Education	1	4	18	23	23%
Communication Sciences	-	2	1	3	3%
Policy Studies	-	-	2	2	2%
Psychology	-	1	1	2	2%
Sociology	-	1	1	2	2%
Labor Economics and Industrial Relations	1	-	-	1	1%
Anthropology	-	1	-	1	1%
Philanthropy Studies	-	-	1	1	1%
Law	-	1	-	1	1%
Theology	-	-	1	1	1%
Marketing	-	-	1	1	1%
Social services	-	-	1	1	1%
Community Health	-	-	1	1	1%
International Relations	-	1	-	1	1%
Total	6	46	46	98	100%

The fields of study were determined based on the department for which the dissertations were written and the content of the dissertations. In this context, the fields of study of doctoral dissertations are categorized under 15 main headings. Business is the most published field with 58%, followed by education with 23%. In other words, 82% of the fields of study on social entrepreneurship are business management and education. In Turkey there are four business management and one education fields of study; in the UK, there are 35 business management and four education fields of study. In the United States of America, it is seen that there is an equality in the fields of business management and education and 18 each dissertation has been written in both fields. The distribution of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship based on research methods published in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States can be found on Table 4 below.

Table 4. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by research method and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Qualitative	1	43	32	76	78%
Quantitative	4	2	8	14	14%
Mixed	1	1	6	8	8%
Total	6	46	46	98	100%

When the methods used in doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship are examined, it is seen that 78% was written with the qualitative, 14% with the quantitative and 8% with the mixed method. It is thought that the dominance of qualitative research methods is due to the difficulty of reaching the sample size suitable for the quantitative method in the newly developing field of social entrepreneurship.

In the distribution of research methods according to universities, most of the distribution is 1% due to the existence of a total of 77 universities. Table 5 below includes 15 universities with a distribution of over 1% according to research methods.

Table 5. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by research method and university name

	Mixed	Quantitative	Qualitative	Total	Total (%)
University of Pennsylvania (USA)	-	-	4	4	4%
Capella University (USA)	-	-	2	3	3%
University of Nottingham (UK)	-	1	2	3	3%
Durham University (UK)	-	-	3	3	3%
Walden University (USA)	-	-	3	3	3%
Cardiff Metropolitan University (UK)	1	-	1	2	2%
Northwestern University (USA)	-	1	1	2	2%
Saint Louis University (USA)	-	-	2	2	2%
University of Essex (UK)	-	1	1	2	2%
University of Exeter (UK)	-	-	2	2	2%
University of Huddersfield (UK)	-	-	2	2	2%
University of London (UK)	-	-	2	2	2%
Northumbria University (UK)	-	-	2	2	2%
University of San Diego (USA)	1	-	1	2	2%
University of Southern California (USA)	1	-	1	2	2%

The University of Pennsylvania and Walden University are the two universities in the United States where studies published in the field of social entrepreneurship within the universities are carried out through qualitative methods. Durham University, Exeter University, Huddersfield University, University of London, and Northumbria

University are universities in the United Kingdom where studies published in the field of social entrepreneurship are carried out with qualitative methods. In addition, Northwestern University in the United States of America, the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom, and the University of Essex are among the few universities that have conducted studies in the quantitative field. Cardiff Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom and the University of San Diego and the University of Southern California in the United States are among the universities that carry out their studies through the mixed method.

4.2. Bibliometric Analysis Findings on Social Entrepreneurship in Tourism

The distribution of the types of postgraduate dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship in tourism completed in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States can be seen on Table 6 below.

Table 6. Distribution of postgraduate dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism by type and country

	PhD (n)	PhD (%)	Master's degree (n)	Master's degree (%)	Total (n)	Total (%)
TR	1	25%	5	100%	6	67%
UK	2	50%	0	0%	2	22%
USA	1	25%	0	0%	1	11%
Total	4	100%	5	100%	9	100%

As seen in Table 6, postgraduate level dissertations could not be accessed for the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Two doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism were published in the United Kingdom and one in the United States between 2015-2020; while one doctoral level and five postgraduate level dissertations were published in the same period in Turkey. Since it is thought that dissertations at postgraduate level will reduce objectivity in comparisons, subsequent interpretations will be made over four doctoral dissertations only.

The distribution of doctoral dissertations published in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States per year of can be found on Table 7 below.

Table 7. Distribution of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism by year and country

	TR (n)	UK (n)	USA (n)	Total (n)	Total (%)
2015	-	1	-	1	25%
2016	-	-	-	-	0%
2017	1	-	1	2	50%
2018	-	1	-	1	25%
2019	-	-	-	-	0%
2020	-	-	-	-	0%
Total	1	2	1	4	100%

When a review was conducted in terms of years, it was seen that the year where the most dissertations were published in the field of social entrepreneurship in tourism was 2017 with two dissertations (50%), followed by 2015 and 2018 with one dissertation each (25%). No doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism could be accessed for 2016, 2019 and 2020. One each dissertation was published in Turkey and in the United States in 2017; one each doctoral dissertation was published in the United Kingdom in 2015 and 2018.

In the United Kingdom and the United States institutes where the dissertations are published don't have a clear distinction such as Social Sciences/Science/Education Science in Turkey. The distribution here is much more complex, and each university has a specifically named school/college. Due to this difference, it was thought that it was difficult to categorize the institutes where the dissertations were published, and the dissertations were grouped according to their fields of study depending on the departments. The study fields of doctoral dissertations published in the field of social entrepreneurship can be examined on Table 8 below.

Table 8. Distribution of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism by study field and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Tourism Industry (General)	1	1	-	2	50%

Recreation, Volunteer Tourism	-	1	-	1	25%
Cultural Heritage	-	-	1	1	25%
Total	1	2	1	4	100%

The fields of study were determined based on the department in which the dissertations were written and the content of the dissertations. In this context, the fields of study of doctoral dissertations are categorized under three main headings. In dissertations on the tourism sector (general), the tourism sector stakeholders – both hotel businesses and travel agencies – are discussed together. While the dissertations dealing with the tourism sector from a general perspective have a share of 50%; dissertations on recreation and volunteer tourism and in the field of cultural heritage each have a 25% share. One each dissertation on the tourism sector (general) can be found in Turkey and in the United Kingdom. In addition, the study on recreation and volunteer tourism was published in the United Kingdom and the study in the field of cultural heritage was published in the United States of America.

Distribution of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship according to research method in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, is available on Table 9 below.

Table 9. Distribution of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism by research method and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Qualitative	-	1	1	2	50%
Quantitative	1	-	-	1	25%
Mixed	-	1	-	1	25%
Total	1	2	1	4	100%

When the methods used in doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship are examined, it is seen that 50% of them use the qualitative, 25% use the quantitative and 25% use the mixed method. While in Turkey the quantitative method is preferred, qualitative and mixed methods are preferred in the United Kingdom, and in the United States of America qualitative method is preferred.

The distribution of research methods according to university can be seen on Table 10 below.

Table 10. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of social entrepreneurship by research method and university name

	Mixed	Quantitative	Qualitative	Total	Total
Akdeniz University (TR)	-	1	-	1	25%
Canterbury Christ Church University (UK)	-	-	1	1	25%
Purdue University (USA)	-	-	1	1	25%
University of Surrey (UK)	1	-	-	1	25%
Total	1	1	1	4	100%

In Turkey the dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism was conducted using quantitative research method at the Akdeniz University. In the United Kingdom, the dissertations using the mixed research method was published at the University of Surrey and the dissertations using the qualitative research method was published at the Canterbury Christ Church University. Finally, a dissertation on social entrepreneurship in tourism, using qualitative research method, was published in the United States of America at Purdue University.

The study was started with the aim of comparing the dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism and social entrepreneurship in other fields. However, since the number of doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in tourism was quite limited, it was decided to evaluate entrepreneurship in tourism through bibliometric analysis and the scope of the study was expanded accordingly.

4.3. Bibliometric Analysis Findings on Entrepreneurship in Tourism

The distribution of the types of postgraduate dissertations completed in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America is presented on Table 11 below.

Table 11. Distribution of postgraduate dissertations on entrepreneurship in tourism by type and country

	PhD (n)	PhD (%)	Master's	Master's	Total (n)	Total (%)
TR	2	8%	14	82%	42	39%
UK	11	46%	1	6%	46	29%
USA	11	46%	2	12%	46	32%
Total	24	100%	17	100%	134	100%

As can be seen on Table 11, the number of dissertations at the postgraduate level that can be reached in the United Kingdom and the United States of America is very limited. Between the years 2015-2020 in Turkey 14 postgraduate and two doctoral dissertations could be reached on entrepreneurship in tourism; in the United Kingdom one postgraduate and 11 doctoral dissertations could be reached on entrepreneurship in tourism; and in the United

States of America, two postgraduate dissertations and 11 doctoral dissertations could be reached on entrepreneurship in tourism. Since it is thought that postgraduate dissertations will decrease the objectivity in the comparisons, the following findings will be interpreted in the scope of 24 doctoral dissertations. The distribution of doctoral dissertations published in Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America by year is given on Table 12 below.

Table 12. Distribution of doctoral dissertations on entrepreneurship in tourism by year and country

	TR (n)	UK (n)	USA (n)	Total (n)	Total (%)
2015	-	7	-	7	29%
2016	-	-	4	4	17%
2017	-	2	2	4	17%
2018	-	2	1	3	13%
2019	1	-	3	4	17%
2020	1	-	1	2	8%
Total	2	11	11	24	100%

When an examination is made within the scope of years, it is seen that the year where the most dissertations were published was 2015 with seven dissertations (29%) and all dissertations in that year were published in the United Kingdom. After that, the years 2016, 2017 and 2019 come with four each dissertation (17% share each). The year with least dissertations published is 2020 with 1 dissertation (8%).

The fields of study of doctoral dissertations published in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism have been determined based on the department in which the dissertations are written and the content of the dissertations and can be seen on Table 13 below.

Table 13. Distribution of doctoral dissertations on entrepreneurship in tourism by field of study and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Destination	1	5	4	10	42%
Accommodation	-	3	2	5	21%
Hospitality	-	-	2	2	8%
Women's Studies	-	2	-	2	8%
Entrepreneurship	1	-	1	2	8%
Rural Tourism	-	-	1	1	4%
Tourism Sociology	-	-	1	1	4%
Food and Beverage	-	1	-	1	4%
Total	2	11	11	24	100%

The fields of study of doctoral dissertations on entrepreneurship in tourism are categorized under eight main headings. Destination is the field with the most publications with 42%, followed by the accommodation sector with 21%. In other words, 63% of the fields of study on entrepreneurship in tourism are destination and accommodation sector fields. In the field of destination and entrepreneurship, one doctoral dissertation was published in Turkey, five in the United Kingdom, and four doctoral dissertations were published in the United States of America. In the hospitality industry and the field of entrepreneurship, while there are no doctoral dissertations published in Turkey, three dissertations were published in the United Kingdom and two in the United States of America. The fields of study, which have a share of 8% in the distribution, are listed as the hospitality industry, women's studies, and entrepreneurship education. Rural tourism, tourism sociology and the food and beverage sector fields of study have the lowest ratio in the distribution with 4%.

The distribution of doctoral dissertations published in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America on entrepreneurship in tourism according to research method is given in Table 14 below.

Table 14. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism by research method and country

	TR	UK	USA	Total (n)	Total (%)
Qualitative	-	8	9	17	71%
Mixed	1	2	1	4	17%
Quantitative	-	1	1	2	8%
Geographic Information Systems	1	-	-	1	4%
Total	2	11	11	24	100%

When the methods used in the doctoral dissertations in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism are examined, it is seen that 71% is written with the qualitative method, 17% with the mixed method, 8% with the quantitative method and 4% is written through geographic information systems. In Turkey one each dissertation written using the mixed method and the geographical information system; in the United Kingdom eight dissertations written with the qualitative method, two with the mixed method and one dissertation written with the quantitative method; in the

United States of America, nine doctoral dissertations written with the qualitative method and one each dissertation written with the mixed and quantitative methods were reached.

There are 22 universities in total in the three countries where doctoral dissertations on tourism entrepreneurship were published. The universities with dissertations written in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism and where the distribution is more than one can be found on Table 15 below.

Table 15. Distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism by research method and university name

	Mixed	Quantitative	Qualitative	Total	Total (%)
North Carolina State University (USA)	-	-	2	2	8%
Ulster University (UK)	-	-	2	2	8%

Universities that have multiple publications on social entrepreneurship in tourism between 2015 and 2020 are the North Carolina State University in the United States and the Ulster University in the United Kingdom. The doctoral dissertations were carried out through qualitative methods in both universities.

In this study postgraduate dissertations focusing on the concept of social entrepreneurship, and the concepts of entrepreneurship in tourism and social entrepreneurship, which have become increasingly important in theory as well as in practice are examined. To make a comparison between countries, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States were included in the study. It was aimed to examine both postgraduate and doctoral dissertations; however, due to the limited access to postgraduate level dissertations in the United Kingdom and the United States, in order not to damage the reliability of the study, the findings of the study were interpreted only based on doctoral dissertations.

5. Limitations of the Research

The limitation of this research is that only the postgraduate dissertations accessed on the databases are examined. In other words, postgraduate dissertations that cannot be found in the analysed databases cannot be included in the analysis process of the research. In addition, only postgraduate dissertations published in the last five years (2015-2020) were included in the scope of the research, and other scientific sources (articles, papers, books, book chapters, etc.) were not included. Also, unlike Turkey, an online database combining both doctoral and master's theses (or only master's thesis) gather under a single roof could not be reached in the UK or the USA. Detailed information on this is explained in the methodology part of the study. To make an accurate comparison between countries, the master's theses reached in Turkey were not included in the research and the research was carried out only on doctoral dissertations.

CONCLUSION

Although it has been observed that the studies on social entrepreneurship have increased in recent years, it is thought that there are still not enough social entrepreneurship studies in the field of tourism. So much so that there are calls for studies aiming to theorize social entrepreneurship and explore how social entrepreneurship can be put into practice in tourism literature (Aquino et al., 2018; Sheldon & Daniele, 2017). The increase in bibliometric studies on both social entrepreneurship and other tourism related fields; and the lack of studies examining social entrepreneurship and tourism at the level of postgraduate dissertations constitutes the starting point of this study.

The study aims to examine postgraduate dissertations published between 2015 and 2020 in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States in the fields of *social entrepreneurship*, *entrepreneurship in tourism* and *social entrepreneurship in tourism* accessed through Proquest Dissertations, YOK National Dissertations Center, EThOS British Library and EBSCO Dissertations databases via various parameters. The parameters used in the study were determined as "country where the dissertations were prepared, type of the dissertations, publication year of the dissertations, university where the dissertations were prepared, field of study of the dissertations, research method used in the dissertations". In this direction, a total of 126 doctoral dissertations, with 98 in the field of social entrepreneurship, four in the field of social entrepreneurship in tourism, and 24 in the field of entrepreneurship in tourism, were examined.

As a result of the study, the availability of 98 doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship in the last five years confirmed the view of Sassmannshausen & Volkman (2013) that social entrepreneurship has reached a certain maturity in literature. Although doctoral dissertations published in the field of social entrepreneurship are quantitatively sufficient, it has been observed that the fields of study are mostly limited by the axis of business and educational sciences. Based on this, it is predicted that social entrepreneurship will go beyond these fields and will start to show its effect in other branches of science over time.

The number of dissertations published on social entrepreneurship in tourism is worrying. Although social entrepreneurship has become a highly accepted subject in business management and education sciences, social entrepreneurship remains a new subject awaiting research in the tourism management department. This is confirmed by Celebi et al. (2020), examining articles on gastronomy tourism and social entrepreneurship being able to access a

total of 20 articles; and Saribas et al. (2020), examining the articles on tourism and social entrepreneurship, being able to access a total of 35 articles. Additionally, fields of study related to social entrepreneurship in tourism are determined as tourism management, recreation, and cultural heritage. This situation is similar to the findings of Saribas et al. (2020), who states that most of the research on social entrepreneurship in tourism focus on tourism management. The fact that there is such a large difference in numerical terms between social entrepreneurship studies in other disciplines and social entrepreneurship studies in tourism shows once again the importance of Fu et al.'s (2019) proposal that researchers in the field of tourism should conduct interdisciplinary work in projects related to entrepreneurship.

Although the number of articles and papers published on entrepreneurship in tourism is quite high, only 24 doctoral dissertations could be accessed in the three selected countries in the last five years. Although the fact that studies are conducted at doctorate level in this field shows that the findings of Li (2008) and Solvoll et al. (2015), that the theoretical foundations of entrepreneurship in tourism are not established, have become open to falsification, it is thought that the number of postgraduate dissertations in this field can be improved. In addition, there is a six-fold quantitative difference between the fields of entrepreneurship in tourism and social entrepreneurship in tourism. This situation shows that entrepreneurship in tourism is a more researched subject than social entrepreneurship in tourism.

Social entrepreneurship in tourism is a new subject with a major research gap in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. So much so that only four doctoral level dissertations were accessible in the three countries in the last five years. In other words, the theoretical infrastructure of social entrepreneurship in tourism is quite insufficient. It is apparent that Turkey is lagging the United Kingdom and the United States in the field of social entrepreneurship. While in the last five years, 6 doctoral dissertations on social entrepreneurship were published in Turkey, the number of dissertations published in the United Kingdom and in the United States is 46. Similarly, it is concluded that Turkey should develop itself about tourism entrepreneurship. While in the last five years, two doctoral dissertations in the field of entrepreneurship in the tourism were published in Turkey, 11 each were published in the United Kingdom and in the United States. These findings show that all three areas are current for both developed and developing countries; and show the excess of the gaps that need to be filled in the literature. In this context, it is thought that if the researchers and students working in tourism and related fields, expand the topic of entrepreneurship in tourism and focus on social entrepreneurship in tourism, they will make significant contributions to the literature.

At the core of calls for social entrepreneurship in the tourism industry is the search for solutions to various problems caused by or inherent in the tourism industry. While the economic and socio-cultural benefits of the tourism industry are undeniable, there are undoubtedly various problems that need to be addressed. Sheldon & Daniele (2017: 10-11) summarize the tourism challenges where social entrepreneurship can be effective as follows:

- The net contribution of tourism spending to host communities is low. UNEP estimates that in areas where the all-inclusive system is intensive, only five cents of every dollar received from tourists enters the local economy (UNEP, 2015). This is where social enterprises can improve and increase the positive net impact of tourism on host communities.
- The tourism industry is known for its labor-intensive and job-creating characteristics. However, human resource relations are not optimal due to low wages, seasonality, irregular working hours and substandard working conditions. It is believed that the increase of social initiatives in tourism - albeit for fewer workers - will affect human resource relations and the nature of employment.
- There are still problems in the tourism industry in terms of waste and food waste management, recycling, water, and energy consumption. While some businesses in the industry have taken steps to improve this (although it is debatable whether these are driven by marketing objectives), there is a need for social initiatives that can make a difference to the industry.
- For many years, the tourism industry has been stuck in a mass tourism framework based on the all-inclusive concept. This has made local community-tourist interaction in tourism almost impossible, limiting the opportunity for tourists to get to know the culture of the destination they are visiting. In recent years, however, the growing interest in authenticity, volunteering, the sharing economy, experiential tourism, and creative tourism, as well as the desire to engage with local people, offer additional opportunities for social enterprises.
- The tourism industry has a strong impact on the climate crisis. Issues such as carbon footprint, sustainability, and environmental sensitivity, which have been ignored until recent years, have become more important than ever. It is believed that social enterprise steps in tourism in this direction will encourage awareness and constructive practices in the industry.

In addition, there are other studies on the benefits of social entrepreneurship in tourism. These studies have shown that social entrepreneurship in tourism can positively impact community development by creating jobs,

increasing income, increasing local community participation, supporting local development, promoting local suppliers, improving livelihoods, developing local skills, and enhancing community pride (Aquino et al., 2018; Jørgensen et al., 2021; Laeis & Lemke, 2016; Sloan et al., 2014; Von der Weppen & Cochrane, 2012). There is also a view that tourism can be a means of mobilizing communities around social enterprise projects to create social transformation (Jørgensen et al., 2021). In tourism literature, there is a need to focus on *what social entrepreneurship does* rather than *what it is*. It is believed that by revealing this aspect of social entrepreneurship, an awareness of social entrepreneurship practices in the tourism industry will develop and social entrepreneurs will increase. Also, there is a need for studies that go beyond individual social entrepreneurs or businesses to focus on shared value creation and reveal the relationship between social entrepreneurship and issues such as ethics, sustainability, and social benefit. In other words, not only what social entrepreneurship does *for* society, but also what it does *with* society. It is thought that studies emphasizing co-creation will bring a different perspective to social entrepreneurship.

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Ethical Approval

This research is among the studies that do not require ethics committee approval since it is not included in the scope of research that requires one-to-one data collection from the participants and the data is obtained as secondary data.

Researchers' Contribution Rate

The authors contributed equally to the study.

Conflict of Interest

There is no potential conflict of interest in this study.