Stimulating Awareness and Entrepreneurial Skills of Students through the Strong Role of Social Media: A Motivation for Growth and Innovation

Ruswaji1*, Nina Herlina2, Dina Alafi Hidayatin3, Moh Muklis Sulaeman4, Sandi Nasrudin Wibowo5

1,4 Universitas Islam Lamongan, Jawa Timur, Indonesia
2 Universitas Galuh, Jawa Barat, Indonesia
3 Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Ekonomi Cendekia Bojonegoro, Jawa Timur, Indonesia
5 Universitas Swadaya Gunung Jati, Jawa Barat, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT
Entrepreneurship among students has been a primary focus in the context of the ever-changing global economy. Students are often regarded as potential sources for innovation and economic growth in various countries. This research aims to stimulate awareness and entrepreneurial skills of students through the strong role of social media. In this study, the method employed is a qualitative literature review, drawing data from Google Scholar within the timeframe of 2020 to 2024. The study results indicate that in the rapidly evolving digital era, social media plays a highly significant role in influencing life, including education and entrepreneurship. Social media provides broad access to information, ideas, and opportunities for students. With the right approach, social media can stimulate awareness and develop entrepreneurial skills among students.

1. INTRODUCTION
Entrepreneurship among students has become a primary focus within the dynamic global economic framework. In the eyes of many, students are seen as valuable assets in driving innovation and accelerating economic growth across various parts of the world. The creative potential and research spirit that students possess offer significant opportunities in generating new solutions, creating jobs, and developing sustainable business ecosystems. In this era of uncertainty, governments and educational institutions are increasingly realizing the importance of supporting student entrepreneurship through programs that encourage the development of business skills, access to capital, and extensive networks. The role of students in the entrepreneurial world is not only a potential for the future but also a force that is increasingly recognized and utilized to strengthen the global economy (Mahmudin, 2023).

Social media has become an inseparable element of student life in the contemporary era. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn serve not only as spaces for social interaction but also as
vital channels for the exchange of ideas, information sources, and business promotion (Sunarso et al., 2024). The use of social media by students is no longer limited to recreational aspects but has evolved into an ecosystem that enables them to build networks, explore creative opportunities, and expand their communication reach. The presence of social media opens doors to new possibilities in collaborative learning, the discovery of inspirational content, and the creation of impactful digital identities that contribute to their personal and professional development. Social media is not just a communication tool but also a medium that plays a central role in defining the student experience in this digital era.

Awareness of the role of entrepreneurship has become a key driver motivating students to explore career paths in the business realm. Recognizing available opportunities, being able to identify and overcome challenges, and developing a diverse set of necessary skills are essential foundations for those looking to embark on new business ventures (Wright & Marlow, 2012). A deep understanding of market dynamics, strong analytical skills, and readiness to face risks and uncertainties lay the groundwork for students aiming for success in running their own businesses. Additionally, the ability to adapt to rapid changes in the business environment and the willingness to continuously learn and grow are crucial added values in pursuing an entrepreneurial career. With a profound understanding of the complexity of the business world and awareness of the associated challenges and opportunities, students are presented with the opportunity to play an active role in creating economic and social value through innovation and courage in taking risks.

Although the entrepreneurial potential among students offers vast opportunities, there are still several challenges that need to be addressed to motivate them to start their own ventures. These challenges include the fear of failure, which often serves as a significant psychological barrier, a lack of understanding of practical aspects of entrepreneurship such as financial management, marketing, and operations, as well as a lack of support from their surroundings including family, friends, and educational institutions. Furthermore, the need for initial capital and the financial risks inherent in the startup process can also be significant barriers for students (Pukala, 2021). Therefore, it is important for educational institutions, governments, and relevant stakeholders to provide comprehensive support and appropriate solutions to address these challenges, enabling students to feel more confident and motivated to explore their entrepreneurial potential to the fullest.

Previous research has revealed that social media has great potential to strengthen awareness and entrepreneurial skills among students. By providing relevant educational content, showcasing success stories from young entrepreneurs, and facilitating extensive networks between students and industry stakeholders, social media can serve as an invaluable source of inspiration and knowledge for those interested in entrepreneurship (Boldureanu et al., 2020). The presence of platforms such as YouTube, LinkedIn, and entrepreneurship podcasts expands students’ access to various information, perspectives, and business strategies that can help them develop the vision and skills necessary to start their own ventures (Rozaq et al., 2022). Additionally, social media also provides a platform for students to interact, collaborate, and learn from their peers who share similar interests and aspirations in exploring the world of entrepreneurship (Ansari & Khan, 2020). In this context, it is important for governments, educational institutions, and relevant stakeholders to continue promoting the use of social media as an effective tool in supporting the development of entrepreneurship among students.

Although some research has examined the relationship between social media and entrepreneurship, there is still room to expand understanding in this field. Further research is needed to delve deeply into how social media can be optimally utilized to trigger increased awareness and entrepreneurial skills among students. This includes understanding the types of content and social media interactions that are most effective in inspiring and supporting students in developing entrepreneurial interests and abilities. Additionally, research should also explore factors influencing the effectiveness of social media in this context, including individual characteristics of students, learning environments, and the impact of educational institution support and government policies. By deepening our understanding of the dynamics between social media and entrepreneurship among students, we can identify more effective strategies in harnessing the full potential of social media as a tool for learning and entrepreneurship development in the future.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND HYPOTHESES

Student Entrepreneurship

Student entrepreneurship refers to the activities or efforts undertaken by students to develop, manage, and sustain their own businesses or business projects (Atrup et al., 2023). It involves the development of creative
ideas, identification of market opportunities, as well as taking risks in creating and managing new ventures. Student entrepreneurship is not only about starting businesses but also encompasses a mindset involving creativity, innovation, resilience, and the ability to overcome challenges (Satriadi et al., 2022). Students engaged in entrepreneurship often seek to address social or economic problems with innovative approaches. They can also develop essential leadership, management, and communication skills crucial in the business world (Sutrisno et al., 2023). Moreover, student entrepreneurship can contribute to local economic growth and play a vital role in preparing the next generation to become successful entrepreneurs.

Social Media
Social media refers to digital platforms that facilitate social interaction, content sharing, and information exchange among users online (Purnama & Asdlori, 2023). These platforms allow users to create personal profiles or pages, send messages, share photos, videos, or statuses, and participate in various forms of online activities such as commenting, liking, or sharing. Examples of social media platforms include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and many more. Social media has become an integral part of many people’s daily lives worldwide, shaping new ways of communication, interaction, and access to information (Ausat, 2023). They are not only used for entertainment and social interaction but also as tools for promoting businesses, spreading news, influencing public opinion, and mobilizing social movements. Through social media, individuals can connect with people from various backgrounds, expand their social networks, and gain access to various information and opportunities that may not be attainable conventionally (Azzaakiyyah, 2023).

Growth and Innovation
Growth and innovation refer to two interconnected concepts in the context of economic development and technological advancement. Growth refers to the increase or expansion in economic output, whether in the form of products, services, or other economic activities. Economic growth is often measured through GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth, which reflects the total value of goods and services produced in a country within a certain period (Rijal & Saranani, 2023). On the other hand, innovation refers to the development or application of new ideas, methods, or technologies to create added value or improve efficiency in a process or product. Innovation can involve changes in the design, features, or functionality of a product or the introduction of new technologies that change how we work, interact, or live daily (Muhamad et al., 2023). Growth is often driven by innovation, as innovation can create new opportunities, increase productivity, and create differentiation that enables a business or economy to grow and compete better. In combination, growth and innovation play a key role in driving economic and social progress, opening up new opportunities for development, and improving the overall quality of life for society.

3. RESEARCH METHOD
In this research, the method used is a qualitative literature review, drawing data from Google Scholar within the timeframe of 2007 to 2023. The initial stage involves identifying relevant research themes, such as the role of social media in student entrepreneurship and its influence on entrepreneurial awareness. Then, literature searches are conducted on Google Scholar using predetermined keywords. Subsequently, the data are filtered based on relevance to pre-established inclusion criteria. Relevant data are selected for qualitative analysis, focusing on findings related to the research objectives. This analysis includes an in-depth understanding of the content of each article, aiming to identify patterns or themes emerging from the literature reviewed. Findings from various sources are synthesized and compared to build a more comprehensive understanding of the research topic. The results of the analysis are used to compile a comprehensive literature review, including summaries of key findings and a deep understanding of the concepts emerging from the literature reviewed.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION
In the rapidly evolving digital era, the role of social media has become increasingly significant in influencing various aspects of life, particularly in the contexts of education and entrepreneurship. The continuous advancement of technology has expanded accessibility and speed in obtaining information, transforming social media into a highly influential platform in stimulating awareness and developing entrepreneurial skills among students. By leveraging appropriate strategies, social media has the potential to be a powerful source of motivation for students to enhance creativity, develop entrepreneurial skills, and drive innovation (Azhar
& Akhtar, 2020). Through educational content, inspirational stories, and extensive networks, social media enables students to engage in discussions, share ideas, and broaden their insights into the business and entrepreneurial world. Thus, social media is not just a communication tool but also a medium that fosters the growth and development of students' potential in this digital era.

As a global communication network accessible to various segments of society, social media provides students with extensive access to information, ideas, and opportunities in this digital era. By utilizing social media efficiently and intelligently, students can stay updated on the latest developments in the business world, explore success stories from prominent entrepreneurs, and connect with entrepreneurial communities that provide inspiration (Dwivedi et al., 2021). Through active participation in platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, students can expand their networks and absorb knowledge from various experiences shared by others. Thus, social media serves not only as a communication tool but also as a space that allows students to engage in collaborative learning, share ideas, and broaden their insights into innovative and relevant entrepreneurial practices.

Additionally, social media provides an ideal platform for students to disseminate their own creative ideas and receive direct feedback from the community. By sharing ideas about new products or services they create, students can conduct potential market testing directly and gain valuable insights into consumer preferences and unmet market needs. Indeed, numerous talented students have successfully launched their own businesses solely by harnessing the power of social media as a means to build their brand and reach potential customers. Utilizing social media as a marketing and promotion tool also enables students to measure the response and performance of their businesses in real-time, allowing for quick adjustment of strategies and responsive adaptation to market changes and industry trends (Chakraborty & Jain, 2022). Thus, social media not only functions as a communication tool but also as a vital foundation for the development and growth of businesses among entrepreneurial-minded students.

Beyond serving as a communication tool, social media also has significant potential as an effective instrument in increasing awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation among students. By organizing informative and inspiring educational campaigns, educational institutions and entrepreneurship organizations can leverage various social media platforms to promote programs aimed at supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills among students (Olanrewaju et al., 2020). This includes workshops, seminars, and business competitions designed to expand knowledge, enhance skills, and build networks in the entrepreneurial world. With widespread access and the ability to interact directly with educational content, students can be stimulated to explore their interests and talents in entrepreneurship, as well as respond to challenges and opportunities related to the business world. Thus, social media not only serves as a communication platform but also as an important learning and promotional tool in shaping a generation of entrepreneurial and innovative-minded students.

Although social media offers significant benefits, it's important to remember that excessive or inappropriate use can disrupt students' productivity and well-being. Therefore, it's crucial for educational institutions and students themselves to adopt a balanced approach in utilizing social media. This means ensuring that social media use is not solely for entertainment or time-wasting purposes but also supports students' academic and professional goals. By being aware of the positive and negative impacts of social media, students can develop better time management skills and self-control, and integrate social media into their daily routines in a more productive and meaningful way (Sivakumar et al., 2023). Thus, social media can be a useful tool in supporting students' personal and academic development, as long as it's used wisely and aligned with their needs and goals.

Holistically, the role of social media in raising awareness and developing entrepreneurial skills among students has significant implications. By maximizing the potential offered by various social media platforms, students have the opportunity to become agents of change who not only inspire innovation but also drive business growth and sustainable social progress. In this context, it's important for all stakeholders involved, including educational institutions, governments, and businesses, to continue promoting wise and productive social media use. These steps may include the development of education programs focusing on the use of social media for entrepreneurial purposes, providing relevant resources and mentorship, and promoting collaboration among students, industry stakeholders, and local communities. Thus, social media becomes not only a communication tool but also a crucial catalyst in creating an environment that supports entrepreneurial growth among students and society as a whole (Troise et al., 2022).

In efforts to stimulate awareness and develop entrepreneurial skills among students through social
media, there are several important aspects to consider. Firstly, the development of digital skills is crucial as a foundation for effectively leveraging social media. Students need to be equipped with a deep understanding of various features and tools available on social media platforms. This includes the ability to create engaging and relevant content, build strong networks with audiences and potential partners, and analyze data and trends to make better decisions in marketing and product development strategies (Haleem et al., 2022). Additionally, it’s important to enhance students’ digital literacy by providing training on online ethics, digital security, and online reputation management so that they can interact with social media wisely and responsibly. Through a holistic approach that combines technical and ethical aspects, educational institutions can prepare students to become skilled and effective social media users in the context of entrepreneurship and professionalism in this digital era.

Furthermore, collaboration between students and across disciplines is also a crucial aspect in stimulating entrepreneurship through social media. These platforms provide an ideal space to facilitate idea exchange and collaboration among individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests. By collaborating, students can combine their skills and knowledge from various fields of study, complementing each other and creating greater and more impactful innovations. Additionally, interdisciplinary collaboration allows students to see problems from various perspectives, explore more holistic solutions, and broaden the scope of impact from the entrepreneurial projects they undertake (Meng et al., 2023). Thus, interdisciplinary collaboration on social media not only enriches students’ learning experiences but also expands their creative and innovative potential in creating relevant and sustainable solutions to complex challenges in this interconnected global era.

Furthermore, steps are needed to strengthen closer ties between the academic and industrial worlds through the utilization of social media. By forming strong partnerships with various companies, startups, and professionals in the field of entrepreneurship, students can gain access to invaluable insights into the realities of the business world. Through interactions on social media, students can stay updated on industry developments, learn about current market trends, and receive input and advice from experts in their field (Ausat et al., 2023). Moreover, established relationships can lead to internship opportunities, project collaborations, or even networking for funding for business ideas they are developing. By leveraging social media as a tool to build professional networks, students can develop valuable connections that can support their future career journeys. Thus, collaboration between the academic and industrial worlds through social media not only enriches students’ learning experiences but also opens doors to real opportunities in developing careers and launching new ventures.

Equally important is the effort to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation through inspiring content and tangible education. By disseminating success stories, providing practical tips, and offering useful resources, social media has tremendous potential as a powerful tool to provide motivation and guidance to students in their entrepreneurial journey. Through these platforms, students can easily access various relevant information and knowledge and learn from the experiences and successes of others in starting their own businesses. Additionally, inspirational and educational content on social media can shape a positive entrepreneurial mindset and foster the courage to take risks and face challenges in developing new ideas (Hölzner & Halberstadt, 2023). Thus, this approach aims not only to provide knowledge but also to change the attitudes and behaviors of students to be more proactive and empowered in their roles as agents of change and value creators in society.

The importance of considering the social and environmental impacts of entrepreneurial activities driven by social media cannot be overlooked (Casson & Giusta, 2007). Students need to be encouraged to develop businesses that are not only economically profitable but also sustainable and socially and environmentally responsible. This requires them to have a deep understanding of the implications of their actions on society and the environment around them. In this context, it’s crucial for educational institutions and entrepreneurship organizations to provide training and education on sustainable and environmentally friendly business practices. Students also need to be made aware of the positive and negative potentials of technology and digitization in relation to social and environmental issues. By understanding the impacts of their businesses, students can play a more active role in promoting sustainable development and minimizing the negative impacts of their business activities, thus creating greater value for society and the surrounding environment.

In conclusion, it can be summarized that social media has great potential to stimulate awareness and develop entrepreneurial skills among students. However, to harness it optimally, close cooperation between...
educational institutions, industry, and students themselves is required. Through strong collaboration, they can create an environment that supports entrepreneurial growth and innovation. Students who use social media effectively can act as agents of change, bringing innovation, growth, and positive impact to society. This demonstrates that social media is not just a communication tool but also a potential platform to empower students in their entrepreneurial journey and realize their vision for building a better world. Thus, collective efforts in utilizing social media productively and responsibly are key to shaping a future of sustainable and inclusive entrepreneurship.

5. CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION, SUGGESTION, AND LIMITATIONS
In the rapidly evolving digital era, social media plays a highly significant role in influencing life, including education and entrepreneurship. Social media provides broad access to information, ideas, and opportunities for students. With the right approach, social media can stimulate awareness and develop entrepreneurial skills among students. Effective utilization of social media can expand students’ networks, facilitate idea exchange, and enable them to share their own ideas and receive direct feedback. Social media can also be used to increase awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as to promote programs supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills.

Students need to be equipped with deep digital skills to effectively leverage social media. Collaboration among students and interdisciplinary collaboration need to be encouraged to yield greater innovation. Enhancing the relationship between academia and industry through social media is necessary, as well as promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation through inspirational content and action-oriented education. Excessive or inappropriate use of social media can disrupt students’ productivity and well-being. It is important to maintain a balance in social media usage to ensure that it supports students’ academic and professional goals. The social and environmental impacts of entrepreneurship activities driven by social media also need to be seriously considered.

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