

Entrepreneurship in Jordan: the Eco-system of the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOS)

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Research

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Abstract

This study aims at assessing the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs) in Jordan with an updated eco-system reflecting the better resourced Social Entrepreneurship eco-system characterized with comprehensive information; covering the stakeholders' identification data, ongoing projects and initiatives, work scope, and their targeted groups, accurate data based on a well-developed survey and analysis of the survey data by our experts. This study also aims at assessing the SESOs capacity by coincide their desired needs and their actual needs, and limit the social innovation concept variation among the different institutions in the ecosystem. This study provides a survey analysis for the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs), and an attempt to identify their characteristics and roles in Jordan by adopting the qualitative and quantitative analysis approach as its methodology. Results show that (57.89%) of the SESO's in Jordan have dedicated programs that focus on women's inclusion, and that (68.42%) are hiring more than 50% in their staff. Besides that, results also show that (59.65%) of the SESO's in Jordan did not dedicate programs for people with disability (PWD); which is a high portion in neglecting this segment of people. Besides that (54.39%) do not have designed facilities friendly using for people with disabilities. Moreover, results show that (73.68%) had dedicated programs for youth with different age groups and (77.19%) of the SESO's in Jordan had attempt to identify, understand and actively removing barriers that exist for certain groups of young people in society. Moreover, (70.18%) of the SESO's in Jordan had organized specific outreach mechanisms to identify, meet, engage, and/or serve different population groups. Finally, results show that (38.60%) of the SESO's in Jordan had dedicated programs for refugees.

Introduction

Social entrepreneurship is the solution for raising the challenges of sustainable development, which requires improving living conditions for all individuals without an increase in the use of natural resources; as the civilization of a nation is measured by the level of per capita income, far from developing its characteristics, advantages and human contributions.

The value and effectiveness of social capital is focused on social relations, cooperation and trust for achieving economic goals, and it consists of social networks; networks of civic participation, and common customs that have an impact on the productivity of the society, and have a value that affects the productivity of an individual or group. The social sector is considered a key factor for the success of democracy and political participation (Wolf, 2009).

An entrepreneurship ecosystem is defined as the social and economic environment that affects local or regional entrepreneurship. In addition, this system refers to the elements, individuals, organizations, or institutions that support entrepreneurs and their success before and after the launch their projects (Stam & Spigel, 2016).

The entrepreneurship ecosystem may include a large number of elements called entrepreneurship stakeholders, and this term may include government, schools, universities, the private sector, family businesses, investors, banks, businessmen, social leaders, research centers, worker representatives, students, lawyers, multinational companies, private institutions, and international aid agencies (Mason & Brown, 2014).

To understand more about the characteristics of the entrepreneurship ecosystem, we need to go back to 2010 when the article entitled “How to foment an Entrepreneurial Revolution,” written by Daniel Eisenberg, Professor at Babson College, and published in the Harvard Business Review. Eisenberg established some of the rules and collected characteristics that describe these systems in which entrepreneurship tends to thrive. He also suggested, based on examples from around the world, which entrepreneurs are more successful if they have access to the human, financial and professional resources they need, in an environment where government policies encourage and protect entrepreneurs. In general, the ecosystem for entrepreneurship includes a number of areas: politics, finance, culture, institutional support, people, and markets (Isenberg, 2011).

The Jordanian National Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises 2016-2020 diagnosed Jordan's position in entrepreneurship, and considered that the entrepreneurial culture in the Kingdom is weak, and that the weakness of the entrepreneurial culture is one of the most prominent obstacles to Jordan development in businesses and emerging entrepreneurs who use technical advice in developing their projects, which are provided by government institutions, civil society institutions, and business associations. Jordan in 2017 was ranked 49 out of 137 countries according to the global leadership indicators approved by the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Foundation (GEDI), while its global ranking declined in terms of (Starting a Business) from the 83rd place in 2015 to the 103rd place in 2017. The country according to World Bank indicators, which is required encouraging entrepreneurship among young people coming to labor market, especially in light of the difficulty of finding a job in the public and private sectors and due to the increase in the number of graduates at a level that greatly exceeds what can be absorbed by these two sectors (The Higher Population Council report, 2018).

1.2 Problem Statement

Jordan is witnessing a demographic change, the most notable manifestation of this change is in the age structure of the population in favor of the working-age population, and Jordan also suffers from high rates of unemployment among youth, especially among graduates from universities, technical colleges, and training institutes. This phenomenon varies according to gender and governorates, as the participation of women in the labor market decreases, and the desire of young people for self-employment and the implementation of their own projects for them decreases. The national efforts exerted to enable young people to be entrepreneurs are still below ambitions and have not reached the level at which they can address this situation.

This study provides a survey analysis for the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs), and an attempt to identify their characteristics and roles in Jordan by trying to answer the following questions:

1. What are the institutions sponsoring entrepreneurship at the national level in the governorates of the Kingdom?
2. What are the services they provide and the challenges they face in empowering young people with entrepreneurship, and their recommendations to overcome these challenges?
3. What is the level of coordination and complementarity of roles between these institutions?
4. What are the organizations' two-liner mission

1.3 Literature review

Since the term entrepreneurship appeared in Jordan in the sixties of the last century, and the serious attempts that took place to be a bridge for development in all Jordanian governorates, it did not receive sufficient attention for several reasons, most of which are related to the coordination and legislative framework organizing the interrelations within the sector. This naturally necessitated heading to the sub-sectors that make up the entrepreneurship sector in general, since the urgent need was the main driver in showing these sub-sectors, the most important of which was the social entrepreneurship sector in Jordan, as the concept of social entrepreneurship is considered a method followed by start-up companies or entrepreneurs, including a set of measures aimed at developing, finding and implementing solutions to economic, social, cultural, or environmental issues or other issues that seek to create a safe environment for groups of the society that aim to create an environment to overcome marginalization through education, volunteer youth programs or organizing civil work with a social impact (Alrawadieh & Alrawadieh, 2018).

Social entrepreneurship encompasses a set of opportunities, the most important of which is creating a clear framework to support all segments of society, creating a prosperous and sustainable future and a strong economy capable of growth to reduce poverty and unemployment. In addition to responding to the many of the needs of local communities, which are mainly related to the basic needs of societies, which are the sectors of education, health and the infrastructure (Santos, 2012).

Despite all this, social entrepreneurship and the great opportunities it offers, however, face a set of challenges and obstacles that would significantly limit its growth and expansion, which will be reflected in the number of jobs that the sector will create, and the most prominent of these challenges lies in the absence of a legislative framework that organizes the relationship and fulfills the interests of all parties, which is the responsibility of the government to implement (Mehtap, 2014).

The Ambassador of the European Union to Jordan Andrea Fontana said: Social entrepreneurship has become an innovative practical model that helps bring about change and reflects positively on local communities, pointing the experience of the European Union with Jordan to improve its business

environment, and in particular by linking business incubators with social entrepreneurs who are looking to make a positive change in their societies by finding sustainable solutions to existing problems (Jordan news agency, 2020).

Social entrepreneurship is the solution to raising the challenges of sustainable development, which requires improving living conditions for all individuals without an increase in the use of natural resources in an effective sustainability capable of preserving resources for future generations, as the civilizations of nations have become measured by the individual's income level, far from developing his characteristics, advantages and human contributions (Azmat, 2013).

The most important effects of social entrepreneurship on the development of any society can be measured in a sustainable manner according to the following levels:

- Short term level: tangible changes in the society's economy (creating jobs, generating outputs, or increasing savings).
- Medium term level: The value of social entrepreneurship is reflected in being a potential model that works on the well-being of society and improving its conditions, and then the success of social entrepreneurship is measured by its ability to increase productivity and development projects.
- Long term level: The most significant contribution of social entrepreneurship occurs in the long run, and is measured by its ability to create and invest social capital.

In order to proceed with social entrepreneurship, there is the need to increase the number of social business incubators that yield material profit and do not contradict the public benefit, and their success is measured by the benefit achieved by the society in addition to material profit. Social entrepreneurs need wider networks to exchange ideas and spread best practices. Isolating those makes entrepreneurship less efficient, and the entrepreneur often tries to come up with his own solutions to overcome this isolation, by collecting and disseminating best practices, and provides a forum for discussion and creation of ideas, and entrepreneurs can exchange communications and linkages with companies, providing a job market of some kind, or conducting joint training (Dey & Lehner, 2017).

1.4 Study Objectives

The study aims at assessing the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs) in Jordan with an updated eco-system reflecting the following objectives:

1. Better resourced Social Entrepreneurship eco-system characterized with:
 - Comprehensive information; covering the stakeholders' identification data, ongoing projects and initiatives, work scope, and their targeted groups.
 - Accurate data based on a well-developed survey.
 - Analysis of the survey data by our experts.

1. Assessing the SESOs capacity by coincide their desired needs and their actual needs.
2. Limit the social innovation concept variation among the different institutions in the ecosystem.

1.5 Study Methodology

Whatever the focus is, qualitative and quantitative analysis approach should be concerned with interpretation of subjective meaning, and description of social context. In addition, the adopted methodology in this study clarifies how people in certain contexts come to appreciate, justify, carry out and administer their routine circumstances, and seek to deliver data within the society. Qualitative content analysis can be referred to as a research method for subjective interpretation of the content of text data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns.

1.6 Analysis and Discussion

1.6.1 Facts about Jordan related to the (SESOs) Eco-system analysis in Jordan

1.6.1.1 Fact one: Population and area Distribution by Governorate in Jordan

1.6.1.2 Fact two: Percentages related to Amman

Amman is the third governorate by area in Jordan: with a population percentage of (42.0%) of the total population in Jordan, and with the Population Density of (571 per km²). The first two governorates are Ma'an governorate with a population percentage of (1.70%) of the total population in Jordan, and with the Population Density of (5.2 per km²), and Mafraq governorate with a population percentage of (5.80%) of the total population in Jordan, and with the Population Density of (22.4 per km²). Irbid governorate, which is the eighth governorate in area; has the highest Population Density of (1216.2 per km²). Followed by Jarash governorate with the Population Density of (624.7 per km²). Moreover, figure (1) shows these distributions.

1.6.2 Descriptive analytical statistics

1.6.2.1 Demographic statistics

1.6.2.1.1 Organization's head office location

The geographic distribution of the organizations' head office locations had showed that (82.5%) are located inside Amman, and (17.5%) are located outside Amman. Figure (2) shows these distributions.

1.6.2.1.2 Organizations are active

SESOs in Jordan are active locally, regionally and globally. (100%) are active locally, (39.2%) are active locally and regionally, (28.9%) are active locally and globally, while (13.4%) are active locally, regionally and globally. Moreover, figure (3) shows these distributions.

The SESOs whom are active locally, (90.72%) are operating in Amman governorate, (45.36%) are operating in Irbid governorate, (31.96%) are operating in Ajlun governorate, (36.10%) are operating in Jarash governorate, (30.92%) are operating in Balqa governorate, (36.10%) are operating in Ma'an governorate, (39.17%) are operating in Aqaba governorate, (33.00%) are operating in Tafila governorate, (42.23%) are operating in Karak governorate, (41.24%) are operating in Zarqa governorate, (40.20%) are operating in Mafraq governorate, and (41.24%) are operating in Madaba governorate. Moreover, figure (4.a) shows these distributions.

Data also show that (26.80%) are operating in all Jordanian governorates, (33.0%) are operating in one governorate, and (40.20%) are operating in more than one governorate but not in all governorates. Moreover, figure (4.b) shows these distributions.

Out of the SESOs operating in one Jordanian governorate (75.0%) are operating in Amman governorate, (12.50%) are operating in Irbid governorate and (3.00%) for each are operating in Madaba, Mafraq, Karak and Aqaba governorates. Moreover, figure (5) shows these distributions.

Data in figure (4.a) show that Balqa governorate had the lowest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates (30.92%), and Amman governorate had the highest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates (90.72%). Therefore, in linking these percentages with the population percentages; figure (6) illustrates the correlation that indicates a higher individual percentage of the SESOs activities in Balqa governorate (5.95%); which is higher than Amman governorate (2.16%).

Data in figure (4.a) also show that Ajlun governorate had the second lowest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates (31.96%), and Irbid governorate had the second highest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates (45.36%). Therefore, in linking these percentages with the population percentages; figure (7) illustrates the correlation that indicates a higher individual percentage of the SESOs activities in Ajlun governorate (17.5%); which is higher than Irbid governorate (2.45%).

In addition, when comparing the third lowest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates; Tafila governorate with the percentage of (33.00%) with Karak governorate; the third highest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates (42.23%), figure (8) illustrates the correlation that indicates a higher individual percentage of the SESOs activities in Tafila governorate (33.0%); which is higher than Karak governorate (12.78%).

Data in figures (6, 7 and 8) show that, in order to reach fair proportions for the distribution of the SESOs activities in Jordan, population distribution percentages must be one of the main factors, which the activities are distributed upon.

1.6.2.1.3 Employing the Internet and social media

Data shows that (86.6%) of the SESOs own a website, while (13.40%) do not. Moreover, figure (9) shows these distributions.

Related to these facts, (15.50%) do own a website and are not using social media, (5.51%) do not own a website but using social media, (7.21%) do not own a website and are not using social media. Moreover, figure (10) shows these distributions.

Related to the data in figure (10), as (15.50%) do own a website and are not using social media, (5.51%) do not own a website but using social media and (7.21%) do not own a website and are not using social media; and because everyone is using social media these days, and some are doing it better than others.

Social entrepreneurs in particular should take advantage of the audience, reach, and potential virility of the vast array of mediums to spread their news for better results, and longer-lasting initiatives. A powerful tool, social media, at its core, is a conversation medium that enables people, brands and companies to interact with their target audiences in a meaningful, personalized and helpful way. Today, no business can survive without a powerful online presence, and social entrepreneurs should know this to be true. They should be urged to use social media for a variety of purposes such as raising awareness or empowering their audience to change and participate in their efforts to make a difference.

The distributions of the use of social media show that (78.35%) are using Facebook, (47.42%) are using Twitter and (36.10%) are using LinkedIn. Moreover, figure 911) shows these distributions.

1.6.2.1.3 Startup, registration type and staff size

The first SESOs registered in Jordan was in 1968, and for showing the period of the creation of these SESOs, the time data is divided every ten years. Moreover, data in figure (12) below show that most of the SESOs in Jordan are created in the last ten years.

In addition, figure (13) below show the distributions of the type of registry of the SESOs in Jordan.

Moreover, and concerning staff size, figure (14) shows these distributions.

Related to these distributions; organizations hiring more the 250 employees are divided into the following percentages according to the type of registration: (33.34%) are non-for-profit-Society, (33.34%) are governmental organizations, and (33.34%) are distributed equally for (Semi-governmental organizations, for profit company and other; which is defined as international organizations. and figure (15) shows these distributions.

In addition, for the organizations hiring from 50 to 249 employees, they are divided into the following percentages according to the type of registration: (44.45%) are non-for-profit-Society, (33.34%) are other type of registration, and (22.21%) are distributed equally for (Semi-governmental organizations and for profit company). Moreover, figure (16) shows these distributions.

1.6.3 Qualitative analysis

1.6.3.1 Organization's two-liner mission

Whatever the focus is, qualitative analysis approach should be concerned with interpretation of subjective meaning, and description of social context. In addition, this clarifies how people in certain contexts come to appreciate, justify, carry out and administer their routine circumstances, and seek to deliver data within the society.

Qualitative content analysis can be referred to as a “research method for subjective interpretation of the content of text data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns”. Thus, and after examining the three most prominent grounded theory methodologies; the data concerning the asked question (*Organization’s two-liner mission is?*) will be analyzed upon Strauss and Corbin (1990, 1998) grounded theory (Walker & Myrick, 2006), as it would be the most suitable in this analysis using NVivo 11. This will apply the four-stage data analyzing strategy summarized in Table (1).

Then after analyzing the preliminary codes obtained from the responses with each code representing a significant topic of discussion related to the organization’s two-liner missions. The concluded saturated codes that were necessary to understand the phenomenon had emerged as shown in table (2).

For the (*Antecedents*), the main themes comprised the organizations’ two-liner mission description according to their answers are illustrated in table (3).

In addition, table (4) illustrates the themes for the positive sides of the phenomenon according to their answers.

Moreover, table (5) illustrates the themes for the negative sides of the phenomenon according to their answers.

The analysis of the codes went through four main phases, according to the following model. The model illustrated in figure (17) (the paradigm model) is generated entirely by utilizing NVivo 11 as a result of codes and themes established and being linked together in the second and the third phases (axial and selective). These relationships of concepts are rigorously established based on the validation process in phase four; the selective data analysis.

Data analyzed concluded that, it became a credible hypothesis to be validated noting that the grounded theory put forward the approach that did not commence with a hypothesis to be confirmed or refuted. However, it is an area to be extravagantly investigated by the ongoing in-depth analysis until assimilation of the issue had been completed and the procedure sustained. However, it was the phrase of “*Economic and social empowerment*” as a probable key category that led to the validation of the perceived hypothesis. Therefore, and in the emerging categories, the key category that surfaced was that informants engaged in their attempt to answer the asked question (Organization’s two-liner mission is?); “*Economic and social empowerment*” have established the concept of the generated behaviors that caused positive and negative impacts toward the (Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs)) activates and missions, which could be regarded as the phenomena in the current analysis.

1.6.3.2 Quantitative analysis: SESOs verification

Data in figure (18) below show the distributions for providing or not providing support services for startups, entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs, as the percentage for those who provide such services is (80.41%) and for those who don't provide these services is (19.59%).

Moreover, for those who are providing support services for startups, entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs; data show that (53.56%) are supporting less than 50 entrepreneurship beneficiaries so far. While (32.30%) are supporting from 51 to 100 entrepreneurship beneficiaries so far, and (3.06%) are supporting from 101 to 500 entrepreneurship beneficiaries so far. In addition, (11.08%) are supporting more than (1000) entrepreneurship beneficiaries so far. Moreover, figure (19) shows these distributions.

Concerning if the (SESOs) provide exclusive support services for social enterprises or social entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs, data also show that, (41.24%) are providing an exclusive and direct support for social entrepreneurs, enterprises and nascent social entrepreneurs in running a social business incubator, which only enrolls social business models, while (58.76%) are opening their support for all types of entrepreneurs. Moreover, figure (20) shows these distributions.

For those who provide exclusive support services for social enterprises or social entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs; their support actions had covered:

- Nascent social entrepreneurs, those in the formation stage: (Those who are still at the pre-ideation phase, however, have the high-level intention to social entrepreneurship).
- Social entrepreneurs in the validation stage: (Those who identified their endeavor's main service/ product and validated it).
- Social entrepreneurs in the growth stage: (Working on their business model / market fit and scaling up their work / internationalization).
- Social enterprises in failure / closure phase SE's (helping closing-down SE's to restructure, close or recycle their activities supporting to carry on the consequences).

In addition, the distributions in figure (21) below show the currently ongoing projects for those who are providing exclusive support services for social enterprises or social entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs.

1.6.4 Quantitative and qualitative analysis for the SESOs calcifications

For classifying SESOs in Jordan upon the services provided, the analysis is divided into two categories: organizations providing one single service, and organizations providing multiple services. Moreover, figure (22) shows the percentages of these two categories.

Category one: Organizations providing one single service

The percentage of the organizations providing one single service is (13.40%), out of these (54.55%) are providing training services, (24.79%) are providing funding services, (18.18%) are providing education

services, and (2.48%) are providing incubation services. Moreover, figure (23) is showing these distributions.

1.6.5 Organizations providing multiple services

Data in figure (24) below show the distributions of the services' percentages provided by the organizations providing multiple services. Moreover, the percentages below are calculated over the whole surveyed sample. In addition, the (Other services) are:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Services
- Access to finance, Access to markets
- International and national Cultural exchanges as well as collaborations with EU NGOs
- Connect entrepreneurs in the field of product making to new markets
- Studies and policies
- Technical support
- Marketing and communications
- E-commerce platform that provides e-stores
- Sales and providing raw materials
- CSR and mentoring

Data in figure (24) show the distributions of the Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (SESOs) services. These services are delivered directly to social enterprises, social entrepreneurs, or nascent entrepreneurs. For mapping these services, they should be categorized in the following order:

Category (1): representing training, coaching and education services, the average percentage of these services is equal to (41.93%).

Category (2): representing incubation and fellowship services, and the average percentage of these services is equal to (13.97%).

Category (3): representing advocacy, consultancy, mentorship and legal services, and the average percentage of these services is equal to (20.92%).

Category (4): representing awareness campaigns related to the social ecosystem, ecosystem mapping, acceleration and linkage to opportunities services, and the average percentage of these services is equal to (20.53%).

Category (5): representing media exposure and Networking / Exchange services, and the average percentage of these services is equal to (35.05%).

Category (6): representing funding and awarding and recognition services, and the average percentage of these services is equal to (17.86%).

In light of working in the entrepreneurship ecosystem (either as a social entrepreneur, enterprise or support organization), Moreover, table (6) shows the distributions of the ranking of the challenges based on severity.

Data in table (6) show that (46.25%) of the SESOs in Jordan consider that challenge (3: Lack of funding and financing) is the most severe challenge, and challenge (9: Poor related education; which will lead to poor quality of social ideas, concepts and projects received by beneficiaries) is the second most severe challenge with the percentage of (44.12%). Moreover, challenge (8: Lack of knowledge related to social business models (revenue generation) came in the third place of severity with the percentage of (32.23%). In addition, in the fourth place came challenge (5: Lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem) with the percentage of (27.15%). Therefore, the four most severe challenges facing the SESOs in Jordan (*see figure 28*) are:

1. Lack of funding and financing
2. Poor related education
3. Lack of knowledge related to social business models
4. Lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem

Data in table (6) also reflects these facts:

Fact one: For the highest-ranking challenge, (46.25%) of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of funding and financing is the first most severe challenge, while (3.15%) find that the lack of funding and financing is a least severe challenge. Moreover, figure (26) reflects this fact.

Related to the severity correlation of the highest-ranking challenge, and in the scale (1-10), (1) is the most severe challenge and (10) is least severe challenge), and for analyzing the highest-ranking challenge (lack of funding and financing); figure (27) reflects the distributions of the severity of the highest-ranking challenge.

Data in figure (27) show that the majority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of funding and financing is the first most severe challenge (reflecting an unstable financial situation) and the minority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of funding and financing is a least severe challenge (reflecting a stable financial situation).

Fact two: For the second highest-ranking challenge, (44.12%) of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the poor related education is the second most severe challenge, while (12.42%) find that the poor related education is a least severe challenge. Moreover, figure (28) reflects this fact.

Data in figure (28) show that the majority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the poor related education is the second most severe challenge (reflecting the poor quality of social ideas, concepts and projects received by beneficiaries). In addition, the minority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the poor related

education is a least severe challenge (reflecting the good quality of social ideas, concepts and projects received by beneficiaries).

Fact three: For the third highest-ranking challenge, (32.23%) of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of knowledge related to social business models is the third most severe challenge, while (11.25%) find that the lack of knowledge related to social business models is a least severe challenge. Moreover, figure (29) reflects this fact.

Data in figure (29) show that the majority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of knowledge related to social business models is the third most severe challenge (reflecting a poor revenue generation). In addition, the minority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of knowledge related to social business models is a least severe challenge (reflecting a good revenue generation).

Fact four: For the fourth highest-ranking challenge, (27.15%) of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem is the fourth most severe challenge, while (10.19%) find that the lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem is a least severe challenge. Moreover, figure (30) reflects this fact.

Data in figure (30) show that the majority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem is the fourth most severe challenge (reflecting the ineffective linking of social entrepreneurs, enterprises and support organizations together). In addition, the minority of the SESOs in Jordan finds that the lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem is a least severe challenge (reflecting the effective linking of social entrepreneurs, enterprises and support organizations together).

Furthermore, figures (31a, b, c and d) shows the reflections of the first four most severe challenges facing the SESOs in Jordan.

For ranking the SESOs needs based on priority, table (7) shows the high and low priority percentages for the SESOs needs that enable a better interact of the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Data in table (7) show that the highest priority need is the (Access to finance) with a percentage of (47.84%). Moreover, the second ranked high priority need is the (Direct consultation) with a percentage of (28.56%). In addition, the third ranked high priority need is the (Joining a network to meet similar SESO's) with a percentage of (23.40%). On the other hand the lowest priority need is the (Recruitment support) with a percentage of (30.05%), followed by (Advocacy) as the second low priority need with a percentage of (17.28%).

These results reflects that most of the SESO's in Jordan are in need with a high priority for:

1. Financial support
2. Consultations
3. Joining networks to meet similar SESO's

And also reflects that the SESO's in Jordan are not in need with a high priority for:

1. Recruitment support
2. Advocacy

Furthermore, and for ranking the SESOs training needs based on priority, table (8) shows the high and low priority percentages for the SESOs training needs that enable to better serve the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Data in table (8) show that, the highest priority training need is the (Fundamentals of Fundraising) with a percentage of (36.50%). Moreover, the second ranked high priority training need is the (Financial management) with a percentage of (31.25%). In addition, the third ranked high priority training need is the (Fabrication and modern manufacturing methods) with a percentage of (30.25%). While the fourth highest priority training need is the (How to build an inclusive business model) with a percentage of (29.50%). On the other hand the lowest priority training need is for those who claim that (I am not interested in attending any training need, and do not have any current specific needs) with a percentage of (35.10%). Followed by (Digital marketing and social media) as the second low priority training need with a percentage of (22.35%). Also followed by (Utilizing technology in hiring and onboarding) as the third low priority training need with a percentage of (17.44%).

These results reflects that most of the SESO's in Jordan are in need with a high priority for these training needs:

1. Fundamentals of Fundraising
2. Financial management
3. Fabrication and modern manufacturing methods
4. How to build an inclusive business model

Moreover, data reflects that the SESO's in Jordan are not in need with a high priority for these training needs:

1. Any training need
2. Digital marketing and social media
3. Utilizing technology in hiring and onboarding

1.6.6 Quantitative and qualitative analysis for the SESOs sustainability

To determine the source or the sources of finance for the SESO's in Jordan; figure (32) below shows the percentages of these sources.

Data in figure (32) show that the highest source of finance for the SESO's in Jordan is the (Donors) with the percentage of (33.75%), followed by the (Private sector funding CSR) source of finance with the

percentage of (28.22%), and followed by the (Bank loans) source of finance with the percentage of (24.55%). In the other hand the least source of finance for the SESO's in Jordan is the (Revenue making) with the percentage of (16.58%), followed by the (Government funding) source of finance with the percentage of (18.34%). In addition, of course SESO's in Jordan rely on more than one funding source.

1.6.6.1 Financial characteristics of the SESO's in Jordan

1.6.6.1.1 Financial sustainability

Data in figure (33) show that (52.63%) organization are financially sustainable, meaning it is able to keep its operations regardless of donors and external funding availability. While (47.37%) organization are financially unsustainable.

1.6.6.1.2 Developing revenue generation arms

Data in figure (34) show that (70.10%) agree with that, social and non-for-profits projects that developed revenue generation arms; it harms their reputation, and (29.90%) disagree with that social and non-for-profits projects that developed revenue generation arms, it will harms their reputation.

1.6.6.1.3 Revenue generation activities

Data in figure (35) show that (63.16%) have revenue generation activities and (36.84%) do not have revenue generation activities.

1.6.6.1.4 Business model design

Data in figure (36) show that (63.16%) do have a business model design and (12.28%) do not have a business model design, while (24.56%) are not sure if they have a business model design.

1.6.6.1.5 Social mandate or social value

Data in figure (37) below show that (87.72%) do have social mandate or social value provided to the community and (10.10%) do not have social mandate or social value provided to the community, while (2.18%) are not sure if they have social mandate or social value provided to the community.

Note: Social mandate or social value means that work include social integration that may be at any point of work Like unprivileged women are the main suppliers for your product /service, products are environment-friendly, activities respond to the SDG's & spread awareness about a global issue and selling the final product/service at lower prices for people with less purchasing power.

1.6.7 Quantitative and qualitative analysis for the SESOs inclusion and diversity

1.6.7.1 General inclusion

1.6.7.1.1 Presence of written diversity and inclusion policies

Data in figure (38) below show that (50.88%) do have written diversity and inclusion policies and (26.32%) do not have written diversity and inclusion policies, while (22.80%) are not sure if they have written diversity and inclusion policies.

1.6.7.1.2 Providing staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence

Data in figure (39) below show that (77.19%) do provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work, and (3.51%) do not provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work, while (19.30%) are not sure if they provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work.

1.6.7.1.3 Applying website and online accessibility functions

Data in figure (40) below show that (35.10%) do apply website and online accessibility functions, and (36.84%) do not apply website and online accessibility functions, while (28.06%) are not sure if they apply website and online accessibility functions.

1.6.7.1.3 Activity engagement

Data in figure (41) below show that (71.93%) do engage activities and (14.03%) do not engage activities, while (14.04%) are not sure if they engage activities.

Note: the activities are advocacy, communication and advertisement, public relations, networking or related initiatives with a public reach that openly promote, support or celebrate socioeconomic inclusion and/or equality of specific population groups.

1.6.7.2 Targeted audience

Data in table (9) show the percentage distributions of the SESO's activities in Jordan for:

1. Women
2. People with disability (BWD)
3. Youth
4. Refugees

Results in table (9) show that (57.89%) of the SESO's in Jordan have dedicated programs that focus on women's inclusion, and that (68.42%) are hiring more than 50% in their staff. Results also show that (59.65%) of the SESO's in Jordan did not dedicate programs for people with disability (PWD); which is a high portion in neglecting this segment of people. Besides that (54.39%) do not have designed facilities friendly using for people with disabilities.

In addition, results show that (73.68%) had dedicated programs for youth with different age groups (15-25, 15-30, 18-36, 6-14, 12-30, 18-35, 16-24, 13-24, 13-35 and 18-30). Besides that, (77.19%) of the SESO's

in Jordan had attempt to identify, understand and actively removing barriers that exist for certain groups of young people in society. Moreover, (70.18%) of the SESO's in Jordan had organized specific outreach mechanisms to identify, meet, engage, and/or serve different population groups. Finally, results show that (38.60%) of the SESO's in Jordan had dedicated programs for refugees.

Conclusions

Results show that Balqa governorate had the lowest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates, and Amman governorate had the highest percentage of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates. And that the highest source of finance for the SESO's in Jordan is the (Donors), followed by the (Private sector funding CSR), and followed by the (Bank loans). In the other hand the least source of finance for the SESO's in Jordan is the (Revenue making), followed by the (Government funding).

Results also show that (77.19%) do provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work, and (3.51%) do not provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work, while (19.30%) are not sure if they provide staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work. In addition, results show that (57.89%) of the SESO's in Jordan have dedicated programs that focus on women's inclusion, and that (68.42%) are hiring more than 50% in their staff. Besides that, results also show that (59.65%) of the SESO's in Jordan did not dedicate programs for people with disability (PWD); which is a high portion in neglecting this segment of people. Besides that (54.39%) do not have designed facilities friendly using for people with disabilities. Moreover, results show that (73.68%) had dedicated programs for youth with different age groups and (77.19%) of the SESO's in Jordan had attempt to identify, understand and actively removing barriers that exist for certain groups of young people in society. Moreover, (70.18%) of the SESO's in Jordan had organized specific outreach mechanisms to identify, meet, engage, and/or serve different population groups. Finally, results show that (38.60%) of the SESO's in Jordan had dedicated programs for refugees.

List Of Abbreviations

SESOs: Social Entrepreneurship Support Organizations.

GEDI: Global Entrepreneurship and Development Foundation.

SDG's: [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Declarations

Availability of data and materials: Available on request

Competing interests: Not applicable

Funding: self-funding

Authors' contributions: all

Acknowledgements: Not applicable

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Tables

Table (1): Four-stage data analyzing strategy

Phase	Coding	Purpose
1	Open	Categorizing codes within categories for advance analysis
2	Axial	Specifying codes in details; relay codes to one another to generate themes
3	Selective	Creating paradigm model and investigate themes relative to the model; Establishing plot that integrates paradigm model
4	Selective	Testing, certify and explain paradigm model until saturated; recognize surfacing principles constant with paradigm model; perform member checks

Table (2): Initial Categories and Codes in Phase One

Category	Code
Antecedents	1- Analyzing intended social impact
	2- Enabling innovation environment
	3- Sustained communities
	4- Pioneering technologies
	5- Knowledge exchange experience
	6- Accessing new markets
	7- Supporting start-ups
	8- Management training
	9- Financial training
	10- Legal support
Phenomenon: Positive sides	1- Economic empowerment
	2- Creating jobs
	3- Raising the education level of young people from different social groups
	4- Improving livelihood
	5- Enable women with business skills
	6- Increase access to quality education
	7- Social responsibility
	8- Enhancing national capabilities
	9- Long-term economic growth
Phenomenon: Negative sides	1- Providing the wrong solutions
	2- Unprofessional training
	3- Deaccelerating the best high-impact entrepreneurs
	4- Uninspired learning processes
	5- Less participation
	6- Insufficient leadership
	7- Misleading competitiveness
	8- Radicalized environments

Consequences	9-	Unsafe spaces of dialogue
	1-	Legal consequences
	2-	Economic consequences
	3-	Social consequences

Table (3): Antecedents' main themes describing the organizations' two-liner mission according to their answers

Themes	Frequency
Analyzing intended social impact	11.50%
Enabling innovation environment	16.50%
Sustained communities	10.00%
Pioneering technologies	6.50%
Knowledge exchange experience	8.25%
Accessing new markets	7.25%
Supporting start-ups	8.50%
Management training	13.00%
Financial training	9.00%
Legal support	9.50%
Total	100.0%

Table (4): Phenomenon positive sides' main themes describing the organizations' two-liner mission according to their answers

Themes	Frequency
Economic empowerment	19.00%
Creating jobs	8.50%
Raising the education level of young people from different social groups	11.00%
Improving livelihood	6.75%
Enable women with business skills	13.00%
Increase access to quality education	7.25%
Social responsibility	13.50%
Enhancing national capabilities	12.50%
Long-term economic growth	9.50%
Total	100.0%

Table (5): Phenomenon negative sides' main themes describing the organizations' two-liner mission according to their answers

Themes	Frequency
Providing the wrong solutions	10.50%
Unprofessional training	7.25%
Deaccelerating the best high-impact entrepreneurs	13.00%
Uninspired learning processes	11.75%
Less participation	14.50%
Insufficient leadership	8.25%
Misleading competitiveness	10.00%
Radicalized environments	13.25%
Unsafe spaces of dialogue	11.50%
Total	100.0%

Table (6): Ranking of the challenges based on severity

Challenges		Severity	
		Most severe	Least severe
Challenge (1)	Related regulations are in need of further improvement	25.6%	7.75%
Challenge (2)	Taxation law related to social businesses	11.35%	10.25%
Challenge (3)	Lack of funding and financing	46.25%	3.15%
Challenge (4)	Lack of reliable data and statistics	18.43%	9.28%
Challenge (5)	Lack of communication networks among the social entrepreneurship ecosystem; linking social entrepreneurs, enterprise and / or support organization all together	27.15%	10.19%
Challenge (6)	Lack of capacity building programs	20.10%	12.25%
Challenge (7)	Social stereotypes about social work and revenue making related to it, thus affecting the ability to sustain	18.50%	13.16%
Challenge (8)	Lack of knowledge related to social business models (revenue generation)	32.23%	11.25%
Challenge (9)	Poor related education (thus the poor quality of social ideas, concepts and projects received by beneficiaries)	44.12%	12.42%
Challenge (10)	Lack of qualified human resources for the social field	23.25%	8.34%

Table (7): High and low priority percentages for the SESOs needs in Jordan

Needs	High priority	Low priority
Advocacy	13.15%	17.28%
Joining a network to meet similar SESO's	23.40%	7.10%
Access to finance	47.84%	4.12%
Capacity building	15.15%	8.15%
Exchange and corporate mentorship	17.37%	6.12%
Direct consultation	28.56%	10.25%
Recruitment support	6.19%	30.05%

Table (8): High and low priority percentages for the SESOs training needs in Jordan

Needs	High priority	Low priority
I am not interested in attending any training need, and do not have any current specific needs	10.31%	35.10%
Digital marketing and social media	9.75%	22.35%
Utilizing technology in hiring and onboarding	8.65%	17.44%
Project management systems	24.89%	11.12%
Sustainable social work models	27.61%	8.34%
How to build an inclusive business model	29.50%	7.88%
Supply chain	14.13%	11.67%
Fabrication and modern manufacturing methods	30.25%	10.56%
Human rights based approach in community program's design	16.33%	12.34%
Women rights and feminisms based approach in program's design	18.57%	9.45%
Financial management	31.25%	10.40%
Business model design (income generation techniques and financial sustainability/breakeven)	26.21%	7.87%
Fundamentals of Fundraising	36.50%	6.44%

Table (9): Percentage distributions of the SESO's activities in Jordan for women, people with disability (BWD), youth and refugees

Targeted audience	Activities and status quo	Yes	No	Not sure
Women	Dedicated programs that focus on women's inclusion	57.89%	28.10%	14.01%
	The percentage of hired employed women inside your organization is above 50%	68.42%	17.54%	14.02%
BWD	Dedicated programs for people with disability (PWD)	22.81%	59.65%	17.54%
	Designed facilities friendly using for people with disabilities	35.10%	54.39%	10.51%
Youth	Dedicated programs for youth	73.68%	26.32%	0.00%
	Identifying, understanding, and actively removing barriers that exist for certain groups of young people in society	77.19%	12.28%	10.53%
	Organizing specific outreach mechanisms to identify, meet, engage, and/or serve different population groups	70.18%	15.79%	14.03%
Refugees	Dedicated programs for refugees	38.60%	61.40%	0.00%

Figures

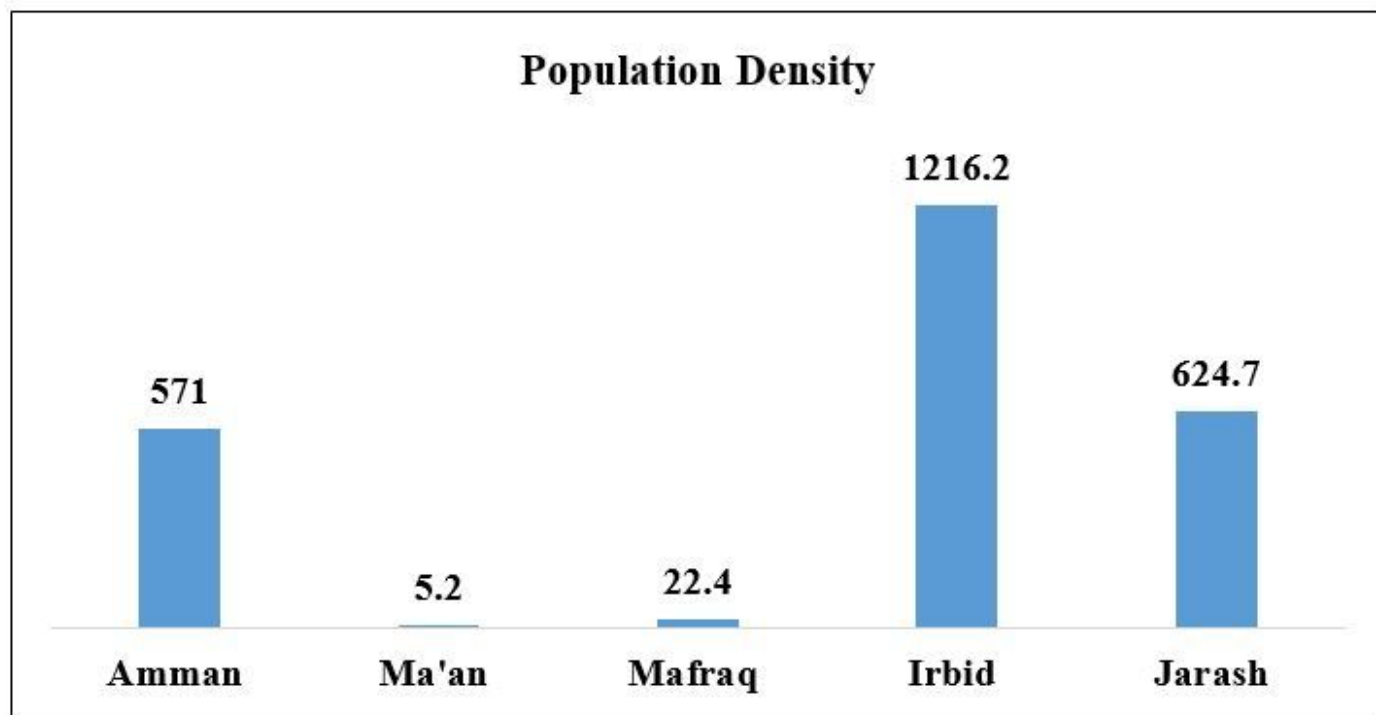


Figure 1

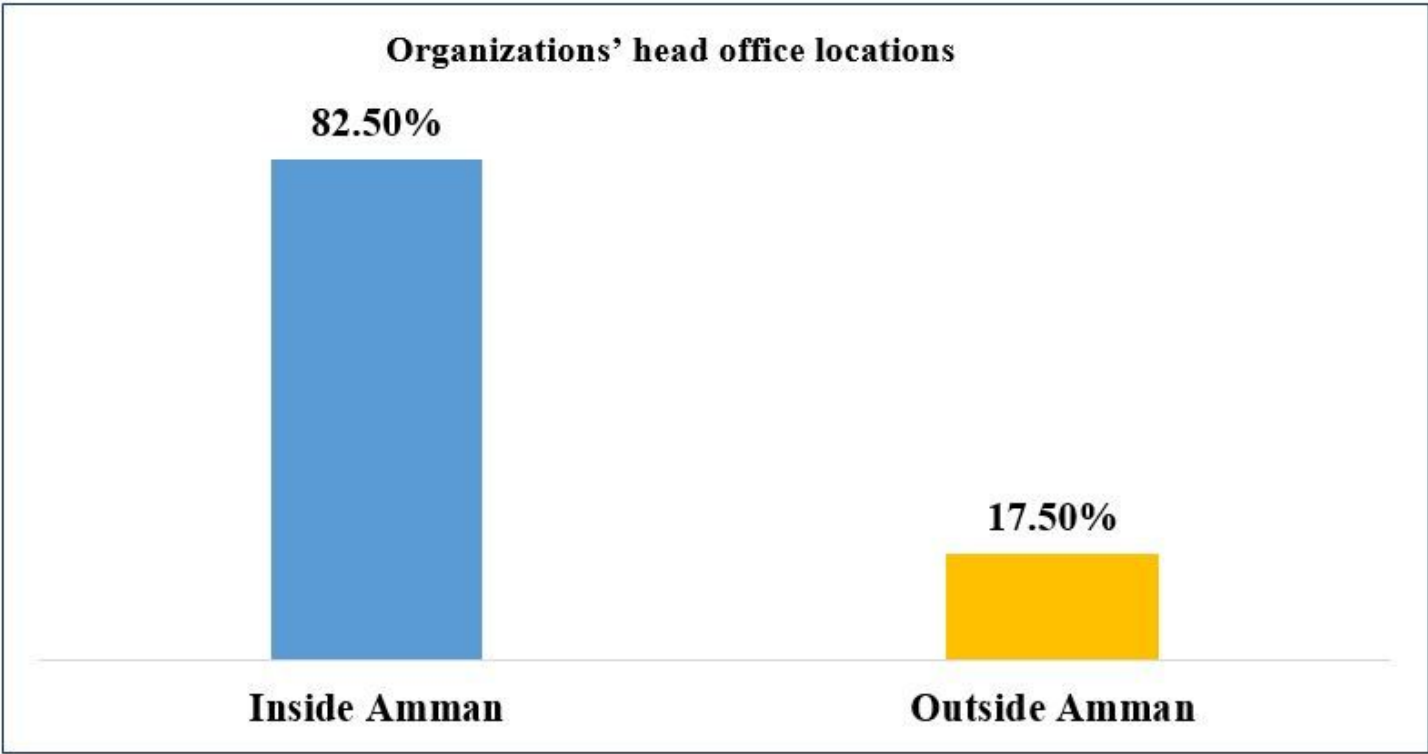


Figure 2

Geographic distribution of the organizations' head office locations

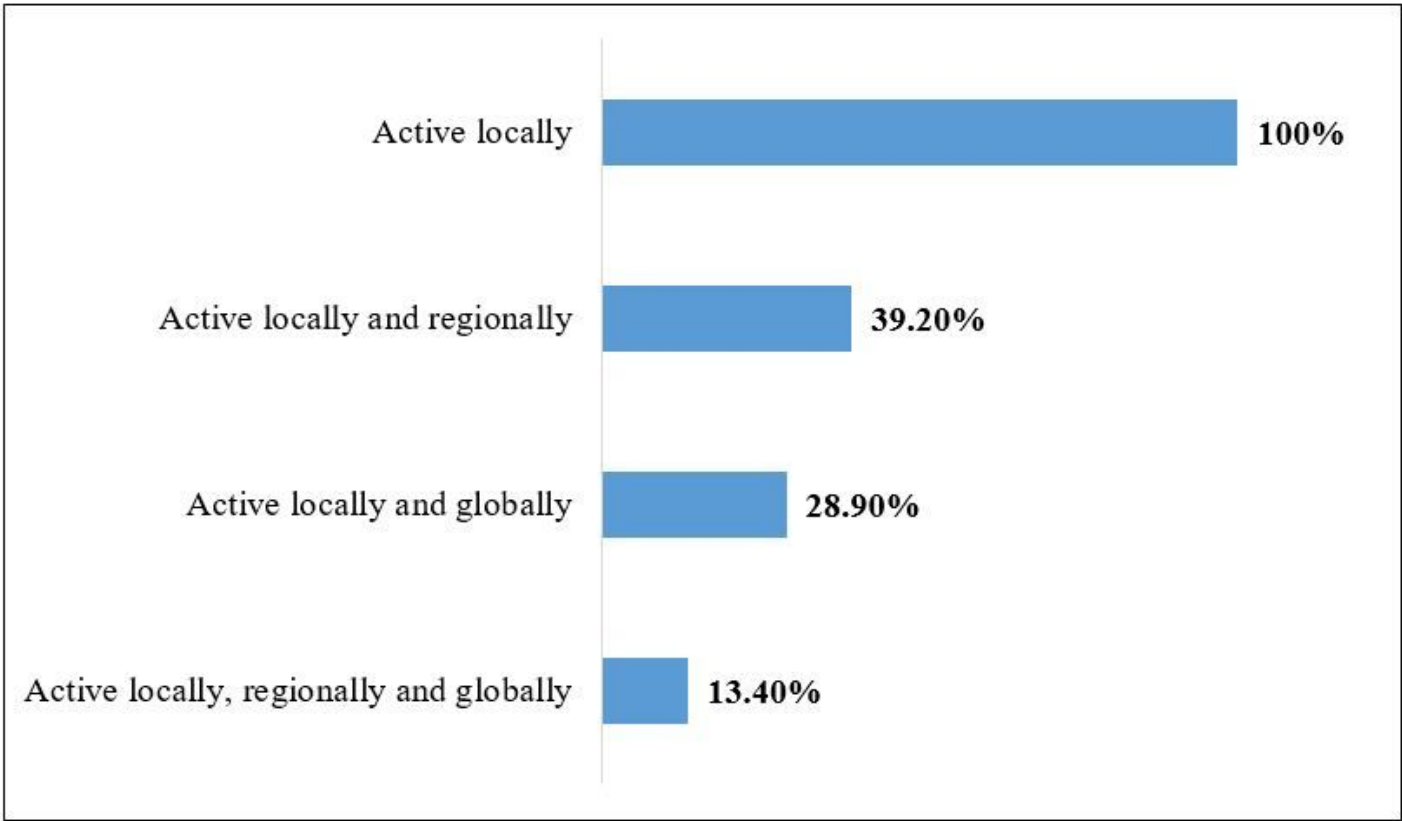


Figure 3

Local, regional and global operation activity of the SESOs in Jordan

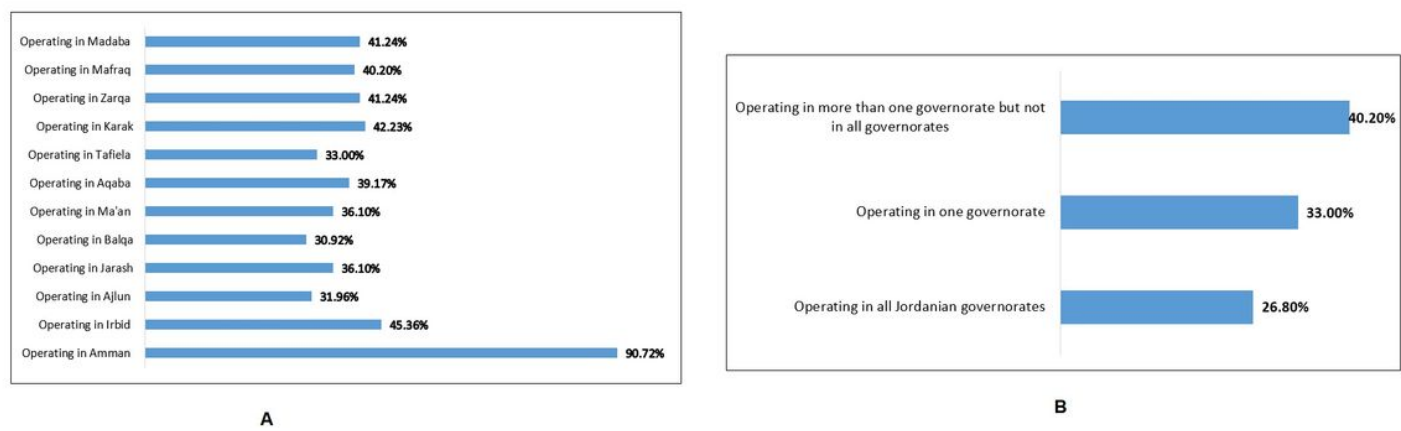


Figure 4

SESOs operating in Jordanian governorates by each governorate SESOs operating in Jordanian governorates by number of governorates

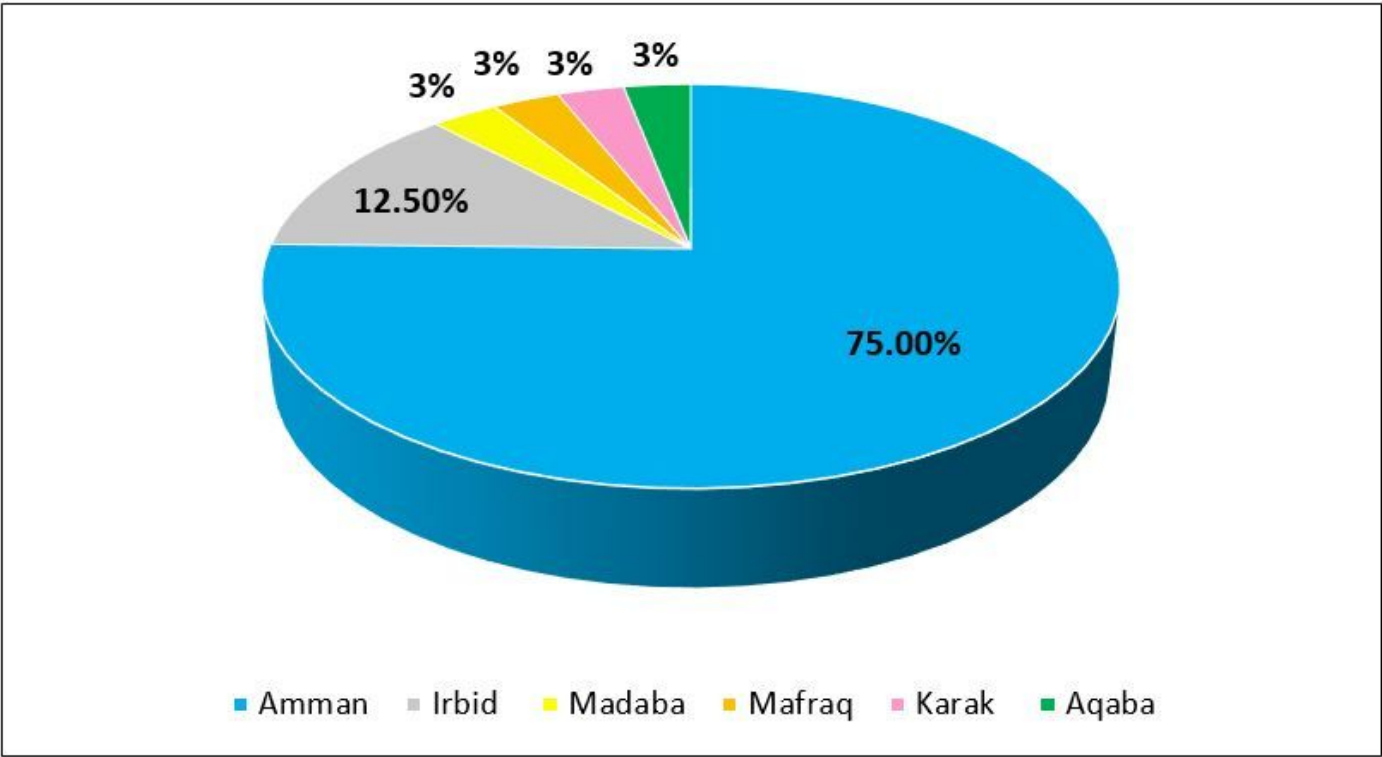


Figure 5

Percentage distributions of the SESOs operating in one Jordanian governorate

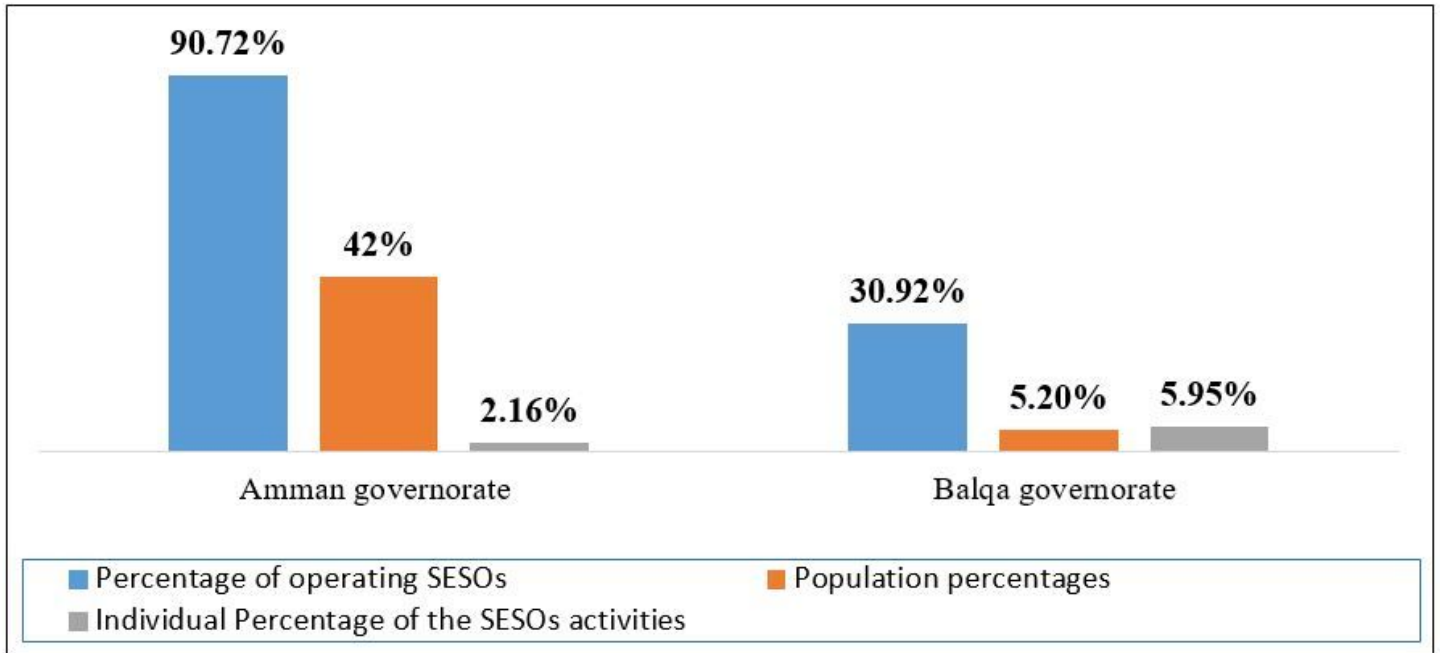


Figure 6

Correlations between the highest and lowest percentages of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates

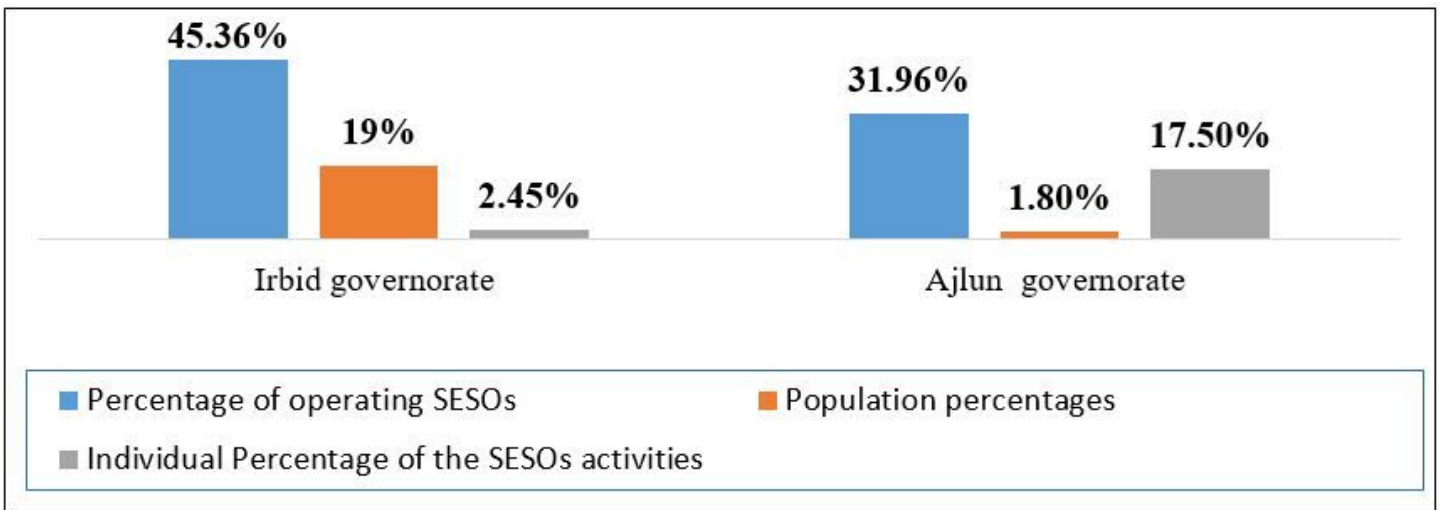


Figure 7

Correlations between the second highest and lowest percentages of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates

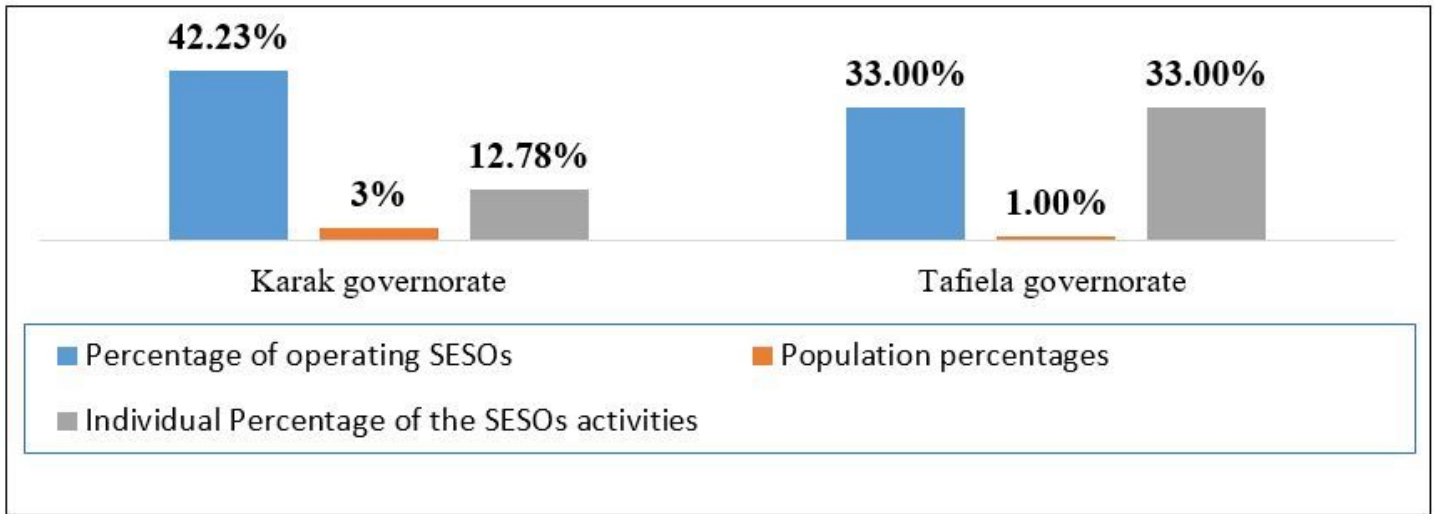


Figure 8

Correlations between the third highest and lowest percentages of the SESOs operating in the Jordanian governorates

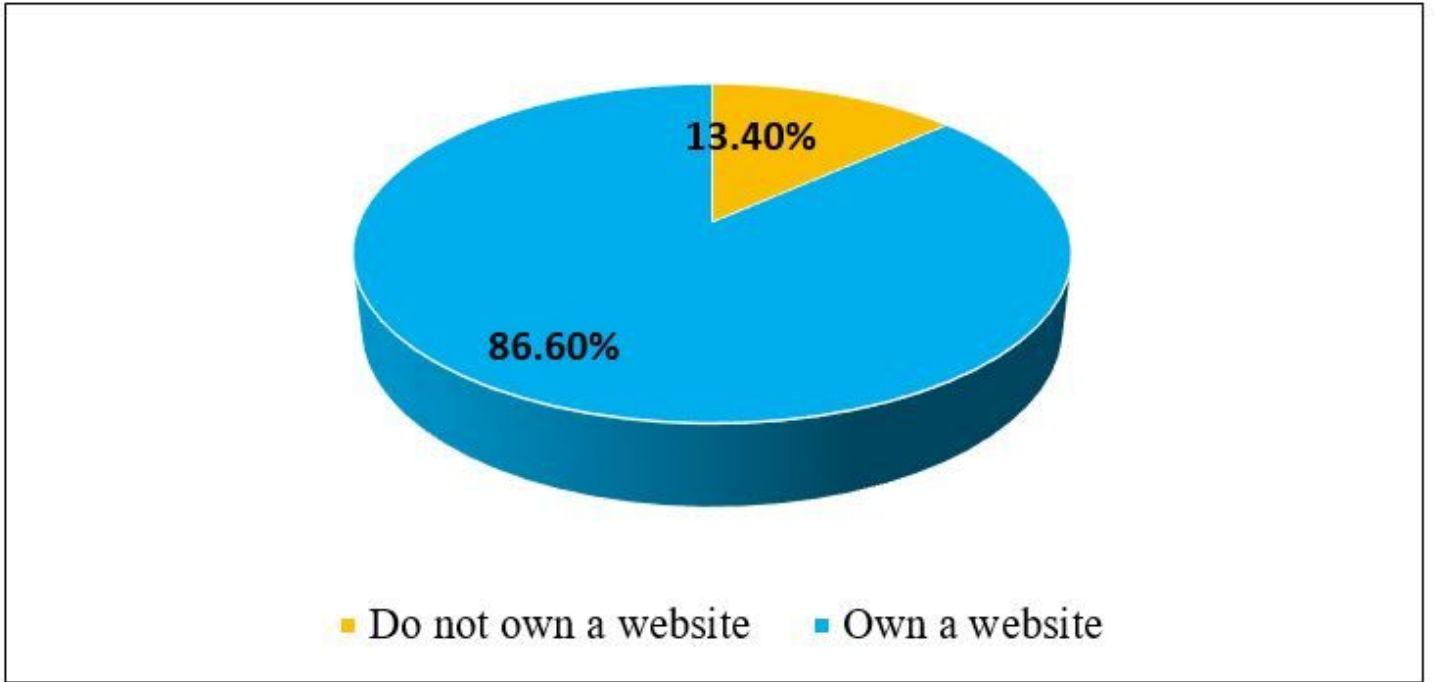


Figure 9

Distributions of the SESOs employment of the Internet

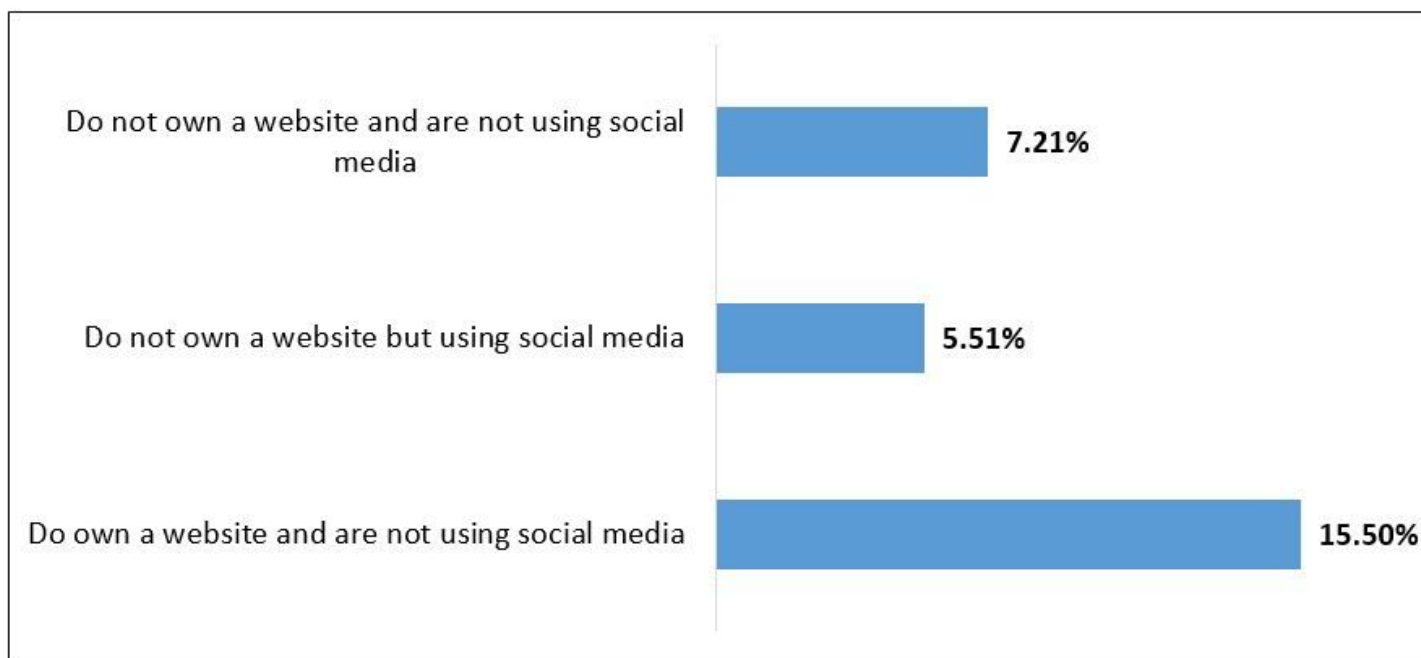


Figure 10

Distributions of the SESOs employment of the Internet and social media

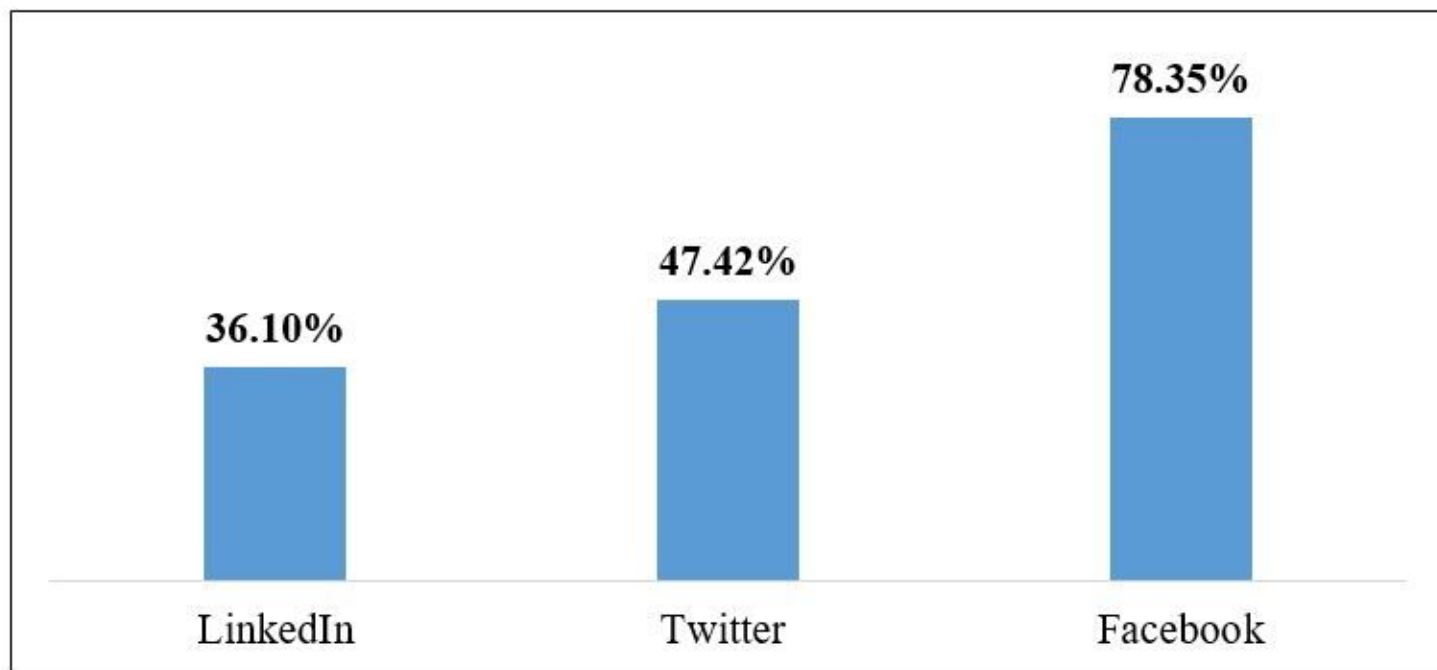


Figure 11

Distributions of the use of social media

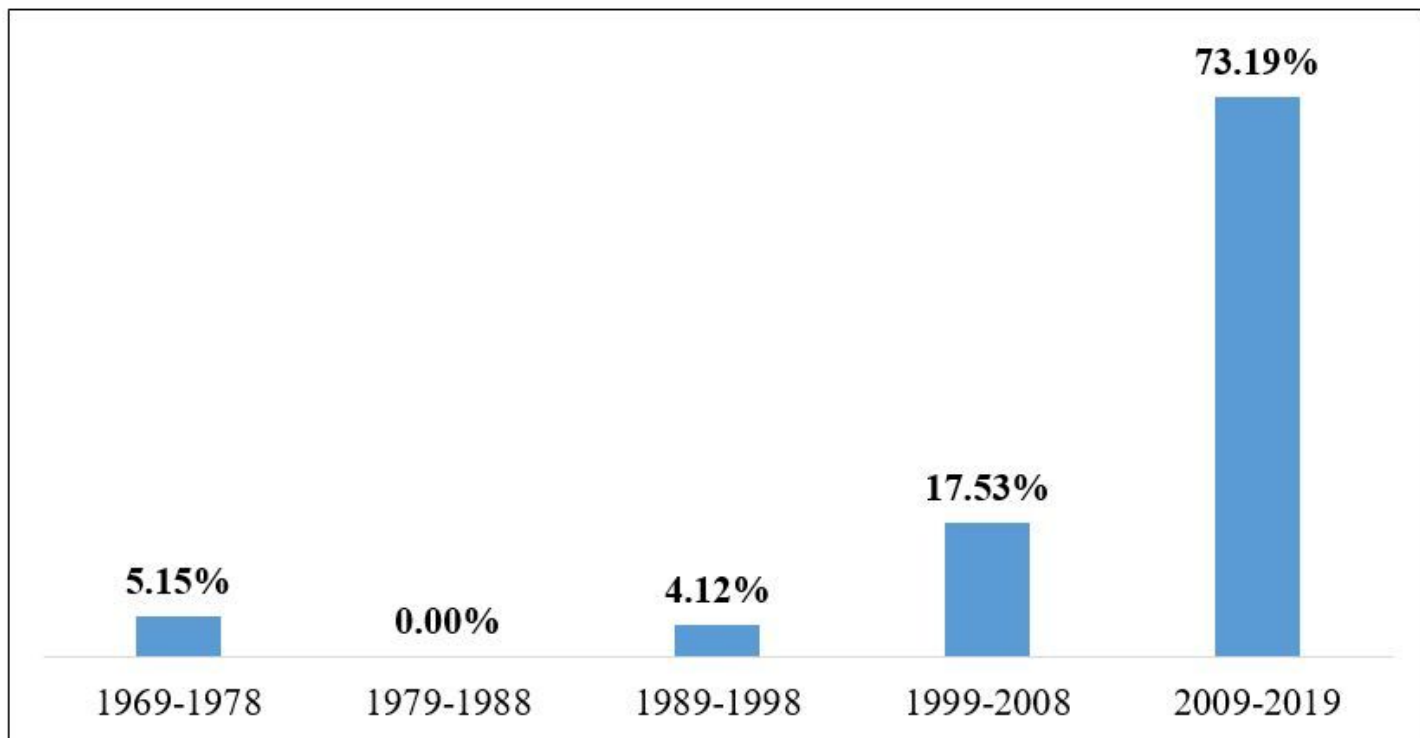


Figure 12

Percentage distributions of the period for the creation of SESOs in Jordan

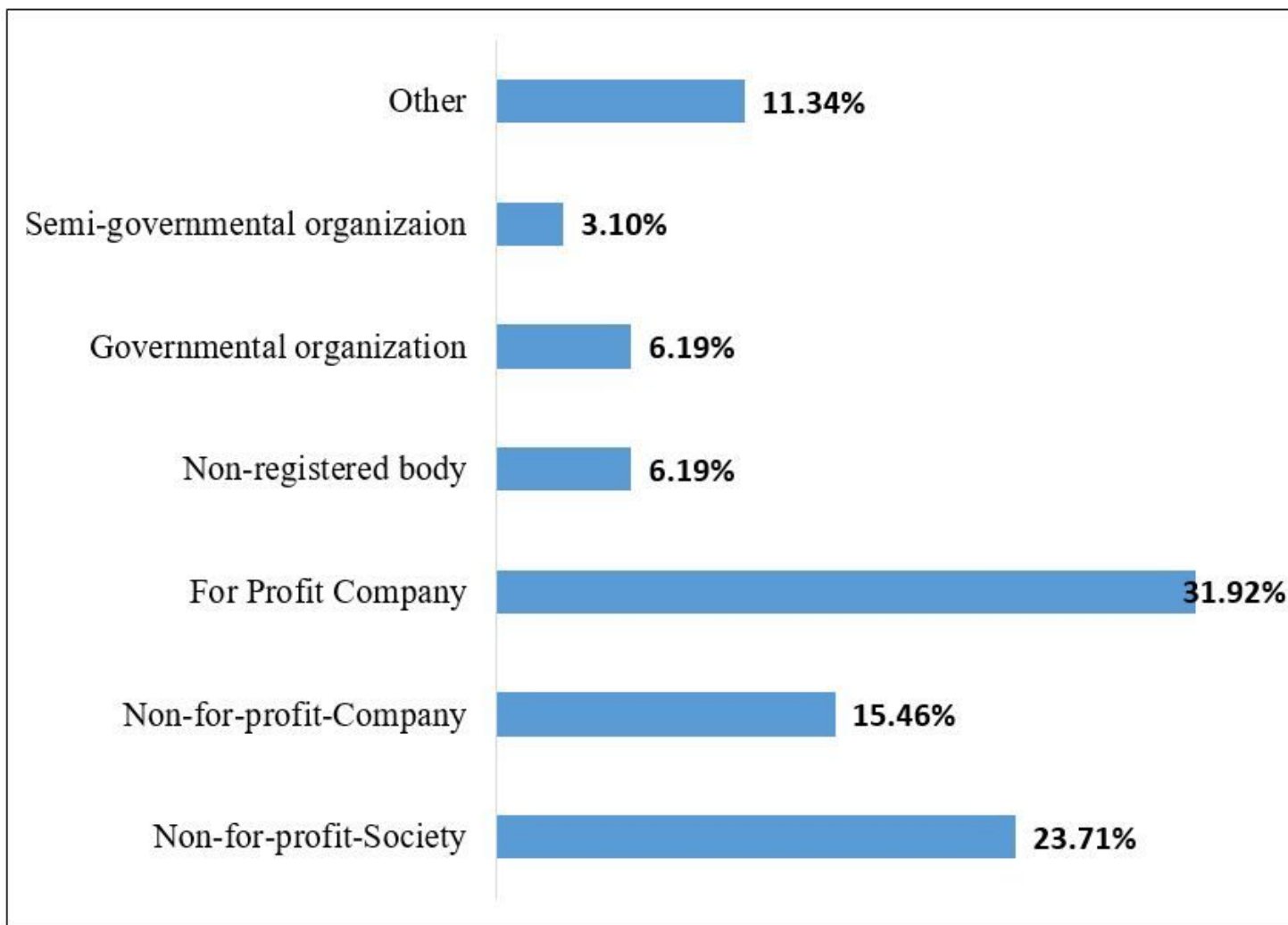


Figure 13

Distributions of the type of registry of the SESOs in Jordan

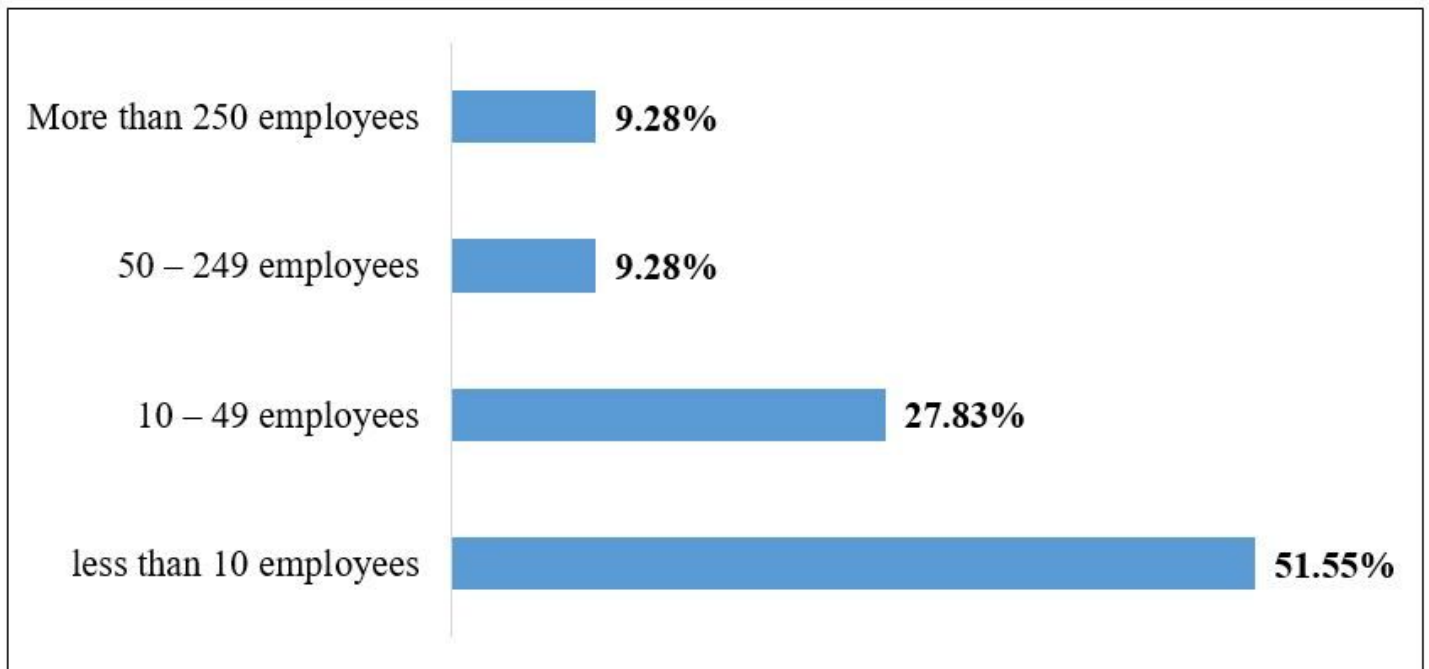


Figure 14

Staff size distributions

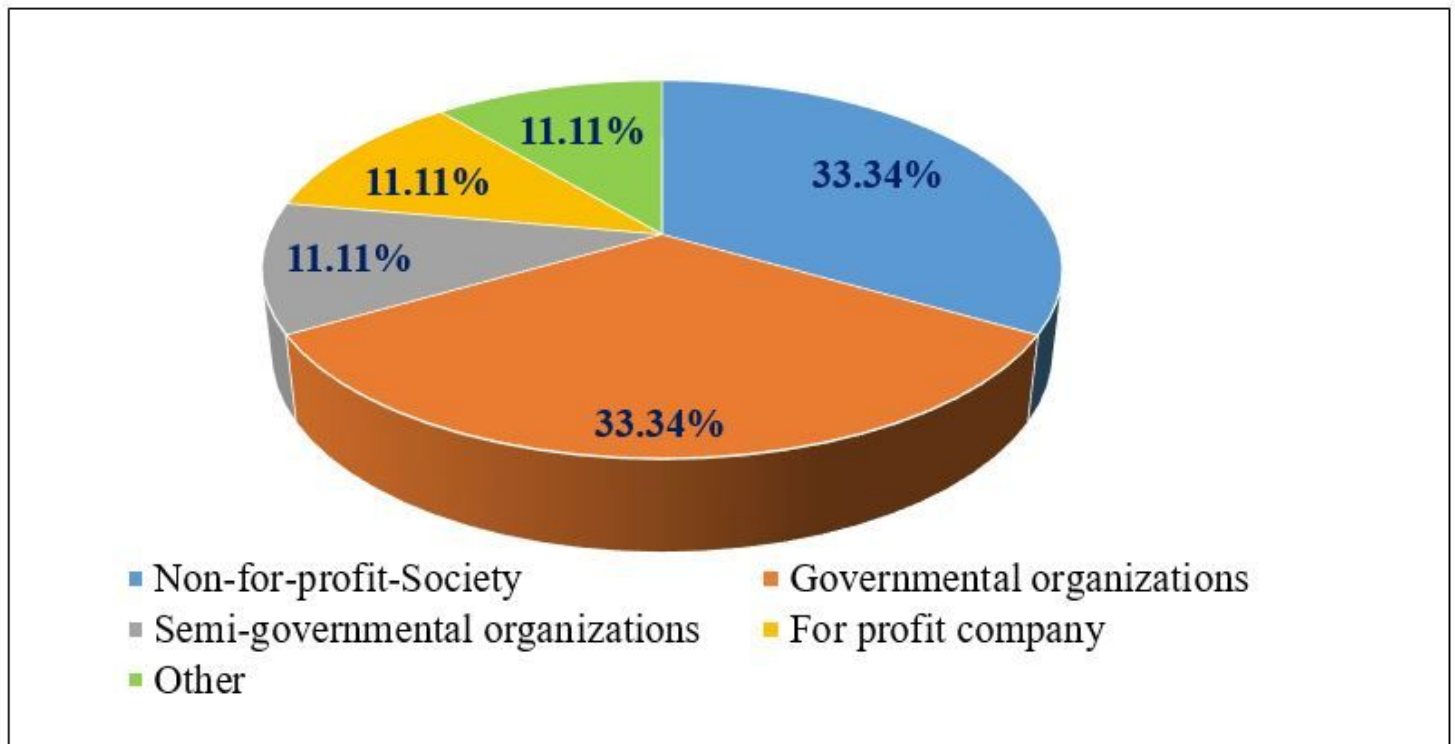


Figure 15

Distributions of the organizations hiring more the 250 employees according to the type of registration

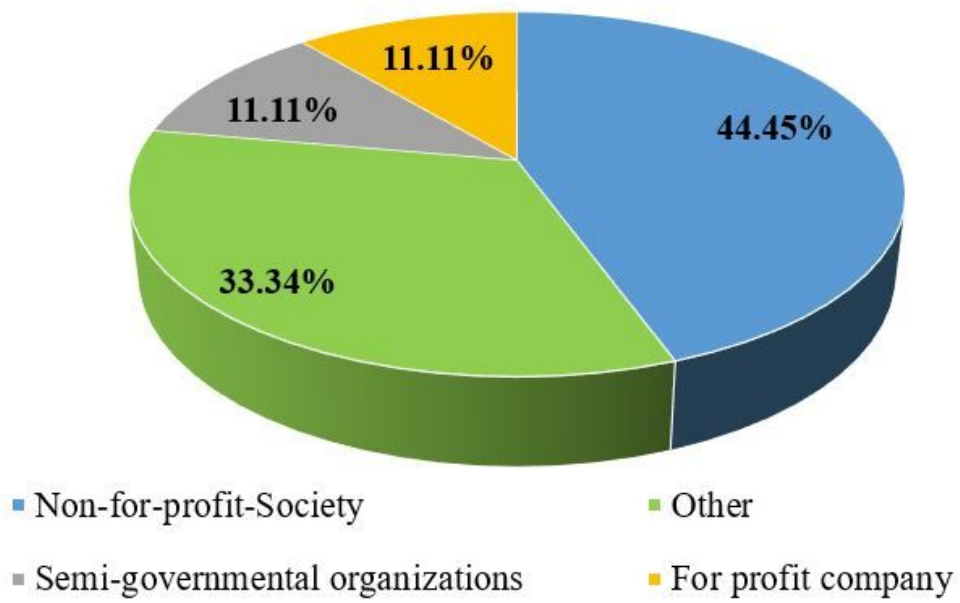


Figure 16

Distributions of the organizations hiring from 50 to 249 employees according to the type of registration

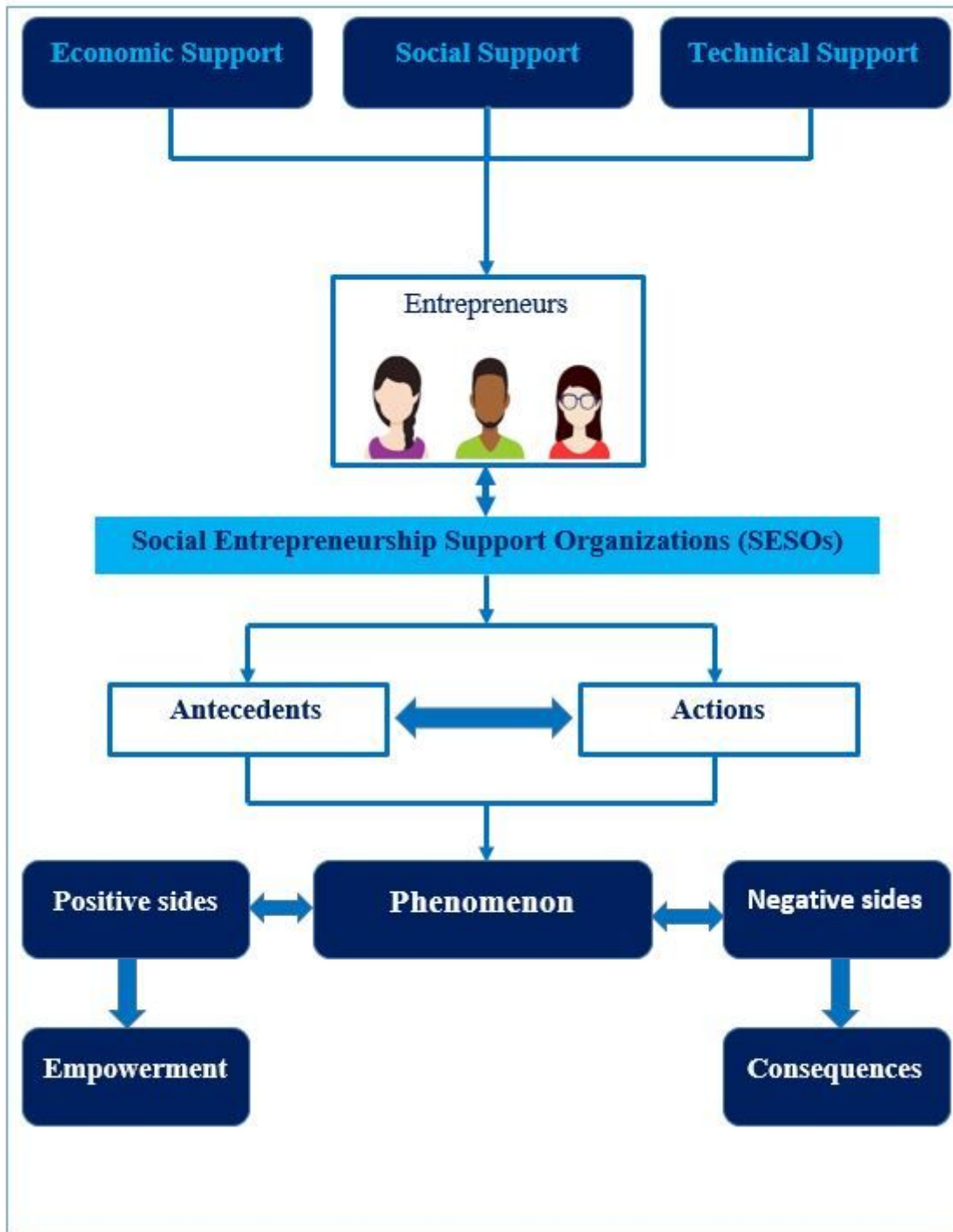


Figure 17

The Paradigm Model

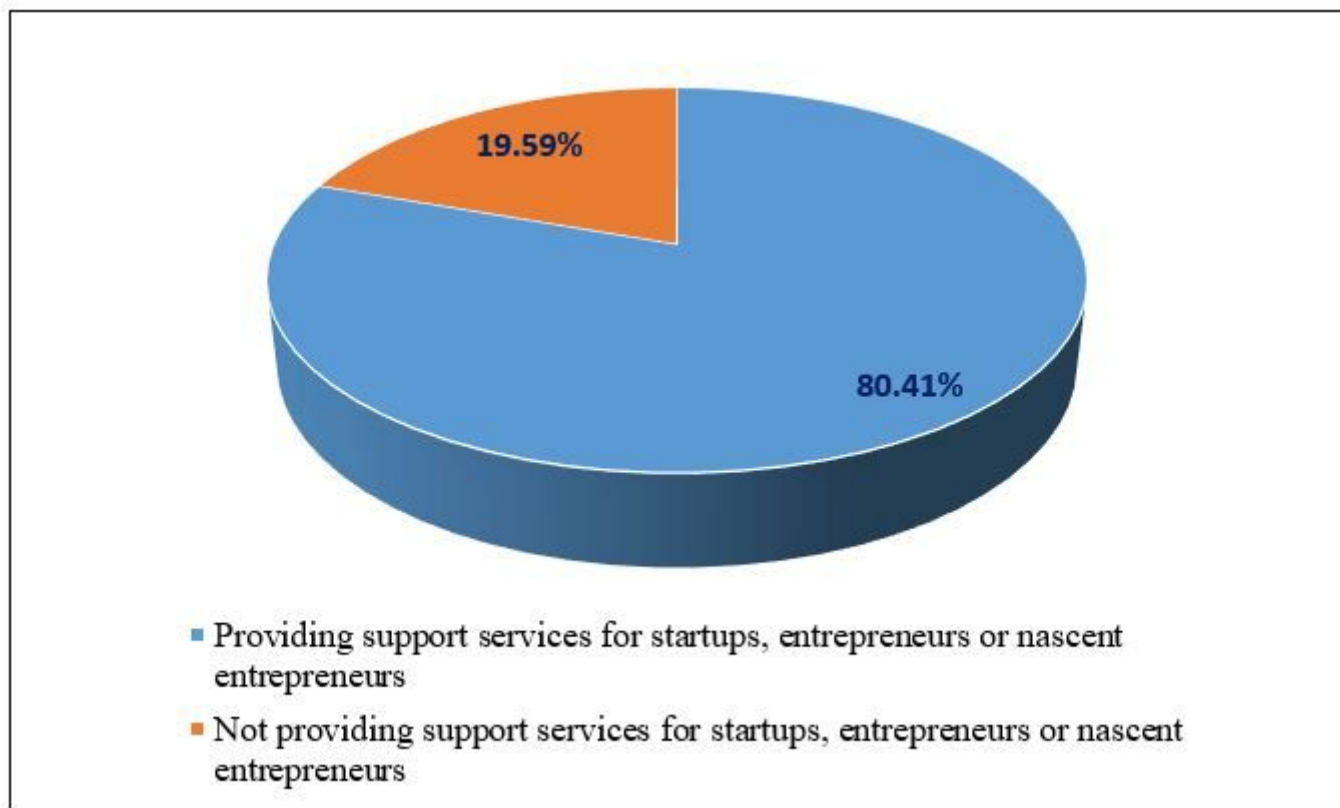


Figure 18

Distributions of the organizations providing or not providing support services for startups, entrepreneurs or nascent entrepreneurs

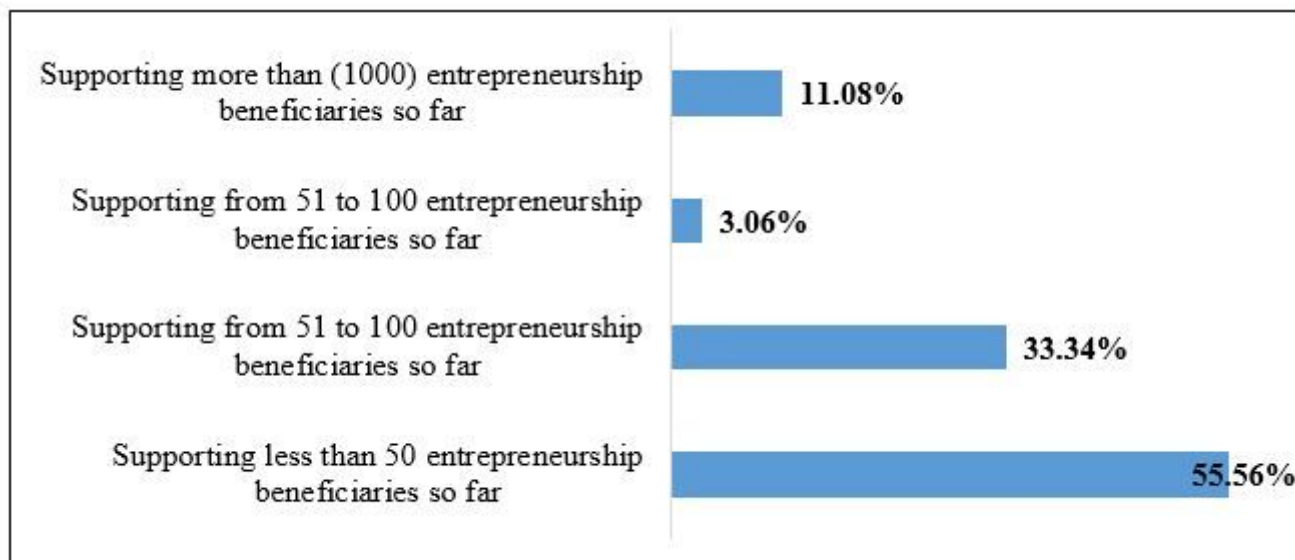


Figure 19

Percentages of supporting entrepreneurship beneficiaries so far

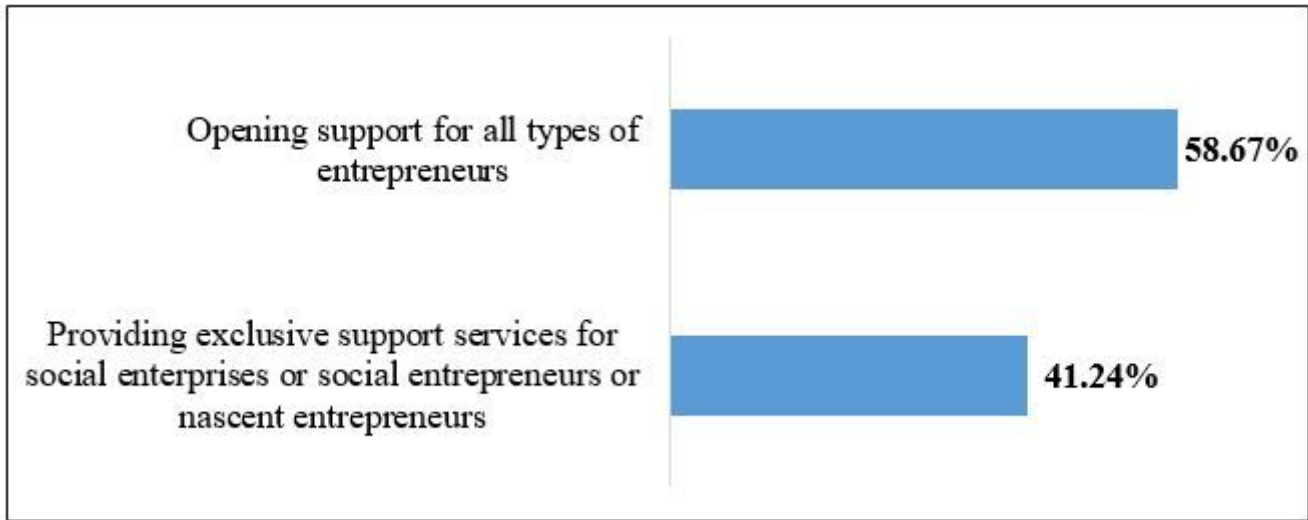


Figure 20

Distributions of the exclusive or opened support services

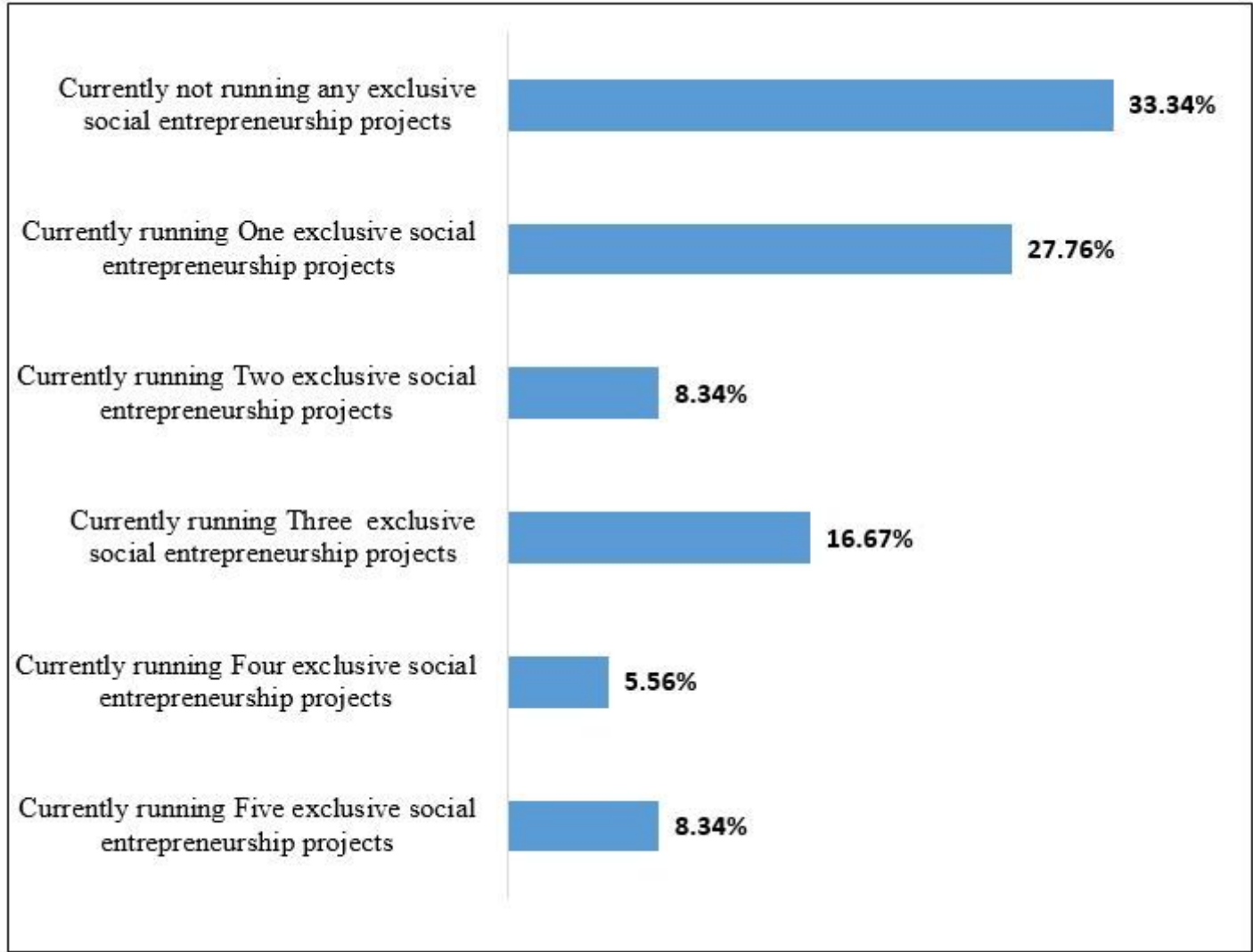


Figure 21

Frequency of the currently running exclusive social entrepreneurship projects

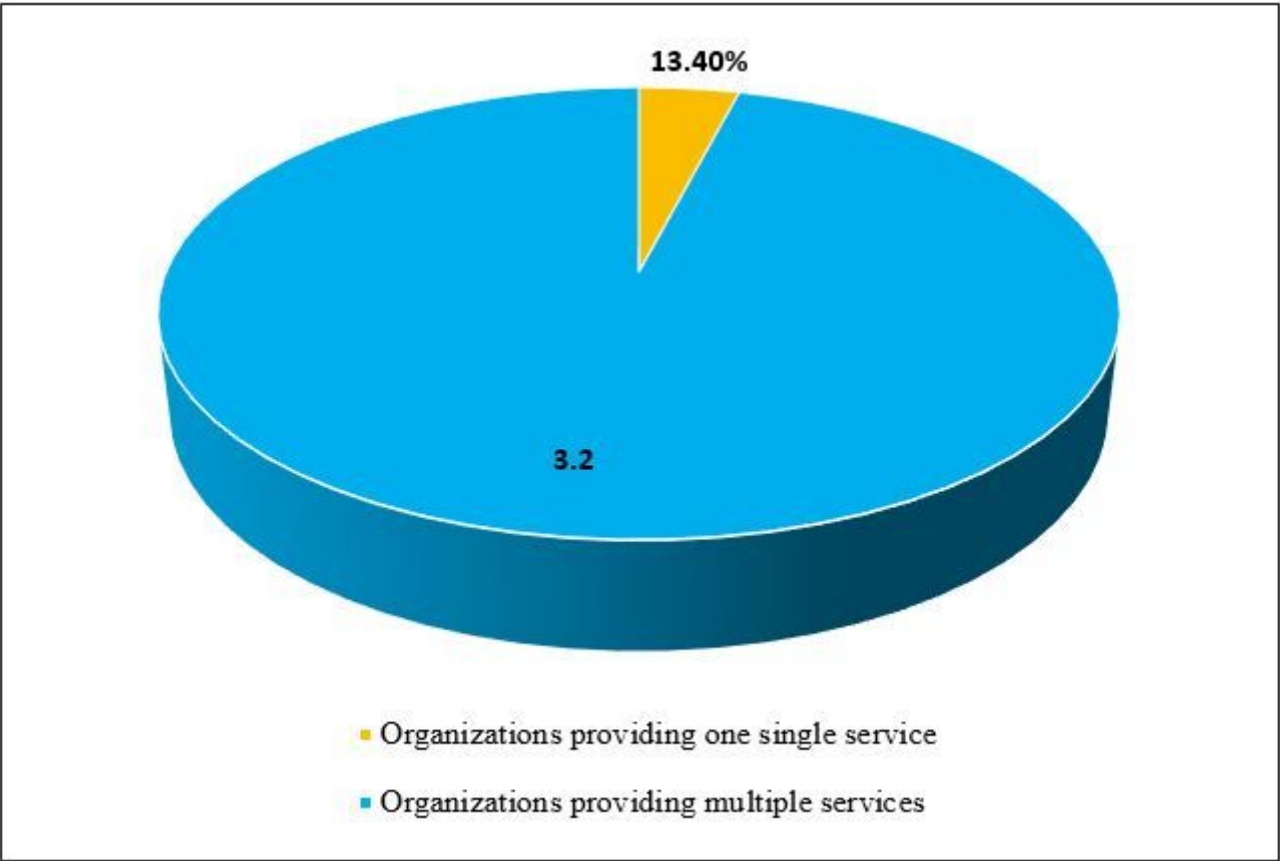


Figure 22

Percentages of the two categories: organizations providing one single service, and organizations providing multiple services

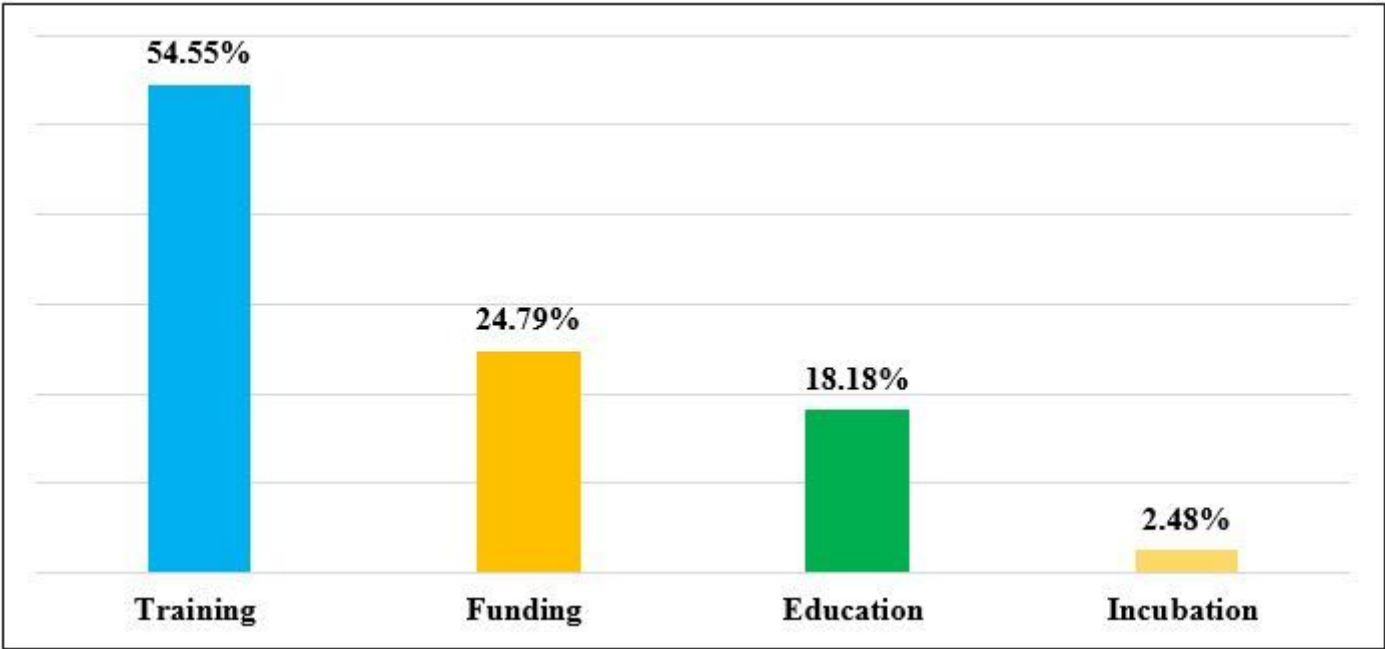


Figure 23

Percentages of the services provided by the organizations providing one single service

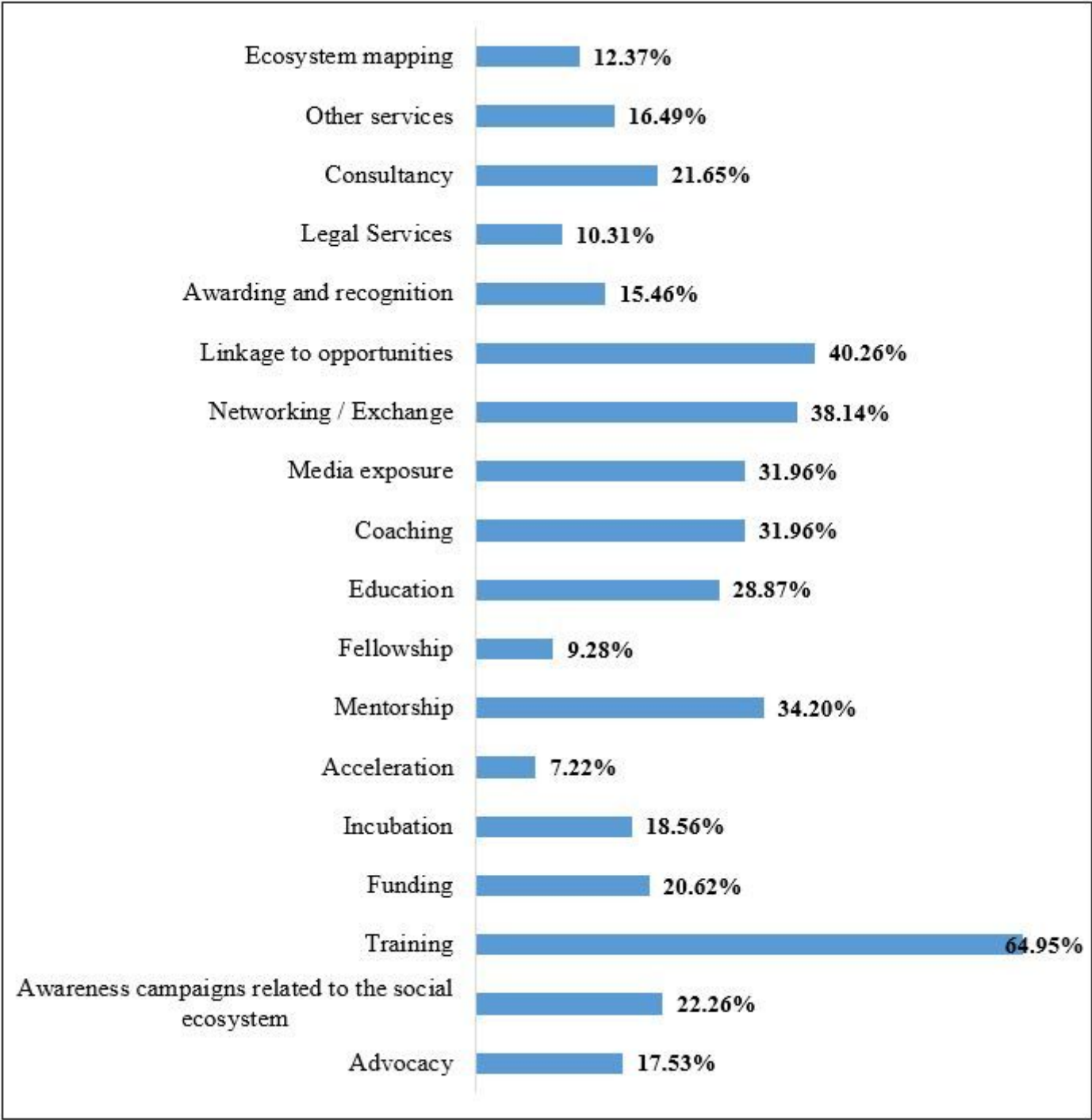


Figure 24

Distributions of the services' percentages provided by the organizations providing multiple services

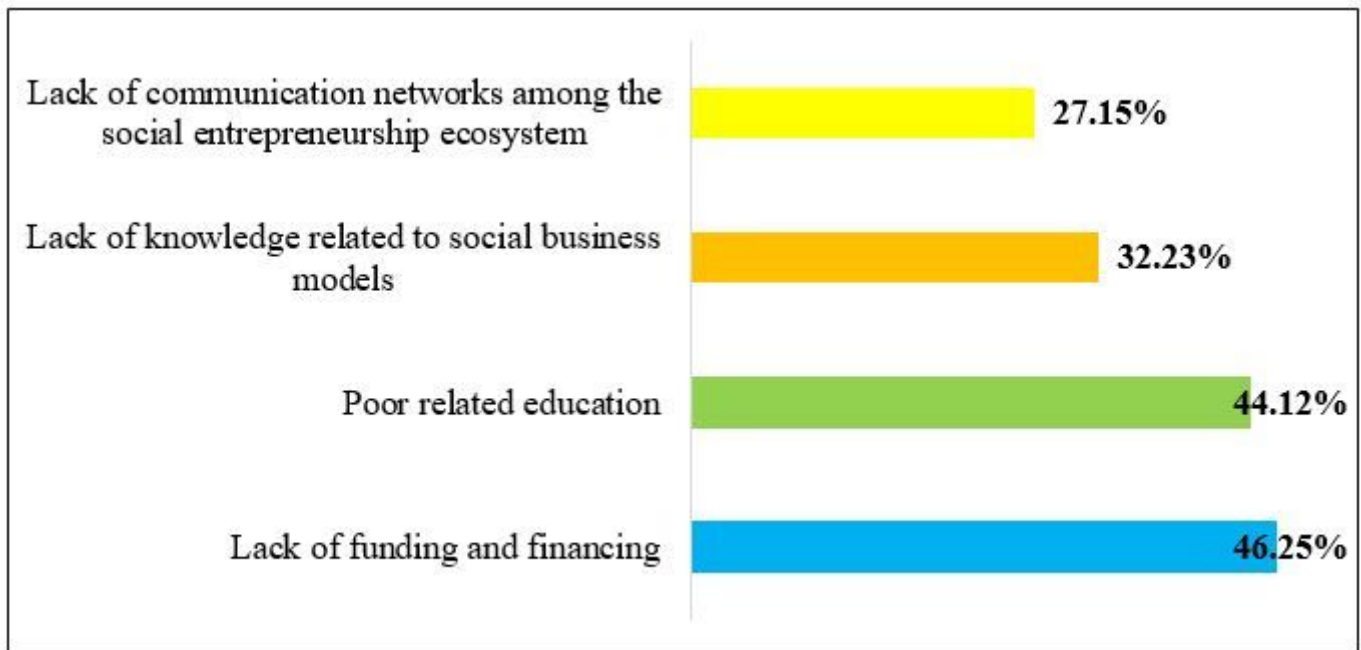


Figure 25

The distributions of the four most severe challenges facing the SESOs in Jordan

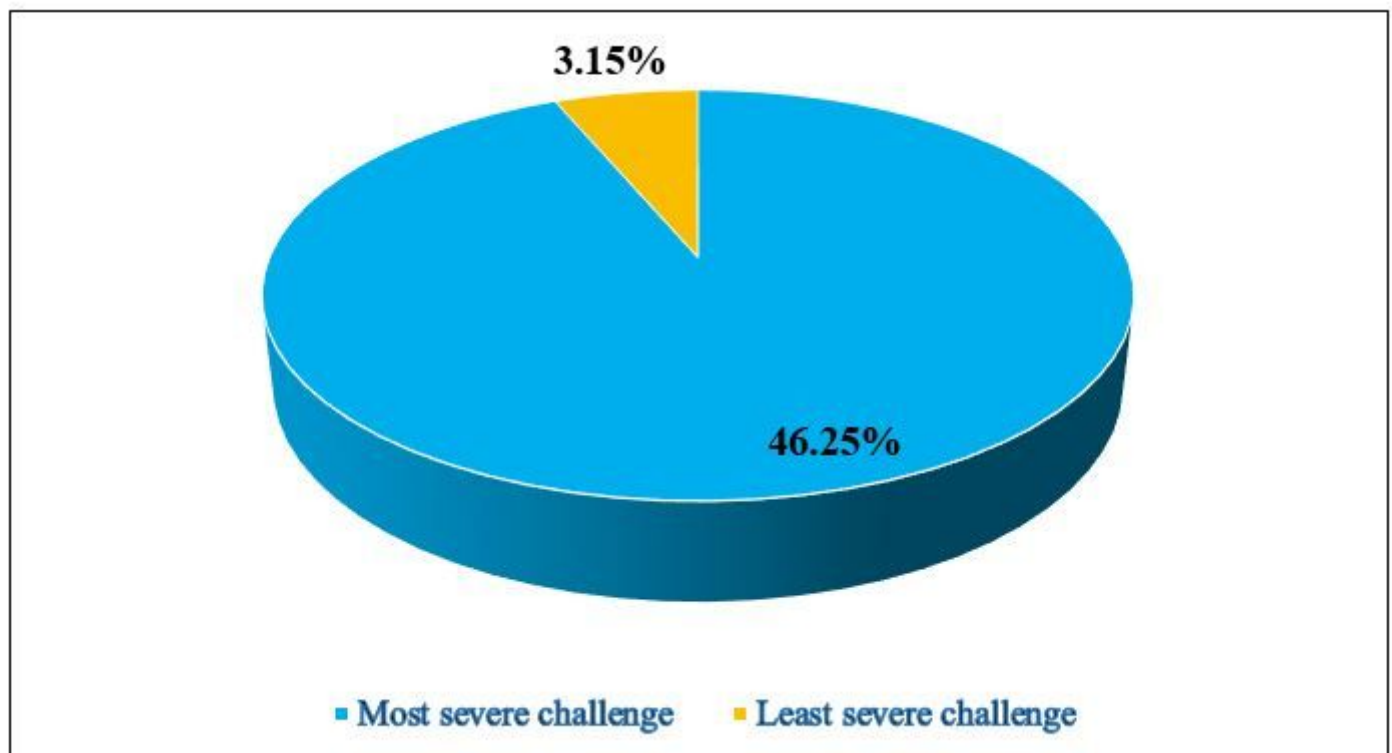


Figure 26

Severity correlation of the highest-ranking challenge

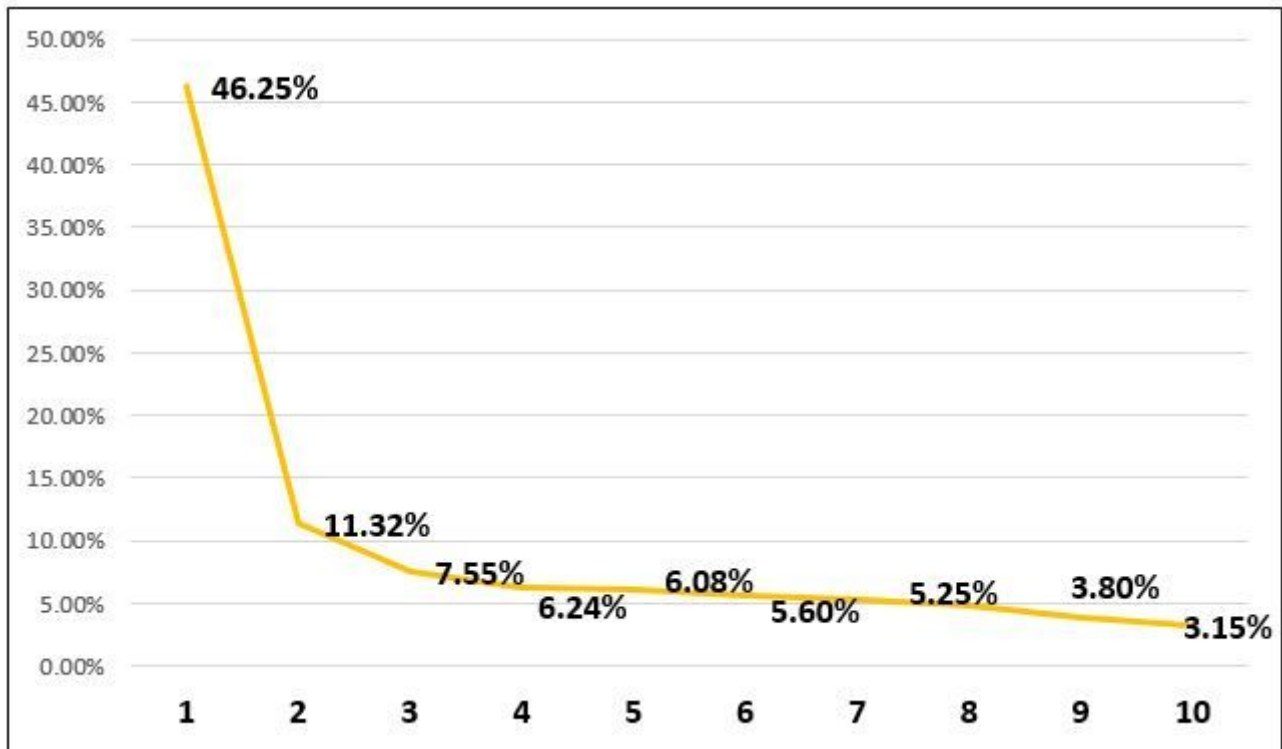


Figure 27

The distributions of the severity of the highest-ranking challenge

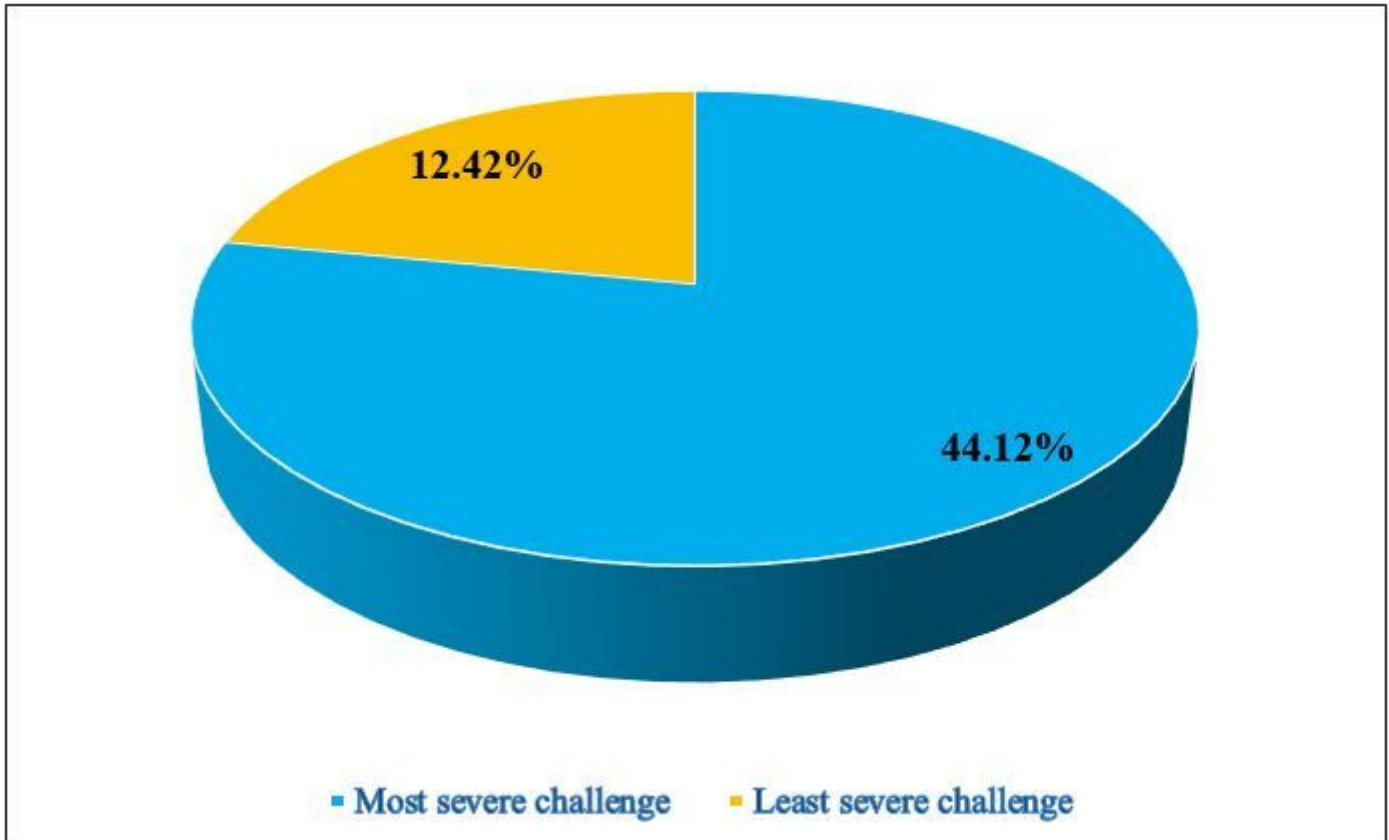


Figure 28

Severity correlation of the second highest-ranking challenge

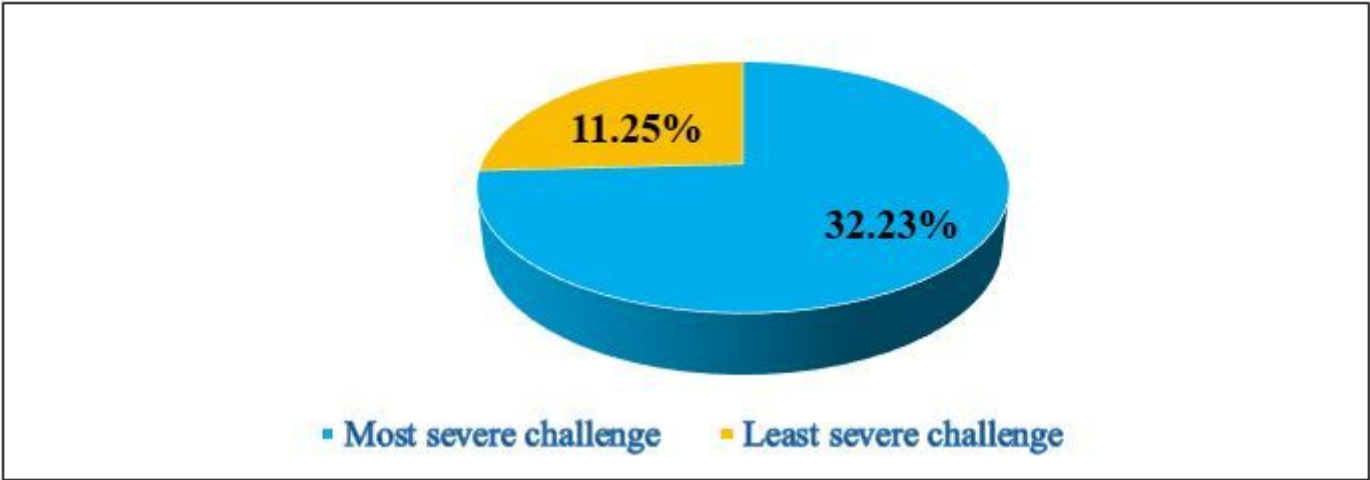


Figure 29

Severity correlation of the third highest-ranking challenge

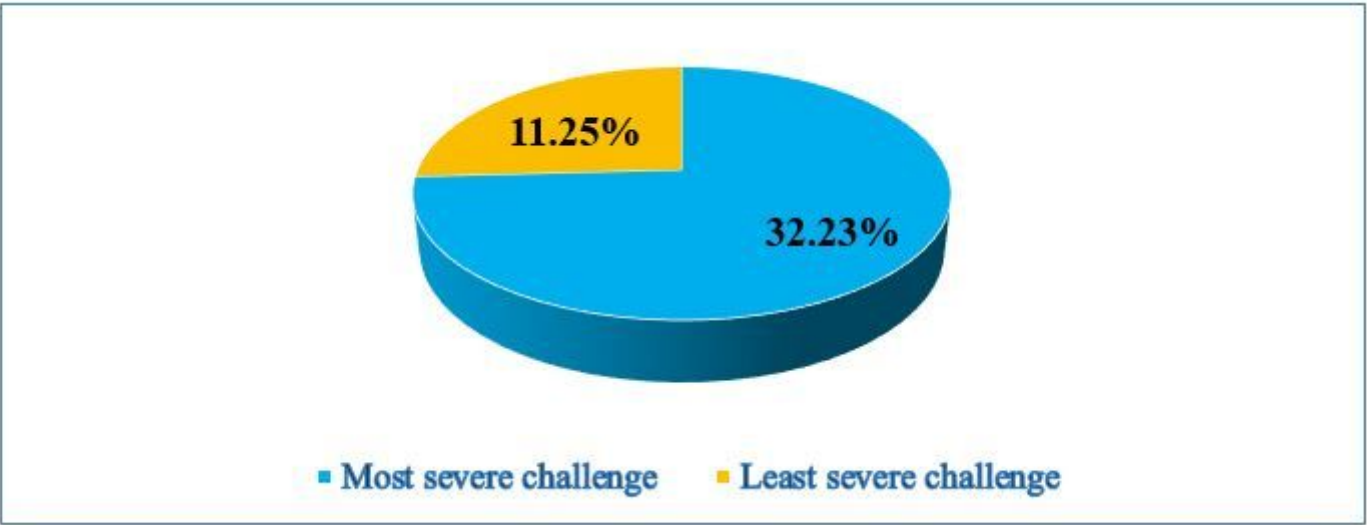


Figure 30

Severity correlation of the fourth highest-ranking challenge

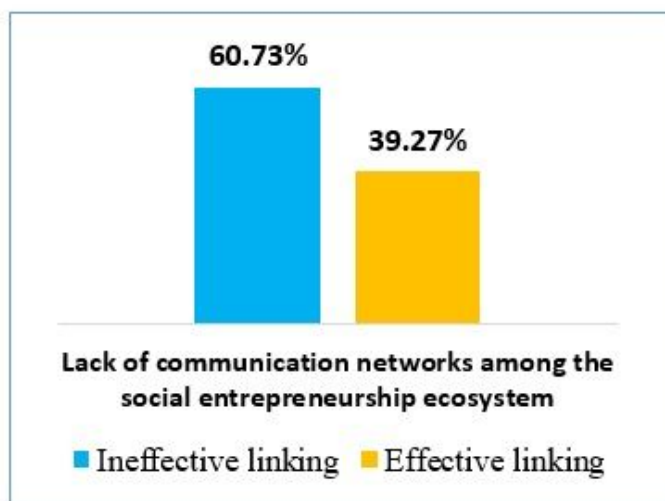
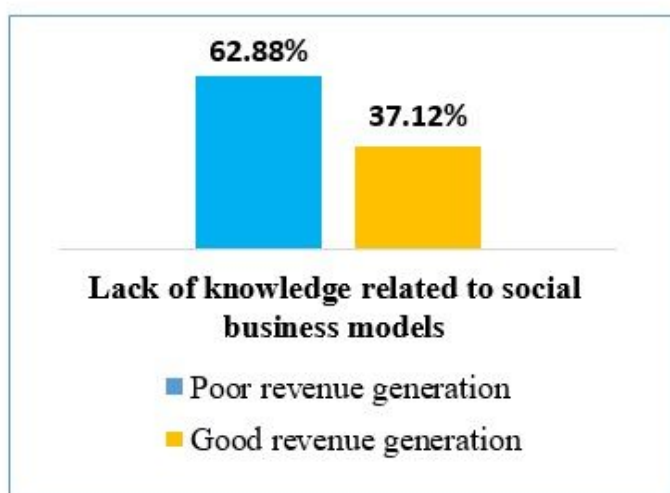
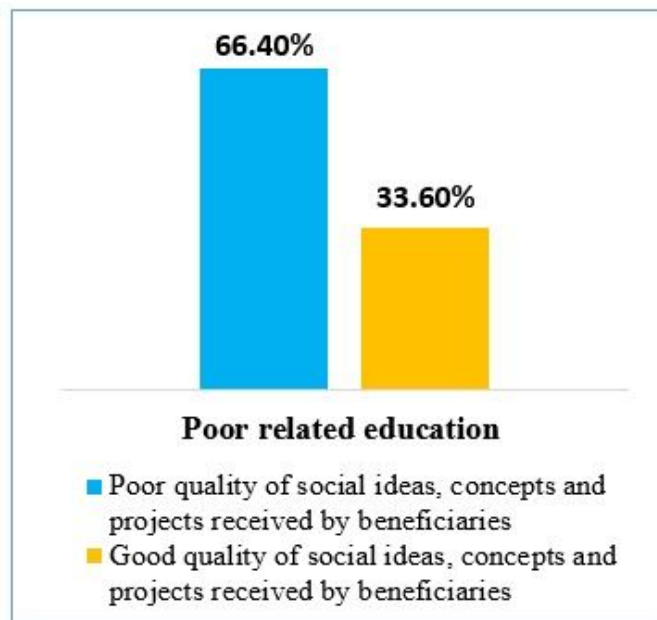
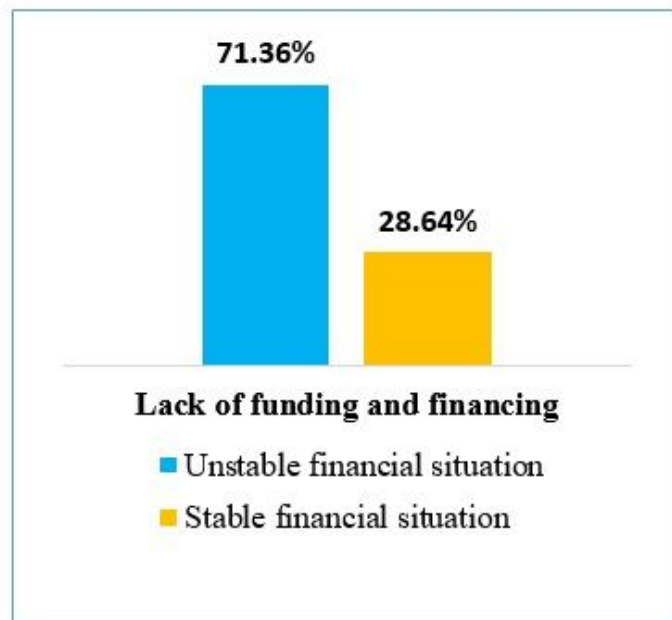


Figure 31

(31a) the reflections of the first most severe challenges (31b) the reflections of the second most severe challenges (31c) the reflections of the third most severe challenges (31d) the reflections of the fourth most severe challenges

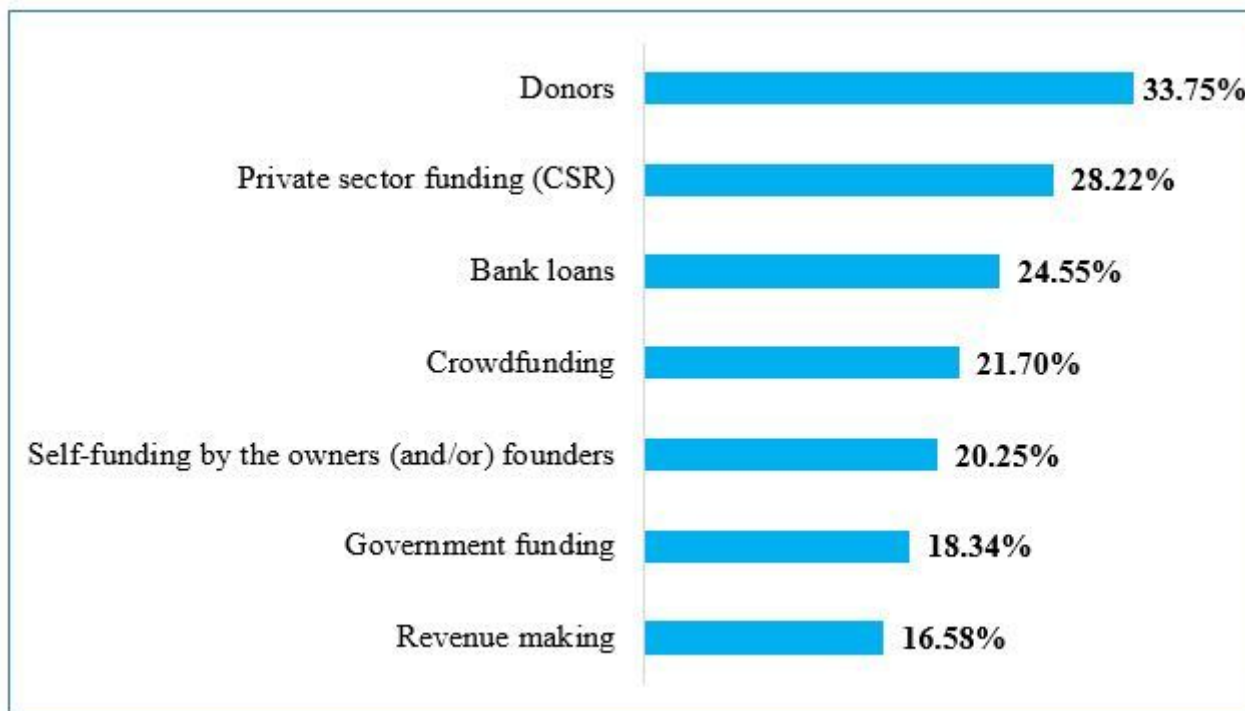


Figure 32

The sources of finance for the SESO's in Jordan

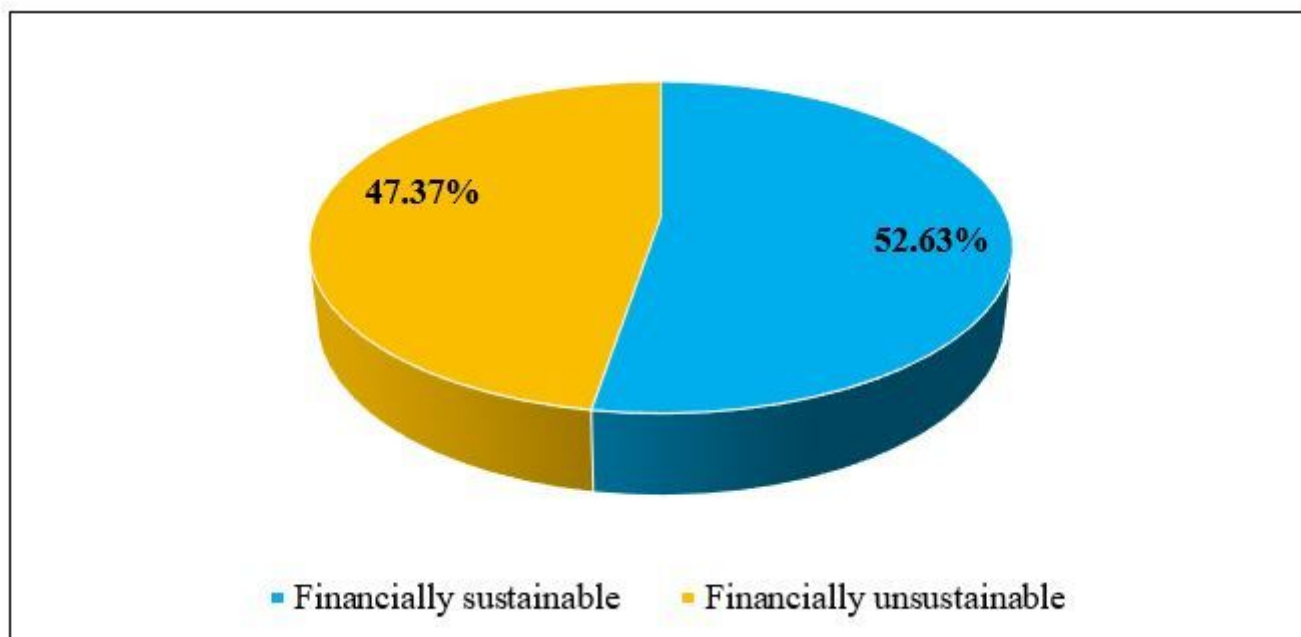


Figure 33

Financial sustainability

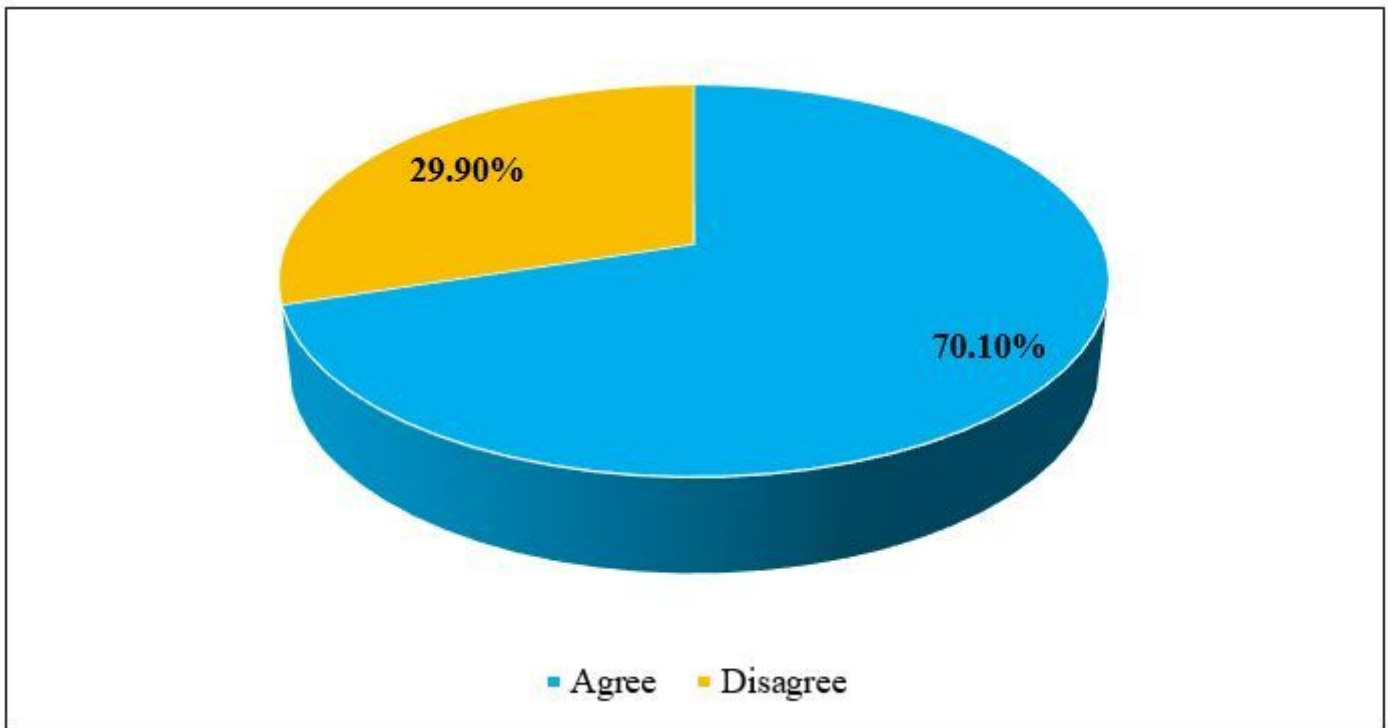


Figure 34

Agreeing and disagreeing with that, social and non-for-profits project developing revenue generation arms, it harms their reputation

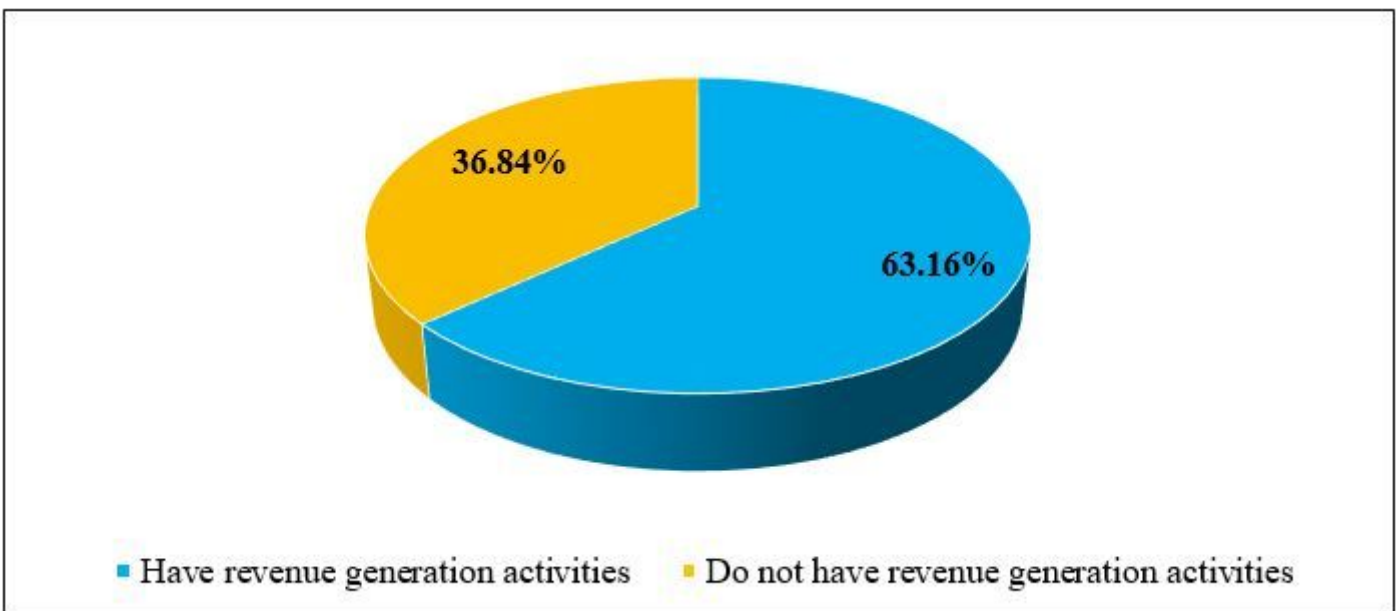


Figure 35

Revenue generation activities

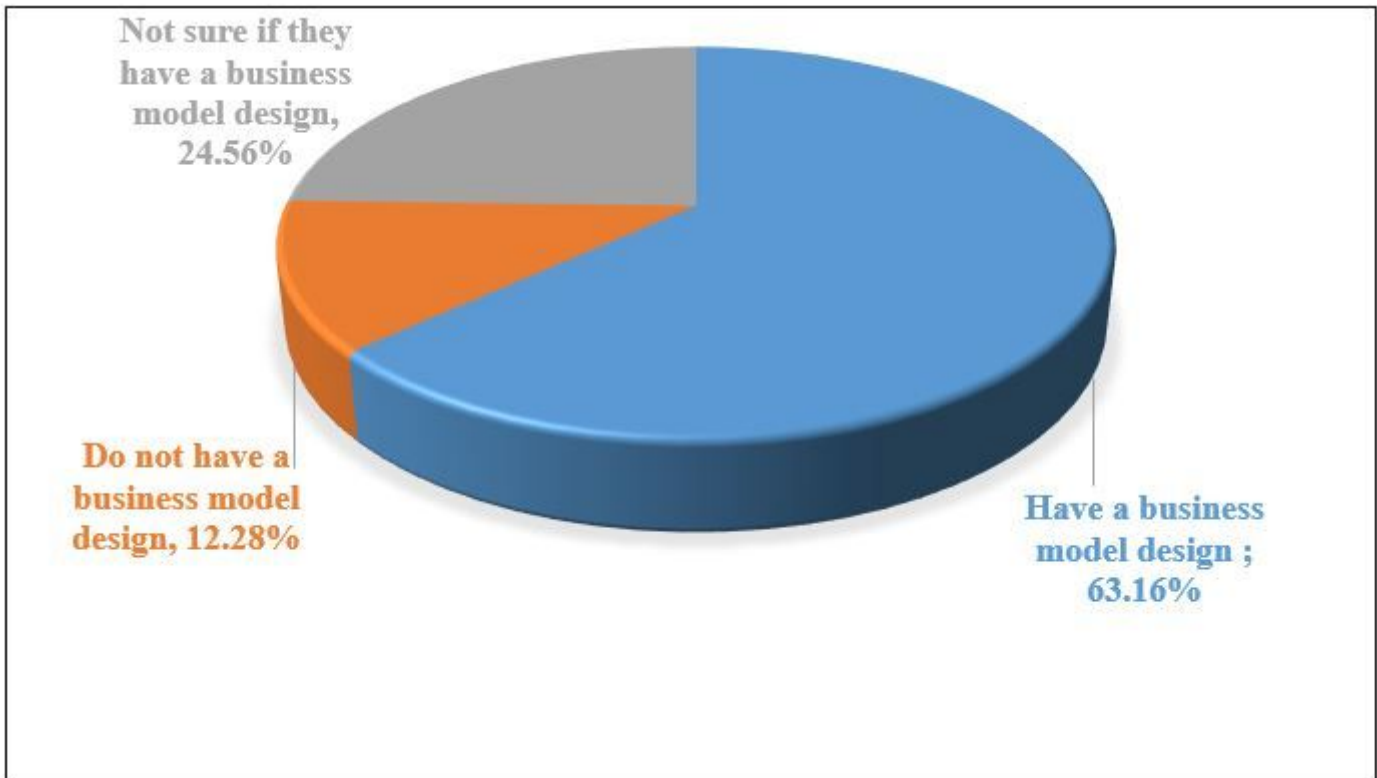


Figure 36

Business model design

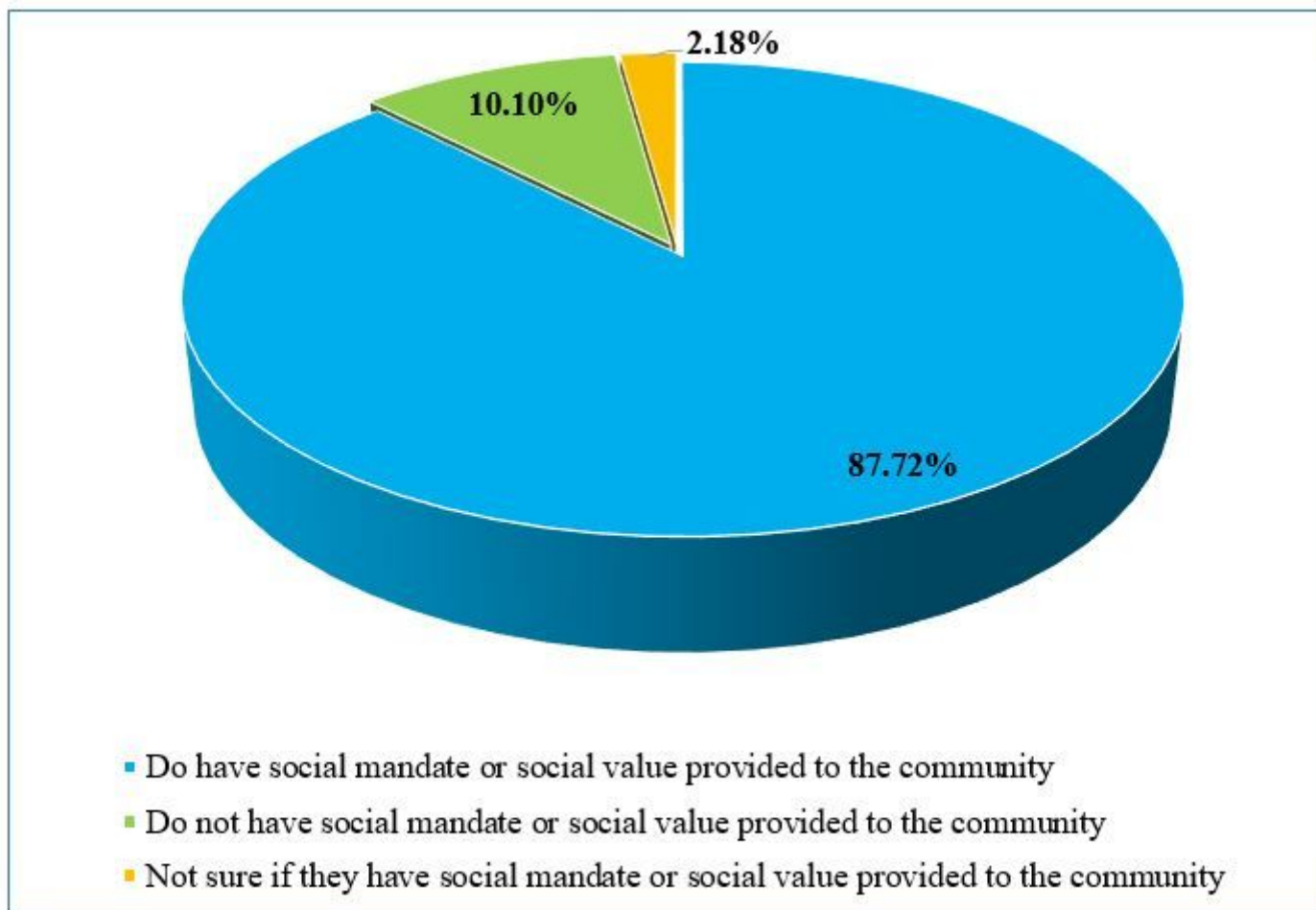


Figure 37

Social mandate or social value

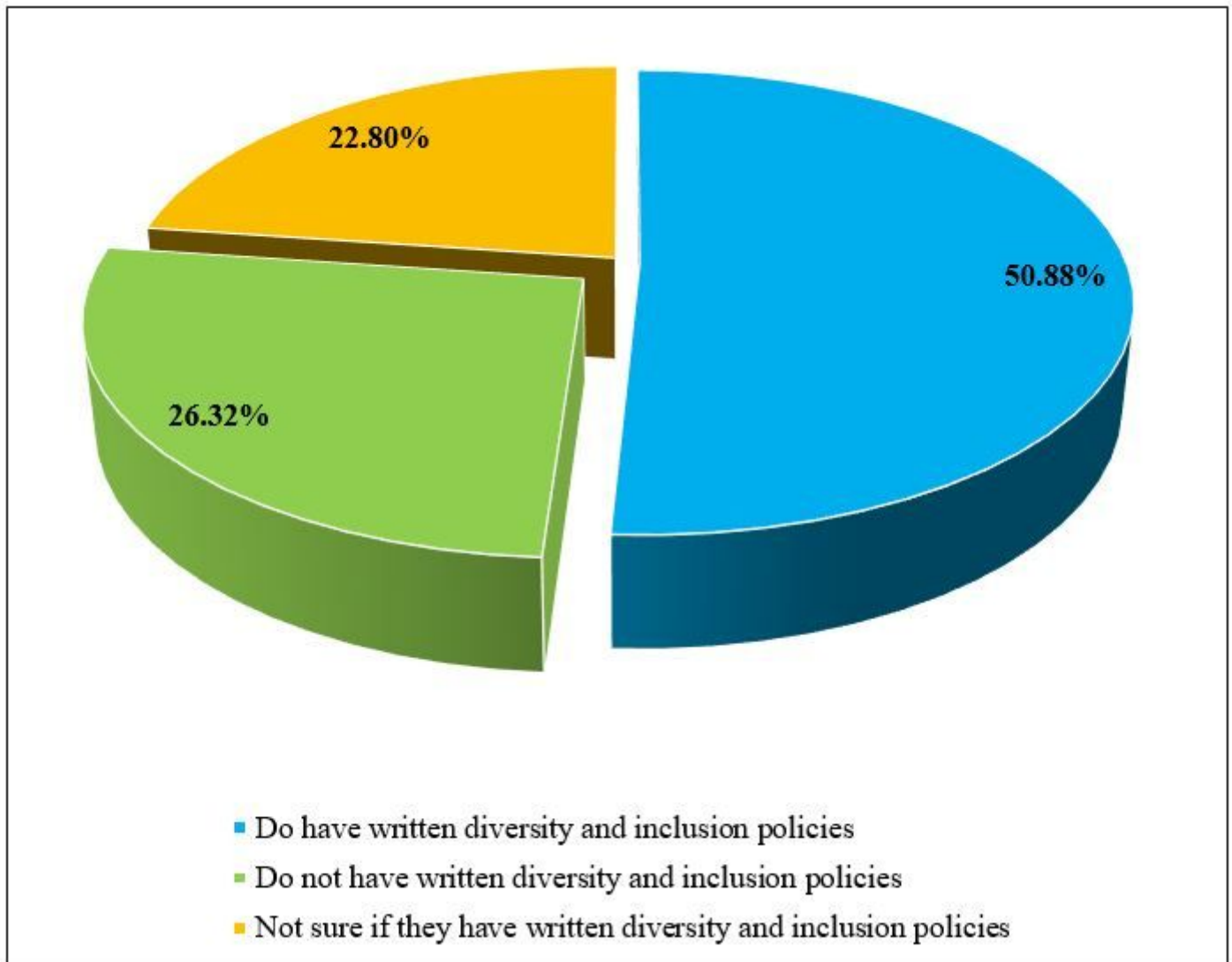


Figure 38

Presence of written diversity and inclusion policies

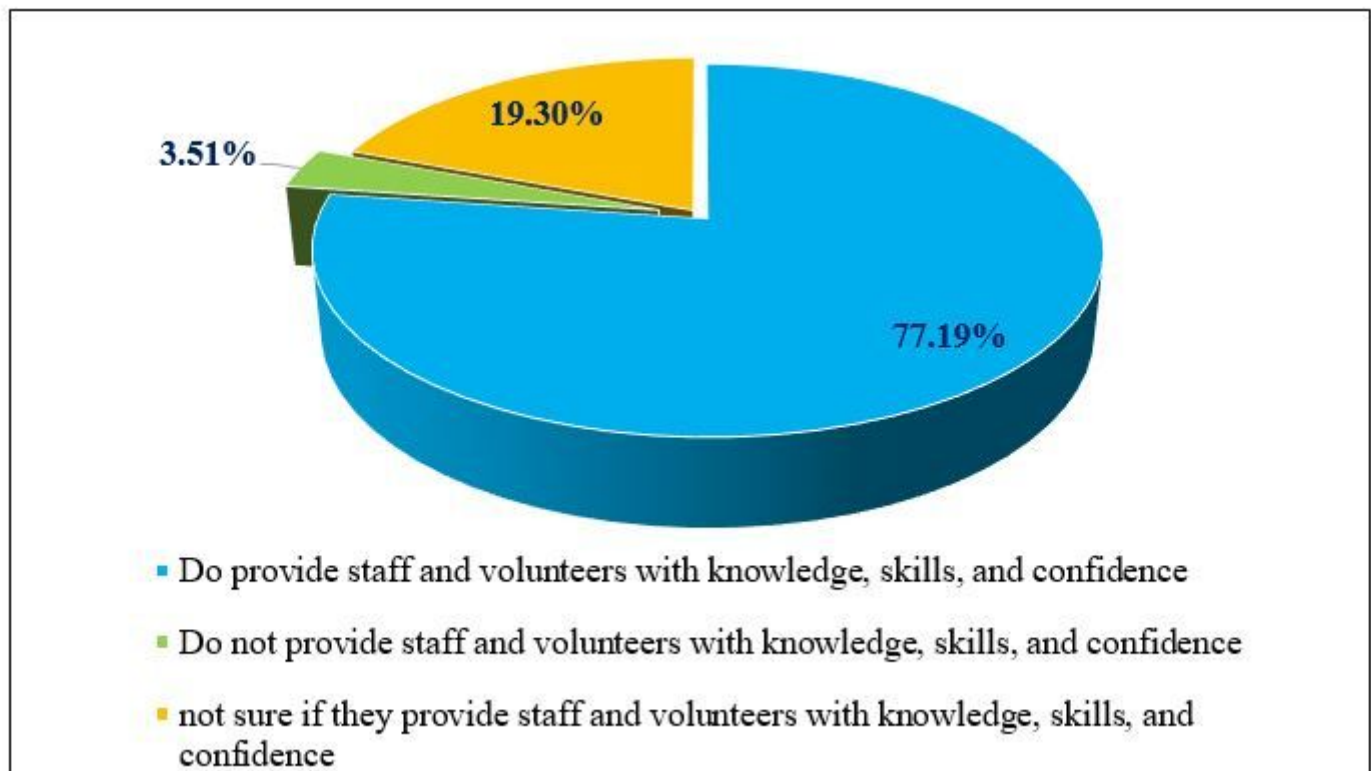


Figure 39

Providing staff and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver inclusive work

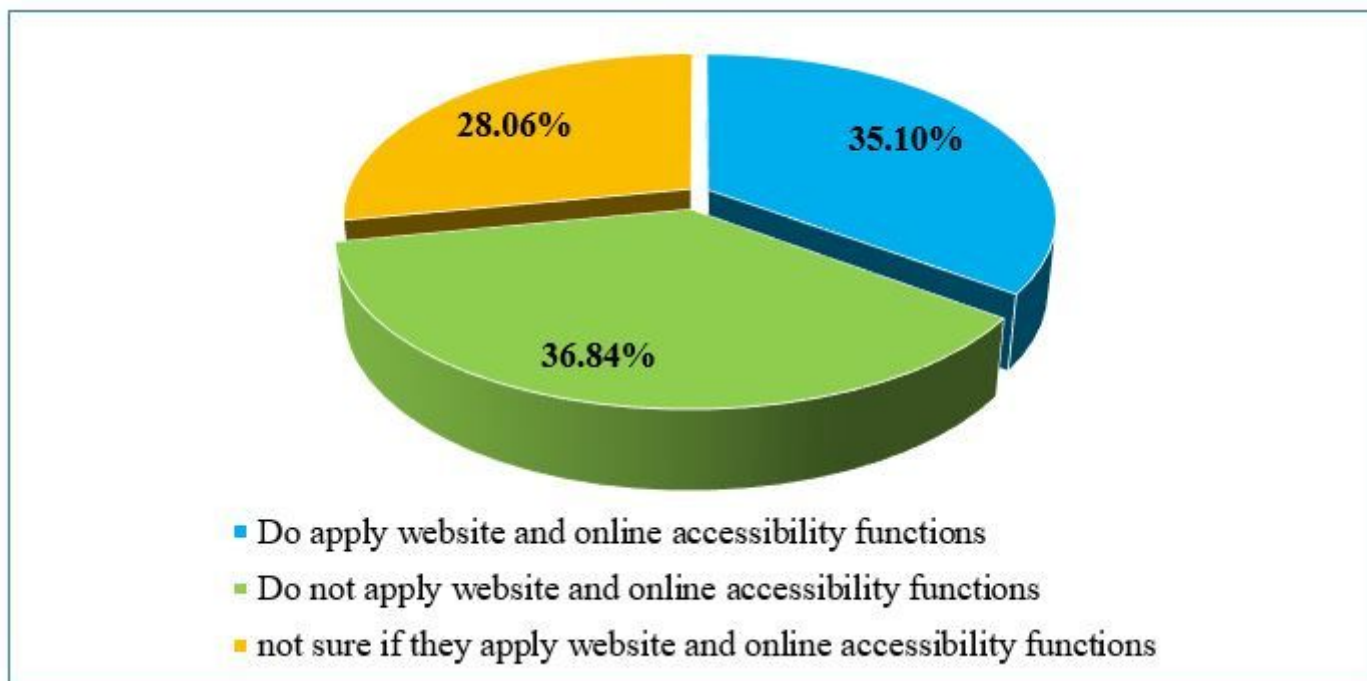


Figure 40

Applying website and online accessibility functions

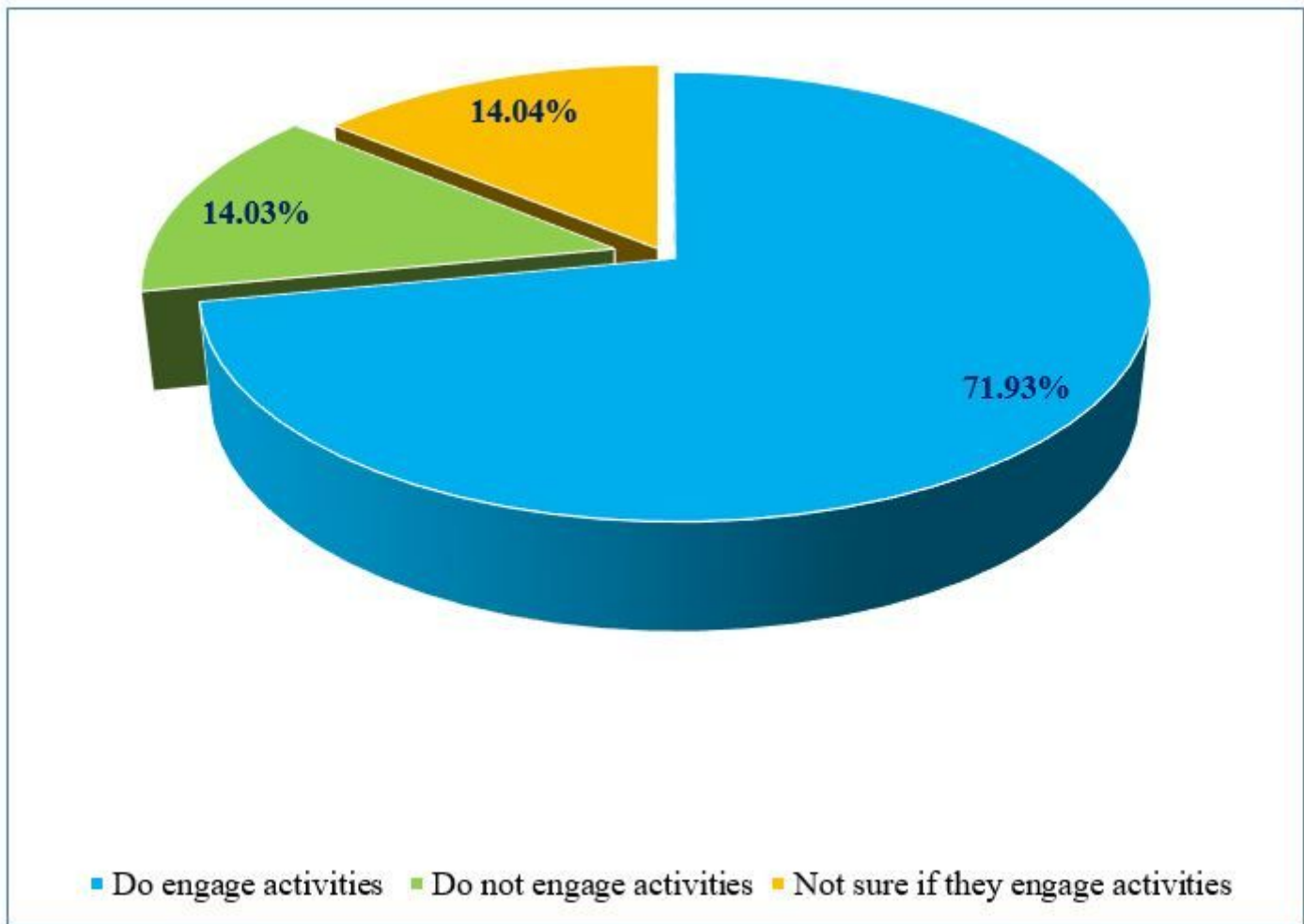


Figure 41

Activity engagement