



The role of mindfulness and perceived social support in promoting students' social entrepreneurial intention

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to demonstrate the positive relationships between mindfulness, perceived social support, and social entrepreneurship intention (SEI) using the theory of planned behaviour (TPB).

Research Design & Methods: This study surveyed 525 students who have been taking social entrepreneurship courses of non-profit organizations in Vietnam. Data was collected through a pre-designed questionnaire at Google Form from August to October 2020 and analysed by structural equation modelling to verify the research model and hypotheses.

Findings: The research confirmed the positive relationships between mindfulness, perceived social support, and social entrepreneurial intention (SEI). Among them, the role of mindfulness is the most important, because its impact on SEI is the strongest. This study has also shown that the components of the theory of planned behaviour have an intermediary role to strengthen the relationships in the research model.

Implications & Recommendations: This study confirms the need to include mindfulness courses when training future social entrepreneurs to help them for acquiring the right attitudes and forming social entrepreneurial intentions.

Contribution & Value Added: This study found that practicing mindfulness drastically changes entrepreneurs' attitudes towards social entrepreneurship. In contrast, perceived social support makes these entrepreneurs display a higher level of self-efficacy in forming social entrepreneurial intentions.

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid economic growth and globalization make the process of urbanization, as well as income differentiation, quicker and have left gaps in society (Bourguignon, 2018; Tchamyou, 2020). In addition, non-traditional security factors, natural disasters, epidemics, and climate change with unpredictable happenings have had heavy impact on the production and life of many classes of the population, especially among vulnerable ones (Durante *et al.*, 2017; Guzman & Oviedo, 2018; Musterd *et al.*, 2017). Hence, social enterprises have emerged as a fill-in gap that governments and commercial enterprises could fill (Hamby *et al.*, 2017; Kickul & Lyons, 2020). Social enterprises, established to provide economic services and social assistance, as well as to promote social change, have existed in various forms throughout history (Morales *et al.*, 2021). However, governments and scientists have paid little attention to it, especially in transitioning markets.

Social entrepreneurs, founders of social enterprises, pursue social missions (Muñoz & Kimmitt, 2019) and try to solve social problems through innovative solutions (Ip *et al.*, 2018; Tiwari *et al.*, 2017a;

Zaremohzzabieh *et al.*, 2019). Social entrepreneurs have provided creative business models that positively handle society's problems and fill gaps in national social welfare programs (Nicholls, 2010). Therefore, many countries have been supporting the development of generations of social entrepreneurs. Academically, understanding how an individual forms of social entrepreneurial intention (SEI) has become an important research goal (Kruse, 2020).

According to Dees (1998), the essence of social entrepreneurship is pursuing a dual mission: creating social and economic value and being an agent of change. This mission makes social entrepreneurship more challenging than ordinary ones (Austin *et al.*, 2006). Therefore, social enterpreneurs need distinct personality traits that motivate them for pursuing this difficult choice (Hsu & Wang, 2019; Nga & Shamuganathan, 2010; Smith & Woodworth, 2012; Stephan & Drencheva, 2017). However, to be a social entrepreneur, individuals need more than possessing a social personality because they still have to secure the business finances (Berbegal-Mirabent *et al.*, 2021; Mair & Noboa, 2006).

According to Plaskoff (2012), mindfulness may be a solution to this problem. Besides, in addition to increasing awareness of business opportunities, practicing mindfulness increases compassion, which turns into taking more ethical decisions regarding others (Kelly & Dorian, 2017). Thus, mindfulness is a precondition for creating motivation for a person to become a social entrepreneur. Wach and Głodowska (2021) argue that research on entrepreneurial traits is still in the developing stage. The addition of mindfulness in the SEI model offers the novelty of exploration for the personal trait of social entrepreneurs. This brings an innovative aspect to the research of the characteristics of social entrepreneurs, which is focused on the Big five model (Bernardino *et al.*, 2018; Tran & Von Korflesch, 2016). On the other hand, Ip *et al.* (2018) stated that perceived social support is the antecedent for SEI. Recent empirical studies on SEI show that perceived social support is a factor that receives much attention (Hockerts, 2017; Lacap *et al.*, 2018; Politis *et al.*, 2016). Luc *et al.* (2019) confirms that perceived social support is one of the factors that are often added to research models on SEI. Bacq and Janssen (2011) argue that understanding local social influence is very important in the research of social entrepreneurship. However, a comparison between mindfulness and perceived social support about SEI has not been done before.

In social psychology research, the models of behavioural intention have been successfully used to predict future behaviour for both managers and policymakers (Wach & Wojciechowski, 2016), in which the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) is often used for studying on SEI (Luc *et al.*, 2019). The objective of this study is to explore the impacts of mindfulness and perceived social support on SEI by applying the TPB model. From this result, we propose ideas for universities to help them come up with appropriate policies for the development of new generations of social entrepreneurs. On the other hand, this study was also conducted to supplement prior research on the attributes of social entrepreneurs. The objective was achieved via an exploratory study that focused on identifying the essential factors that explain the process of forming SEI.

The structure of the article includes five sections. The first section is the introduction to the research problem. In the second section, the literature review is presented. The third section discusses the design of the research and the methodology. In the fourth section, we present and discuss the results. The last section of the article draws conclusions about the contributions of this study to theory and practice.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social entrepreneurial intention

Shaw and Carter (2007) argue that social entrepreneurship brings value to a community by using resources creatively. Bosch-Badia *et al.* (2015) agree that social entrepreneurship involves entrepreneurship with the determination to achieve positive social transformation social entrepreneurship takes many different forms, including starting, or transforming existing business, or collaborating with others (Short *et al.*, 2009). So, the definitions clearly state that social entrepreneurship is a process of creating social value based on business principles. Driven by self-motivators, social enterprises look for opportunities that can make social value by doing social changes or responding to social needs. (Zahra *et al.*, 2009). As the role of social entrepreneurs becomes more important in socio-economics, academic interest in their SEI has also increased (Krueger *et al.*, 2000). Behavioural intention theories are used to explain why entrepreneurs plan to establish a business or organization before they look for opportunities (Wang *et al.*, 2016). According to Bosma *et al.* (2016), SEI relates to any type of activity, planning, or idea with specific social, environmental, or community goals. These activities may include providing services or training to people with disabilities, activities for decreasing pollution or waste, organizing community groups (Bosma *et al.*, 2016).

Thus, an individual's SEI is a fine indicator for the start-up of social businesses and also an emerging field of interest for scientists. Researchers have suggested different factors influence SEI such as big five traits (Aure, 2018; Hsu & Wang, 2019; Ip *et al.*, 2018; Nga & Shamuganathan, 2010), entrepreneurial personalities (Liu *et al.*, 2020; Politis *et al.*, 2016), social personalities (Bacq & Alt, 2018; McMullen & Bergman, 2017; Miller *et al.*, 2012), cognitive factors (Kedmenec *et al.*, 2015; Tiwari *et al.*, 2017a), work requirements and education (Shumate *et al.*, 2014). Researchers emphasize that these factors indirectly affect the intentions of individuals by influencing their attitudes (Krueger & Kickul, 2006). Therefore, social entrepreneurship is a multi-step process, in which intention has been seen as the first step and should be considered cautiously (Bacq *et al.*, 2016; Dacin *et al.*, 2010; Hockerts, 2017). However, Ziegler (2011) finds that the preequisites for motivating individuals to become social entrepre-

preneurs have not been fully explored. Especially in a country with an emerging economy like Vietnam, where many problems need to be solved to both develop the economy and make life and society better. Hence, the research in this field will help solve these problems that arise in society.

Theory of planned behaviour (TPB)

Ajzen (1991) presents TPB as an improvement to the theory of reasoned action (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980). The TPB theory has been used in various research to assess human behaviours in different relationships. For TPB, behavioural intention is the key predictor that makes it easier to measure and evaluate behaviour. In TPB, factors that can influence planned behaviour are the subjective norm, perceived behavioural control, and attitude towards behaviour. The TPB has demonstrated its ability to anticipate and interpret human behaviour in specific situations based on the assumption that human intention is the subject of a motivational state that encourages behaviour (Fayolle & Liñán, 2014; Sharahiley, 2020; Tiwari *et al.*, 2017a). Researchers often apply the adjusted TPB model with the substitution or addition of appropriate variables according to each research context for helping to better explain behaviours (Alzubaidi *et al.*, 2021; Munir *et al.*, 2019; Shneor & Munim, 2019). However, the relationship between subjective norm and SEI has not been confirmed in many studies (Kruse *et al.*, 2019; Luc, 2018; Politis *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, this factor is not studied in this article.

Attitude towards behaviour (ATB) is the degree to which the individual likes or dislikes the outcomes that the behaviour produces (Ajzen, 1991). In the context of social entrepreneurship, Kruse *et al.* (2021) argue that attitude is an assessment of the action. As such, a negative or positive evaluation of the activity reduces or enhances the likelihood of it being executed. Based on the student perspective, ATB is the degree to which students desire or do not desire to make social entrepreneurship behaviours (Lukman *et al.*, 2021). Many researchers have found a positive link between individuals who aspire to be a social entrepreneur and SEI (Ernst, 2011; Luc, 2018; Politis *et al.*, 2016). Hence, our first hypothesis is:

H1: Attitude towards behaviour (ATB) has a positive effect on social entrepreneurial intention (SEI).

Perceived behaviour control refers to an individual's perception of the ability to perform a particular behaviour (Ajzen, 1991). A high level of perceived behavioural control increases endeavour, determination, and intention to commit to the behaviour (Ajzen, 2002). However, perceived behaviour control can be replaced by self-efficacy (SEF) when explaining behavioural intentions (Armitage & Conner, 2001). Wach and Bilan (2021) argue that these two concepts are equivalent and interchangeable. SEF is considered as a set of competencies of beliefs as seen from the social cognitive perspective (Bandura, 1993). In the context of social entrepreneurship, SEF is defined as an individual's perception of their ability for contributing to social change in finding solutions for social problems (Hockerts, 2017). When people have

strong SEF in SEI, they are ready to face external obstacles. Since social issues are often quite complex, they pose psychological barriers for potential social entrepreneurs. As a result, SEF can help reduce these barriers to SEI (Hockerts, 2017). The above arguments lead to the following two hypotheses:

- H2: Self-efficacy (SEF) has a positive impact on social entrepreneurial intention (SEI).
- H3: Self-efficacy (SEF) has a positive impact on attitude towards behaviour (ATB).

Perceived social support

Perceived social support (PSS) is defined as interactions or relationships of society that make real support or set individuals up in a system that is supposed to provide care or to create a feeling of belonging to a valued community group (Hobfoll, 1988). Social support theory explains that the support received from interpersonal relationships has a positive influence on how an individual responds to stress or life changes. According to Hockerts (2015), in the context of social entrepreneurship, perceived social support is how individuals perceive the degree to which they will be supported by those in their network. Individuals will be impacted by the extent to which they will receive support and assistance in their efforts from people in their networks. Perceived social support also reflects the extent to which individuals believe access to investments is possible when they establish a social enterprise (Nga & Shamuganathan, 2010).

The support of the close environment (relative, trustworthy and influential person) makes people believe that they are more likely to be suitable and viable for a business career (Liñán & Chen, 2009). Nowiński *et al.* (2020) have demonstrated that there is a positive relationship between PSS and entrepreneurial intention mediated by TPB components such as ATB and SEF. The above arguments suggest PSS's role is related to the concepts of social entrepreneurship in limited resource environments, as often happens in developing countries (Desa & Basu, 2013). Therefore, t he next research hypotheses are:

- H4: Perceived social support (PSS) has a positive effect on social entrepreneurial intention (SEI).
- **H5:** Perceived social support (PSS) has a positive effect on attitude towards behaviour (ATB).
- H6: Perceived social support (PSS) has a positive effect on self-efficacy (SEF).

Mindfulness

Mindfulness (MFN) has been studied by researchers in a variety of circumstances, such as psychology, health, business, education, meditation, and social sciences (Brown & Ryan, 2003; Chatzisarantis & Hagger, 2007; Dimidjian & Segal, 2015; Langer & Moldoveanu, 2000; Ngo *et al.*, 2016; Rahl *et al.*, 2017). Across fields of research, MFN is often described as the focus on or attention on the present moment, and following the feeling of curiosity, openness, and acceptance (Brown & Ryan, 2003; Langer, 1989; Sternberg, 2000). In these studies, there are important implications that we may improve our MFN level through exercise (Baer, 2003); and that it may enhance work efficiency in volatile decision-making environments (Dane, 2011).

Mindfulness disposition is a characteristic that indicates the degree to which a person pays attention to or is aware of what is happening in the present moment (Brown & Ryan, 2003). While research shows that dispositional or trait mindfulness can be magnified through repeated practice or reverting to the state of mindfulness (Kiken *et al.*, 2015), this article focuses on MFN as an orientation, regardless of mindfulness practice or not. In entrepreneurship, MFN can help explain how entrepreneurs anticipate and take advantage of opportunities that others may not (Capel, 2014; Rerup, 2005). High levels of MFN can promote entrepreneurial behaviour through increased flexibility in awareness of situations (Gelderen *et al.*, 2019). These are the important prerequisites for an individual to increase SEI. In traditional business, previous studies have demonstrated a link between MFN and start-up intention (Caliendo *et al.*, 2014; Frese & Gielnik, 2014; Gelderen *et al.*, 2019; Rerup, 2005). Although, Gelderen *et al.* (2019) declare that individuals with lower levels of mindfulness were more likely to take entrepreneurial action than higher mindful ones, but they also found that individuals with a high level of mindfulness when they have decided to start a business will take more action, even more drastic, if they have business experience. This also makes sense when explaining SEI as entrepreneurs must have consideration and understanding before deciding to enter this field. Therefore, MFN is expected to play an important role in SEI. Individuals with high dispositional mindfulness have a deeper awareness and attention to everyday happenings (Dane & Brummel, 2014). Awareness and clarity of mind also increase people's ability to think more positively (Kabat-Zinn, 1990). Mindfulness creates increased awareness by taking a multidimensional approach and allowing the entrepreneur to see things from the other person's point of view, which makes more empathy and leads to more compassionate and ethical decisions. This is the premise for pursuing the mission of creating and maintaining social value. Miller *et al.* (2012) demonstrated a link between compassion and social entrepreneurship outcomes, and increased mindfulness has been shown to raise levels of it (McCollum & Gehart, 2010). In addition, if individuals are characterized by a high MFN level, then they also have more compassion than those who display a low MFN level (Hunter & McCormick, 2008). It exhibits a strong orientation towards taking care of others (Good *et al.*, 2016). According to Good *et al.* (2016), MFN increases prosocial behaviours, so it also helps potential entrepreneurs increase attitudes towards SEI.

Moreover, s cientists report that person with a high rank of MFN tends to be more willing to face challenges (Feldman *et al.*, 2007), which has a positive influence on SEF, while it reduces the propensity to procrastinate (Howell & Buro, 2011). MFN has been shown to promote more adaptation to situations (Vago & David, 2012). In addition, Keye and Pidgeon (2013) provide recent empirical evidence supporting a positive relationship between MFN and SEF. Following the above arguments, we formulated the last hypotheses:

- H7: Mindfulness (MFN) has a positive impact on Social entrepreneurial intention (SEI).
- H8: Mindfulness (MFN) has a positive impact on Attitude towards behaviour (ATB).
- H9: Mindfulness (MFN) has a positive impact on Self-efficacy (SEF).

From the above research hypotheses, we propose the following research model (Figure 1).

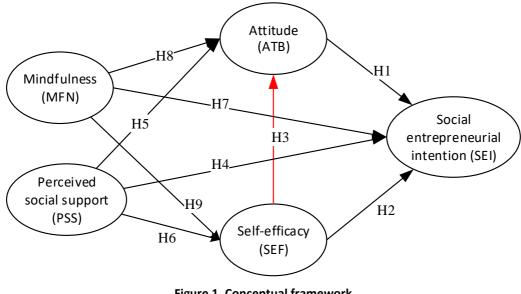


Figure 1. Conceptual framework Source: own elaboration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sampling method and data collection

The survey subjects in this article are students who had attended various programs organized by the Supporting Social Enterprise Community (SSEC) and the Centre for Social Initiatives Promotion (CSIP). Both CSIP and SSEC are prominent non-profit organizations in promoting social entrepreneurship in Vietnam. The researchers recommend targeting young people because they are more conscious of their careers and because of the perception that social entrepreneurship is linked with youth (Bosma

et al., 2016; Hockerts, 2017; Nga & Shamuganathan, 2010; Tiwari *et al.*, 2017a). The survey participants were students selected by the convenience sampling method.

We collected data using an electronic survey method delivered through Google Forms. The survey was conducted between August 2020 and November 2020. There were 525 valid questionnaires (no missing value) for analysis. In which, the number of male students participating in the survey is 250 (accounting for 47.6%). In Table 1., the vast majority of them are students majoring in Economics (accounting for 67.8%) and in their first year (accounting for 42.1%).

Variables	Values	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender	Male	250	47.6
	Female	275	52.4
Academic year	Year 1	221	42.1
	Year 2	121	23.0
	Year 3	115	21.9
	Year 4 and more	68	13.0
Training sector	Engineering sector	110	21.0
	Economic sector	356	67.8
	Sociological sector	59	11.2

Table 1. Demographic statistics

Source: own study.

Measurement

The questionnaire is commonly used to collect data in advanced scientific studies. This article uses seven -point Likert scales, where one means "strongly disagree" and seven "strongly agree." The scales of research concepts are inherited from previous studies. Specifically, the scales of SEF and PSS are inherited from Hockerts (2017) with three items for each scale. The scales of ATB (five items) and SEI (six items) were designed from the study of Liñán and Chen (2009), while the MFN scale was borrowed from the study of Brown and Ryan (2003) with 15 items. To ensure that the respondents have a correct understanding of social entrepreneurship, the explanation of the definition of social entrepreneurship is provided in the introduction of the questionnaire.

We applied SPSS and AMOS 24 software to analyze the collected data. The research hypotheses were verified by structural equation modelling (SEM) according to Anderson and Gerbing's (1988) process. In the first step, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was applied to evaluate construct validity and goodness-of-fit. Hair *et al.* (2010) said that the construct validity is assessed by the following criteria:

- Standardized regression weight (Factor loading) must not be less than 0.7.
- Average variance extracted (AVE) should be 0.5 or greater to achieve convergence.
- The square root of the AVE should not be less than the inter-correlation between two concepts to
 provide the discriminant validity.
- The reliability indices such as Cronbach's α (CA) or composite reliability (CR) should not be less than
 0.7 to demonstrate the internal consistency of the scales.

Then, we assessed the goodness-of-fit to compare the similarity between the observed and estimated covariance matrices (Hair *et al.*, 2010). The model fit is tested through criteria such as Chi-square/degree of freedom (χ 2/df), GFI, TLI, CFI, NFI, RMR, and RMSEA. In the second step, we applied the SEM technique. Then, we tested the hypotheses through the evaluation of the path coefficients (beta). Moreover, the impact intensity of the relationships between the research concepts is also checked in this step.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Confirmatory factor analysis

Construct validity is performed to assess whether a construct's scale adequately measures the intended concept (O'Leary-Kelly & Vokurka, 1998). The results of Table 2 show that the internal consistency of the scales is guaranteed when the CA and CR values do not fall below the "cut-off" value of 0.7 (the minimum value of both CR and CA is 0.841 on the scale of PSS). The AVEs are also satisfactory when the lowest value is 0.540 (of the MFN scale). At the same time, the factor loadings are also between 0.702 and 0.846. Thus, the scales in this study have got convergent validity.

Variables	CR	СА	AVE	Factor Loading	MFN	SEI	ATB	PSS	SEF
MFN	0.946	0.946	0.540	0.707-0.800	0.735				
SEI	0.922	0.922	0.663	0.778-0.846	0.593***	0.815			
ATB	0.862	0.863	0.557	0.702-0.826	0.558***	0.727***	0.746		
PSS	0.841	0.841	0.638	0.783-0.820	0.607***	0.589***	0.525***	0.799	
SEF	0.842	0.841	0.640	0.774-0.836	0.530***	0.595***	0.483***	0.577***	0.800

Table 2. Construct validity

Significant codes: *** p < 0.001. Source: own study.

On the other hand, the discriminant validity also should be satisfied. As discussed in the previous section, the square root of the AVE of a concept must not be lower than the correlations of that concept with others in the model. Those square root values (in bold) are all greater than their intercorrelations (in italics), which means that the scales achieve discriminant validity. So, the construct validity has been verified (See Table 2).

Hair *et al.* (2010) stated that the goodness-of-fit evaluates the difference between the estimated model and the actual values. The goodness-of-fit measures calculated through AMOS 24 software show that they met the requirements (s ee Table 3). This means that the collected data is fitted with the predictions of the estimated model. Thus, after evaluating the CFA, the data are suitable for SEM analysis.

Criteria	Values	Cut-off	Sources
χ²/df	1.785	< 3	Hu and Bentler (1999)
GFI	0.909	> 0.9	
ТЦ	0.962	> 0.9	
CFI	0.966	> 0.95	
NFI	0.925	> 0.9	
RMR	0.054	< 0.08	Taylor <i>et al.</i> (1993)
RMSEA	0.039	< 0.08	

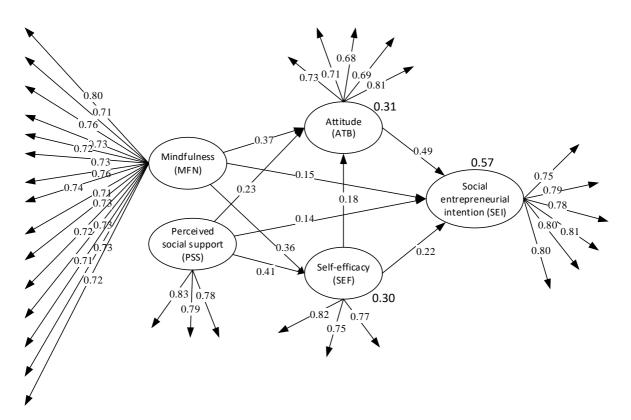
Table 3. Goodness-of-fit

Source: own study.

Structural model assessment and discussions

According to Figure 2 and Table 4, the path coefficients are all positive. This means that the above research hypotheses are all accepted. Specifically, ATB had the strongest effect on SEI (β = 0.487), while SEF had a weaker effect (β = 0.221). This is surprising as it contrasts with the results of Tiwari *et al.* (2017b). It can be explained by the fact that SEI is a new concept in Vietnam. Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country, with a culture that pursues stability. According to Hofstede (1993), people of this culture often tend to resist unknown situations. Therefore, Vietnamese students are not confident about becoming social entrepreneurs.

The results also show that the standardized direct effects of MFN and PSS on SEI are quite small with β coefficients of 0.154 and 0.139, respectively (See Table 4). However, in Table 5, the results have demonstrated the intermediate effects of TPB components. Specifically, through ATB and SEF, the in-



direct effects of MFN and PSS on SEI have β of 0.292 and 0.241. That is why the total effects of MFN and PSS on SEI are stronger than the direct effect of SEF on SEI (with β of 0.446 and 0.380, respectively).

Figure 2. Structural model Source: own elaboration.

H	Hypothesis		Hypothesis Path coefficients		S.E.	C.R.	p-value	Results	
SEF	<	MFN	0.356	0.045	7.670	***	Accepted		
SEF	<	PSS	0.413	0.048	8.289	***	Accepted		
ATB	<	MFN	0.373	0.049	7.459	***	Accepted		
ATB	<	PSS	0.232	0.051	4.374	***	Accepted		
ATB	<	SEF	0.180	0.058	3.122	0.002	Accepted		
SEI	<	MFN	0.154	0.042	3.621	***	Accepted		
SEI	<	PSS	0.139	0.044	3.146	0.002	Accepted		
SEI	<	ATB	0.487	0.052	9.674	***	Accepted		
SEI	<	SEF	0.221	0.049	4.596	***	Accepted		

Table 4. Hypothesis testing

Significant codes: *** p < 0.001. Source: own study.

Another finding of this study was the effects of MFN and PSS on components of TPB. The MFN is found to have a stronger impact on respondents' attitudes towards social enterprises ($\beta = 0.437$) than their SEF ($\beta = 0.307$). This shows that practicing mindfulness will help people have a more positive attitude towards the community (Kelly & Dorian, 2017). In contrast, PSS helps people increase their confidence when deciding to become social entrepreneurs. Indeed, Liñán and Chen (2009) suggest that people are more confident in their behaviour when they are supported by the external environment. Therefore, PSS has a more important role than MFN in enhancing the SEF of potential social entrepreneurs ($\beta = 0.413 > 0.356$).

Thus, the research results confirm the role of MFN and PSS in SEI formation, in which MFN has the greatest impact (See Table 5). This result confirms Plaskoff's (2012) statement about using mindfulness to explain social entrepreneurship as a way of integrating heart and mind; as well as affirming mindfulness as an important personality trait of SEI (Chinchilla & Garcia, 2017). This is one of the first empirical studies on the relationship between MFN and SEI. It is a necessary complement to studies on the characteristics of social entrepreneurs, which have been centred around the Big five model (Bernardino *et al.*, 2018; Tran & Von Korflesch, 2016).

PSS	MFN	SEF	АТВ
0.413***	0.356***		
0	0		
0.307***	0.437***	0.180*	
0.074	0.064	0	
0.380*	0.446***	0.309***	0.487***
0.241	0.292	0.088	0
-	0.413*** 0 0.307*** 0.074 0.380*	0.413*** 0.356*** 0 0 0.307*** 0.437*** 0.074 0.064 0.380* 0.446***	0.413*** 0.356*** 0 0 0.307*** 0.437*** 0.074 0.064 0.380* 0.446***

Table 5. Standardized indirect and total effects

Significant codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 '' 1 Italics number: Indirect effect Normal number: Total effect

Source: own study.

Thus, the research results confirm the role of MFN and PSS in SEI formation, in which MFN has the greatest impact (See Table 5). This result confirms Plaskoff's (2012) statement about using mindfulness to explain social entrepreneurship as a way of integrating heart and mind; as well as affirming mindfulness as an important personality trait of SEI (Chinchilla & Garcia, 2017). This is one of the first empirical studies on the relationship between MFN and SEI. It is a necessary complement to studies on the characteristics of social entrepreneurs, which have been centred around the Big five model (Bernardino *et al.*, 2018; Tran & Von Korflesch, 2016).

CONCLUSIONS

This article has completed the research objective of finding out the positive relationship of MFN, PSS with SEI of students in Vietnam. On the other hand, this research also demonstrated a significant mediating effect of TPB model components in the above relationships.

From the research results, we suggest the following for university leaders and policymakers. Firstly, mindfulness plays an important role in shaping the SEI of potential entrepreneurs. The practice of mindfulness should receive more attention from policymakers and training institutions to help individuals gain a more favourable view of social enterprises. Baer (2003) suggests that mindfulness can be enhanced through practice. Therefore, this training helps students improve their attitudes towards social problems and thereby enhance their SEI.

Secondly, the relationship between PSS and SEI has the weakest correlation, but social support plays an important role in students' self-efficacy (See table 5). Therefore, having policies to support students will help them gain more confidence in their intention to become an entrepreneur (Nowiński *et al.*, 2020). According to Desa and Basu (2013), in areas where other support resources are lacking, such as in Vietnam, receiving support from both the university and the government increases student's motivation in terms of their chosen social careers.

Due to the selection of survey subjects and due to financial constraints, this study has some limitations. Firstly, this research studied SEI from the students' perspectives. Although young people are fit for research on social entrepreneurship (Bosma *et al.*, 2016), next studies should extend the research model testing to other survey subjects. This helps prove the research model is suitable for different subjects. Secondly, the data collection was conducted in only one country, making the results of the study not general. The expansion of model testing in other countries deserves the attention of further studies. On the other hand, the convenience sampling method has low reliability. Further studies should use probabilistic sampling methods to obtain more representative survey samples. Finally, scientists should evaluate the mediation of demographic factors in the model's relationships such as comparisons between students of different disciplines, or between students who have attended mindfulness courses with people who have not, and so on.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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