

Received: 07 June 2024, Accepted: 20 July 2024
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33282/tr.vx9i4.7>

The Role of Local Stakeholder Empowerment in Ensuring Sustainable Development: Past, Present and the Future

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ABSTRACT

There is a significant literature corpus that provides information on published materials aimed at empowering local stakeholders. To ensure sustainable development, however, local stakeholder empowerment is still a relatively new concept. This paper provides a bibliometric analysis of local stakeholder empowerment in ensuring sustainable development. This paper provides bibliometric network analysis performed on 112 articles, 17 conferences papers, 10 book chapters and 1 book. The results demonstrated trends in the development of local stakeholder empowerment in ensuring sustainable development. Bibliometric procedures highlight notable authors, publications, and theoretical contributions to the works. This work offers a thorough analysis of the role that local stakeholder empowerment shows in promoting SD for future study. This study helps empower local communities by delineating emerging study ideas on local stakeholder empowerment for future research.

Keywords: local stakeholder empowerment; sustainable development; co-occurrence analysis; text mining.

1. INTRODUCTION

A few studies (Lumpkin, 2019; de Souza Joao-Roland and Granados, 2020; Gasparin et al., 2021) emphasizes the social enterprise in relation to social value creation, sustainable development, and empowering local communities and stakeholders. The effective social enterprises could meet stakeholders to activate local assets, and they assumed that "assembling assets with local allies increases the probability of sustainable change because of their basis in local commitment besides dimensions"(Alvord et al., 2004; European Commission, 2019, p. 12). The term "Empowerment" has been widely used by researchers and aids workforces in the English-speaking world since the late 1970s, especially in social services and community development (Simon, 1994).

Assessment of a firm's communal relationship in management studies may be a type of communal wealth, provided that the relationship's content is identified (Crilly et al., 2016, Freudenreich, Lüdeke-Freund & Schaltegger, 2020). Stakeholder engagement must be viewed

as a critical component of a somewhat sustainable development strategy (Hu et al., 2023). The term "sustainable development" first appeared in 1987, and its definition was given as "collecting the desires of the current without yielding the capacity of upcoming leaders to rethink their communal purpose and express community dedication to providing stakeholders, not even just shareholders, with real worth"(United Nations, 1987). The study of sustainable development is extensive to this day. Local stakeholder empowerment is one aspect of sustainable development. According to this study, the term "local stakeholder empowerment" became popular more than a decade after the concept of social change in local communities was introduced, and shortly after the concept of sustainability was introduced.

The empowerment of local stakeholders in various dimensions has been one of the most significant strategies suggested in recent decades for socioeconomic, environmental sustainability, and local settlement development (Waligo et al., 2013; Carayannis & Campbell, 2021). The concept of sustainability includes numerous extents, the most important of which are the natural environment, socioeconomic dimensions, and cultural dimensions (Muresan et al., 2016;Paskaleva et al., 2021; Leclercq & Rijshouwer, 2022). Using a bibliometric methodology, this study examines scholarly literature on the role of LSE in the SD Domain. Utilizing quantitative and statistical techniques, bibliometric illustrates the evolution and structure of a systematic arena (Zupic & Čater, 2015; Siddaway et al., 2019). This method allows for a deeper comprehension of the research designs, theoretical frameworks, and thematic clusters in the subject area.

The foundation of our bibliometric investigation is provided by the research questions indicated below.

- RQ (1) what are major authors, organizations, and countries in research trends?
- RQ (2) what publications receive a lot of citations, and what impact do they have over time?
- RQ (3) what are the dominant theoretical frameworks besides new research themes?

Our study makes several important contributions. Initial outcomes provide an extensive and well-organized categorization of significant publications, authors, institutions, networks, and countries. Additionally, in defining the LSE construct, tracing advancements in the field, and offering guidance to researchers looking for to contribute to LSE study, our review offers a chronological and vigorous intellectual development. Interdisciplinary research in this important field of study is strengthened by acknowledging ongoing initiatives to create and examine local stakeholders' empowerment in sustainable development.

Our findings show that both the micro (authors, journals) and macro (institutions, countries) levels of research are influenced by a deeper intellectual understanding of local stakeholder empowerment. Second, our four thematic clusters (community participation, capacity building, empowerment, and community development clusters) categorize intellectual roles and explain the intersection between community empowerment and stakeholder engagement, broadening the interdisciplinary impact on LSE study. Third, such analysis elaborates on the preceding theoretical framework. Using a theoretical framework (resource-

based view and stakeholder theory) to investigate stakeholder empowerment in sustainable development demonstrates research maturity. Furthermore, identifying the theories central to this study delivers a framework for upcoming LSE research. Future research can use these theoretical contributions to rationalize upcoming studies while supporting the local community in achieving LSE and maintaining sustainability.

The following is the rest of this paper. Section 2 summarizes previous studies and reviews the literature. The methods used for data collection along with their methodology are covered in Section 3. The Journals, highly referenced publications, and relevant co-authorships are included in Section 4, along with publication trend results. This section also includes developing research clusters and theoretical clusters. Section 5 of the research discusses the use of structured and wide-ranging categorization of journals and authors. Section 6 concludes the study by discussing the findings, defining their boundaries, and making recommendations for forthcoming research.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Bibliometric Analysis

Literature reviews consider the definite literature in assessing significant contributions and study gaps. This might have a consistent structure and use an iterative procedure (Saunders & Rojon, 2011, Snyder, 2019). Pritchard (1969) is credited with coining the term "bibliometric analysis," which is employed in all research that seeks to measure the procedure of inscribed communiqué (Gokhale et al., 2020).

Bibliometric exploration observes published research using quantitative tools to give scholars an idea of a representative research model (Zupic & Čater, 2015; Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020). This recognizes authors' publications, the most well-known papers, the approach taken, and the conclusions drawn (Durán Sánchez et al., 2015; Vázquez et al., 2019; Donthu et al., 2021). Any topic of study can be summarized using metadata (Milian et al., 2019). A wide range of issues have been studied using bibliometric techniques, which have a considerable capacity for gathering bibliographic information (Blanco-Mesa et al., 2017). Important bibliometric analyses, like the one performed by Huang et al. (2016) on papers concerning rehabilitation medicine employing VR technology, are found in the scientific literature. The conclusion was that one of the most well-liked technological advancements was VR technology. The findings revealed a sharp increase in article output in recent years.

2.2. Past Studies

On the broad subjects of stakeholder engagement and community empowerment, numerous literature reviews have been conducted. A unique and critically needed literature review on local stakeholder empowerment is necessary for conducting a thorough look at the corpus of work conducted in the subject, especially within the light of rising global sustainability challenges.

The Scopus Core Collection was used to research publications on local stakeholder empowerment. Graphs, tables and figures made with VOSviewer and Excel (by Microsoft) were used to conduct a bibliometric study and assessment of literature. Research gaps and trends in publication were found. This paper follows the same general flow as earlier reviews

and bibliometric publications on related subjects (Kazemi et al., 2019; Punjani et al., 2019; Rocha et al., 2020; Nagariya et al., 2021; Ramos et al., 2021). The next section goes into more detail about the methodology.

3. METHODS

Reviews of the literature evaluate the range of literature, highlight important contributions, and pinpoint areas needing more study. A systematic approach and a literature process must be monitored in a literature review (Post et al., 2020). For analysis, the study used bibliometric techniques (e.g., text mining, co-authorship, co-occurrence, citation analysis, and bibliographic coupling). Citation analysis counts the instances in which an author, scholarly work, or source has been used to support the work in order to assess their relative impact and value; however, bibliographic coupling occurs when two pieces cite (quote) the same third article (Perianes-Rodriguez et al., 2016). The countries, authors, and journals in the research area are provided via bibliometric coupling analysis. Analyses of bibliographic coupling reveal the levels of similarity between two documents. If there was a significant overlap between the bibliographies of two articles, there would be a stronger connection between them (Donthu et al., 2021). Along with developing original theoretical frameworks, we conduct text mining to build term maps.

For the quantitative study, bibliometric analysis also provides mapping and visualization tools (Cobo et al., 2011). A bibliometric tool called the “Visualization of Similarity Viewer” was employed to carry out the investigation. This software gathers information about keyword co-occurrences (Zhu et al., 2019). After analysing the network, the “visualization of similarity viewer” (VOS) provides useful maps illustrating the scope and structure of the investigated construct. According to Donthu et al; (2021), network connections provide more accuracy and less subjectivity by visualizing the keywords that are used more regularly in a similar article.

3.1. The Search terms

We used the Scopus database to compile our datasets for this study. This research deliberated the articles published in English, Afrikaans, Persian, Korean, French, and Spanish (see Table 1). The research objective was to classify study on LSE in ensuring SD. We initially began by searching for the pertinent article by relating keywords in the topic arena, that is, "stakeholder empowerment or local stakeholder empowerment for sustainable development." Then, we designated “All Year” in the timespan field. This demanding selection method resulted in the retrieval of over a hundred (100) articles, seventeen (17) conference papers, seven (07) book chapters, twelve (12) reviews, and one (01) book (see Table 2). These articles all contained at least one of the phrases in their titles, keywords, or abstracts. The process of gathering data to

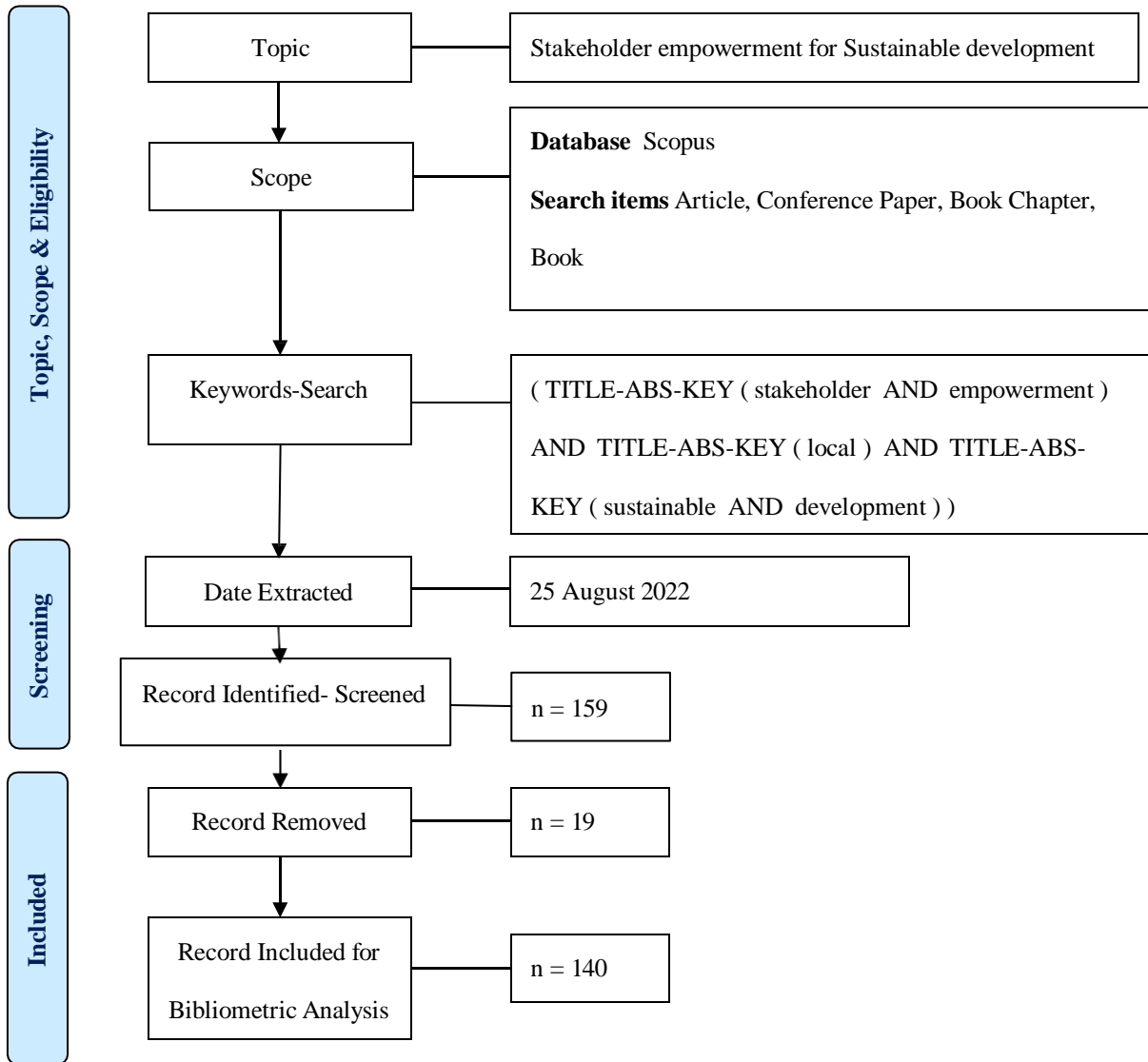
identify pertinent research papers associated with LSE in terms of sustainable development is shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. Languages

Language	Total Publications (TP)*	Percentage (%)
English	135	97.3
Afrikaans	1	0.27
Persian	3	0.27
Korean	1	0.27
Spanish	1	0.27
French	1	0.27
Total	140	100

Table 2. Documents Type

Document Type	Total Publications (TP)	Percentage (%)
Article	112	80%
Conference Paper	17	12.14%
Book Chapter	10	7.14%
Book	1	0.71%
Total	140	100



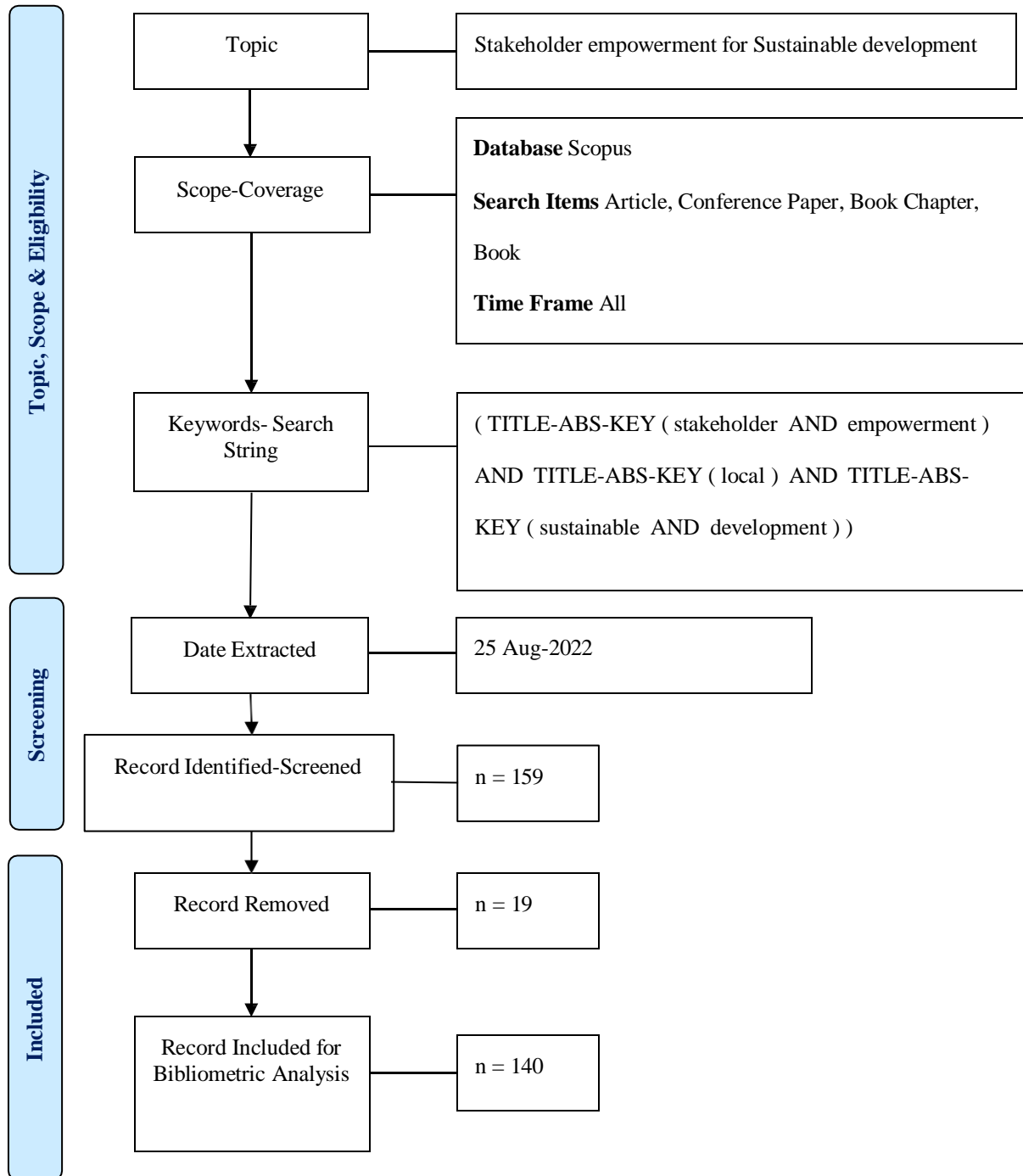


Figure 1. Flow chart of the search approach

4. RESULTS

4.1. Publication Trend

The annual publications can be disseminated in two segments. The figure of research publications persisted at a low level from 1999 to 2013, while the number of annual publications reported by the Scopus database stayed at less than 10 publications (see Figure 2). Afterwards 2013, the investigation focus on LSE enlarged. In 2021, leading journals published twenty (20) papers that studied LSE in SD relationship. This shows a rising trend in studies on the topic of LSE because it is becoming more and more significant on a global scale.

4.2 Geographical Contribution

To assess the geographical contribution of research publications, we used an individual country as our analysis unit. We established a criterion of no less than six (6) publications per country. Thirteen (13) of the countries reached this basic threshold. Table 3 lists the individual country research contributions in descending order based on the volume of publications/documents. With 26 publications, the United Kingdom is ranked first. Second and third place respectively belong to the US and Indonesia. There are 21 publications in the US. Twenty (20) journals have been published in Indonesia.

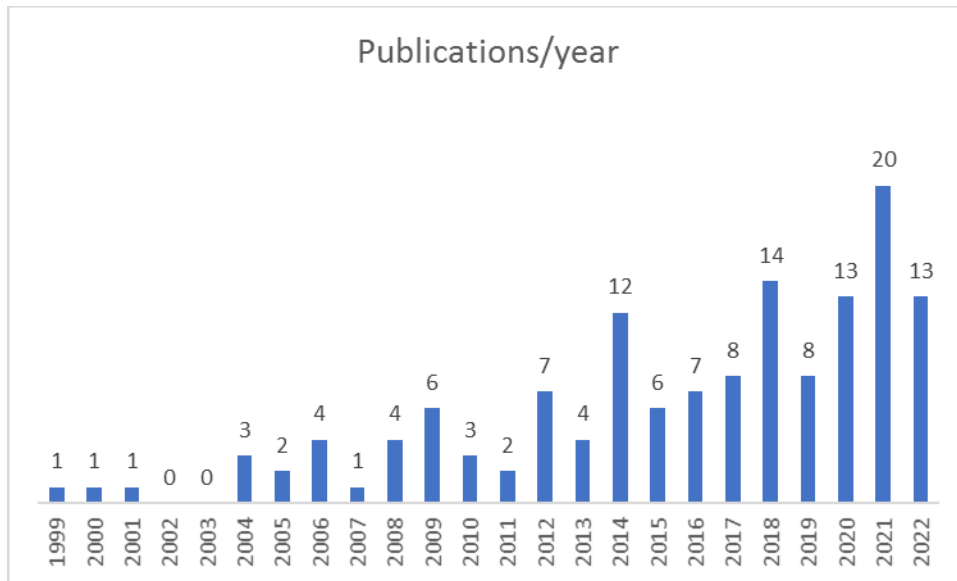


Figure 2. Total Publications by Year

Table 3. Top Countries contributed to the publications

Countries	Documents	Citations	Score<Avg. norm. citations>
United Kingdom	26	1652	1.5018
United States	21	389	1.403
Indonesia	20	161	0.7942
Australia	15	375	1.5941
South Africa	12	109	1.0531
Italy	9	53	1.048
Canada	7	657	1.1343
Malaysia	6	61	0.6638
Netherlands	6	104	1.3394
France	5	43	0.5426
Germany	5	16	1.2056
India	5	6	0.7714
Portugal	5	96	1.6525

Our bibliographic coupling analysis conducted the geographical contribution, and each individual country is the unit of analysis. For each country, a minimum of five publications were required.

4.3 Top journals

Useful information was gathered and examined using the thorough citation analysis report produced by Scopus. A citation, in its simplest form, is a reference where the author of the research acknowledges the efforts of other scholars. A piece of work is considered more significant the more citations it receives. Table 4 displays the results for the journals with the highest numbers of citations related to this topic. The Journal of Environmental Management is the only journal that has received 677 citations on this subject. Ecology and society and the journal of Sustainable Tourism have also made significant contributions to this topic.

Table 4. Top Journals/Source in the field

Source	Publications	Citations
Iop Conference Series: Earth And Environmental Science	6	12
Sustainability (Switzerland)	6	47
Journal Of Sustainable Tourism	5	145
Ocean And Coastal Management	4	54
Ecology And Society	3	160
Acta Horticulturae	2	4
Environmental Impact Assessment Review	2	129
Environmental Management	2	47
Environmental Science And Policy	2	35
Journal Of Environmental Management	2	677
Journal Of International Women's Studies	2	1
Journal Of Tourism And Cultural Change	2	4
Land Use Policy	2	9
Wit Transactions On Ecology And The Environment	2	4
World Sustainability Series	2	15

4.4 Top authors and publications

The top publication, Fraser et al. (2006), has 614 citations, according to Scopus. There are 458 and 120 citations for the papers by Reed et al. (2006) and Ameen et al. (2015), respectively. Table 5 reports the nineteen (19) publications had at least 25 citations, which is the minimum threshold.

Table 5. Top author and Publication in the field

Author	Titles	year	Citations	Norm. citations
Fraser E.D.G. (2006)	Bottom Up And Top Down: Analysis Of Participatory Processes For Sustainability Indicator Identification	2006	614	2.25

	As A Pathway To Community Empowerment And Sustainable Environmental Management			
Reed M.S. (2006)	An Adaptive Learning Process For Developing And Applying Sustainability Indicators With Local Communities	2006	458	1.67
Ameen R.F.M. (2015)	A Critical Review Of Environmental Assessment Tools For Sustainable Urban Design	2015	120	3.13
Butler J.R.A. (2014)	Framing The Application Of Adaptation Pathways For Rural Livelihoods And Global Change In Eastern Indonesian Islands	2014	99	4.43
Ramos A.M. (2014)	Indigenous Ecotourism In The Mayan Rainforest Of Palenque: Empowerment Issues In Sustainable Development	2014	87	3.90
Reed M. (2005)	Integrating Methods For Developing Sustainability Indicators To Facilitate Learning And Action	2005	73	1.68
Schwilch G. (2012)	A Structured Multi-Stakeholder Learning Process For Sustainable Land Management	2012	63	2.06
Nunkoo R. (2016)	Stakeholders' Views Of Enclave Tourism: A Grounded Theory Approach	2016	60	5.16
Constantino P.A.L. (2012)	Empowering Local People Through Community-Based Resource Monitoring: A Comparison Of Brazil And Namibia	2012	57	1.86
Almeida C.M.V.B. (2015)	Integrating Cleaner Production Into Sustainability Strategies: An Introduction To This Special Volume	2015	56	1.46
Bedunah D.J. (2012)	Rangeland Degradation, Poverty, And Conflict: How Can Rangeland Scientists Contribute To Effective Responses And Solutions?	2012	55	1.80
Beger M. (2004)	A Framework Of Lessons Learned From Community-Based Marine Reserves And Its Effectiveness In Guiding A New Coastal Management Initiative In The Philippines	2004	47	2.27
Ooi N. (2015)	Social Capital As A Heuristic Device To Explore Sociocultural Sustainability: A Case Study Of Mountain Resort Tourism In The Community Of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Usa	2015	34	0.89
Díaz P. (2017)	Do Stakeholders' Perspectives On Renewable Energy Infrastructure Pose A Risk To Energy Policy Implementation? A Case Of A Hydropower Plant In Switzerland	2017	31	2.51
Newton A.C. (2012)	Forest Landscape Restoration In The Drylands Of Latin America	2012	30	0.98
Van Welie M.J. (2018)	Ngos Fostering Transitions Towards Sustainable Urban Sanitation In Low-Income Countries: Insights	2018	27	3.19

From Transition Management And Development Studies				
Katre A. (2019)	Sustainability Of Community-Owned Mini-Grids: Evidence From India	2019	26	3.10
Kunasekaran P. (2017)	Measuring Sustainable Indigenous Tourism Indicators: A Case Of Mah Meri Ethnic Group In Carey Island, Malaysia	2017	26	2.10
Nur Y. (2001)	Towards Wise Coastal Management Practice In A Tropical Megacity – Jakarta	2001	25	1.00

Using a publication as a unit of analysis, the authors conducted the bibliometric coupling. Out of the 150 publications, Nineteen (19) publications met the minimum threshold of 25 citations.

4.5 Co-authorship across the world in the research field / Co-authorship network

The study used countries as its unit of analysis to undertake co-authorship network analysis. The study identified thirteen (13) countries by setting a threshold of six publications per country. Under this criterion, four groups emerged (see Figure 3). The red cluster, considered Cluster 1, has four countries. Similarly, four countries make up the green cluster. This green cluster represented Cluster 2. Three countries are part of the third cluster (blue). Finally, there are only two countries in Cluster 4 (highlighted in yellow). These are the Italy and United States.

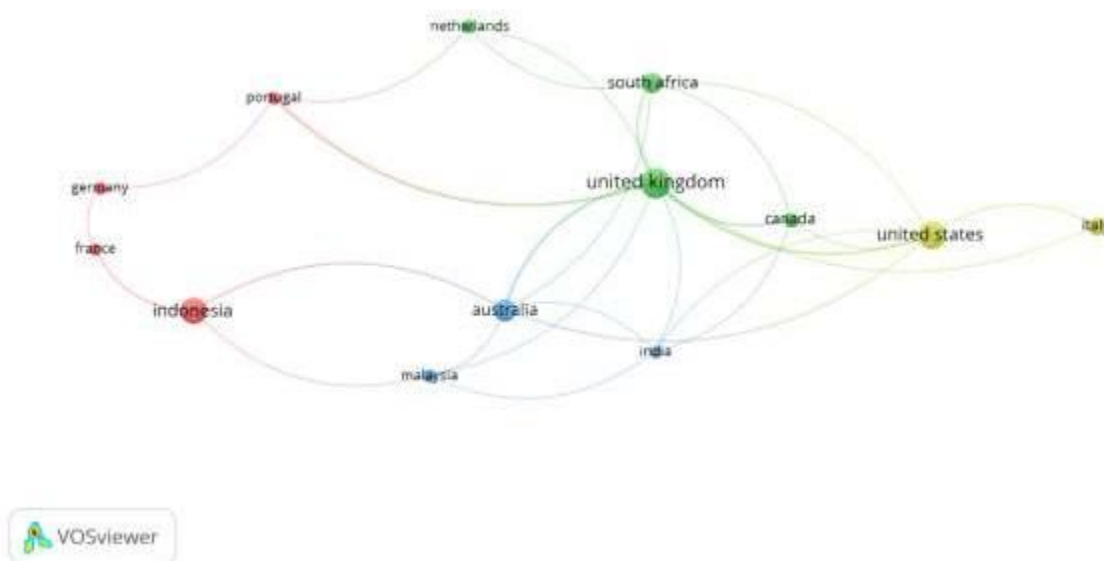


Figure 03. Co Authorship across the World in the research field

4.6 Co-word analysis of author keywords

On the subject of sustainability, we looked at the search terms used by scholars. We determined the keywords with the highest frequency using the VOS viewer. A keyword's minimum number of co-occurrences was set a five (5). Out of the 1280 keywords from 140 Scopus publication, 39 keywords met the minimum threshold. Empowerment and sustainable development are the leading keyword that occurred. In figure 4, the co-occurrence of author keywords is visualized as a network, and the keywords' connectivity to stakeholders, empowerment, stakeholder engagement, sustainable development, and community empowerment are classified. The cluster to which an item belongs is determined by the color of the item's circle. Links among objects are represented by the line's thickness. The degree of connectivity among the circles indicates how relevant the research themes are to one another.

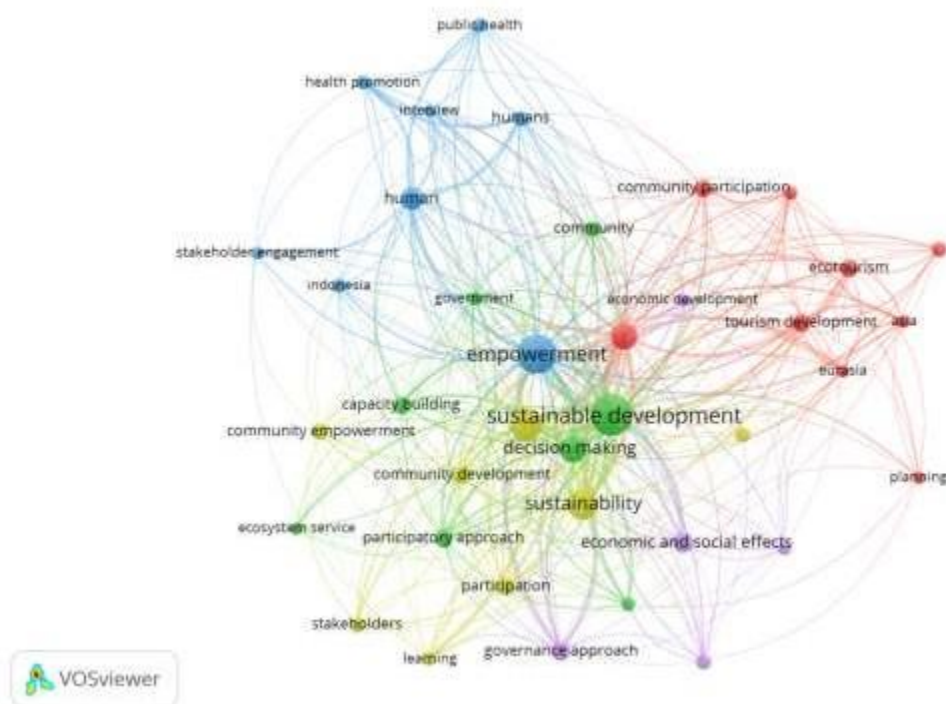


Figure.04 Co-word analysis of author keywords

4.7 Co-word analysis, thematic and theoretical clusters.

We conducted a cluster analysis using the co-occurrence of author keywords within the VOS viewer and found thematic clusters describe the present research trends. Community participation (cluster one), capacity building (cluster two), empowerment (cluster three), and community development (cluster four) are the four overlapping clusters that were identified (cluster four). Macro-level factors in cluster one are concentrated on ecotourism, local participation, sustainable tourism, and tourism development. Capacity building focus on community, environmental management, participation approach and sustainable development. Cluster three highpoints the empowerment and stakeholder engagement. While cluster four is the leading keyword which focus on community development, community empowerment, stakeholders and sustainability. Figure 5 shows the theoretical network and the overlay visualization's. Overlay Visualization yellow cluster showing the most recent research areas

which are currently being researched, whereas blue color show early researches in the field. You can see ecotourism, empowerment, community empowerment, stakeholder's engagement, and sustainability are the most recent field and are currently being published and researched.

Table 06. Co-word analysis, thematic and theoretical clusters

Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4
Community participation	capacity building	Empowerment	community development
Ecotourism	Community	health promotion	community empowerment
Eurasia	decision making	Human	community-based tourism
local participation	ecosystem service	Humans	Learning
Planning	environmental management	Indonesia	Participation
protected area	Government	Interview	Stakeholder
sustainable tourism	participatory approach	public health	Stakeholders
	sustainable development	stakeholder engagement	Sustainability
tourism development			

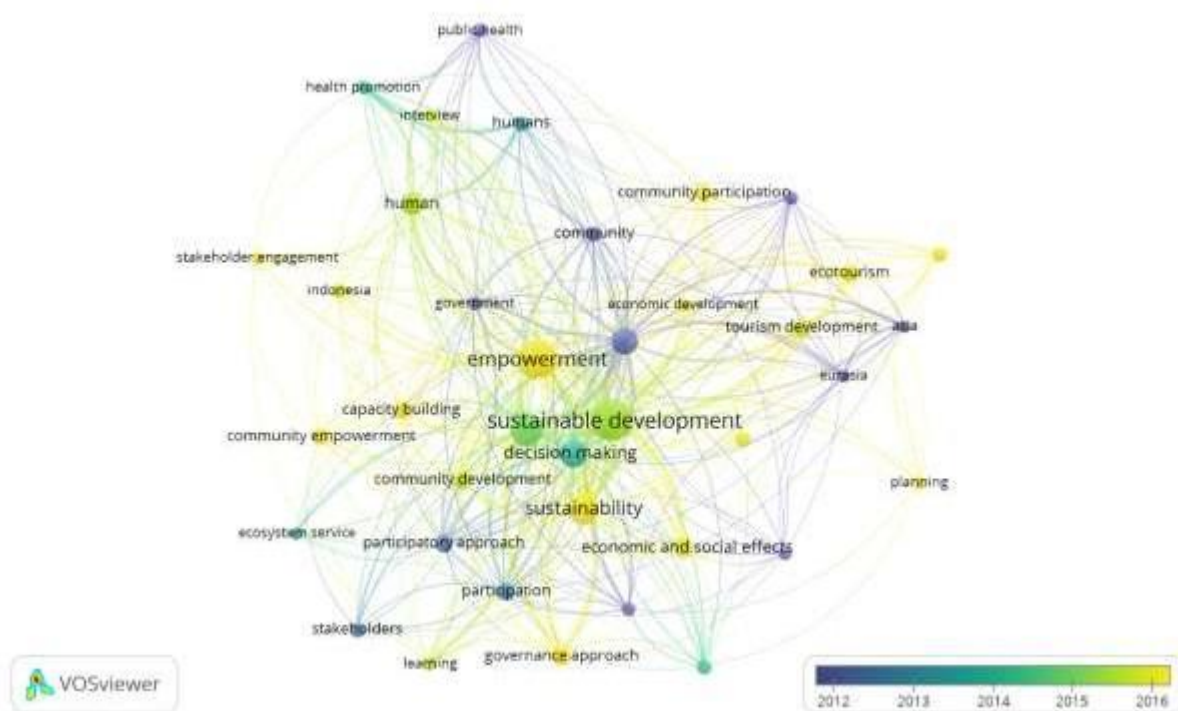


Figure 5. Theoretical network and the overlay visualizations

5. DISCUSSION

In addition to doing a thorough appraisal of the literature, this paper uses a two-pronged bibliometric technique, using tabular presentation and analysis as well as scientific mapping with a VOSviewer visualization map. Both of their results point of the same conclusion. A small group of authors are the key contributors. The maximum citation were received by Fraser and colleagues in the 2006s. The second contributors is a top publication in the field. The research done on the subject up to this point has been heavily focused on a small number of nations, publications, and authors.

Five subthemes were determined based on the literature review. We conclude that LSE's role in ensuring sustainable development is the subject of the most investigation based on the categorization of articles into these five categories. This is the first study of its kind that provides a review of LSE research. The key intersection between LSE and SD is revealed by the keyword analysis. In our study, stakeholders, community empowerment, and sustainable development are clearly visualized under various dimensions (Breuer et al., 2019). It is also challenging to fully analyse the citation data, which displays the chronological trends and clustered issues in the literature, for the typical manual review research (Li et al., 2017). As a result, this study provides both a statistical overview using citations and publications and a thematic classification of the subject (Donthu et al., 2021).

The approach, which groups articles into clusters based on themes shared by references, is most effective when applied to a particular time period (Aria et al., 2020; Baker et al., 2021). Our four thematic clusters offer valuable insights into a variety of critical components needed in local stakeholder empowerment to function in the context of sustainable development, catering to practitioners, senior managers, and researchers alike. The findings of the studies by Strzelecka et al. (2017) and Van Tulder (2018), which see empowering as a successful tool in incorporating local stakeholders in the course of involvement with sustainable development, are suitable at these clusters that draw attention to the relationship between LSE and SD.

The United Kingdom has contributed significantly to the research studies done to this extent, demonstrating the vast potential of this area to be explored by other countries. Realizing the potential of LSE, more journals may include this field in their coverage in the future, particularly those from fields like public health, project management, and water management. According to what was said, the LSE is also useful for addressing the perceived environmental effects of tourism growth. Changing human behavior and actions is referred to as stakeholder empowerment, or empowerment as a process for societies, in order to accomplish the desired goals in various scientific fields, coordinate environmental responses, and take innovate actions at various levels, such as non-profit organizations, national governments, and international organizations (Ghodsvali et al., 2019; Strzelecka et al., 2017).

The LSE's societal impact would enable it to play a larger role, which would then affect the stakeholders' quality of life. Given the above facts and the statistics used in this paper, it is foreseeable that the LSE will gradually fascinate researchers worldwide in the days to come.

6. CONCLUSION

Our review emphasizes that pursuing role of LSE has become an essential component in sustainable development of local communities (Chatterji, 2021). In order to participate in and have an impact on the process of SD in the areas of environmental-ecological, tourism-related, and socio-economic issues, it is therefore thought to be crucial to enhance the social capabilities of local stakeholders (Strydom et al., 2019). Our study identifies the significant authors, and countries researching LSE in order to ensure sustainable development using bibliographic coupling. According to Baker et al. (2021), we derived four theoretical and thematic clusters based on the keywords. First, the themes of community participation, capacity building, empowerment, and community development demonstrate how both macro and micro dimensions are used to observe LSE. Such multiplicity in studies indicates LSE's continual growth and maturity in SD.

Using a second text mining approach (Saidani et al., 2019), the leading theoretical framework for researching local stakeholder empowerment was made available. In this study, research on LSE and SD from the previous three decades is reviewed methodically and subjected to bibliometric analysis. The study's data are analysed by the Scopus database, which also looks into possible citation manipulation by reviewers (Singh, 2019). Data analysis from another source may yield different findings. The database is used to generate the tables and graphs. The work on LSE is largely concentrated in a small number of regions, journals, universities, and researchers, making the thematic classification arbitrary, given the studies that have been published and the growing importance of the sustainability of community empowerment. As a result, there is a large amount of space for further study in this field. The significant interconnection and rigour to investigate LSE in assuring SD are validated by the overlap among the leading theoretical methods. By addressing the interaction and conflict among LSE and other elements of triple bottom line empowerment, future research on LSE can offer direction to managerial decision-making.

6.1 Limitations

This study is knowledgeable of some research gaps. First, we only used the Scopus database for our study. It would strengthen the research results to include further databases, such as Web of Science. Second, the study context or procedure employed in the selected subjects are unaffected by this research. In order to achieve sustainable development, future bibliometric studies on the LSE and triple bottom line should consider those two topics.

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