

Analysis of scientific production on Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development in the Social Sciences**Análisis de la producción científica sobre Empoderamiento Social y Desarrollo Sostenible en Ciencias Sociales**

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Abstract

Sustainable Development is a process where the active participation of its members is essential to promote the proper management of their resources through the recognition of their territory, generating a balanced economic exchange. The emergence of social enterprises for the achievement of these objectives in the different territories, responds to social needs, mainly to reduce the gaps of social and economic inequality, therefore, generating development strategies in the processes of Social Empowerment in these communities is necessary for their development. The objective of this article is to analyze the scientific production of Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development, therefore, the proposed methodology responds to the statistical and mathematical analysis of production of the study variables.

Analysis, Empowerment, Sustainable**Resumen**

El Desarrollo Sostenible es un proceso donde la participación activa de sus miembros es indispensable para propiciar el manejo adecuado de sus recursos a través del reconocimiento de su territorio generando un intercambio económico equilibrado. El surgimiento de empresas sociales para el logro de estos objetivos en los diversos territorios, responde a las necesidades sociales, principalmente a disminuir las brechas de desigualdad social y económica, por lo tanto, generar estrategias de desarrollo en los procesos del Empoderamiento Social en dichas comunidades es necesario para su desarrollo. El objetivo del presente artículo es analizar la producción científica del Empoderamiento Social y el Desarrollo Sustentable, por lo tanto, la metodología propuesta responde al análisis estadístico y matemático de producción de las variables de estudio.

Análisis, Empoderamiento, Sostenible

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Introduction

Following the publication of the Brundtland Report by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, the concept of Sustainable Development was established as "that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Subsequently, with the agreements proposed in Agenda 21, it was established that the creation of indicators on sustainability at spatial and temporal levels is indispensable.

Thus, in order to have greater knowledge of the sociocultural, economic, political, territorial and environmental reality of regions and communities, it is necessary and useful to build indicators with the participation of their inhabitants that allow measuring and analyzing the behavior of such variables and the interactions they generate. (Galván Martínez et al., 2016)

Sustainable Development (SD) occupies an important place in the role of communities as it is considered a process where the active participation of its inhabitants is indispensable for the common good, authors such as Velázquez-sánchez et al.(2017) refer that the integral relationship of the human being with nature represents an alternative of sustainability for the community, as long as the adaptation between development and communality is achieved.

In addition, it is recognized that sustainable development is consolidated as a tool to leverage the quality of life of people as they allow the implementation of public policies oriented to this (Herrera Ortiz & Zarco, 2022).

Hence, the importance of recognizing the capabilities, strengths and competencies of society as a fundamental way for the development and transformation of communities, Avelino et al. (2019) emphasizes that the importance generated by society when facing structural problems fosters innovation that provide immediate solutions to these.

Therefore, the participation of the community in the establishment of productive organizations that work in coalition for the improvement of the quality of life of the community and the design and implementation of development strategies translated into innovation, constitutes a process of teamwork; hence social enterprises, by their characteristics of constitution, guidelines and productive objectives, are economic units where people are organized preferably for the pursuit of a common good rather than profit and accumulation of individual capital.

Thus, Social Empowerment can be experienced by individuals alone or in groups, by organizations and by entire geographic communities (Silva & Loreto, 2004). In the present research, reference will be made to these three levels of organization, since an entire community is integrated to generate synergy in the search for a better quality of life.

Given the above, it is important to know the development and evolution of scientific productivity that frames the study of Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development, which aligned to the Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda represent the theoretical field for the analysis of community sustainability. Thus, in order to adequately shape the scientific frame of reference, the search for production that addresses Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development during the period from 1994 to 2022 is proposed.

The following research work is divided into the following sections:

Methodology. The following are identified:

1. Logical search indicators.
2. Determination of the search engine according to the results obtained.
3. Inclusion and exclusion criteria
4. Program and extension to be used

Results. It contains the following information:

1. Years with the highest scientific production.
2. Productivity by type of document
3. Productivity by area of study
4. Cooccurrence of topics addressed by authors
5. Citation of authors

6. Countries with the highest productivity
7. Funding organizations
8. Top 10, most cited articles

Methodology

The quantitative analysis of this research is carried out through bibliographic analysis in relation to the object of study (Meza Mejía et al., 2022).

Therefore, it starts with the identification of logical search operators (see Table 1), searches are performed in Scopus and Web Of Science (WOS) to determine the ideal search engine to obtain and refine the information.

Variable	Indicator	Scopus result	WoS Result
Empowerment	Empower*	124,803	75,017
Social Empowerment	Empower* social*	37,185	27,611
Development Development	Develop* sustainab*	191,191	389,133
Social empowerment and sustainable development	empower* social* and develop* sustain*	3,180	2143

Table 1 Logical search operators

Source of Consultation: Own elaboration based on integration and search criteria

We proceeded to filter the information (see Table 1.2) with emphasis on the social sciences, since this is part of the topic addressed, and to obtain a database that will be indispensable for using the VOSwier version 1.6.16 program and thus obtain the analysis of:

1. The years with the highest scientific production
2. Productivity by type of document
3. Productivity by area of study
4. Co occurrence of topics addressed by authors
5. Citation of authors
6. Countries with the highest productivity
7. Main financing entities
8. Top 10, most cited articles

Once the search engine has been identified, we proceed to filter according to the integration criteria, i.e., we will proceed to locate the scientific contributions in the field of Social Sciences, considering only articles, notes, reviews and letters, as shown in Table 2.

Criteria	Concept	Result
Exclude	Año 2023	3,178
Include	Review, Letter, note, article	2335
Include	Social Sciences	1204

Table 2 Filtering criteria

Source: Own elaboration based on exclusion and inclusion criteria

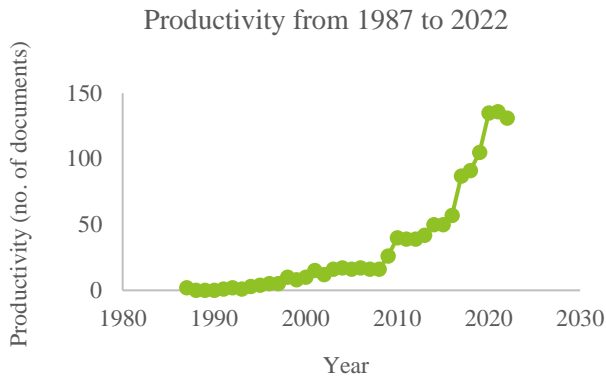
Once this result is obtained in the area corresponding to the social sciences, a database is generated in csv format in order to process it through the VOSvier program version 1.6.16.

In summary, the methodological part is based on the identification, search, filtering and obtaining of a series of indicators that are located in the body of the documents, the indicators referred to in Table 1.1, which allow the corresponding analysis to be carried out in order to obtain the results.

Results

According to the methodology used, the results obtained were as follows:

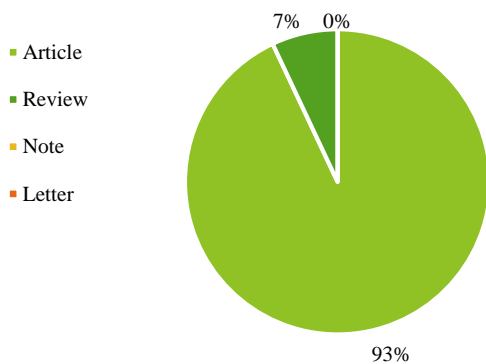
The first documents published in this database date from 1987, the efforts made by other researchers whose contribution to scientific knowledge on sustainability refer to the analysis of the creation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the framework of necessary public policies in territories wishing to implement a sustainable development model at community level (Brodhead, 1987). The second article analyzes the theory of social empowerment of community action, finding two variables, one related to social elements and the second to psychological elements that integrated exert a type of conditioning at the community level (Glidewell, 1987). Between 2000 and 2010 there was a considerable increase in scientific production as can be seen in Graph 1.



Graph 1 Productivity of Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development between 1987-2022
Source: Scopus, 2022

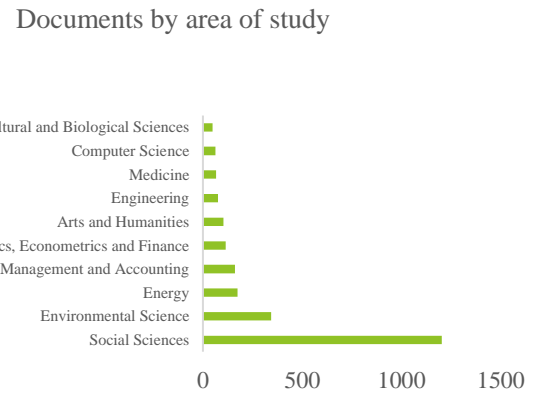
According to the information obtained, it can be said that from 2010 to 2020 the increase in scientific production in relation to these analyzed variables goes from 40 to 140 documents, i.e. an increase of 350 percent with respect to the previous decade.

With regard to productivity by type of document, 93 percent is made up of articles, only .075 percent represents notes and .075 percent corresponds to letters (see Figure 2).



Graph 2 Productivity by document type
Source of reference: Scopus, 2022

With regard to productivity by area of study, the social sciences have a greater influence (with a total of 1204 documents) related to the indicators of Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development (See Graph 1.3), it is important to note that these indicators are closely related to other areas such as environmental sciences, business, economics and econometrics, finance, arts and humanities, medicine, computer science and biology-agriculture.



Graph 3 Productivity (documents) by area of study
Source: Scopus, 2022

Based on this information, we can state that the area of study related to the variables addressed is wide since each of these areas, although they have topics in common, each of them is analyzed from different perspectives.

The analysis of the co-occurrence of topics addressed by the various authors, points out six areas of study, the first and most representative with the topic of:

1. Empowerment
2. Sustainability
3. Humanities
4. Innovation
5. Society

Although there is a total of 5307 keywords, the program groups them according to the number of frequencies with which they are repeated (processed at 13 frequencies per word), therefore, there is a total of 424 entries represented in Figure 1.

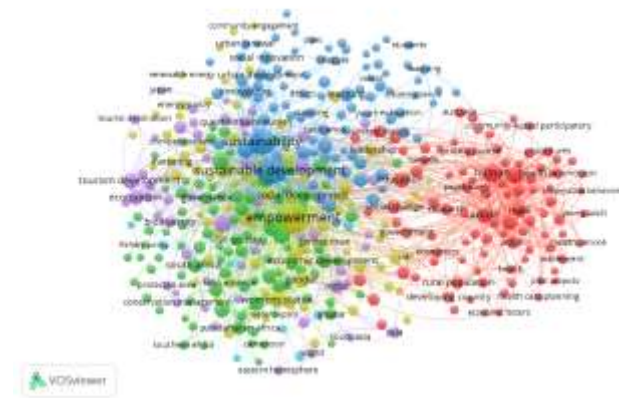


Figure 1 Co-occurrence of addressed topics
Source: Scopus, 2022, VOSwier program version 1.6.16

Identifying and relating each of these topics in the different areas undoubtedly represents a set of possible particular analyses that contribute to the generation of knowledge.

In the case of author citation, it is important to highlight that it is done according to the number of citation frequencies located in the body of the documents analyzed and processed.

Obtaining from the generated database a total of 69101 authors, whose citations have a range of 193 citations, the grouping is given as shown in Figure 2.

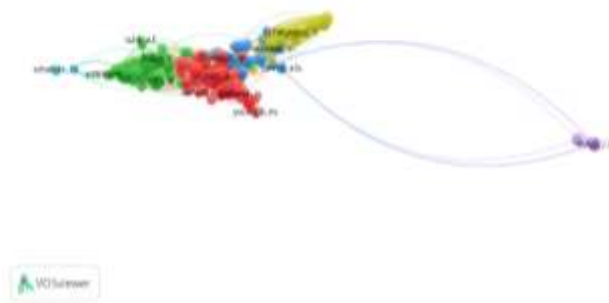


Figure 2 Co-citation of authors
Source of Consultation: Scopus, 2022. VOSwier program version 1.6.16

It should be mentioned that the filtering of the information referring to the co-citation of authors whose total result is 69101 whose frequency of repetition is processed 193 times, results in an approximate of 400 representative authors (see Figure 2). It is important to clarify that these authors are grouped according to the five areas analyzed and referred to in Figure 1.

Now, analyzing the countries that appear in the scientific productivity of the variables of Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development, we can begin by highlighting the number of productivity (greater than 200 documents) United States and United Kingdom, (less than 100 and greater than or equal to 50 documents) Australia, South Africa, Canada, Spain, Indonesia, (less than or equal to 20 documents) Nigeria, New Zealand, France, Pakistan, Portugal, Taiwan, Japan, Austria, South Korea, Denmark (see Figure 3).

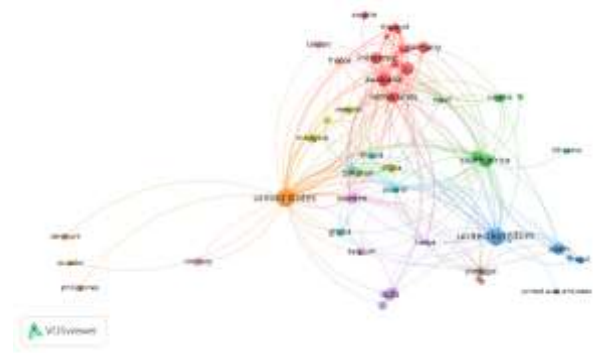
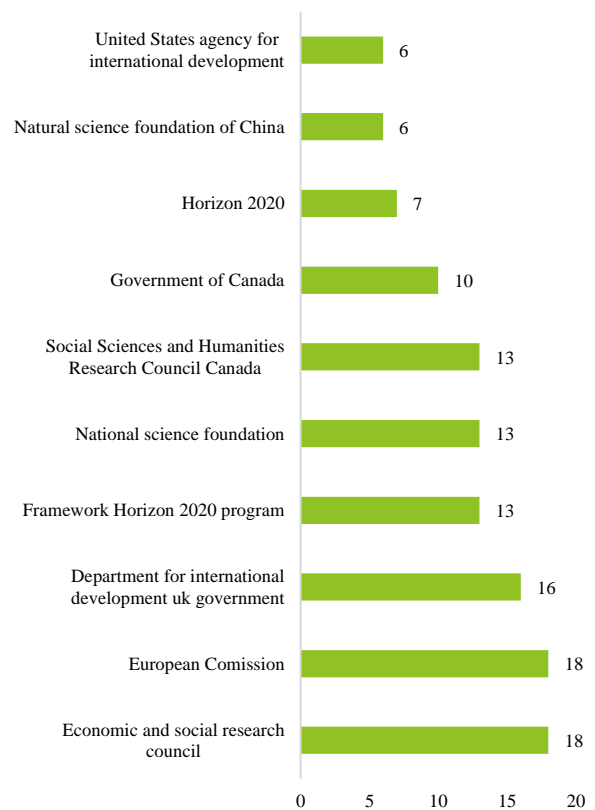


Figure 3 Countries with the highest productivity
Source of Consultation: Scopus, 2022. VOSwier program version 1.6.16

It is necessary to mention that there are funding organizations that help researchers to identify areas of opportunity for the development of scientific knowledge. According to the database generated from the search, a record of 2345 organizations is obtained, the frequency used for this analysis is 30 entries leaving a total of 390 organizations, for representation purposes the Top 10 of the main organizations is shown (see Graph 1.4).



Graph 4 Top 10, main financing organizations
Source of reference: Scopus, 2022

In the case of the most cited articles, Table 1.3 shows the most cited articles related to Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development.

R	C	DN
1	(Santos, 2012)	A Positive Theory of Social Entrepreneurship
2	(Mansuri & Rao, 2004)	Community-based and -driven development: A critical review
3	(Lovell & Taylor, 2013)	Supplying urban ecosystem services through multifunctional green infrastructure in the United States
4	(Jana et al., 2004)	The Sonagachi Project: A sustainable community intervention program
5	(Raco, 2005)	Sustainable development, rolled-out neoliberalism and sustainable communities
6	(Brown, 2002)	Innovations for conservation and development
7	(Cammack, 2004)	What the World Bank means by poverty reduction, and why it matters
8	(Holland, 2004)	Diversity and connections in community gardens: A contribution to local sustainability.
9	(Gadema & Oglethorpe, 2011)	The use and usefulness of carbon labelling food: A policy perspective from a survey of UK supermarket shoppers
10	(Sin, 2010)	Who are we responsible to? Locals' tales of volunteer tourism

Table 3 Top 10, most cited articles

Source of reference: Own elaboration obtained from Scopus, 2022. R: rank, C: cite, DN: document name

While it is true that the analysis of scientific production is essential to determine the progress in knowledge generation, it is necessary to mention the interrelation between Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development, therefore, an analysis is made from the identified dimensions. The social dimension of Sustainable Development plays a decisive role in the participation and hybridization of knowledge by providing the community with the way to exercise their rights, Cardoso-Ruiz et al. (2016) describes these forms as participatory and community representation called democracy, in addition, it incorporates elements such as transparency and social control when shaping their ways of organizing themselves.

Up to this point it is important to refer to particular elements such is the case of the cultural and political-territorial dimension as marked by Toledo & Ortiz (2014) when they state that sustainable communities are those that identify a specific territorial demarcation where the group of people work under a cultural synergy that makes them part of an identity.

Thus, for all of the above, its relationship with Social Empowerment is close, when talking about society, its economic processes, the identification of its territory, the formation of social enterprises to address structural problems that the same current system has caused around the world. Faced with certain deficiencies and social inequalities, communities seek to face this series of challenges of the globalized world using Social Empowerment as a tool to combat poverty and inequality.

In this order of ideas, the analyzed levels of social empowerment, as pointed out by Zimmerman (2000, Apud Silva and Loreto, 2004), are: 1) The social aggregate. -social. - It is the one where organizations promote opportunities for people, serving as contexts to develop and exercise social power, 2) As a unit of analysis. - This implies the strengthening of the organization as a whole to achieve its social objectives. From this perspective, it is said that social enterprises are integrated for the good of their communities, as they have social objectives and their conformation addresses socioeconomic problems based on values.

Consequently, Villacrés Montesdeoca & Lascano Aimacaña, (2014) point out the importance of social enterprises, since they are subject to the conditions and demands of the capitalist market, where operational efficiency is a key element to ensure the benefit of their partners by establishing, capturing and placing productive assets that generate their profitability and with it, the capabilities translated into the empowerment of organizations and their members, i.e. to the Social Empowerment necessary to continue operating. It is important at this point to mention that the analyzed dimensions of Social Empowerment from a communal perspective are seen from two perspectives, namely communal is seen from two perspectives, a) as an empowering community and b) as an empowered community, in this regard, Silva & Loreto (2014) refer that this process is the result of the empowerment that has been achieved individually to work as part of a whole and with this, provide the entire community with the resources for all its members, therefore, including elements such as local processes for decision making includes a system of open government whose leadership is in favor of the same community.

Not leaving aside the innovation processes referred to by Avelino et al. (2019) when indicating that in the processes of Social Cobbling is shaped by organizations and networks working through initiatives that operate at the local scale.

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Conclusions

By focusing on the analysis of scientific production in the area of social sciences, it can be said that it is in an embryonic stage, therefore, future studies taking up the co-occurrences established within the search will contribute to the generation of new knowledge.

It is concluded that the search engine with the highest number of documents related to Social Empowerment and Sustainable Development is Scopus. The articles represent 93 percent of the documents that contribute to science, the values and results within the body of this research are data that rapidly changes according to the production of knowledge in the various areas of study. The areas of greatest analysis are: empowerment, sustainability, humanities, innovation and society.

The countries whose productivity is higher than 200 documents are the United States and the United Kingdom. The three representative organizations taken from the Top 10 indicated in the results are: Economic and Social Research Council, European Commission and Department for International Development, UK Government.

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