Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

'Women Empowerment' has been regarded as an inevitable component of development. The Self Help Groups (SHGs) approach was implemented to promote savings and create social cohesiveness among women to empower them in a collective manner, especially for the rural poor. The article conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to identify significant contributors, existing refinements, fields, and advocates for different directions in the study area of SHGs and women's empowerment and to ascertain the domain knowledge on developments connected to women empowerment and SHGs. The Scopus database was used to search the global literature on self-help groups and Women Empowerment. As per the findings, this field is still growing globally, both in developed and developing nations. It found significant links between SHGs and socio-economic empowerment, gender equality, and health promotion. It also shows that SHGs have been utilized as a medium at the local, national, and worldwide levels to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in various countries.

Keywords: *Self Help Groups, Women Empowerment, Bibliometric Analysis.*

INTRODUCTION

'Women Empowerment' has been regarded as an inevitable component of development that is also necessary to achieve SDG 5, i.e., gender equality and empower all women and girls. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the UN's Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985, and as per the conference, women's empowerment is about the redistribution of social and economic powers and control of resources in favour of women. Over the past decades, many international organizations, including UNDP, the World Bank, Oxfam, and UN Women have come forward to promote the successful achievement of SDG 5.

As a process, empowerment focused on both an individual and a collective level. At the individual level, the major focus is on the awareness and ability of women to govern their own lives at household level as well as in community. Whereas at the collective level, it is about the women's ability to realize their own potential and mobilize themselves into a group and collaborate to address the many forms of subordination to which they are subjected *(Egwurube, 2016; Chandra, 2006)*. As per the views of Jakimow and Kilby (2006), SHGs are self-help approach to development, initiated for women to empower them by developing their capacity, especially in South Asia, including India**.** As a micro level institution, SHGs are basically focused on increasing women's involvement in all aspects of life within the group as well as at the household level. The SHGs approach was implemented to promote savings and create social cohesiveness among women to empower them in a collective manner, especially for the rural poor *(Ban et al., 2020; Brody et al., 2016)*.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometrics Analysis is a quantitative technique for quantitatively analysing research publications on a certain topic using mathematical methods. It might also assess the studies' quality, analyse major research areas, and forecast the direction of future investigations *(Yu et al, 2020)*. It has been widely used to characterise the recent

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trends and most contributed nations, journals, and most used keywords. Co-occurrence Keyword analysis is a useful bibliometric technique for detecting information regarding the most studied dimensions, perspectives, and parameters of a respective study area in the literature. Therefore, this study used Bibliometrics Analysis to provide answers for the following research questions: What is the yearly development of scientific publications, co-occurrence analysis, and subject trends in the field of SHGs and women's empowerment, and where has the focus of researchers increased in terms of empowerment of women through SHGs' in the last few decades?

The main objectives of the study are to identify significant contributors, existing refinements, fields, and advocates for different directions in the study area of SHGs and women's empowerment and to ascertain the domain knowledge on developments connected to women empowerment and SHGs.

Materials and Methods

Data was collected from Scopus which is multinational academic database that contains reliable information such as title, author, agency, country, year of publication, and keywords for bibliometric studies. As an international database, it provides reliable data for bibliometric analysis in the fields of SHGs and women empowerment research. '**Self-Help Groups' AND 'Women Empowerment'** were used as search keywords to get the closest comparable article. The result showed that 420 articles were published from 1990 to 2023 in this study area. Again, it was limited to the English language to find out relevant publications. After refinement, it provides 415 articles. The year of publication, language, journal, title, author, affiliation, keywords, document type, abstract, and citation count were all saved into CSV format for this paper that fulfils the requirements. The VOS viewer software was used to extract bibliometric information about the contributed countries, authors, co citation and keywords. It generates better-structured maps than other extensively used bibliometric techniques

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Trends of Publications by Year

Figure 1 explains the flows of publications on the topics of self-help groups and women Empowerment. The result shows that between 1990 and 2022, 415 papers were published in English. The trend of publication on this topic started in 1990. The highest number of annual publications associated with self-help groups and Women Empowerment were published in 2013, 2019, 2020, and 2021; they were 30, 45, 37, and 42, respectively. The lowest number of publications were in the years 1990, 1991, and 1992, when there was only one publication each year connected to self-help groups and Women Empowerment. As per the result in the year of 2019, the highest number of articles was published.
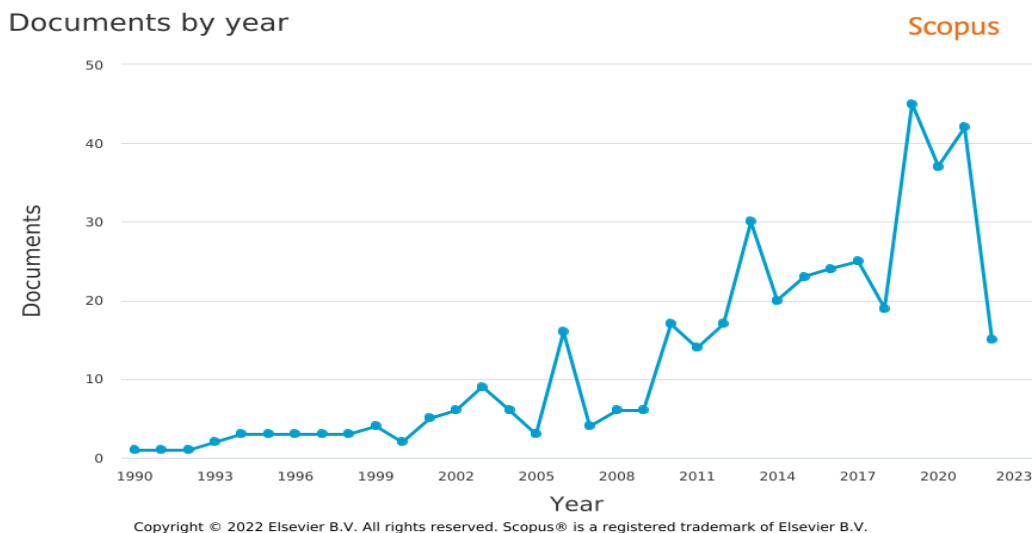
Figure 1: Year wise documents

Source: Scopus

Co-Authorship Analysis of Author

Co authorship author tool was used in VOS viewer software to know the author who has published most articles related to this field. Figure 2 reported the findings of co authorship authors. In Figure 2, the density and light brightness represent the appearance of cluster density. Each colour on the map represents the number of things that are linked to one another. The result shows that some authors are listed as single authors, while other authors collaborate with other researchers, resulting in many clusters with varying densities. As per the result Kumar a. published highest number of documents in the field of Self-help groups and Women Empowerment.
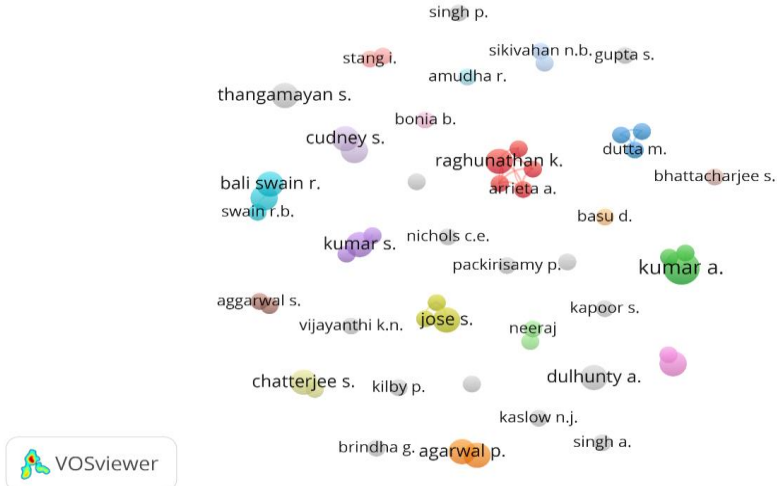

Figure 2: Co-authorship Analysis of Author
Source: Scopus

Co Authorship of Country

The co-authorship analysis of countries shows the degree of collaboration and also the most productive country who published the highest number of articles on SHGs and women empowerment. According to the results of the bibliometric analysis, larger circle indicates more productive countries in this field. The thicker and longer lines that links between nodes show the collaborative relationship between countries. As per the Figure 3 map, India has the largest circle which reflects that India published highest number of publications with 204, while the United States comes second with 97 papers. India and united has strong collaboration.
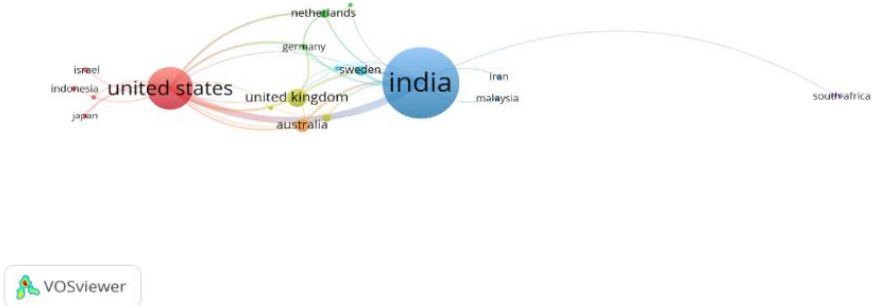
Figure 3: Co authorship of country
Source: Scopus

Table: 1 Country Wise Documents

Sl. No.	Country	No. of Document	Citation	Total Link Strength
1	India	204	902	36
2	United States	97	1380	34
3	United Kingdom	29	539	14
4	Germany	6	105	10
5	Netherland	10	74	8
6	Sweden	13	231	7
7	Australia	18	508	6
8	Norway	6	213	6
9	Canada	9	128	4
10	Brazil	3	14	3

Co-Occurrence Analysis of All Keyword

The bibliometric mapping of the most commonly used keyword in the context of self-help groups and women's empowerment can also be found in the VOS Viewer. The final analysis contained keywords that appeared more than 10 times in the SCOPUS core database. Out of a total of 2192 keywords, there are only 82 thresholds. From the thresholds, some keywords are excluded to find context-specific terms. The most often used keywords were "Empowerment" (total link strength of 563), "Female" (total link strength of 616) and "Self Help Groups" (total link strength of 396). Keywords with a larger circle indicate that they are more commonly used in articles related to self-help groups and women empowerment. The line between the keywords indicates how closely they are related to one another. The same colour circle shows that these terms are closely related to each other. The following keywords are frequently used in the context of self-help groups and women's empowerment: Empowerment, self-help groups, female, women empowerment, microfinance.
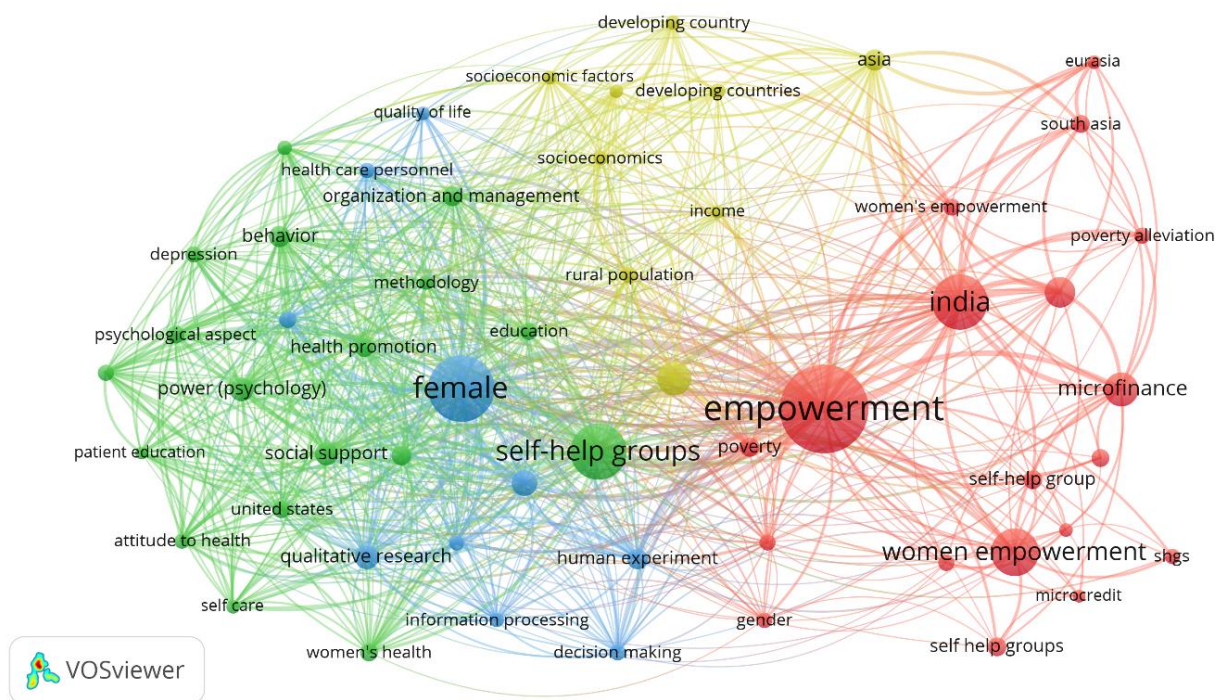

Figure 3: Co-occurrence of all keyword

Source: Scopus

Co-occurrence of Author Keywords

This section explains the most commonly used keywords by the author in the topic specific drift of information to assess the research trends. The keywords were first taken from a sample of 375 comparable publications, and then synthesised for the same author network using VOS viewer software. To get the systematic outcomes, the researcher discovered a threshold limit of five similar minimal occurrences concerning the core term. Finally, we had 874 keywords with 30 thresholds. With a frequency of 62, the top co-occurring keyword was "women empowerment." The term "women empowerment" also has the most link strength of 82. Self-Help Groups was the second co-occurring keyword, with a frequency of 39 and a strength link of around 60. The result shows that Self Help Groups is most commonly used word which is basically related women empowerment, micro credit, poverty, social empowerment, economic empowerment.
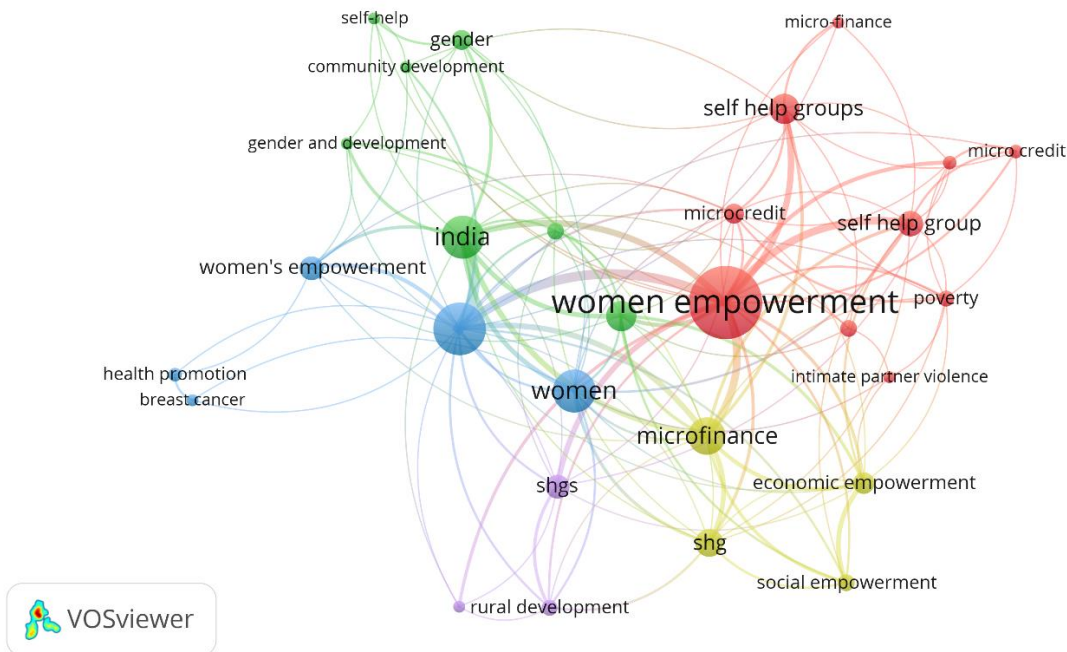

Figure 4: Co-occurrence of author keyword

Source: Scopus

CONCLUSION

This study mainly focused on the publication trends in these areas of research, which gives a foundation for future investigations into the same from many perspectives and offers in-depth information on publishing patterns in SHGs and women's empowerment. As per the bibliometric approach's findings, this field is still growing globally, both in developed and developing nations. The study found significant links between SHGs and socio-economic empowerment, gender equality, and health promotion. It also shows that SHGs have been utilized as a medium at the local, national, and worldwide levels to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in various countries. The findings also made a significant recommendation for additional research and data information, as well as literature documentation, to demonstrate the impact of SHGs on women's empowerment.

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