

Ten Clusters Of Rural Development Articles Using Social Network Analysis

^a Darto; ^b Savitri Aditiany; ^c Rita Myrna; ^d Riki Satia Muharram

^{a b c d} Faculty of Social and Political Science, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini menyajikan analisis mendalam terhadap literatur Pembangunan Perdesaan melalui pendekatan Analisis Jaringan Sosial. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan mengelompokkan artikel-artikel yang berkaitan dengan Pembangunan Perdesaan ke dalam sepuluh kelompok utama, dengan fokus pada pola interaksi dan hubungan di antara mereka. Dengan menerapkan metode analisis jaringan sosial tingkat lanjut, penelitian ini merinci struktur jaringan yang muncul dari literatur ini, mengungkapkan bagaimana artikel-artikel tersebut saling berhubungan dan membentuk kelompok-kelompok berdasarkan tema atau konsep yang relevan. Selain itu, artikel-artikel yang memiliki peran sentral dalam jaringan juga diidentifikasi, menyoroti kontribusi signifikan mereka terhadap pemahaman aspek-aspek utama Pembangunan Perdesaan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa penelitian ini menyoroti kesenjangan yang mengindikasikan arah agenda penelitian di masa depan dalam pembangunan perdesaan, dengan fokus pada kolaborasi antar wilayah di Asia dan negara-negara berkembang. Terlepas dari keterbatasan yang ada, termasuk keterbatasan basis data dan subjektivitas penulis, penelitian ini merekomendasikan untuk memperluas sampel dengan kata kunci dan basis data yang lebih luas serta melakukan perbandingan dengan alat analisis bibliometrik lainnya di masa mendatang.

ABSTRACT

This article presents an in-depth analysis of Rural Development literature through a Social Network Analysis approach. The purpose of the research is to identify and categorize articles related to Rural Development into ten main clusters, focusing on the patterns of interaction and relationships between them. By applying advanced social network analysis methods, this research details the network structure emerging from this literature, revealing how the articles are interconnected and form groups based on relevant themes or concepts. Additionally, articles that have a central role in the network are also identified, highlighting their significant contribution to the understanding of key aspects of Rural Development. The results showed that the study highlighted gaps that indicate the direction of the future research agenda in rural development, with a focus on inter-regional collaboration in Asia and developing countries. Despite limitations, including limited databases and author subjectivity, this study recommends expanding the sample with broader keywords and databases and benchmarking with other bibliometric analysis tools in the future.

INTRODUCTION

This article examines the discourse surrounding rural development from the period of 2015 to 2021. The amalgamation of numerous frameworks and methods to study citations from scientific papers is referred to as "discourse understanding is inseparable from bibliometric analysis" (Lee, 2020; Mifrah et al., 2020; Omeregbe et al., 2020; Saravanan & Dominic, 2014). To better comprehend the intellectual foundations of a vast academic discipline and assess the significance of a particular field of study, various metrics have been developed (Akhavan et al.,

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2016; Putera, Suryanto, et al., 2020). The implementation of public services in local governments (villages) often encounters challenges with timeliness, transparency, and effectiveness in service delivery (Nurhariska, Hayat, & Abidin, 2023).

This article purposed to provide essential information for understanding global trends in rural development publications. This study aimed to examine the trends and bibliographic characteristics of papers on rural development published by authors from around the world between 2015 and 2021, as well as to assess keyword co-occurrence using VOSviewer. Bibliometrics helps communicate disciplinary advancements for other research purposes. (Saputra, et al., 2023).

Literature Review

This research employs social network analysis (SNA) to scrutinize the tenth cluster of rural development articles. SNA refers to a methodology that utilizes network theory and graph concepts to investigate the structure and dynamics of social relationships among actors or entities. SNA can be employed to assess diverse facets of social networks, including size, density, centrality, clustering, and community detection. Additionally, SNA can aid in uncovering patterns, characteristics, and influences of social interactions and collaborations among various actors or sectors

Yue et al. (Yue, He, & Liu, 2021) utilized SNA to discern the types of restructuring in rural settlements within Ezhou City, China. This was based on inter-settlement interactions influenced by the spatial variation of public facilities. Their findings indicated distinct disparities within the inter-settlement network concerning the community structure, cluster patterns, and centrality. Moreover, they elaborated on zone-specific plans encompassing urbanization, integration, and distinctive attributes, intended to guide the spatial reconfiguration of rural settlements.

Hoe et al. (Hoe, et al., 2019) employed SNA to characterize intersectoral collaboration among organizations engaged in maternal and child health (MCH) and water and sanitation (WASH) activities, both before and after a rural development initiative in Uttar Pradesh, India. Their findings revealed an increase in the number of organizations within the network, with the HCL Foundation emerging as a central coordinating entity. However, they also identified limited direct collaboration between other MCH and WASH organizations at both time points. They suggested that SNA could serve as a tool to strategize, advocate for, and oversee intersectoral collaborations aimed at improving health outcomes.

Zupic et al. (Maltseva & Batagelj, 2021) analyzed journals that published SNA articles between 2008 and 2017 using bibliometric methods. They identified 980 journals that published 430 SNA articles during this timeframe. Furthermore, they investigated the distribution, impact, and citation patterns of these journals across various disciplines and fields. Their findings indicated that SNA was most prominent in social sciences, computer science, engineering, and mathematics. They also observed that certain journals possessed a high impact factor but a low citation rate for SNA articles, whereas others had a low impact factor but a high citation rate for such articles.

This article introduces an innovative approach by utilizing Social Network Analysis (SNA) to analyze ten primary clusters of articles concerning Rural Development, thereby providing a novel perspective into the patterns of interactions and connections among these articles. The distinctiveness of this study lies in the application of SNA to identify rural settlement

restructuring in one case study and to characterize intersectoral collaboration in the realm of rural development in another. Moreover, SNA effectively demonstrates its capacity as a tool for planning, fostering, and overseeing intersectoral collaboration for health within the context of rural development. Additionally, the bibliometric analyses of SNAs offer an encompassing view of publication trends and the dispersion across pertinent disciplines. Consequently, this article offers a noteworthy contribution by delving more profoundly into the Rural Development literature through the lens of Social Network Analysis.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research applies a Social Network Analysis (SNA) approach to analyze ten primary clusters of articles about Rural Development. Data was sourced from pertinent articles within relevant databases, spanning the research period from 2019 to 2021. The data collection procedure encompassed keyword-based searches on Google Scholar, with a representative selection of articles chosen to reflect the specified timeframe and context. Subsequently, Mendeley software was utilized for data management. Within the analysis, the SNA methodology was employed to scrutinize relationships and interactions among the articles in graphical format, incorporating network parameters such as size, density, centrality, clustering, and community detection to analyze network patterns and attributes. Derived from the outcomes of the SNA analysis, the articles were categorized into ten primary clusters based on their interaction patterns. Relevant case studies were also employed to bolster the application of SNA in the context of Rural Development. Furthermore, bibliometric analyses were conducted to discern publication trends and the distribution of journals across distinct disciplines. The findings of these analyses were synthesized to provide a more profound comprehension of the interconnectedness between articles within the realm of Rural Development literature via the SNA approach.

Defining search keywords

A literature search was conducted using the keyword 'rural development,' and the Google Scholar database was employed to gather the data. Initially, it formulated a query within the PoP software, utilizing the keyword 'rural development,' and specified the years as '2015-2021.' The data excluded newspapers, books, book reviews, and book chapters. From the Google Scholar database, we acquired 430 articles in the initial search spanning the period from 2019 to 2021 (nearly 3 years).

Initial search results

During the initial search, the authors did not specify the range of years to uncover when the term was initially introduced. Notably, the oldest journal (from 1925) within which our search yielded a match for the key term 'Rural development'. The subsequent ten articles that emerged are presented in Table 1. The earliest articles meeting the criteria were published in 1925.

Table 1.
Top ten articles identified from PoP (unrefined search)

NO	CITATIONS	AUTHORS	TITLE	YEAR OF PUBLICATION
1	20	JM Williams	Rural development.	1925
2	40	TAM Nash	The Anehau Rural Development and Settlement Scheme.	1948

3	35	JJ Gumperz	Language problems in the rural development of North India	1957
4	327	JK Nyerere	Socialism and rural development	1967
5	224	GD Ness	Bureaucracy and rural development in Malaysia	1967
6	171	PJ Wilson	A Malay village and Malaysia: social values and rural development	1967
7	99	JR Sheffield	Education, Employment and Rural Development; Proceedings of a Conference (Kericho, Kenya, September 1966).	1967
8	42	P Roy, FB Waisanen, E Rogers	The impact of communication on rural development. An investigation in Costa Rica and India.	1969
9	119	AF Raper	Rural development in action. The comprehensive experiment at Comilla, East Pakistan.	1970
10	72	EM Kulp	Rural development planning: systems analysis and working method.	1970

Source: Processed by the author (2023)

Refinement of the search results

The research excluded articles that did not meet the screening criteria. Out of the original 980 articles, we selected 430 papers. Table 2 presents a comparison of metric data between the initial search and the refined search.

Table 2.
Comparison metrics

Metrics data	Initial search	Refinement search
<i>Query</i>	<i>Rural Development</i>	<i>Rural Development from 2019 to 2021</i>
<i>Source</i>	<i>Google Scholar</i>	<i>Google Scholar</i>
<i>Paper</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>430</i>
<i>Citations</i>	<i>125546</i>	<i>719</i>
<i>Years</i>	<i>(1925 - 2021) 96 years</i>	<i>(2019 – 2021) 3 years</i>
<i>Cites/year</i>	<i>1307.77</i>	<i>359.50</i>
<i>Cites/paper</i>	<i>128.11</i>	<i>1.67</i>
<i>Authors/paper</i>	<i>2.06</i>	<i>2.24</i>

<i>h-index</i>	165	14
<i>g-index</i>	305	19
<i>Hi, norm</i>	135	9
<i>Hi, annual</i>	1.41	4.50
<i>hA-index</i>	37	11

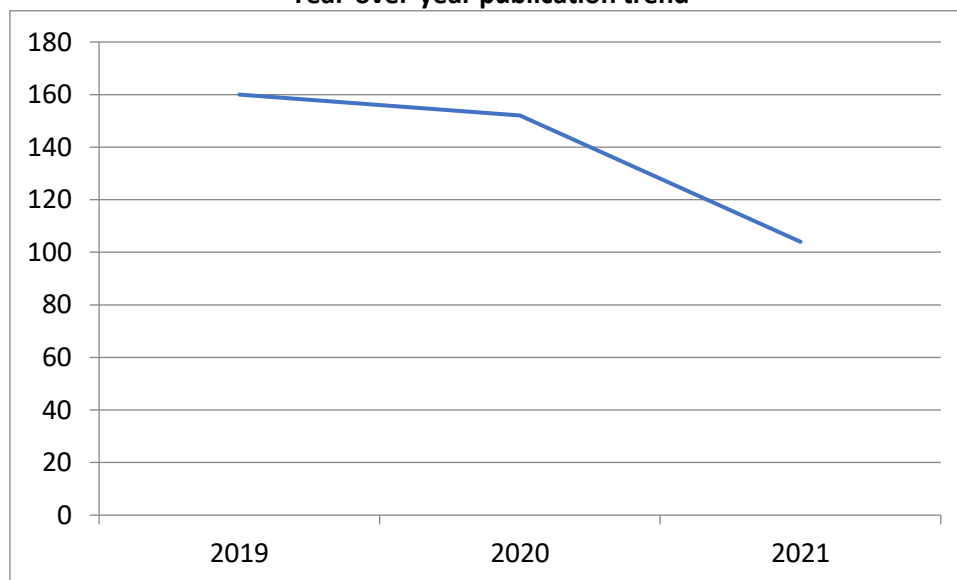
Source: Processed by the author (2023)

Compiling the initial data statistics

The resulting search, after refinement, was downloaded, saved in Mendeley software, and exported to the RIS format to encompass all essential paper-related information, including title, authors' names, abstract, keywords, and journal specifications (publication journal, year of publication, volume, issue, and pages). The data were analyzed to categorize articles based on their publication year, source, and publisher. Employing a broad time range, the query within PoP yielded 980 journal articles spanning from 1925 to 2021.

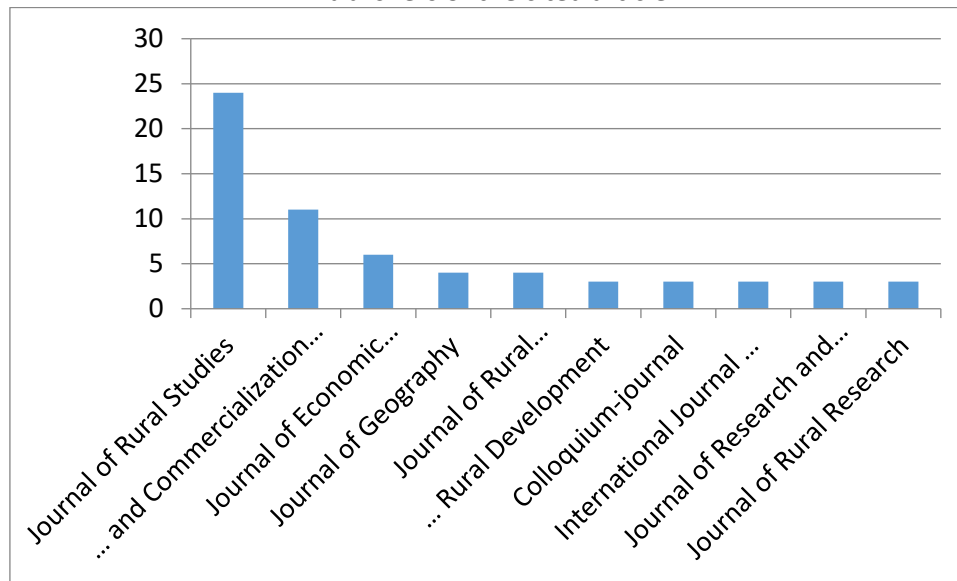
The number of published articles displayed an increasing trend over the years. Graph 1 illustrates the distribution of publications per year. In terms of publisher groups, the Journal of Rural Studies emerged as the most frequent, followed by Journal of Economic Development, Journal of Geography, Journal of Rural Development, Colloquium-journal, and Journal of Rural Research (Graph 2), with a note that Journal of Economic Development, Journal of Geography, and Journal of Rural Development are the three most frequently appearing publishers.

Graph 1.
Year-over-year publication trend



Source: Processed by the author (2023)

Graph 2.
Publishers of the cited article



Source: Processed by the author (2023)

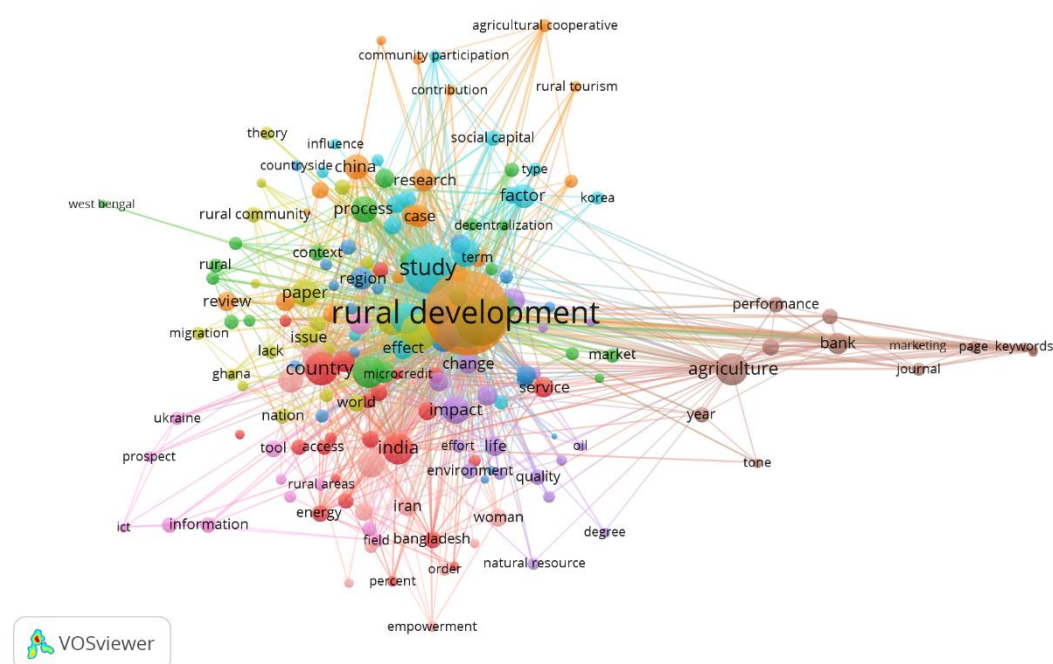
Data analysis

This paper presents a bibliometric analysis of the term 'rural development' using the Google Scholar database. The bibliometric review conducted in this paper utilizes the PoP software, which was developed and launched in 2006 by Professor Anne-Wil Harzing of Tarma Research Software Pty Ltd-Melbourne (Harzing, 2011). For this analysis, software version 1.1.16 is utilized. Upon executing the software, it initially obtained 980 papers, resulting in 125,546 citations (equivalent to 1307.77 citations per year). After refining the results, it left with 430 articles (a decrease of 56.13%), and the citation data also changed, resulting in 719 citations (an increase of 992.6%) and 359.50 citations per year (an increase of 72.51%). The complete results of the comparison metrics before and after the search refinement are summarized in Table 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study highlights the significant influence of journals on citation metrics. Table 3 showcases the most cited articles and authors. The paper authored by K. Castro-Arce and F. Vanclay has garnered citations from 43 authors, establishing itself as the most frequently referenced article in this field. Titled 'Transformative social innovation for sustainable rural development: An analytical framework to assist community-based Initiatives,' this article was penned in 2020 and published in the 'Journal of Rural Studies.' The second most-cited article is authored by C. Chen, R. LeGates, and C. Fang (2019), published in the 'Journal of Urban Affairs,' and subsequently cited by 28 authors. Following in sequence is an article by X. Yin, J. Chen, and J. Li (2019) discussing the topic of Rural innovation system: Revitalize the Countryside for sustainable development. All articles cited more than 10 times are comprehensively listed, including complete citation details, in Table 3.

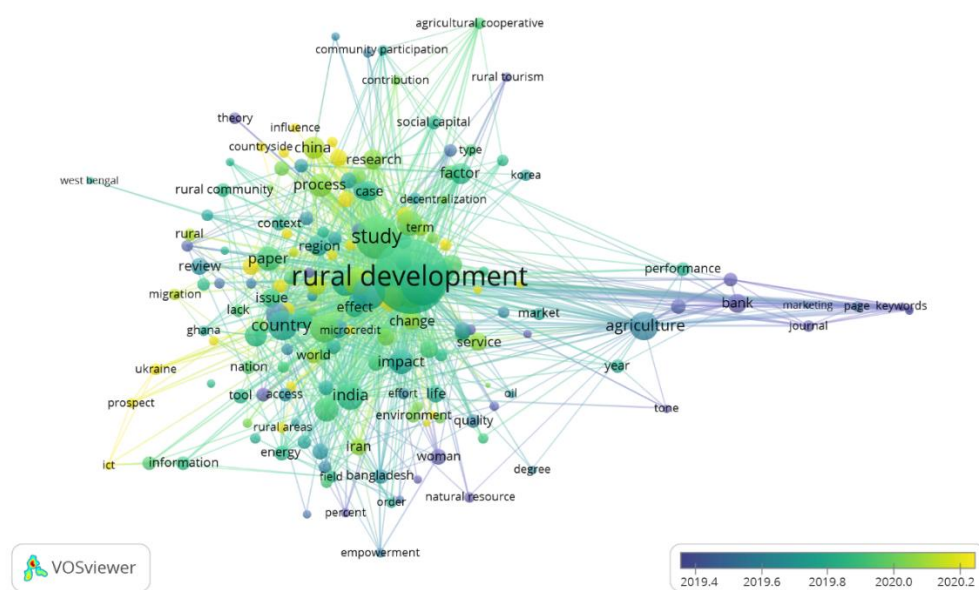
Figure 1.
Network visualization mapping



Source: Processed by the author (2023)

After considering citation frequency and other metrics, the outputs from the PoP software are imported into the VOSviewer software to identify frequently occurring keywords. The frequency of keywords can be customized to reflect occurrences of 1, 5, 10, 20, or other specified values.

Figure 2.
Overlay visualization mapping



Source: Processed by the author (2023)

The VOSviewer tool was developed by van Eck and Waltman in 2010 (available at <https://www.vosviewer.com>) and is employed for visualizing bibliometric maps. This software depicted bibliometric mapping across three distinct visualizations: network visualization (Figure 1) and overlay visualization (Figure 2). VOSviewer is capable of categorizing keywords into various clusters, and the bullets denote the weights of the occurrences.

Extracting from the title and abstract fields, with a minimum occurrence threshold set to 5, a total of 3308 terms and 179 items meeting the threshold were obtained. Common words such as 'rural development,' 'study,' 'development,' 'role,' 'country,' 'rural area,' 'India,' and 'agriculture' were excluded. The tenth cluster was identified as follows: The first cluster (red, 23 keywords) prominently featured terms like 'country' (63 occurrences), 'India' (59 occurrences), and 'energy' (17 occurrences). The second cluster (green, 22 keywords) revolved around 'rural area' (62 occurrences), 'process' (40 occurrences), and 'sustainable development' (22 occurrences). The third cluster (blue, 21 keywords) was linked to 'study' (136 occurrences), 'factor' (34 occurrences), and 'participation' (25 occurrences). The fourth cluster (yellow, 20 keywords) was associated with 'role' (82 occurrences), 'paper' (44 occurrences), and 'issue' (26 occurrences). The fifth cluster (purple, 19 keywords) emphasized 'impact' (44 occurrences), 'change' (24 occurrences), and 'life' (23 occurrences). The sixth cluster (light blue, 19 keywords) encompassed 'study' (136 occurrences), 'sustainable rural development' (35 occurrences), and 'factor' (34 occurrences). The seventh cluster (orange, 19 keywords) centered on 'rural development' (404 occurrences), 'research' (34 occurrences), and 'case' (29 occurrences). The eighth cluster (brown, 13 keywords) concentrated on 'agriculture' (58 occurrences), 'bank' (26 occurrences), and 'performance' (14 occurrences). The ninth cluster (lavender, 12 keywords) spotlighted 'tool' (16 occurrences), 'information' (14 occurrences), and 'researcher' (9 occurrences). The tenth cluster (purple, 11 keywords) highlighted 'impact' (44 occurrences), 'change' (24 occurrences), and 'life' (23 occurrences).

Figure 4. depicts an overlay visualization of the rural development literature along with the average number of publications spanning from 2015 to 2021. A shift in topics is noticeable: around 2019, the discourse on rural development extensively engaged with terms such as "rural development," "rural," and "development," while the subsequent three years focused on "sustainable development," "challenge," and "influence."

Table 3.
Article with 10 or more citations

NO	CITATIONS	AUTHORS	TITLE	YEAR	PUBLICATION
1	43	K Castro-Arce, F Vanclay	Transformative social innovation for sustainable rural development: An analytical framework to assist community-based initiatives	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
2	28	C Chen, R LeGates, C Fang	From coordinated to integrated urban and rural development in China's megacity regions	2019	Journal of Urban Affairs

3	28	X Yin, J Chen, J Li	Rural innovation system: Revitalize the countryside for a sustainable development	2019	Journal of Rural Studies
4	26	C Liu, X Dou, J Li, LA Cai	Analyzing government role in rural tourism development: An empirical investigation from China	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
5	25	W Tang, J Zhu	Informality and rural industry: Rethinking the impacts of E-Commerce on rural development in China	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
6	21	R Rustinsyah	The significance of social relations in rural development: A case study of a beef-cattle farmer group in Indonesia	2019	Journal of Co-Operative Organization and ...
7	19	S Huttunen	Revisiting agricultural modernization: Interconnected farming practices driving rural development at the farm level	2019	Journal of Rural Studies
8	18	K Nordberg, Å Mariussen, S Virkkala	Community-driven social innovation and quadruple helix coordination in rural development. Case study on LEADER group Aktion Österbotten	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
9	18	K Kaygusuz, MS Guney, O Kaygusuz	Renewable energy for rural development in Turkey	2019	Journal of Engineering ...
10	18	A Samoggia, A Bertazzoli, A Ruggeri	European Rural Development Policy Approaching Health Issues: An Exploration of Programming Schemes	2019	International Journal of ...
11	18	I Dinis, O Simões, C Cruz, A Teodoro	Understanding the impact of intentions in the adoption of local development practices by rural tourism hosts in Portugal	2019	Journal of Rural Studies

12	17	V Boiko, Y Romanenko, S Shevchuk, V Barabanova...	Rural development by stimulating agro-tourism activities	2020	
13	17	LV Kashirskaya, OY Voronkova, AA Sitnov...	Rural development through the formation of zonal agro-ecological clusters	2019	Journal of ...
14	15	S Savitska, S Zaika, L Svystun...	Investment providing sustainable development of rural areas in Ukraine	2020	Independent Journal ...
15	14	E Kiryluk-Dryjska, P Beba, W Poczta	Local determinants of the Common Agricultural Policy rural development funds' distribution in Poland and their spatial implications	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
16	13	J Huang, S Rozelle, X Zhu, S Zhao...	Agricultural and rural Development in China during the past four decades: an introduction	2020	Australian Journal of ...
17	12	Y Liu, Y Zang, Y Yang	China's rural revitalization and development: Theory, technology, and management	2020	Journal of Geographical Sciences
18	11	I Abreu, FJ Mesias	The assessment of rural development: Identification of an applicable set of indicators through a Delphi approach	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
19	11	J Zhu, M Zhu, Y Xiao	Urbanization for rural development: Spatial paradigm shifts toward inclusive urban-rural integrated development in China	2019	Journal of Rural Studies
20	10	V Kvartiuk, J Curtiss	Participatory rural development without participation: Insights from Ukraine	2019	Journal of Rural Studies

Source: Processed by the author (2023)

CONCLUSIONS

The present study undertook a meticulous analysis of a corpus of 430 articles centered around rural development themes. These articles were systematically extracted from the extensive Google Scholar database through the utilization of the PoP software. It is noteworthy that this subset emerged from a larger collection of 980 articles, and subsequent refinement efforts resulted in a reduction of articles by 56.13%. Strikingly, this refinement also brought about a substantial decrease of 992.6% in the cumulative number of citations. However, an encouraging trend emerged as the citations per year witnessed a robust surge of 72.51% compared to the broader dataset. Remarkably, this shift was accompanied by a decline in the h-index from 165 to 14. The pinpointed gaps in this study play a pivotal role in charting future research trajectories within rural development and its study. These gaps not only corroborate but also reinforce the core findings of this comprehensive review. The exploration of rural development concepts is currently experiencing an upward trajectory, demanding focused efforts on fostering inter-regional research collaborations involving Asian scholars and other developing nations, particularly within specific sectors.

Nonetheless, it is essential to acknowledge the study's inherent limitations. Firstly, potential constraints stem from the utilization of a delimited database such as Google Scholar for article curation, coupled with the study's reliance on a restricted set of keywords. Secondly, despite the use of formal tools including VOSviewer, PoP software, Microsoft Excel, and Mendeley, it is imperative to recognize the subjective nature of author judgments, which could inadvertently introduce errors. To fortify the robustness of future investigations, expanding the sample size by broadening the array of keywords and the accessed database is recommended. Moreover, conducting a comparative analysis of results utilizing various bibliometric analysis software, such as HistCite and BibExcel, can yield a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the subject matter.

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