

Discovering the Global Landscape of Non-profit Organizations Psychology and Social Performance: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Received: 19- June -2023

Revised: 22- July -2023

Accepted: 10- August -2023

Abstract

Objective: Nonprofit organizations are crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing essential social services and promoting sustainable communities, especially in developing countries. However, understanding regarding the social performance of these organizations remains fragmented. The aim of this study is to bridge this knowledge gap and gain a better understanding of the global reach of nonprofits' social performance phenomenon.

Method: This study conducts a bibliometric analysis of 770 documents on non-profit organizations' social performance indexed in the Scopus database in April 2023. The study identifies current research trends, key areas, and major contributors using scientific clustering methods. The authors, publication sources, institutions, and countries were carefully examined to provide a comprehensive overview.

Results and conclusion: The results reveal that since 1972, there has been a consistent rise in research on the social performance of non-profit organizations, particularly after establishing the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations in 2015. There have been productive cross-country collaborations in this area, but there is insufficient research on the social performance of non-profit organizations in developing countries.

Implications of the research: This study offers important information about non-profit organizations that can guide future research, and it has significant implications for nonprofit management, funders, and policymakers in achieving sustainable communities, especially in developing countries.

Originality/value: Nonprofits engaging in commercial activities may face mission drift, accountability challenges, and governance issues. Additionally, nonprofits must focus on organizational factors, such as collaboration, capacity, human resources of social work, governance, and legitimacy for better social services.

Keywords: social performance, social impact, non-profit, social work, bibliometric

1. Introduction

Non-profit organizations (herein referred to as nonprofits) are indispensable in attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they provide vital social services and foster sustainable communities (Escamilla-Fajardo et al., 2020; Napathorn, 2021; Núñez-Pomar et al., 2020; Saghravani & Moghimi, 2023). Previous research on nonprofits has primarily focused on defining and rationalizing their objectives, emphasizing economic dimensions. However, economic dimensions are not the best method of assessing the social performance of nonprofits (Costa & Andreasson, 2020; Von Schnurbein et al., 2017).

Assessing the social performance of nonprofits is crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social performance is the extent to which nonprofits meet their social mission by accomplishing social objectives that benefit communities and beneficiaries. Also, nonprofits utilize client/beneficiary-based performance measurement to ensure their actions align with their mission and positively impact their communities and beneficiaries (Baruch & Ramalho, 2006; Ferreira et al., 2022; Jiao, 2020).

Although their contributions are significant, there is still a pressing need for further research and study to understand better how their social work is performing in promoting social welfare. Multiple studies have explored nonprofit work and performance, highlighting the significance of understanding nonprofit performance in terms of operational effectiveness and social impact. For instance, Von Schnurbein, Perez, and Gehringer (2017) found significant topics such as defining operations and building social connections, while Treinta, Moura, Cestari, et al. (2020) emphasized the diverse concerns and needs within the nonprofit organizations. On the other hand, Moura, Pinheiro de Lima, Deschamps, et al. (2020) identified key factors influencing performance measurement systems of nonprofit, and Benjamin, Ebrahim, and Gugerty (2022) emphasized the need for comprehensive frameworks to assess nonprofit social performance.

Many studies have delved into the interdisciplinary nature of researching nonprofits' performance. They have found common research themes and raised concerns about fragmentation within the research community, emphasizing the need for better interdisciplinary collaboration. However, these studies mainly focused on macro social aspects, performance measurement design, and factors influencing implementation, and had limitations. As a result, understanding on social performance of nonprofits is still in debate.

This paper aims to delve into the scientific literature on the social performance of nonprofits, to address three primary research questions. Firstly, what are the current trends in nonprofits' social performance research? Secondly, what are the key areas that have been discussed? And finally, who are the major players and research collaboration in this research? The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the research methods, results obtained, and interpretations and discussions on the various considerations and issues related to the research questions. The bibliometric analysis takes into account different aspects of the literature on nonprofits' social performance in order to provide answers to these three fundamental questions.

- 1) Current Trends of nonprofit social performance research
 - Annual growth of publications
 - Source and document type
- 2) Key Areas of nonprofits' social performance research
 - Subject areas
 - Recurrences of keywords
 - Titles analysis
 - Thematic Evolution
- 3) Major players and research collaboration
 - Most productive countries and collaboration
 - Most productive and prominent authors

This study aimed to fill the knowledge gap and understand better the nonprofits' social performance phenomenon, particularly its global reach. It was necessary to examine the latest data to help researchers propose recommendations for future research on the social performance of nonprofits.

3. Method

This study uses bibliometric analysis to review and assess the literature on nonprofits' social performance. The bibliometric analysis helps to provide a comprehensive, in-depth picture and direction for future research (Gouda, 2021; Mahi et al., 2021). The study adhered to the methodological guidelines proposed by Block and Fisch (2020) and Zupic & Čater (2015). The study employs a systematic research method to have quality academic writing, as Aga (2023) suggested.

Fig. 1 presents an overview of the research method employed in this study. Methodologies for bibliometric analysis consist of three phases. The first step is topic, scope, and eligibility, followed by second step is data screening. The third step is preliminary results screening. The fifth is final data included in the bibliometrics analysis.

3.1 Database

The present review was conducted utilizing Scopus, a reliable academic database with over 84 million papers, 1.8 billion references, and 17.6 million author profiles. It covers social, physical, health, and life sciences, with an average of 29 references and 11 citations per paper. Therefore, the authors believe that the justifications stated above are sufficient to warrant using Scopus as the primary source for bibliometric analysis.

3.2 Keywords and Search Strings

The search strings (keywords) are derived from scientific articles published in nonprofit research. Table 1 lists the search terms to locate relevant articles in Scopus database using the Title-Keywords-Abstract field. For instance, Coombes et al. (2011) and Quarter & Richmond (2001) used the term "social outcome,"; Ebrahim et al. (2014) and Serrano-Cinca & Gutiérrez-Nieto (2014) used the term "social mission,"; whereas Baruch & Ramalho (2006) and Jiao (2020) used keyword "social performance." A comprehensive search for title, abstract, and keyword combinations yielded 820 publications from 1972 to February 2023.

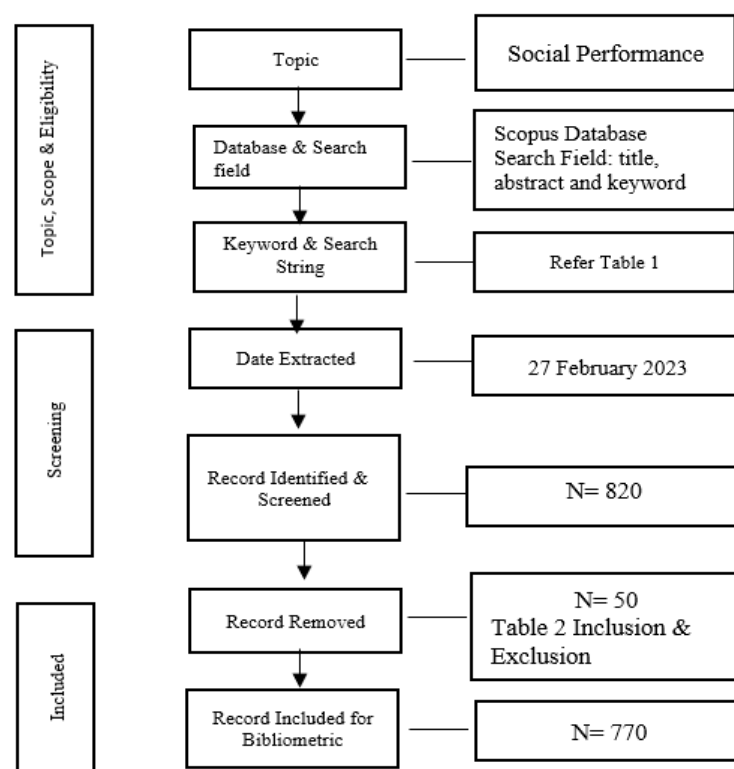


Fig. 1 Overview of the research method

Table 1 Keywords employed in the search for relevant articles

Themes	Keyword
Social Performance	"social performance" OR "social objective*" OR "social outcome" OR "social impact" or "social mission"
Nonprofits	"nonprofit*" OR "non-profit*" OR "not-for-profit*" OR "non-governmental organization*" OR "NPO*" OR "NGO*"

Note: The asterisk (*) is used to look for a term's variations.

3.3 Data Screening and selections

Next are the inclusion and exclusion criteria used for data screening. Table 2 lists the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study. The criteria are literature type, language, and keywords. Finally, we determined that 96 publications did not match the set criteria. Thus, 770 articles from 1972 to February 2023 that fulfilled the study's criteria were chosen for additional examination.

Table 2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Literature type	Indexed journals (research articles)	Non indexed Scopus
Language	English	Non-English
Keyword	("social performance" OR "social objective*" OR "social outcome" OR "social value" OR "social impact" or "social mission") AND ("nonprofit*"OR "nonprofit*" OR "not-for-profit*" OR "non-governmental organization*" OR "NPO*" OR "NGO*")	The combination of keywords is not mentioned in the title, abstract, or keywords.

3.4 Bibliometric analysis

Bibliometric analysis uses tools and methods to analyze scientific documents. It provides metrics to understand academic fields, evaluate journals and scholars, and gain perspective on research topics. (Hosseinzadeh Shahri et al., 2019; Zupic & Čater, 2015). Additionally, bibliometric analysis can transform published metadata into maps, thereby facilitating data administration and providing valuable insights (Mahi et al., 2021).

This study used RTool, Vosviewer, and Excel 2020 for scientific bibliometric analysis. RTool is great for citation, keyword, and bibliographic coupling (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017), while VosViewer creates helpful visual aids (Mansour et al., 2021).

The following section will present the results and findings from the analysis to answer research questions.

4. Results

This section presents the results of scientific analysis of social performance of nonprofit research.

4.1 Key information of the sample

Next, the study analyses 770 scientific documents. The key information of data as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 presents the research findings on the social performance of nonprofits dating back to 1972. The study analyzed publications spanning 52 years, from 1,916 authors and 556 sources. Collaborative papers outnumbered single-authored ones, with an average of 17.6 citations per document.

Table 3: Sample Descriptions

Description	Results
Timespan	1972-2023
Documents	770
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.)	556
Authors	1916
Authors of single-authored docs	197
Single-authored docs	207
Co-Authors per Doc	2.7
International co-authorships %	19.74
Average citations per doc	17.6
References	40,796
Author's Keywords (DE)	2062
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	543
book	26
book chapter	72
conference paper	87
letter	1
note	4
review	35
short survey	2

The study answers research questions and analyzes these documents in the following section.

4.2 Current Trend

This section answers the research question RQ1, what are the current publication trends in nonprofits' social performance? The current trend of publication in nonprofits' social performance research was investigated in terms of (a) publications, (b) source and document types, and (c) source titles and dynamics

(a) Publications

The trend of publication and citation can be observed through the data presented in Fig. 2. Publications on the social performance of nonprofits have significantly increased over the years. Between 2000 and 2010,

there were 134 publications; from 2011 to 2020, there were 431 publications, with an additional 183 articles published from 2021 to 2023. This data shows the growth and progress of the field.

In 2021, 92 documents were published, with the highest output at 11.9%, followed closely by 2022, with 79 documents at 10.3%, and in 2020 with 66 documents at 8.6%. The publications in 2014 received the most citations, averaging 43.31 per publication. However, publications in 1983 had only one citation, and those in 1972 had no citations.

The most cited documents (n=1,559) were in 2014 which focused on measurement, governance, evaluation, accountability, and humanitarian issues; followed by 2016 (n=1392) which focused on policy, outcomes, leadership, and capacity became the primary areas of interest..

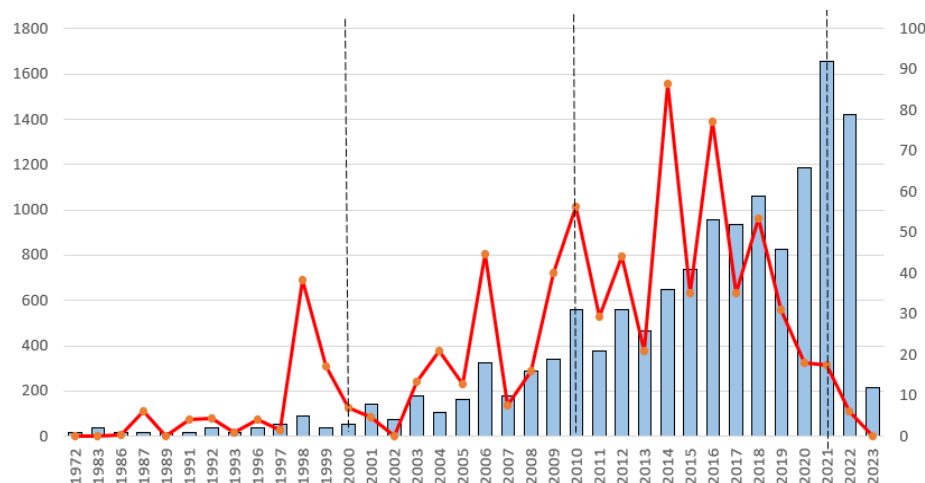


Fig. 2 Total publications and citations by year

The next section identifies nonprofit social performance publication documents and sources.

(b) Document and source type

Table 4 displays source type social performance documents. Of all the sources, journals published the highest percentage of social performance documents for nonprofits at 74.81%. On the other hand, books accounted for only 10.52% of these documents. Trade journals were the least expected source type, accounting for only 0.78%.

Table 4 Sources Type

Sources Type	Total Publication	(%)
Journal	576	74.81
Book	81	10.52
Conference Proceeding	69	8.96
Book Series	38	4.94
Trade Journal	6	0.78
Total	770	100.00

As shown in Table 5, Research articles were the most common type of publication in this field, accounting for over 70% of the documents on the social performance of nonprofits. Conference papers and book chapters were also frequently published, making up 11.30% and 9.35% of the documents, respectively. Other document types, like reviews, books, notes, short surveys, and letters, comprised less than 10% of the total publications.

Table 5 Types of Documents

Types Of Documents	Total Publications	(%)
Article	543	70.52
Conference Paper	87	11.30
Book Chapter	72	9.35
Review	35	4.55
Book	26	3.38
Note	4	0.52
Short Survey	2	0.26

Letter	1	0.13
Total	770	100

Thus, the data indicate that the most dominant source and types are journal articles.

(c) **Source title**

Table 6 lists the top ten sources' titles for nonprofits' Social Performance. The Voluntas Journal has the most publications (25) on nonprofits' social performance, followed by Nonprofit Management and Leadership with 17 and Sustainability Switzerland with 16. Together, they make up 7.53% of all publications on the topic. Springer is the top publisher with 39 publications. Aside from that, Table 6 reveals that the highest publishers for Nonprofits' Social Performance publications are Springer (n=39) and Jossey-Bass (n=17).

Then, Figure 3 shows the top 20 journals in the field. Voluntas published rapidly from 1996 and surpassed Journal of Business Ethics by 2014. Voluntas consistently publishes scientific articles, while Journal of Business Ethics focuses more on business entities and economics. This could be due to ethical issues being less prevalent in later years. Based on the current trends, it confirmed that nonprofits' social performance topic is on an uptrend and gaining momentum in response to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by United Nations (Ferreira et al., 2022). There has been a noticeable uptrend number of academic journals on the social performance of nonprofits.

Table 6 Top Ten Sources for Nonprofits' Social Performance

Source Title	TP	%	Publisher	Cite Score	Impact Factor
Voluntas	25.00	3.25	Springer	3.2	2.468
Nonprofit Management And Leadership	17.00	2.21	Jossey-Bass	3.2	3.044
Sustainability Switzerland	16.00	2.08	MDPI	3.9	3.251
Nonprofit And Voluntary Sector Quarterly	15.00	1.95	SAGE	4.3	3.142
Journal Of Business Ethics	14.00	1.82	Springer	2.44	6.331
Annals Of Public And Cooperative Economics	7.00	0.91	Wiley	0.64	1.679
Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies	6.00	0.78	Emerald Publication	0.22	0.21
Journal Of Business Research	6.00	0.78	ScienceDirect	11.2	10.96
Journal Of Cleaner Production	6.00	0.78	ScienceDirect	15.8	11.02
Journal Of Social Entrepreneurship	6.00	0.78	Taylor & Francis	5	3.72

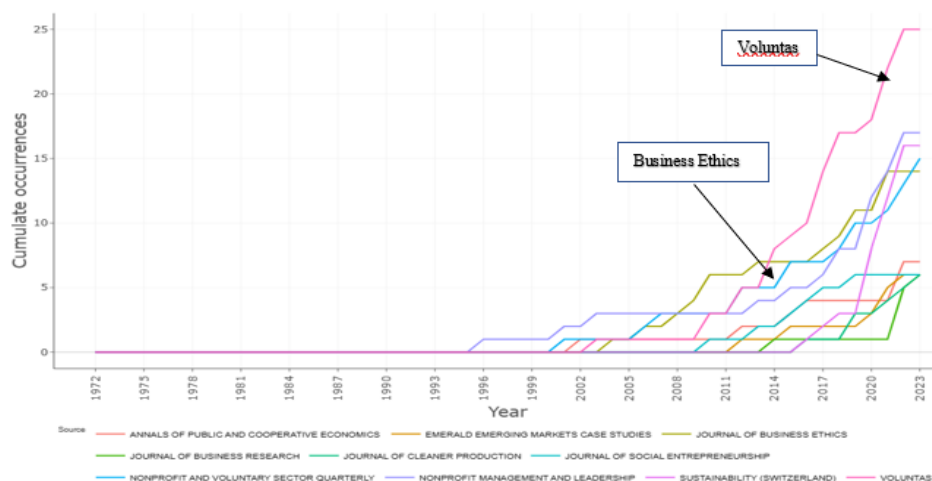


Fig. 3 Top 20 Source Dynamic

Next, the study analyzes the document's title to gain a insight of the publication in relation to the authors' keywords.

(c) Titles analysis

Fig. 5 displays network of title co-occurrences constructed from publication title fields. A network of title co-occurrences was created using a binary count method with a minimum threshold of three occurrences. Of 2260 terms, only 102 met this threshold, and the number of times a term appears in the title does not matter (van Eck & Waltman, 2014).

(d) Thematic Evolution

This research examines the evolution of social performance research in nonprofits by analyzing its consistency, changes, historical development, and current shifts. The study was divided into three phases, and an inclusion index was used to analyze each cluster. The inclusion index was weighted by word occurrences, and each cluster contained 250 author keywords. The research clusters for different periods are shown in Fig. 6, covering the period from 1972 to 2010. The year 2010 was chosen as the cut-off point due to the emergence of social entrepreneurship in Europe, the guideline to measure Social Return on Investment (SROI) by New Economic Foundation. The second breakpoint was set from 2011 to 2015, as the Charities Act 2011 was implemented in the UK, and the United Nations established its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

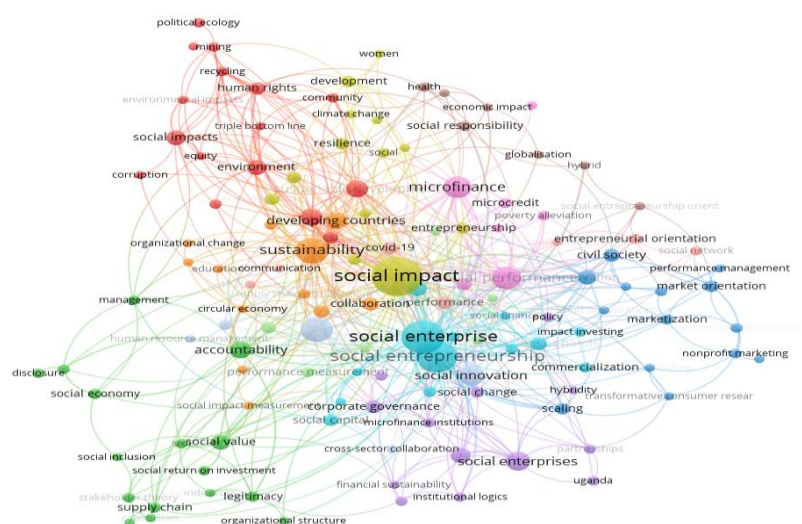


Fig. 5 Network visualization map of title with at least three occurrences.

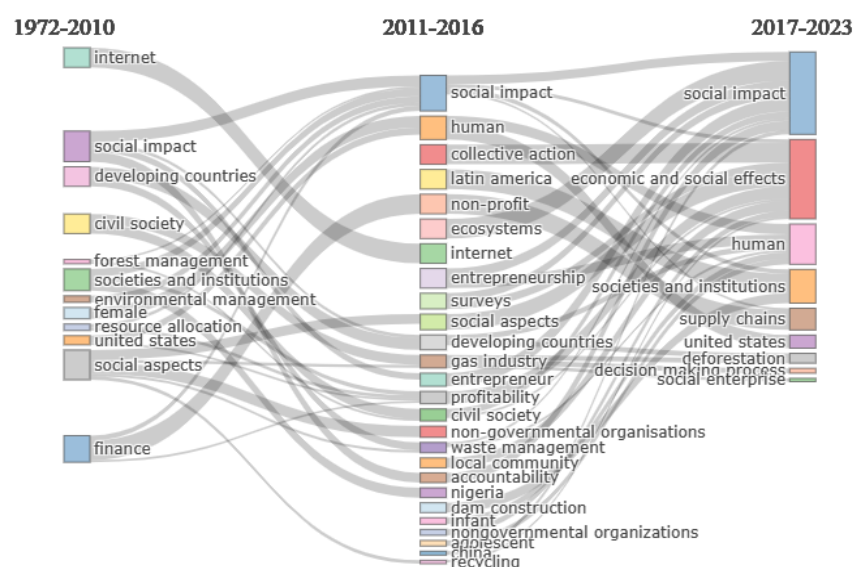


Fig 6. Thematic evolution

According to Fig. 6, social performance research on program impact topics has been heavily studied and remains a dominant focus as of 2016. While there has been a shift from finance, accountability has become a top priority. The growing demand for accountability may be due to a growing interest in the commercial activities of nonprofits. However, nonprofits often face challenges to balance their social mission with commercial practices like entrepreneurship, which can create challenges and dilemmas around accountability (Benjamin et al., 2022; Ebrahim et al., 2014). As a result, stakeholders are calling for increased accountability from nonprofits (Ferreira et al., 2022; Jiao, 2020).

Noteworthy, in the past decade, social performance has become increasingly important, especially since the introduction of SDG in 2015.

4.4 Major Players and Research Collaboration

This section answers research question, who are the major players in nonprofits' social performance research? Hence, this study analyzed the most productive countries, productive authors, and citation analysis to answer the research question.

(a) The most productive Countries and Collaboration

Fig. 7 shows the scientific output and collaboration among countries. The top five most productive countries are the USA, the UK, Spain, Australia, and Canada. Collaborative research output is significant between the USA, UK, and Spain. Developed countries generate the majority of research outputs. Additionally, Table 8 shows the top 20 countries contributing to nonprofit social performance research. The USA is the highest contributor, with 20.5% of publications, followed by the UK and Australia. The results confirmed that developed countries produce more research than developing countries.

(b) Most Productive and Prominent Authors

In this section, the most productive authors refer to the highest number of scientific papers produced by the authors. Prominent authors often refer to the author who is the most productive and has received the highest number of citations (Mansour et al., 2021; Nordin et al., 2022; Zupic & Čater, 2015).

As shown in Table 8, the top ten authors in nonprofits' social performance research. Quarter J. was the most productive author, having written six papers and achieving an h-index of 5. Next, the book titled "Social Economy," co-authored by Quarter J. and Mook L., is the most referenced publication.

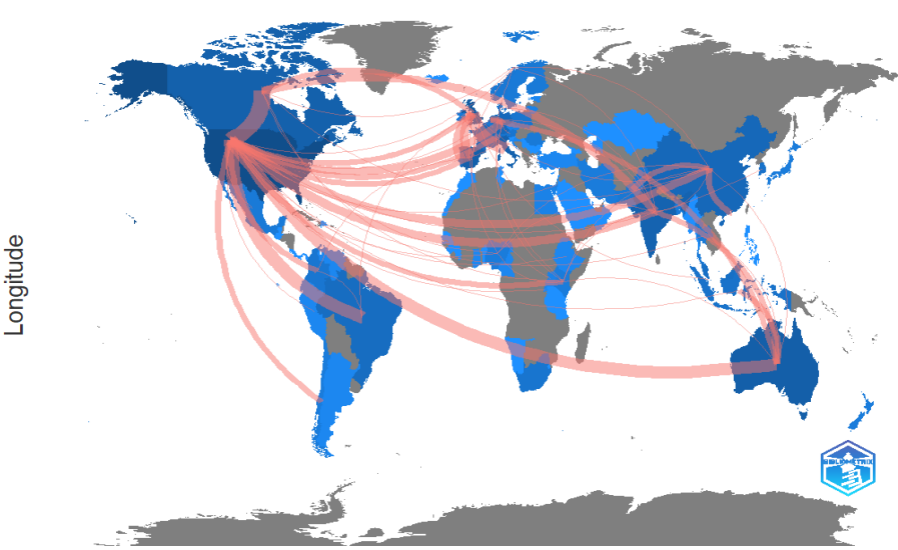


Fig. 7 Collaboration World Map

Meanwhile, research by Serrano-Cinca and Gutiérrez-Nieto has shown that microfinance institutions often struggle with mission drift because of their two goals: social mission and financial. The authors suggested the organizations balancing these objectives to achieve sustainability and maintain their purpose. On the other hand, Ebrahim's most cited publication focuses on governance, highlighting the challenge of meeting dual performance objectives while ensuring accountability (Ebrahim et al., 2014).

Table 8 Top Ten Most Contributing Authors and Countries									
Most Contributing Authors				Most Contributing Countries					
Ran k	Author Name	TP	TC	Country	TP	TC	SCP	MC	P

1	Quarter	6	211	USA	115	2746	99	16
2	Mook.	5	144	UK	41	1070	33	8
3	Serrano-Cinca.	5	300	Spain	29	614	25	4
4	Ebrahim	4	823	Australia	28	1269	21	7
5	Escamilla-Fajardo	4	50	Canada	26	668	22	4
6	Núñez-Pomar	4	50	Italy	25	179	17	8
7	Richmond	4	109	India	16	35	16	0
8	Armstrong	3	103	China	14	51	11	3
9	Babiak	3	28	France	14	236	13	1
10	Bublitz	3	29	Germany	13	156	9	4

Notes: TP = total number of publications; NCP = number of cited publications; TC = total citations; SCP = single country publications; MCP = Multiple countries publications;

Next, Fig. 8 presents a diagram that displays the top ten sources, countries, and top 20 authors of publications. This diagram provides insight into the research output of different countries. The diagram shows that all the top 20 authors contributed significantly to scientific output in the USA, while only five contributed significantly to Spain's scientific output. Interestingly, no dominant author exists in scientific publications from the United Kingdom, Portugal, India, and Australia. Further, the most abundant source of publications is Sustainability (Switzerland), with primary authors from Spain, Portugal, and Australia. Publications come from various sources and are distributed among the top publishing countries.

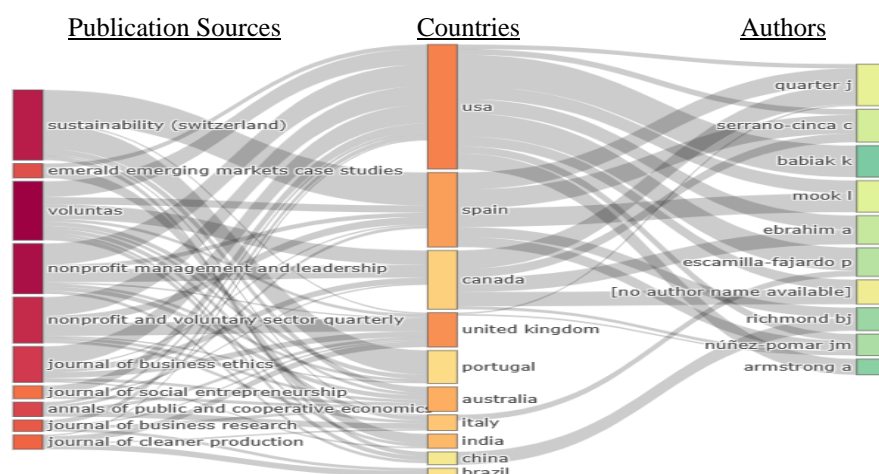


Fig.8 Three-fold plot of top ten publications sources, countries, and authors

5. Discussions

Nonprofits play a crucial role in building sustainable communities and tackling environmental challenges. Properly assessing their social performance is vital for guiding future strategies. However, a bibliometric review of 770 articles published in Scopus spanning 52 years has revealed a need for a more comprehensive understanding. Further research is needed to identify trends, critical areas, major players, and collaborations in this field. The key findings are presented below per the study questions:

(a) What are current publication trends in nonprofits' social performance research?

Research has shown that reports on the social performance of nonprofits date back to 1972, with only 22 publications on the topic before 2000. The earliest document was published in journals' articles concerning hospitals in the United Kingdom, followed by a second article in 1983, which discussed the critical success factors for nonprofits' survival. Early research on the social performance of nonprofits was noticed by scholars from Europe and North America. There was a noticeable increase in interest in this topic, with 134 publications between 2001 and 2010, perhaps because of the rising concern on corporate social responsibility (Guay et al., 2004) and the effort to reduce resources dependency by nonprofits from the government (Gutiérrez-Nieto et al., 2009). The findings has shown that growing interest in nonprofit social performance, with a steady increase in publications. Thus, findings highlight the continued relevance and significance of the social impact of nonprofits.

Then, academic journals and books especially from *Voluntas* and *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, have published research on the social performance of nonprofits. This interdisciplinary topic spans third sectors, civil society, ethical practices, and sustainable development. The trend is gaining momentum due to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, the nonprofit social performance has grown intensively since 2015. Future opportunity to publish in conference proceeding and book series as there was less source type. Longitudinal studies help track social impact over time, while comparative studies highlight variations across sectors and regions. Additionally, other sources of publications can become opportunities to publish an article concerning nonprofits' social performance such as *Strategic Management Journal* and *The World Development*.

(b) What key areas have been discussed in nonprofits' social performance research?

The findings of the study's second research question on key areas suggest that social performance research in nonprofits has been diverse and multidisciplinary. The research encompasses a range of subjects, including Business, Management, Accounting, Social Sciences, and Environmental Science. Keywords focus on crucial areas related to society, such as economic and social impact, human beings, gender, and the environment.

Next, the study identified two areas of research based on recurring keywords. The first is the stakeholder perspective, examining the social and financial performance of the third sector, including market orientation and entrepreneurial orientation. Nonprofits engaging in commercial activities may face mission drift, accountability challenges, and governance issues. The second area is the management perspective, focusing on small-scale organizational factors, such as collaboration, governance, stakeholder engagement, legitimacy, and social impact. Measuring social performance is critical for nonprofits to achieve their objectives and track community outcomes and changes. However, considering social dimensions may add complexity to the issue of survival.

Upon analyzing themes evaluations, it is evident that 2010 played a critical role, especially in Europe, North America, and Oceanic regions' evolution. The Charities Act of 2011 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have led to significant interest in nonprofits. Thus, prioritizing social performance research is essential to meet regulatory requirements and achieve SDGs. Therefore, analyzing social performance progress can provide valuable insights for nonprofit development toward SDG achievement.

One crucial points is on the terminology. Non-profit organizations are commonly referred to as the "third sector," "NGO," "civil society," "public organization" "social enterprise," "social entrepreneurship," and "voluntary organization". Some studies indicated that nonprofits are evolving into social enterprises (Tajpour et al., 2022; Yang & You, 2020) and few studies indicated that social enterprises are simply one type of nonprofits (Benjamin, 2021). However, it can be challenging to differentiate various terminologies, especially when distinguishing between nonprofits and social enterprises since all terms reflect the organization's purpose and role in society. Moreover, there is potentially raise several issues in research, as there is currently no consensus on the definition of nonprofits and which types of organizations belong to this category.

Further study is required to differentiate between nonprofits and social enterprises to comprehend their similarities and differences comprehensively. It is essential to research both terms to improve researchers' and practitioners' understanding of them, before evaluating social performance. One might question whether nonprofit and social enterprise social performance indicators are identical. Also, whether internal factors influencing nonprofit social performance similar in various types of nonprofits.

(c) Who are the major players and research collaboration in nonprofits' social performance research?

Regarding the third research question, there appears to be significant scientific collaboration on nonprofits' social performance research worldwide. The analysis of countries, authors, and citations provides several findings. The study of social performance first emerged in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia as the top three countries where scholarly writings were published. This discovery aligns with previous research indicating that most nonprofit publications are dominated by developed countries (Napathorn, 2021; Nordin et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2022).

It appears that the USA is known for publishing many studies on the social performance of nonprofits as they are committed to monitoring tax-exempt groups (Benjamin et al., 2022; Park et al., 2021). While nonprofits like the Red Cross started in the US and Europe, they now work towards promoting sustainable community development worldwide. However, it is important to note that research on social performance differs across regions.

Research on nonprofits in developing countries has faced obstacles such as the lack of legal structure, inadequate regulation (Peraí, 2021; Saghravani & Moghimi, 2023), insufficient government funding (Zain & Hassan, 2021), and limited capacity (Ghose et al., 2018; Wu et al., 2018), which may have discouraged it.

It is essential to acknowledge the unequal focus on specific geographic areas in this field, with most research conducted by scholars in developed nations. Therefore, researchers should prioritize studying the social

performance of nonprofits in developing countries, considering the cultural contexts, social needs, and economic progress of these regions. This approach can help create sustainable communities by 2030.

6. Conclusions

This study analyzes research publications from 1972 to 2023 exploring nonprofits' social performance using bibliometric techniques. The study examines publication trends, subject areas, and collaborations between various categories, including the number of publications, sources, subject areas, keywords, document titles, contributing countries, authorships, and citations. The results provide valuable information about the characteristics and trajectory of research on nonprofits' social performance.

The results have shown that research on nonprofit social performance is limited to developed countries and specific fields, which creates a gap for diverse perspectives. More collaboration and funding are needed to improve nonprofit social performance, especially in developing countries.

It is crucial to acknowledge that this study has limitations. First, it solely relied on the SCOPUS database and a restricted set of keywords. In the future, researchers must explore additional databases and use alternative keywords to ensure comprehensive research. Second, bibliometric analysis methods is pure quantitative and it meant to understand research patterns in a particular field or subfield. Future study can conduct a meta-analysis to gain a more in-depth insight.

Despite certain limitations, this study sheds light on the trends and publications related to nonprofit social performance research. Nonprofits play a crucial role in providing social services across the globe, and it is essential to address knowledge gaps and organizational factors, such as cultural and capacity differences, to improve their outreach and encourage collaborative research. Further research is necessary to facilitate nonprofits and regulators to achieve social objectives and ultimately to have sustainable communities.

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