

SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

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Several perspectives have been considered while examining the association between a sense of community (SOC) and community development, as a SOC has been one of the critical societal factors positively associated with several outcomes. Thus, the association earns an evaluation of its current state and prospects. The present study adopts an integrative review approach, bibliometric and content analysis, to understand SOC and community development literature trends, themes, and theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications. The types of analyses conducted in bibliometrics are descriptive, performance analysis, and science mapping. While the descriptive and performance analyses reveal research constituents' current status and performance across various research constituents, several research clusters and themes were identified through science mapping. The identified clusters were Social Support, Community Development, Education, Community Well-being, and Online Education. The emerging themes were Community Engagement and Participation, Urban Development, Social Context, Measurement of SOC, Organisational SOC, and Public Spaces. Further, the content analysis of selected articles was used to uncover the theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications of SOC and community development literature. Future research recommendations regarding theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications were proposed based on the research gaps identified.

Keywords: *sense of community, community development, sustainable development goals, community well-being, community engagement, health, education*

1. Introduction

Sense of community (SOC) and community development are two interconnected concepts that have received significant attention in the social sciences literature. Sarason drafted the theory of SOC and described it as "the feeling that one is part of a readily available, supportive, and dependable structure" (Sarason, 1974, p. 157). While attempts have been made to define and measure SOC operationally, McMillan and Chavis provided the most accepted model. They described SOC as "a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to being together" (McMillan & Chavis, 1986, p.9). In day-to-day practices, SOC refers to a person's sense of belonging and interactions between people and their environment (Coulombe & Krzesni, 2019). Scholars have emphasised that the SOC is an emotional relationship or connection between individuals based on a shared past, present, or future (Jiang & Zhen, 2022). It is crucial in human behaviours, person-place relationships, and psychological well-being (Rollero & De Piccoli, 2010). It

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is also found that SOC can encourage community participation as a collective response to community stressors and involvement in community development (Chavis & Wandersman, 1990).

On the other hand, community development, understood as a professional discipline, is defined by the International Association for Community Development as "a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality, and social justice, through the organization, education, and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings." (Ross et al., 2018). The relationship between SOC and community development was also studied in different contexts (Chavis & Wandersman, 1990; Mannarini et al., 2014; Talò et al., 2014). A strong SOC has been associated with increased safety and security, community participation, and civic responsibility (Deng et al., 2022; Francis, Giles-Corti, et al., 2012; Rochira et al., 2019). A survey conducted among relocated communities showed SOC was an antecedent to sustainable community development (Lin et al., 2021). The study investigating the relationship between individuals' SOC and their level of political participation revealed that SOC significantly impacted overall political participation (Davidson & Cotte, 1989). Most importantly, a recent study suggests that SOC positively impacted life satisfaction (Novara et al., 2021, 2023), community resilience and well-being (Mannarini et al., 2022), and social support (Mannarini et al., 2018).

It is also found that SOC has been used to understand the challenges of social change (Fisher & Sonn, 2002), community disorder (Perkins & Taylor, 1996), and loneliness (Prezza et al., 2001). Researchers in community health have studied SOC from a quality of life (Buckley & Burnette, 2022), mental health (Pijpker et al., 2022), and health status (Nehumba et al., 2022) perspective across different life stages (Michalski et al., 2020). Furthermore, educational scholars have also used the SOC in the students' community context. For example, online education in sustainability (Gan & Alkaher, 2021; Heslen et al., 2022) and medical education (van der Meer et al., 2021), distance education (Smilyanski et al., 2015), higher education (Haar, 2018), early childhood education (Wallace et al., 2018), pre-service special education (Chung & Park, 2019), blended learning (Li, 2022), distance learning (Beeson et al., 2019), flipped classroom (Yilmaz & Yilmaz, 2022) and elementary education (Gan & Alkaher, 2021). SOC is a multidimensional construct that captures the subjective sense of belonging to an organized collectivity (Mannarini et al., 2017) and holds significant importance in various disciplines, including community psychology, sociology, community development, education, community well-being, social behavior, and public health. As a result, a thorough and rigorous literature review, such as an integrative review, is needed to explore the intellectual landscape, publication trends, key contributors, source impact, and research themes of SOC and community development.

An effective integrative review of SOC and community development is essential because it comprehensively explains the interplay between these two important concepts. Additionally, it can provide important insight into the current state of research on a topic and recommend future research directions. Further, a thorough and well-written integrative review synthesizes a topic's current knowledge and brings together different conversations. It also facilitates a holistic understanding of the subject. More importantly, it helps develop and refine theoretical, contextual, and methodological frameworks. This type of review contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the field. Therefore, this study integrates two types of analyses: bibliometric and content analysis of selected articles.

Bibliometric analysis is a well-known method that allows learning about a field's evolutionary history and sheds insight into its newer subfields (Donthu et al., 2021). Researchers use bibliometric analysis for various purposes, for example, to identify patterns in the performance of research

constituents such as articles, journals, and collaboration patterns, as well as to explore the knowledgeable framework of a particular domain in the body of prevailing literature (Donthu et al., 2021). Thus, it provides a one-stop overview of the field of study and helps to identify the research gaps. It also derives novel ideas for future research (Donthu et al., 2021).

However, bibliometric methods have limitations, such as the inability to make qualitative claims about research based on quantitative data (Wallin, 2005). Quantitative metrics such as citation counts, h-indexes, and journal impact factors are typically employed in bibliometric analyses. Although these metrics provide a quantitative assessment of research output, they may not adequately capture the complexity and calibre of scientific work. Bibliometric indicators may not sufficiently reflect the more profound understanding of research content and impact required to advance theory and methodology. This dependence may hamper the study's conclusions. Therefore, the current study also adopts a content analysis method to review selected articles. Through this integrative review, this study intends to answer the following research questions.

RQ1: What are the most influential articles, journals, authors, and countries contributing to the SOC and community development domain?

RQ2: What are the different research themes of SOC and community development?

RQ3: What are the current theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications of SOC and community development literature?

RQ4: What are the theoretical, contextual, and methodological recommendations for future researchers?

This integrative review provides the current state of SOC and community development literature by presenting publication trends and identifying research themes. Further, the study also offers theoretical, contextual, and methodological advancement of SOC and community development literature. The proposed recommendations will be helpful for future researchers to extend the existing body of knowledge on SOC and community development.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Data source

The Scopus database, one of the recognized databases offering influential articles from prominent journals and research academics, was used to retrieve the data for this study. Scopus is deemed to be fit for several reasons. First, Scopus is often considered one of the largest curated databases covering scientific journals, books, conference proceedings, etc., selected through content selection followed by continuous re-evaluation. Second, about 99.11% of the journals indexed in Web of Science are also in Scopus. Third, it was found that Scopus has a more significant number of exclusive journals than Web of Science in all fields (Singh et al., 2021).

2.2 Data selection criteria

For this study, we searched the Scopus database for "sense of communit*" and "community" and "development" keywords in the article title, abstract, and keywords field. This search resulted in 1456 documents. Further, we have included only English articles and reviews published in journals. In other words, we have excluded book chapters, notes, and conference proceedings from the review. This filter resulted in 1059 articles (Figure 1). Since the objective of our study is to identify the application

of the "sense of community" construct across all disciplines, all 1059 documents were considered for the bibliometric analysis without filtering for the subject area. Our query string was: ((TITLE-ABS-KEY("sense of community") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(communit*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(development)) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE,"ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE,"re")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE,"English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE,"j"))). The following figure (Figure 1) provides overall trends in publication. While there were only 98 articles between 1966-1999, later publications seem to increase over the years. There is a noticeable increase in the number of articles published in recent years (2020-2023), reaching the highest point in 2022 with 100 articles. This increase in publications can be attributed to factors, such as increased research interest and activity among researchers from various disciplines.

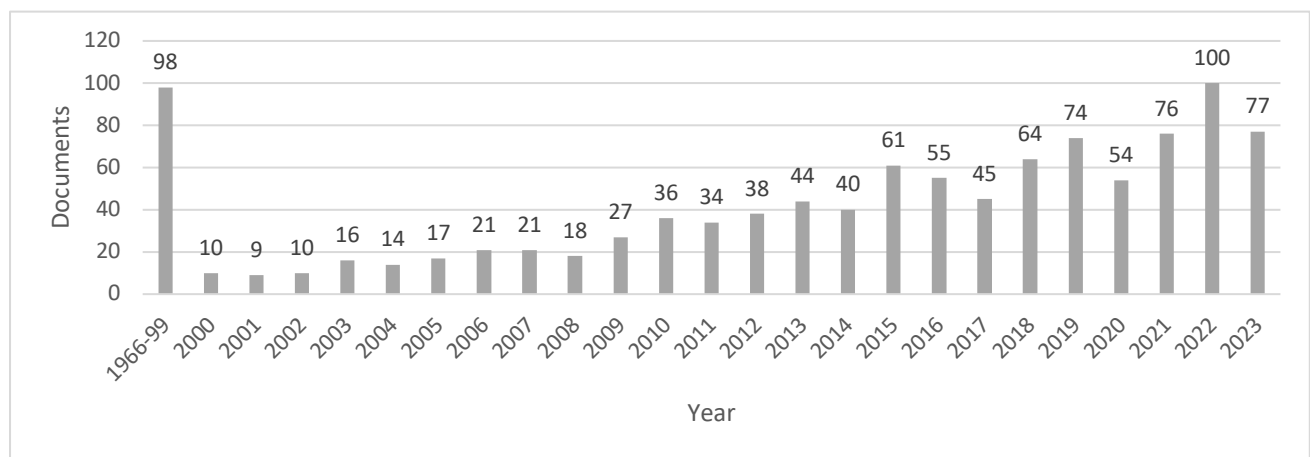


Figure 1: Growth of SOC and community development literature

2.3 Types of analyses conducted

2.3.1. Performance analysis and science mapping

Performance analysis is descriptive, representing the performance of research constituents, such as authors, institutions, countries, and journals, and is a standard procedure in bibliometric studies. The most common and necessary measures are the number of publications and citations per year of research constituent. While publication is a proxy for productivity, citation measures impact and influence. Other measures included are citation per publication, citation per cited publication, number of active years, citations per active years, and h-index. Despite being descriptive, performance analysis acknowledges the different constituents in a research field (Donthu et al., 2021). Therefore, to answer RQ1, performance analysis was used.

The RQ2 was answered using science mapping. The science mapping concerns the structural relationships and intellectual exchanges between study participants (authors, documents, sources, organizations, and countries). Science mapping techniques include keyword co-occurrence, co-citation, bibliographic coupling (BCA), and citation analysis. This study adopts two science mapping techniques: keyword co-occurrence analysis and BCA. While co-citation analysis, BCA, and co-citation analysis are based on publications and citations, the unit of analysis in keyword co-occurrence is "keywords". Unlike citation analysis, co-citation analysis, and bibliographic coupling, which employ either cited or citing publications as a focal point or a proxy, keyword co-occurrence analysis is a technique that examines the actual content of the publication itself. (Donthu et al., 2021).

Keyword co-occurrence analysis is used to identify and analyze the relationships between keywords or terms in a collection of academic literature, such as research articles, papers, or patents.

In this analysis, relevant documents are gathered, and keywords or terms are extracted from them. Keywords that frequently co-occur are often grouped into clusters, revealing thematic or conceptual relationships in the literature. On the other hand, BCA assumes two articles with shared references have related content (Kessler, 1963; Weinberg, 1974). It distributes the publications into thematic clusters based on shared references; thus, niche publications get visibility (Van Eck & Waltman, 2022). Hence, in this sense, BCA is suitable for uncovering the broad spectrum of SOC and community development literature themes. Moreover, a study comparing the three citation approaches (BCA, citation, and co-citation) suggests that BCA slightly outperforms the other two (Boyack & Klavans, 2010). Therefore, we used BCA to uncover the various research themes.

2.3.2 Content analysis

Our RQ3 was to understand SOC and community development literature's current theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications. For this purpose, the documents forming bibliographic coupling were further studied using a content analysis approach based on the TCM framework (Paul et al., 2023): T stands for theory, C for context, and M for methodology. This framework helps identify the underlying gaps across three dimensions: theory development, context, and method (Srivastava et al., 2020). This method was deemed to be fit as Alayo et al. (2020) point out that the results of bibliometric analysis should be interpreted and complemented by extensive reading. This comprehensive reading enables us to deepen the main findings of the bibliometrics by providing valuable information about critical dimensions of the research, identifying research gaps, and speculating about the future development of the field (Alayo et al., 2021).

Our fourth research question (RQ4) was to propose future research recommendations. This objective was achieved based on the research gap identified through RQ3. All the articles coupled through bibliographical analysis were reviewed thoroughly for the theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications (Alayo et al., 2021). Based on this, research gaps in the present studies were identified, and future recommendations were proposed.

2.4 Software used

While the performance analysis was conducted using MS Excel, the science mapping was performed using the VOS viewer software. Using network data, VoSviewer can create, display, and explore maps. It is better than other visualization tools, can handle enormous data sets, and provides images highlighting hotspots and study topics (Donthu et al., 2020).

3. Results

3.1 RQ 1: What are the most influential articles, journals, countries, and authors in the SOC and community development domain

3.1.1 Most influential articles

The document-wise analysis was conducted based on a minimum of 300 citations per document. There were 12 such articles (Table 1). The article "Is Los Angeles-Style Sprawl Desirable?" by Ewing, Reid, published in the Journal of American Planning Association, topped the list with 843 citations.

Table 1: Most influential articles

No.	Authors	Title	Year	Source Title	Citations	ACY
1	Ewing, 1997	Is Los Angeles-Style Sprawl Desirable?	1997	Journal of the American Planning Association	843	32
2	Manzo & Perkins, 2006	Finding common ground: The importance of place attachment to community participation and planning	2006	Journal of Planning Literature	681	40
3	Chavis & Wandersman, 1990	Sense of community in the urban environment: A catalyst for participation and community development	1990	American Journal of Community Psychology	666	20
4	Goodman et al., 1998	Identifying and Defining the Dimensions of Community Capacity to Provide a Basis for Measurement	1998	Health Education and Behavior	649	26
5	Rovai, 2002	Development of an instrument to measure classroom community	2002	Internet and Higher Education	453	22
6	Talen E.	Sense of community and neighbourhood form: An assessment of the social doctrine of new urbanism	1999	Urban Studies	444	19
7	Gruzd A.; Wellman B.; Takhteyev Y.	Imagining twitter as an imagined community	2011	American Behavioral Scientist	392	33
8	Eizenberg E.; Jabareen Y.	Social sustainability: A new conceptual framework	2017	Sustainability (Switzerland)	386	64
9	Kweon B.-S.; Sullivan W.C.; Wiley A.R.	Green common spaces and the social integration of inner-city older adults	1998	Environment and Behavior	359	14
10	Kim J.; Kaplan R.	Physical and psychological factors in sense of community: New urbanist Kentlands and nearby orchard village	2004	Environment and Behavior	341	18
11	Birley & Westhead, 1994	A taxonomy of business start-up reasons and their impact on firm growth and size	1994	Journal of Business Venturing	339	12
12	Francis J.; Giles-Corti B.; Wood L.; Knuiman M.	Creating sense of community: The role of public space	2012	Journal of Environmental Psychology	329	30

Note: ACY= Average Citation per Year

The second most cited article was "Finding Common Ground: The Importance of Place Attachment to the Community." This article has 681 citations. The third most cited article was "Sense of Community in the Urban Environment: A Catalyst for Participation and Community Development" (Chavis & Wandersman, 1990), 666 citations. However, regarding the average citations per year, the article "Social Sustainability: A New Conceptual Framework (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017), published

in Sustainability (Switzerland), topped the list, followed by the article "Finding Common Ground: The importance of place attachment to community participation and planning" (Manzo & Perkins, 2006). The list of the top 12 articles is provided in the table (Table 1). Further, the source titles suggest that SOC and community development are well documented in community psychology, health education, online education, urban studies, behavioral science, sustainability, environmental, and business environment literature, suggesting SOC is a multi-disciplinary construct.

3.1.2 Most influential journals

The source-wise analysis was conducted based on at least six documents per source. This analysis resulted in 13 journals (Table 2). Regarding the productivity of journals, the Journal of Community Psychology topped the list with 37 documents, followed by "Sustainability", with 26 articles. However, the journal "Environment and Behavior" topped the list regarding impact. The average number of citations for the articles published in this journal was 118. The second most impactful journal was "Health Education and Behavior," with 112 average citations. Further, these results indicate that a SOC is well documented in environmental, behavioral, community psychology, education, business, urban planning, and community development literature.

Table 2: Most influential journals

No.	Title	TP	NPC	NAY	PAY	TC	TC/TP	TC/NPC	TC/NAY
1	Journal of Community Psychology	37	35	31	1	1969	53	56	64
2	Sustainability Switzerland	26	21	10	3	561	22	27	56
3	American Journal of Community Psychology	15	15	30	1	1512	101	101	50
4	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	9	8	4	2	39	4	5	10
5	Journal of Rural Studies	9	9	19	0	194	22	22	10
6	Environment and Behavior	8	8	19	0	941	118	118	50
7	Social Indicators Research	8	8	13	1	443	55	55	34
8	Cities	7	5	19	0	191	27	38	10
9	Community Development	7	7	13	1	74	11	11	6
10	Health Education and Behavior	7	7	25	0	787	112	112	31
11	Wit Transactions on Ecology and The Environment	7	5	16	0	7	1	1	0
12	BMC Public Health	6	6	13	0	137	23	23	11
13	Disability and Rehabilitation	6	6	8	1	92	15	15	12

Notes: TP = total publications; NPC = Number of Cited publications; NAY = number of active years; PAY = productivity per active year, TC = total citations; TC/TP = average citations per publication; NPC = Number of Cited publications; TC/NPC = Average citations per cited publications; NAY = number of active years; PAY = productivity per active year; TC/NAY=Citations per active years

3.1.3 Most influential authors

A minimum of four articles was considered for an author-wise analysis (Table 3). The top two authors, David T. Lardier and N. Andrew Peterson have six articles. In terms of the H-Index, N. Andrew Peterson has the highest H-Index of five. Regarding citations, Douglas D. Perkins received the highest number of citations, average citations per document, and average citations per cited document.,

across five articles. The top nine most influential authors in the SOC and community development are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Most influential authors

Name	TP	TC	SAP	CAP	CP	TC/TP	TC/CP	NAY	PAY	H
Lardier D.T	6	115	2	4	6	19	19	4	29	4
Peterson N.A.	6	219	0	6	6	37	37	6	37	5
Perkins D.D.	5	1151	0	5	5	230	230	5	230	4
Christens B.D.	4	115	0	4	4	29	29	3	38	3
Cicognanai E	4	213	0	4	4	53	53	4	53	4
Giles-Corti, B.	4	595	0	4	4	149	149	3	198	4
Knuiman M.	4	595	0	4	4	149	149	3	198	4
Solomon D.	4	385	0	4	4	96	96	4	96	4
Speer P.W.	4	385	0	4	4	96	96	3	128	3

Notes: TP = total publications; TC = Total citations, SAP=Single Authored Publications, CAP= co-authored Publications, TC/TP = average citations per publication, TC/NPC = Average citations per cited publications, NAY = number of active years; PAY = productivity per active year, H =h index

3.1.4 Most contributing countries

The following is a list of the top five countries according to the nationality of the corresponding author (Table 4). According to this table, the most influential country is the United States of America, with 42 active years, 444 publications, and 14867 citations. The USA also had the highest PAY and h-index, followed by Australia and the UK. The other two most contributing countries are Canada and Italy.

Table 4: Most contributing countries

Indices	USA	Australia	UK	Canada	Italy
TP	444	105	103	79	39
TC	14867	2958	1943	2227	1264
TCP	389	100	88	88	37
TC/TP	33	28	19	28	32
TC/TCP	38	30	22	25	34
NAY	42	26	27	23	17
PAY	354	114	72	97	74
h-index	59	27	23	23	19

3.2 RQ 2: What are the different research themes of SOC and community development

Our second research question was identifying the critical research themes of SOC and community development literature. We used two science mapping methods: Keyword co-occurrence analysis and BCA.

3.2.1 Keyword co-occurrence analysis

The keyword co-occurrence analysis was conducted using VoSviewer software. The keyword(s) in a co-word analysis are often derived from keywords provided by the author(s) in the article, however, notable words can also be extracted from article titles, and abstracts. VOSviewer also recognises both singular terms and compound terms (multi-word phrases). Therefore, the current study includes “all keywords” option provided in the VoSviewer software for the co-word analysis. In other words, the keywords include both single words and multi-words extracted from the title, abstract, and keyword field. VOSviewer also provides various visualization techniques to represent co-word networks, such as network and overlay visualization.

The minimum number of occurrences was set to 25. The analysis resulted in five clusters. The keywords in each cluster with frequency are provided in Table 5.

Cluster one, named social support, was the most significant cluster, with 27 keywords. The topics discussed in this cluster are empowerment, social support, social interaction, social environment, social media, community participation, human relations, and well-being.

The second largest cluster, community development, with 26 keywords, delves into SOC and community development, perception, sustainable development, social capital, sense of place, social behavior, neighborhood, urban planning and development, rural development, and quality of life.

The third cluster (Education) was composed of 17 keywords. The studies included in this cluster are primarily on education, professional development, leadership, learning, curriculum, mentoring, skills, program development, and evaluation.

Table 5: Key-word co-occurrence analysis

Cluster 1: Social support	Cluster 2: Community development	Cluster 3: Education	Cluster 4: Community well-being	Cluster 5: Online education
human (241)	sense of community (170)	education (52)	community care (27)	students (24)
humans (174)	community (75)	human experiment (43)	organization and management (27)	internet (18)
female (143)	community development (67)	qualitative research (38)	demography (25)	university (18)
male (131)	united states (62)	interview (30)	health promotion (19)	higher education (17)
adult (109)	perception (56)	professional development (29)	psychological aspect (19)	student (16)
psychology (52)	sustainable development (54)	leadership (28)	residence characteristics (17)	
adolescent (49)	sustainability (46)	learning (28)		
middle aged (47)	neighborhood (42)	program development (26)		
controlled study (45)	social capital (41)	medical education (23)		
questionnaire (45)	quality of life (38)	program evaluation (22)		
empowerment (40)	urban planning (29)	information processing (21)		
social support (35)	China (27)	procedures (19)		
major clinical study (31)	Australia (26)	curriculum (17)		

child (29)	United Kingdom (25)	medical school (16)
surveys and questionnaires (25)	local participation (23)	mentoring (15)
young adult (25)	decision making (22)	personnel management (15)
mental health (23)	rural development (22)	skill (15)
social environment (21)	social behavior (22)	
well-being (21)	sense of place (19)	
community participation (19)	social network (18)	
human relation (19)	housing (17)	
self-concept (19)	urban area (17)	
Social interaction (18)	urban development (17)	
social media (17)	Canada (16)	
well-being (16)	rural area (16)	
motivation (15)	Europe (15)	

The fourth cluster (community well-being) is the second smallest, comprised six keywords: community care, organization and management, demography, health promotion, psychological aspect, and residence characteristics.

The fifth cluster (online education) is the smallest one with five keywords: students, internet, university, higher education, and student.

Further, overlay visualization, a feature in VOSviewer that allows the classification of keywords based on a time scale, was also conducted (Figure 2).

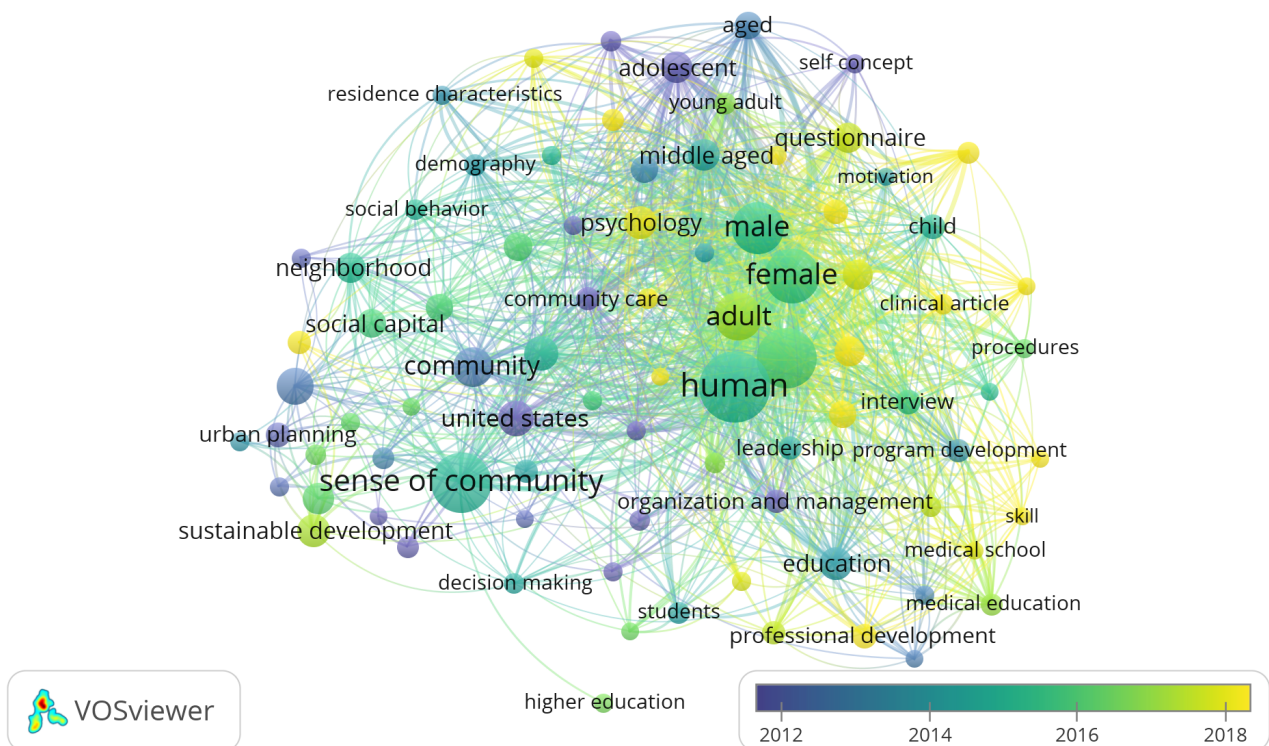


Figure 2: Overlay visualization of keywords

The size of the nodes in Figure 2 reflects the occurrence of using the terms. The items are colored differently according to publishing year (average for the cluster). This study highlights phrases that debuted recently (the average publication year was 2018) in a brighter yellow. A color bar displayed at the corner has the same explanation: the scores of the items are decided by the publishing date. According to Figure 2, the most recent topics studied are well-being, mental health, social media, professional development, skill, and mentoring.

3.2.2 Bibliographic Coupling Analysis

BCA was conducted to discover the research themes in SOC and community development. The units of analysis for BCA can be a document, journal, or author. Therefore, we have used a document as a unit of study. The documents with a minimum of 100 citations were included in the analysis. The results are depicted in Figure 3. The number of clusters that emerged was seven. The larger nodes denote a document's greater importance (Van Eck & Waltman, 2022).

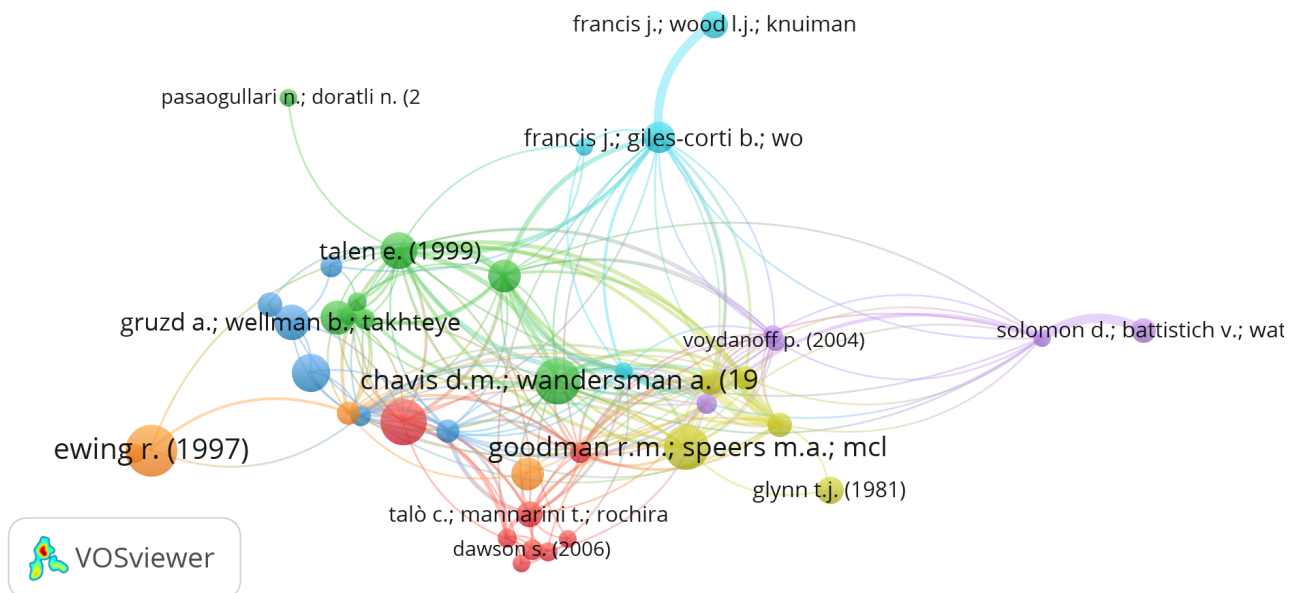


Figure 3: Clusters based on BCA

Cluster one: Community Engagement and Participation (represented in red)

This cluster's most cited article (Manzo & Perkins, 2006) emphasizes the significance of place attachment and SOC in promoting active community participation and effective planning. It highlights how emotional connections to one's environment can drive a stronger desire to be involved in community activities and decision-making. The second most cited article (Talò et al., 2014) is a meta-analysis that examines the relationship between SOC and community participation. The findings revealed that the relationship between SOC and participation is significant and positive. The third article of this cluster deconstructs the theoretical underpinnings of the psychological SOC, shedding light on the notion that community is not just a resource but also a responsibility that individuals contribute to and benefit from (Nowell & Boyd, 2010). While the fourth article investigates the link between student communication interaction and their SOC (Dawson, 2006), the fifth article examines how SOC, neighboring relationships, and social capital collectively predict local political participation in China (Xu et al., 2010). Other studies have delved into the intersection of community psychology, political efficacy, and trust (Anderson, 2010), gender difference in political engagement among youth

(Cicognani et al., 2012), and implementation of empowerment principles within community coalitions (B. McMillan et al., 1995). Together, the articles in this cluster offer insight into a complex relationship between SOC, community participation, and community engagement.

Cluster two: Urban development (represented in green)

The most cited article in this cluster was "SOC in the Urban Environment: A Catalyst for Participation and Community Development" (Chavis & Wandersman, 1990). This article explores how a SOC within the urban environment can encourage participation and contribute to community development. The second most cited article (Talen, 1999) examines how the design and layout of neighborhoods, particularly those influenced by the New Urbanism movement, affect residents' SOC. The third article (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017) proposes a new framework for understanding and measuring social sustainability. It discusses how factors like equity, safety, community cohesion, and participation contribute to the overall SOC for the sustainability of urban areas. The fourth article discusses how physical and psychological factors impact residents' SOC in urban development (Kim & Kaplan, 2004). While the fifth article discusses how factors such as transportation options, amenities, and socio-economic status influence residential SOC (Schwanen & Mokhtarian, 2004) and satisfaction, the sixth article critically examines the effectiveness of neighborhood watch programs as strategies to reduce crime, fear, and restoring SOC (Rosenbaum, 1987). Studies in this cluster also investigated the interplay between SOC and negative narratives related to discourses of isolation, disorder, and danger (August, 2014) and social interaction (Pasaogullari & Doratli, 2004) in an urban context.

Cluster three: Social context (represented in blue)

There are six articles in this cluster. These articles are further classified into two sub-themes: Development and validation of scale and Social context. While two articles in this cluster focus on the development and validation of the SOC scale (Long & Perkins, 2003; Rovai, 2002), four other articles explore the concept of SOC in the social context, such as Twitter (Gruzd et al., 2011), schools and workplace (Royal & Rossi, 1996), community (Watts, 2004), and place attachment (Lewicka, 2011). The most cited article in this cluster is about developing a scale to assess the SOC in a classroom environment. This cluster's second most cited article discusses how Twitter users create SOC and shared identity despite the absence of physical proximity (Gruzd et al., 2011). The third most cited article in this cluster delves into the complexities and contradictions within the concept of "community and examines how geographic factors, access to resources, and historical power dynamics can lead to tensions and contradictions within communities (Watts, 2004). While the fourth article examines the validity of the SOC Index (SCI) using confirmatory factor analysis (Long & Perkins, 2003), the fifth article investigates human-place relationships by revisiting Hummons' typology (Lewicka, 2011). The sixth article examines factors that correlate with an individual's SOC in the workplace and school (Royal & Rossi, 1996).

Cluster four: Measurement of SOC (represented in yellow)

This cluster has five articles. Like cluster three, articles in this cluster are further classified into two sub-themes: Measurement of community capacity and SOC and Adolescence's SOC. The measurement sub-theme comprised three papers (Chipuer & Pretty, 1999; Glynn, 1981; Goodman et al., 1998). The remaining two articles were on how a SOC is relevant to adolescents across various age groups (Pretty et al., 1996) and loneliness (Pretty et al., 1994). The most cited article in this cluster focuses on understanding the various aspects that contribute to a community's capacity to thrive and develop effectively. The dimensions included were citizen participation, leadership, skills, resources,

etc. By establishing a clear framework for measuring community capacity, this article offers insights into strengthening communities' ability to address challenges and promote sustainable growth (Goodman et al., 1998). The second most cited article (Glynn, 1981) develops and tests the Psychological SOC (PSOC) Scale with specific attention to community satisfaction and competence. The third most cited article in this cluster offers a comprehensive review of SCI by examining the application of SCI in different contexts. Further, it also delves into factor structure and reliability of the SOC scale (Chipuer & Pretty, 1999). The third and fourth article discusses the relevance (Pretty et al., 1996) and relationship (Pretty et al., 1994) between SOC and adolescent loneliness.

Cluster five: Organisational SOC (represented in purple)

The articles in this cluster discuss education, social support, community, and self-efficacy (Prior & Eriksen, 2013; Solomon et al., 1996, 2000; Vieno et al., 2007; Voydanoff, 2004). For example, one of the articles discusses the impact of the Child Development Project aiming to foster a caring learner community (Solomon et al., 2000) and suggests that student SOC played a critical mediating role in achieving positive effects. While the second article delves into social support, a SOC, and self-efficacy on psychosocial well-being (Vieno et al., 2007), the third article explores the interplay between work, community demands, and work-to-family conflict, highlighting their effects on balancing responsibilities (Voydanoff, 2004). The study focusing on wildfire preparedness, community cohesion, and their role within broader social-ecological systems, emphasizing their significance in managing wildfires (Prior & Eriksen, 2013), was excluded due to its lack of relevance to the overarching theme of this cluster. The fifth article, in line with the theme of the cluster, delves into classroom dynamics, discussing strategies to create classroom communities for enhanced engagement and educational experiences (Solomon et al., 1996).

Cluster six: SOC and Public places (represented in turquoise)

This cluster has four articles. Of four, two papers delve into the interplay between SOC and public places (Francis, Giles-Corti, et al., 2012; Francis, Wood, et al., 2012). The topics discussed in the remaining articles were the relationship between public space and SOC (Francis, Giles-Corti, et al., 2012), and mental health (Francis, Wood, et al., 2012). However, the other two articles are about the development of measuring instruments (Hughey et al., 1999; Prezza et al., 2005).

Cluster Seven: Urban Space and Community Integration (Brown)

The most cited article in this cluster (Ewing, 1997) reviews the literature on characteristics, causes, and costs of alternative development patterns in the context of urban sprawl. The second most cited article examines social integration and the strength of social ties on well-being and longevity among older adults (Kweon et al., 1998). The third most cited paper is about developing a sense of neighborhood community based on the samples of 54 residents in three suburbs in Columbus, Ohio (Nasar & Julian, 1995). This cluster's fourth article is also about the sprawl problem and its impact on SOC and residents' quality of life (Daniels, 2001).

3.3 RQ3: What are the current theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications of SOC and community development literature?

As mentioned in the research methodology section, we adopted the TCM framework (Paul et al., 2023) to answer the third research question.

3.3.1 Theories

Our content analysis of articles in the seven clusters revealed insights into relevant theories. Eleven theories appeared across our sample of 40 articles. SOC was the most popular (n=15), followed by Social Capital Theory and Socio-ecological Framework (n=2). However, many studies (n=11) were atheoretical, or no theory was mentioned. The other theories found in the studies are Community Capacity Theory, Political Efficacy Theory, Psychological Empowerment Theory, Human Needs Theory, Social Constructivism, Place Attachment Theory, and Community of Inquiry Theory.

3.3.2 Contexts

The most studied context community development, such as community coalition, community cohesion, and poverty (n=9), followed by urban environment (n=6), educational (n=5), political (n=4), social (n=4), organizational (n=3), and public open space (n=3). Other contexts studied were adolescence (n=2), neighborhood (n=2), and online social networks (n=1).

3.3.3 Methods

The majority of articles (n = 19) were empirical, followed by conceptual/review papers (n=6), exploratory (n=5), and opinion papers (n=1). Nine studies have used a mixed-method approach.

4. Future research recommendation

RQ4: Our fourth objective was to recommend future research directions for SOC and community development researchers. The following recommendations were made based on the content analysis of selected articles and the TCM framework regarding theory, context, and methods.

4.1 Theoretical

The SOC, a central construct in community psychology, has attracted scholarly concern for several decades (Nowell & Boyd, 2010). However, our review reveals that though the studies surrounding SOC and community development have struggled in a theoretical application, most of the work employed SOC or PSOC. Therefore, in the following section, some of the theories that social psychology researchers can consider are discussed to understand the various issues related to SOC and community development.

Social Identity Theory

Social Identity Theory (Tajfel, 1978) is a psychological framework that can be applied to the SOC and community development to understand how individuals' identification with social groups influences their perceptions, behaviors, and participation in community life. Social identity theory can inform community development efforts in several ways, such as identity-based mobilization, promoting inclusivity, and building a positive community identity (Wells, 1990). Social identity theory also suggests that individuals are more likely to act in ways that promote and sustain a group's shared resources when their sense of self derives from their membership in the group (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

Social capital Theory

Social capital theory (Putnam et al., 1992) posits that through active participation in one's community, community organizations, voluntary associations, and other resident groups, individuals create collective goals that help create norms of reciprocity; individuals with high social capital are prepared to collaborate to achieve shared goals. While social capital involves community social participation in informal neighboring and organized volunteer service support (Perkins & Long, 2002), the connection between social capital, SOC, and community participation is still not much explored. Therefore, we recommend that future researchers use this theory to understand its role in community development.

Social Cohesion Theory

Émile Durkheim developed the Social Cohesion Theory to explain how different societies maintain unity and stability. This theory posits that communities with substantial social capital are more likely to exhibit social cohesion, which leads to collective action and community development. For example, in a tight-knit neighborhood, residents who trust and know each other are more likely to collaborate on projects like building a community garden, creating a neighborhood watch program, tourism development, or organizing events, such as community festivals, that improve the overall quality of life.

Collective Efficacy Theory

This theory suggests that communities with higher levels of social capital and trust are more likely to have a sense of collective efficacy, which leads to greater community action and development (Sampson et al., 1997). Collective efficacy is an essential concept of collective behaviors and outcomes. In a neighborhood where residents trust each other and have strong social networks, they may work together to address common problems like crime by implementing neighborhood watch programs or advocating for improved policing (Sampson et al., 1997).

Community Attachment Theory

Community attachment remains an essential concept in the social sciences as researchers examine the influence of urbanization on community sentiment, the disruptive effects of rapid population growth, the implications of community attachment for social and mental well-being, and the significance of community attachments to conflicts over land use. While the concept of community attachment has been explored in various disciplines and extensively examined in sociology, it is rarely defined in the literature (Cross, 2003). One of the early works that reflected on place attachment was by (Shumaker & Hankin, 1984), who noted that community attachment arises from ecological, built, social, and personal factors. (Low & Altman, 1992) propose that a sense of belonging and emotional connection to one's community fosters community development. Community attachment is essential as strong community bonds encourage active participation, cooperation, and investment in local projects, ultimately leading to improved well-being and sustainable development. Therefore, future community development studies could adopt this theory to understand the role of SOC and community attachment in development contexts, such as community tourism.

4.2 Contextual

A strong SOC is crucial for sustainable development because it promotes social cohesion, collaboration, and shared responsibility. When individuals feel connected and engaged with their

community, they are more likely to work together towards common goals, share resources, and support initiatives that enhance environmental, economic, and social sustainability. This collective effort can lead to more effective problem-solving resource management and community participation. The SOC awakes the psychological ego, the determination of individuals to bring an as significant as possible contribution to the life of their community (Ahmad & Abu Talib, 2016). Studies indicate that SOC and community participation enhance community development (Deng et al., 2022). SOC is crucial because community actions influence personal and group decision-making, especially in intergroup negotiations and collaboration (Dunham et al., 2006). Our results showed that SOC is only occasionally employed in sustainable development research. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), community participation is essential to achieving SDGs. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a call to action for people worldwide to address five critical areas of importance: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. Thus, in the following section, we have discussed how SOC, through community participation, can contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Sustainable Tourism Development

Tourism is well-positioned to promote economic growth and development at all levels and generate income by creating jobs. This industry may contribute both directly and indirectly to the fulfilment of all 17 SDGs because of its extensive reach and influence (Ministry of Trinidad and Tobago, Tobago, 2021), from developing gender equality to protecting marine and terrestrial environments, from supporting inclusive growth and eliminating extreme poverty to combating climate change, and from encouraging discussion among various cultures to building understanding and peace (World Tourism Organization, 2017). Studies found that SOC is a solid foundation for tourism development planning and is crucial in creating community support for tourism development. It can also increase long-term sustainability (Aref, 2011; Hall et al., 2005). A recent study concluded that SOC was an antecedent of support for sustainable tourism development among the indigenous people of two Taiwanese relocated communities (Lin et al., 2021). Therefore, tourism researchers can use the SOC construct to investigate residents' SOC and their support for tourism development.

Good health and Well-being

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. This goal addresses all top health concerns, including access to quality, cheap medications and vaccines, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health, and infectious and non-communicable diseases (United Nations, 2017). SOC is a sociocultural component linked favorably to several health outcomes, such as happiness and quality of life (Michalski et al., 2020). It has been seen to reduce the negative impacts of negative physical and psychological indicators on health and health-related quality of life (Williams et al., 2020). SOC has been connected to self-reported physical and psychological well-being (Michalski et al., 2020). Therefore, we recommend that the community health interventionist conduct more research regarding SOC and its impact on health-related quality of life.

Reduced inequality

SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. Inequality refers to variation in the resources and opportunities available to people. It also considers the early-life social and economic obstacles that can restrict opportunities for exercising one's rights and the capacity to reach one's full potential. It also covers prejudice against people based on age, gender, ethnicity or race, sexual orientation, immigration status, place of residence, or other characteristics that disadvantage some

people in numerous, frequently undetectable ways throughout their lives (United Nations, 2017). SOC could help gauge how well-accepted disabilities are in communities overall. For instance, in 92 individuals with severe mental illness samples, SOC was substantially linked with subjective well-being (Prince and Gerber 2005). SOC may also aid in successfully integrating disabled people into society by fostering a sense of dependency and relatedness with their neighbors (Wong & Solomon, 2002; Yanos et al., 2007). Therefore, we recommend that future studies investigate SOC and community integration of specially-abled individuals. Further, the role of SOC in successfully integrating other disadvantaged communities, such as LGBT, migrants, and senior citizens, into mainstream society can be investigated.

Development of Smart Cities

The current proportion of the global population in urban areas added to the increasing debate on sustainable development and raised attention to smart and sustainable city development (Macke et al., 2019). One of the 17 SDGs on the agenda for sustainable development is for cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (SDG 11). The cities should ensure everyone can access public transportation, safe and affordable housing, and open green areas. It states that cities should be resilient to natural disasters to protect vulnerable individuals and minimize economic loss (United Nations, 2017). Even though SDG 11 is primarily focused on government action, the projects require support from both residents and community leaders. People can increase the quality of greenspaces and develop new ones in new locations, for instance, by creating rooftop gardens, repairing local parks, and participating in community composting programs. People may promote sustainable cities by taking little actions in their neighborhoods (National Geographic, 2015). A recent study evaluating a smart, sustainable city recommends that a SOC be included in policies because it provides levels of social capital to sustain citizen participation (Bibri & Krogstie, 2017). Therefore, we recommend that more research be conducted to understand better the role of SOC in developing sustainable cities.

Responsible Consumption

Worldwide production and consumption of products and services depend on the environment and natural wealth. Although economies and civilizations have been able to expand, there remains a delicate balance between expansion and environmental deterioration (GBB, 2021). Meanwhile, food waste is discovered to be responsible for destroying a sizeable quantity of production resources (such as money and energy). Thus, understanding food consumption patterns and waste is vital since food waste is a big concern (Attiq et al., 2021). It is found that SOC was positively correlated with decreased food waste (Attiq et al., 2021). Thus, building the SOC and social capital in local food redistribution networks is crucial for addressing the problem of food waste reduction (Lombardi & Costantino, 2020). Therefore, we recommended that more studies be conducted to confirm the role of SOC and food waste reduction behavior at the individual, household, institutional, and community levels.

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

The study (Ciambotti et al., 2022) investigating the role of SOC, passion, and Entrepreneurial Bricolage (EB) in a resource-constrained context demonstrates that SOC moves them to engage with EB. Thus, within the field of social entrepreneurship, this study opens new avenues for research on drivers of small businesses operating in developing economies. Further, research on SOC and entrepreneurs' ability to acquire funds via crowdfunding suggests that a cognitive tone enhances funding success and that the SOC always stays an indicator of success (Wuillaume et al., 2019). The

study that examined how SOC may encourage community-based entrepreneurship in rural settings found that SOC is essential to the success of community-based entrepreneurship. According to research investigating how SOC may be promoted in rural areas, it is found that SOC is crucial to the success of community-based entrepreneurship (Mkhize, 2017). In addition, the authors suggested that the SOC theory may be applied to analyze the successes and failures of community-based entrepreneurship (Mkhize, 2017). Unlike strictly market-oriented activities, entrepreneurial ventures producing regional public goods for a community have a comparative advantage (Parwez, 2017). Therefore, we recommend that social and community entrepreneurship scholars focus more on SOC's role and its impact on small-scale social and community businesses.

4.3 Methodological

The advancement of design and methodological aspects is essential to identify existing research's limitations and increase precision. The content analysis revealed that most studies were empirical and based on surveys that raised questions about actual community development. The subjectivity associated with perceptual measures brings a substantial risk of measurement error, leading to erroneous conclusions (Campbell & Fiske, 1959). Therefore, future studies should aim to measure variables employing objective assessment tools to confirm the validity of the perceptual measure, as this has not been done yet. Further, we could not find any study using ethnography and netnography. Hence, future studies should diversify existing research methods to uncover extensive and different empirical evidence of SOC and its impact on community development. The application of mixed methods is further needed to minimize confirmation bias and potential personal biases of researchers and to provide more rigorous and convincing evidence by triangulating the findings. Implementing longitudinal studies on SOC and community development can provide valuable insights into how these aspects evolve and the factors that influence them.

5. Implications

The scholars working on SOC and related disciplines could benefit from this study. Firstly, they would know about the most influential journals, authors, and articles in the domain and may emphasize them for publishing their research outcomes. Future researchers in the domain of SOC would know about the seminal works; hence, they can pick them as a base to build knowledge. Second, by analyzing the co-occurrence of keywords in academic publications, this study helps the researchers to identify emerging research trends and topics of interest within the SOC and community development domain. This finding can help researchers and institutions stay current with the latest developments. Keyword co-occurrence analysis also revealed the semantic relationships between keywords. Third, this study identified seven research themes based on BCA. It helps the researchers to identify various distinct clusters of SOC and community development. Additionally, BCA helps the researchers understand the intellectual structure of SOC and community development literature. BCA also allows the researchers to identify the fundamental references and track the research trends. Most importantly, BCA highlights interdisciplinary connections between different fields of SOC and community development. Fourth, the content analysis based on the TCM framework helps to understand the implications of current theories, contexts, and methodologies adopted by the researchers. Under the TCM framework, new theoretical, contextual, and methodological understandings were unearthed that were formerly unknown. Finally, the theoretical, contextual, and methodological recommendations help future researchers uncover new

theoretical, contextual, and methodological concepts. Thus, our study acts as a foundation for researchers in the field of SOC in a novel and meaningful way. It provides a one-stop overview, identifies knowledge gaps, and provides ideas for future research.

6. Conclusions

SOC can be described as an individual's feeling that they are part of a social structure that is supportive, present, and dependable and is characterized by interdependence, mutual responsibility, and collective consciousness (Sarason, 1974). It is essential for community participation and development (Lardier et al., 2020). It is also community psychology researchers' most commonly used concept (Chen & Zhang, 2022). For decades, community health professionals, online learning communities, and urban development researchers have paid particular interest in the topic. Therefore, considering the growing interest among researchers from many disciplines, reviewing potential literature to provide a deeper understanding of research trends in the SOC and community development field is wise and logical. Eventually, this study responded to this need and undertook an integrative review of the literature on SOC and community development. The focus of this study was a) to uncover the performance of research constitutes (journals, authors, countries, and articles), b) to identify the research themes, and c) to identify the current theoretical, contextual, and methodological implications of SOC and community development literature and d) to recommend future research directions for scholars in the community development domain. Accordingly, this study identifies the most influential journals, authors, and documents based on the citation analysis. Additionally, based on keyword co-occurrence and BCA, this study identifies distinct research clusters and themes of SOC and community development. Further, the study recommends future research directions for scholars in the SOC and community development domain regarding theory, context, and methods.

7. Limitations

Like other studies, our study also has certain limitations to be acknowledged. The data for this study were retrieved from Scopus as a single source. Thus, some studies might have been excluded from this study. Therefore, future bibliometric studies should consider articles from other databases. Since the domain is still evolving, similar studies must be conducted to understand SOC's evolving nature. However, despite these limitations, this study offers a significant contribution to SOC literature and provides several recommendations for studies in the future.

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