

Sustainable Supply Chain Management for Environmental and Public Wellbeing: A Comprehensive Review and Future Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the domain of sustainable supply chain management and its potential advantages for organisation and to ultimate consumer aiming to enhance sustainability in supply chain management. The study is to explore the extant literature on this subject since 2014 by the utilisation of bibliometric analysis, network analysis, and content analysis. The primary aims encompass the identification of research patterns, the highlighting of significant authors, countries, and sources, the comprehension of prevailing knowledge trends, and the proposal of potential subjects for future exploration. In order to carry out the investigation, a pertinent search query was employed to collect a total of 167 scholarly articles from the Scopus database, encompassing the timeframe spanning from 2014 to 2022. The results provide insights into the distribution of research publications across countries such as the India, China, and United States, highlighting a disparity in research output between developing and developed nations in this field. The diverse facets of sustainable supply chain management and offer unique perspectives on the present state of scholarly inquiry and potential avenues for future exploration. In its entirety, the study presents a comprehensive range of viewpoints pertaining to the sustainability in supply chain management, so furnishing significant knowledge for organisation, researchers, and policymakers to comprehend the present state of affairs and direct future investigations in this ever-changing and progressive domain.

1. Introduction

Sustainable supply chain management has become an important topic in the field of business and sustainability (Jing & Dai, 2018). It involves the integration of sustainability principles into all aspects of the supply chain, including sourcing, manufacturing, transportation, and distribution (Beske & Seuring, 2014). By implementing sustainable supply chain management practices, companies aim to minimize their environmental impact, promote social responsibility, and create economic value (Balkau & Sonnemann, 2011). These practices include responsible sourcing, environmental purchasing, sustainable packaging, and green transportation. Additionally, other initiatives such as technology adoption, sustainable supplier selection, and implementation of traceability systems play a significant role in achieving sustainable supply chain management.

Embracing sustainable practices can lead to cost savings, improved brand reputation, and reduced environmental impact (Beske & Seuring, 2014). As the global market becomes more focused on sustainable development, businesses must prioritize sustainable supply chain management to remain competitive. One important aspect of sustainable supply chain management is the economic dimension (Türker & Altuntaş, 2014). This involves consideration of cost-effective practices that not only benefit the company financially but also contribute to the overall sustainability of the supply chain. Companies should focus on reducing waste, optimizing transportation routes, and implementing energy-efficient processes to minimize costs while also minimizing environmental impact. Another aspect of sustainable supply chain management is the environmental dimension (Subramanian & Gunasekaran, 2015). This involves managing the environmental impacts of all supply chain activities, from sourcing raw materials to end-of-life disposal (Türker & Altuntaş, 2014).

As the focus on sustainable development continues to grow, businesses must prioritize sustainable supply chain management to not only meet regulatory requirements but also gain a competitive advantage in an increasingly conscious consumer market.

Hence this study is bridging this gap and shedding light on the current state of research in the field of sustainable supply chain management by addressing several pivotal research questions. These questions focus on publication trends, key contributors, dominant research themes, and potential research gaps in the domain. By finding answers to these questions, the study aims to offer a comprehensive overview of the existing knowledge and provide valuable insights for researchers, investors, and policymakers seeking to make informed decisions in this ever-evolving market. Here are six research questions which will be addressed with this paper-

RQ1: What is the overall publication trend in the field of sustainable supply chain management?

RQ2: Who are the most influential authors and research groups in the domain of sustainable supply chain management?

RQ3: What are the most productive and influential journals in the field of sustainable supply chain management, and how have they contributed to the scholarly discourse?

RQ4: What is the geographical distribution of research institutions and countries/territories contributing to the field of sustainable supply chain management, and how does it reflect the research landscape in different regions?

RQ5: What are the main themes and research topics that have been explored in the literature on sustainable supply chain management?

RQ6: What are the gaps and opportunities for future research in the field of sustainable supply chain management?

2. Research Methodology

In this study, we looked at a topic using a structured approach called bibliometric and content analysis. To find relevant information, we used the Scopus database because it covers a wide range of scientific areas, including business and management. We then analyzed the data using Microsoft Excel, VOSviewer to spot trends, key contributors, and main themes. We focused on finding journal papers published in English between 2014 and 2022. By grouping related papers together, we highlighted main research topics, like sustainability, circular economy, and sustainable supply chain management. Finally, we suggested future research directions based on our findings. The graphs and charts in the paper helped us explain the results clearly, giving insights into sustainable supply chain management.

2.1 Database Selection

For this study Scopus database was used for the bibliometric analysis because of its widespread coverage of various disciplines. Apart from offering a vast collection of

scholarly articles and papers from various sources which increasing the likelihood of finding relevant research on sustainable supply chain management, the quality of publication in Scopus database is considered high and well respected in the area of research. Scopus also provides advanced search and analysis tools which are useful for conducting bibliometric research. This helped us in identification of trends and measuring the impact of scholarly works effectively. Also, Scopus has a user-friendly interface along with easy access to full-text articles, making it efficient for our analysis. Due to the above advantages, we chose Scopus as the database for our study sustainable supply chain management.

2.2. Visualization and Bibliometric Tools

The collected data underwent analysis utilising Microsoft Excel, VOS viewer. The data was cleaned, graphs were managed, and charts were created using Microsoft Excel. The data in textual format was visualised using VOSviewer widely recognised software tools for bibliometric mapping and network visualization. The aforementioned software solutions possess a high degree of usability and provide a diverse range of visualisation functionalities, enabling researchers to discern research themes by means of keyword clusters. They have been extensively utilised across diverse study disciplines and have demonstrated efficacy in discerning patterns. The investigation encompassed three primary methodologies in VOSviewer, namely bibliographic coupling, co-citation analysis, and keyword co-occurrence network analysis. Bibliographic coupling is a method used to analyse the thematic connection between papers that have common cited references. This approach offers valuable insights into the current state of knowledge in a particular field and can also serve as a guide for future research endeavours. Co-citation analysis is a method used to quantify the frequency with which many authors are mentioned jointly in the reference lists of other scholarly papers. On the other hand, keyword co-occurrence analysis is a technique that aims to elucidate the associations between phrases within the same contextual framework. VOSviewer is a software tool that facilitates the grouping of keywords into clusters according to their degree of relatedness. This functionality allows researchers to effectively find and analyse study themes. The methodology additionally evaluated the aggregate link strength among networks in order to measure the linkages and relationships among items. The establishment of thresholds aimed to prioritise the examination of the most pertinent papers while simultaneously diminishing the volume of things requiring scrutiny, so facilitating a more comprehensive and in-depth analysis.

2.3. Search Strategy

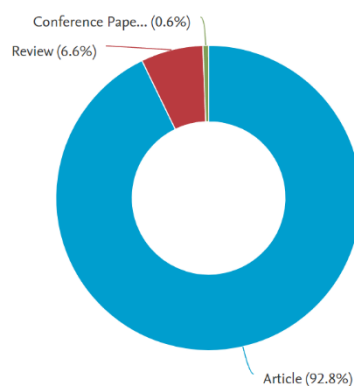
The research used a specific search (TITLE-ABS-KEY (("sustainable supply chain management") OR ("supply chain management") OR ("sustainability")) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (("sustainability in supply chain") OR ("green supply chain"))) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2023 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "BUSI")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "cp") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "re")) AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTSRCTITLE , "Journal Of Cleaner Production") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTSRCTITLE , "International Journal Of Supply Chain Management") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTSRCTITLE , "International Journal Of Production Economics") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTSRCTITLE , "Benchmarking")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY , "India") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY , "China") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY , "United States") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY , "Malaysia") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY , "Brazil")

)) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE , "j")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) to retrieve relevant articles that focus on the intersection of " sustainable supply chain management " and "sustainability". By incorporating these different terms, the search aims to capture a comprehensive range of articles that explore the relationship between commercial real estate and investment. In this study, a search query was used to find relevant document related to sustainable supply chain management . The language was restricted to English, resulting in 167 documents. Finally, a manual inspection of the abstracts was conducted to select only papers directly relevant to the research field of investment in commercial real estate, resulting in a final set of 167 documents for the bibliometric analysis.

2.4 Documents Type in Research

This paper found that there are 167 documents in search after searching. It found that there are 155 articles, , 1 conference papers, 11 review papers, and this summary concludes that there is a need for extensive literature reviews in the field of sustainable supply chain that promote literature to increase the sustainability in supply chain management in different industries.

Documents by type



2.5 Trend of Publication

The (Figure 1.) shows a graph of how many scholarly articles about sustainable supply chain management have been published each year. It helps us see how research in this area has changed over time. One interesting thing to note is that in 2018, there was a big jump in the number of papers published, with a total of 30. It reflects the ongoing interest and importance of studying this topic. The steady increase in publications over time shows that people are still curious about and invested in understanding , but there has also seen a decline in 2019 and continue to decline. So the research vary on this topic from industry to industry.

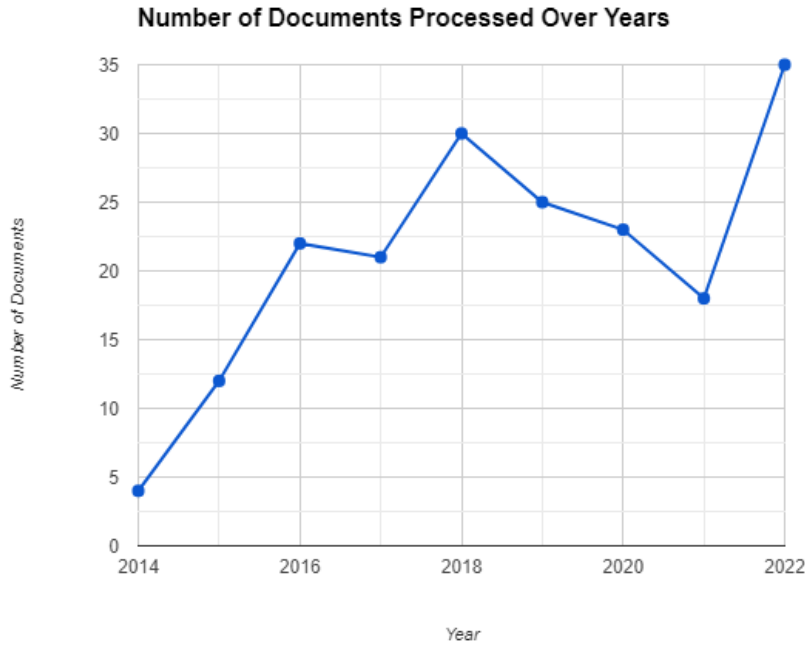


Figure 1.

2.6 Most Productive Journals

The analysis of sources has provided insights into the 4 most relevant journals that have significantly contributed to the scholarly discourse. Out of the 167 papers from the Scopus database. At the top of the list is the Journal of Cleaner Production with 88 documents. Another contributor is Journal of Benchmarking, which has produced 28 papers, other two are Journal of Production Economics and International Journal of Supply Chain Management with paper produce (26) and (25) respectively, showing its significant impact on the field.

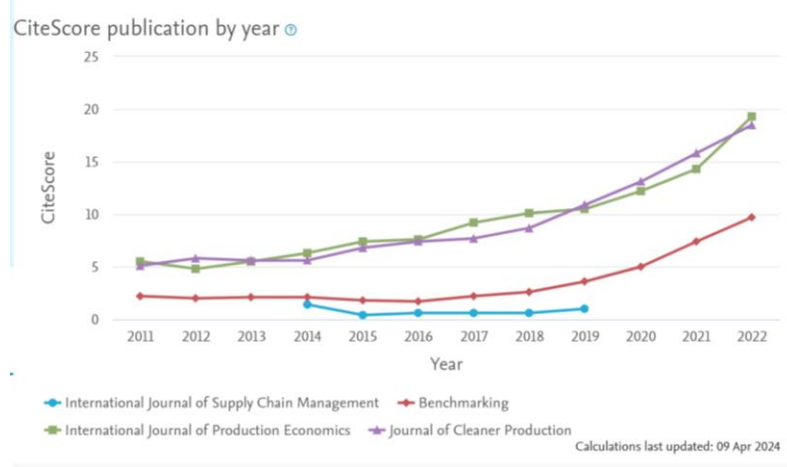


Figure 2.

2.7 Affiliation Analysis

Affiliations of authors (Institutes)

To understand contribution most to research on sustainable supply chain management and where they're from, we used a feature in the Scopus database called "analyze search results." These tables gave us important information about the institutions and countries driving research in this area. Looking at (Table 1), we saw that certain institutions stand out as big contributors to research on sustainable supply chain management. The University of Utara Malaysia led with 8 papers, followed same by the Worcester Polytechnic University with 8. The first university is in the Malaysia and the other one is in United States, suggesting a strong research presence there. Other notable contributors included Syddansk University (7 papers), and an India university name S.V. National Institute of Polytechnic (5 papers). This shows that research on sustainable supply chain management is ensuing in lots of different places. Turning to (Figure 3), we saw where most of the research is coming from. The India was on top with 54 papers, followed by the China with 47, and United States with 35. This shows that research activity is primarily in developed countries including developing country like India, where they have a lot of interest and expertise in this field. In contrast, countries like Tunisia and Taiwan had fewer papers (1), showing a gap in research output between developed and developing countries. Analyzing these tables gives us valuable insights into which institutions and countries are leading research on sustainable supply chain management. It also highlights the need for more collaboration and knowledge sharing to make sure everyone has a say in understanding sustainable supply chain management.

| Affiliation | Documents |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| University Utara Malaysia | 8 |
| Worcester Polytechnic Institute | 8 |
| Syddansk University | 7 |
| Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho | 6 |
| The Hong Kong Polytechnic University | 5 |
| Tianjin University | 5 |
| S. V. National Institute of Technology | 5 |
| Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia | 5 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Universiti Sans Malaysia | 4 |
| Aalborg University | 4 |

Table 1.

Affiliations of Authors (Country)

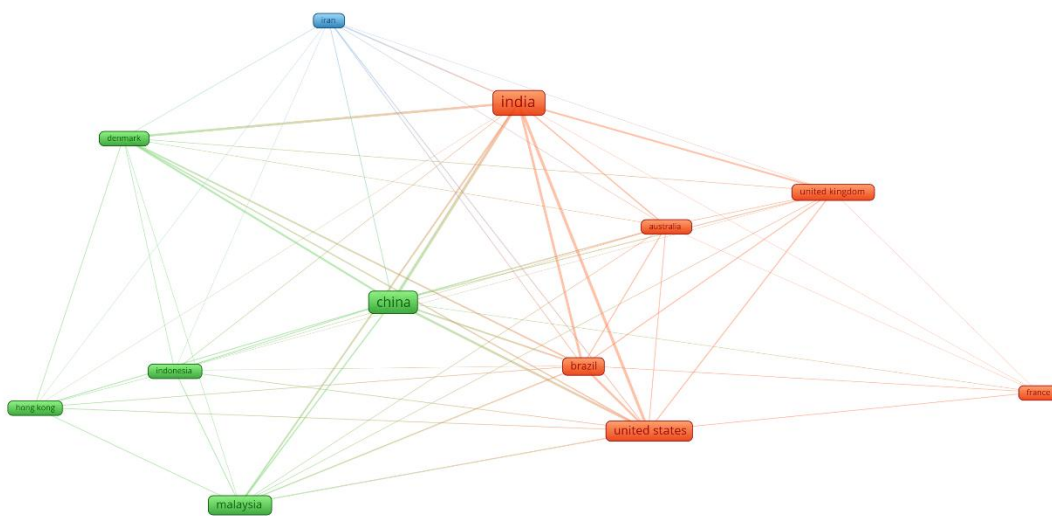


Figure 3.

3. Analysis of Authors Keywords

Author keywords are words or phrases that researchers use to describe the main themes or topics of their research papers. These keywords are selected by the authors themselves and are meant to capture the essence of their work, making it easier for others to find and understand their research (Lu. et al.,2020). We have used VOSviewer software for co-occurrence analysis of author keywords, resulting in a comprehensive set of 509 relevant keywords (Figure 4). To enhance accuracy, we set a minimum occurrence threshold of five , leading to 18 keywords meeting the given criteria. The assessment of the keyword network helps to understand the flow of knowledge. "Green Supply Chain management" emerged as the highest occurring keyword, appearing 59 times and showing strong interconnections with other keywords, showing its key role in the studied research domain. "Green supply chain" and "Sustainability" are prominent keywords and occurred 28 and 19 times respectively which highlights their importance in the context of sustainable supply chain research. Along with above keywords occurrence of keywords such as " environment sustainability", "sustainable supply chain" and "environmental performance" highlights the growing importance of environmental and economic sustainability in sustainable supply chain management by considering only index keyword. Additionally, "circular economy", "reverse

logistics" and "green practice" shows that the evaluation of organisation and market dynamics is also important study area of sustainable supply chain.

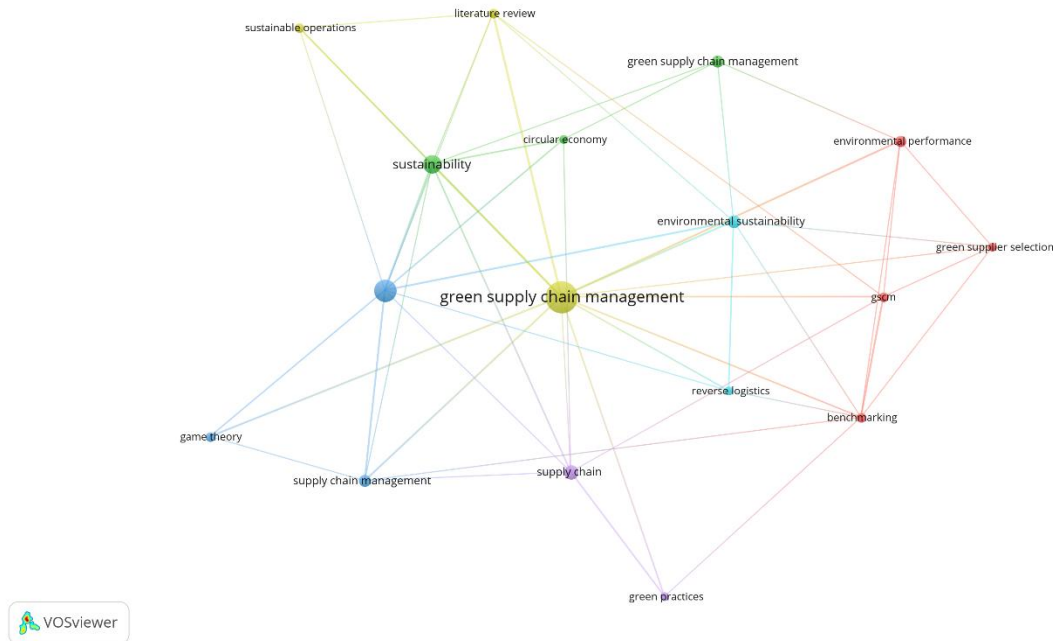


Figure 4.

3.1 Co-citation Analysis

The analysis of authors was carried out using VOSviewer, employing a minimum threshold of 20 citations for each author. As a result, 14253 authors out of a total of 170 met the threshold and were included in the analysis. The output of this analysis took the form of a visualization, which portrays the scholarly connections and influence among the authors. Nodes in the visualization represent individual authors, and links indicate co-citation relationships between them. Additionally, the size and colour of the nodes may convey various attributes, such as the number of co-citations or the centrality of authors (Boyack et al., 2010). Throughout the analysis, several influential authors were identified based on their co-citation counts and total link strength. Some authors have a particularly notable impact within the domain of SSCM. For instance, author 'Sarkis, j.' garnered 750 co-citations, with a total link strength of 51341, signifying a significant influence on research in this area. Another influential figure is 'Zhu, q.', who demonstrated a substantial total link strength of 33399, indicating a strong interconnectedness with other authors in the network. 'Govindan, k.' and 'Gunasekaran, a.' also exhibited considerable total link strengths of 31134 and 14444, respectively. The co-citation analysis provided valuable insights into the scholarly landscape of SSCM research, shedding light on key authors whose works have significantly impacted

the field. It offers a comprehensive view of the collaborative relationships and influential figures within this area of study.

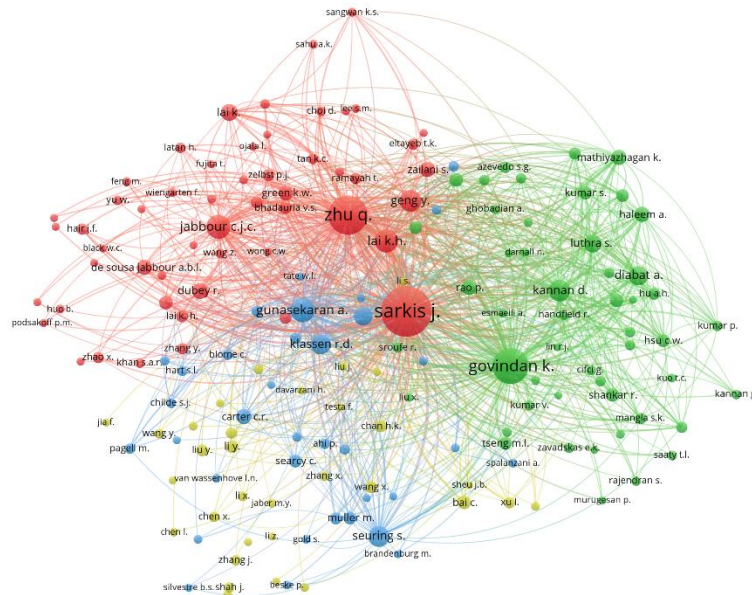


Figure 5.

3.2 Bibliographic Coupling

Bibliographic coupling is a method used to analyse the references cited in various articles. It is different from co-citation analysis, where two articles are cited together in a third article. In this study, bibliographic coupling was conducted using a tool called Vos viewer. The goal was to form clusters of studies that share a common theme based on the references they have in common. To ensure a representative selection of studies, only articles with at least 10 citations were included in the analysis. From a total of 167 articles, the 143 most frequently cited documents were chosen to create clusters and gain deeper insights into the common topic of these articles.

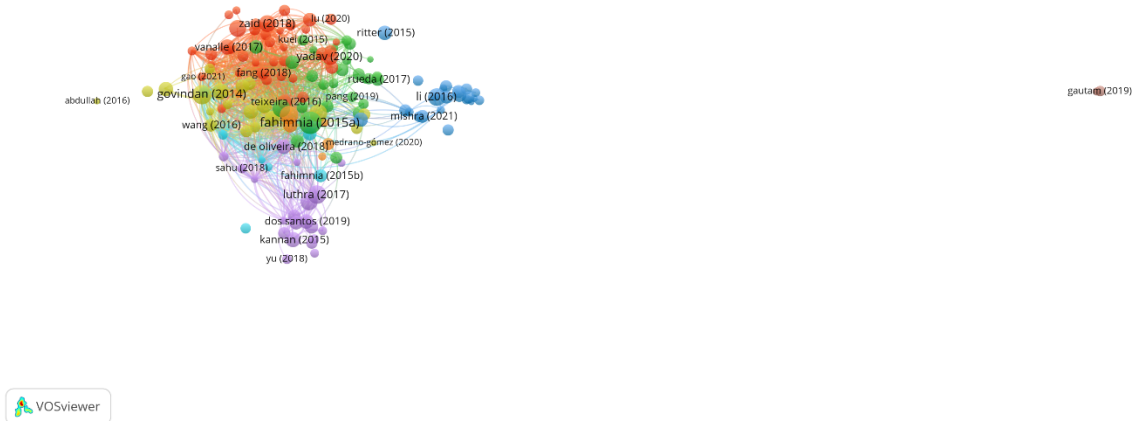


Figure 6.

4. Literature Classification

Sustainable supply chain management considers resource utilization efficiency and environmental impact throughout the entire supply chain (Khan et al., 2021). Study focuses on sustainability in supply chain, considers economic, social, environmental. This research is found that the state of adoption of GSCM practices by Indian firms was still in its infancy, the awareness of environmental sustainability was quite low among consumers, and the regulatory framework was also lacking in terms of promoting environmental sustainability (S.Mitra&P.Datta, 2013). This research findings suggest that Environmental Management Practices (EMP) positively influence Environmental Performance (EPR), while Socially Inclusive Practices for Community (SPC) have a negative association with Competitiveness but positively impact the community's capability over time (D.Das,2018). This research suggests that demands for sustainability and environmental management in the supply chain can be effectively pursued through GSCM practices (S.Laari&J.toyli,2018). This review identifies several themes and trends in SSCM research, including the adoption of green procurement practices, supplier collaboration for sustainability improvements, and the integration of environmental and social criteria into supplier selection and evaluation processes (Koberg et al.,2018). This research recommendations for future research focus on more longitudinal studies to assess the long-term effects of green and sustainable practices on supply chain performance, the exploration of mediating and moderating factors that influence the relationships between constructs, and the consideration of contextual factors such as industry sector and geographical location (Abbas Mardani & Devika Kannan, 2020). This study acknowledged some limitations, including the qualitative nature of the study, the need for future studies to validate the results using larger-scale surveys and diverse data collection methods, and the potential for further research on the linkages between SSCM practices and companies' operational, economic, social, and environmental performance (A.sajjad,2019). This study confirms the multidimensionality of SSCM, emphasizing the need to consider both environmental and social aspects in future research (M.zhang&Y.Tse,2016). This study

systematically examines the adoption and execution of SSCM practices across sectors in India, encompassing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic sustainability initiatives (D. Das, 2018). This study concludes that firms that prioritize sustainability in response to customer awareness not only improve their brand image and reputation but also gain a competitive edge in the market (M.Gong et al., 2019). This study identifies several dimensions that are integral to evaluating SSCM performance, including environmental, social, economic, and governance aspects. Moreover, the paper likely discusses the importance of integrating these dimensions into a cohesive framework for SSCM performance evaluation (O. Narissima et al., 2020). This paper shows how a customer pressure and innovativeness can implement good results in SSCM but the results shows that customer pressure has positive impacts and innovativeness has negative (J.Gualandris, 2014).

5. Result and Discussion

The present study offers significant contributions by shedding light on the patterns of publication, notable authors, influential journals, the distribution of research institutes, and the leading countries in the respective subject. In the previous ten years, there has been a constant upward trend in the quantity of published work. The observed increase in activity can be attributed to a growing curiosity about the potential consequences of the crisis on sustainable supply chain management. Numerous scholars have created noteworthy advancements in the discipline, such as Niu, B., Ghosh, S., Feng, Y., Lai, K.-H., have exhibited their significance through their citation metrics. Prominent academic journals, such as the Journal of cleaner production, the International Journal of production economics, and Benchmarking, have made substantial contributions to the field through the publication of a multitude of scholarly publications and the garnering of substantial citations. The platform has been established to facilitate the dissemination of research findings, foster intellectual discourse, and contribute to the progression of knowledge in the field of sustainable supply chain management. Numerous research institutions have made significant contributions to the topic as well. The aforementioned institutions comprise the Worcester Polytechnic University, University of Malaysia. These academic institutions have undertaken research endeavours that have significantly contributed to the advancement of knowledge. Regarding the geographical dispersion of research, it is evident that the India, China, and United States are prominent contributors. Developed and Developing nations demonstrate a greater level of research productivity in contrast to emerging nations like Taiwan. The observed distribution of research landscape and expertise across various locations is indicative of the prevailing conditions in those areas. Nevertheless, it is imperative to enhance collaboration and facilitate the flow of knowledge in order to foster inclusivity and cultivate a more comprehensive comprehension of sustainable supply chain management in diverse geographical areas. Future study should place emphasis on the examination of the resilience and adaptation of more sustainable idea to cater the different stages of business make the supply chain greener and profitable business to organisations. The exploration of solutions for environment and economicsustainability holds significant importance. Additionally, it is imperative to conduct a more comprehensive analysis of the influence exerted by environmental issues, including energy efficiency and reverse supply chain. The integration of technology and data-driven decision-making has the potential to boost sustainable strategies and improve environment risk in the field. Further investigation is warranted in the areas of making a balance between economic and environment sustainability and to further work on qualitative study and to deep dive into some untouched industry. In conclusion, it is imperative to broaden the scope of research to include developing nations, in order to gain a

comprehensive understanding of the distinct problems and prospects associated with sustainable supply chain management in these regions.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the dynamic landscape of sustainable supply chain management in recent years, revealing a consistent increase in research activity driven by heightened concerns regarding the impacts of crises on supply chain sustainability. Esteemed scholars such as Niu, Ghosh, Feng, and Lai have made notable contributions to this field, as evidenced by their citation metrics. Noteworthy publications in leading journals such as the *Journal of Cleaner Production* and the *International Journal of Production Economics* have played pivotal roles in disseminating scholarly knowledge. Renowned institutions like Worcester Polytechnic University and the University of Malaysia have spearheaded impactful research endeavors. The co-occurrence of keyword like “sustainable supply chain management”, “green supply chain” is shedding light and standing out as a central theme. Geographically, significant contributions from India, China, and the United States underscore the importance of fostering collaboration across diverse regions, including emerging ones like Taiwan. Moving forward, it is imperative to prioritize resilience and adaptation strategies, leveraging technological advancements and data-driven decision-making to enhance the sustainability and profitability of supply chains. Furthermore, a deeper examination of environmental issues and the pursuit of a harmonious balance between economic and environmental sustainability are essential. Expanding the research scope to encompass developing nations will offer a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in sustainable supply chain management on a global scale.

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