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Review Article

Global Trends of Publications related to Persons in Environment Framework - A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract: This study maps global Person-in-Environment (PIE) research from 1996–2025 using the Scopus database. Analysis of 3,178 documents shows significant publication growth, with the United States, Germany, and the Netherlands leading the field. Network analysis highlights moderate collaboration and five major thematic keyword clusters, including adaptation, occupational fit, social context, and ecological compatibility. PIE has evolved from a social work model to an integrative, transdisciplinary framework linking environmental, psychological, and social factors. The findings emphasize the paradigm's increased global relevance and call for wider collaboration and diverse perspectives in future PIE research.

Keywords: Person- in-Environment; PIE – Perspective; Person environment fit; Human-environment interaction; Bibliometric Analysis

1. Introduction

The Person-in-Environment (PIE) approach is one of the classical frameworks for understanding human behaviour within its environmental context. PIE is the result of psychological and sociological theories. Hence, psychologists, sociologists, social workers and other professionals working with human beings across various domains need to look into the socio-cultural aspects which shape their experiences, adaptations and actions. Hence, the PIE perspective emphasises that a person cannot be studied in isolation without understanding their socio-cultural background. This perspective gives rise to intellectual thinking and the actions in various fields when developing interventions and working with people. The social work profession has its roots in this framework as well.

The person-in-environment perspective is theoretically grounded in ecological framework which posits that human development is shaped by reciprocal interactions between the individual and nested environmental systems. This perspective underscores the importance of examining multiple contextual layers including micro, meso, exo, macro and chrono influences in understanding human behaviour. As such ,the PIE approach extends this ecological lens into social and structural contexts. While helping a person to help oneself, there is a need to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats they possess. Also, the environmental factors which may act as a mediating factor. Hence, understanding a human beings at the micro, meso and macro levels and designing the interventions accordingly is most essential. Kemp, Whittaker and Tracy (2024) Argue that social work is not limited to client-

focused interventions, they emphasise that it should go beyond client-focused interventions to assess the environment and bring about changes to it through various methods which may range from simply helping a person at the micro level to engaging in policy and advocacy at the macro level [1]. At the micro level, the person-in-environment perspective focuses on the individual and their immediate surroundings, guiding interventions such as counselling and casework. At the macro level it addresses broader social structures including policies and community systems with an emphasis on advocacy and social change. This distinction reflects the ecological foundation of the approach, which recognises that human behaviour is shaped by interactions across multiple levels.

While working with clients, especially in the mental health and disability studies, there are various models which determine the factors responsible for the current conditions, which range from the diagnostic model to the empowerment model. Hence, understanding a person-in-environment perspective is of the utmost importance in contemporary scientific and socio-cultural contexts [2-3]. Existing literature has explored various discipline-specific empirical studies. To the knowledge of the authors, there is no bibliometric analysis on this perspective. Hence, the current study aims to understand the publication patterns, collaboration networks and thematic clusters through the lens of a bibliometric analysis [4]. Through visualisation tools such as VOSviewer, bibliometric analysis enables researchers to trace the intellectual structure of a field and identify its conceptual frontiers.

1.1. Novelty of the Research

- The study comprehensively summarises Person-in-Environment (PIE)-related research with visualisation, thereby addressing the lacuna in the literature.
- The study also looks into various fields that utilise this approach.

The person-in-environment approach is selected because of its ecological foundation in ecological systems theory and its strong relevance to contemporary social issues. In an era characterised by complex, interconnected challenges such as inequality, migration and public health crises , the person-in-environment approach offers a holistic framework for understanding how environmental and structural factors shape individual outcomes. This makes it especially valuable for both practice and research in contemporary social work.

1.2. Aim and Objectives

The current study aims to map the scientific literature related to person-in-environment perspective in social work research. The following are the research objectives -

1. To identify the publication trends related to the “Person–in-Environment”.
2. To examine the most productive countries, institutions, and authors contributing to research on the person–environment relationship.
3. To analyse the citation patterns in person-in-environment-related studies.
4. To explore keyword co-occurrence networks related to the person-in-environment approaches.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Data Sources and Selection Processes

The study adopted bibliometric analysis based on the Scopus database. The visualisation was done using the VOSviewer software. The study collected data on 29 September 2025 using the following search criteria.

1. Selecting articles indexed in the Scopus database.
2. The articles published in English was included.
3. Publication year ranging from 1996 to 2025.

We set the above criteria for the following reasons.

- The Scopus database is a leading global database. It has a wider range of journals and publications than the "Web of Science" (WoS) and has 20% more coverage than the latter [5-6].
- The English language makes the text comparison possible.
- The focus on literature from the past thirty years reflects the period during which the person-in-environment perspective has evolved significantly in response to increasingly complex social issues. Influenced by developments in ecological theory, globalisation and structural analysis, recent scholarship demonstrates how the person-in-environment perspective has been adapted to address contemporary challenges making this time frame particularly relevant for this study.

2.2. Keyword Search Strategy

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("persons in environment" OR "person-in-environment" OR "person environment" OR "PIE perspective" OR "PIE framework") After screening out irrelevant documents, a final sample of 3,178 documents was selected for further analysis.

2.3. Data Analysis Methods

The study adopted multiple analysis related to person-in-environment approach which is depicted in Figure 1

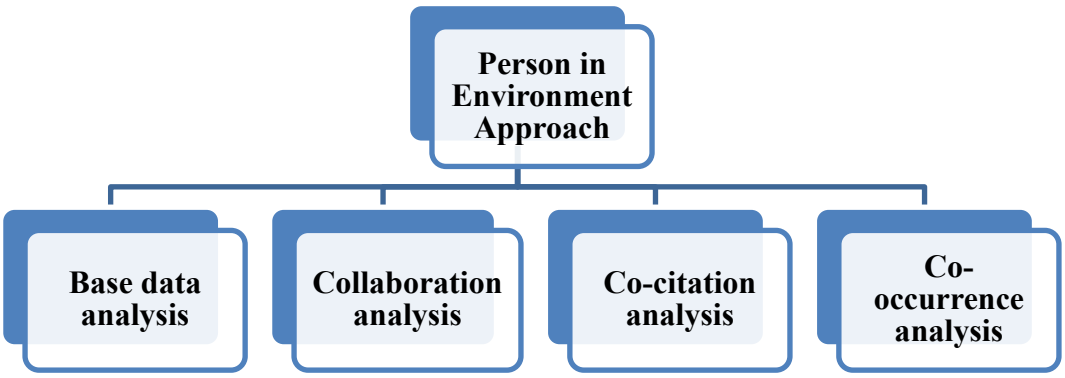


Figure 1. Framework of the current study

2.3.1. Base Data Analysis

The Base data analysis includes Publication year, Publication journals, document types, authors.

2.3.2. Collaboration Analysis

The Collaboration Analysis included institutional Collaboration, regional collaboration and author collaboration in writing articles related to Persons in Environment (PIE).

2.3.3. Co Citation Analysis

The Co-citation analysis encompasses journal co-citation, reference co-citation, author citations.

2.3.4. Co-occurrence Analysis

The Co-occurrence analysis, also referred as Co-word analysis is the analysis of the Keywords and its themes and frequencies.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Year wise Distribution of the Publications

Figure 1 provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of recent trends in person-in-environment-related publications from 1996 to 2025. A total of 3,178 research papers across the globe explore the subject. Figure 1 illustrates the research trends of the person-in-environment approach over a thirty-year span. The overall trend is upward, although occasional fluctuations and declines are observed in 1996 there were 31 publications related to the person-in-environment approach, which fell to 18 the following year, before gradually rising to 24, and subsequently reaching 36 in both 2000 and 2001. The highest number of publications was recorded in 2023 (n= 282 documents) and 2024 (n=279 documents) respectively. However, between 2002 and 2010 there was a fluctuation in the growth of article publications, ranging between 36 and 67 From 2011 onwards, the volume of publications increased steadily, with annual output exceeding 100 articles from 2012 onwards. There is 8.11 percent growth rate per year between 2012 and 2022. A proportional growth rate of 118 percent suggest that due to various technological advancements and increase in the knowledge base and the interest among the researchers in the field of person-in-environment approach is increasing trend suggests that the field has emerged as a growing area of research in recent years. Technological advancements have contributed to the growing relevance and application of person-in-environment approach by expanding the notion of what constitutes an environment. In contemporary society, digital spaces such as social media, online communities and virtual work environments have become integral contexts in which individual interact, form identities and experience both support and risk. These technological environments operate across multiple ecological levels influencing the microsystem, exosystem and macrosystem. As a result, social issues such as cyberbullying, digital inequality, and the mental health impacts of technology

cannot be addressed without considering the interactions between individuals and their evolving environments. The person-in-environment approach is well-suited to capture these complexities as it provides a framework for analysing how technological systems intersect with social , economic and cultural factors that shape human behaviour and well-being.

If we analyze decade-wise data, the mean publications between 1996 to 2005 is 30.7 whereas from 2006 to 2015 the mean publication has raised up to 83.3, while from 2016 to 2025, the mean number of publications was 200. This suggests that there is progressive and exponential growth in the scholarly attention in the field of person -in -environment related research.

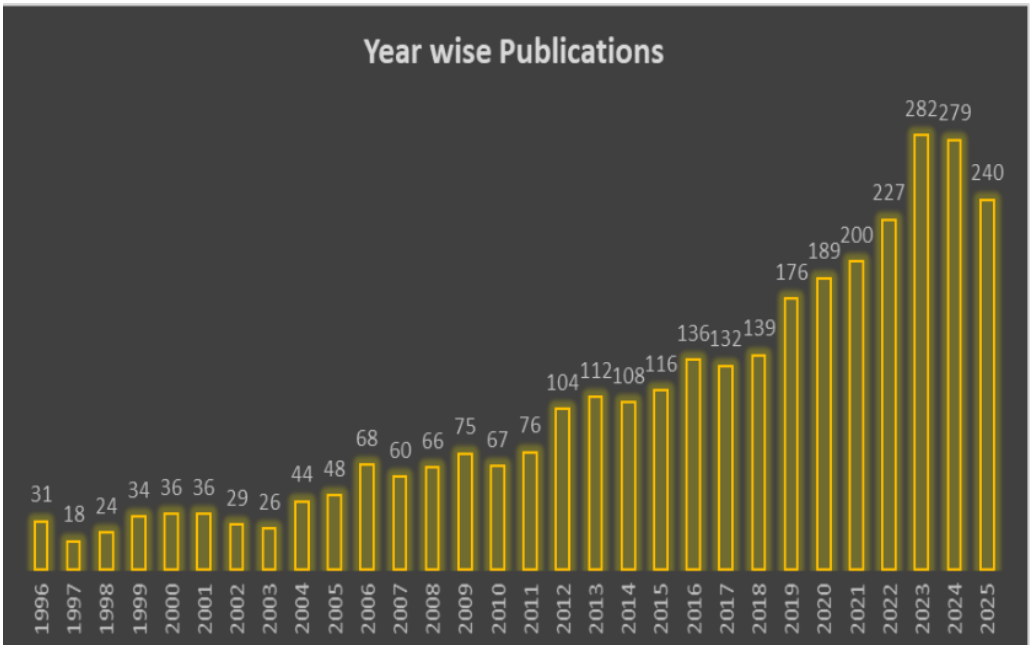


Figure 2. Represents year wise distribution of the publications

3.2. Document Type and No. of publications

The analysis of document types revealed that research articles constituted the majority of publications (n = 2423; 80.3%), indicating a strong emphasis on original empirical studies within the field. Book chapters (n = 320; 10.6%) and review papers (n = 217; 7.2%) were the next most common, reflecting theoretical consolidation and scholarly synthesis. Conference papers (n = 150) and other document types such as editorials, notes and letters accounted for a minor proportion, whereas retracted and data papers were negligible.

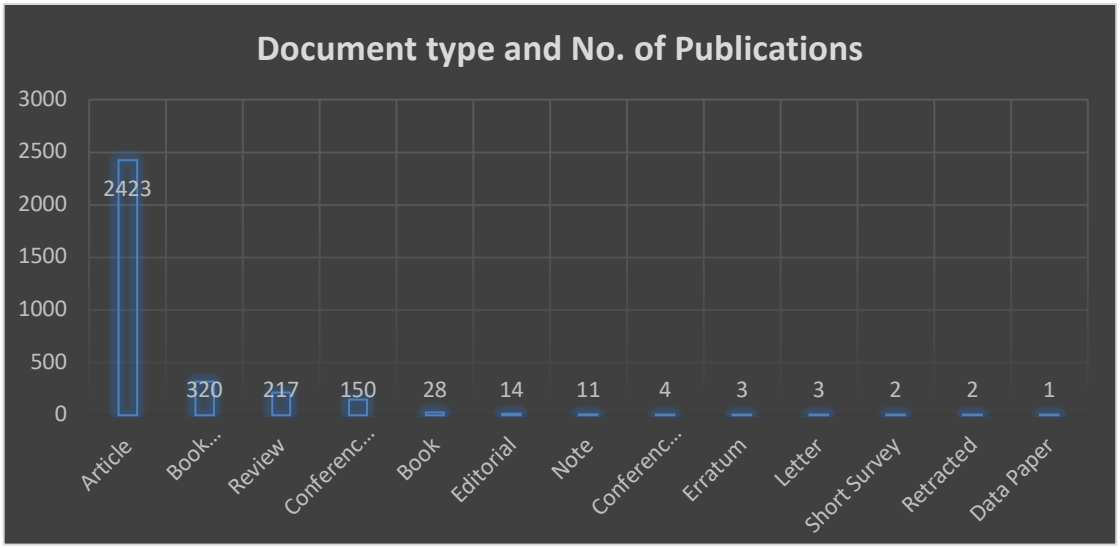


Figure 3. Represents types of Publication

3.3. Country wise Analysis

Table 1. Country wise citation analysis

Country	citations	Citation wise Ranking	Average Citation (AC)	Country	citations	Citation Wise Ranking	Average Citations (AC)
United States	48787	1	37.41	Taiwan	1450	15	23.02
Germany	10764	2	52.25	France	1268	16	33.37
Netherlands	10653	3	67.42	South Korea	1241	17	20.02
Canada	10302	4	41.54	Turkey	1214	18	30.35
Australia	10084	5	41.33	Austria	1013	19	42.21
United Kingdom	8740	6	39.37	Italy	967	20	17.58
China	4822	7	18.06	New Zealand	927	21	34.33
Sweden	4407	8	49.52	Norway	611	22	21.07
Belgium	2448	9	42.21	South Africa	560	23	9.66
Israel	2372	10	50.47	Malaysia	553	24	12.86
Singapore	1765	11	47.70	Spain	553	24	12.86
Finland	1763	12	43.00	Denmark	465	25	19.38
Switzerland	1677	13	26.62	Japan	444	26	12.00
Hong Kong	1529	14	22.82	India	347	27	6.67
				Ireland	341	28	12.18

Table 1 demonstratesthe country-wise analysis. The CWR (Citation-wise Ranking) indicates the rank of a country based on total citations; AC (Average Citations) refers to the average number of citations per publication; PWR (Publication-wise Ranking) represents

ranking based on the number of publications; TLS (Total Link Strength) reflects the strength of collaboration or co-authorship links between countries in bibliometric networks. In the current study,United States stands first with respect to citations (48787) with average citation of 37.41 here United States with total citation. Germany stands second with respect to the citation wise ranking accounting 10764 of total citation with average of 52.25 it is followed by nether land, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, China, Sweden, Belgium, Israel, Singapore, Finland, Switzerland the total number of citation in each of the countries like the Netherlands (total citation of 10653, with the average citation of 67.42)

Table 2. Country wise Publication analysis

Country	Publications	Total Link Strength	Publication Wise Ranking
United States	1304	330	1
China	267	129	2
Canada	248	113	3
Australia	244	152	4
United Kingdom	222	221	5
Germany	206	127	6
Netherlands	158	144	7
Sweden	89	47	8
Hong Kong	67	59	9
Switzerland	63	64	10
Taiwan	63	34	10
South Korea	62	40	11
Belgium	58	50	12
South Africa	58	25	12
Italy	55	52	13
India	52	14	14
Israel	47	13	15
Malaysia	43	14	16
Spain	43	41	16
Finland	41	36	17
Turkey	40	23	18
France	38	44	19
Singapore	37	28	20
Japan	37	12	20
Norway	29	28	21
Ireland	28	32	22
New Zealand	27	17	23
Austria	24	23	24
Denmark	24	22	24
Brazil	21	12	25
Portugal	20	20	26

Table 2 shows that the United States published the highest number of articles (1304) ranking first and total link strength of 330. Other high-income countries like Australia (244), Canada (248), and the UK (222) also show high research productivity. China (267) an upper-middle-income-country, ranks second with strong research growth. India published 52 articles, holding the rank of 14 with total link strength of 14, representing a lower-middle-income country. Meanwhile Portugal (20), Brazil (21), Denmark (24), Austria (24) and New Zealand

(27) rank lower, it shows that comparatively limited research activity. In addition, the years when the publication count was the highest (i.e., 282 in 2023 and 279 in 2024), the contribution of the leading countries such as the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and Australia seems to have had a substantial impact on the rise in the total number of publications, thereby pointing to the dominance of these countries in the overall trend in the Person-in-Environment (PIE) research.

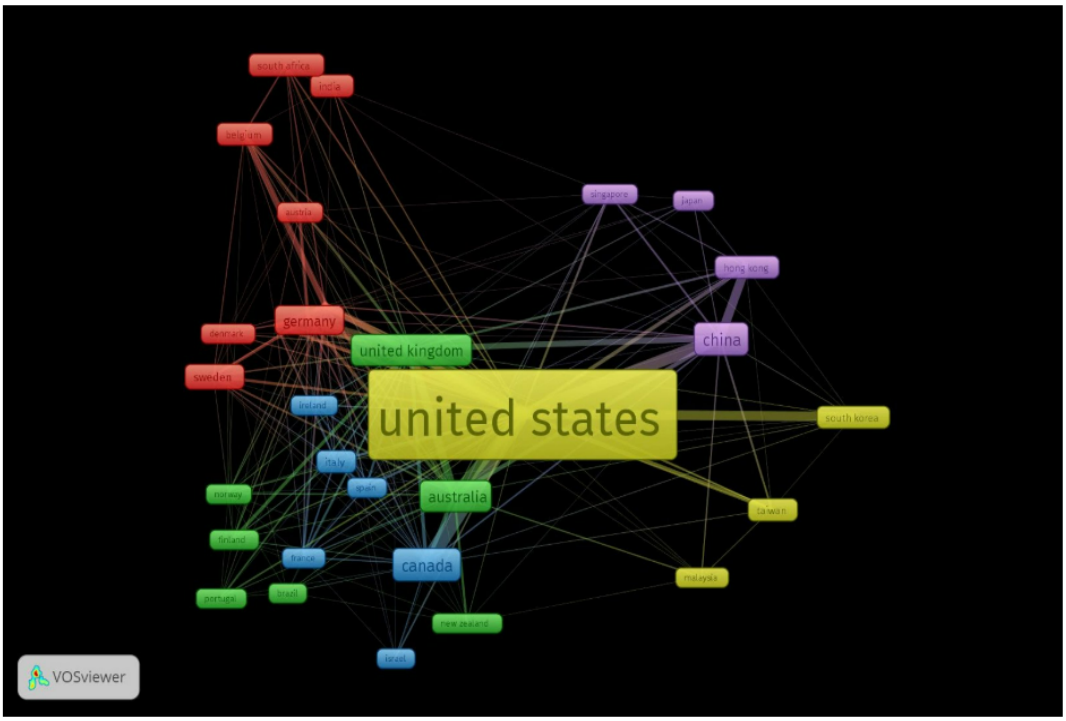


Figure 4. depicts the Collaborative network of the countries

Figure 4 shows the collaborative network of the countries in the production of publications related to person-in-environment approach. The VOSviewer map shows how different countries collaborate in research within the selected field. Each box represents a country, and its size shows how much that country contributes or publishes in the area. The lines connecting them indicate collaboration, and their thickness shows how strong those links are. Different colours group countries that tend to work together more often. In the map, the United States clearly stands out as the main center of collaboration. It has the largest node and many connecting lines, showing that it works closely with several other countries and leads most of the international research links. The United Kingdom, Germany, China, Australia and Canada also have important roles and are positioned near the United States, suggesting strong partnerships. The red group, which includes Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and France, shows European cooperation; the blue group, with Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, reflects collaboration among English-speaking nations; and the purple group, including China, South Korea, and Japan, shows active research connections within Asia that also link to the U.S. and U.K. This might be attributed to the availability of better research facilities, more opportunities for accessing funds, well-established academic networks, and the emphasis placed on interdisciplinary research in developed nations, which enables more collaboration in person-in-environment (PIE) research.

3.4. Co-authorship Analysis

Table 3. Top 20 authors and their publications

Author	documents	citations	Total link strength	Publication Wise Ranking
Iwarsson, Susanne	33	2714	38	1
Oswald, Frank	23	1804	33	2
Wahl, Hans Werner	22	1822	36	3
Greene, Roberta R.	17	104	0	4
Slaug, Bj Rn	13	207	20	5
Chan, Fong H.	12	121	6	6
Rousseau, Jacqueline	11	111	4	7
Edwards, Jeffrey R.	10	2584	0	8
Zacher, Hannes	10	1040	2	8
Rounds, James B.	10	662	11	8
Wille, Bart	10	256	10	8
Baum, Carolyn M.	10	62	6	8
Law, Mary C.	9	2302	4	9
Kristof-Brown, Amy L.	9	1219	3	9
Malmgren F Nge, Agneta	9	1019	15	9
Davids, Keith W.	9	395	7	9
De Fruyt, Filip K.	9	288	9	9
Su, Rong	8	719	6	10
Tracey, Terence J.G.	8	365	4	10
Billsberry, Jon	8	355	4	10

Table 3 reveals the co-authorship analysis. Here, the analysis is based mainly on various indices such as Total Number of Articles by each author, the total number of citations an author has received over a period of time, publication-wise ranking and citation-wise rankings. In addition, the total link strength (TLS) was also analysed. The TLS refers to the strength of the author's collaboration with other authors through co-authorship and citation. This represents the extent of research collaboration. The current study found that Susanne Iwarsson has written 33 documents with 2714 citations and total link strength of 38, holding the rank first. Frank, Oswald secured the second rank by authored 23 articles with 1804 citations and a total link strength (TLS) of 33. Hans Werner, Wahl ranked third with 22 publications, 1822 citations, and total link strength of 36. Roberta R, Greene has written 17 documents with 104 citations and holds the fourth rank. Bj Rn, Slaug is placed fifth with 13 documents, 207 citations and a total link strength of 20. Fong H, Chan ranked sixth with 12 documents, 121 citations, and total link strength of 6. Jacqueline, Rousseau secured the rank seventh by authored 11 articles with 111 citations and total link strength of 4. Jeffrey R, Edwards has written 10 documents with citation of 2584 with securing eighth rank. Hannes, Zacher also ranked eighth with 10 documents, 1040 citations, and total link strength of 2. James B, Rounds has written 10 documents with citation of 662 with total link of eighth rank. Bart, Wille also secured the eighth rank with 10 documents, 256 citations, and a total link strength of 10. Carolyn M, Baum ranked eighth with 10 documents, 62 citations, and a total link strength of 6. Mary C, Law secured the ninth rank by authoring 9 articles with 2302 link strength. Amy L, Kristof-Brown also ranked ninth with 9 documents, 1219 citations, and a total link strength of 3. AgnetaMalmgren F, Nge secured the ninth rank with 9 publications, 1019 citations and a total strength of 15. Keith W, Davids ranked ninth with 9 publications, 395 citations and total link strength of 7. Filip K, De

Fruyt also has written 9 documents with citation of 288 with total link strength of ninth rank. Rong Su secured the tenth rank with 8 publications, 719 citations and a total link strength of 6. Terence J.G, Tracey also ranked tenth with 8 publications, 365 citations, and a total link strength of 4. Jon, Billsberry secured the tenth rank by authoring 8 articles with 355 citations.

Table 4. Top 20 Authors Based On Citation Wise Ranking

Author	Citation	CWR
Iwarsson, Susanne	2714	1
Edwards, Jeffrey R.	2584	2
Law, Mary C.	2302	3
Wahl, Hans Werner	1822	4
Oswald, Frank	1804	5
Stewart, Debra A.	1547	6
Kristof-Brown, Amy L.	1219	7
Zacher, Hannes	1040	8
Malmgren F Nge, Agneta	1019	9
Parker, Stacey L.	821	10
Myin-Germeys, Inez	759	11
Su, Rong	719	12
Duffy, Ryan D.	697	13
Gitlin, Laura Nan	685	14
Rounds, James B.	662	15
Van Vianen,	662	16
Wang, Mo	650	17
Roberts, Brent W.	611	18
Van Os, Jim J.	578	19
Nye, Christopher D.	547	20

Table 4 reveals that Susanne Iwarsson secured the first rank with total citations of 2714. Jeffrey R. Edwards is in the second rank with 2584 citations. Mary C. Law holds the third rank with 2302 citations. At fourth rank, Hans Werner Wahl has 1822 citations, followed by Frank Oswald at the fifth rank with 1804 citations. Annelies E.M.Van Vianen holds the sixteenth rank with 662 citations, followed by Mo, Wang at seventeenth rank with 650 citations. Brent W, Roberts holds the eighteenth rank with 611 citations. Jim J, Van Os holds the nineteenth rank with 578 citations. Christopher D, Nye has secured the twentieth rank with total citation of 547. The high-ranked authors show a level of influence within the field of research, as indicated by the high number of citations for these authors. The contributions of these authors show a strong emphasis on developing the person-in-environment (PIE) approach, especially with empirical research and theory development. The high-ranked authors also show a level of concentration of research within a small number of authors who are instrumental in developing the field.

3.5. Institution Based Analysis

A total of 2803 institutions contributed to the research in this field. When a minimum threshold of 15 documents per institution was applied, only 38 institutions met the criteria for inclusion in the network analysis. These institutions were grouped into 9 distinct clusters, showing different patterns of collaboration. There were 64 links observed between the

institutions, with a total link strength of 89, indicating a moderate level of research collaboration among them.

Table 5. List of 38 Institutions and their Rankings

Institution	Publications	Citations	Avg. Citation	PWR	CWR
University Of Toronto, Canada	44	2376	54.00	1	4
Lunds University, Sweden	42	2956	70.38	2	2
University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor, United States	31	1240	40.00	3	12
Michigan State University (MSU)	31	795	25.65	3	21
Monash University, Melbourne, Australia	27	363	13.44	4	30
University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, United States	26	1579	60.73	5	7
Arizona State University, Tempe, United States	25	1313	52.52	6	11
Ku Leuven, Leuven, Belgium	25	1189	47.56	6	13
The University Of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia	24	1352	56.33	7	10
Universiteit Gent, Ghent, Belgium	23	853	37.09	8	18
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands	22	3096	140.73	9	1
Mcmaster University, Hamilton, Canada	22	2513	114.23	9	3
Universität Heidelberg, Germany	22	1565	71.14	9	8
University Of Florida, Gainesville, United States	22	1040	47.27	9	14
Universiteit Maastricht, Netherlands	21	1513	72.05	10	9
University Of Minnesota Twin Cities, United States	21	316	15.05	10	34
University Of Maryland, United States	20	2006	100.30	11	5
The University Of Texas At Austin, United States	20	849	42.45	11	19
Queensland University Of Technology, Brisbane, Australia	20	605	30.25	11	24
Florida State University, Tallahassee, United States	20	473	23.65	11	27
University Of Washington, Seattle, United States	20	193	9.65	11	38
Washington University, United States	19	252	13.26	12	36
Université Mcgill, Montreal, Canada	18	702	39.00	13	23
Universiteit Van Amsterdam, Netherlands	17	1608	94.59	14	6
University Of Illinois At Chicago, United States	17	1014	59.65	14	16
The University Of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada	17	1005	59.12	14	17
City University Of Hong Kong	17	320	18.82	14	32
University Of Montreal, Canada	17	318	18.71	14	33
Purdue University, West Lafayette, United States	16	1025	64.06	15	15
Universität Zürich, Switzerland	16	811	50.69	15	20
The Ohio State University, Columbus, United States	16	594	37.13	15	25
Pennsylvania State University, United States	16	530	33.13	15	26
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	16	355	22.19	15	31

Institution	Publications	Citations	Avg. Citation	PWR	CWR
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt Am Main, Germany	15	708	47.20	16	22
Western University, London, Canada	15	424	28.27	16	28
Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands	15	382	25.47	16	29
University Of Southern California, United States	15	278	18.53	16	35
The University Of Hong Kong	15	250	16.67	16	37

Table 5 reveals the University of Toronto, Canada has the highest number of publications (44 articles) with 2376 citations, an average citation of 54.00, ranked first in publications and fourth in citations. Lund University, Sweden has published article with a total citation of 2956, and average citation of 70.38 having the rank 2 both in terms of publication and citations.University of Michigan, United States holds the 3rd rank with 31 publications, 1240 citations, and anaverage citation of 40.00, rank wise 3rd in publications and 12th in citations. Michigan State University, United States also has 31 publications, with 795 citations and an average citation of 25.65, rank wise 3rd in publications and 21st in citations. Monash University, Australia holds the 4th rank with 27 publications, 363 citations, and an average citation of 13.44, ranked 4th in publications and 30th in citations.

3.6. Keyword Analysis

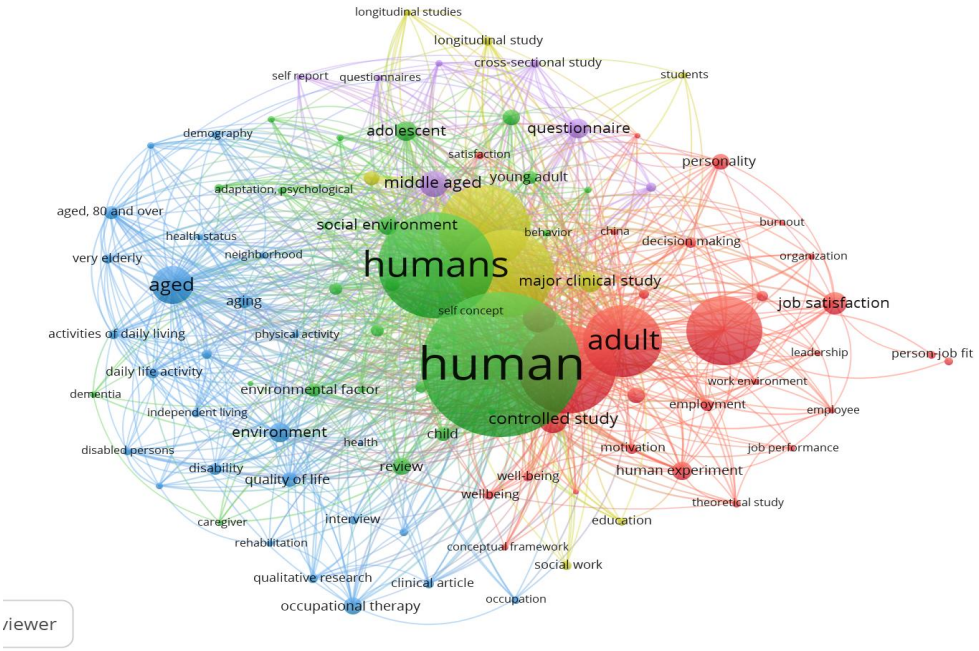


Figure 5. Network visualisation of Keywords

A total of 11,838 keywords were found in the study. When the minimum number of times a keyword had to appear was set to 40, only 99 keywords met this condition. These 99 keywords were grouped into Five clusters, showing different areas or themes within the research field. There were 4,203 links between the keywords, with a total link strength of 55,084, which indicates the keywords are strongly connected and often used together in the same studies. Each circle represents a keyword, and the size of the circle shows how often that

keyword appears in the analysed publications. The lines connecting the circles indicate how often two keywords appear together, and the colours represent different clusters or thematic areas within the field. The keywords are indicative of various disciplines such as social work, psychology, public health and psychiatry, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the approach.

3.7. Discussion

Bibliometric analysis helps to map the global trends of a phenomenon In the current study, Person-In-Environment (PIE) approach-related research between 1996 and 2025 was studied. The study used VOSviewer software in visualisations. It is a powerful and and user-friendly software which helps to perform network visualisation (i.e., mapping relationships between authors, institutions, countries, and keywords based on co-authorship, co-citation, and co-occurrence patterns) in the this bibliometric analysis.

In this study, the metadata were exported from the Scopus database. Though there are various databases available, the current study chose the Scopus database due to wide range of journals and publications, which offer 20% more coverage than the Web of Science database [6]. The filters were used based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, which is an important step in getting accurate data regarding the results, we found out that there has been an increase in publications over time, this shows that there is a growing interest in understanding this perspective in various fields of study such as social work, psychology, public health, and environmental studies [7-8]. In 1996, the number of publications indexed in the Scopus database related to PIE Perspective was 31, which had grown to 240 publications in 2025. This clearly shows that the research output has grown over the past three decades.

Country-wise analysis clearly shows that the United States stands alone as the most influential country in the production of publications in the field. No other countries are near to the US in terms of publications related the PIE Perspective over these three decades. United States has 1,304 publications; the second most productive country is China, which has 267 publications. This shows that the US has five times the productivity than China in the field of PIE-related research. The study also shows that there is an emerging trend of noteworthy contributions from Europe, Asian and African countries as well. China is leading the Asian countries in the production of publications related to the PIE perspective. South Africa is the top African country African country in the field of research. The contributions can be seen viewed through the lens of community-based, collectivist, and postcolonial person-in-environment perspectives [9-10].

In contemporary social work, micro practice focuses on direct interventions with individuals, families, and small groups, while the Person-in-Environment (PIE) approach provides a framework to understand clients within their social, cultural, and structural contexts. By integrating PIE, micro practitioners can address individual problems without overlooking environmental influences, ensuring interventions are holistic and contextually informed. This link is especially important in neoliberal times, when pressures for measurable individual outcomes risk neglecting broader social and systemic factors.

In recent times, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered person–environment interactions globally, particularly in relation to mental health, social isolation, and access to support systems [11-12]. Studies adopting ecological and framework-based approaches have highlighted how macro-level disruptions such as lockdowns and economic instability

influenced individual well-being [13]. In the Indian context, the pandemic revealed unique socio-environmental challenges, including healthcare strain, stigma, and inequalities, which directly impacted psychosocial outcomes [14-15]. These findings emphasise the importance of applying the person-in-environment framework to understand culturally specific and structural determinants of well-being in low- and middle-income countries.

In the current study, the citation counts are is dominated by the high-income Countries. specifically the United States. The US. It has 48,787 citations over the past 3 decades, which is four times that of the second-highest-cited, namely Germany which has 10,764 citations. This clearly shows that the High income countries are contributing more to the research. This can be attributed to their existing infrastructure, academic growth, research interests and collaborations they have. This also shows that there are research infrastructure disparities between high-income countries and low- and middle-income countries [16].

4. Conclusion

The results of the present bibliometric analysis help to gain several insights have implications for social work practice, education and research. It shows that modern social work relies on ecological and contextual frameworks rather than purely individual-focused approaches. This perspective helps practitioners to understand clients in the context of their family, community and socio-cultural background. Strengthening locally grounded PIE-based empirical studies can help social workers to develop community-driven, community driven interventions.

Multidisciplinary Domains

This research covers the domains: (A) Social Work, (B) Psychology, (C) Social Sciences, and (D) Information Sciences

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Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest are disclosed by the authors.

Declaration on AI Usage

The authors declare that the article has been prepared without the use of AI tools.

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