

# University Social Responsibility And Sustainable Development

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## Abstract

A review was carried out on the production and publication of research papers related to the study of the variable University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development in Latin America. The purpose of the bibliometric analysis proposed in this document is to know the main characteristics of the volume of publications registered in the Scopus database during the period 2016-2021 in Latin American countries, achieving the identification of 45 publications. The information provided by the said platform was organized using tables and figures categorizing the information by Year of Publication, Country of Origin, Area of Knowledge and Type of Publication. Once these characteristics have been described, the position of different authors on the proposed topic is referred to employing a qualitative analysis. Among the main findings of this research, it is found that Brazil, with 14 publications, is the Latin American country with the highest production. The Area of Knowledge that made the greatest contribution to the construction of bibliographic material referring to the study of University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development was Social Sciences with 30 published documents, and the Type of Publication that was most used during the above-mentioned period was the Journal Article, which represents 60% of the total scientific production.

**Keywords:** University social responsibility, sustainable development

## Introduction

University Social Responsibility are the actions developed by these educational institutions to support social transformation from the exercise of their functions depending on the needs identified in their social context. This is part of the improvement plans of higher education from the formation of integral professionals with social commitment, environmental awareness, production of research material and contribution to their social environment from the sustainable. At the time of accrediting a university as a high-quality institution, social responsibility is taken into account in the development indicators by contributing both to the formation of complete and critical professionals who have an active role in society, and to the improvement in its management from sustainable practices helping the conservation and preservation of resources giving the ethical foundations of living in society, allowing from Sustainable Development to guarantee to satisfy the needs without compromising the resources of future generations by improving the environmental system.

For Prieto et al. (2015), University Social Responsibility is the way to establish a congruent management style, with a responsible vision, where the community perceives that these institutions have assumed a real commitment to the environment, so universities being active entities of social transformation are not alien to the implementation of actions that promote the fulfillment of the objectives of sustainable development, establishing their social function, improving their management and training of professionals. Thanks to the above, it can be said that university social responsibility are the actions that these entities carry out to have an active role in society from the formation of integral professionals with a sustainable approach that allows making reality sustainable, taking care of the environment and making the most of the resources.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze from a bibliometric and bibliographic perspective, the production of high-impact research papers on the variable Management Accounting for Decision Making in Latin American organizations during the period 2016-2021. Thus, it is important to know in terms of bibliographic resources, the current state of research on University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development in Latin America, so a bibliometric analysis of the scientific production registered in the Scopus database during the period 2016-2021 is proposed to answer the question: How has been the production and publication of research papers related to the study of the variable University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development in Latin America during the period 2016-2021?

### **Methodology**

A quantitative analysis of the information provided by Scopus under a bibliometric approach on the scientific production related to University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development is carried out. Also, from a qualitative perspective, examples of some research papers published in the area of the study mentioned above are analyzed from a bibliographic

approach to describe the position of different authors on the proposed topic. The search is carried out through the tool provided by Scopus.

### **Methodological design**

The design of this research consists of the following three (3) phases:

#### **Phase 1. Data collection**

In this phase, data was collected utilizing the Scopus web page search tool, through which a total of 45 publications were identified. For their classification, published documents were taken into account whose study variables are related to University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development; Research Papers published during the Period 2016-2021; Limited to Latin American Countries; Without Distinction of Area of Knowledge and Without Distinction of Type of Publication.

#### **Phase 2. Construction of analysis material**

In phase 2, the information identified in the previous phase is organized. The classification will be made using graphs, figures and tables based on data provided by Scopus. Regarding their classification, the following were taken into account: co-occurrence of words; year of publication; country of origin of the publication; area of knowledge and type of publication.

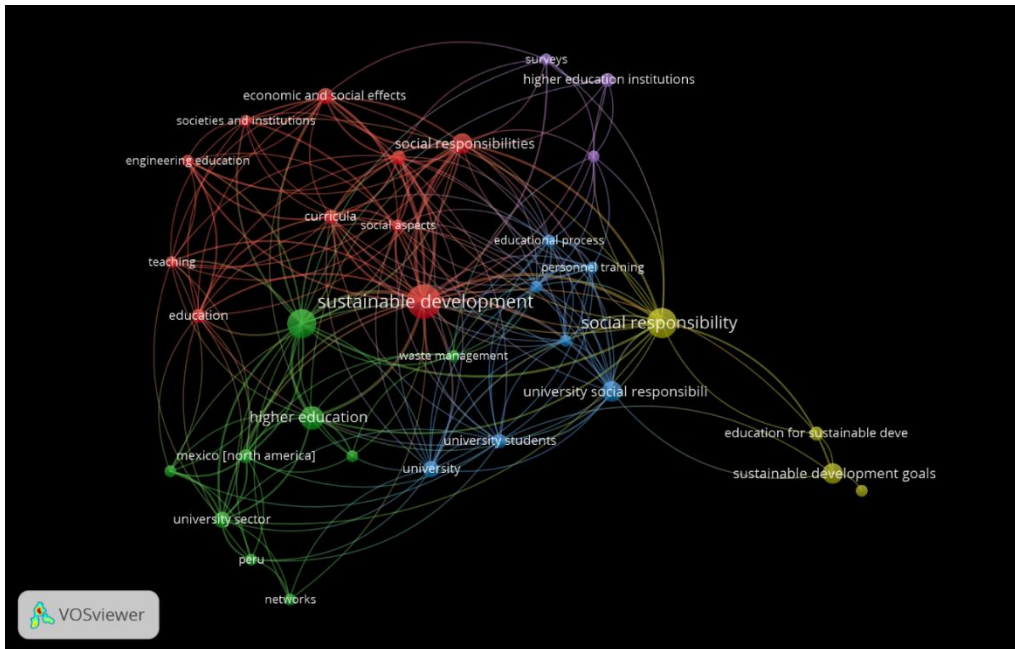
#### **Phase 3. Drafting of conclusions and final document**

After the analysis is carried out in the previous phase, the conclusions are drawn up and the final document is prepared.

### **Results**

#### **Co-occurrence of words**

Figure 1 shows the co-occurrence of keywords within the publications identified in the Scopus database.

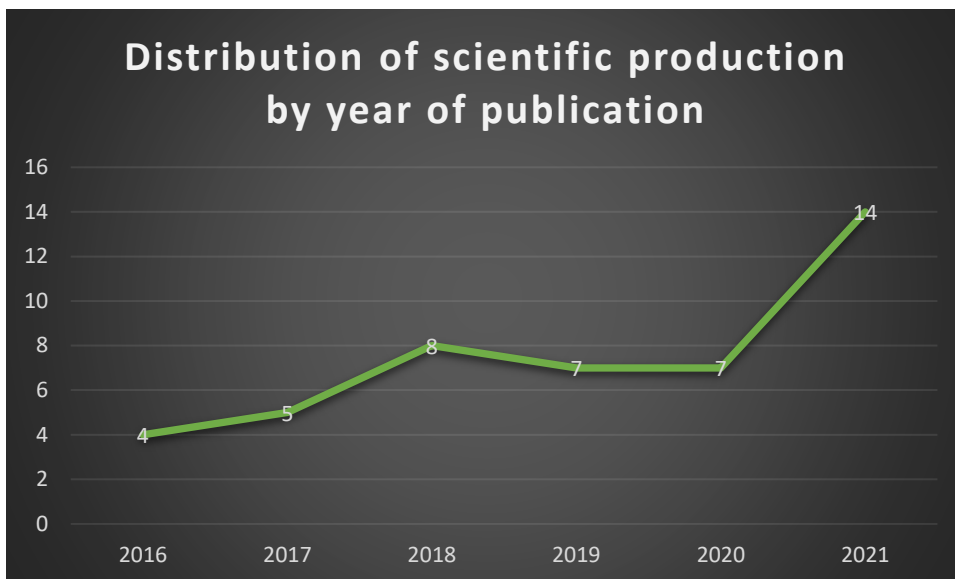


**Figure 1:** Co-occurrence of words.

As shown in Figure 1, the most used keyword is Sustainable Development, which is also a variable in this study and refers to the changes that are made to meet the needs without compromising the resources of other generations, seeking to eradicate poverty by ensuring a dignified life for all from the conservation of the environment, seeking to mitigate the impact of economic and social growth on the earth. There are also keywords such as Social Responsibility, which is the ethical posture in a personal or group way, is appropriated to give back to society for the damage caused in the exercise of their functions. Higher education, sustainable education and social aspects are keywords that shed light on the actions carried out by universities from a sustainable approach forming professionals committed to social development from the change in the environmental system. Social and economic effects, objectives of sustainable development and universities are keywords that refer to the transforming role that by nature the university, combining it with the objectives of Sustainable Development given by the UN to help social development from the protection of the environment and the quality of life of all human beings.

### **Distribution of scientific production by year of publication.**

Figure 2 shows how the scientific production is distributed according to the year of publication, taking into account the period from 2016 to 2021.

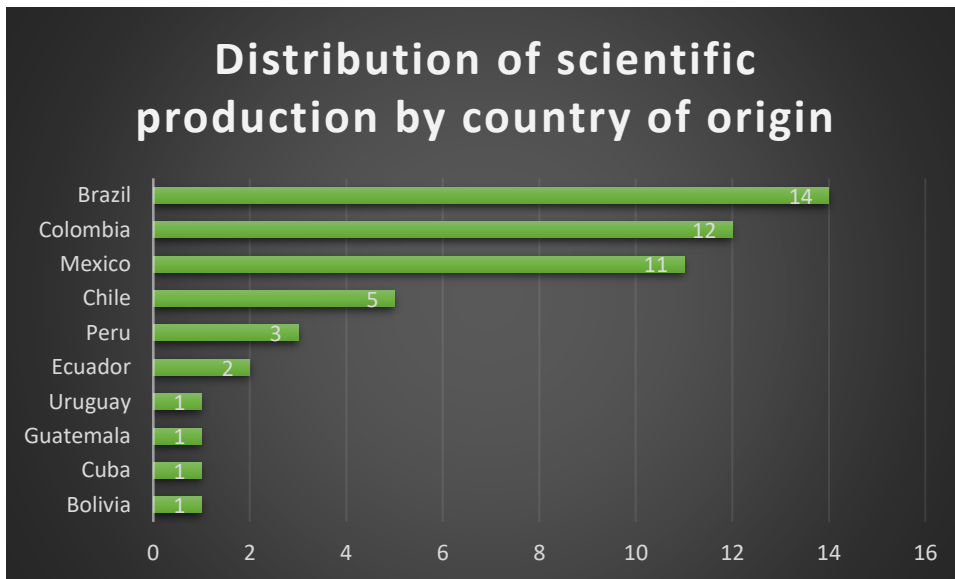


**Figure 2: Distribution of scientific production by year of publication.**

The year 2021 was the year with the highest number of publications related to the variables under study, presenting 14 publications, among which is the paper entitled "Structural model of university social responsibility" (Ortiz-Paniagua et al., 2021), which analyzes the policy of University Social Responsibility (RSU) implemented at the State University of Michoacán from a study of structural statistical analysis where 17 indicators were identified and where it could be concluded that university social responsibility had a regular performance, with internal management being a very important aspect for its development. In second place is 2020, which presents 7 documents, among which is the title "Environmental awareness in university students: E-Learning and e-marketing for sustainability" (Pereáñez and Arango, 2020). This document starts from the need of universities to be in line with social development, so implementing sustainable alternatives is very important to continue exercising its role as a social transformer. A study was conducted with 121 students of Industrial Engineering and Systems Engineering. In which the factors that influence the practices of methodologies under a sustainable education that guarantees both professional growth and the formation of an ethical posture were identified.

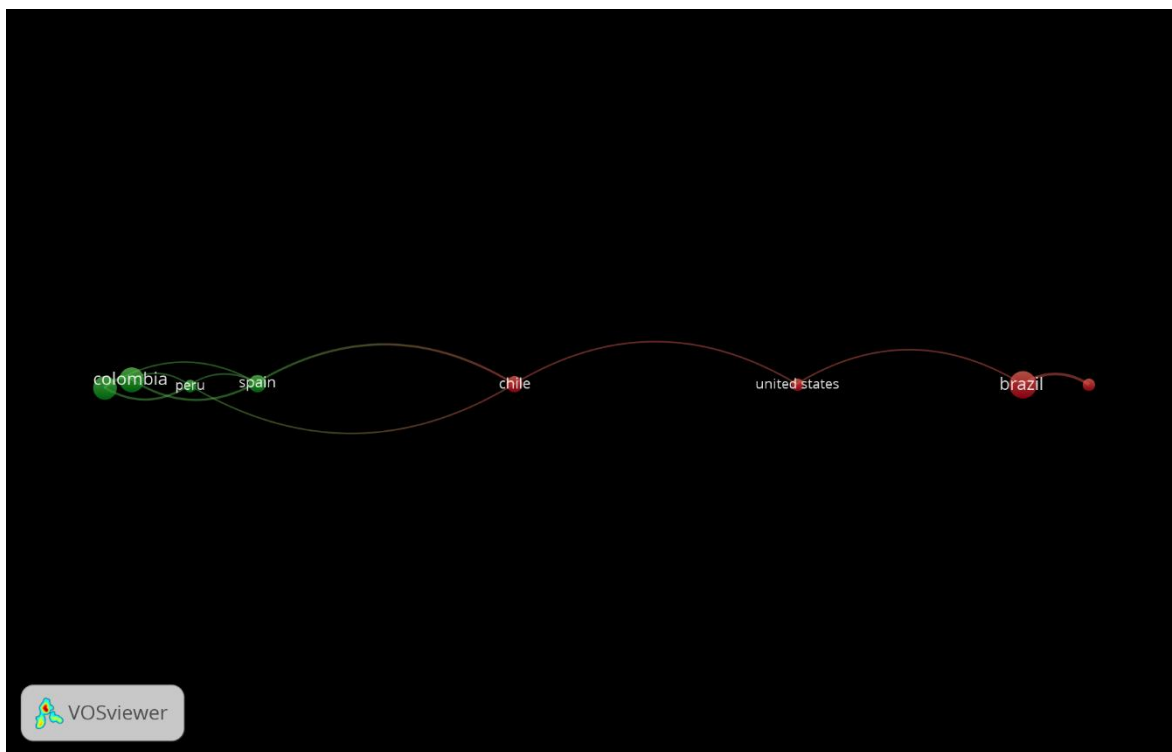
### **Distribution of scientific production by country of origin**

Figure 3 shows the distribution of scientific production according to the nationality of the authors.



**Figure 3: Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.**

Brazil is the country with the largest contribution to research related to the variables under study, presenting 14 documents in total, among which is "An Ecological Vision with Social Responsibility in the Sustainable Environment: Promoting Ecological and Environmental Awareness in the Municipal University Center of Franca-Uni-FACEF (Sao Paulo)" (Cavalcanti-Bandos and Paucar-Caceres, 2021). This document has as its main objective to report on efforts to promote ecological awareness and sustainable environmental practices in Uni-FACEF involving all educational actors where it was shown that the project objectives have been well received among the university community and external stakeholders. The second stage seeks to continue strengthening these behaviors and also to generate projects that involve companies contributing to social transformation. At this point, it should be noted that the production of scientific publications, when classified by country of origin, presents a special characteristic and that is the collaboration between authors with different affiliations to public and private institutions, and these institutions can be from the same country or different nationalities so that the production of an article with co-authorship of different authors from different countries of origin allows each of the countries to add up as a unit in the general publications. This is best explained in Figure 4, which shows the flow of collaborative work from different countries.

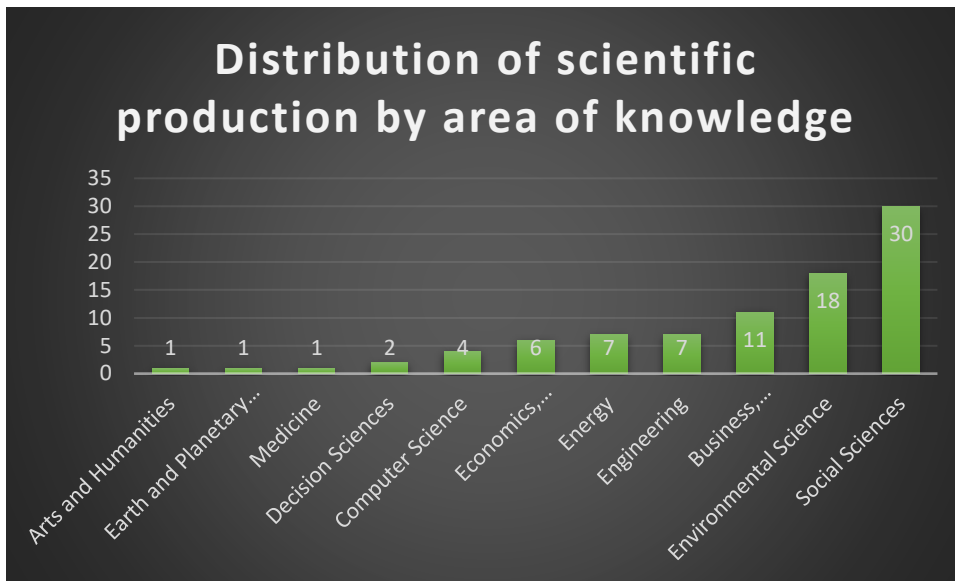


**Figure 4:** Co-citations between countries.

As mentioned above, Brazil is the Latin American country with the highest production in research related to University Social Responsibility and sustainable development, presenting documents in collaboration with authors affiliated with countries such as the United States, which does not belong to the Latin American countries, which shows the interest in knowing the current state of University Social Responsibility. In second place is Colombia with 12 documents, within which there are publications in co-authorship with Spain and Peru. Within these is the document with the title "Social behavior from the perspective of students of Latin American universities" (Campechano-Escalona et al., 2021). This article was born from the need to generate more scientific productions on University Social Responsibility from the objectives of sustainable development. Therefore, research was conducted in three universities in Colombia, Peru and Mexico with 1802 participants where it was found that university students have similar sustainable practices which have the intention of their social behavior despite freely expressing their interest in the benefit of others by taking an active role in social and university development.

#### **Distribution of scientific production by area of knowledge**

Figure 5 shows how the production of scientific publications is distributed according to the area of knowledge through which the different research methodologies are carried out.



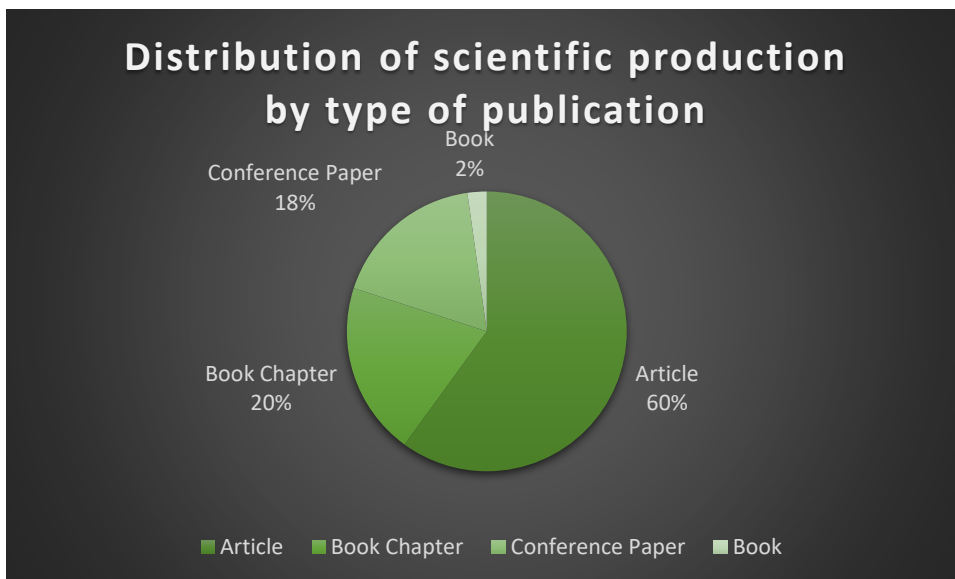
**Figure 5: Distribution of scientific production by area of knowledge.**

Social Sciences is the area of knowledge with the largest number of contributions through the theories that are framed in it, in the search for new knowledge on University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development presenting 30 documents, among which is the document "University Social Responsibility in the context of Social Appropriation of Knowledge: A Systematic Literature Mapping Approach" (Ontiveros-Ortíz & Ramírez-Montoya, 2021). In this document, a review of the literature related to University Social Responsibility is presented taking this concept as a process of Social Appropriation of Knowledge taking sustainable development as an important role in social transformation. In the second place, is Environmental Sciences where 18 documents were written following the guidelines of the topics related to this area, within these documents is the title "Evaluation of the recycling of the electronic waste in university campuses: A strategy towards sustainability" (Saldaña-Durán & Messina-Fernández, 2021). This document analyzes how the recycling of electronic waste benefits the environment, economically and socially by analyzing a program of selective collection of electronic waste, called Recyclatron which was tested to collect electronic waste 6 times so it was possible to verify that this system allows a high level of participation and awareness of stakeholders which was a fundamental part of the success of this work.

### **Type of Publication**

Figure 6 shows how the bibliographic production is distributed according to the type of publication chosen by the authors.





**Figure 6:** Distribution of scientific production by type of publication.

As shown in Figure 6, within the different types of publications, 60% of the total number of documents identified through Phase 1 of the Methodological Design, correspond to Journal Articles, among which is the one entitled "Formation of communities of practice of sustainability through science and art" (Alvarez-Castañon & Romero-Ugalde, 2021). This document aims to analyze the university experience of a social laboratory that mixes science and art to instruct communities on the practice of sustainability which represents a model of social innovation that can go beyond the university walls to influence its environment in dissimilar and socially disadvantaged territories. This document also has certain limitations, such as its Mexican cultural context, which may not be congruent with other countries. In the second place, the book chapters represent 20% of the total selected documents, within these documents is the document named "Social responsibility of the university in the promotion of more humane and sustainable enterprises" (Benito et al., 2021). In this chapter, the role of universities in the management of Sustainable Social Development is analyzed as being a transforming and influential entity of social relations, so it is presented as a pillar in the humanistic development in Latin America.

## Conclusions

Thanks to the bibliometric analysis proposed in this research, it can be determined that Brazil is the Latin American country with the largest number of bibliographic records in the Scopus database during the period between 2016 and 2021 with a total of 14 documents. The scientific production related to the study of University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development has presented an important growth during the above-mentioned period, going from 4 publications in 2016 to 14 units in 2021, that is, the creation of bibliographic records

was doubled in a period of 5 years, which indicates the importance that Sustainable Development has in the implementation of University Social Responsibility in these entities as an intrinsic factor in the educational efforts that help to solve problems of each social context.

The University Social Responsibility is all the actions that these educational entities carry out to give back to society and the environment the possible damages in the realization of their activity, so it is characterized by having a firm ethical position before circumstances and problems that arise in society, taking into account the administrative management of the educational institution, the formation of professionals with critical thinking and a solid position before transcendental situations that allow them to exercise an active role in society.

University Social Responsibility is linked to sustainable development, which is responsible for ensuring the supply of current needs without compromising the resources of future generations so that society is going through certain changes that allow it to mitigate the environmental impact of economic and social growth that has been seen since the twentieth century so that the university plays an important role in being responsible for educating citizens with positions that go towards meeting these objectives.

All of the above allows this article to conclude by highlighting the importance of knowing the theory or bibliographic resources that seek to awaken the interest in Universities to manage University Social Responsibility as a pillar in its management as this is an organization that naturally belongs to social development. That is why the need for studies such as the one presented in this document is highlighted, which make a tour of those texts that address the aforementioned topic, to give the reader a broad view of the current situation of the bibliography of University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development.

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