MAPPING THE LANDSCAPE OF INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL POVERTY ANALYSIS (2012–2025): A SCIENTOMETRIC STUDY

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Abstract: The individual-level poverty analysis is a significant step forward in poverty assessment, highlighting intra-household differences that are often overlooked by traditional household-based measurements. This scientometric study examines the intellectual and collaborative landscape of individual poverty research. This scientometric study uses data from the Scopus database to examine the organization and development of research on individual-level poverty analysis from 2012 to 2025. The study analyzed 73 peer-reviewed papers to map publication trends, identify key authors, and track theme developments. The results show a growing interest in gender-sensitive and multifaceted responses to poverty, with notable international cooperation and thematic shifts toward the capabilities approach, time poverty, and empowerment. In addition to outlining potential research avenues, this work advances our knowledge of the development of individual-level poverty analysis.

Keywords: Individual poverty, multidimensional poverty, scientometric analysis, gender poverty gap, co-authorship, VOSviewer, intra-household inequality, capability approach.

1. Introduction: Poverty remains one of the most persistent issues in the global development debate. Poverty has always been measured and analyzed at the household level. While such approaches have generated useful insights (Alkire & Foster, 2011; World Bank, 2018). But they tend to mask important intra-household differences, notably those linked to gender, age, and personal agency (Kabeer, 1997; Jackson, 2016).Recognizing these constraints, there has been a substantial methodological and conceptual shift toward individual-level poverty study over the past decade. This approach seeks to

represent the multifaceted realities of poverty as they are experienced by individuals rather than aggregated households (De Neubourg et al., 2013; Espinoza-Delgado & Klasen, 2018).

The capacity approach, multidimensional poverty indices, and feminist economics have all emphasized the relevance of individual-level assessments (Sen, 1999; Alkire, 2002; Bessell, 2015).These advances have influenced new methods of interpreting poverty that go beyond income, taking into account factors like education, health, empowerment, and social involvement. Researchers and policy makers recognize that a more detailed understanding of poverty is required for developing successful and equitable poverty alleviation initiatives (UNDP, 2020; Klasen & Lahoti, 2022).

Given this context, a thorough mapping of the scholarly literature on individual-level poverty study is critical. Scientometric analysis is an effective way to measure and visualize the structure, evolution, and dynamics of scientific research. It helps identify significant authors, influential articles, theme concentrations, and emerging research trends.

This study performs a scientometric examination of publications on individual-level poverty analysis from 2012 to 2025. This time span was chosen on purpose: 2012 represents the beginning of the discussion about individual-level multidimensional poverty, and extending until 2025 allows for the inclusion of the most recent research, including early-access and forthcoming publications. The key objectives of this research are to:

i. Examine publishing trends throughout time to capture the progression of scholarly interests;
ii. Identify key authors, institutions, and countries who contribute to the field.
iii. Identify the most frequently cited articles and top publishing journals to the field.
iv. Create keyword co-occurrence networks and trace the evolution of topic regions in the literature.
v. Perform a co-authorship study to comprehend the structure and dynamics of scientific collaboration networks.
vi. Propose future research directions by identifying new topics and gaps.

This paper is divided into six major sections. The Introduction discusses the purpose and significance of mapping the scientific literature on individual-level poverty analysis.

The Methodology section outlines the data source, keyword search approach, timeframe, and scientometric tools used for analysis. In the Results section, we show our findings on publication trends, top authors, institutions, nations, journals, cited articles, keyword co-occurrence and co-authorship analysis. The Discussion section then assesses the primary study topics and finds conceptual gaps. The conclusion highlights major findings and suggests potential topics for future research. The limitation section highlights some significant drawback of the paper. Finally, references are supplied to support the analysis and situate it within the larger academic conversation.

2. Methodology:

Data Source:

For this scientometric study, Scopus was chosen as the main data source because of its extensive coverage, data dependability, and compatibility with sophisticated bibliometric analytic tools. The field of individual-level poverty analysis is closely related to the social sciences, economics, development studies, and public health. And Scopus is one of the biggest abstract and citation databases, indexes more than 27,000 peer-reviewed journals in these fields (Elsevier, 2023). Evaluation of publication trends, author and institutional mapping, and keyword co-occurrence exploration are among the precise and effective analyses made possible by its structured and standardized metadata, which includes author names, institutional affiliations, keywords, abstracts, and citation information (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). Additionally, Scopus offers strong citation measures that improve the capacity to evaluate research influence and scholarly impact in the field, such as the h-index, CiteScore, and Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) (Archambault et al., 2009).

Scopus was selected for this study over other databases because it captures literature pertaining to individual-level poverty analysis with a better balance of breadth, depth, and data quality. According to Mongeon and Paul-Hus (2016), Scopus provides more comprehensive coverage of journals in the social sciences, development studies, and multidisciplinary research than Web of Science. These fields are crucial to the study of poverty. Wider access to gray literature is possible through Google Scholar, but it lacks the organized metadata, peer-review filtering, and accurate

citations required for scientometric analysis (Halevi et al., 2017). Scopus maintains great data consistency and strong interoperability with bibliometric tools like VOSviewer and Bibliometrix(Visser et al., 2021). Crucially, a large number of regional and development-focused publications, especially from the Global South, are included in Scopus, which improves the dataset's representativeness and inclusivity (Elsevier, 2023). Because of these benefits, Scopus is the most suitable and trustworthy database for carrying out a scientometric analysis of how individual-level poverty research has changed between 2012 and 2025.

Keyword search strategy:

In order to find pertinent papers for this scientometric research, a thorough keyword search strategy was created. Literature pertaining to poverty analysis at the individual level within the larger context of multidimensional poverty and capability-based evaluations was the main focus. The Scopus database was used for the search since it offers comprehensive coverage of peer-reviewed literature in a variety of fields. Relevant records were retrieved using the Boolean search string that follows:

("individual level poverty" OR "intra-household poverty" OR "gender poverty gap" OR "individual MPI" OR "individual multidimensional poverty") AND ("capability approach" OR "Alkire-Foster" OR "multidimensional poverty index")

The purpose of this search technique was to find papers that:

- Focus on individual as the unit of analysis rather than household.
- Address intra-household inequalities in poverty, particularly through gender-disaggregated data.
- Engage with individual applications of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), including adaptations and critiques.
- Are theoretically or methodologically grounded in the capability approach or the Alkire-Foster methodology, which are foundational to multidimensional poverty research.

The use of this search string resulted in 73 documents. These articles serve as the empirical foundation for this scientometric study, and they underwent additional bibliometric analysis to map the intellectual structure, theme evolution, and collaboration tendencies within the discipline.

Time Frame:

The 2012–2025 time range was chosen for this scientometric study in order to encompass the most current and pertinent advancements in the analysis of poverty at the individual level. The year 2012 marks the beginning of the field's transition away from conventional household-level poverty measures and toward more complex, individual-centered methodologies. The limits of aggregated poverty measures, particularly in gender and multidimensional poverty research, and the increasing awareness of intra-household disparities have an impact on this change (Vandemoortele, 2011; Klasen & Lahoti, 2013).

Furthermore, significant global policy milestones, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, which stressed "leaving no one behind," sparked renewed research interest in disaggregated and individual-level poverty indicators. Extending the study to 2025 incorporates the most recent papers indexed and accepted in Scopus, allowing it to capture new trends and the changing research scene. This 14-year period strikes a mix between historical depth and current relevance, providing a solid foundation for tracking scientific output, topic developments, and collaborative patterns in this rapidly evolving subject.

Scientometric Instruments Used:

The bibliometric and scientometric analyses were carried out using a combination of existing technologies. Microsoft Excel was used to clean the raw data and conduct descriptive analysis of publishing trends. VOS viewer, a popular software for building and displaying bibliometric networks, was used to create co-authorship maps and keyword co-occurrence networks.

3. Results:

Publication Trends (2012–2025): Year-wise Output and Growth Patterns

The publishing trend from 2012 to 2025 shows a consistent and large increase in scholarly interest in individual-level poverty analysis. In 2012, the subject had a relatively small number of publications, indicating the early phases of conceptual development and a limited concentration on disaggregated poverty measurements. However, with the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) in 2015, with SDG 1 specifically targeting poverty eradication and promoting inclusivity, there was a significant increase in academic production. This indicates an increasing global interest in understanding poverty through more detailed, individual-based approaches that take into consideration gender, intra-household inequality, and multidimensional deprivation.

The trend intensified after 2018, with significant peaks in 2020 and 2022. This time period coincides with heightened policy discussion about inequality and resilience, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed the inadequacies of household-level poverty measurement. The academic community responded by increasing empirical and conceptual research targeted at identifying individual vulnerabilities.

By 2025 (based on early indexed data), the number of publications appears to be on an upward trend, showing ongoing intellectual involvement and institutional support for research in this field. Overall, the field demonstrates a positive linear growth pattern, indicating growing acknowledgment of individual-level poverty study as a distinct and emerging subject within development studies, economics, and social policy.

Figure 1 depicts this trend graphically, with a bar chart of annual publishing output from 2012 to 2025, indicating both volume and growth momentum.

Figure-I

Publication Trend(2012-2025)
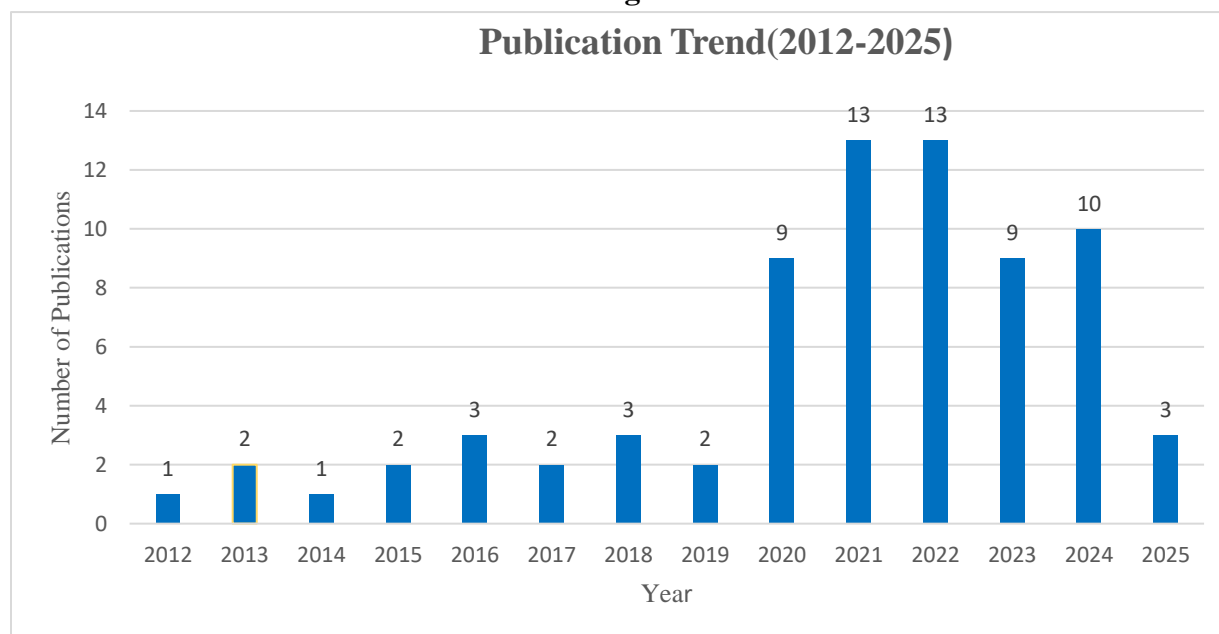
Top Contributing authors:

Between 2012 and 2025, a number of significant writers emerged as major contributors to the scientific landscape of individual-level poverty study, as measured by publication frequency. Sabina Alkire, who has three publications, is well-known for her pioneering work in multidimensional poverty research using the Alkire-Foster approach, as well as her leadership at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. Stephan Klasen (3 articles) and Ruth Lahoti (3 articles) have both advanced gender-sensitive and individual-focused poverty indicators based on the capacity framework. Francesco Burchi (3 publications) has done significant work at the interface of food security, poverty, and public policy. Jorge Espinoza-Delgado (3 publications) has studied rural and multidimensional poverty, primarily in Latin America. Claudia E. Montenegro (2 publications), Nora Rippin (2 publications), Andrea Zimmerman (2publications), and Crick Lund (2 publications) have also made significant contributions, bringing varied disciplinary viewpoints ranging from global injustice and ethics to mental health and gender. The presence of these writers in many research indicates their critical significance in creating the empirical and conceptual foundations of individual-level poverty analysis in recent years.

Figure II depicts top contributing authors from2012-2025 in terms of publication frequency, with a bar chart.

Figure-II
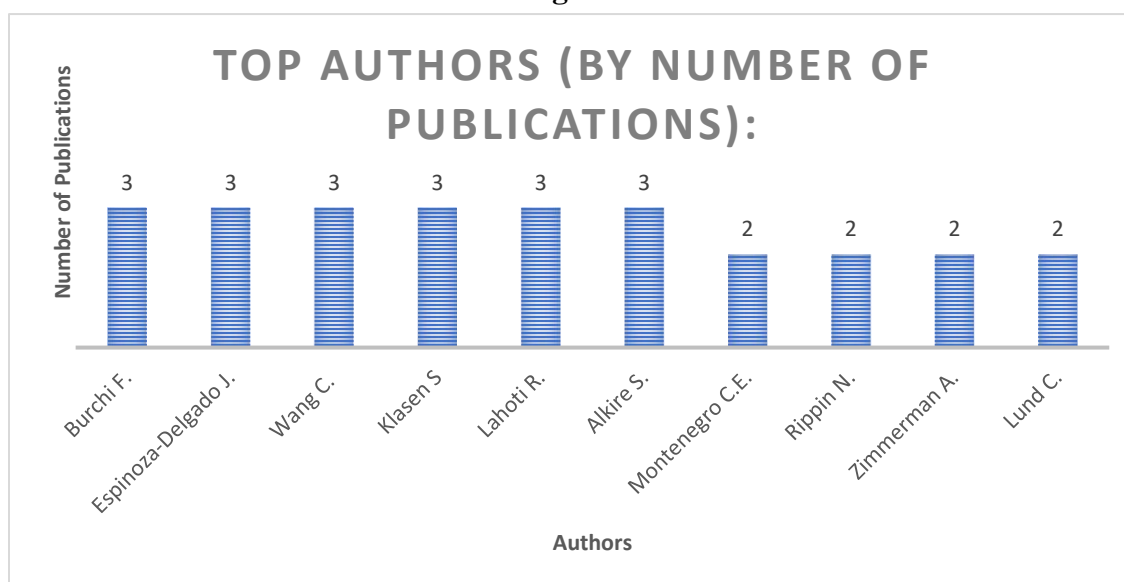
Geographical Distribution of Research:

Table-I (Top Ten Countries)

| Rank	Country	Number of Publications
1	China	33
2	United Kingdom	20
3	India	18
4	United States	12
5	Germany	11
6	Turkey	8
7	South Africa	6
8	Italy	6
9	Australia	5
10	Colombia	5

Geographically, from 2012 to 2025, research on individual-level poverty analysis has been diverse, with several countries hosting significant concentrations of scholarly output. With 33 publications, China leads the world, indicating its growing investment in policy-driven studies on poverty alleviation and social science research, especially in light of its rural development strategy. The United Kingdom ranks second with 20 publications, aided by institutions such as the Oxford University and its Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), which has been instrumental in developing comprehensive measures of poverty. India ranks third out of 18 publications, partly due to its complex socioeconomic context and the increasing attention that scholars are paying to caste, gender, and inequality in poverty studies. The United States (12) and Germany (11) also contribute significantly, often through collaborations with international development organizations and research networks. The top ten nations—South Africa, Australia, Colombia, Italy, and Turkey—showcase the expanding global scope of poverty research. These

country-wise contributions show both national priorities and scholarly interest in addressing poverty through in-depth, individual-level analysis. These contributions collectively show a thematically cohesive, globally diverse research network that has greatly broadened the conceptual and empirical scope of individual-level poverty analysis in the last ten years. The top ten countries in the field of individual-level poverty analysis is depicted in Table-I.

Figure III depicts a map that illustrates the distribution of scholarly publications by country.

Figure III
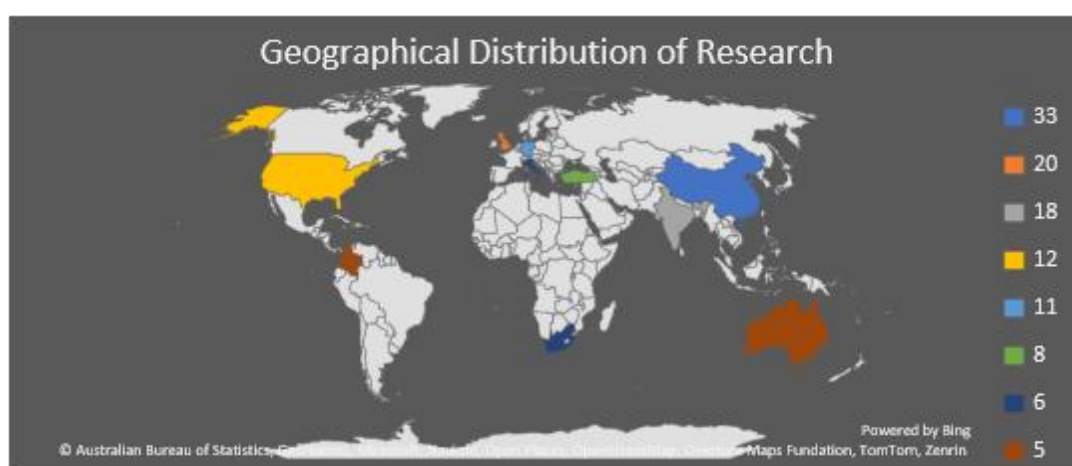
Institutional Contribution:

From 2012 to 2025, the top institutional contributors to individual-level poverty study are broad and interdisciplinary. Leading contributors, including the University of Oxford and the University of Goettingen, emphasize systematic and multidimensional approaches to poverty. Institutions like as Ghana's Savanna Agricultural Research Institute and South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand provide critical regional perspectives, notably on rural, gender-based, and health-related poverty. University contributions from the United States, Sweden, and Turkey strengthen the topic with political science, epidemiology, and economic analysis. Collectively, these institutions contribute to a more sophisticated understanding of poverty that connects global theory and local realities.

Figure IV depicts a bar chart that illustrates the top institutions based on the number of publications related to individual-level poverty analysis from 1990 to 2025.

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Figure-IV

Top Ten Institutional Contributors(2012-2025)
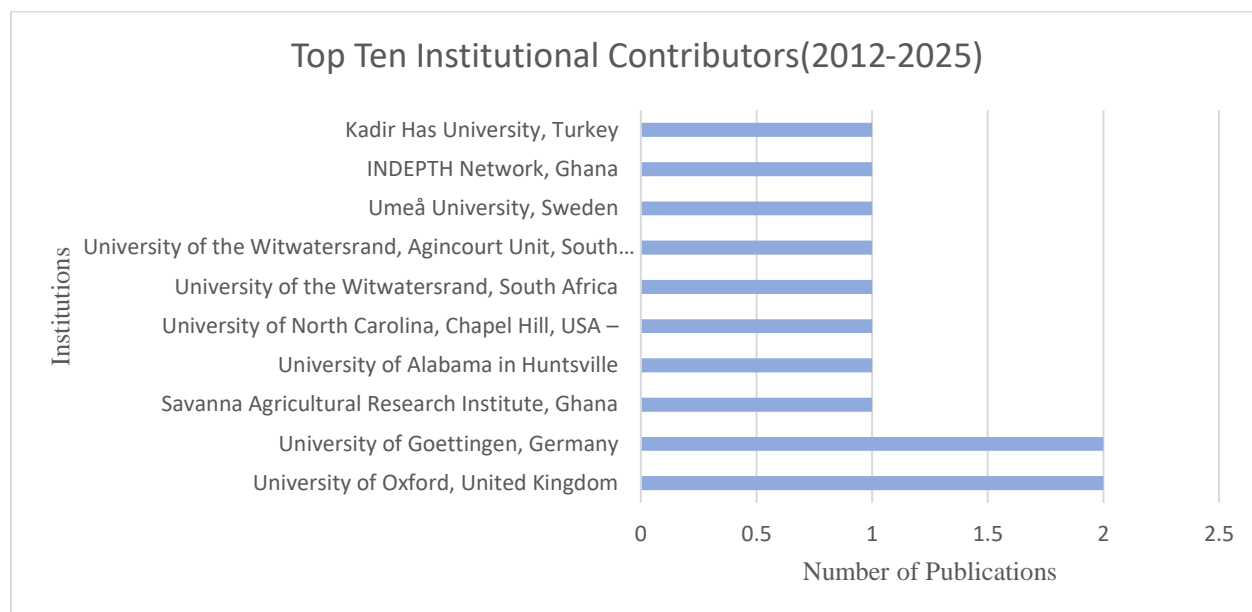
Top Cited Article:

The top ten cited articles in the field of individual-level and multidimensional poverty reflect the thematic evolution and methodological advancement of poverty research over the past decade as shown in Table II. The most cited work by Vijaya, Lahoti, and Swaminathan (2014) is widely acknowledged for pioneering the shift from household-based to individual-level poverty measurement, especially highlighting gender disparities that are otherwise masked. This study laid the groundwork for a new wave of gender-sensitive poverty analyses, which is further developed by Rogan (2016) and Espinoza-Delgado and Klasen (2018). Both of these studies apply gender-disaggregated multidimensional poverty indices in South Africa and Nicaragua respectively, revealing the unequal burden of poverty on women and strengthening the argument for disaggregated poverty measurement. Their methodological innovations and policy relevance contribute to their high citation frequency. Similarly, Ssennono et al. (2021) introduced a multidimensional energy poverty index (MEPI) for Uganda, capturing a critical and underexplored dimension of poverty that aligns with global concerns about energy access and sustainable development.

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Roelen (2017), through a comprehensive literature review, synthesizes the conceptual and empirical strands of child poverty measurement, making it a foundational resource for scholars working across poverty, childhood development, and policy research. Wang et al. (2021) contribute to the spatial analysis of poverty by constructing a relative welfare poverty index within the Chinese context, which has been particularly influential in regional development planning. More recent contributions such as Balasubramanian, Burchi, and Malerba (2023) have gained rapid academic attention by empirically examining the complex relationship between economic growth and multidimensional poverty reduction, questioning the sufficiency of growth-led development strategies. Bird, Chabé-Ferret, and Simons (2022) apply the Graduation Model within a capability framework, linking poverty alleviation to long-term improvements in human capabilities. Bullock (2013), from a psychological and feminist perspective, provides an interdisciplinary critique of how public policy sustains gendered poverty, a theme increasingly relevant in gender studies and social justice discourse. Lastly, Alkire et al. (2022) revise the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index to improve its robustness and policy alignment, reflecting the continuing evolution of poverty metrics in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Scientometrically, the high citation rates of these articles can be attributed to their conceptual novelty, methodological rigor, and relevance to both academic and policy audiences. These works serve as intellectual anchors within the field, influencing subsequent research across development studies, gender analysis, policy evaluation, and multidimensional measurement frameworks.

Table-II

Rank	Title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited By
1	Moving from the household to the individual: Multidimensional poverty analysis	Vijaya R.M., Lahoti R., Swaminathan H.	2014	*World Development*	90
2	Gender and Multidimensional Poverty in South Africa	Rogan M.	2016	*Social Indicators Research*	76

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| Rank	Title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited By
3	Gender and multidimensional poverty in Nicaragua: Insights from a new individual-level measure	Espinoza-Delgado J., Klasen S.	2018	*World Development*	59
4	Energy poverty in Uganda: Evidence from a multidimensional energy poverty index	Ssennono V.F., Ntayi J.M., Buyinza F., Wasswa F.	2021	*Energy Economics*	56
5	Monetary and Multidimensional Child Poverty: A Literature Review	Roelen K.	2017	*Development and Change*	44
6	Measurement of relative welfare poverty and its spatiotemporal disparities in China	Wang J., Wang C., Li S., Luo Z.	2021	*China Economic Review*	37
7	Does economic growth reduce multidimensional poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa?	Balasubramanian P., Burchi F., Malerba D.	2023	*World Development*	35
8	Linking human capabilities with livelihood strategies: The case of the Graduation Model	Bird K., Chabé-Ferret B., Simons A.	2022	*World Development*	33
9	Women and poverty: Psychology, public policy, and social justice	Bullock H.E.	2013	*Women and Poverty* (Book)	28
10	Revising the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	Alkire S., Kanagaratnam U., Nogales R., Suppa N.	2022	*Review of Income and Wealth*	26

Top Contributing Journals:

From 2012 to 2025, numerous academic publications emerged as major platforms for spreading research on individual-level poverty analysis, as seen by their publication frequency. Social Indicators Research leads with five articles that focus on quantitative and multidimensional approaches to well-being and poverty. World Development follows with four pieces, which are well-known for their broad multidisciplinary reach and influence on global development policy discourse. Child Indicators Research (4 articles) emphasizes a specialized focus on measuring child poverty and

welfare, emphasizing the growing importance of child-specific poverty indicators. The Review of Income and Wealth (3 articles) provides an important forum for methodological innovation in income distribution and multidimensional poverty evaluation.The Journal of Poverty (3 articles) provides a forum for theoretical and empirical investigations of the dynamics of poverty, especially among marginalized groups. With two publications each, Feminist Economics, Economic Modelling, and PLoS ONE are other prominent journals that demonstrate the multidimensional nature of poverty research, encompassing topics such as public health, modelling, and gender and policy. The popularity of these journals reflects a scholarly environment that prioritizes methodological soundness as well as practical applicability in comprehending poverty on a personal level.

The bar chart in figure-V presents the top journals publishing research on individual-level poverty analysis over the period 1990 to 2025.

Figure-V
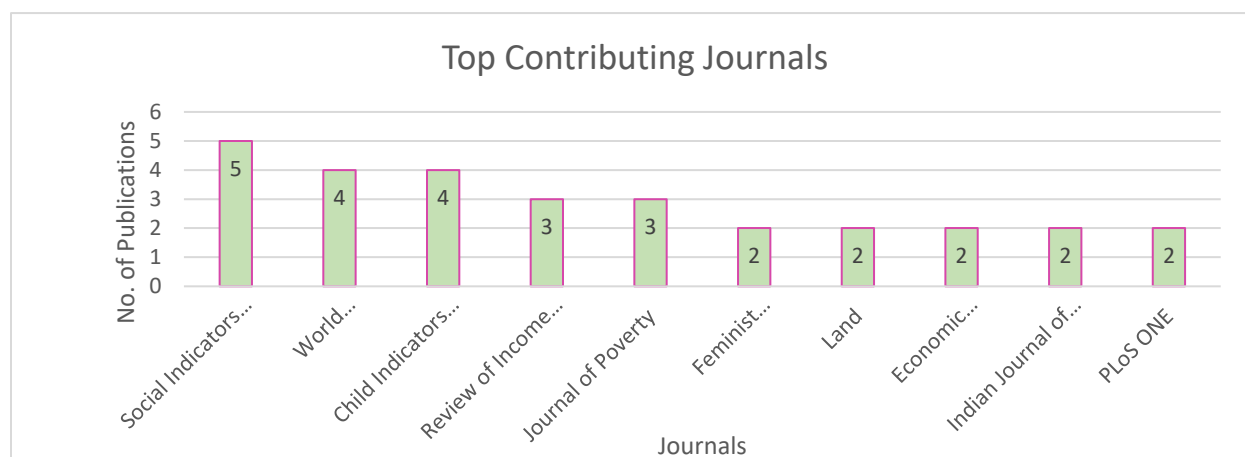
Keyword Co-occurrence:

A keyword co-occurrence tool converts enormous amounts of bibliometric data into interpretable knowledge structures, allowing your scientometric study to go beyond simple counts and explore the intellectual architecture of poverty research. This strategy ensures that your analysis is analytically rich and visually supported, rather than simply descriptive (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). A keyword co-occurrence tool (e.g., VOSviewer, CiteSpace, or Bibliometrix) examines author keywords, titles,

and abstracts in a large number of publications. It then determines how frequently various terms appear in the same texts and creates a network map that depicts those relationships (Cobo et al., 2011).

From 2012 to 2025, keyword co-occurrence analyses were used to determine the principal topic structures in the domain of individual-level poverty research. The bibliographic dataset's author keywords were extracted, standardized, and evaluated with VOSviewer. The co-occurrence network only contained keywords that appeared at least twice in the dataset, ensuring that the study concentrated on phrases with little but relevant relevance to the field. Out of a total of 217 keywords extracted from the literature on individual-level poverty analysis, only 25 met the set threshold for co-occurrence, indicating a concentration of research around a limited set of frequently used terms. The generated keyword co-occurrence map is shown in Figure VI.

Multidimensional poverty" is the center keyword (biggest node), which means it is the most frequently occurring and connected term in the dataset. Surrounding this core are multiple clusters representing different but interconnected research themes. The keyword co-occurrence map highlights five distinct thematic clusters. The blue cluster focuses on methodology, featuring terms like Alkire-Foster method, poverty measurement, and countries such as India and Benin, indicating strong empirical applications. The green cluster emphasizes social and regional aspects, including deprivation, relative poverty, and regions like Latin America and South Africa. The red cluster centers on conceptual themes such as inequality, capability approach, and gender, reflecting a shift beyond income-based poverty measures. The purple cluster explores subgroup analysis, with terms like child poverty and intrahousehold, highlighting individual-level research. Lastly, the yellow cluster links methodology with development, focusing on regions like Odisha and themes like human development. These clusters together show the field's methodological depth, conceptual diversity, and geographical spread.

Keyword clustering allows researchers to categorize literature based on themes such as theoretical perspectives, regional studies, and demographic assessments. Furthermore, the existence of less closely related phrase such as intra-household indicates potential gaps or developing areas for

further research. Thus, keyword co-occurrence not only maps the intellectual landscape but also aids strategic decision-making in literature reviews, research design, and policy-oriented investigations.

Figure VI
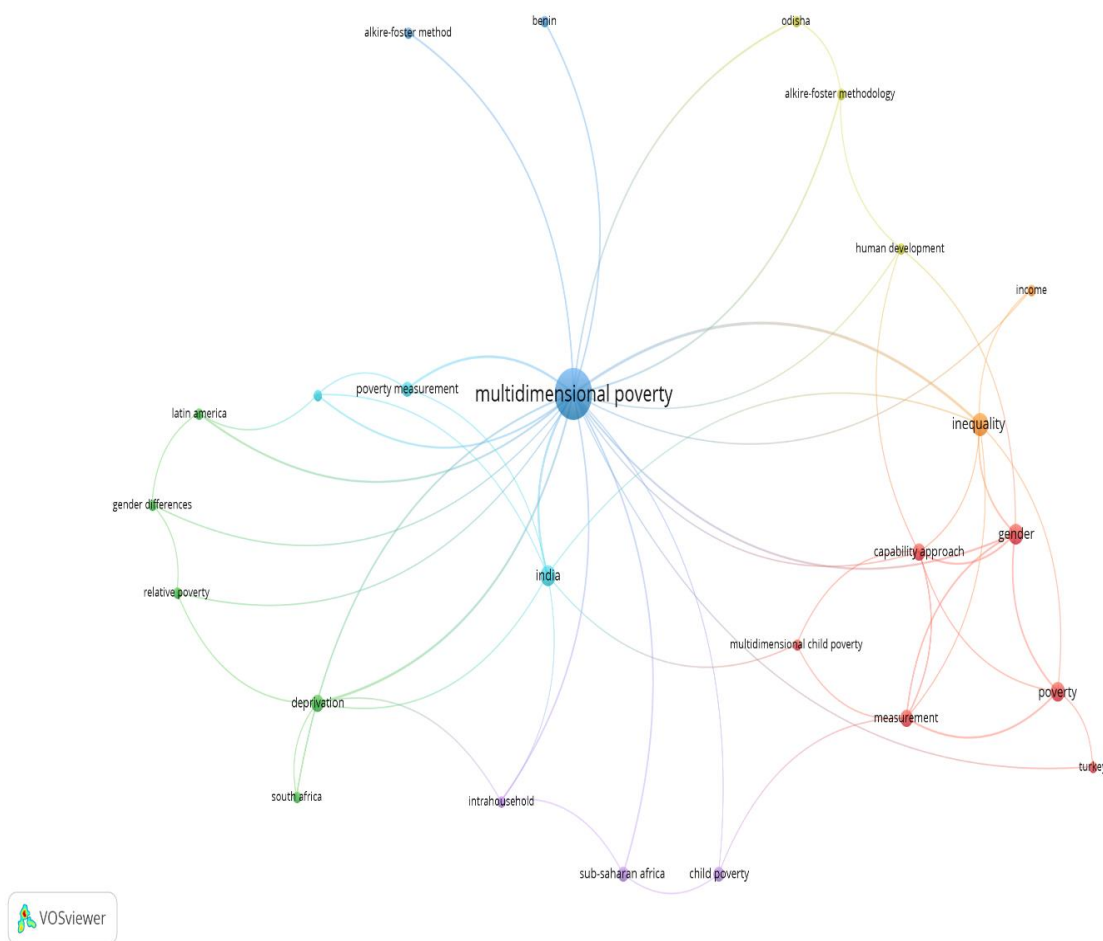
Co-authorship Analysis:

A co-authorship analysis utilising VOSviewer was carried out in order to comprehend the collaboration dynamics in the field of individual-level poverty analysis from 2012 to 2025. The analysis was based on authors who featured in at least two publications, a criterion used to assure the inclusion of contributors with a sustained commitment in the subject while excluding incidental or one-time contributions. This criterion produced a refined network that included the most active and

prominent researchers. The co-authorship network visualization, based on 183 authors, reveals that just 28 writers met the minimal co-authorship connection criterion, indicating that these are the most active or collaborative scholars in the field of individual-level poverty study.However, not all of the 28 authors are connected, indicating a fragmented author landscape in which partnerships are frequently limited to smaller, isolated research teams or locations. The largest connected component (or cluster) has eight authors, implying that this core group is the most influential and collaborative network in the area.

The generated co-authorship map (Figure VII) shows a highly fragmented collaboration structure made up of many tiny clusters and many isolated dyads. The authors Burchi, F., Montenegro, C.E., Espinoza-Delgado, J., and Malerba, D. are at the core of the largest and most connected cluster, which is indicated in red. substantial intra-group connectedness and substantial mutual collaboration among these scholars point to further collaborative research efforts, possibly in case studies of Latin America or multifaceted poverty.

Other prominent author clusters include a blue cluster of Chen, J., Zhang, L., and Wang, C., indicating a collaboration network located in East Asia. A green cluster includes Evans, D.K., Backo, S., Araya, R., and Lund, C., whose work appears to focus on field-based empirical research and development program evaluation. The yellow cluster represents a South Asian relationship between Mishra, S.K., and Biswal, S.N., demonstrating regional academic collaboration. The purple dyad of García-Jaramillo, S. and González-Uribe, C. shows contributions from Latin American institutions, likely focused on context-specific aspects of poverty study. Furthermore, numerous authors appear to be isolated in the network, despite having met the publication requirement. Alkire, a well-known figure in multidimensional poverty research, appears to be detached from the dataset's primary co-authorship clusters. This could imply solo authorship, cooperation outside the visible network or participation in methodological development rather than co-authored empirical work.

Additionally, several authors appear isolated in the network, despite meeting the publication threshold. Alkire ,A well-known figure in multidimensional poverty research, appears disconnected from the main co-authorship clusters in this dataset. This may suggest solo authorship, collaborations

outside the visible network (e.g., with infrequent co-authors), or involvement in methodological development rather than co-authored empirical work.

Overall, the map shows a lack of cross-cluster collaboration, indicating that the field is both thematically and geographically fragmented. The preponderance of tiny, detached author teams shows that, while there is ongoing research activity, opportunities for greater multidisciplinary and international collaboration are being overlooked. Promoting cross-institutional and cross-regional collaboration could considerably improve the field's coherence and innovation potential.

Figure VII

4. Discussions:

The scientometric data offered in this study highlights a substantial movement in poverty research away from household-level poverty assessment and toward more complex, individual-level, multidimensional poverty analysis. This shift reflects both scientific advances and rising policy need for disaggregated, individual-centric poverty.

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Increasing Academic Interest and Temporal Trends:

The publication trend shows a substantial increase in scholarly output beginning in 2018, which corresponds to the worldwide momentum surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty). This period is also characterized by improved data availability from sources such as DHS, LSMS, and time-use surveys, which enable individual-level analysis. The ongoing growth through 2025 shows that academic and policy interests will remain strong.

Conceptual Shifts: From Household to Individual:

Individual-level analysis is a conceptual shift from the dominating unit of analysis in traditional poverty studies. Previous research focused mostly on household aggregates, which frequently obscured intra-household differences, particularly along gender and age boundaries. Recent research has emphasized capacities, access to resources, and personal deprivation, which is consistent with the normative foundations of the capacity approach. The prevalence of phrases like "gender," "capability," and "time poverty" supports this transition.

Gender and intra-household inequalities:

A significant body of research focuses on gender-specific deprivations, which are frequently overlooked in aggregate household assessments. Research by writers such as Roelen and Pham indicates how women's and children's poverty experiences differ from those of men, even within the same home. The rise of "time poverty" as a theme area demonstrates the increased emphasis on non-income components of poverty, particularly the unequal burden of unpaid labor.

Thematic Clustering and Methodological Innovation:

Individual-level poverty research has three main threads, according to thematic analysis: methodological innovation, empirical application, and policy relevance. A number of studies employ the capabiliity method, which includes multidimensional indices that account for non-income aspects like time poverty, empowerment, and intra-household inequality. Empirical studies are frequently

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context-specific, concentrating on underprivileged groups in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. These studies reveal identity-based disadvantages and use localized data to guide tailored solutions. Furthermore, an increasing number of articles link individual-level poverty measures to policy outcomes including the effectiveness of social safety and gender-sensitive programs.

Collaboration and Knowledge Networks:

The field is characterized by increasing but unequal international collaboration. High-income research institutions, such as those in Western Europe and North America, continue to lead in theoretical and methodological developments, while scholars from low- and middle-income countries, particularly in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America, provide rich empirical insights based on local contexts. Collaborations between these groups are becoming more widespread, sometimes facilitated by international funding and development collaborations. However, horizontal collaboration across universities in the Global South remains limited, and academics from poor nations continue to be underrepresented in lead authorship roles. Strengthening research capacity, developing equitable partnerships, and encouraging inclusive authorship practices are critical steps toward creating a more balanced and representative global knowledge ecosystem for poverty research.

5. Conclusion:

This scientometric review depicts a field in transition—expanding in scope, deepening in complexity, and opening up new avenues for comprehending poverty at the individual level. The emergence of this research environment reflects a larger ethical and empirical shift toward inclusiveness, precision, and justice in poverty analysis. However, attaining the full potential of individual-level poverty research would necessitate ongoing collaboration, methodological diversity, and significant support for researchers in underrepresented areas.

Gaps and Future Directions

Despite significant progress, some gaps still exist in the scientific landscape of individual-level poverty studies.

i. Geographic imbalance: Research is primarily conducted in high-income countries, with minimal contributions from low-income regions. Future research should encourage South-South and North-South collaboration while also including underrepresented locations.

ii. Data limitations: Most analyses use cross-sectional data, which limits insights into poverty trends. Longitudinal and panel datasets are required to study transitions and persistence throughout time.

iii. Gender Disparities and Intra-Household Inequalities: Many research studies often overlooks this aspect. Future work should use an intersectional approach, taking into account gender, age, and other identity characteristics.

iv. Narrow Methodology: Quantitative approaches are the primary approach. Incorporating qualitative and mixed methodologies can provide more in-depth insights into people's lived experiences of poverty.

v. Limited Policy Focus: There is a disconnect between research and policy implementation. Future research should improve policy relevance and encourage actionable outcomes.

6. Limitations of the study:

This study has a number of limitations. It is based primarily on Scopus-indexed English-language articles, which may exclude significant research from other databases, non-English sources, and grey literature. The search is based on author-provided keywords and titles, which may exclude research that use alternative terminology. Furthermore, co-authorship and citation analyses may not fully indicate the extent of collaboration or intellectual impact. Thematic material is not thoroughly evaluated, and country contributions are based on author affiliation rather than study focus. Future study should use numerous databases, non-English literature, and qualitative or content-based analyses to create a more thorough and context-rich understanding of individual-level poverty research.

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