



**BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MUSRENBANG:
TRENDS, INNOVATIONS, AND CHALLENGES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING**

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ABSTRACT

This study employs a bibliometric approach to analyze trends in women's participation in Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums) at the subdistrict level, focusing on Parepare City, Indonesia. Using bibliographic data from global scientific databases, the study identifies publication patterns, author collaborations, and key themes in the literature on women's participation in development planning. The findings reveal that while regional autonomy and political reforms have encouraged public involvement, women's participation remains constrained by male-dominated representation and a lack of mechanisms addressing gender-sensitive needs. Furthermore, innovations such as the Women's and Children's Musrenbang introduced in Parepare are identified as efforts to enhance inclusivity. However, challenges such as insufficient representation and inadequate follow-up on women's proposals persist. This study provides a bibliometric analysis of the dynamics of women's participation in development planning and offers literature-based recommendations to enhance their active and meaningful involvement.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Women's, Musrenbang, development



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A. INTRODUCTION

The governmental system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, as outlined in the 1945 Constitution, grants regional autonomy to local governments, emphasizing principles of democracy, community participation, equity, justice, and regional diversity. Women's participation is explicitly guaranteed in Article 28C(2) and Article

28D(3), affirming their rights to advance themselves and access equal opportunities in government. Additionally, Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Governance reinforces the importance of community involvement in urban development to empower citizens and ensure their influence on local policymaking. However, these legal provisions often lack mechanisms for implementation, leaving significant gaps in practice, especially concerning women's inclusion in decision-making processes.

Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums) has emerged as a critical platform for public participation in Indonesia's development planning. These forums align with Law No. 23 of 2014, which emphasizes participatory governance. At the subdistrict level, Musrenbang provides an annual space for stakeholders to discuss and agree on priority programs for the upcoming fiscal year. Despite regulations mandating women's representation, their involvement remains limited, often relegated to male-dominated neighborhood delegations, which prioritize infrastructure over gender-sensitive needs.

While there is a growing body of literature on participatory governance, studies on women's participation in Musrenbang remain fragmented. The challenges of ensuring gender-sensitive representation, addressing systemic barriers, and integrating women's proposals into actionable policies are underexplored. Furthermore, despite the introduction of innovative initiatives like Parepare City's Women's and Children's Musrenbang, there is insufficient empirical evidence on their effectiveness. Current research often lacks a comprehensive view of how women's participation trends have evolved globally and regionally over time, and how Indonesia's experiences align with these trends.

Research by Sari et al. (2021) highlights the structural and cultural barriers to women's participation in Indonesia's Musrenbang, emphasizing the dominance of male perspectives in determining community priorities. The study concludes that tokenistic inclusion often undermines the substantive contributions of women. Meanwhile, a global perspective by Berman et al. (2022) compares participatory governance practices across Southeast Asia, identifying Indonesia's Musrenbang as a unique yet underutilized platform for empowering women in decision-making processes. Both studies underline the need for systematic efforts to enhance inclusivity and ensure that women's voices translate into tangible policy outcomes.

This study introduces a bibliometric approach to systematically analyze existing research on women's participation in development planning, focusing on identifying publication trends, thematic patterns, and collaboration networks. Unlike traditional qualitative or quantitative studies, this approach provides a macro-level understanding of research developments and highlights gaps in knowledge. Additionally, by situating the findings within the context of innovative practices like Parepare City's initiatives, this study bridges theoretical insights and practical applications, offering a novel perspective on inclusive governance.

The findings from this research aim to provide evidence-based recommendations to enhance inclusive practices and strengthen the implementation of participatory mechanisms for gender-sensitive governance. Moreover, this study contributes to the discourse on good governance by emphasizing the need for sustained efforts to institutionalize women's participation through policy innovations and cross-sectoral collaborations.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a bibliometric research approach to systematically analyze trends and patterns in academic publications related to women's participation in development planning, particularly in Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums). Bibliometric analysis, as described by Aria and Cuccurullo (2023), is a quantitative research method used to evaluate scholarly outputs, citation patterns, co-authorship networks, and thematic developments within a specific field of study. This methodology enables researchers to identify gaps in existing literature, assess the impact of prior studies, and uncover emerging topics (Van Eck & Waltman, 2022).

a) Data Collection

The primary data source for this study is bibliographic records retrieved from reputable academic databases, such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Dimensions. The search terms used include combinations of keywords such as *women's participation*, *Musrenbang*, *development planning*, *gender-sensitive governance*, and *inclusive policymaking*. The dataset includes publications from 2000 to 2024 to capture the evolution of research trends over time.

b) Data Analysis

The bibliometric analysis will utilize software tools such as VOSviewer and Biblioshiny for R. The analysis will focus on:

- 1) **Publication Trends:** Identifying the annual growth of publications and key contributors in the field.
- 2) **Co-Authorship Analysis:** Mapping collaborations between authors, institutions, and countries.
- 3) **Co-Citation Analysis:** Identifying influential studies and clusters of related research.
- 4) **Keyword Analysis:** Exploring the frequency and connections of key terms to uncover thematic patterns and emerging research areas.

c) Study Scope and Period

This study will focus on academic publications that explore women's participation in development planning at the global and regional levels, with a particular emphasis on Indonesia. Data collection and analysis will be conducted over a three-month period, from September 2024 to December 2024.

d) Research Contributions

This methodological approach is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research landscape on women’s participation in development planning. It will highlight underexplored areas, inform future research directions, and offer evidence-based insights for policy development.



Figure 1 Framework Diagram

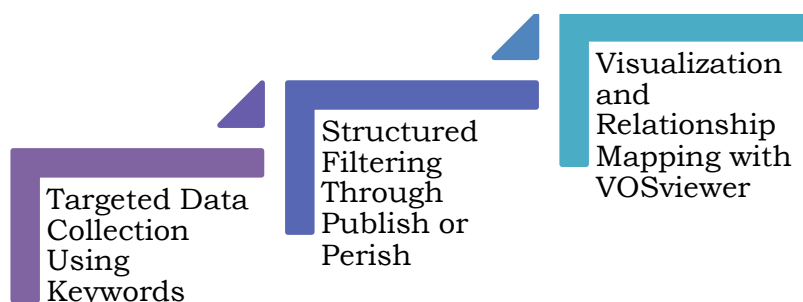


Figure 2 Data Analysis Process

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Publication Trends

The bibliometric analysis conducted in this study reveals a steady increase in publications related to women’s participation in development planning over the past two decades, from 2000 to 2024. Initially, the number of publications in this area remained relatively low, with sporadic contributions from researchers across various disciplines. However, since 2010, a notable upward trajectory is observed, signaling a growing scholarly interest in gender issues within the context of public policy and governance. This surge in publications is largely influenced by the global emphasis on gender equality, particularly in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015 and

prioritize gender equality as a key aspect of sustainable development. As a result, academic communities worldwide have become more engaged in exploring the intersections of gender, governance, and development planning.

In Indonesia, this increase in research output correlates closely with the implementation of regional autonomy laws and political reforms, which have provided more opportunities for public involvement in local governance. The decentralization process, particularly through the enactment of Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Governance and its subsequent revisions, has enabled local governments to engage citizens more directly in decision-making processes. One of the key platforms for this engagement is the Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums), which has become a critical arena for public participation. This development has led to increased academic scrutiny of Musrenbang and other participatory governance mechanisms, particularly regarding their effectiveness in integrating women’s voices into the planning and policy-making processes.

The period between 2010 and 2014 witnessed a marked shift toward recognizing the importance of gender-sensitive governance structures. As the literature reveals, the growing body of research in this domain has increasingly highlighted the challenges faced by women in participatory spaces, such as Musrenbang. Despite legal frameworks designed to ensure inclusivity, the literature documents that women’s participation remains constrained by cultural norms, power dynamics, and institutional barriers. Consequently, the upward trend in publications is not only indicative of the expanding field of study but also reflects ongoing concerns with achieving meaningful gender equality in participatory governance. As the global discourse on gender equality strengthens, further research will be required to assess how well local governance frameworks, like Musrenbang, can adapt to promote true inclusivity and equal representation for women in development planning.

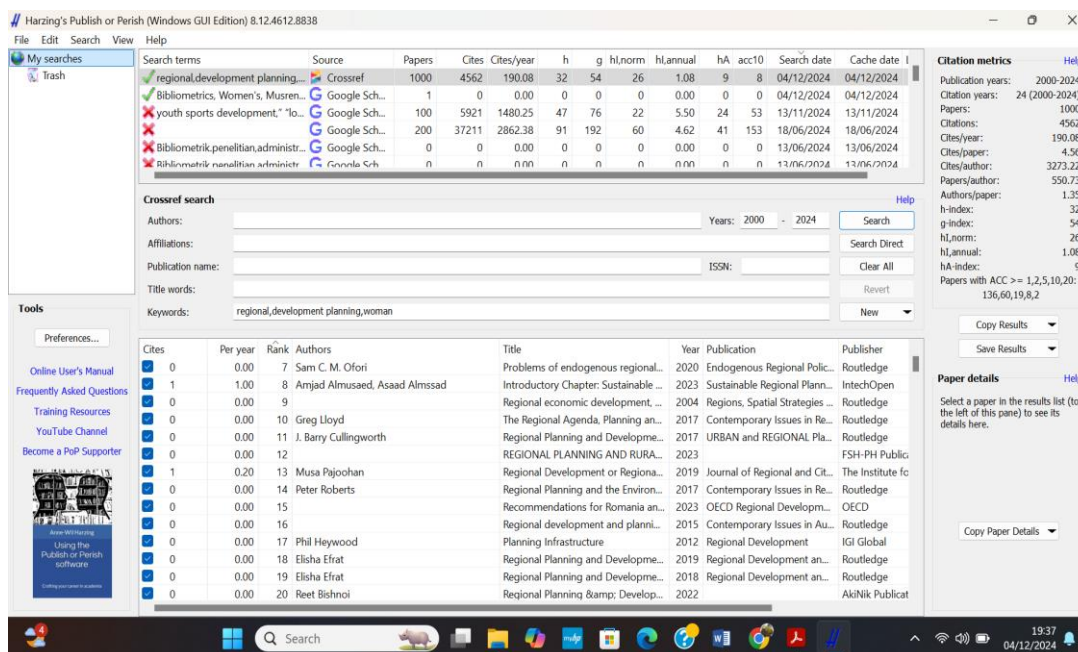


Figure 3 crossref Database Search in Publish or Perish

The bibliometric analysis reveals several prominent authors and institutions that have significantly contributed to the study of women's participation in development planning, particularly within the context of Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums). Among the leading contributors are researchers from prominent Indonesian institutions such as Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Indonesia, which have been at the forefront of investigating local governance, gender-sensitive policymaking, and community participation. In addition to domestic scholars, international collaborations have also made valuable contributions to the field, particularly through partnerships with global institutions like Leiden University. These collaborations have enabled a broader exchange of ideas, enriching the research landscape with diverse perspectives on governance and gender equality.

Citation metrics		Help
Publication years:	2000-2024	
Citation years:	24 (2000-2024)	
Papers:	1000	
Citations:	4562	
Cites/year:	190.08	
Cites/paper:	4.56	
Cites/author:	3273.22	
Papers/author:	550.73	
Authors/paper:	1.35	
h-index:	32	
g-index:	54	
hI,norm:	26	
hI,annual:	1.08	
hA-index:	9	
Papers with ACC >= 1,2,5,10,20:	136,60,19,8,2	

Table 1 Citation Metrics in Publish or Perish

The co-authorship network analysis conducted in this study reveals that most of the scholarly output in this field has been generated within national boundaries, with limited collaboration between Indonesian researchers and international scholars. While there have been some partnerships, especially in comparative studies of Southeast Asian governance practices, the overall network suggests that there is significant untapped potential for global research collaborations. Strengthening cross-border research networks could enhance the depth of analysis and foster the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, ultimately enriching the academic discourse on participatory governance and women's involvement in local development planning.

Selected	Term	Occurrences	Relevance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	wales	3	4.44
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	endogenous regional development policy	3	4.40
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sweden	4	4.12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	scotland	5	3.99
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	patterns	3	3.60
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	northern ireland	3	3.59
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	residential land development	3	3.28
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	kenya	3	3.27
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	costa rica	3	3.09
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	regional difference	3	2.97
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	regional development process	3	2.92
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	stronger line	3	2.85
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	thailand	3	2.48
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basin development planning	3	2.44
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	proceeding	3	2.44
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vientiane	3	2.44
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protected areas	4	2.36
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ghana	3	2.30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	national planning	4	2.23
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	treatment	5	2.12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	woman	16	2.10

Table 2 Verification of selected terms

In terms of thematic focus, keyword analysis highlights several recurring themes that dominate the literature. Central topics include women's participation in decision-making, Musrenbang as a platform for community engagement, and gender-sensitive governance practices. Other important themes include the broader concept of development planning and community empowerment, with a clear emphasis on making governance more inclusive. In recent years, emerging keywords like "inclusive policymaking," "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," and "local governance innovation" have gained traction, reflecting a growing interest in aligning local governance practices with global standards for inclusivity and sustainability. These evolving themes indicate that scholars are increasingly exploring how local governance mechanisms can better integrate gender considerations to meet broader development goals.

The co-citation analysis further uncovers four major thematic clusters that illustrate the interconnections within the literature. The first cluster centers on gender-sensitive governance frameworks, focusing on how policies can be designed to promote equality and inclusivity. The second cluster examines participatory planning in decentralized systems, highlighting the role of local governments and their efforts to involve diverse community members in decision-making. The third cluster delves into the barriers preventing women from fully participating in policymaking, such as societal norms, lack of representation, and institutional constraints. Finally, the fourth cluster focuses on innovations in inclusive governance, particularly initiatives like Musrenbang Perempuan dan Anak, which aim to elevate women and children's voices in development planning. These clusters underscore the complex, interconnected nature of research on gender equity, governance reforms, and public participation, with each cluster addressing a critical aspect of the broader topic.

Despite the growing body of literature on this subject, there remain notable gaps in empirical research. For instance, there is a lack of studies that examine the actual impact of women's proposals in Musrenbang on policy outcomes, and how these proposals are translated into actionable plans by local governments. Furthermore, while gender-focused innovations such as Parepare City's Women's and Children's Musrenbang have garnered attention, limited research exists on their effectiveness in achieving sustainable development

goals or addressing specific gender-sensitive needs. Addressing these gaps will be crucial for advancing both the academic understanding of women’s participation in development planning and the practical implications for policy improvement in local governance.

In a broader comparative context, the Musrenbang system in Indonesia is distinctive, offering a unique model for participatory governance in Southeast Asia. However, challenges such as women’s underrepresentation and the exclusion of their proposals from policy agendas are not unique to Indonesia. Similar issues have been reported in other countries in the region, such as the Philippines and Vietnam, where women’s voices often remain marginalized in public decision-making processes. This comparison highlights the need for continued efforts to strengthen gender inclusion in local governance structures, with lessons from one country potentially informing reforms in others.

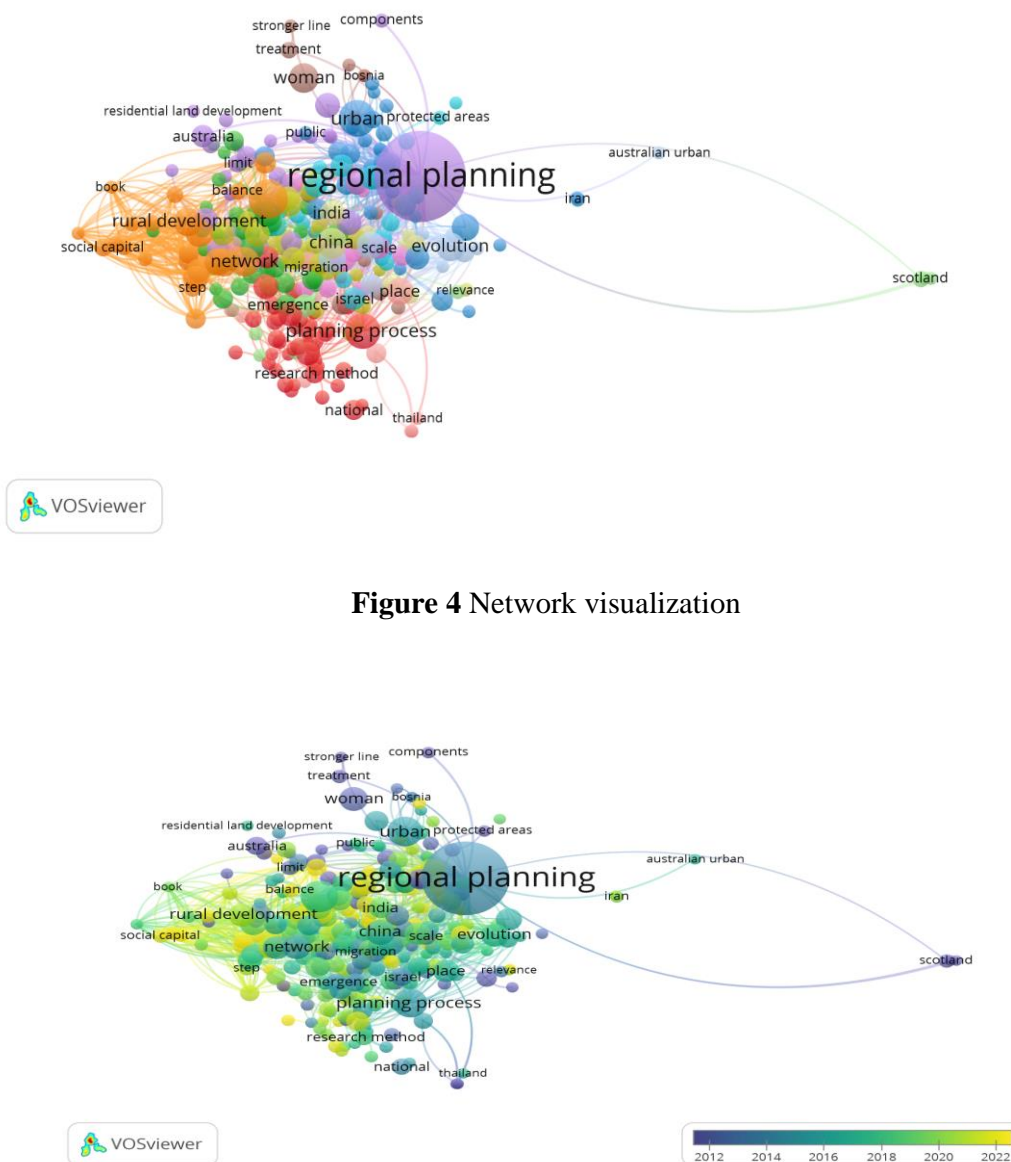


Figure 4 Network visualization

Figure 4 Overlay visualization results

of these terms in the literature highlights the growing recognition of the need for gender-sensitive governance structures that can contribute to achieving the SDGs.

D. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Conclusion**

- 1) This bibliometric analysis has provided valuable insights into the growing body of literature on women's participation in development planning, particularly within the context of Musrenbang (Development Planning Forums) in Indonesia. The study found a significant increase in research output over the past two decades, with a notable rise since 2010, reflecting both global trends in gender equality and Indonesia's political and governance reforms. Key contributions have come from domestic institutions such as Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Indonesia, alongside international collaborations, which have explored various aspects of participatory governance, gender-sensitive policymaking, and community empowerment. Despite the growing body of literature, the analysis also identified several gaps, particularly in empirical research on the impact of women's participation in Musrenbang and the effectiveness of gender-sensitive innovations like the Women's and Children's Musrenbang in Parepare.
- 2) The co-authorship and co-citation analyses revealed that while there are some international collaborations, most research remains domestically focused. This suggests a need for stronger global research networks to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance the depth of scholarly inquiry. Additionally, the thematic analysis highlighted several recurring themes such as inclusive policymaking, gender-sensitive governance, and the empowerment of women in local development processes. However, key gaps remain in assessing the actual outcomes of women's contributions in Musrenbang and the institutional mechanisms that support or hinder their active participation. These findings suggest that further research is needed to explore the practical impact of women's involvement in decision-making and how local governance structures can be improved to better integrate gender considerations.

- **Recommendations**

- 1) Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to advance both the research and practice of women's participation in development planning. First, future studies should focus on empirical research that examines the direct impact of women's participation in Musrenbang on policy outcomes. This research should assess how women's proposals are incorporated into development plans and the effectiveness of these proposals in addressing gender-sensitive needs.

- 2) Second, there is a need for more collaborative, interdisciplinary research that bridges the gap between domestic and international scholars. Strengthening global research networks will enhance comparative studies and foster the exchange of best practices for improving gender inclusion in local governance. By learning from each other's experiences, countries in Southeast Asia and beyond can refine their governance models to promote greater gender equality.
- 3) Third, local governments should invest in training and capacity-building programs that empower women to participate more effectively in development planning. These initiatives should not only focus on increasing the number of women involved but also on ensuring that women's voices are heard and their needs addressed within policy discussions.
- 4) Finally, more attention should be given to the evaluation of gender-focused innovations like Parepare City's Women's and Children's Musrenbang. Research should assess the effectiveness of such initiatives in achieving their intended outcomes and identify barriers to their success. This evaluation will provide valuable insights for refining these programs and ensuring they meet the needs of marginalized groups, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and sustainable development planning.

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