



Mapping Research Trends in Reproductive Health Among Female Adolescents: A Bibliometric Analysis Using Dimensions.Ai and Vosviewer

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ABSTRACT

Reproductive health and positive mental health are crucial components of adolescent girls' overall well-being, deeply interconnected and influenced by social, economic, and environmental factors. Adolescent girls face unique challenges in managing both reproductive and mental health, impacted by societal pressures, limited access to health education, and disparities in healthcare. This study aims to analyze trends, themes, and patterns in the literature related to reproductive health and positive mental health among female adolescents, using bibliometric methods to identify key focus areas, research gaps, and influential studies published between 2019 and 2024. This bibliometric analysis followed a simplified PRISMA approach involving identification, screening, and inclusion stages. An initial search identified 1,015 articles on reproductive health and positive mental health in adolescent girls (2020-2024). After abstract and title screening, 856 articles were included. Data analysis using VOSviewer allowed for the visualization of bibliometric networks, highlighting key themes and citation patterns. The analysis revealed that reproductive health education, resilience, and mental well-being are central themes, with stress and social relationships significantly influencing health behaviors. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges in accessing services, while digital solutions emerged as promising interventions. This study emphasizes the importance of integrated approaches to reproductive and mental health, providing a basis for future research and policy development to support adolescent girls' well-being.

Keywords: Bibliometric analysis; Mental health; Reproductive health; Female adolescents

ABSTRAK

Kesehatan reproduksi dan kesehatan mental positif adalah komponen penting dari kesejahteraan remaja perempuan, yang saling terkait dan dipengaruhi oleh faktor sosial, ekonomi, dan lingkungan. Remaja perempuan menghadapi tantangan unik dalam mengelola kesehatan reproduksi dan mental, terpengaruh oleh tekanan masyarakat, akses terbatas terhadap pendidikan kesehatan, dan ketimpangan dalam layanan kesehatan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tren, tema, dan pola dalam literatur terkait kesehatan reproduksi dan kesehatan mental positif di kalangan remaja perempuan, menggunakan metode bibliometrik untuk mengidentifikasi area fokus, kesenjangan penelitian, dan studi berpengaruh yang diterbitkan antara 2019 dan 2024. Analisis ini mengikuti pendekatan PRISMA yang disederhanakan, dengan identifikasi, penyaringan, dan tahap inklusi. Dari pencarian awal yang mengidentifikasi 1.015 artikel, 856 artikel disertakan setelah penyaringan. Analisis data dengan VOSviewer memvisualisasikan jaringan bibliometrik, menyoroti tema kunci dan pola kutipan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan kesehatan reproduksi, ketahanan, dan kesejahteraan mental adalah tema sentral, dengan stres dan hubungan sosial memengaruhi perilaku kesehatan. Pandemi COVID-19 memperburuk tantangan akses layanan, sedangkan solusi digital muncul sebagai intervensi menjanjikan. Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya pendekatan terintegrasi untuk mendukung kesejahteraan remaja perempuan.

Kata kunci: Analisis bibliometrik; Kesehatan mental; Kesehatan reproduksi; Remaja perempuan

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INTRODUCTION

Reproductive health is a critical area of public health that significantly impacts the well-being of individuals, particularly among female adolescents.(Engel et al., 2019),(Ali, 2023),(Desrosiers et al., 2020) As global attention increasingly focuses on the reproductive health needs of young women, understanding the research landscape becomes essential for informing policy and practice.(Shikuku et al., 2021),(O'Uhuru et al., 2017; Windyan Kestri Hardhani, 2022) This bibliometric analysis aims to map the research trends in reproductive health among female adolescents, utilizing Dimensions.AI and VOSviewer to visualize and analyze the existing literature. Recent studies have underscored the importance of empowering women and enhancing their access to reproductive health services. For instance, (Abadian, 2022) highlights that higher education in women correlates with increased decision-making power and improved utilization of reproductive health services, which is crucial for reducing maternal mortality (Abadian, 2022) (Abadian, 2022).

This empowerment is further supported by community perspectives that reveal barriers to men's involvement in maternity care, indicating a need for inclusive approaches that engage both genders in reproductive health discussions (Gibore & Bali, 2020; Teklesilasi & Deressa, 2020) Moreover, the literature indicates that knowledge of reproductive rights is essential for adolescents. A study by Yuya et al. (2021) found that participation in reproductive health clubs significantly increased the knowledge of reproductive rights among students (Yuya et al., 2021). This finding emphasizes the role of educational interventions in promoting awareness and understanding of reproductive health issues among young women. Despite these advancements, significant gaps remain in the research concerning the evaluation of reproductive health policies and their effectiveness in fulfilling human rights. For instance, Agblevor (2023) discusses the implementation gaps in Ghana's adolescent health service policy, highlighting the need for comprehensive sexual health education to address the unique needs of adolescents (Agblevor, 2023) . Furthermore, the barriers to accessing reproductive health services, as identified by (Abuosi & Anaba, 2019), underscore the challenges adolescents face in navigating healthcare systems (Abuosi & Anaba, 2019; Asefa et al., 2022)

This bibliometric analysis will explore these themes and trends, focusing on the intersection of reproductive health, policy implementation, and human rights fulfillment. By utilizing advanced bibliometric tools, this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current research landscape, identify key areas for future exploration, and ultimately contribute to more inclusive and evidence-based policymaking in reproductive health for female adolescents.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Approach

The data that the researcher used was based on an online search from the dimensions.ai application where gave the keywords : bibilometric analysis;mental possitivity; health reproduction, female adolescent, the researcher chooses one based on free text infull data. Where the research is limited from 2019– 2024. The data sources used in this study were based on online search via publish or perish. This bibliometric analysis followed a simplified PRISMA approach involving identification, screening, and inclusion stages. Using Publish or Perish, a search on reproductive health and positive mental health in adolescent girls (2019-2024) initially identified 1,015 articles. After abstract and title screening, 856 articles were included. Data analysis with VOSviewer allowed for the visualization of bibliometric networks, highlighting key themes, citation patterns, and co-authorship relationships in the literature. The literature review has been finished by means of identifying the varieties of available evidence and key elements associated with reproductive health dan positive mental health in adolescent girls. A total of five steps suggested by using Tricco et al. were followed in this research, (1) pick out the research query, (2) perceive relevant preceding research, (3) select using an iterative team method, (4) chart the information by way of summarizing quantitative information and qualitative thematic evaluation, and (5) collate, summarize, and record the results, but, endorsed consultation with stakeholders turned into now not implemented when you consider that it is taken into consideration an optional element of review critiques (Murniati et al., 2022)-(Chambers et al., 2016).

Selecting Data

The data selection process for this bibliometric analysis involved a systematic approach in three main stages: identification, screening, and inclusion. Initially, a comprehensive search was conducted using the Publish or Perish software, utilizing keywords such as "bibliometric analysis," "reproductive health," "positive mental health," and "female adolescent," which yielded a total of 1,015 articles. In the screening phase, abstracts of these articles were reviewed, resulting in the selection of 989 articles while 26 articles were excluded for not meeting the criteria. Following this, a title-based screening was conducted, narrowing down the selection to 963 articles and excluding an additional 26 articles. In the final inclusion stage, a detailed review of the remaining 963 articles was carried out, ultimately including 856 articles in the synthesis. During this final step, 107 articles were excluded based on refined criteria, ensuring that the selected articles were highly relevant to the research focus. This structured selection process resulted in a robust collection

of 856 articles for the bibliometric analysis, providing a strong foundation for examining trends and gaps in the literature on reproductive health and positive mental health among adolescent girls.

Data Analysis

Data were analysed using VOSviewer. VOSviewer is a software designed to create and visualize bibliometric networks. These networks can include journals, researchers, or individual publications, and are built on citations, bibliographic coupling, co-citation, or co-authorship (Library, 2023),(Arruda et al., 2022).

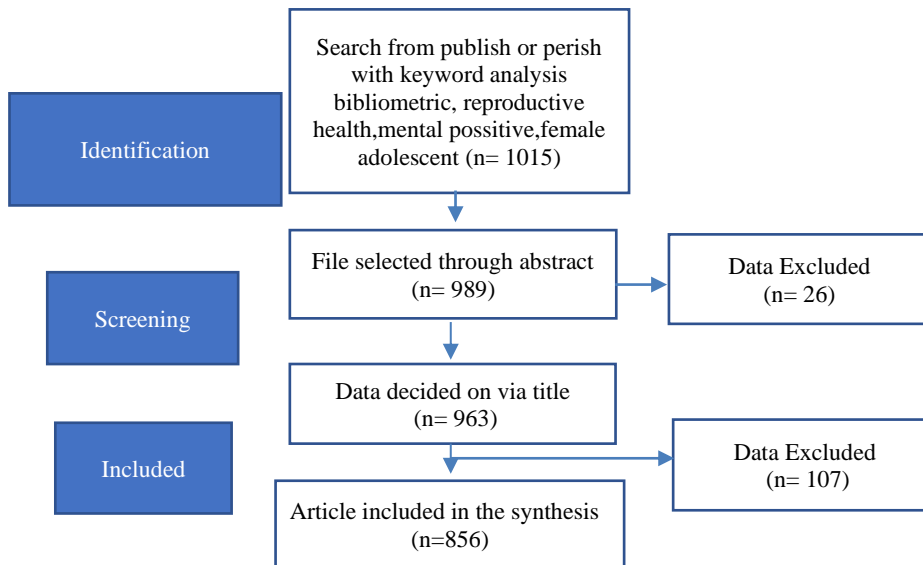


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart

RESULTS OF STUDY

The VOSviewer network visualization at Figure 2 presents That the main focus of the research is on reproductive health and respectful maternity care, which is supported by discussions on reproductive health policymaking and human rights. The complex relationship between these themes demonstrates the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to understanding reproductive health issues. On the other hand, marginalized terms such as pandemic and originality value reflect specific contexts or research fields that have not yet been explored in depth. These visualizations can help researchers to identify key trends, connect relevant subthemes, and find research gaps that have the potential to be explored further. As such, this network map serves as an important tool in formulating new research strategies that focus on reproductive health and global health policy.

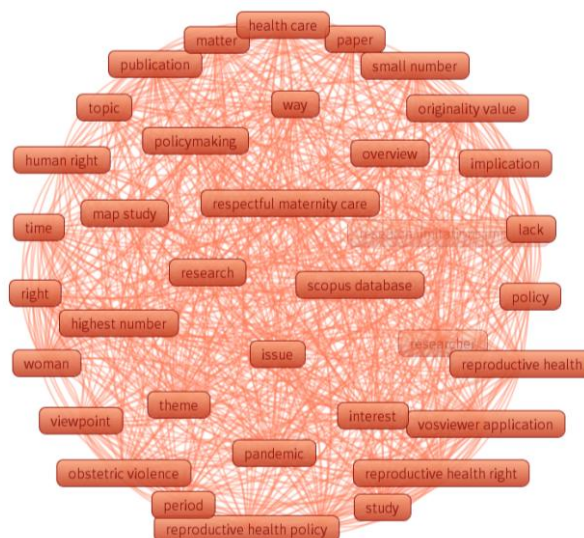


Figure 2. Network visualization

The visualization in dimensions indicates patterns of responsiveness to global issues and their influence on research productivity. The peak in 2020 reflects a surge in research during the pandemic, while subsequent fluctuations indicate a phase of adaptation and reallocation of research resources. The projected 2024 data may indicate the need for further evaluation of research policies and publication support.

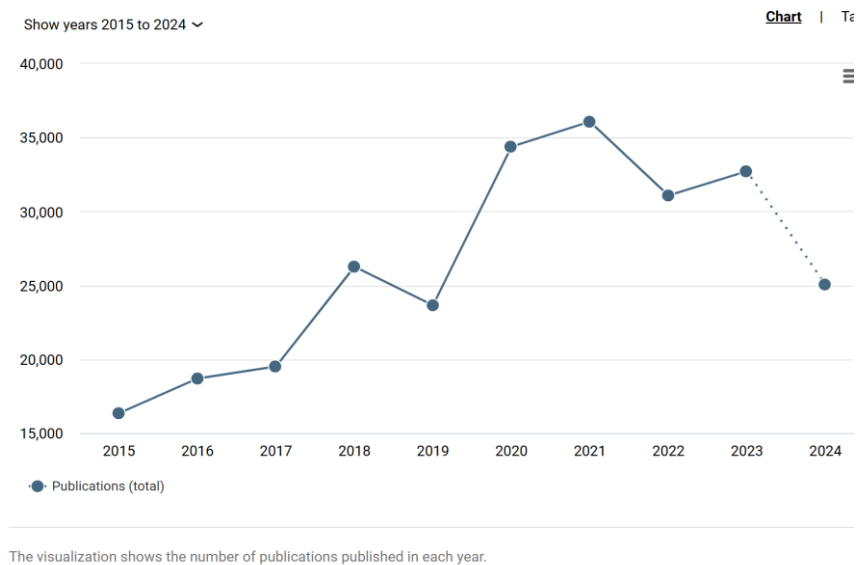


Figure 5. The visualization shows the number of publication published in year

DISCUSSION

Main Theme and Research Focus

Reproductive health and respectful maternity care are the main themes in the visualization. Reproductive health is a fundamental aspect of overall health that encompasses a wide range of services, including family planning, antenatal care, and safe delivery practices. Respectful maternity care is an essential component of reproductive health, focusing on the dignity, autonomy, and rights of women during childbirth. The interplay between these two themes is crucial for achieving better health outcomes for mothers and infants globally. Reproductive health services are vital for ensuring that women can make informed choices regarding their reproductive lives. Access to quality reproductive health services, including antenatal care, is linked to improved maternal health outcomes. For instance, studies have shown that receiving adequate antenatal care significantly reduces the risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth (Zere et al., 2013),(Gebre et al., 2018). However, disparities in access to these services remain prevalent, particularly among marginalized populations. In Ethiopia, for example, socio-economic factors have led to inequities in the uptake of reproductive health services, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions(Daka et al., 2020),(Memirie et al., 2016). Respectful maternity care is characterized by the provision of care that respects women's dignity, privacy, and choices during childbirth. The WHO emphasizes that RMC is essential for improving maternal health outcomes and ensuring that women's rights are upheld during the maternity process(Gleason et al., 2022) . Disrespect and abuse during childbirth can deter women from seeking necessary care, leading to adverse health outcomes(Gleason et al., 2022),(Dingle et al., 2013). For instance, in various studies, it has been noted that women who experience mistreatment during childbirth are less likely to utilize health services in the future, which can perpetuate cycles of poor maternal health(Gleason et al., 2022),(Alam et al., 2015). Despite the recognition of the importance of reproductive health and RMC, numerous barriers hinder access to these services. Geographic disparities, financial constraints, and sociocultural factors significantly impact women's ability to access quality care. For instance, in Bangladesh, wealth disparities have been linked to differences in the utilization of antenatal care services, with poorer women often missing out on critical health interventions(Zere et al., 2013),(Pulok et al., 2020). Similarly, in Ethiopia, women in rural areas face significant challenges in accessing maternal health services, which are exacerbated by a lack of transportation and inadequate health facility infrastructure(Daka et al., 2020),(Kifle et al., 2017). To enhance reproductive health and ensure respectful maternity care, several strategies can be implemented. First, increasing the availability of quality reproductive health services in underserved areas is crucial. This can be achieved through community-based health initiatives that focus on education and outreach(Dangal et al., 2021),(Ram et al., 2016). Additionally, training healthcare providers on the principles of RMC can foster a more supportive environment for women during childbirth(Sudhinaraset et al., 2017),(Maru et al., 2017). Policymakers must also prioritize equitable access to maternal health services, addressing the socio-economic disparities that hinder service utilization(Pulok et al., 2020),(Gebre et al., 2018).

Linkage to policy

The relationship between reproductive health and policy is a critical area of study that highlights how health policies can significantly influence reproductive health outcomes. Policies play a fundamental role in determining the availability and accessibility of reproductive health services. For instance, in Ghana, stakeholders emphasized the need for policies that support service differentiation based on the socio-demographic backgrounds of users, which can enhance the delivery of reproductive services (Gebre et al., 2018). This highlights the importance of tailoring policies to meet the diverse needs of populations, ensuring that reproductive health services are accessible to all. Moreover, the implementation of reproductive health policies often faces challenges due to gaps between policy formulation and execution. In Ghana, the adolescent health service policy was found to have significant implementation gaps, primarily due to the personal opinions of policy actors regarding adolescent sexual health, which affected the practical application of these policies (Gleason et al., 2022). This underscores the necessity for policies to be not only well-designed but also effectively implemented to achieve desired health outcomes. Various barriers can impede access to reproductive health services, often exacerbated by restrictive policies. In the United States, for example, the predominance of abstinence-only education policies has been linked to discouraging trends in the use of reproductive health services among adolescents and young adults (Daka et al., 2020). Such policies can create significant barriers for young women seeking contraceptive services, highlighting the need for comprehensive and inclusive reproductive health policies. In addition, the ambiguity in hospital policies regarding abortion and contraception can lead to confusion and inconsistency in service provision. A study in Washington State revealed that unclear policies, regardless of hospital affiliation, hindered access to essential reproductive health services (Memirie et al., 2016). This indicates that clear and transparent policies are crucial for ensuring that individuals can access the reproductive health services they need. Socioeconomic factors significantly influence the effectiveness of reproductive health policies. In Indonesia, for instance, the implementation of reproductive health policies has been shown to be closely linked to indicators such as maternal mortality ratios and total fertility rates (Alam et al., 2015). Policies that address these socioeconomic determinants are essential for improving reproductive health outcomes. Furthermore, the intersectionality of various factors, including immigration status and cultural background, can affect access to reproductive health services. African women living in Beijing, for example, face challenges such as discriminatory immigration policies and language barriers, which hinder their access to quality reproductive health care (Asuamah & Boateng, 2021), (Asuamah & Boateng, 2021) Asuamah & Boateng, 2021). Policies that consider these intersectional factors are vital for ensuring equitable access to reproductive health services.

Temporal Trends in Research

The change in research focus from year to year reflects the continuity of fundamental issues as well as responses to new trends. Terms such as human rights and policy, which emerged earlier, indicate a sustained interest in legal and policy frameworks in reproductive health. Meanwhile, recent trends such as respectful maternity care and the pandemic reflect responses to urgent needs, including increased awareness of rights-based maternity services and the impact of COVID-19 on access to health services. Research on terms such as reproductive health policy and reproductive health rights also shows efforts to integrate new issues into broader policy and rights frameworks. With the support of methodologies such as the Vosviewer application and bibliometric analysis, research continues to evolve to maintain relevance to basic issues while addressing emerging contextual challenges. Respectful maternity care (RMC) is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as care that is organized and provided in a manner that maintains women's dignity, privacy, and confidentiality, ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment, and enables informed choice and continuous support during labor and childbirth (Asefa et al., 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in maternity care systems worldwide, prompting a growing emphasis on RMC as a necessary response to the urgent needs of pregnant women (Asefa et al., 2022), (Miskeen, 2024). The pandemic has led to significant changes in maternity care practices, often resulting in restricted access to support persons during childbirth. For instance, a study conducted in the UK revealed that 81% of women reported exclusion of birth partners from appointments, which negatively impacted their experiences and emotional well-being (Jackson et al., 2023). This lack of companionship during labor and delivery contradicts the principles of RMC, which emphasize the importance of support systems for women during childbirth (Wilson et al., 2021). Moreover, the pandemic has highlighted the need for patient-centered care. In Kenya, women reported that the increased attention and privacy they received during outpatient care, as a result of COVID-19 mitigation measures, led to better experiences of dignified care (Oluoch-Aridi et al., 2020). This suggests that while the pandemic has created barriers, it has also opened avenues for enhancing the quality of maternity care through a focus on respect and dignity. Despite the increased emphasis on RMC, the pandemic has also exacerbated challenges in its implementation. Healthcare providers faced heightened workloads and stress, which negatively impacted their ability to practice RMC effectively (Pokharel et al., 2023), (Pokharel et al., 2022). A cross-sectional study in Nepal found that healthcare providers who tested positive for COVID-19 exhibited lower scores in RMC practices, indicating that the pandemic's strain on healthcare systems has detrimental effects on the quality of care provided (Pokharel et al., 2023). Furthermore, the emotional distress experienced by women due to misinformation and lack of communication during the pandemic has been identified as a barrier to RMC (Jones et al., 2022). The uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and its implications for maternal health has led to increased anxiety among pregnant women, further complicating their experiences with maternity care (Schröder et al., 2021).

Identifying Research Gaps

Terms on the periphery of the network such as originality value, implication, and Scopus database show that topics related to research methodologies, policy impact evaluation, and the use of scientific data in policy development are still rarely explored compared to key themes such as reproductive health and policy. This reflects a gap in more in-depth research regarding the evaluation of policy implementation, its effectiveness, and the specific relationship between reproductive health policies and human rights fulfillment. Although major themes such as reproductive health policy have been the focus of attention, research that integrates scientific data-driven policy evaluations and their impact on human rights still has great potential to be developed, especially in support of more inclusive and evidence-based policymaking.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the interconnectedness of reproductive and mental health is a critical area of study that requires continued exploration, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and existing inequalities in access to care. By leveraging innovative solutions and fostering integrated approaches, stakeholders can enhance the well-being of adolescents and promote healthier reproductive behaviors (Hübner et al., 2022; Otu & Yaya, 2022; Phelan et al., 2021).

Based on the summary provided, the following recommendations can be made to address the interconnectedness of reproductive and mental health, especially in the context of challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and existing inequalities:

1. **Integrated Health Services:** Develop and implement programs that integrate reproductive and mental health services to provide holistic care for adolescents. This can involve combining counseling, education, and medical services in one platform or location.
2. **Leveraging Technology:** Utilize digital tools and telehealth platforms to deliver accessible and scalable reproductive and mental health interventions, particularly in underserved or remote areas. These tools can include mobile apps, online counseling services, and educational campaigns.
3. **Equitable Access to Care:** Address disparities by improving access to both reproductive and mental health services for marginalized communities. This may involve subsidizing care, offering mobile clinics, or enhancing community-based services.
4. **Awareness and Education Campaigns:** Launch targeted educational programs to raise awareness about the link between mental health and reproductive health. These campaigns should promote mental well-being as an essential aspect of reproductive health and vice versa.
5. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Foster partnerships between governments, non-profits, healthcare providers, educators, and families to create a supportive environment for adolescent health. Collaborative approaches can help address systemic barriers and enhance program sustainability.
6. **Focus on Adolescents:** Design interventions specifically tailored to the unique needs of adolescents, recognizing the significant role this period plays in shaping lifelong reproductive and mental health outcomes.
7. **Research and Data-Driven Policies:** Encourage further research on the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on reproductive and mental health to inform policy and practice. Data collection should prioritize intersectional factors like gender, socio-economic status, and geographic location.
8. **Resilience-Building Programs:** Incorporate mental health resilience training within reproductive health programs to empower adolescents with coping mechanisms for stress, anxiety, and other challenges.

DECLARATION

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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