

Mapping The Past, Charting the Future: A Bibliometric Analysis of Knowledge Frontiers in Artisanal and Handloom Research

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ABSTRACT

The present study employs bibliometric analysis to explore the landscape of artisanal and handloom research. It aims to identify the main themes, key contributors, and developing trends over the past three decades in this field of research. The study seeks to reveal the spatial distribution of research, emphasising dominant nations and marginalised areas, which is essential for customising policies to meet local requirements. In addition, the research examines co-authorship networks to uncover collaborative patterns and influential individuals in the area, promoting better multidisciplinary connections that might stimulate innovation. The research trend analysis aims to monitor the development of topics, specifically identifying emerging areas of interest and highlighting any deficiencies in the current body of literature. The adopted methodology not only enhances the quantitative analysis of artisan entrepreneurship studies but also offers a dynamic perspective on how the area adapts to economic, social, and technological developments. The study's findings will be a valuable asset for scholars and policymakers, providing guidance for future field exploration and assisting in the growth of artisan communities worldwide.

Keywords: Sustainability; Artisan; Handloom; Empowerment; Fair-trade; Bibliometric

1. INTRODUCTION

An artisan is a proficient craftsman who has expertise in crafting goods manually. The primary artisan industries are handloom weaving, ceramics, and blacksmithing. This industry is a historic art form that symbolises the heritage and culture of the area. These industries demonstrate cultural identity by their substantial contributions to employment and production, frequently linked to their potential to generate export earnings (Finger and Schuler 2003). However, their livelihoods are challenged by commercial imitation and mechanized crafts (Spink et al. 2013). Recently there has been a lot of attention toward upliftment of the standard of living for artisans and the preservation of crafts through participation in global markets (Basole 2015).

Cultural products have increased in importance in recent times due to the creativity involved in cultural entrepreneurship which gets appreciated due to their aesthetic design and expressiveness rather than commercial purpose. Hence it recreates in mind of consumer the cultural dimension which becomes very crucial for a nation to retain cultural identity and in turn increase the livelihood of such entrepreneurs when they belong to backward and underprivileged sections of society. The key challenges in the revival of this sector mostly emerge from changing consumer preferences and due to economic liberalization better employment opportunities (Alam et al. 2021). Legislative and policy frameworks could help in the revival of this sector. Most artisan entrepreneurs lack understanding about technological upgradation, ignorant about customer preferences and do not have effective sales distribution system (Dalal et al. 2024). With a focus on environmentally friendly products this sector needs revival. Further the studies have been country specific rather than from a global perspective which could highlight the commonalities in such a study and their implications will have steps for revival thereon.

A range of studies have explored the field of artisan research, identifying key knowledge bases and research hotspots (Yi et al. 2023). Factors contributing to successful artisan entrepreneurship, including environmental, social, organizational, and individual elements, have been highlighted (Hasanah et al. 2023). The literature has also contributed to understanding entrepreneurial behaviour, motivation, and resources, and has called for more quantitative research and a holistic treatment of diverse experiences (Pret and Cogan 2019). These studies collectively underscore the importance and provide a foundation for future research in the field. A bibliometric study using the Scopus database that conducts country and

co-authorship analyses, as well as thematic and research trend analyses, could provide significant contributions over and above the aforementioned studies. Country analysis would allow for a detailed examination of the geographic distribution of artisan research. It could identify which countries are leading in research and which regions might be underrepresented. This is particularly valuable given that previous studies do not specifically focus on a comprehensive global geographic analysis. Understanding country-specific trends could help in tailoring policies and strategies that address local needs and conditions. Analysing co-authorship networks could provide insights into the collaboration patterns within the field. This could reveal key influencers and the nature of interdisciplinary collaborations. Such an analysis could enhance understanding of the community structure and may help in fostering stronger collaborative ties that could drive innovation and comprehensive research approaches. While Yi et al. and Pret and Cogan identify themes within the artisan literature, a fresh bibliometric study could track the evolution of these themes over time and identify emerging topics that have not been extensively covered. This could help in pinpointing new areas that are gaining traction and may be critical for future research. Finally, research trend analysis would involve examining the trajectory of research topics over time to identify how the focus of research has shifted and what new trends are emerging. This could provide a dynamic view of the research landscape, highlighting how it responds to changes in the economic, social, and technological environment. By employing these specific bibliometric techniques, the proposed study could complement and expand upon the existing literature reviews and bibliometric analyses provided by previous studies. It would add a layer of quantitative rigor and offer a broader, more detailed perspective on the state and evolution of artisan entrepreneurship research.

The present study intends to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the major themes and topics that have been addressed in the research on artisanal and handloom sectors?
2. Who are the principal contributors (authors, institutions, countries) to the field of artisanal and handloom research?
3. What are the trends in research on artisanal and handloom sectors over time?
4. What gaps exist in the current research on artisanal and handloom sectors?

2. Material and methods

In order to track the trend of entrepreneurial and financial development research in the Artisanal and Handloom industry during the past decades, a statistical and visual study on the published literature based on bibliometrics is conducted in this paper. Firstly, the literature related to the field was searched in the Scopus database. Secondly, all the information of the literature was exported as a bibtex file. Then the information bibtex file was imported into the Biblioshiny and the VoSviewer softwares for bibliometric analysis. Finally, the analysis results and conclusions were obtained.

The data of the literature were retrieved from the Scopus database. The fields of title, abstract, and keywords were used for literature search. Search strings are “artisan”, “handicraft”, “handloom”, “weavers”, “weaver community”, and “weaving community”. The deadline is February 29, 2024. A total of 1821 literatures were retrieved. There are 1692 research papers, 72 review papers, and 57 conference papers. The search was limited to the subject areas of ‘Social sciences’, ‘Business, management and accounting’, ‘Economics, econometrics, and finance’, and ‘Decision sciences.’ Then all the information (author, publication, year, citation frequency, etc.) of the literature is exported in bibtex document format for scientific bibliometric analysis.

This work developed knowledge maps that include countries, journals, keywords, and other relevant information. Furthermore, a visual examination of the current state of publishing, areas of research focus, and patterns in development within this subject was performed. This study serves as a valuable resource for academicians seeking to get insight into the advancements and areas of interest within this discipline.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1. Analysis of annual publications

As of February 29, 2024, a total of 1,821 papers in the field of Artisanal and Handloom research were retrieved. The number of annual publications and the annual total citation frequency are shown in Fig. 1.

Papers in the field first appeared in 1991 but the research interest stayed minimal for the next decade. From the beginning of the 21st century, the annual number of papers started to rise gradually and crossed 50 publications in 2013. The digital age brought about new opportunities for artisans. Online

marketplaces made it easier for artisans to sell their work to a global audience. Social media allowed artisans to connect with customers directly and to share their stories. Additionally, new technologies such as 3D printing enabled the creation of new and innovative craft products. After this stage, Artisanal and Handloom research transitioned from an initial development stage to the growth stage, followed and accompanied by the diversification stage in 2017 which continued the increasing trend in number of publications. Consumers have become increasingly concerned about the environmental and social impact of their purchases. Artisans who use sustainable materials and fair-trade practices have been gaining traction, attracting a loyal customer base. As a result, there has been a huge influx of researchers pouring into the field and promoting rapid breakthroughs in the industry. The annual total citation frequency basically shows an upward trend till 2020, with sporadic drops in a 2004 and then again in 2016. Since 2015, the number of annual publications has increased exponentially, while the frequency of annual citations has seen a continuous decrease after the year 2020. It indicates that the research field has made great progress in recent years, but more high-quality research is needed, where the results can be generalized to other related fields.

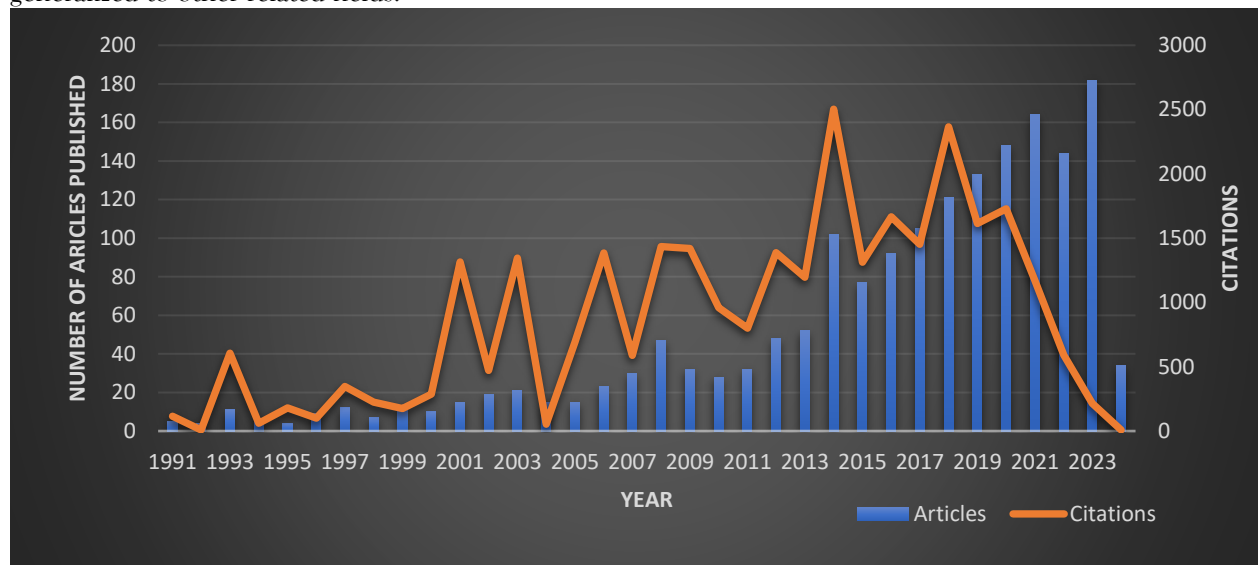


Fig 1. Annual trends in publications and citations

3.2. Bibliometric analysis on countries

The literature collected in this study involves 101 countries and regions. Fig. 2 is a co-occurrence map of countries with no less than 5 articles, with a total of 70 countries. The colors in the figure represent the study time, the blue indicating the study in the field were earlier and the yellow indicating later. The larger the node, the more the number of publications. The connection between nodes represents the cooperative relationship between countries or regions. The earliest co-authorship research countries mainly include the USA, the UK, and Canada, each of which still lead their own co-authorship cluster. The countries which have shown a very recent interest in this subject area include China, Vietnam, and Peru. The countries can be grouped into several clusters based on the presence of dense connections between countries within the cluster. One cluster includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. There are also clusters centered around France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland; and Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. These clusters represent regions of the world with strong scholarly connections. Some countries appear to have many connections to other countries, and can be considered central to the network. These countries include the US, the UK, and Germany. This centrality may reflect a number of factors, including the research output of a country, the attractiveness of a country for international collaboration, or the historical legacy of a country's research effort.

Fig. 3 shows the citation frequency of papers in the top 10 countries and the number of publications. The 10 countries accounted for 58.62% of all the articles issued in the field, while the remaining 91 countries accounted for the rest 41.38% among them. The top three countries are India, the USA, and the UK, with more than 31% of all the articles in the field. From the perspective of citation frequency, the top countries in total citation frequency were the UK, the USA, and Canada, and the top countries in average citation frequency were Canada, the UK and the USA. The UK and the USA are at the top in both the number of published articles, and the number of citations per article. Interestingly, Canada has relatively low number of published articles but tops the chart in total and average citations. Although

Canada ranked 6th in the number of publications, it ranked 2nd in the number of citations per paper, which indicates that the quality and influence of published papers in Canada were relatively high. Although the number of published articles is high in India, the average citation frequency is only 7.4, ranking it 6th among the top 10 countries in the number of published articles, which indicates that India's academic influence and paper quality in this field should be further improved.

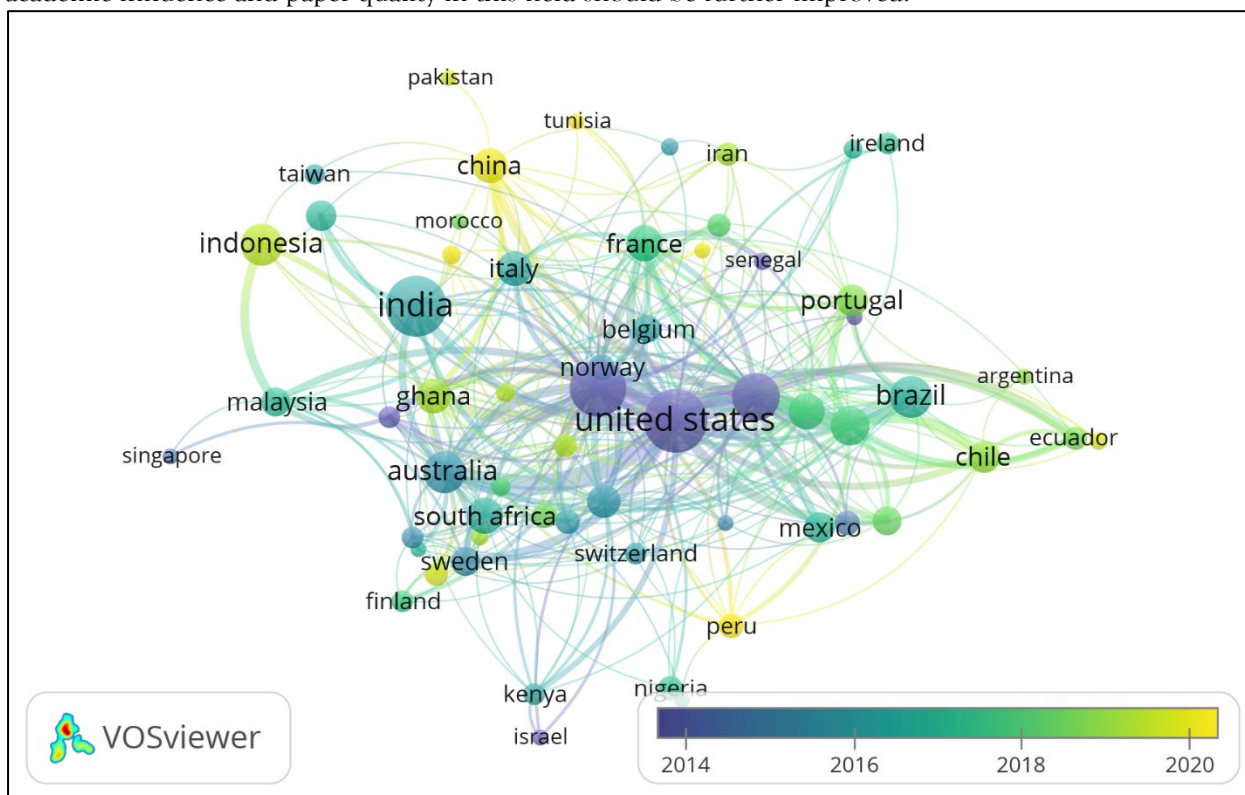


Fig 2. Co-occurrence map of countries

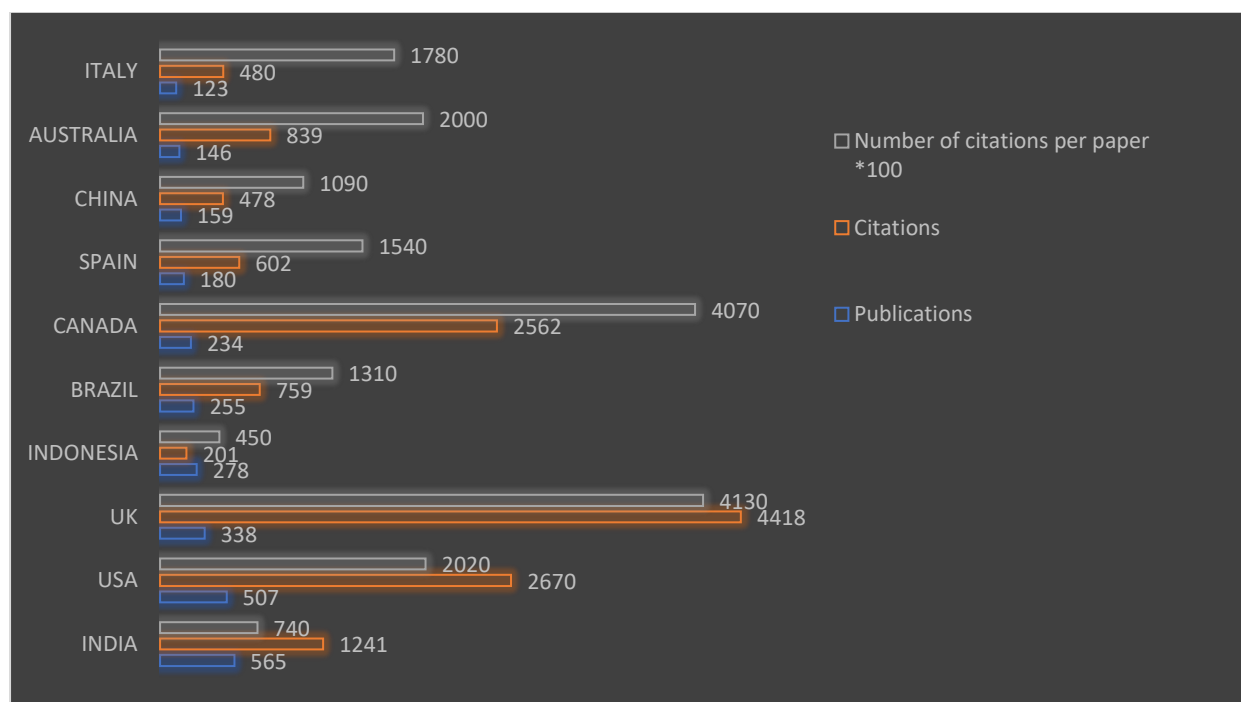


Fig 3. Top 10 countries in number of publications

3.3. Bibliometric analysis on authors

Papers published with high academic influence can often represent the research hotspots and directions in this field. The collected papers in this study involve a total of 4371 researchers. The main authors of papers published in the field of artisanal and handloom industry were analyzed to grasp the trend of research. Among 4371 researchers, there are 282 authors with no less than 2 papers and at least 5

citations, accounting for only 6.45 percent, which indicates that a large number of researchers have flooded into this field, which is conducive to the rapid development and significance of the research field. Fig. 4 shows the collaborative relationships of authors in this field. The size of nodes in the figure represents the number of publications, and different colors represent different clusters. The same cluster represents the close cooperation between these authors. Among all the collaborative authors with no less than 5 citations, there were 10 clusters consisting of between 4 and 11 core scholars. Fig. 5 shows the top 10 highly productive researchers with the number of publications. Veiga MM from University of British Columbia and Hilson G from University of Surrey Business School ranked the top two, with 24 and 16 papers, respectively. The average cited times were 62.3 and 54.6 times, respectively. It can be seen that both the authors have a high degree of quality and recognition in their publications in this field. In addition, 3 of the top 10 researchers are from Indian universities and 2 are from universities in UK. It is interesting to note that all the top researchers are from different universities across 6 countries: the UK, the USA, Canada, India, Chile, and Mexico. All of the top 10 researchers are also highest among the total frequency of citation (no less than 5 articles). The number of papers published by Littrell MA was relatively small but of high quality.

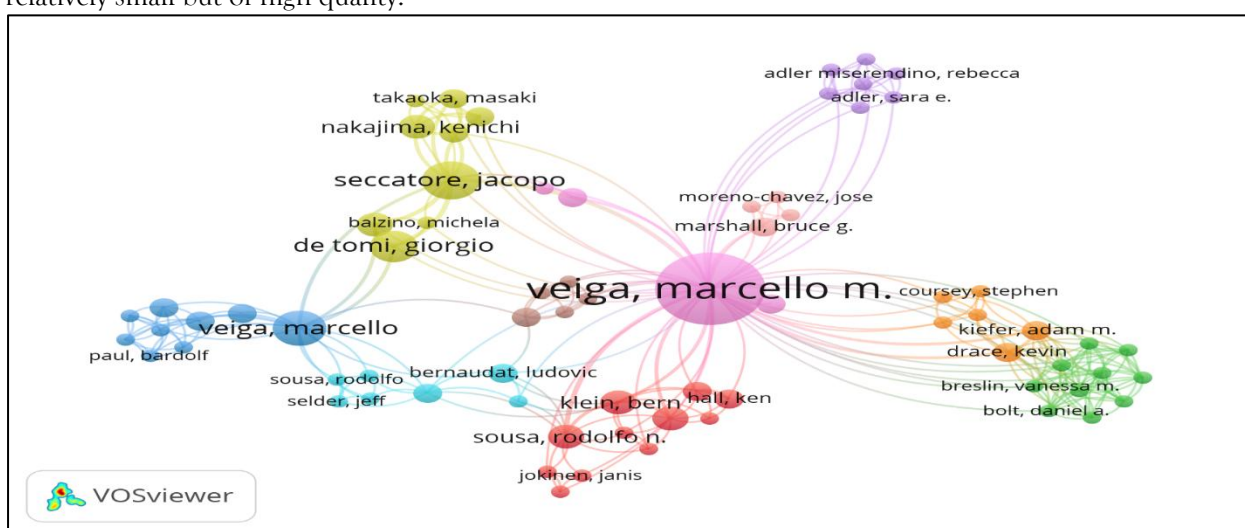


Fig 4. Cooperative network of authors

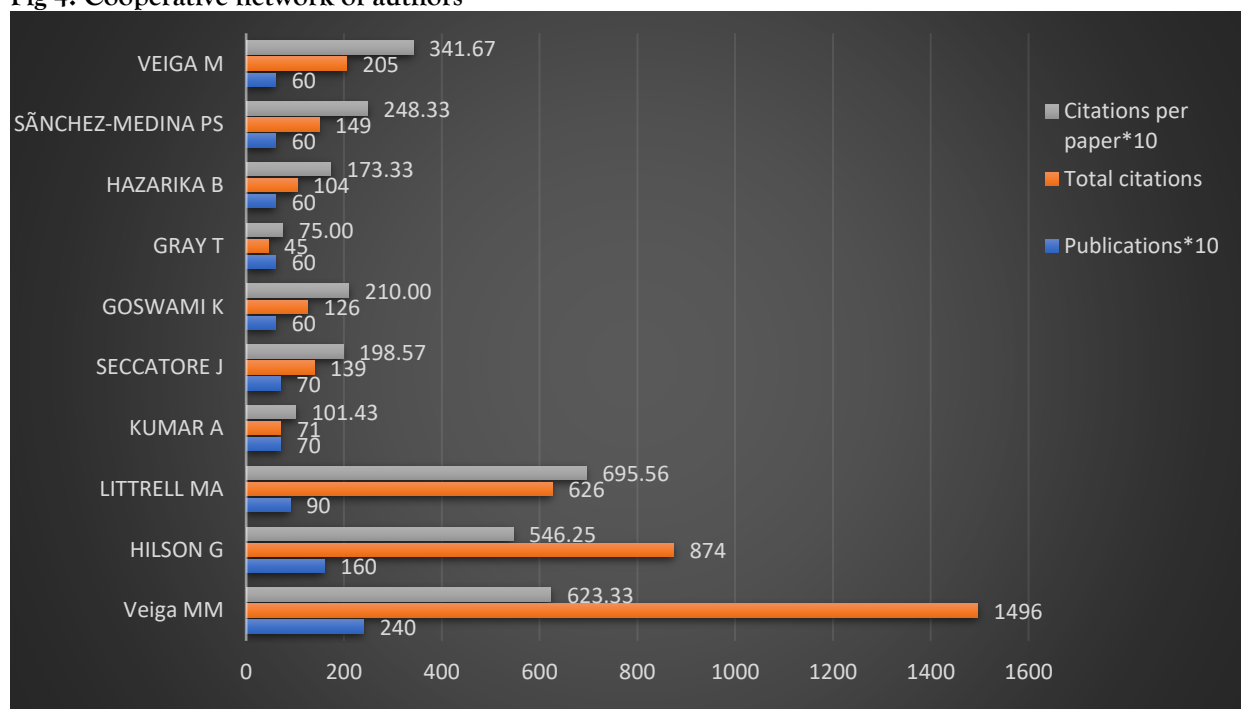


Fig 5. Top 10 researchers in number of publications

3.4. Bibliometric analysis on journals and highly cited papers

The literature retrieved in this study involves 602 publications, of which 23 published no less than 10 articles, while 50 published at least 5 but less than 10 articles during the study period. The specific journals

are shown in Fig. 6. The color represents the number of publications by the journal, the blue indicating that papers in the field were earlier and yellow indicating later.

Table 1 presents the top 10 journals in terms of the number of articles published. In terms of the number of published papers, the total number of articles published in the top 10 journals accounted for 31.91% of the total number of articles published in this field, and the rest 592 accounted for 68.08%. Among the top 10, the total number of articles published in the top two journals, Marine Policy and Resources Policy, accounts for more than 60%. In addition, Marine Policy has the highest total citation frequency. The top three cites per article are the Journal of Cleaner Production, World Development, and Futures. These three journals ranked 3rd, 4th and 10th respectively in the number of publications, and are the authoritative journals in this field. The Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies and International Journal of Scientific and Technology Research, which respectively rank 7th and 8th in the number of published articles, have a respective citation frequency of 1.05 and 2.47 per article, significantly low ranking.

Table 2 shows the top 10 cited papers, the most recent of which was published only 6 years ago while the earliest was published more than 30 years ago in 1993. Almost all of the 10 papers were published in high-level journals, but no journal has more than one paper in the top 10 list. The most cited article is 'The livelihoods approach and management of small-scale fisheries' which was published by Allison EH and Ellis F in the Marine Policy journal in 2001, with an average annual citation frequency of 36.71. In this paper (Allison and Ellis 2001), the sustainable livelihoods method is used to analyze the practices of artisanal fisherfolk in low-income countries that face unpredictable changes in fisheries resources, with the goal of reducing poverty. The study delves into the livelihood concept and examines its implications for traditional fisheries management policy in underdeveloped nations. The paper with the highest annual citation frequency is 'The fourth industrial revolution: opportunities and challenges' by Xu M, David JM, and Kim SH in the International Journal of Financial Research in 2018, reaching an average of 67.71, with a total citation frequency of 474 times, and ranking the second. In this paper (Xu et al. 2018), This article examines the key characteristics of the four industrial revolutions, as well as the potential advantages and difficulties associated with the fourth industrial revolution. As a secondary conclusion, it discusses the potential impact of the fourth industrial revolution on artisans by providing them with new tools and opportunities to create and market their products more efficiently.

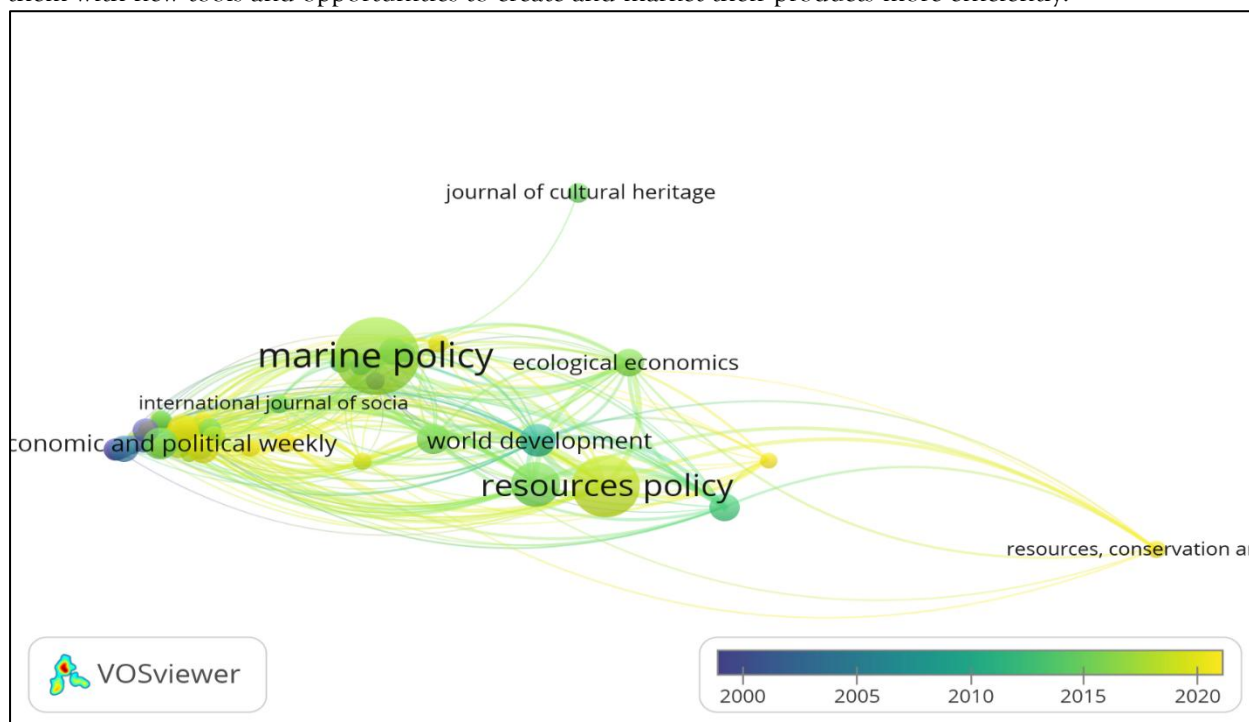


Fig 6. Main sources of literature in publication atlas

Table 1. Top 10 journals in the number of published articles

Order	Journal	Impact factor	Number of papers	Citations	Citations per paper	Rank for citations
1	Marine policy	3.8	237	5822	24.57	1

2	Resources policy	10.2	136	3968	29.18	2
3	Journal of cleaner production	11.1	61	2564	42.03	3
4	World development	6.9	30	1157	38.57	4
5	Economic and political weekly	0.367	25	491	19.64	7
6	Environment, development and sustainability	4.349	24	443	18.46	11
7	Emerald emerging markets case studies	0.213	19	20	1.05	159
8	International journal of scientific and technology research	5.87	19	47	2.47	95
9	Ecological economics	7	18	339	18.83	13
10	Futures	3	18	554	30.78	6

Table 2. Top 10 papers with cited frequency

Order	Year	Title of the paper	Source	Author	Citations	Average annual citations
1	2001	The livelihoods approach and management of small-scale fisheries	Marine policy	Allison EH; Ellis F	881	36.71
2	2018	The fourth industrial revolution: opportunities and challenges	International journal of financial research	Xu M; David JM; Kim SH	474	67.71
3	2008	Democracy and economic transformation in India	Economic and political weekly	Chatterjee P	412	24.24
4	2003	When fishery rhymes with poverty: a first step beyond the old paradigm on poverty	World development	Béné, Christophe	312	14.18
5	2003	Luxury for the masses	Harvard business review	Silverstein MJ; Fiske N	302	13.73
6	1993	What makes a craft souvenir authentic?	Annals of tourism research	Littrell MA; Anderson LF; Brown PJ	302	9.44
7	2010	How social and human capital influence opportunity recognition and resource mobilization in India's handloom industry	Journal of business venturing	Bhagavatula S; Elfring T; Van Tilburg A; Van De Bunt GG	276	18.4
8	2011	Geotourism and geoparks as novel strategies for socio-economic development in rural areas	International journal of tourism research	Farsani NT; Coelho C; Costa C	255	18.21
9	2006	The environmental and socio-economic impacts of mining on local livelihoods in Tanzania: a case study of Geita district	Journal of cleaner production	Kitula AGN	248	13.05
10	2012	Souvenirs: icons of meaning, commercialization and commoditization	Tourism management	Swanson KK; Timothy DJ	229	17.62

Source: (Allison and Ellis 2001; Béné 2003; Bhagavatula et al. 2010; “Democracy and Economic Transformation in India | Economic and Political Weekly” 2008; “Luxury for the Masses” n.d.; Farsani et al. 2011; Kitula 2006; Littrell et al. 1993; Swanson and Timothy 2012; Xu et al. 2018)

3.5. Analysis of keywords co-occurrence

Through the analysis of keyword co-occurrence, the research hotspots in the field of artisan and handloom research can be understood according to the keywords with high frequency. A total of 4989 keywords were involved in the literature retrieved in this study, among which 128 keywords appeared more than 15 times. Fig. 7 shows the keyword co-occurrence map in the field of artisan and handloom research. The larger the size of the box, the higher the frequency of occurrence. The node lines represent the co-occurrence relationship between keywords, and different colors represent different clusters. There are four clusters. Fig. 8 shows the top 25 keywords with frequency in this field.

Cluster 1 involves 47 keywords, and the main keywords with high frequency include artisanal fishery, sustainability, fishing communities, governance approach, livelihood, etc. This cluster appears to be focused on the sustainable management of artisanal fisheries. It highlights the fact that artisanal industries, especially fisheries, are a source of income for many people around the world, but it can also be associated with poverty and poor governance. The research delves into how to ensure sustainable practices within artisanal fisheries, considering the needs of both the environment and the fishing communities who rely on it.

Cluster 2 involves 38 keywords, and the main keywords with high frequency include employment, entrepreneurship, handicraft, developing countries, tourism, etc. This cluster centers on livelihood development and handicraft entrepreneurship in developing countries. It aligns with the concept of promoting handicraft production as a means of livelihood development and economic empowerment, particularly in developing countries. It explores how entrepreneurship and tourism can be leveraged to achieve this goal.

Cluster 3 includes 26 keywords, mainly involving artisanal mining, Ghana, economic development, and poverty alleviation, etc. The cluster revolves around the theme of artisanal mining and socioeconomic development in Ghana and other countries in the African region. It delves into research on the role of artisanal mining in economies of these countries. It examines how artisanal mining contributes to job creation, income generation, and poverty alleviation, while also considering any potential challenges associated with this type of mining.

Cluster 4 includes 17 keywords involving sustainable development, gold, mercury, environmental impact, economic geology, corporate social responsibility, etc. This appears to be centered on the topic of sustainable development in gold mining: balancing environmental and economic concerns. explores the challenges and opportunities of achieving sustainable development in gold mining. It examines technologies and practices that can reduce environmental impact, while considering the economic importance of gold mining and the role of corporate social responsibility.

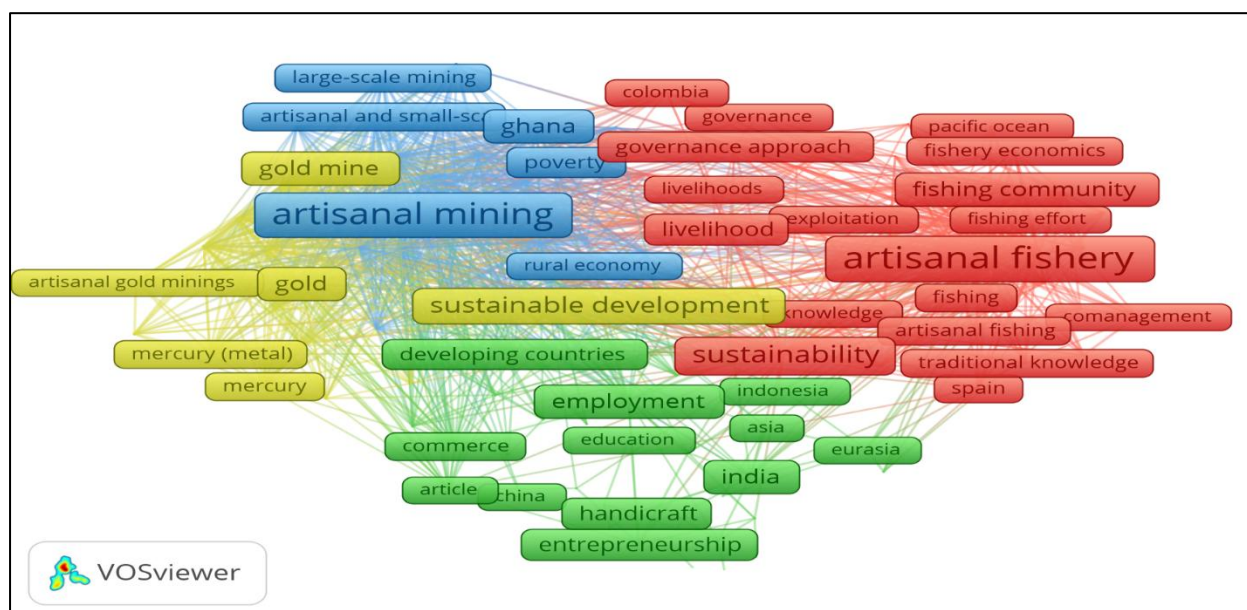


Fig 7. Keyword co-occurrence map

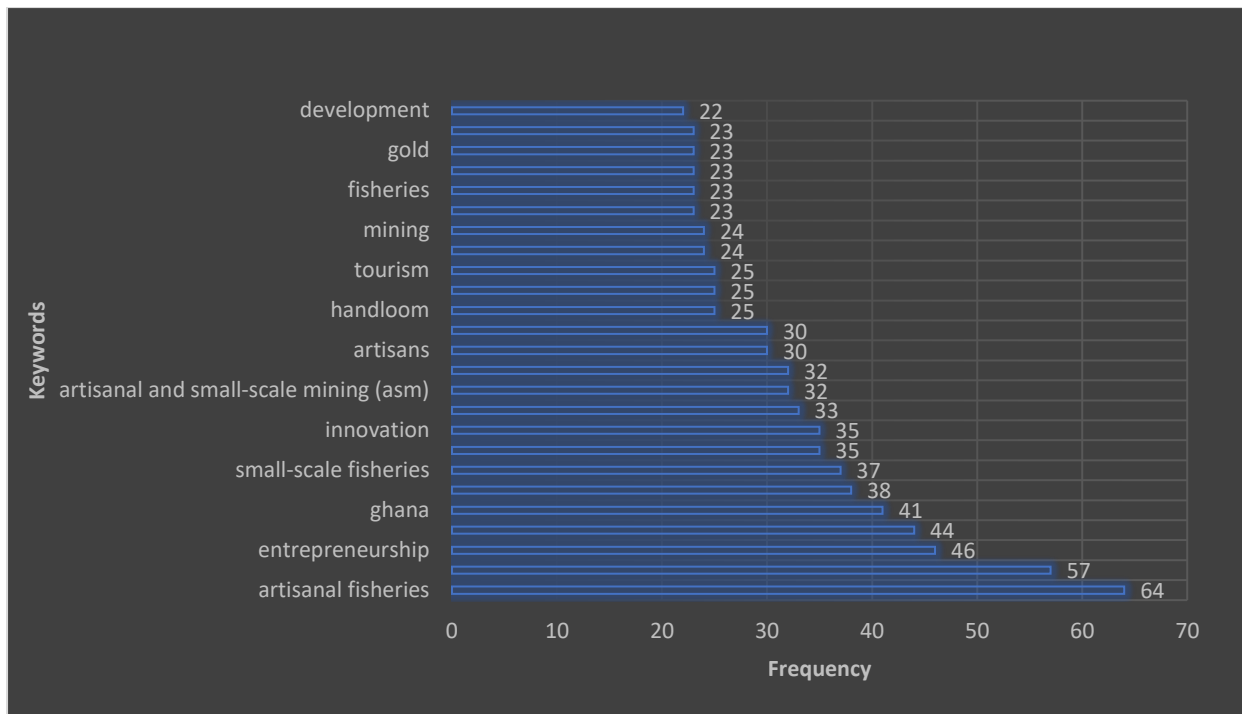


Fig 8. Top 25 keywords in occurrence frequency

3.6. Analysis of research trend

Fig. 9 shows the trend map of keywords over time in the field of Artisanal research. According to Fig. 13, the field can be roughly divided into three study phases, with different study priorities in each phase. In this paper, the corresponding time of the three stages is divided into: the first stage (2001–2010), the second stage (2010–2015) and the third stage (2015–present).

The graph shows the term frequency of author keywords related to artisanal research over a 21-year period, from 2001 to 2021. The y-axis represents the term frequency, and the x-axis represents the year. Each line in the graph represents a specific keyword or term. A few key observations can be made on preliminary assessment. The term "poverty" has the highest overall term frequency throughout the studied period. Its frequency has fluctuated over the years, but it has generally remained high. Other terms with a relatively high term frequency include "artisanal fisheries", "women", "governance", "fisheries management", "development", and "sustainability". The term frequency of some terms, such as "fair trade", "ethnobotany", and "indigenous tourism", has increased in recent years. This suggests that these are emerging areas of research interest within the field of artisanal research. Overall, the graph suggests that research in this field has become more diverse over time, with a growing focus on issues such as poverty, governance, sustainability, and the role of women.

Phase 1: Initial Focus on Livelihoods and Challenges (2001-2010)

This early phase concentrated on establishing artisanal occupations, especially small-scale fisheries, as a significant contributor to livelihoods, particularly in developing nations. Research addressed challenges faced by these fisheries, including poverty reduction (Walmsley et al. 2006), food security (Kawarazuka and Béné 2010), and understanding the socioeconomic context of fishing communities (Kronen et al. 2010). Terms like "poverty", "artisanal fisheries", and "development" were prominent during this phase. This period coincided with a growing recognition of the importance of artisanal and small-scale fisheries for global food security and poverty reduction. Many developing nations rely heavily on these professions for food and income, and research aimed to understand their contribution. Research during this period focused on socioeconomic conditions of artisans (Sirika 2008), importance of these small-scale occupations for food security, and challenges faced by them.

Phase 2: Expanding Focus on Management and Sustainability (2010-2015)

This phase showed a shift towards research on managing artisan businesses for sustainability. Topics like "fisheries management", "governance", and "sustainability" saw a rise in prominence. Research focused on balancing resource utilization with long-term viability and explore effective management strategies (Pham et al. 2014). The impact of artisanry practices on the environment also gained attention during this phase. As concerns about resource depletion and environmental impacts grew, research shifted towards managing the businesses for long-term sustainability. Research focused on sustainable practices (Trimble

and Johnson 2013), governance (Coben 2014), and environmental impact (Sánchez-Medina et al. 2011) of artisanal businesses.

Phase 3: Diversification and Emerging Areas (2015-present)

The most recent phase suggests a diversification of research interests. While core concerns like poverty and sustainability remain, terms like "fair trade", "women", and "ethnobotany" indicate emerging areas of focus. Research delved into topics like fair trade practices within artisanal communities (Doherty et al. 2015), the specific challenges and contributions of women in business (Brogan and Dooley 2024), and exploring sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (related to ethnobotany) (Shackleton, Pandey, and Ticktin, 2015) or promoting ecotourism as income diversification strategies (Kimengsi et al. 2019).

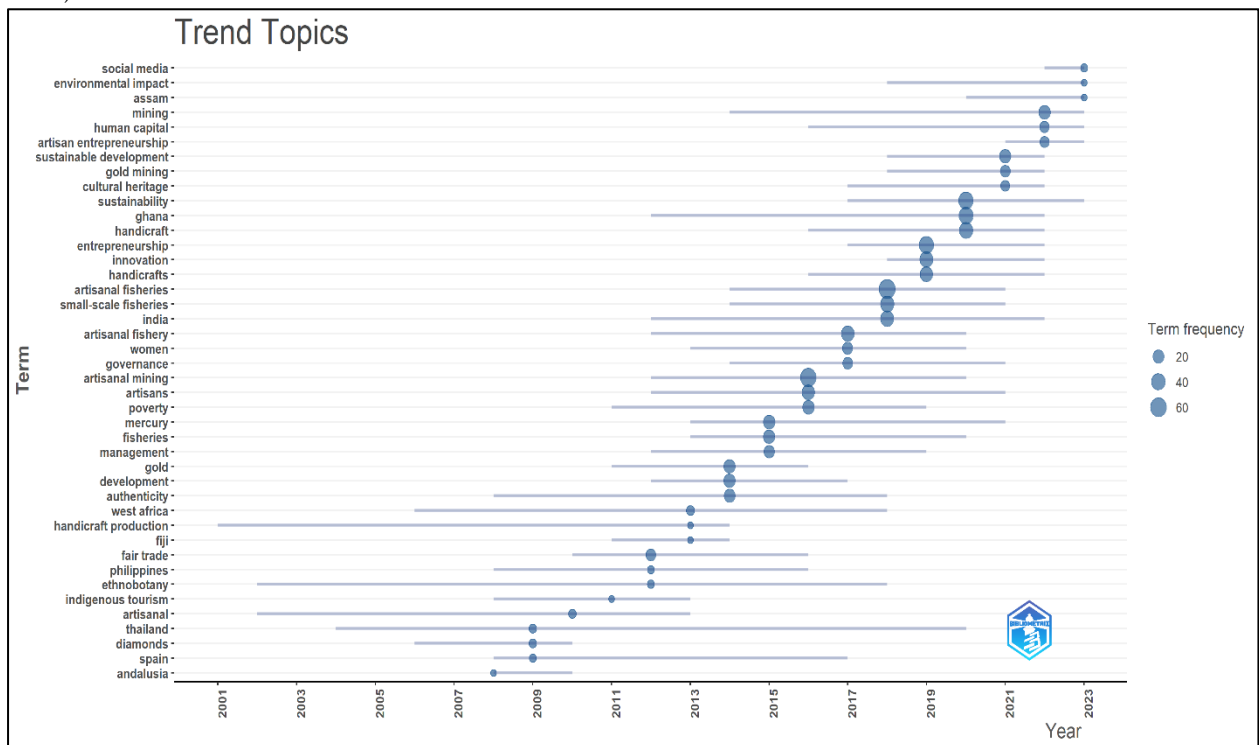


Fig 9. Research trend map of keywords for 2001-2023

4. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, 1821 articles (up to February 29, 2024) in the field of Artisanal and Handloom research were obtained from the Scopus database. Based on mapping knowledge domain and the VoSviewer visualization software, the number of published articles, citation frequency, keyword co-occurrence, and clustering were analyzed. The research progress, hotspots, and trends are then summarized.

(1) Since the publication of this field 1991, the annual total publication has experienced a period of long stagnation, increase, decrease, and then increase, and in recent years, it has been in a period of rapid growth. Large number of researchers have invested in this field and achieved rapid development. The past decade has seen a significant surge in interest and appreciation for artisan goods around the world. Rise of E-commerce platforms like Etsy (founded in 2005) gained massive popularity after 2015, allowing artisans direct access to a global audience. This bypassed traditional gatekeepers and empowered artisans to build their own brands. Consumers have also been becoming increasingly concerned about the environmental and social impact of their purchases. Artisans who use sustainable materials and fair-trade practices are gaining traction, attracting a loyal customer base. In addition to research articles, documentaries and social media campaigns highlight the stories behind artisans and the cultural significance of their crafts. This exposure has fostered a deeper appreciation for the skills and traditions involved.

(2) India, the USA, and the UK are the three countries with the largest number of articles, but Canada tops the field with most cited high-quality articles. This suggests a growing international interest in the preservation and advancement of artisanal and handloom traditions. Additionally, it is revealed that that Canadian researchers are focusing on impactful research that garners greater attention from the field. Among the top 10 researchers in the number of publications, 3 researchers are from Indian universities

and 2 are from universities in UK. It is interesting to note that all the top researchers are from different universities across 6 countries: the UK, the USA, Canada, India, Chile, and Mexico. The distribution of top researchers across six different countries suggests a decentralization of expertise in the research landscape. This is positive for the field as it promotes a diversity of perspectives and approaches. The findings highlight the potential for international collaboration among researchers across these countries. By sharing knowledge and resources, researchers can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the field and accelerate progress. Interestingly, though Canada leads in quality publications, India's strong presence in both quantity (articles) and top researchers indicates a significant national contribution to the field. Researches in this field are mainly published in the journals *Marine Policy*, *Resources Policy*, and *Journal of Cleaner Production*, which also lead this field with the largest number of total publications and total citation frequency. The main aims of these journals suggest a strong emphasis on sustainability and policy within artisanal and handloom research. This indicates a growing concern for the environmental impact of the industry and a focus on developing sustainable practices. Additionally, it highlights the importance of policy interventions in supporting and promoting artisanal and handloom production.

(3) According to the keyword co-occurrence map, there are four clusters in this field. A strong emphasis on sustainability is evident across all four research clusters, highlighting a major concern within the field of artisanal and handloom research. three out of the four clusters (artisanal fisheries, handicraft entrepreneurship, artisanal mining) highlight the role of artisanal and handloom industries in livelihood development and economic empowerment, particularly in developing countries. the clusters also showcase a focus on balancing environmental concerns with economic needs. This is evident in the focus on sustainable practices in artisanal fisheries, responsible tourism alongside handicraft production, and mitigating environmental impact in artisanal mining. While the analysis is global, there's a specific focus on artisanal mining and its socio-economic impact in Ghana within one cluster. This suggests potential for further research into regional specificities within the broader field.

(4) The research trend suggests an evolution in artisanal and handloom research focus over time. From Livelihoods to Sustainability: The initial concern with establishing these professions as income sources (especially fisheries) transitioned to ensuring their long-term viability through sustainable practices. Diversification and Empowerment: The recent phase indicates a broader approach, addressing core issues (poverty, sustainability) while exploring new areas like fair trade, women's role, and alternative resource management strategies. This suggests a growing awareness of social and environmental considerations alongside economic ones. It is important to acknowledge that these phases overlap to some extent. Research on livelihoods and challenges has continued throughout the timeline, while the focus on management and sustainability emerged alongside it rather than as a complete shift. The specific timing of these phases varies depending on the geographical region. Developing countries are found to prioritize poverty reduction and food security earlier, while developed countries focus on sustainability concerns sooner. By understanding the evolution of research focus in artisanal businesses, the government and other national and international organizations can better support these communities by addressing their evolving needs and challenges.

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