

Review

Exploring the Research Landscape of Inflation and Household Poverty: A Bibliometric Review

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Abstract

Inflation has become a major global economic issue, affecting household welfare and poverty reduction efforts, especially in developing countries. Despite growing scholarly attention, understanding of its conceptual foundations, emerging themes, and future research directions remains limited. This review analyzes international studies on inflation and household poverty from 2015 to 2025. Following PRISMA 2020 guidelines, 147 peer-reviewed English-language articles were selected from an initial pool of 659 records in the Scopus database and analyzed using the Biblioshiny package in R for performance metrics and science mapping. The findings reveal a rapidly growing and diverse research area, with an average annual growth rate of 20.77%, involving 362 authors across 147 journals. Most research focuses on high-income nations such as the United States, China, and the UK, while regions heavily affected by inflation-driven poverty, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, are less represented. Thematic analysis identifies five key areas: macroeconomic instability and inequality; household well-being and food security; energy poverty and commodity prices; COVID-19 and external economic threats; and multidimensional poverty combined with social policies. Around 30% of the publications feature international collaboration, reflecting increased global cooperation. Life-cycle analysis indicates the field is in a growth phase and may reach maturity around 2036. Overall, this review provides a detailed overview of the development and structure of research on inflation and household poverty, highlights notable geographic and thematic gaps, and offers valuable insights for future studies and policies aimed at reducing inflation's adverse effects on vulnerable economies.



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1. Introduction

Inflation remains a persistent challenge in macroeconomics, affecting household welfare and global stability. It is a sustained rise in prices that erodes the purchasing power

of money, shapes consumer and investment decisions, and impedes long-term economic growth (Akinsola & Odhiambo, 2017). While many studies examine its causes and macroeconomic effects, there is growing focus on its distributional impacts, particularly how it disproportionately affects low-income and vulnerable households (Albanesi, 2007; Easterly & Fischer, 2001). Wealthier households can buffer price shocks with assets, financial tools, and bargaining power. In contrast, poorer households spend a larger share of their income on essentials such as food, housing, transportation, energy, and healthcare. As a result, inflation acts as a hidden, regressive tax, eroding real incomes, increasing poverty, and deepening social inequalities, even when overall economic indicators appear stable (Coibion et al., 2017; World Bank, 2022; IMF, 2024).

The inflationary period from 2021 to 2023, the worst in advanced economies in forty years, underscored the importance of understanding this relationship. The crisis was complex, driven by pandemic-related supply chain disruptions, extensive fiscal and monetary policy measures, geopolitical conflicts that affected energy markets, and persistent structural issues in global food and commodity supply chains (IMF, 2023; Barro & Bianchi, 2026). Ha et al. (2025) emphasize that inflation stemmed from demand and supply factors affecting both advanced and emerging economies, with welfare impacts especially severe in countries lacking strong social safety nets and well-developed financial sectors, as well as in those relying on subsistence farming. As a result, inflation has hindered efforts to reduce global poverty and has threatened some of the development progress made before COVID-19 (World Bank, 2022).

Alongside macroeconomic shifts, research methods for analyzing poverty have evolved substantially. The definition now extends beyond income alone. Traditional measures, such as the Foster–Greer–Thorbecke (FGT) index, primarily associate poverty with low income or consumption. In contrast, multidimensional methods assess deprivations across areas such as health, education, housing, nutrition, and social participation, covering a broader range of capabilities, opportunities, and basic rights (Sen, 1999; Alkire & Foster, 2011). An example is the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Recent statistics indicate that approximately 1.1 billion people across 112 countries live in severe multidimensional poverty, with nearly half in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNDP & OPHI, 2024). Inflation worsens these challenges by driving up prices for food, energy, and other necessities, reducing purchasing power and limiting access to healthcare, education, and adequate nutrition (Etang et al., 2022a). Consequently, exploring the relationship between inflation and poverty has gained importance, as it relates to macroeconomic policies, household welfare, and sustainable development. This reflects the growing significance of the inflation-poverty nexus.

Reflecting the growing importance of the inflation-poverty relationship, scholarly research has expanded significantly across disciplines including macroeconomics, development economics, agricultural economics, public health, and social policy. Despite this expansion, the literature remains fragmented and lacks a comprehensive quantitative overview. Most existing reviews are narrative, often focusing on specific themes, regions, or methods, resulting in only a partial picture of the field's development and knowledge structure. Additionally, they rarely analyze publication patterns, key contributors, institutional and geographic distributions, international collaboration networks, or the evolution of research topics. This methodological gap limits researchers, funders, and policymakers from fully understanding the research landscape, identifying gaps, and making informed decisions about future studies and policies.

Bibliometric analysis offers a systematic, reproducible approach to addressing these limitations. Since Pritchard's (1969) inception, advances such as co-citation analysis, biblio-

graphic coupling, and co-word analysis have made these techniques vital for mapping the scientific landscape, tracking theme development, understanding collaboration networks, identifying influential works, and exploring research trajectories (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015). They have been widely used in economics and development studies to examine topics such as financial inclusion (Ozili, 2021), energy poverty (Sovacool et al., 2014), sustainable development (Barbier & Burgess, 2019), and macroeconomic policy (Bektursunov, 2026). However, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, no comprehensive bibliometric analysis has systematically explored the literature on inflation and household poverty from both macroeconomic and household well-being perspectives. As a result, the field lacks an integrated overview of its scholarly development and emerging trends. This gap underscores the significance of this study, which provides a detailed bibliometric mapping to enhance academic understanding and guide evidence-based research and policymaking.

This study addresses the gap by providing a comprehensive bibliometric mapping to enhance academic insight and support evidence-based research and policymaking. It reviews peer-reviewed studies on inflation and household poverty published between 2015 and 2025. Using bibliographic data from the Scopus database and analyzing them with the Bibliometrix R package (version 5.1.1) via the Biblioshiny interface in R version 4.5.0 (2025-04-11 ucrt), this research systematically examines the field's intellectual landscape.

This study specifically aims to answer five research questions:

1. What are the temporal growth patterns and publication trends in inflation-household poverty research between 2015 and 2025?
2. Which journals, institutions, and countries have been the most influential and productive contributors?
3. What future research directions emerge from the literature, and what publication trajectory characterizes the field?
4. How is scientific production distributed geographically, and what patterns of bilateral and multilateral collaboration shape the research network?
5. What do keyword co-occurrence analysis, word cloud visualization, and thematic mapping reveal about the intellectual structure, conceptual evolution, and emerging frontiers of inflation-household poverty research?

This study provides valuable scientific and practical insights. It offers a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of research on inflation and household poverty, highlighting the field's core intellectual structure, key contributors (authors, institutions, journals, and countries), important thematic clusters, collaboration networks, and research gaps. On a practical level, it consolidates scattered evidence into an accessible knowledge base, helping researchers, policymakers, international organizations, and development professionals understand the field's progress and develop more effective strategies to reduce household vulnerability and strengthen economic resilience amid ongoing inflation.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the conceptual and empirical literature on inflation and household poverty. Section 3 outlines the research methodology, including data collection methods, selection criteria, and bibliometric techniques. Section 4 presents and analyzes the empirical results, and Section 5 concludes by highlighting key insights, discussing this study's limitations, and proposing avenues for future research.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theoretical Foundations: Inflation, Distributional Effects, and Poverty

The link between inflation and income distribution is well-established in economic theory. Keynes (1923) originally described inflation as a hidden tax that predominantly

impacts wage earners and those on fixed incomes, a view supported by subsequent research. [Friedman \(1977\)](#) characterized inflation as a tax on real cash holdings, while [Albanesi \(2007\)](#) incorporated this concept into a general equilibrium model, illustrating its regressive effects. His findings indicate that inflation reduces the welfare of poorer households more than that of wealthier households, owing to differences in portfolio holdings and access to financial markets.

[Erosa and Ventura \(2002\)](#) broadened this framework by analyzing how inflation affects income distribution through two main channels: a direct tax on cash holdings, which affects the poor more than the wealthy, and an indirect effect through higher transaction costs. Their theoretical results are supported by empirical evidence showing that low-income households experience a higher effective inflation rate than high-income households, mainly because they spend a larger share of their budgets on food and energy, which typically exhibit greater price volatility ([Hobijn & Lagakos, 2005](#); [Coibion et al., 2017](#)).

The permanent income hypothesis ([Friedman, 1957](#)) and lifecycle consumption models provide additional insight into how inflation affects household welfare. When price volatility renders future income uncertain, households with restricted access to credit or insurance find it harder to maintain steady consumption over time, making them particularly vulnerable to short-term price shocks ([Deaton, 1992](#)). This vulnerability is especially pronounced in developing countries with less developed financial systems and limited social safety nets ([World Bank, 2020](#)).

2.2. Inflation Measurement, Drivers, and Recent Dynamics

Inflation is commonly measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which monitors price changes in a typical basket of goods and services. Yet, studies on household welfare increasingly rely on distributional or class-specific price indices that account for variation in consumption patterns across income deciles ([Hobijn & Lagakos, 2005](#); [McGrana-han, 2008](#)). Relying solely on the broad CPI can systematically misestimate the inflation effects on low-income households, leading to substantial errors in assessing poverty.

Modern inflation results from both demand-driven and supply-driven factors. Demand-pull inflation occurs when overall demand outstrips the economy's productive capacity, a phenomenon observed after fiscal stimulus measures during the pandemic ([Barro & Bianchi, 2026](#)). Cost-push inflation occurs when production costs rise, such as energy, wages, and raw materials. The global rise in inflation from 2021 to 2023 was mainly driven by energy price shocks stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and pandemic-related supply chain disruptions ([IMF, 2023](#)). Furthermore, monetary factors, as outlined in the quantity theory of money, contribute through excessive growth in the money supply ([Friedman, 1970](#); [Katuka et al., 2025](#)).

Recent empirical studies reveal diverse mechanisms through which global inflation shocks are transmitted. [Ha et al. \(2025\)](#) demonstrate that fluctuations in commodity prices and disruptions in global supply chains account for most of the variation in inflation in emerging markets, while the credibility of domestic monetary policy affects the persistence and intensity of inflation episodes. Likewise, [Merza et al. \(2025\)](#) observe that impacts vary across income groups, with external shocks more likely to heighten poverty risks in structurally vulnerable economies.

2.3. Poverty: Measurement Frameworks and Multidimensionality

The conceptualization and measurement of poverty have evolved from simple monetary methods to more comprehensive, multidimensional frameworks that capture the full extent of human deprivation. Traditional tools such as the cost-of-basic-needs approach and the Foster–Greer–Thorbecke (FGT) index ([Foster et al., 2010](#)) primarily focus on con-

sumption expenditure but face limitations in developing countries, where subsistence activities, imperfect markets, and intra-household resource sharing are prevalent. Sen's (1999) capability approach transformed poverty analysis by shifting attention from resource endowments to actual achievements in functioning and capabilities what individuals can actually do and become. According to the 2024 UNDP-OPHI Global MPI reports, approximately 1.1 billion people across 112 countries live in multidimensional poverty, with about half of this population residing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The link between inflation and multidimensional poverty is complex. Increasing costs of food, fuel, and basic services directly reduce financial well-being and limit access to education and healthcare, resulting in various forms of deprivation (Etang et al., 2022b). Additionally, Durani et al. (2025) emphasize that inflation exacerbates inequality, as wealthier households can shield themselves from rising prices through financial instruments and diversified investments unavailable to poorer households.

2.4. Bibliometric Analysis in Economics and Development Research

Bibliometric analysis has emerged as a precise method for mapping the intellectual structure of scientific fields (Donthu et al., 2021). Its main techniques involve performance analysis, which evaluates research output, citation influence, and collaboration patterns, alongside science mapping, which visually represents the conceptual and intellectual framework of a discipline through approaches such as co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, and co-word analysis (Zupic & Čater, 2015).

In economics and development studies, bibliometric reviews have examined research on topics such as sustainable development (Barbier & Burgess, 2019), financial inclusion (Del Sarto & Ozili, 2025), energy poverty (Halff et al., 2014), and economic inequality (Korom, 2019). However, no thorough bibliometric analysis has yet examined the inflation–poverty link from both macroeconomic and household welfare perspectives, revealing a significant gap in the methodological literature that this study aims to address.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Research Design and Database Selection

Given the rapid growth and interdisciplinary scope of research on inflation and household poverty, a bibliometric approach is well-suited to provide a thorough and objective review of the existing literature. Unlike traditional narrative or systematic reviews, it allows for quantitative analysis of publication trends, citation networks, influential authors, collaboration patterns, and emerging themes, helping to illustrate the intellectual and conceptual evolution of the field (Donthu et al., 2021). This approach integrates performance analysis and science mapping to provide a structured way to identify current trends, research hotspots, and overlooked gaps.

This analysis relies primarily on the Scopus database as its data source. Chosen for its broad multidisciplinary coverage, standardized metadata, accurate citation data, and extensive indexing of peer-reviewed journals, it is well suited for bibliometric studies in the social sciences (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016; Donthu et al., 2021). Unlike Google Scholar, which includes non-peer-reviewed gray literature and has inconsistent metadata, and PubMed, which mainly focuses on biomedical fields, Scopus offers a curated, comprehensive collection of research in economics, development studies, and related areas, making it ideal for systematic bibliometric analysis.

3.2. Search Strategy and Query Construction

On 2 January 2026, a literature search was performed using the Scopus database. A structured Boolean query targeting article titles, abstracts, and author keywords (TITLE-

ABS-KEY) was employed to thoroughly gather relevant studies. The search centered on three main areas: (1) inflation and price dynamics, (2) household and family units, and (3) poverty and welfare.

Boolean operators were used methodically to broaden the search and improve precision. The OR operator linked synonyms or related terms within each concept to account for terminology variations, while the AND operator combined three distinct domains to ensure all key topics were covered. Truncation with an asterisk (*) was applied to certain keywords to capture different word endings and grammatical forms; for instance, “inflation” encompasses both “inflation” and “inflationary,” and “household” includes “household” and “households,” making the search more comprehensive and sensitive.

The final search string was designed as follows:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ((inflation* OR “consumer price index” OR “purchasing power” OR “cost of living”) AND (household* OR family OR families) AND (poverty OR “living standards” OR “income inequality” OR deprivation)).

The search focused on publications from 2015 to 2025, covering the most recent decade to support bibliometric analysis. This eleven-year period effectively reveals publication trends, significant contributions, thematic changes, and collaboration patterns. It remains narrow enough to ensure the findings are relevant to current academic and policy discussions. Including years before and after major global economic disruptions, such as COVID-19 and subsequent periods of inflation, allows for a thorough assessment of how research on inflation and household poverty has developed.

3.3. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To ensure the quality, consistency, and relevance of the bibliometric dataset, predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria were established prior to screening. This review focused on Economics, Business, Management, and Accounting, as these fields offer the core theoretical basis for analyzing the link between inflation and household poverty; this restriction minimized heterogeneity and improved comparability among studies. Only peer-reviewed journal articles and review papers were included, given their rigorous scholarly validation; other document types, such as conference papers, book chapters, editorials, and notes, were excluded to ensure reliable bibliometric indicators. Moreover, only final published documents were considered, excluding those in press or early in publication to prevent incomplete data or citation changes. Lastly, the selection was limited to English-language publications to ensure linguistic consistency across titles, abstracts, keywords, and citation networks. Overall, these criteria produced a focused, high-quality dataset ideal for detailed bibliometric analysis.

3.4. Document Selection and PRISMA Protocol

The document selection process strictly adhered to the PRISMA 2020 guidelines for systematic reviews (Page et al., 2021). Although PRISMA was initially designed for systematic reviews, it has gained popularity in bibliometric research due to its clear, standardized, and reproducible process for tracking the stages of identifying, screening, evaluating eligibility, and including publications. Using PRISMA minimizes selection bias by explicitly stating the reasons for excluding records at each stage and allowing others to replicate the search and screening procedures (Zupic & Čater, 2015). As a result, adhering to the PRISMA protocol significantly enhances the rigor, transparency, and credibility of bibliometric studies. The selection process involved three stages: Identification, Screening, and Inclusion, shown in Figure 1 (PRISMA 2020 flow diagram).

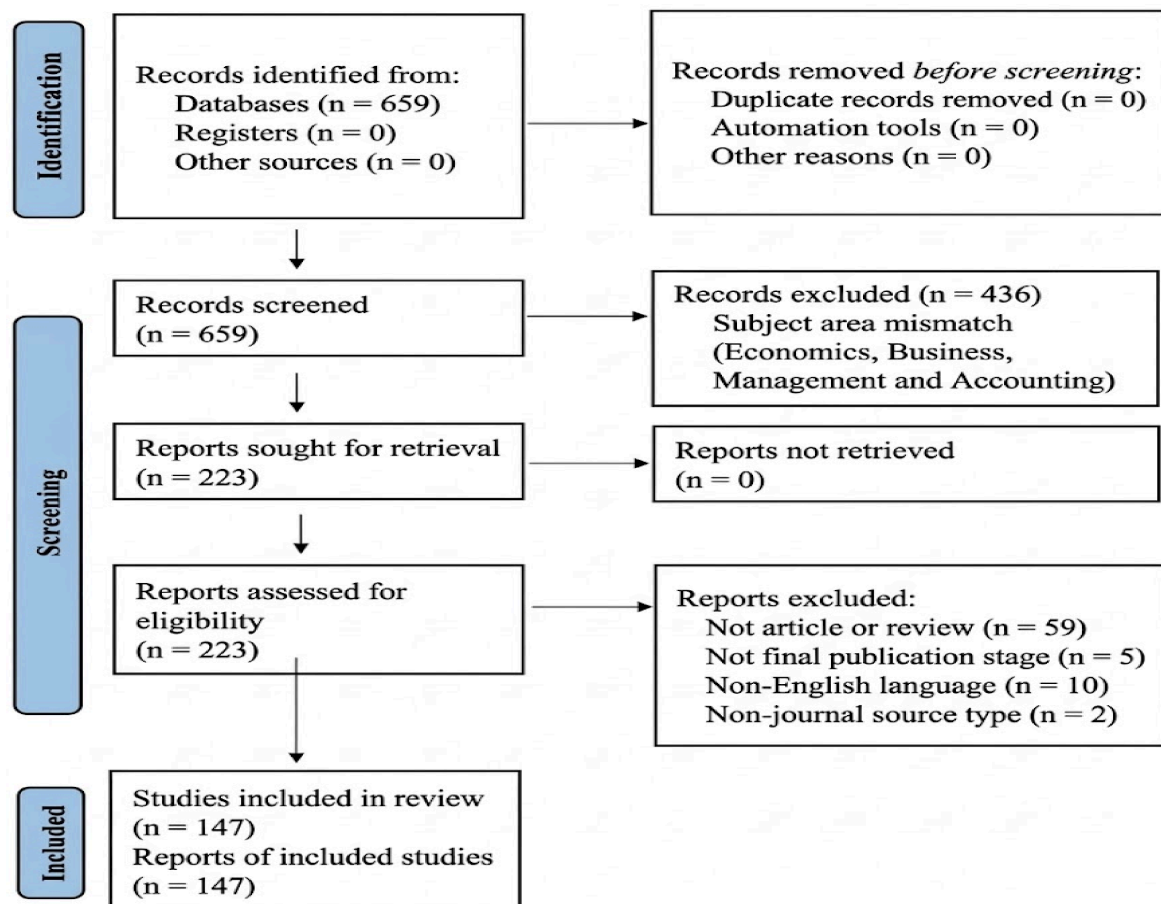


Figure 1. Study selection procedure flow chart.

3.4.1. Identification

During this initial phase, we retrieved all potentially relevant records from the Scopus database. We found 659 records in total, with no contributions from external sources or registers. Prior to screening, a duplicate check confirmed that there were no duplicate entries; therefore, all 659 records proceeded to the next stage.

3.4.2. Screening

During this detailed, multi-layered review of 659 records, we initially removed 436 documents that did not match our focus on economics, business management, or accounting. This process left us with 223 reports, all of which were successfully retrieved without any loss. These reports were then evaluated for eligibility, resulting in another round of exclusions, during which 76 records were removed for specific reasons: 59 were neither articles nor review papers, 5 had not yet reached their final publication stage, 10 were published in non-English languages, and 2 were from non-journal sources.

3.4.3. Inclusion

After comprehensive screening, we retained 147 documents that met our predefined inclusion criteria for bibliometric analysis. This provides a solid foundation of high-quality, methodologically consistent data. It clearly illustrates how researchers systematically arrived at their final sample size, starting from an initial collection of up to 659 items. This process is depicted in Figure 1, which presents each phase in a flow diagram and follows the outlined protocols meticulously throughout.

3.5. Analytical Framework and Bibliometric Tools

This review employed two complementary methods: performance analysis and science mapping. These approaches provided a comprehensive examination of the field's growth, productivity, influence, and organizational structure. Performance analysis focuses on assessing scientific output and impact, while science mapping reveals connections and the underlying knowledge frameworks within the literature (Donthu et al., 2021).

While Biblioshiny offers numerous bibliometric indicators, this study deliberately concentrates on a selected set aligned with its four core research objectives: (i) monitoring the expansion of research on inflation and household poverty, (ii) identifying major publication outlets and leading researchers, (iii) analyzing collaboration patterns among scholars, and (iv) exploring the evolution of concepts within the field. Indicators unrelated to these specific goals were excluded to maintain focus and avoid repetition.

For performance analysis, the chosen indicators include annual publication volume, source productivity, impact (journals), author productivity, institutional affiliations, research output by country, and international collaboration networks. Tracking annual publication volume helps observe research growth over time and highlights periods of increased or stagnant scholarly activity. Metrics at the journal and author levels identify the most influential outlets and top contributors. Data on countries and collaboration networks illustrate the geographical spread of research and international partnership patterns. Together, these metrics provide a detailed overview of research activity and influence at individual, institutional, and national levels.

In science mapping, co-word analysis of author keywords and thematic network visualization were used to identify key research themes and their interconnections. Author keywords were given priority over other types because they most directly represent researchers' conceptual framing, making them especially useful for tracking the intellectual structure and thematic development of a field (Callon et al., 1983).

A life-cycle analysis was also performed to examine how scientific output changes over time and to monitor the field's growth. To forecast future publication trends, a Lotka-type logistic growth model was used, and its accuracy was evaluated with the R^2 coefficient.

All analyses were conducted using the free, open-source Bibliometrix R package via its Web interface, Biblioshiny, which is tailored for transparent and reproducible bibliometric studies (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). Biblioshiny was chosen because it combines performance analysis and science mapping on a single platform, supports standardized, reproducible workflows, and provides interactive visualizations to aid understanding of complex bibliographic data.

4. Results and Analysis

4.1. Descriptive Overview of the Bibliometric Dataset

Table 1 outlines the key descriptive features of the bibliometric dataset. It includes 147 documents published between 2015 and 2025, authored by 362 individuals and appearing in 147 distinct journals. The average annual growth rate of 20.77% is remarkably high, making this area one of the fastest-expanding fields. This rate significantly exceeds the typical annual growth of social science publications, which is around 5–8%, suggesting that research on the inflation–poverty nexus is undergoing rapid institutionalization (Bornmann & Mutz, 2015).

The average of 11.38 citations per document suggests a moderate-to-strong citation impact in this emerging field. With an average document age of 4.43 years, the literature is relatively recent, as most highly cited works were published after 2019. The international co-authorship rate of 29.93% indicates noteworthy cross-national collaboration, though, as

the geographic analysis below shows, this collaboration predominantly occurs between high-income countries. Table 1 below shows the main features of the dataset.

Table 1. Main features of the Bibliometric dataset.

Bibliometric Indicator	Value
Timespan	2015–2025
Total documents (final corpus)	147
Unique journal sources	147
Annual growth rate (%)	20.77%
Average document age (years)	4.43
Average citations per document	11.38
Author's Keywords (DE)	483
Keywords Plus (ID)	366
Total unique authors	362
Single-authored documents	38
Co-authors per document	2.57
International co-authorship (%)	29.93%
Research articles	145
Review articles	2

Source: authors' computation.

4.2. Annual Scientific Production and Growth Dynamics

Figure 2 shows the annual publication numbers from 2015 to 2025. The data display a clear S-shaped growth pattern aligned with the logistic model of knowledge development (Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1995). From 2015 to 2017, publication activity was limited and varied, typically 2–5 articles per year, indicating the early or emerging phase of research on the connection between inflation and household poverty. Between 2018 and 2020, a transitional stage with a moderate increase occurred, with annual publications rising to roughly 8–14 articles.

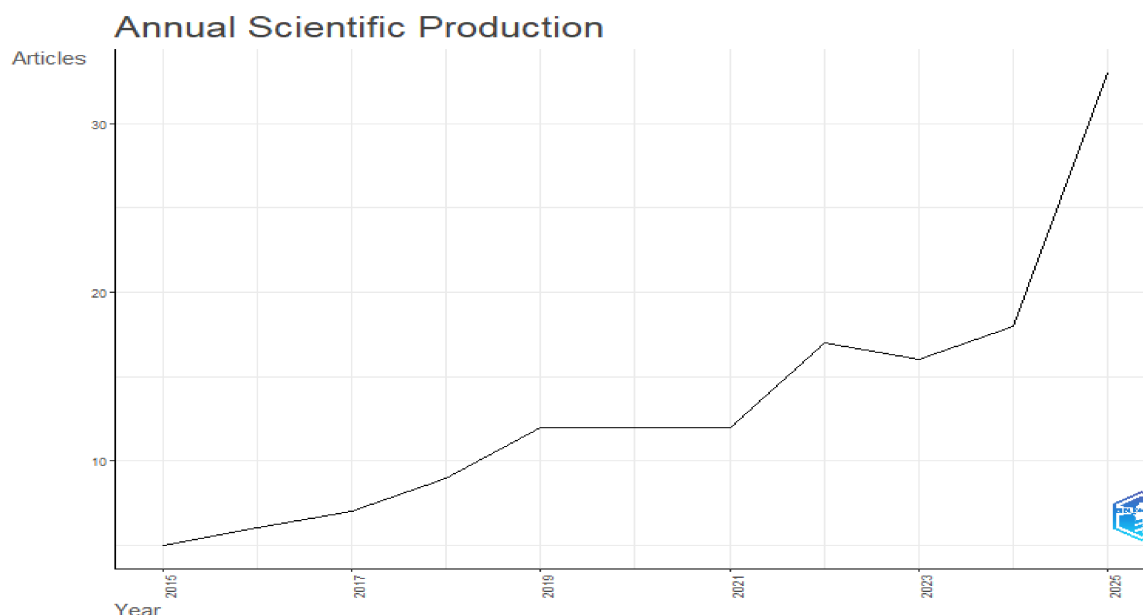


Figure 2. Annual scientific production. Source: Author's computation.

The most notable acceleration began in 2021, coinciding with rising global inflationary pressures following the COVID-19 pandemic. This period, especially from 2021 to 2023, saw a surge in inflation that drew significant academic and policy focus on price levels and

household welfare (IMF, 2023). By 2024–2025, the annual count of related articles was about 30–35, over 10 times higher than in the earliest years of the sample. This pattern aligns with Kuhn's (1962) concept of 'normal science' periods that follow a major paradigm shift.

4.3. Most Productive Journals and Source Analysis

The analysis reveals that research on inflation and household poverty spans multiple disciplines and is published in leading journals within development economics, welfare analysis, macroeconomics, energy economics, and public policy. In line with Bradford's Law of Scattering (1934), most of this research appears in a small core of prominent journals, with additional studies appearing in more specialized outlets. 'World Development' (Impact factor 4.8) ranks as the top journal by publication volume, highlighting its prestige and academic reputation. This emphasizes that inflation is a multifaceted issue impacting household welfare, not just a macroeconomic problem. Meanwhile, the 'Review of Income and Wealth' explores how inflation affects low-income households differently, indicating a move towards more nuanced analyses beyond aggregate data.

Energy Economics (Impact factor 14.2) has become more prominent due to recent global energy crises, which link rising energy prices to higher living costs for vulnerable families. This development demonstrates the integration of energy security considerations with poverty research within economics.

Overall, the broad dispersion of research across journals indicates that understanding the link between inflation and poverty requires input from multiple disciplines, including macroeconomics and public health, highlighting its complex nature and the role of factors such as food insecurity and inequality. The lack of focus across specific journals indicates that this field is still evolving, drawing a wide range of scholarly interest.

Overall, research on this topic is more frequently published in reputable international journals, driven by increasing concerns about rising inflation and its impact on global socioeconomic inequalities. The most relevant sources are shown in Figure 3.

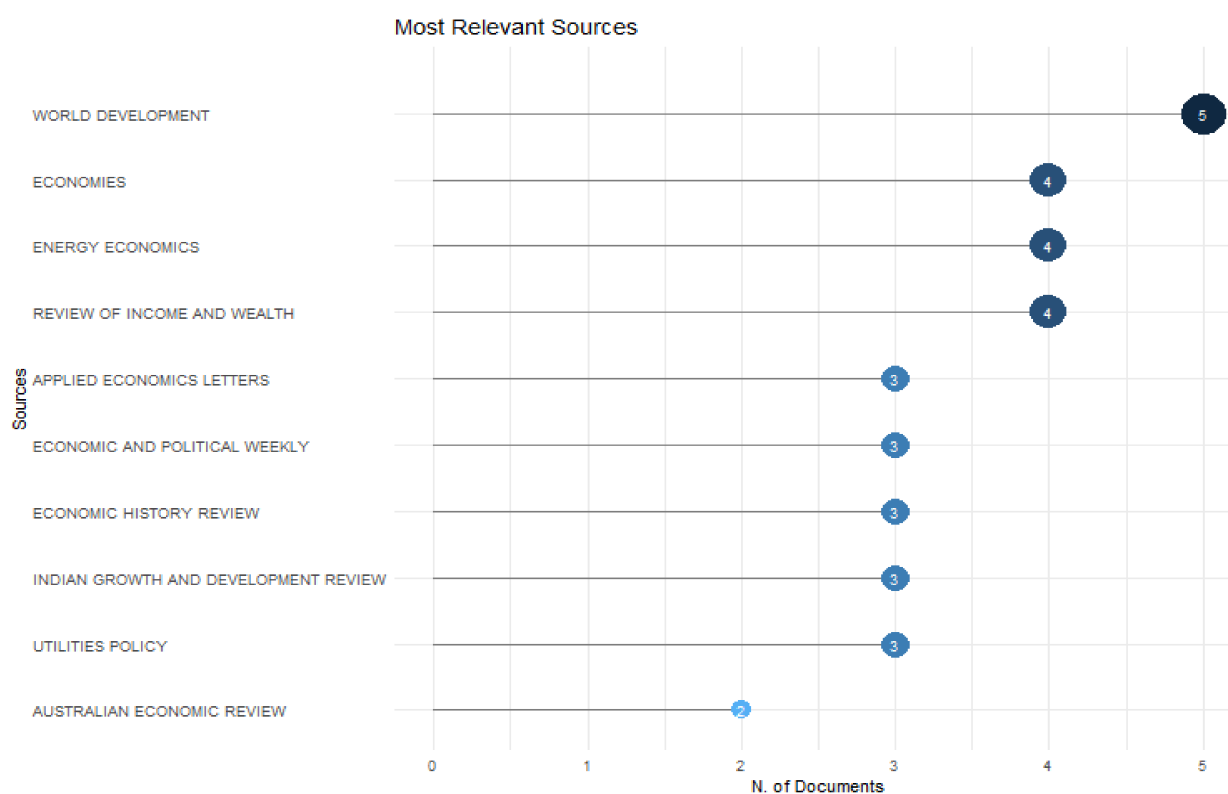


Figure 3. The most relevant sources. Source: Author's computation.

4.4. Most Productive Institutional Affiliations

The examination of institutional affiliations indicates that research on inflation and household poverty is primarily led by leading universities and major development organizations. Notably, most scholarly work originates from institutions specialized in development economics, welfare analysis, macroeconomic policy, and poverty research.

Monash University is recognized as the most productive institution, primarily due to its emphasis on applied economics and research on inequality. This underscores the growing contribution of Australian research centers to addressing global socioeconomic challenges, such as inflation.

Other major contributors include the London School of Economics (LSE) and the World Bank, both known for their impactful work on poverty alleviation and macroeconomic policy assessment. The World Bank's participation highlights how this research influences practical policies to fight poverty. Their research infrastructure, which includes access to extensive longitudinal household datasets and close ties to international policy institutions, offers a strategic advantage for producing influential work in this field.

Furthermore, LSE's prominence highlights the increasing focus on inequality in inflation debates, illustrating how rising costs disproportionately affect vulnerable groups by reducing their purchasing power.

A second tier comprises Beijing Normal University, the Indian Statistical Institute, and Universiti Teknologi MARA. Their involvement highlights the growing research capacity in emerging economies like China and India, where economic challenges are significant.

Alternatively, the underrepresentation of African, Middle Eastern, and Latin American institutions, despite the severe inflation-driven poverty in these regions, underscores ongoing structural challenges. These include limited research funding, fewer international data-sharing partnerships, and restricted access to high-quality longitudinal microdata at the national level. This demonstrates how institutional capacity and funding structures shape who can produce knowledge about this issue globally.

Overall, influential contributions remain primarily from well-resourced institutions with strong international networks for collaboration and data access. However, the field is becoming more geographically diverse. The presence of academic institutions alongside international organizations highlights that this area links theoretical research directly to practical policy issues. The following Figure 4 presents the most relevant affiliations.

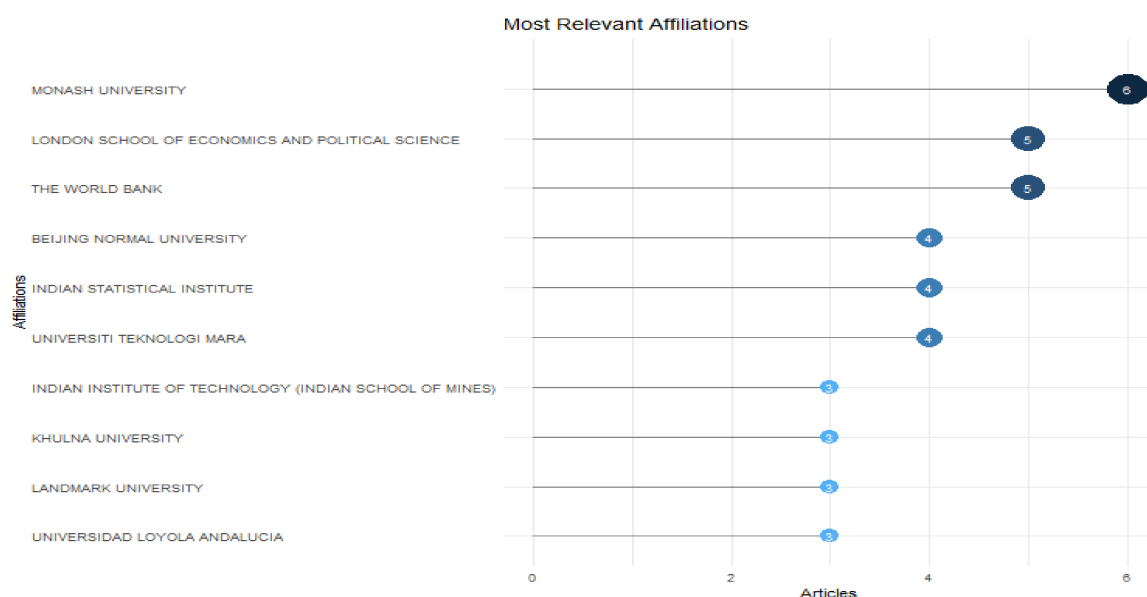


Figure 4. The most relevant affiliations. Source: Author's computation.

4.5. Affiliation Production over Time

Figure 5 illustrates trends in institutional publication output from 2015 to 2025, showcasing distinct growth patterns across major affiliations that reflect their research activity and their responses to global economic shifts.

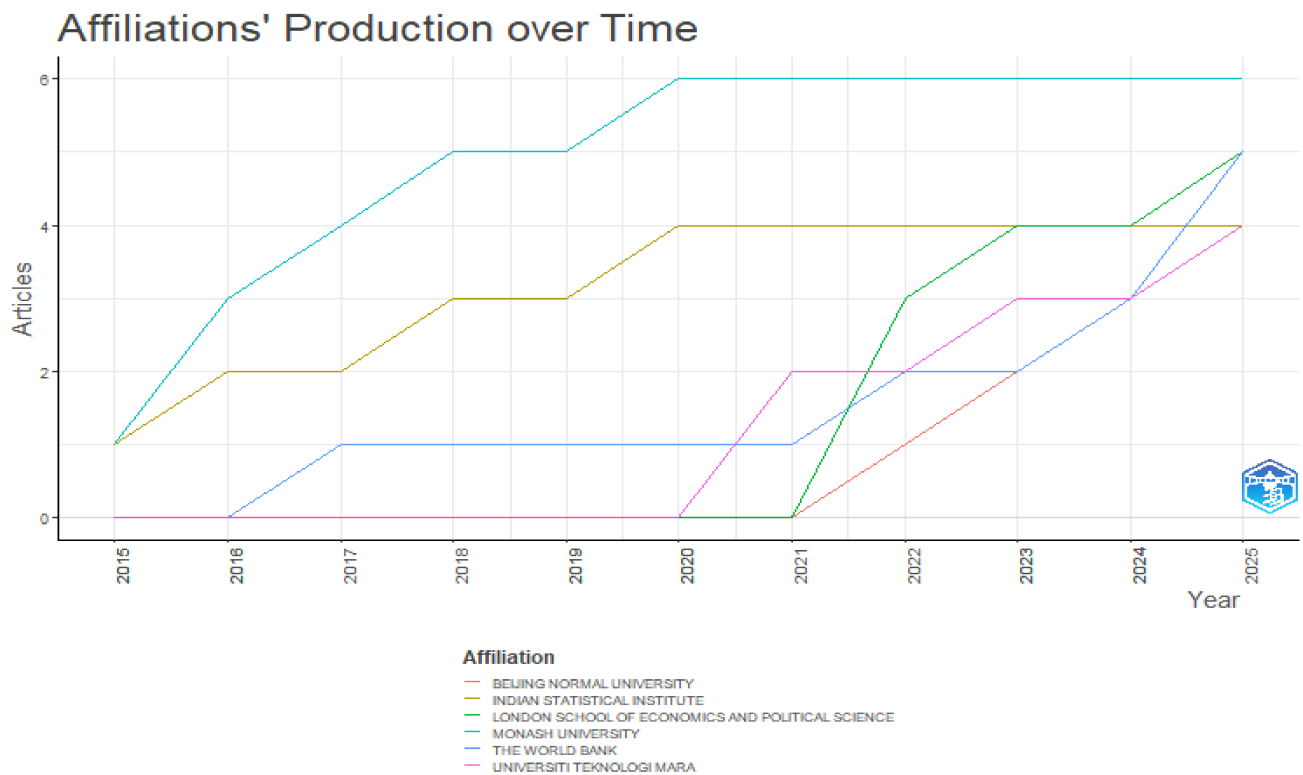


Figure 5. Affiliation's production over time. Source: Author's computation.

Monash University shows the earliest and most consistent contributions, with a steady increase in publications starting in 2015, reaching six by 2020. This indicates its pioneering role in researching inflation and household poverty before it gained wider attention.

The Indian Statistical Institute shows a steady increase during this period, indicating sustained scholarly dedication rather than fleeting interest, with a focus on economic inequality and the measurement of welfare.

In contrast, the London School of Economics (LSE) saw a late but rapid surge post-2021, likely linked to rising inflation concerns following the pandemic.

The World Bank's publication trend shows steady, ongoing growth, as it continues to prioritize applied research on poverty reduction within its larger policy focus on food insecurity.

Universiti Teknologi MARA and Beijing Normal University experienced notable growth after 2020, reflecting a greater focus on social inequality in emerging Asian economies during the post-COVID period.

Overall, institutional research activity accelerated significantly after 2020, influenced by supply chain disruptions and rising living costs. These results indicate that inflation and household poverty are increasingly key topics in academic and international policy debates.

4.6. Geographic Distribution of Scientific Production (Combined Sections 4.6–4.8)

The geographic analysis of research output provides a detailed view that extends beyond simply categorizing countries as high-income or developing. As shown in Figures 6 and 7, which display the authors' countries and the global choropleth map, it is evident that high-income countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and various

European nations dominate in publication numbers. However, emerging economies such as China, India, Malaysia, and Bangladesh are increasing their shares and gaining visibility. Hence, the distribution is more accurately described as tiered or mixed rather than as a developed-versus-developing divide.

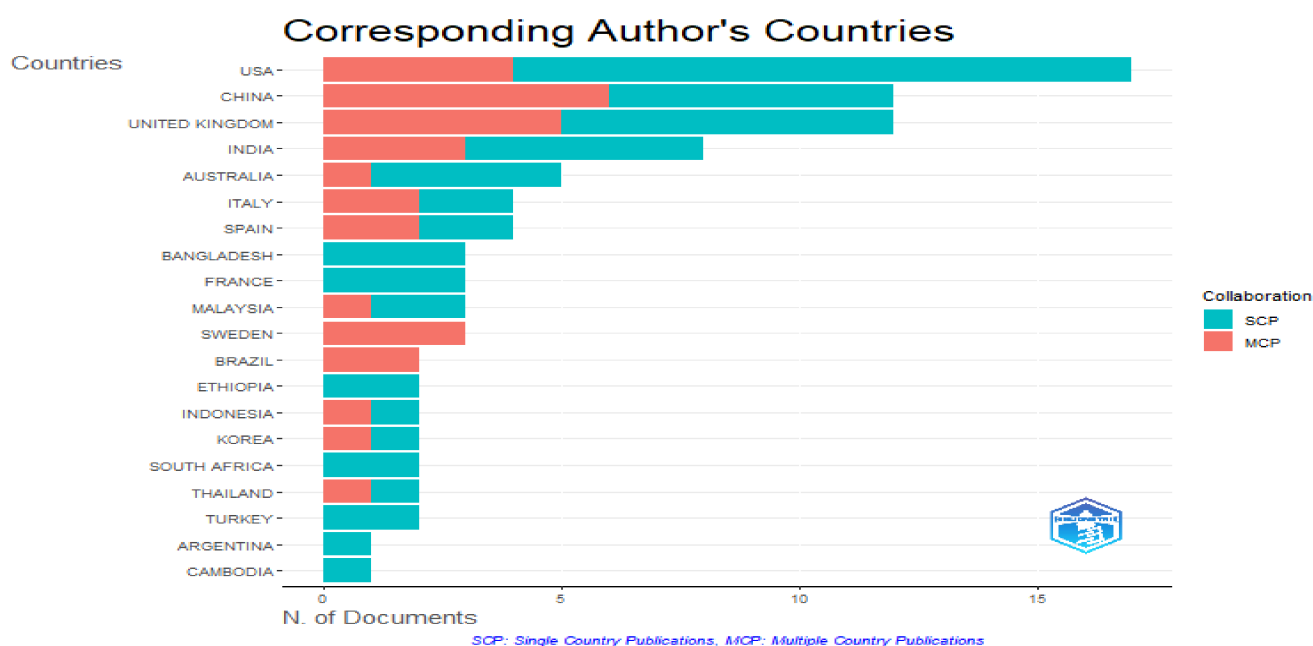


Figure 6. Geographic Distribution of Scientific Production.

Country Scientific Production

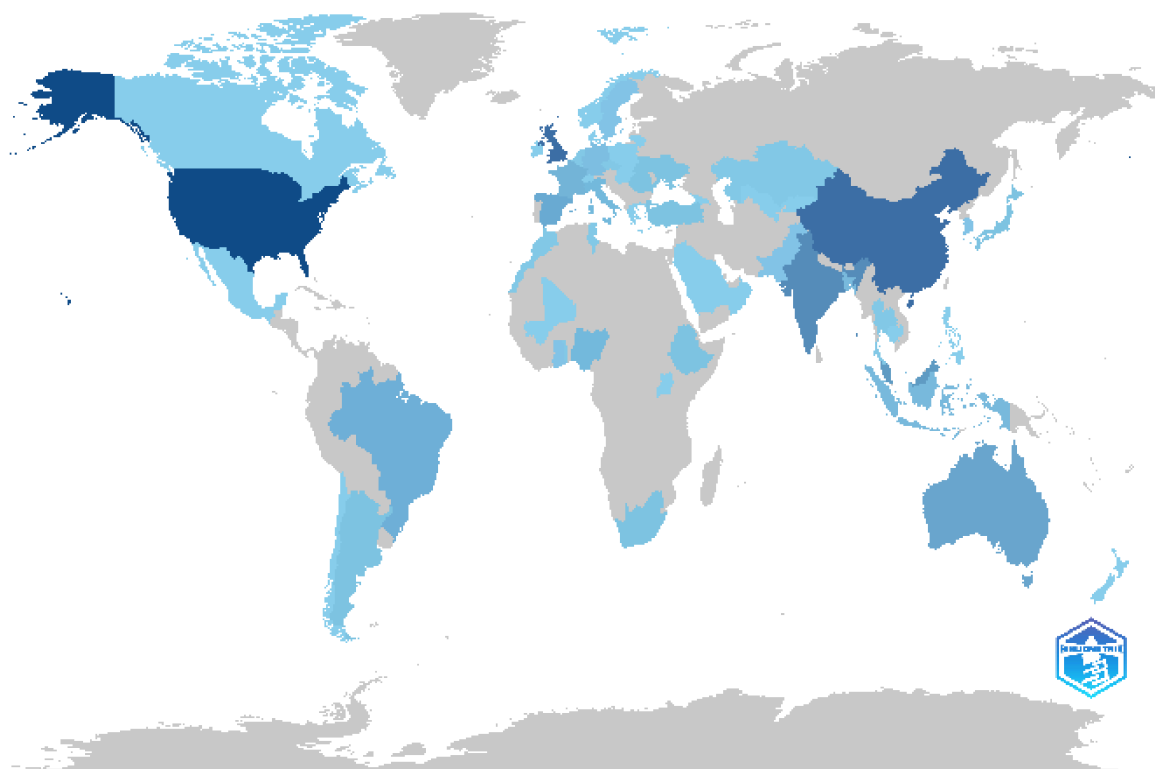


Figure 7. Country scientific production.

The United States clearly leads in research output, boasting the highest number of publications with corresponding authors and displaying the most intense shading on the world map. This dominance stems from several factors: a large, well-funded academic system; access to extensive national household expenditure and income data; strong institutional expertise in macroeconomics and development economics; and active international collaboration networks that drive high rates of Multiple Country Publications (MCP). China and the United Kingdom are the second- and third-most productive countries, respectively, both making significant contributions to MCP and playing key roles in the global research arena.

European countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Sweden constitute a secondary group of notable yet modest individual contributors. Their higher MCP ratios relative to total output suggest that researchers from these nations prefer collaborating in larger international consortia rather than working alone as primary innovators. This pattern likely results from the European research funding system, which promotes cross-border cooperation, combined with regional concerns about rising living costs. From 2021 onward, this issue has heightened political and academic focus on the connection between inflation and welfare across Europe.

The data in Figure 6 do not suggest that high-income countries solely lead the field. Countries like India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and, to a lesser extent, Ethiopia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Cambodia are among the top 20 contributors. India, with its high publication output and strong focus on domestic issues such as food price inflation, agricultural households, and income distribution, emerges as a significant contributor from an emerging economy. Malaysia and Bangladesh also demonstrate growing research efforts in South and Southeast Asia, motivated by local concerns about inflation and household vulnerabilities.

However, significant differences still exist. India and Bangladesh exhibit higher SCP-to-MCP ratios than high-income countries, suggesting lower engagement in international research collaborations. This likely results from disparities in research infrastructure and access to funding, as well as difficulties in publishing in indexed international journals. Additionally, large parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East, which are among the most affected by inflation-driven poverty, are absent from the dataset. This absence underscores a major gap in knowledge production, rather than a simple comparison issue.

Figure 7 clearly illustrates this spatial asymmetry. It highlights intense shading over North America, Western Europe, and East Asia, while large regions like Central and Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and much of the Pacific are mostly grey. Countries such as Ethiopia and South Africa are part of the dataset but contribute minimally due to limited research funding, weaker institutional capacity, and restricted access to high-quality longitudinal microdata necessary for detailed household analysis. This pattern of limited data in certain regions has direct policy implications: insights primarily derived from the institutional and data systems of high- and middle-income countries may not fully capture how inflation affects subsistence households in low-income areas.

The 29.93% international co-authorship rate indicates a moderate level of global collaboration, though it is unevenly distributed. Partnerships primarily involve established research centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and China, and rarely reach low-income countries in Africa or Central Asia. This pattern tends to reinforce existing knowledge hierarchies rather than challenge or change them.

Figure 8 enriches this static view by illustrating the cumulative publication trajectories of the top five most productive countries from 2015 to 2025. The United States shows a consistently steep upward trend throughout the period, indicating ongoing institutional support and longstanding research on the inflation–poverty link. China experienced a

notable acceleration in growth starting from 2021, in line with increased national research funding and rising domestic concerns about urban poverty and price fluctuations. The United Kingdom's pattern is unique: it experienced relatively slow growth before 2021, followed by a sharp increase that eventually matched China's output. This pattern reflects the UK's own inflationary experience, which was among the worst in the developed world during 2021–2023. India and Malaysia, though less prolific in absolute numbers, show clear upward trends after 2020, suggesting that the global inflationary period spurred research efforts beyond just high-income countries.

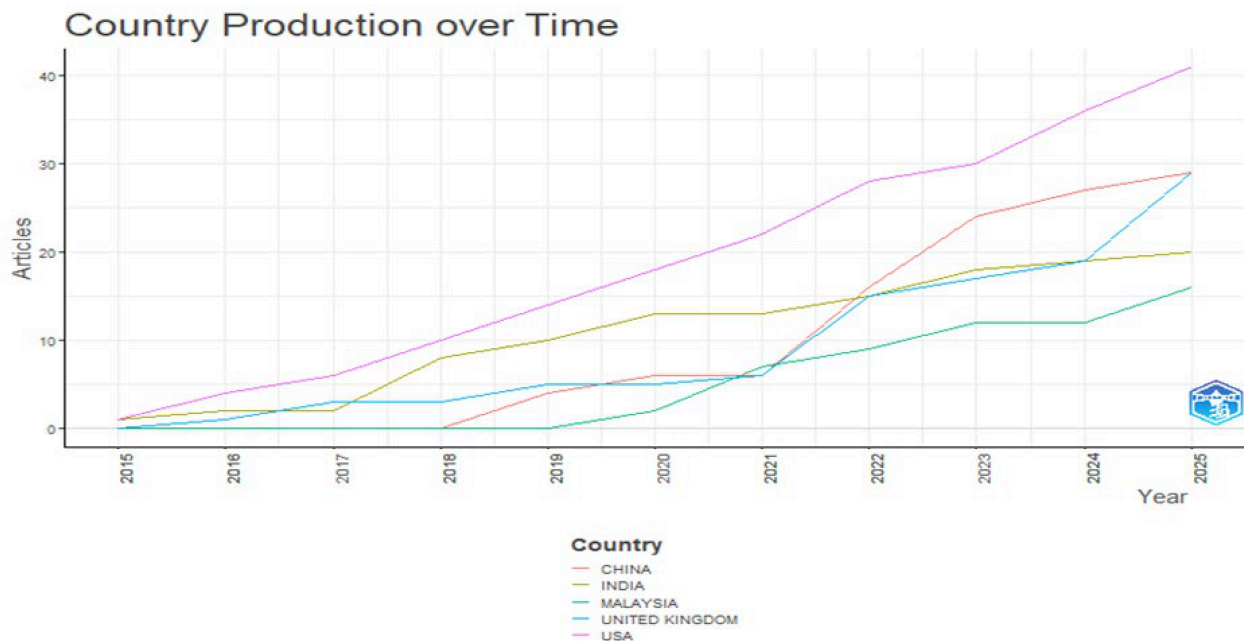


Figure 8. Country production over time.

The rapid acceleration across all five countries after 2021 is the most notable pattern in the data. This strongly indicates that the global inflationary period from 2021 to 2023, prompted by post-pandemic supply chain issues, energy price increases, and expansionary monetary policies, acted as a collective catalyst. It shifted the focus of research from a niche academic concern to a mainstream priority across various national scholarly communities. The increasing alignment of national output paths from 2022 onward further indicates that the field is moving towards greater international competitiveness in knowledge production, with several countries expanding their contributions simultaneously rather than a single nation dominating unchallenged.

Overall, the three figures depict a consistent and internally logical picture: research on inflation and household poverty is globally distributed but unevenly structured, influenced more by institutional capacity, data access, and research funding than by the problem's geographic distribution itself. Closing this gap through investment in research infrastructure, open data initiatives, and targeted international cooperation with underrepresented regions is both an academic and policy priority for the field's future growth.

4.7. Most Relevant Authors

Figure 9 showcases the leading authors in inflation and household poverty research, ranked by publication count. The authorship pattern is fairly dispersed, with only a handful of researchers publishing multiple papers, suggesting that the field is still emerging rather than monopolized by a few prolific scholars.

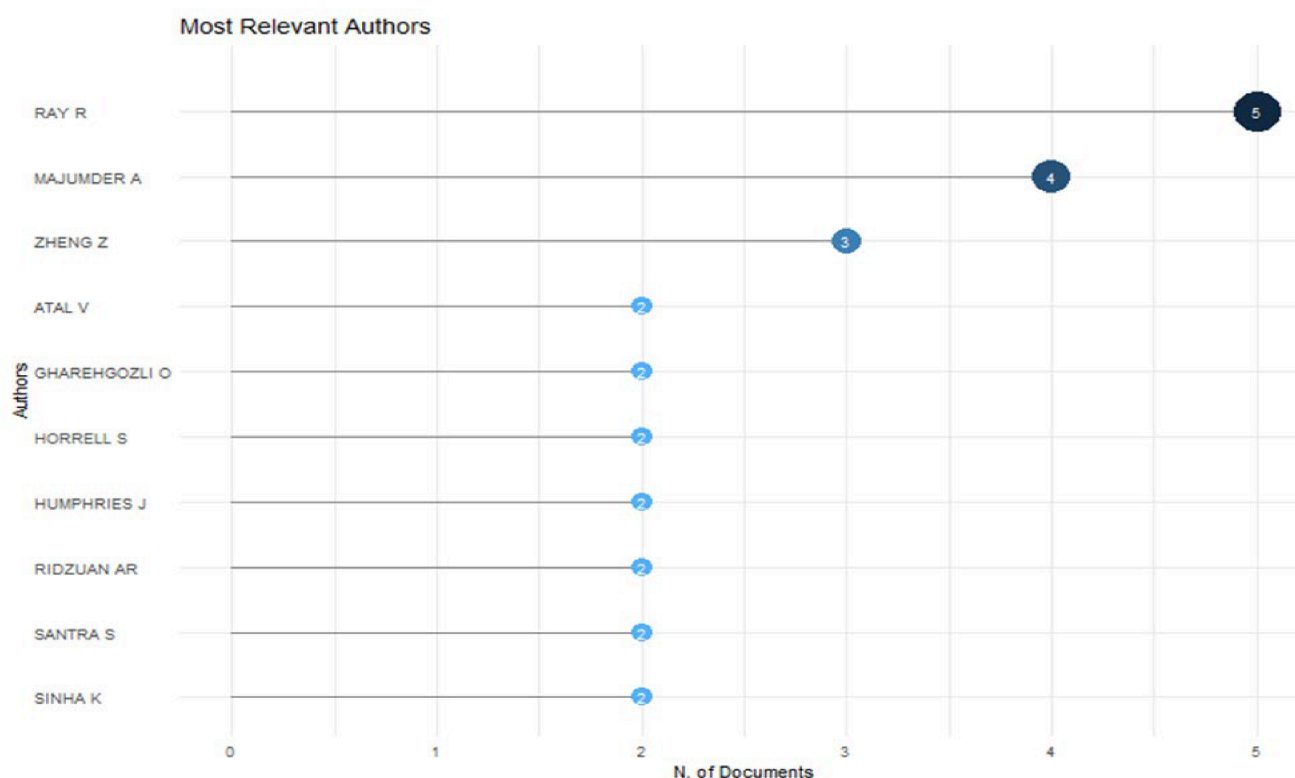


Figure 9. Most relevant authors. Source: Author's computation.

Ray R. emerges as the most prolific author with five publications, highlighting his consistent focus on inflation, poverty, inequality, and household welfare. This indicates he plays a significant role in shaping both theoretical and empirical debates in this field.

Majumder A has four publications that emphasize important work on socioeconomic vulnerability in developing countries, particularly highlighting how low-income households are disproportionately affected by inflation.

Zheng Z has three publications showing meaningful but moderate involvement. Their growing visibility correlates with the broader geographical diversification observed in the bibliometric analysis.

Other contributors, such as Atal V Gharehgozli, O Horrell, S Humphries, J Ridzuan, AR Santra, and Sinha K, have each published two works. This balanced contribution across various authors indicates a collaborative setting with diverse academic backgrounds, rather than dependence on a few prominent figures.

The figure also indicates that no single author dominates this research area, a pattern common in interdisciplinary fields such as economics, development studies, public policy, and the social sciences. This suggests that research on inflation and household poverty often reflects particular socioeconomic contexts of specific countries or regions.

4.8. Word Cloud

Figure 10 shows a word cloud of the most common terms in research on inflation and household poverty. The size of each word reflects its frequency and importance in the dataset, offering a clear snapshot of the field's key themes.

The dominant terms "inflation" and "poverty" confirm that these concepts are central to the literature and highlight how inflationary pressures influence household welfare, deprivation, and socioeconomic vulnerability.



Figure 10. Word cloud. Source: Author's computation.

Related keywords such as “income inequality,” “income distribution,” “household expenditure,” and “living standard” highlight a growing focus on how inflation affects different income groups, particularly low-income households that spend a larger share of their income on essentials.

Keywords such as “household income,” “cost of living,” and “purchasing power” highlight this welfare-focused perspective. Rising prices are frequently analyzed alongside falling real incomes, decreased purchasing power, and worsening living conditions for vulnerable households in areas such as food, housing, healthcare, transportation, and energy, factors that collectively affect their ability to sustain sufficient consumption.

Broader macroeconomic terms such as “economic growth,” “gross domestic product,” “macroeconomics,” and “monetary policy” indicate efforts in the literature to link household-level outcomes to broader economic trends. This showcases interdisciplinary integration across fields from development economics to public policy analysis.

Additionally, the presence of concepts such as energy poverty, unemployment, price determination, consumption behavior, and regression analysis indicates methodological diversification, showing that recent studies examine multidimensional pathways linking inflation impacts across labor markets, costs, structures, and econometric modeling.

Interestingly, references to regions such as the United Kingdom and Europe underscore growing concern about cost crises, especially in the wake of post-pandemic shocks and the surge in energy prices affecting advanced economies today.

Overall, this word cloud analysis shows that research on Household Poverty has developed into a multidimensional, policy-focused field. It highlights the interactions among various themes and demonstrates greater integration between macroeconomic analysis and social welfare perspectives over time.

4.9. Life Cycle-Annual Publication

This study details the logic behind the logistic lifecycle model, where annual publication counts indicate scholarly interest in the inflation–poverty relationship over time. The model suggests that research activity follows an S-shaped growth curve: beginning slowly, accelerating rapidly, and eventually stabilizing or reaching saturation. It also assumes that growth depends on previous research, making it path-dependent. Additionally, the model proposes an upper limit on growth, with current trends stable enough to support tentative future forecasts. However, these predictions should be taken with caution, as unexpected

economic shocks, policy changes, or global crises could alter publication patterns. The model's accuracy was assessed using the R^2 coefficient, which measures how well the logistic curve fits the actual publication data (Price, 1976).

The lifecycle analysis of annual publications shows that research on inflation and household poverty is thriving and shows no signs of slowing. As shown in Figure 11, the publication count has grown consistently since 2018, with a noticeable boost in recent years. This pattern reflects growing global concerns about inflation, rising living expenses, energy price shocks, and their effects on household welfare and poverty.

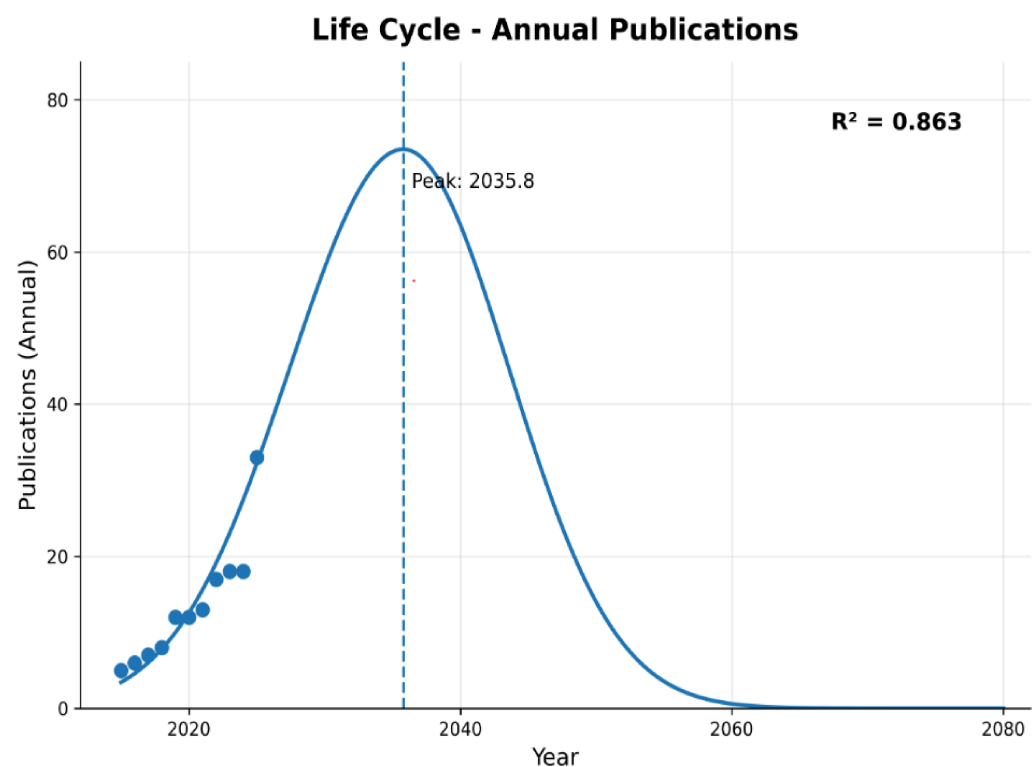


Figure 11. Life cycle—annual publication. Source: Author's computation.

The fitted life-cycle curve predicts that publication output will peak around 2035, indicating ongoing scholarly interest for the next decade. With an expected peak of about 70 to 75 publications per year, issues related to inflation and household poverty are expected to stay prominent in both research and policy discussions.

This upward trend is likely driven by persistent global inflation volatility, difficulties in the post-pandemic economic recovery, food insecurity, and rising socioeconomic disparities. The high R^2 value of 0.863 shows that the model captures most of the variation in publication growth, confirming a strong life-cycle dynamic.

Furthermore, this curve illustrates the field's transition from an emerging sector to one experiencing rapid growth and intellectual consolidation across various disciplines. It highlights both its academic importance and its policy relevance for vulnerable populations globally.

As research shifts towards topics such as food-price inflation and social protection mechanisms, and given the growing vulnerabilities among households affected by these economic issues in both developed and developing countries, scholarly interest is likely to increase further.

However, caution is warranted when predicting beyond the projected peak, as bibliometric forecasting relies heavily on past trends and may overlook unexpected global crises or transformative policies that could boost research activity again. The post-peak years,

which suggest reduced importance in academia, might simply reflect usual saturation effects in scientific publishing. Overall, life-cycle analysis shows that the literature on inflation's effect on household poverty remains active and has considerable future research potential, gaining recognition at the international policy level.

4.10. Co-Word Network

The co-word network (Figure 12) illustrates the conceptual framework of research on inflation and household poverty by highlighting the frequency of author keywords and their co-occurrences. In this visualization, the size of each node reflects its importance based on keyword frequency, while the links between nodes indicate how often they co-occur in publications. Larger nodes with many connections emphasize key themes and the interconnected nature of research areas.

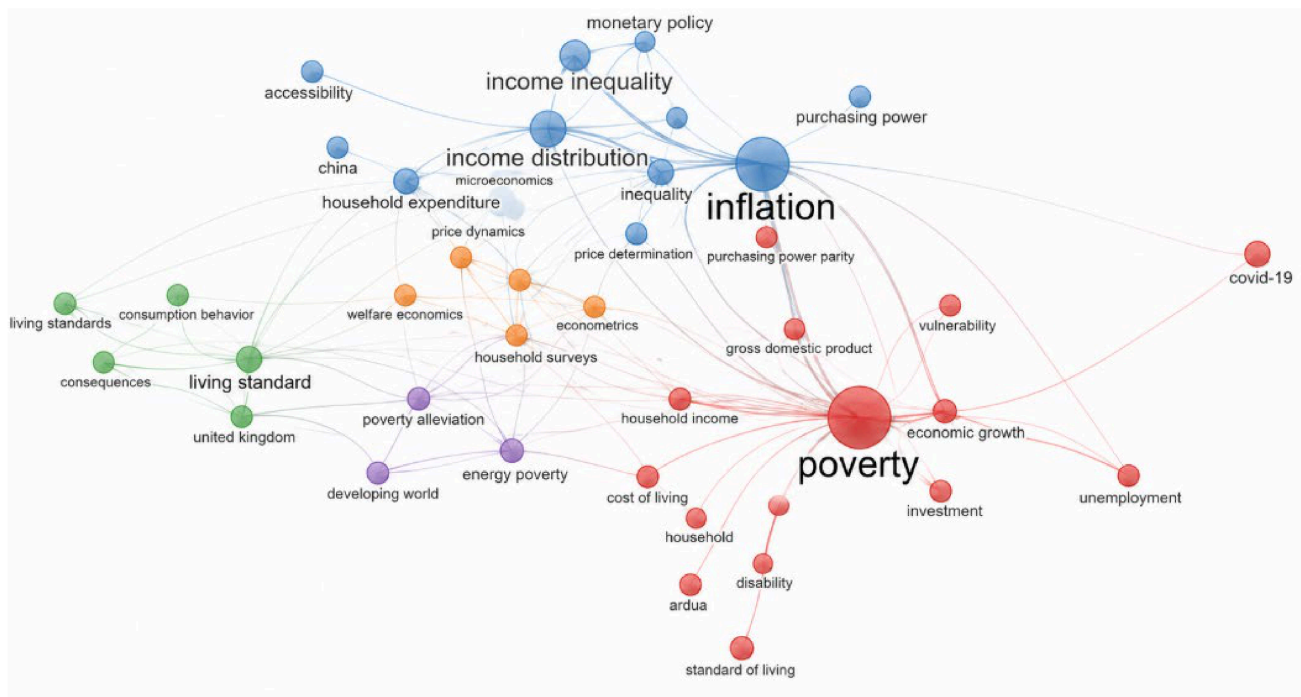


Figure 12. Co-word network. Source: Author's computation.

The network features two primary nodes: “inflation” and “poverty,” which serve as central subjects in this field. Their prominence indicates their significance in the current literature, and the numerous connections to other nodes demonstrate their role as focal points across various studies. The strong link between inflation and poverty suggests that modern research increasingly considers inflation not only as a macroeconomic issue but also as a distributional concern impacting household welfare.

The network consists of several interconnected thematic clusters. The blue cluster links inflation with income inequality, income distribution, household expenditure, and purchasing power, illustrating how inflation affects income allocation and economic disparities. The red cluster, centered on poverty, is closely connected with economic growth, household income, cost of living, unemployment, vulnerability, and COVID-19, indicating that poverty is examined within a broader macroeconomic and socioeconomic framework. Connections between the blue and red clusters suggest that inflation, inequality, and poverty form a unified research area rather than separate topics. The green cluster highlights living standards and consumer behavior, reflecting increasing interest in how inflation impacts household consumption and welfare at the microeconomic level. The purple and orange clusters focus on methodology and policy, such as regression analysis, econometrics, household surveys,

and welfare economics. Their numerous links to macroeconomic and poverty clusters demonstrate extensive use of empirical, quantitative methods to study the relationship between inflation and household well-being.

Overall, these connected clusters depict an interdisciplinary research field integrating macroeconomic analysis, income distribution, household dynamics, welfare, and policy evaluation. The prominence of central nodes and emerging topics like COVID-19 and vulnerability indicates that, while inflation and poverty remain core issues, the literature is expanding to encompass recent economic shocks and their diverse effects on households.

5. Discussion

This bibliometric analysis shows that research on inflation and household poverty has rapidly increased from 2015 to 2025. With an annual growth rate of 20.77% and a significant rise in publications after 2021, the field is gaining momentum amid recent global economic tensions, including rising inflation, cost-of-living crises, food price volatility, and post-pandemic socioeconomic vulnerabilities. This trend aligns with the typical goal of bibliometric studies, which is to trace the development, structure, and thematic changes in scientific fields (Zupic & Čater, 2015; Donthu et al., 2021). The growing number of publications indicates that inflation is now viewed not just as a macroeconomic issue but also as a social welfare concern with direct impacts on household poverty.

The source analysis further highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the field. Articles are published across a range of journals including development economics, welfare studies, macroeconomics, energy economics, public policy, and applied economics. This spread indicates that understanding the inflation–poverty link requires multiple disciplinary approaches. It involves integrating insights on price movements, income distribution, energy costs, vulnerability to poverty, and social protection measures. The presence of journals such as *World Development*, *Energy Economics*, and *Review of Income and Wealth* underscores this interdisciplinary focus and suggests that the topic has expanded beyond traditional macroeconomic debates.

The findings on institutions and geography reveal both focus and diversity. Prominent institutions such as Monash University, the London School of Economics, the World Bank, Beijing Normal University, the Indian Statistical Institute, and Universiti Teknologi MARA demonstrate engagement from both academic and policy spheres. This is important because inflation and poverty are practical policy issues, not just theoretical ones. However, country-level analysis shows that most research output is concentrated in high-income, research-driven nations, particularly the US, China, the UK, Germany, Australia, France, Italy, and Spain. This geographical imbalance is notable since many low-income regions vulnerable to inflation-induced poverty remain underrepresented in the literature. Future research should focus on collecting more data from Sub-Saharan Africa, various parts of Asia, Latin America, and other regions where inflation significantly impacts well-being.

The authorship findings indicate that the field is still quite open and decentralized. No individual or small group of researchers dominates the literature. This is common in emerging and interdisciplinary areas, where scholars from various fields contribute based on their regional, methodological, and policy focuses. The moderate level of international collaboration suggests potential to build stronger cross-country research networks. Enhancing collaboration would be especially beneficial for comparative studies exploring how inflation impacts poverty across different income groups, nations, and policy frameworks.

The keyword and co-word analyses clearly highlight the main conceptual areas of the field. The most common terms, poverty, inflation, income inequality, income distribution, household expenditure, household income, and living standards, emphasize a growing concern about how inflation affects distribution and overall well-being. The co-word

network further supports this by showing strong links between inflation, poverty, inequality, income distribution, cost of living, unemployment, vulnerability, and household welfare. This indicates a shift in research focus, from viewing inflation only as a macroeconomic indicator to exploring its uneven impacts on households, particularly low-income and vulnerable groups.

Terms such as COVID-19, energy poverty, cost of living, and vulnerability highlight how recent research addresses current economic shocks. These themes suggest that studies on inflation and poverty are increasingly centered on crises like pandemics, supply chain disruptions, spikes in food and energy prices, and labor market challenges. This shift is significant because inflation impacts households differently. Poor families typically allocate a larger share of their income to essentials, making them more vulnerable to increasing costs for food, housing, transportation, and energy.

Methodologically, the results show an increasing reliance on empirical and quantitative methods. Terms such as regression analysis, econometrics, household survey, and welfare economics indicate that researchers employ household-level data and statistical models to examine the connection between inflation and poverty. This trend strengthens the empirical foundation of the field. However, future research could be enhanced by incorporating qualitative or mixed-method approaches to better understand household coping strategies, informal support networks, behavioral responses, and lived experiences related to inflation.

Overall, bibliometric data show that research on inflation and household poverty is expanding, interdisciplinary, and increasingly relevant for policy. The field is influenced by three primary conceptual areas: macroeconomic instability, distributional inequality, and household welfare. Despite this progress, notable gaps remain. There is a need for more studies from underrepresented regions, more comparative cross-country analyses, and broader frameworks that extend beyond poverty to cover welfare, consumption, living conditions, deprivation, vulnerability, and household well-being. Addressing these gaps will provide a fuller understanding of how inflation affects households and will enhance the evidence supporting poverty reduction, social protection, and macroeconomic policies.

6. Conclusions, Implications, Limitations, and Future Research

6.1. Conclusions

This bibliometric review provides a comprehensive overview of the changing research landscape on inflation and household poverty. The results show notable recent growth in this field, driven by global economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, rising energy costs, food inflation, and broader cost-of-living issues. The rising number of publications underscores that inflation-related poverty has become a crucial global concern, attracting greater scholarly and policy attention.

The analysis underscores the interdisciplinary scope of this literature, incorporating insights from development economics, macroeconomics, welfare economics, energy economics, public policy, and social welfare. Key journals such as *World Development*, *Energy Economics*, and *Review of Income and Wealth* play a pivotal role in shaping its scholarly basis. Moreover, the keyword co-occurrence network shows an increasing emphasis on interconnected topics like income inequality, living standards, household expenditure, unemployment, vulnerability, and economic growth. This trend reflects a movement away from traditional macroeconomic debates toward more integrated, welfare-oriented perspectives.

Institutional analyses reveal that scientific output is concentrated in high-income countries and at renowned institutions such as Monash University, the London School of Economics (LSE), and the World Bank. The United States, China, and the UK are at the forefront of publishing and dominate international collaboration networks. Although emerging economies such as India, Mauritius, and Bangladesh are showing increased

participation, reflecting broader globalization trends, contributions from low-income countries, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa, remain limited. These underscore ongoing disparities in the global knowledge production system.

Collaboration patterns emphasize the growing role of international co-authorship, particularly amid the complex inflationary pressures affecting vulnerable populations worldwide. Nonetheless, the prominence of wealthier countries raises concerns about knowledge gaps and unequal research capabilities, which hinder the representation of regions most affected by these challenges.

Life-cycle analysis suggests rapid expansion will persist, with growth projected over the next decade. This underscores significant future opportunities for academic research and maintains its relevance for policymakers, especially given the ongoing risks posed by rising inequalities and sectoral volatility affecting households globally.

In summary, this review underscores that understanding how inflation affects household poverty is a complex and expanding field that demands greater focus from both scholars and policymakers. The results underscore the importance of promoting inclusive collaboration to deepen engagement with developing economies, especially regarding the local impacts on families facing economic instability. Future studies should prioritize comparative analyses across countries using multidimensional metrics to explore the socio-economic effects of price fluctuations, with the aim of developing solutions tailored to the varied needs of affected populations worldwide.

6.2. Policy Implication

The bibliometric data reveal a significant increase in research on inflation and household poverty from 2015 to 2025, particularly after 2021. Analyses of keywords, word clouds, and co-word networks show strong connections to topics like inequality, household expenses, living standards, purchasing power, unemployment, vulnerability, and energy poverty. These insights imply that policy debates should go beyond focusing solely on price stability and address how rising food and energy costs, declining real incomes, and diminished purchasing power affect poor households.

The geographic analysis reveals that most research is concentrated in the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia, while Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and parts of the Middle East are underrepresented. This disparity highlights the necessity for more evidence from low- and middle-income countries, where inflation's impact on poverty could be more significant.

The institutional findings show that research in this area is primarily driven by well-funded universities and development groups. This underscores the importance of fostering closer collaboration with researchers from underrepresented regions to produce more inclusive and context-aware evidence.

Overall, the findings indicate that the field is expanding and gradually gaining stability, but it has not yet reached full maturity. Future research should utilize household-level data, comparative analyses across countries, and rigorous empirical methods to better understand how inflation influences poverty.

6.3. Limitations and Future Directions

This study employed a systematic bibliometric method, but several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the analysis was based solely on the Scopus database, which may have overlooked pertinent studies from Web of Science, PubMed, or Google Scholar. Additionally, restricting the dataset to English-language journal articles in Economics, Business, Management, and Accounting could have excluded valuable interdisciplinary and regional research. Second, the analysis was conducted solely using the bibliometric R

package version 5.1.1, accessed through the Biblioshiny interface in R version 4.5.0 (2025-04-11 ucrt). While these tools are reliable for bibliometric analysis, incorporating software such as VOSviewer could provide more advanced network visualization, offering better insights into co-authorship, co-citation, bibliographic coupling, and keyword association. Lastly, although the TITLE-ABS-KEY search strategy, centered on specific keywords related to inflation, households, and poverty, enhanced search precision, it might have missed relevant studies that used alternative terms such as welfare, consumption, and living conditions.

Future research could overcome these limitations by using a multi-database search approach that combines Biblioshiny with other tools, such as VOSviewer. It should also expand the search query to include a wider range of synonymous terms and consider additional document types and non-English publications. These enhancements would lead to a more comprehensive and globally representative understanding of the literature on inflation and household poverty.

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