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THE USE OF ENERGY SOURCES IN RURAL AREAS: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Rodrigo Schons Arenhart (rodrigo.schons@acad.ufsm.br)

Daniel Arruda Coronel (daniel.coronel@uol.com.br)

This study aimed to investigate the use of energy sources in rural areas, including the perspectives of traditional communities. A systematic review was conducted using the Scopus database, employing bibliometric and descriptive statistical analysis to examine publication volume, main authors, countries, journals, energy sources, objectives, methods, and study groups. A total of 122 articles were selected. The results show exponential growth in scientific output, rising from three articles between 1998-2005 to 68 between 2020-2025. The journals "Energy for Sustainable Development" and "Energy Policy" concentrate 32% of the publications. Over 70% of the articles focus on Asia and Africa, with China and India accounting for almost half of the Asian continent. Spain, Ethiopia, and Kenya are also notable. The most studied sources were solar (48 articles), biomass (45), and grid electricity (43), with a rise in research on wind, firewood, and hybrid and mini-grid systems. In China, the focus is on biomass,

solar, coal, natural gas, and grid electricity. In India, the emphasis is on solar energy, grid electricity, kerosene, and mini-grids. About two-thirds of the studies are dedicated to energy systems planning and understanding user consumption patterns, mainly using surveys and case studies. Most research focused exclusively on rural areas, while a quarter compared rural and urban contexts. The analysis revealed the underrepresentation of population groups: women were considered in four studies, poor individuals in two, while ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, the elderly, firewood sellers, and migrants were analyzed in only one study each. The originality and value of the study lie in its comprehensive mapping of the field and identification of a key limitation: the disconnect between the discourse of inclusion and research practice, which lacks approaches centered on the knowledge, needs, and agency of these populations. This gap hinders the formulation of truly sustainable and just energy policies.

Palavras-chave: energy sources; rural areas; traditional communities; bibliometric analysis; energy policies.