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## Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in SMEs: A systematic review with bibliometric analysis and sustainability assessment methods

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### Abstract

Sustainable development goals (SDGs) are integrated and implemented by small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) in a manner consistent with their business model and core competencies, enabling them to adapt to changing environment and providing them a sustainable competitive advantage from other competitors. The awareness of the SDGs among SMEs is rising; however, it does not always translate into meaningful action and effective practices. Therefore, building bridges between theory (awareness) and practice (meaningful action) is an urgent and practical contribution for SMEs integrating and achieving SDGs. This study reviews published articles on the implementation of SDGs in SMEs from 2015 to September 2023 using the Systematic Literature Review methodology. After the PRISMA guidelines with the exclusion criteria were strictly followed, 57 suitable articles were shortlisted within the initial 460 search results. The results of bibliometric and network analyses provide a vivid visual view of the development tendency of the research theme as well as the correlations between publications, authors, keyword trends and the top contributing nations. Through analyzing the content of the selected articles, the variations in SMEs' approaches to and implementations of the SDGs are observed. Assessing the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable solutions to highlight the initial achievements and the obstacles that must be overcome for SMEs to attain sustainability are conducted. Lastly, fresh research directions for SMEs to achieve SDGs have proposed.

**Keywords:** collaboration, green entrepreneurial orientation (GEO), green technology, innovation, triple bottom line (TBL)