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## PARENTING STYLES & INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT: A GLOBAL BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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### Abstract:

Research on parenting styles and their effects across generations has been gaining notable international interest. However, detailed quantitative mapping of this academic field is still relatively underdeveloped. This bibliometric study was conducted to systematically examine worldwide research patterns, the intellectual foundations, and the thematic progression of parenting and intergenerational studies. Although there has been a steady rise in related publications, there remains a substantial gap in consolidating global findings and recognizing key trends and leading scholars in the field. To bridge this gap, a comprehensive search was carried out in the Scopus database using five primary keywords: Parenting, Intergenerational, Impact, Global, and Bibliometric. The search was carefully narrowed by applying inclusion criteria that focused on English-language journal articles published between 2020 and 2025, while excluding conference papers, books, and review articles. The data underwent cleaning and refinement using Open Refine, while Scopus Analyzer was employed to track productivity patterns. VOS viewer was used to visualize collaborative networks, keyword linkages, and citation structures. Out of an initial 2,006 articles identified, 523 met all selection requirements and were included in the final analysis. The findings indicate a sharp rise in research exploring the intergenerational influence of parenting styles, with substantial contributions from scholars in the United States, China, and the United Kingdom. Key focus areas emerging from the analysis include authoritative parenting, cultural factors, adolescent growth, and enduring behavioral impacts. Furthermore, the study uncovers the development of new interdisciplinary research themes that combine elements from psychology, sociology, and education. This bibliometric assessment provides critical insights for researchers, professionals, and decision-makers by offering a detailed overview of the global research landscape, pinpointing gaps in current knowledge, and proposing potential avenues for future investigation to deepen the understanding of parenting's long-term effects across generations.

**Keywords:**

Parenting, Intergenerational, Impact, Global, and Bibliometric

**Introduction**

Parenting styles play a crucial role in influencing how children grow and develop, shaping their behaviors and life outcomes. The way parenting approaches are passed down from one generation to another is a vital subject of research. This process is shaped by numerous factors, including cultural, societal, and economic backgrounds that differ widely across regions. Gaining a deeper understanding of these influences is key to formulating effective family-oriented policies and intervention strategies that support positive child development. This study seeks to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric review of global parenting styles and their effects across generations, aiming to uncover how these practices change over time and affect future parenting behaviors.

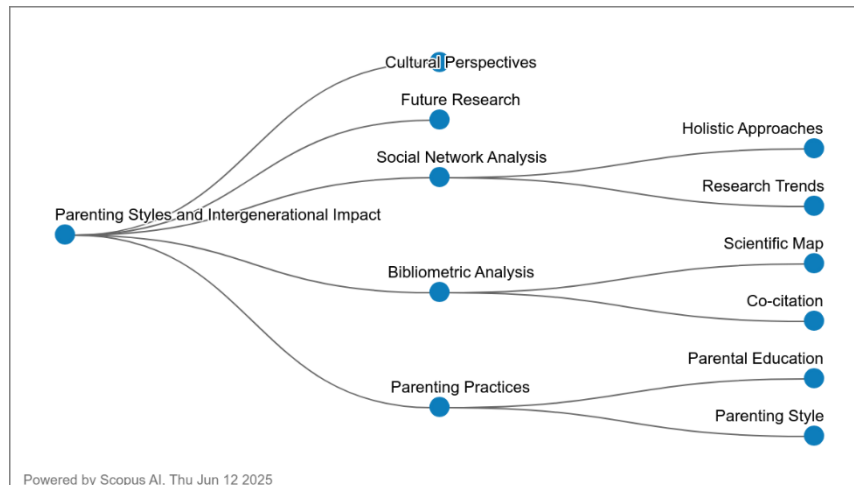
Parenting methods vary widely between cultures, often showing distinct differences between Western and Eastern traditions. In Western contexts, common parenting categories include authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and neglectful styles, whereas Eastern parenting may emphasize approaches such as filial piety, strict ("tiger") parenting, and structured training methods (Foo 2019). These variations are not just theoretical but have tangible impacts on children's well-being. For example, in rural areas of China, the emotional health of children left behind by migrating parents is deeply influenced by both parental and inherited parenting practices, with the mother-child bond playing a particularly vital role (Qi and Wu 2024). In a similar vein, a research has shown that young mothers frequently adopt the same parenting styles they experienced in their upbringing, demonstrating the cultural strength of parenting traditions (Pasternak 2014).

Evidence strongly supports the idea that parenting styles often persist through generations. Both supportive and harmful parenting behaviors are commonly passed down, with styles such as authoritarian and permissive parenting being especially resistant to change (Lawall, Tram, and Kumar 2022) & (Yaffe and Seroussi 2018). This continuation is not purely through mimicry; rather, it involves intricate relationships between parent and child interactions. For instance, the emotional warmth or hostility shown by parents and grandparents can significantly shape the social and emotional development of grandchildren, indicating that parenting legacies are both inherited and adapted over time (He, Liu, and Luo 2023).

Additionally, evolving gender roles and cultural transformations can alter these parenting trends, as demonstrated by the growing shift from authoritarian to more democratic parenting approaches within modern Western families (Campbell and Gilmore 2007) & (Yaffe 2023). The influence of parenting styles on children's growth is both profound and complex. Authoritative parenting, which combines high levels of responsiveness with clear expectations, tends to lead to favorable outcomes like stronger social skills and academic achievement (Field, Muong, and Sochanvimean 2013). On the other hand, authoritarian and permissive parenting often correlate with emotional and behavioral difficulties (Shiraishi et al. 2022). When parenting styles are passed from parents to children, these effects can ripple across generations, either reinforcing positive developmental patterns or perpetuating negative ones. For example, in Cambodia, mothers who endured traumatic experiences during the Khmer

Rouge era carried the psychological impact into their parenting, significantly affecting their children's mental health (Field et al. 2013). This example highlights the importance of recognizing and addressing intergenerational trauma in parenting research and practices.

In summary, parenting styles vary considerably across different cultural settings and are frequently transferred from one generation to the next. Understanding these complex patterns is essential for researchers and policymakers to develop better family support systems that encourage positive child development and break cycles of harmful parenting behaviors.



**Figure 1: Overview of Literature Analyze by Scopus**

### Research Question

This study employed a bibliometric analysis to address five key research questions, focusing on publication trends, citation patterns, influential articles, thematic evolution, and international collaboration in parenting style research from 2020 to 2025. The method systematically mapped disciplinary distributions, geographical contributions, and intergenerational impacts using database-driven citation and co-authorship analyses.

The questions that driven this research are:

1. How has research on parenting styles and their intergenerational impact been distributed across scientific disciplines from 2020 to 2025, and what does this reveal about the multidimensional nature of the topic?
2. What are the most influential articles, citation trends, and emerging research themes in the study of parenting styles and their intergenerational impact?
3. How does the geographical distribution of publications reflect regional priorities and academic investment in parenting and generational studies?
4. How do parental approaches affect outcomes across multiple generations?
5. What is co-authorship based on countries' collaboration?

### Methodology

Bibliometric analysis refers to the systematic collection, organization, and examination of bibliographic information from scientific literature (Alves, Borges, and De Nadae 2021; Assyakur and Rosa 2022; Verbeek et al. 2002). It extends beyond basic data, such as identifying the journals, years, and prominent authors involved in publication trends (Wu and Wu 2017), This method also incorporates advanced analytical tools like co-citation analysis to explore relationships within the literature. An effective literature review demands a thorough

and repeated process, including the careful selection of keywords, comprehensive literature searching, and detailed evaluation.

This structured approach ensures the development of a well-rounded reference base and supports dependable research outcomes (Fahimnia, Sarkis, and Davarzani 2015). In this study, particular attention was given to influential publications, as they offer critical perspectives on the underlying theories driving the field. For data accuracy, the SCOPUS database was the main source of information (Al-Khoury et al. 2022; Khiste and Paithankar 2017; di Stefano, Peteraf, and Veronay 2010). To uphold quality standards, the research exclusively considered peer-reviewed journal articles, intentionally omitting books and lecture materials (Gu et al. 2019). The dataset, gathered through Elsevier's Scopus platform due to its extensive journal coverage, comprised publications spanning from 2020 to December 2025 for detailed examination.

### Data Search Strategy

In this bibliometric study, a comprehensive and carefully organized search process was undertaken using the Scopus database, which is widely acknowledged for its extensive collection of peer-reviewed academic publications. A specialized search query was developed: *TITLE (parent AND (pattern OR style) AND (effect OR impact\*) AND generation\*)\*\**, specifically crafted to identify research that directly explores the connection between parenting approaches and their influence across generations. The use of truncation symbols (\*) was intentionally applied to capture different word forms and variations, thereby maximizing the retrieval of relevant articles. This initial search yielded 2,006 records, reflecting the considerable and expanding interest in this area of research. By restricting the search to article titles, the study successfully targeted the most pertinent sources, improving both accuracy and focus.

To ensure that the selected articles were both relevant and of high quality, a set of strict inclusion and exclusion parameters was employed. Only English-language articles were considered to maintain consistency in linguistic analysis and to facilitate global comprehension. The search was deliberately narrowed to publications from 2020 to 2025, allowing the study to concentrate on the most recent developments, trends, and empirical findings in the discipline. Articles published before 2021 were intentionally omitted to avoid outdated information.

Additionally, the review focused solely on original journal articles. Materials such as conference papers, books, and review studies were excluded to ensure the analysis remained centered on primary research contributions. After completing the detailed filtering and screening process, the final selection consisted of 523 high-quality articles, providing a solid basis for thorough bibliometric mapping and thematic investigation. This rigorous selection approach not only strengthens the credibility of the analysis but also guarantees that the findings will offer current and valuable insights for both researchers and practitioners in the field.

**Table 1: The Search String**

<b>Scopus</b>	TITLE-ABS-KEY ( parent* AND ( pattern* OR style* ) AND ( effect* OR impact* ) AND generation* ) AND PUBYEAR > 2019 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( PUBSTAGE , "final" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SRCTYPE , "j" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" ) )
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**Table 2: The Selection Criterion is Searching**

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Inclusion</i>	<i>Exclusion</i>
<i>Language</i>	English	Non-English
<i>Time line</i>	2020 – 2025	< 2020
<i>Literature type</i>	Journal (Article)	Conference, Book, Review
<i>Publication Stage</i>	Final	In Press

### Data Analysis

VOS viewer is a bibliometric tool created by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman from Leiden University in the Netherlands (van Eck and Waltman 2010, 2017). This software is widely recognized for its simplicity and effectiveness in visualizing and analyzing academic publications. It is particularly skilled at generating network maps, grouping related elements, and producing density visualizations. VOS viewer is highly adaptable, supporting analyses such as co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword relationships, which helps researchers explore scientific fields in depth. Its interactive design and frequent updates allow users to navigate extensive datasets efficiently. Additionally, VOS viewer's capabilities in measuring bibliometric indicators, customizing visual outputs, and working with multiple data formats make it an essential tool for scholars aiming to uncover patterns in complex research topics.

A key advantage of VOS viewer is its ability to convert large and intricate bibliometric data into easy-to-understand visual representations. It excels in network analysis, particularly in clustering similar items, examining keyword patterns, and creating density-based visuals. Its intuitive interface makes it accessible to both new and experienced researchers. With ongoing software improvements, VOS viewer remains a leading solution in bibliometric mapping, offering detailed metrics and adaptable visualizations. The software's flexibility across different data types, such as co-authorship and citation mapping, further solidifies its importance for in-depth research exploration.

For this study, bibliometric datasets were extracted from the Scopus database covering the years 2004 to December 2024. The data included publication titles, author names, journal sources, citations, keywords, and publication years, all formatted in Plaintext files. These datasets were processed using VOS viewer version 1.6.19, which provided visual maps and clustering outputs using its specialized mapping algorithms. Unlike the traditional Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) method, VOS viewer arranges items in low-dimensional spaces to better reflect their degree of similarity based on proximity (van Eck and Waltman 2010). While it shares some conceptual similarities with MDS (Appio, Cesaroni, and Di Minin

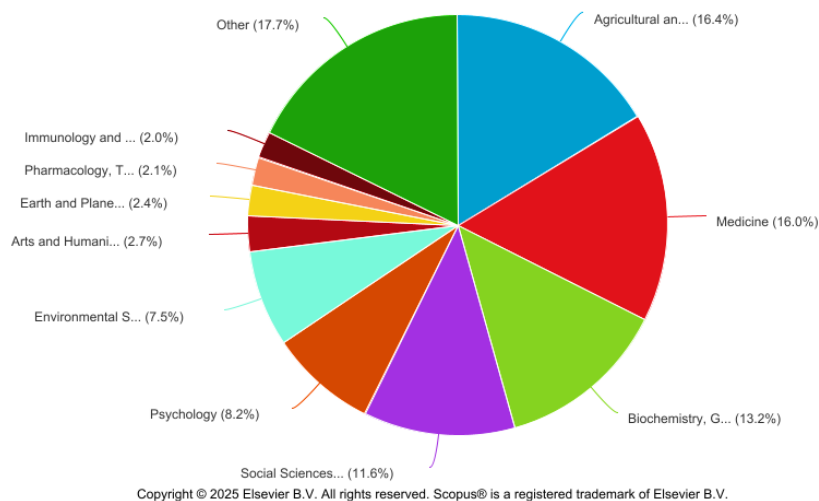
2014). VOS viewer diverges by utilizing a distinct approach to measure co-occurrence relationships. Specifically, VOS viewer applies the association strength ( $AS_{ij}$ ) as a normalization technique, calculated using the formula provided by (Van Eck and Waltman 2007):

$$AS_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{w_i w_j}$$

This metric represents the ratio of the actual frequency of co-occurrence between items  $i$  and  $j$  compared to the frequency expected if their occurrences were statistically independent (Van Eck and Waltman 2007).

## Results & Findings

**Research Question 1: "How Has Research On Parenting Styles And Their Intergenerational Impact Been Distributed Across Scientific Disciplines From 2020 To 2025 And What Does This Reveal About The Multidimensional Nature Of The Topic?"**



**Figure 1: Documents by Subject Area using Scopus**

**Table 3: Documents Sorted by Subject Area in Percentage**

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>No of Document</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Agricultural and Biological Sciences</i>	145	16.4%
<i>Medicine</i>	142	16.0%
<i>Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology</i>	117	13.2%
<i>Social Sciences</i>	103	11.6%
<i>Psychology</i>	73	8.2%
<i>Environmental Science</i>	66	7.5%
<i>Arts and Humanities</i>	24	2.7%
<i>Earth and Planetary Sciences</i>	21	2.4%
<i>Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics</i>	19	2.1%
<i>Immunology and Microbiology</i>	18	2.0%
<i>Others</i>	157	17.7%



The bibliometric distribution of documents related to parenting styles and their intergenerational impacts between 2020–2025 shows a diverse range of subject areas, indicating the multidisciplinary nature of the topic. Notably, the highest concentration of publications falls under "Others" (17.7%), followed closely by Agricultural and Biological Sciences (16.4%) and Medicine (16.0%). This suggests that while parenting is traditionally seen through a social or psychological lens, significant attention has also been paid to its biological, health, and medical dimensions—perhaps due to increasing interest in epigenetics, child development, and public health implications of parenting practices. Similarly, Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology (13.2%) indicate a focus on how parenting may influence genetic expression or developmental biology.

Social Sciences (11.6%) and Psychology (8.2%) remain central to the discourse, reflecting their foundational role in understanding parenting behaviors, child outcomes, and family dynamics. Environmental Science (7.5%) likely includes research related to how environmental factors influence or interact with parenting approaches. On the lower end, fields like Arts and Humanities (2.7%), Earth and Planetary Sciences (2.4%), Pharmacology (2.1%), and Immunology and Microbiology (2.0%) show that while relevant, these areas engage less frequently with the topic. The spread of subject areas underscores the complexity of parenting's intergenerational impact, which spans from psychosocial behavior to biological inheritance and environmental interaction.

***Research Question 2: What Are The Most Influential Articles, Citation Trends, And Emerging Research Themes In The Study Of Parenting Styles And Their Intergenerational Impact?***

**Table 4: Article Most Cited by Author**

<i>Authors</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source title</i>	<i>Cited by</i>
<i>(Houri-Zeevi et al. 2020)</i>	Three Rules Explain Transgenerational Small RNA Inheritance in <i>C. elegans</i>	2020	Cell	45
<i>(Buzzi et al. 2020)</i>	The psycho-social effects of COVID-19 on Italian adolescents' attitudes and behaviors	2020	Italian Journal of Pediatrics	125
<i>(Wan et al. 2022)</i>	Histone H3K4me3 modification is a transgenerational epigenetic signal for lipid metabolism in <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	2022	Nature Communications	51
<i>(Zuzolo et al. 2020)</i>	Potentially toxic elements in soils of Campania region (Southern Italy): Combining raw and compositional data	2020	Journal of Geochemical Exploration	53
<i>(Jongsma et al. 2021)</i>	Social disadvantage, linguistic distance, ethnic minority status and first-episode psychosis: Results from the EU-GEI case-control study	2021	Psychological Medicine	67

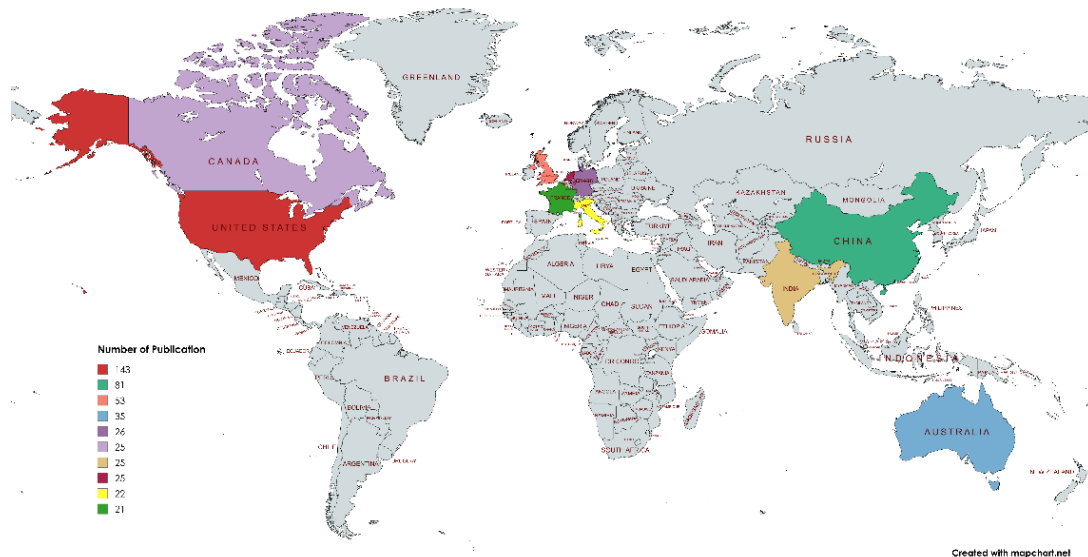
(Wagner et al. 2021)	Microbe-dependent heterosis in maize	2021	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America	61
(Kaspar et al. 2020)	Nutrition and its role in epigenetic inheritance of obesity and diabetes across generations	2020	Mammalian Genome	46
(Jaime-Sanchez et al. 2020)	Cell death induced by cytotoxic CD8 + T cells is immunogenic and primes caspase-3-dependent spread immunity against endogenous tumor antigens	2020	Journal for Immuno Therapy of Cancer	65
(Major et al. 2020)	Early Life Exposure to Environmentally Relevant Levels of Endocrine Disruptors Drive Multigenerational and Transgenerational Epigenetic Changes in a Fish Model	2020	Frontiers in Marine Science	50
(Hauser, Athrey, and Leberg 2021)	Waste not, want not: Microsatellites remain an economical and informative technology for conservation genetics	2021	Ecology and Evolution	46

The data presented reveals a collection of highly cited works between 2020 and 2025 that, while diverse in subject matter, contribute meaningfully to the discourse on intergenerational and transgenerational influence key themes in the study of parenting. The article by (Buzzi et al. 2020) stands out significantly, with 125 citations, examining the psychosocial effects of COVID-19 on adolescents. This aligns closely with the theme of parenting, as pandemic-related shifts in family dynamics, mental health, and youth behavior are deeply connected to parental influence. Similarly, (Kaspar et al. 2020) discuss nutrition's epigenetic role in obesity and diabetes across generations, providing scientific grounding for how early life parental choices particularly in diet can have inheritable consequences.

Several other studies provide strong biological and environmental frameworks to understand intergenerational transmission. For instance, (Major et al. 2020) focus on endocrine disruptors and their multigenerational effects, while (Wan et al. 2022) and (Houri-Zeevi et al. 2020) explore epigenetic mechanisms in *C. elegans*, emphasizing the biological continuity of external influences across generations. Though not all entries are directly linked to human parenting, their focus on inheritance, development, and behavior across generations supports the broader context of your bibliometric topic. The inclusion of studies on social disadvantage (Jongsma et al. 2021) and immune response (Jaime-Sanchez et al. 2020) further illustrates the interdisciplinary reach of intergenerational research spanning psychology, sociology, biology, and medicine.



**Research Question 3: How Does The Geographical Distribution Of Publications Reflect Regional Priorities And Academic Investment In Parenting And Generational Studies?**



**Figure 5: Map of Top Contributing Countries created with mapchart.net**

**Table 5: Table Shows Top Distributer of Publications Around the World**

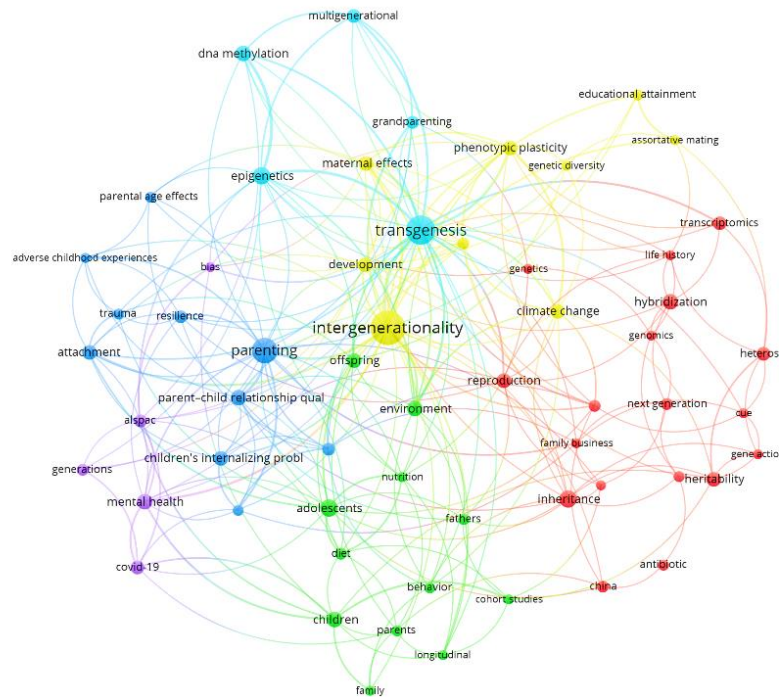
Country/Territory	Number of Publication	Percentage
United States	143	27
China	81	15
United Kingdom	53	10
Australia	35	6
Germany	26	4
Canada	25	4.7
India	25	4.7
Netherlands	25	4.7
Italy	22	4.2
France	21	4

The data clearly indicates that the United States leads the global research output on parenting styles and intergenerational impact, contributing 27.34% of the total publications. This dominant position may be attributed to the country's extensive academic infrastructure, strong funding mechanisms, and a growing societal focus on parenting, psychology, and family development. China follows with 15.49%, reflecting a growing interest in child development and generational studies, possibly driven by demographic transitions and policy shifts such as the one-child policy's long-term effects. The United Kingdom ranks third, contributing just over 10%, likely influenced by its established social science and public health research institutions.

Other notable contributors include Australia, Germany, and Canada, each representing between 4% and 7% of global output. Interestingly, India, the Netherlands, and Italy each report an equal number of publications (25, or 4.78%), highlighting their emerging roles in this research

domain. These results suggest a geographically diverse interest in the study of parenting styles and their generational consequences, though with a clear concentration in Western countries. The presence of both developed and developing nations in the top 10 list underscores the universal relevance of parenting research across varying cultural, social, and economic settings.

***Research Question 4: How Do Parental Approaches Affect Outcomes Across Multiple Generations?***



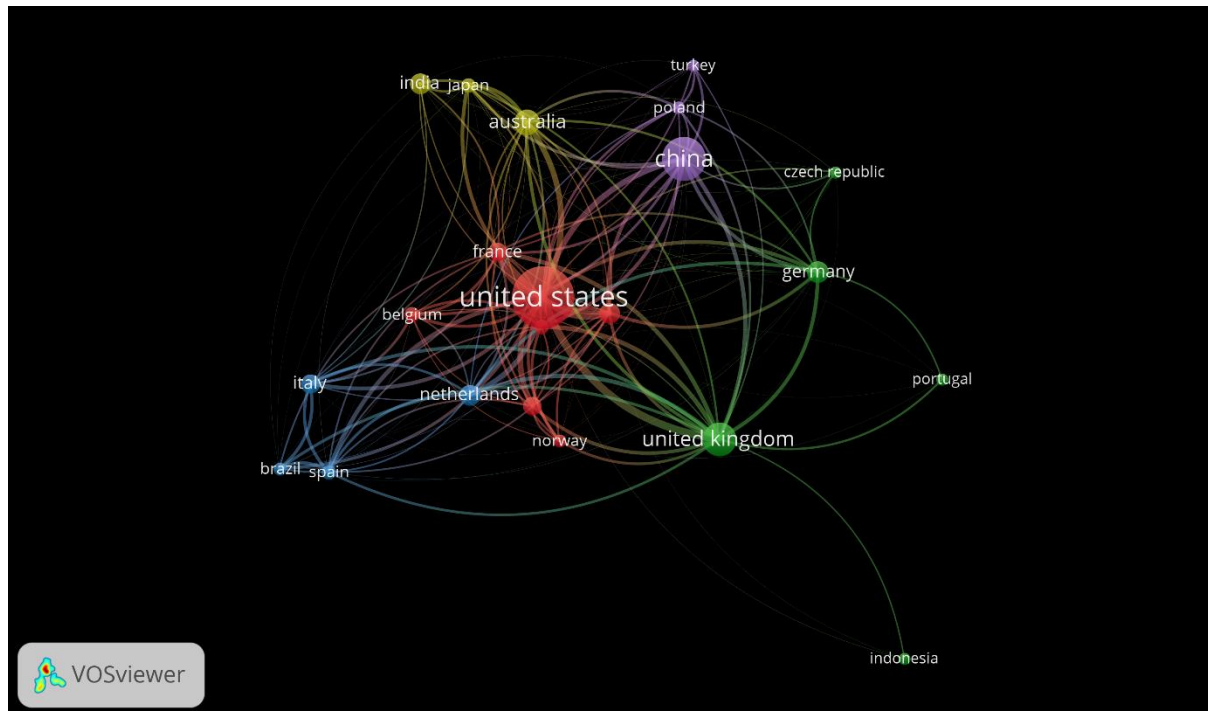
**Figure 2: Network Visualization Map of Keywords' Co-Occurrence using VOS viewer**

The VOS viewer keyword analysis reveals "intergenerationally" (55 occurrences, 67 link strength) and "transgenesis" (39 occurrences, 67 link strength) as the most dominant terms, indicating a strong scholarly emphasis on how parenting influences span across generations both socially and biologically. These keywords show deep interconnections with high-impact themes such as "epigenetics" (15, 29) and "parenting" (30, 35)—highlighting the growing recognition that parenting styles affect not only emotional and psychological development but also potentially influence genetic expression and biological traits through heritable mechanisms.

Related to child development, frequently appearing keywords like "adolescents" (14, 18), "children" (11, 17), and "mental health" (12, 20) suggest that research often targets the early and formative stages of life, examining the psychological and social outcomes of various parenting styles. Terms like "attachment" (10, 16), "parent-child relationship quality" (12, 16), and "maternal effects" (10, 21) reinforce a consistent research focus on emotional bonds and parenting efficacy. The prominence of "environment" (12, 20) and "climate change" (10, 20) also indicates an interdisciplinary approach where external factors are seen as intertwined with parenting impacts across generations.

Moreover, the presence of biological and genetic terms such as "dna methylation" (11, 17), "inheritance" (15, 12), and "phenotypic plasticity" (10, 24) reflects a robust interest in epigenetic research, showing how parenting may affect gene expression and health outcomes. The integration of psychological, social, environmental, and genetic keywords demonstrates a multidimensional scholarly landscape, where parenting styles are explored not in isolation but as a dynamic force affecting behavior, development, and intergenerational transmission of traits and experiences.

#### ***Research Question 5: What Is Co-Authorship Based On Countries' Collaboration?***



**Figure 5: Network Visualization Map of Co-Authorship Based on Country using VOS viewer**

The bibliometric analysis identifies the United States as the leading nation in research related to parenting styles and intergenerational effects, contributing the highest number of publications (143), total citations (1,543), and the strongest link strength (6,516). This firmly positions the U.S. at the center of global research networks in this area. The United Kingdom and China follow behind, with 53 and 81 publications respectively. However, the UK demonstrates a greater citation impact per publication, as shown by its 395 citations and a link strength of 4,492, indicating higher visibility and stronger international connections for each study. In contrast, China, despite having more publications than the UK, records lower citations and link strength, suggesting it is making significant contributions but has yet to achieve the same level of global scholarly influence.

Additional key contributors include Canada, France, Australia, and the Netherlands, all of which maintain consistent performance in terms of publication numbers, citation rates, and engagement within international research networks. Notably, Canada and France, while producing fewer papers than China, display higher average link strengths per publication, possibly due to more intensive global collaborations or broader referencing patterns. Germany, South Africa, and Sweden also stand out, as their work demonstrates substantial integration

into the global discourse on parenting and intergenerational topics despite a smaller volume of output.

Meanwhile, countries such as India, Pakistan, and Malaysia are emerging as growing contributors in this field. Although their citation counts and link strengths remain relatively modest, their increasing participation indicates a developing presence and potential for future influence. The inclusion of countries like Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, which currently show lower research impact, signals the potential for these regions to become more significant players moving forward. Altogether, this international participation reflects a broadening scholarly interest in parenting and intergenerational research, cutting across different cultures and geographic boundaries.

### Conclusion

This bibliometric study thoroughly explored the international research landscape concerning parenting styles and their effects across generations. The primary goal was to identify trends in publication, key areas of focus, and major contributors from various academic disciplines. The study aimed to chart the intellectual development of this field and examine how different parenting methods influence social and biological outcomes over generations.

The analysis revealed a significant growth in academic interest regarding the intergenerational impact of parenting, particularly in recent years. Research in this domain has expanded beyond the confines of social sciences to encompass fields such as medicine, genetics, environmental research, and biological studies. The thematic investigation underscored a strong concentration on the emotional and psychological growth of children and teenagers, the critical role of the parent-child bond, and the influence of external elements like environmental shifts. There has also been a noticeable rise in studies focusing on genetic and epigenetic processes, indicating an increasing curiosity about the biological transmission of parenting effects.

This research offers valuable insights by presenting a broad, structured overview of global developments in this area. It effectively highlights current knowledge groupings and uncovers areas needing further investigation, helping to deepen the understanding of how psychological, social, biological, and environmental factors intersect in parenting and generational studies. The bibliometric visualization provided can guide future research and serve as a useful reference for policymakers, educators, and practitioners committed to promoting long-term family and child well-being.

However, this study has some limitations. Its reliance solely on the Scopus database may have resulted in the omission of important research from other sources. Additionally, focusing only on English-language publications may have restricted the cultural range of the dataset. Future research should broaden the scope by incorporating various databases, non-English literature, and longer-term studies. There is also a need for more in-depth exploration of the biological and environmental mechanisms that influence parenting across generations.

The value of this study lies in its ability to shed light on emerging trends and shifting priorities within the global investigation of parenting and its effects over time. By providing a systematic bibliometric assessment, this research supports the advancement of more integrated, cross-disciplinary approaches and encourages sustained academic inquiry in this significant and socially impactful field.



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