

People, Planet, and Profit: A Bibliometric Analysis of Triple Bottom Line Theory

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Abstract

Scientific production on Triple Bottom Line, although recent, has attracted the attention of literature. In this context, a series of factors are related to this interest, among them: (i) the scarcity of productive resources and; (ii) the need to optimize processes not only in economic terms, but especially in environmental and social aspects, has fostered the study of sustainability models. Given that, this research aims to conduct a bibliometric research on Triple Bottom Line Theory. To this end, an analysis of 1386 publications, published between 1999 and 2020, which are indexed with Web of Science database was developed. Additionally, this article presented the main contributors in the academic debate on this topic, as well as highlighted the areas of research in evidence at the present. It was found that the search for models for assessing environmental, economic and social performance is an object of great relevance today and that, among the main models used for this purpose, the class of Data Envelopment Analysis models stands out.

Keywords: Sustainability; Sustainable Development; Sustainability Reports; Triple Bottom Line; Bibliometric