

Solidarity Economy and Public Health for Sustainable Development and Community Well-Being

*Economía Solidaria y Salud Pública para el Desarrollo
Sostenible y el Bienestar Comunitario*

*Economia Solidária e Saúde Pública para o Desenvolvimento
Sustentável Bem-Estar Comunitário*

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Abstract

The fundamental purpose of this research is to explore and propose strategies for the effective integration of the solidarity economy and public health. This effort is directed towards contributing to sustainable development and improving community well-being. The methodology adopted follows a qualitative approach, implementing two distinct methods for data collection. The first method involves the formulation of search equations through bibliometrics, while the second focuses on a documentary review supported by matrices. A fundamental conclusion that emerges from this study is that the exploration of the dialogues between solidarity economy and public health reveals a transformative potential. This potential translates into the concrete possibility of building more equitable, healthy and sustainable societies. Collaboration between these fields not only represents a convergence between economic prosperity and collective well-being, but also projects an optimistic vision for the future.

Keywords: Collective economy, scientific cooperation, health policy, social system.

JEL:

A13 Relation of Economics to Social Values

B55 Social Economics

P46 Other Economic Systems: Consumer Economics; Health; Education and Training; Welfare, Income, Wealth, and Poverty

Z13 Economic Sociology; Economic Anthropology; Language; Social and Economic Stratification

Resumen

El propósito fundamental de esta investigación radica en la exploración y propuesta de estrategias para la integración eficaz de la economía solidaria y la salud pública. Este esfuerzo se dirige hacia la contribución al desarrollo sostenible y la mejora del bienestar comunitario. La metodología adoptada sigue un enfoque cualitativo, implementando dos métodos distintos para la recopilación de información. El primer método implica la formulación de ecuaciones de búsqueda a través de la bibliometría, mientras que el segundo se centra en una revisión documental apoyada en matrices. Una conclusión fundamental que se desprende de este estudio es que la exploración de los diálogos entre la economía solidaria y la salud pública revela un potencial transformador. Este potencial se traduce en la posibilidad concreta de construir sociedades más equitativas, saludables y sostenibles. La colaboración entre estos campos no solo representa una convergencia entre la prosperidad económica y el bienestar colectivo, sino que también proyecta una visión optimista para el futuro.

Palabras clave: economía colectiva, cooperación científica, política de la salud, sistema social.

Resumo

O objetivo fundamental desta pesquisa consiste em explorar e propor estratégias para a integração efetiva da economia solidária e da saúde pública. Esse esforço é direcionado para contribuir com o desenvolvimento sustentável e melhorar o bem-estar da comunidade. A metodologia adotada segue uma abordagem qualitativa, implementando dois métodos distintos para a coleta de dados. O primeiro método envolve a formulação de equações de busca por meio de bibliometria, enquanto o segundo se concentra em uma revisão documental apoiada por matrizes. Uma conclusão importante que emerge deste estudo é que a exploração dos diálogos entre a economia solidária e a saúde pública revela um potencial transformador. Esse potencial se traduz na possibilidade concreta de construir sociedades mais equitativas, saudáveis e sustentáveis. A colaboração entre esses campos não apenas representa uma convergência entre a prosperidade econômica e o bem-estar coletivo, mas também projeta uma visão otimista para o futuro.

Palavras chave: economia coletiva, cooperação científica, política de saúde, sistema social.

Introduction

The Solidarity Economy and Public Health are two fundamental areas that, although often considered separately, are intrinsically intertwined in the construction of equitable and healthy societies. Solidarity Economy, with its focus on cooperation and citizen participation in economic management, can have a significant impact on Public Health by identifying social determinants that affect health (Díaz, 2011; Maldonado, 2018a; Pan American Health Organization [PAHO] and World Health Organization [WHO], 2020). This article explores the connection between these two fields, highlighting how Solidarity Economy can contribute to strengthening Public Health systems and, in turn, how a robust Public Health can promote the consolidation of more solidarity-based economic practices.

Solidarity Economy is characterized by cooperation, democratic participation, and equity in economic decision-making. This model seeks not only individual economic benefit, but also collective well-being and social inclusion. Cooperatives, associations, and other forms of solidarity organizations aim to distribute economic benefits more equitably and enhance community participation in resource and service management (Garzón et al., 2023). In this context, Solidarity Economy has the potential to positively influence Public Health (PAHO, 2017). For example, the establishment of local food cooperatives can promote access to healthy foods, contributing to the fight against malnutrition and diet-related diseases (Salas, 2012; Gómez & Barbosa, 2023). Likewise, job creation in solidarity initiatives can improve the socio-economic conditions of communities, directly linked to population health (Gómez et al., 2021; Muñoz, 2017).

With the same purpose, Public Health addresses not only medical care but also social determinants of health, including economic, social, and environmental factors (Maldonado et al., 2020). Equity in health is a fundamental principle, and combating social inequalities is essential for promoting healthier societies. Primary care models, disease prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles are key aspects of public health (Atehortúa et al., 2009; Chávez et al., 2011; Gómez et al., 2021). Similarly, the connection between Public Health and Solidarity Economy lies in their shared focus on equity and community participation. Economic equity contributes to reducing disparities in access to health services and in the conditions that determine population health (Galea, 2016; Gómez et al., 2021; Garzón et al., 2022).

Consequently, this article is based on the central assumption that Solidarity Economy and Public Health mutually enrich each other, generating a reciprocal impact on the construction of more resilient and sustainable societies. This systematic and structured approach seeks to provide a comprehensive and informed understanding

of the interrelation between Solidarity Economy and Public Health, thereby contributing to knowledge and promoting critical reflection on their impact on the construction of more resilient and sustainable societies. Therefore, the central research question of this work is: How can Solidarity Economy and Public Health be effectively integrated to drive Sustainable Development and promote Community Well-being?

Methodology

The methodology used in this research follows a qualitative approach, broken down into two complementary methods. In the first instance, a search equation is carried out using bibliometrics for the analytical categories "Solidarity Economy" and "Public Health". This process spans a 20-year observation window (2002-2022) and is conducted by accessing journal indices such as Web of Science (wos), Scopus, Scielo, and databases like Redalyc and DOAJ, relying on the work of notable researchers (Princhar, 1969; Van Eck & Waltman, 2009; Rushforth, 2016; Aguilera et al., 2020; Barbosa et al., 2020).

Table 1. Example of Search Equation for the Category SOLIDARITY ECONOMY OR ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA

Database search	Equations	No. Of records	Records comments
	Tema: (("ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA OR SOLIDARITY ECONOMY")) Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI Período de tiempo=Todos los años	93	All de years
WoS	Tema: (("ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA OR SOLIDARITY ECONOMY")) Refinado por: Años de publicación: (2020 OR 2019 OR 2018 OR 2016 OR 2017 OR 2010 OR 2013 OR 2015 OR 2012 OR 2009 OR 2011 OR 2014 OR 2008 OR 2020 OR 2021 OR 2022 OR 2019 OR 2018 OR 2006 OR 2005 OR 2004 OR 2003 OR 2002 OR 2001 OR 2000) Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI Período de tiempo=Todos los años	89	Leaked since 2008
	Tema: ("ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA OR SOLIDARITY ECONOMY") Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, ESCI, A&HCI, SSCI Período de tiempo=Todos los años	960	Since 2009
	TITLE-ABS-KEY ("ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA OR SOLIDARITY ECONOMY")	145	since 2009
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY ("ECONOMÍA SOLIDARIA OR SOLIDARITY ECONOMY") AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2020) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2019) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2018) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2017) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2016) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2015) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2014) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2013) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2012) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2011) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2010) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2009) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2008) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR , 2000) OR LIMIT-	821	All the years

Table 2. Search Equation for the Category PUBLIC HEALTH OR SALUD PÚBLICA

Database search	Equations	No. Of records	Comments
	Tema: (“SALUD PUBLICA OR PUBLIC HEALTH “) Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI Período de tiempo=Todos los años	151	Alle the years
WoS	Tema: (“SALUD PUBLICA OR PUBLIC HEALTH “) Refinado por: Años de publication: (2020 OR 0209 OR 0 2018 OR 2016 OR 2017 OR 2010 OR 2013 OR 2015 OR 2012 OR 2009 OR 2011 OR 2014 OR 2008 OR 2020 OR 2021 02 2022 OR 2019 OR 2018 OR 2006 OR 2005 OR 2004 OR 2003 OR 2002 02 2001 OR 2000) Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI Period de tiempo=Todos los años	139	Leaked since 2008
	Tema: (“SALUD PUBLICA OR PUBLIC HEALTH “) Índices=SCI-EXPANDED, ESCI, A&HCI, SSCI Período de tiempo=Todos los años	1273	since 2009
	TITLE-ABS-KEY (“SALUD PUBLICA OR PUBLIC HEALTH “)	124	since 2009
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY ((SALUD PUBLICA OR PUBLIC HEALTH “)) AND (LIMIT- TO (PUBYEAR, 2020) OR LIMIT- TO (PUBYEAR, 2019) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2018) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2017) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2016) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2015) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2014) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2013) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2012) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2011) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2010) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2009) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2008) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2000) OR LIMIT-	767	Leaked since 2008

Search equations play a crucial role in information retrieval in databases, being fundamental in processes such as data fusion and mining for scientific production analysis (Gómez, 2005; Garfield, 2007). In the development of this procedure, the Vantage Point program is used for data and text analysis, integrating search equations with index sets such as Scopus and Web of Science (Li & Zhao, 2015; Camacho, Rojas & Santillán, 2023).

Subsequently, 9 common fields are selected between both sources with the aim of consolidating relevant documents (Cañas et al., 2013). During this process, duplicate documents are identified and eliminated, initiating a data cleaning procedure to normalize author names, institutions, countries, and keywords (Bensman & Leydesdorff, 2009). Both Scopus and WoS are recognized for hosting high-quality academic publications.

Following this, a literature review was conducted supported by matrices to synthesize the articles identified during the initial search. This review focuses on analyzing divergences and convergences among authors, drawing on references from various academic sources (Ruiz, 1996; Paramo, 2008; Gómez et al., 2016; Gómez, 2023).

The presentation of the results is structured in a matrix, arranged in an Excel sheet with distinct columns for each key element. The first column is dedicated to

identifying the general objective through the search equation, providing a clear understanding of the argumentative line. Next, another column establishes the methodology used, offering information about the adopted approach. Subsequently, a results column summarizes the findings, followed by one dedicated to the author's article synthesis, providing a unique perspective from each author. Finally, a column is devoted to the overall synthesis of the article, consolidating essential information that supports the present writing (Gómez & Rincón, 2023; Castro et al., 2017). The richness of this methodology and the diversity of consulted sources, as evidenced in the references, strengthen the validity and comprehensiveness of the conducted research.

The correlation between Solidarity Economy and Public Health has emerged as a crucial theme in the search for comprehensive strategies to improve community well-being. By exploring the contributions and challenges of both fields from an academic perspective, one can envision how their integration can lead to healthier and more equitable societies (Gómez & Barbosa, 2022b; Martin et al., 2016). Indeed, understanding and promoting dialogues between Solidarity Economy and Public Health fosters sustainable development and enhances community well-being (Abad y Abad, 2014; Unidad Administrativa Especial de Organizaciones Solidarias [UAEOS], 2020). Hence, the need for policies and actions that encourage collaboration between these two sectors to comprehensively address social and economic challenges. The following presents the results derived from the methodology and methods used:

Results

Table 3. Relationship between analytical categories and emergent categories

General aim	Analytical categories	Emergent categories
Explore strategies for the effective integration of Solidarity Economy and Public Health Solidarity Economy.	Solidarity Economy Public Health	Solidarity Economy and Economic Well-being. Public Health and Social Determinants. Challenges and Critical Considerations.

Solidarity Economy and Economic Well-being

Solidarity Economy, with its focus on cooperation and community participation, has been identified as a potential driver for improving the economic well-being of communities. Specifically, in the healthcare sector, worker cooperatives are observed not only to generate employment but also to positively influence job satisfaction and the

quality of services provided. Another noteworthy aspect is the relationship between Solidarity Economy and access to basic resources. Furthermore, consumer cooperatives can enhance access to healthy and affordable food, thus contributing to the prevention of diet-related diseases (Gómez & Barbosa 2022b; Cardozo, 2020; Frieden, 2015).

In reality, interdisciplinary collaboration and continuous research emerge as fundamental pillars for the development of public policies and practices that harness the synergies between Solidarity Economy and Public Health. This dynamic and evolving process will allow adaptation to the changing needs of communities, fostering innovation and resilience (Báscolo et al., 2018; Maldonado, 2018b; Barbosa et al., 2021; Rubio et al., 2019).

Public Health and Social Determinants

Public Health, on the other hand, has dedicated itself to addressing the social determinants that affect population health. Decisively, the social determinants of health highlight the importance of economic, social, and environmental factors in promoting health and preventing diseases. Primary healthcare, as an essential component of Public Health, seeks to provide accessible and equitable services. Consequently, the notion that a robust primary healthcare system significantly contributes to improving population health (Maldonado et al., 2020; Chaves, 2006).

Likewise, the integration of equity, citizen participation, and consideration of social determinants of health in public policies emerges as an essential element. These principles not only outline a path to social justice but also establish the foundation for comprehensively addressing the economic and health challenges faced by communities (Maldonado, 2008; Cuervo & Bermúdez, 2018).

Challenges and Critical Considerations

However, significant challenges exist. One of them is the need to overcome institutional and cultural obstacles to foster Solidarity Economy, as well as highlighting the complexity of identifying social determinants of health comprehensively. Similarly, effective coordination among government actors, community organizations, and healthcare professionals is a critical aspect emphasized in various research studies (Veenstra, 2019; Labonté et al., 2011).

On the other hand, the integration of these approaches not only presents itself as a necessary catalyst for a promising future but also as a concrete and achievable vision. By uniting Solidarity Economy and Public Health, progress is made toward a

more just, healthy, and sustainable society, where economic well-being and collective health are intrinsically intertwined, paving the way for holistic and harmonious development for the benefit of society as a whole (Álvarez et al., 2010; Dávila et al., 2018).

Discussion

Public Health focuses on protecting and improving the health of populations. This includes disease prevention, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and management of disease outbreaks. Sometimes, Public Health measures may involve economic restrictions, such as temporary closures, to control the spread of diseases and protect collective health (Lauer & Lauer, 2011; Universidad El Bosque, 2017). Similarly, Solidarity Economy subscribes to collaboration and equity in economic transactions. It seeks to build economic systems that prioritize the well-being of individuals and the community. In situations where Public Health measures negatively impact economic activities, it is essential to balance health needs with economic stability and social justice (Pérez, 2014; Osorio y Rojas, 2023).

Equity is fundamental in Solidarity Economy. It aims to optimize economic efficiency but not at its expense. Through cooperative and participatory models, efforts are made to ensure that economic benefits are distributed fairly, reducing the gaps between the wealthiest and the poorest (Gómez, 2022; Vaillancourt, 2011; Laille, 2016). Similarly, in Public Health, a balance is sought between efficiency in health-care delivery and equity in access. The importance of using resources efficiently is acknowledged, but efforts are also made to ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare, regardless of their socioeconomic position (Urzúa y Caqueo, 2012; Maldonado, 2021; 2022).

This article aligns with Cueto et al. (2018), Declaración de Astaná (2018), and Martínez & Hohler (2016) when they state that citizen participation in solidarity economic initiatives strengthens social fabric and community cohesion, key elements for promoting mental health and emotional well-being. Additionally, Public Health, by addressing inequalities and social determinants, creates a conducive environment for the emergence and development of more inclusive and solidarity-based economic practices. The promotion of healthy lifestyles and disease prevention contributes to the formation of stronger communities capable of actively participating in economic decision-making affecting their well-being.

Similarly, the article's results resonate with Álvarez (2017) and Lomazzi (2016) when they argue that the dialogue between Solidarity Economy and Public Health has converging points that could amplify their collective impact. Community participation,

promoted by Solidarity Economy, can strengthen Public Health programs, as discussed in this article regarding community involvement in health-related decision-making.

In conclusion, the article aligns with the indications of Álvarez (2011) when they affirm that equity is a central principle in both Solidarity Economy and Public Health. Emphasizing the importance of addressing socioeconomic disparities to improve overall population health. Equity in access to employment, education, and healthcare can be a positive outcome of the joint implementation of policies based on both approaches. Precisely, the article emphasizes the postulates of Coraggio et al. (2016) and Ballabeni (2015) when they argue that identifying synergies between these two fields is leveraging complementary approaches to develop interventions and policies that promote economic equity and public health in harmony. Indeed, the goal is to establish a conceptual and practical framework that allows communities to achieve holistic development, where economic prosperity is aligned with the health and quality of life of its members, thus fostering more just, resilient, and sustainable societies (Gómez & Barbosa, 2022; Maldonado, 2021; 2016).

Conclusions

The correlation between solidarity economy and public health reveals significant opportunities to address the complex challenges facing contemporary society. Both approaches, although originating from seemingly divergent disciplines, share a common denominator focused on equity, collaboration, and social justice. The integration of these approaches can lead to more holistic and sustainable solutions, driving economic development in harmony with the improvement of health and well-being in communities.

Dialogues between Solidarity Economy and Public Health represent fertile ground for building fairer and healthier societies. Collaboration between these fields can generate innovative solutions that address economic and health challenges comprehensively. Promoting equity, citizen participation, and considering the social determinants of health should be fundamental elements in the planning of public policies seeking sustainable and healthy development for all communities. The integration of these approaches can be the necessary catalyst for a future where economic prosperity and collective health are intertwined for the benefit of society as a whole.

The discussion between Solidarity Economy and Public Health reveals the complementarity of both approaches in achieving comprehensive community well-being. Integrating citizen participation and economic equity proposed by Solidarity Economy with Public Health strategies focused on social determinants may be the key to

addressing contemporary challenges more effectively. Interdisciplinary collaboration and ongoing research are essential for developing public policies and practices that leverage the synergies between Solidarity Economy and Public Health. By uniting these fields, progress can be made towards a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable society, where economic well-being and health are intrinsically intertwined.

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