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A bibliometric study of journals in Gandhian literature

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Abstract

This paper throws the light on the growth of Gandhian literature available as periodical literature in English till 2010. The study is being conducted using one of the most important tool i.e. Bibliometrics. The study reveals the growth of journals, Geographical distribution of journals, and subject classification of journals

Keywords: Bibliometrics, DDC, Gandhian, Gandhian literature

1. Introduction

One of the most important characteristic of bibliometric study is to predict the trend of growth of literature in any discipline. Growth of literature can be defined as an increase in the number of publications in a particular field. Thus the word 'Growth' implies an increase in actual size of literature over a specific period. This is well known fact that the research studies are being communicated through scientific journals. Till now, the studies on growth of literature have been conducted by large number of researchers in various disciplines. Likewise, S. Kumar (1992) [4], K. Chun (1999) [1], M.S. Rana (2010) [6] and S.B. Sahu (2012) have studied the contributions of different journals related to History of Science, Korean studies, Mammals literature, and Strategic Management respectively. The present study attempts to predict the growth of Gandhian literature as Mahatma Gandhi was a great liberator of mankind. In the present case, the amount of documented knowledge available is immense. The literature on Gandhian studies is increasing day by day because a large number of researchers are attracted towards the wide range of aspects of Gandhi's life. Thus this study will be beneficial for the scholars in this field.

The rest of the article is organized as: section 2 deals with the objectives of the study. The methodology is discussed in section 3. In section 4 the results are discussed and finally section 5 gives the important findings and their usefulness

2 Objectives

The prime objectives of this study are as follows –

- To study the growth of journals which are responsible for making the Gandhian as a discipline.
- To study the pattern of geographical distribution of journals.
- To study the subject classification of journals.

3. Methodology

A search was performed in the Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and publisher's website in order to identify the journals covering Gandhian literature. All relevant information of each Journal publishing Gandhian literature in the world was downloaded to a especially designed database using Microsoft Excel for analysis. The subject classification has been done with the help of DDC.

4. Results and discussions

4.1 Chronological Distribution of Journals

The chronological distribution of journals covering the time period from 1810 to 2010 has been summarized in Table 1. There are 913 journals covering Gandhian literature in the world.

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The present analysis illustrates the growth of journals which are now covering Gandhian literature. Of 913 journals, 902 journals had only mentioned their date of origin/starting date. 42 (4.60%) journals were started during 1810 - 1900. From the decade (1901–1910), the number of journals had increased from 16 to 153 numbers till the decade (1971–1980). Further, 224 (24.53%) journals had started in the last part of the Century i.e. 1981-2000. 64 journals accounting to 7.01% were started in the recent decade i.e. 2001 - 2010. Though Gandhian literature had been publishing since 1920, it started appearing prominently in the beginning of the second half of the 20th century.

4.2 Geographical Distribution of Journals

An attempt has been made to study the geographical distribution of journals. A list of top 35 countries which contributed majority of journal is given in Table 2. It is revealed from Table 2 that majority of journals were from USA with 357 (39.10%) journals, followed by India with 219 (23.99%), UK with 203 (22.23%). Remaining 32 countries have published 134 journals, accounting for 14.68%. Looking at the host of countries publishing the journals it can be said that Gandhian literature is truly covered by the international journals.

4.3 Subject Distribution of Journals

The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Scheme has been used for broad categorization of subject distribution of Journals. As per DDC knowledge organization of complete universe is categorized into ten classes – 000 to 999. Table 3 summarizes the subject distribution of journals. There were 913 journals where the subject was specified. It was observed that about 50% of the total journals were covered under subjects Social Sciences (contributing 455 journals). This was followed by History & Geography, Generalities, Religion and Literature with 118 (12.92%), 86 (9.42%), 69 (7.56%) and 59 (6.46%) respectively. The Gandhian literature has been covered by almost all the subject domains. Thus, the Gandhian literature is a multidisciplinary field of study.

Table 1: Growth of Journals in Gandhian literature

| Year | Number of Periodicals | | Cumulative Frequency | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 1810-1850 | 9 | 0.99 | 9 | 0.99 |
| 1851-1860 | 4 | 0.44 | 13 | 1.42 |
| 1861-1870 | 1 | 0.11 | 14 | 1.53 |
| 1871-1880 | 2 | 0.22 | 16 | 1.75 |
| 1881-1890 | 10 | 1.10 | 26 | 2.85 |
| 1891-1900 | 16 | 1.75 | 42 | 4.60 |
| 1901-1910 | 16 | 1.75 | 58 | 6.35 |
| 1911-1920 | 30 | 3.29 | 88 | 9.64 |
| 1921-1930 | 34 | 3.72 | 122 | 13.36 |
| 1931-1940 | 45 | 4.93 | 167 | 18.29 |
| 1941-1950 | 57 | 6.24 | 224 | 24.53 |
| 1951-1960 | 105 | 11.5 | 329 | 36.04 |
| 1961-1970 | 132 | 14.46 | 461 | 50.49 |
| 1971-1980 | 153 | 16.76 | 614 | 67.25 |
| 1981-1990 | 126 | 13.8 | 740 | 81.05 |
| 1991-2000 | 98 | 10.73 | 838 | 91.79 |
| 2001-2010 | 64 | 7.01 | 902 | 98.80 |
| Starting year not found | 11 | 1.20 | 913 | 100.00 |
| | 913 | 100 | | |

Table 2: Country-wise Distribution of Journals

| S. No. | Country | Numbers of Journals | Percentage |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | USA | 357 | 39.10 |
| 2 | India | 219 | 23.99 |
| 3 | United Kingdom | 203 | 22.23 |
| 4 | Australia | 22 | 2.41 |
| 5 | The Netherlands | 21 | 2.30 |
| 6 | Canada | 18 | 1.97 |
| 7 | South Africa | 10 | 1.10 |
| 8 | France | 7 | 0.77 |
| 9 | Switzerland | 7 | 0.77 |
| 10 | Germany | 6 | 0.66 |
| 11 | Japan | 4 | 0.44 |
| 12 | Pakistan | 4 | 0.44 |
| 13 | Singapore | 4 | 0.44 |
| 14 | Ireland | 3 | 0.33 |
| 15 | Italy | 3 | 0.33 |
| 16 | China | 2 | 0.22 |
| 17 | Nepal | 2 | 0.22 |
| 18 | Philippines | 2 | 0.22 |
| 19 | Spain | 2 | 0.22 |
| 20 | Sweden | 2 | 0.22 |
| 21 | Argentina | 1 | 0.11 |
| 22 | Belgium | 1 | 0.11 |
| 23 | Finland | 1 | 0.11 |
| 24 | Indonesia | 1 | 0.11 |
| 25 | Israel | 1 | 0.11 |
| 26 | Jamaica | 1 | 0.11 |
| 27 | Mexico | 1 | 0.11 |
| 28 | New Zealand | 1 | 0.11 |
| 29 | Norway | 1 | 0.11 |
| 30 | Papua New Guinea | 1 | 0.11 |
| 31 | Rumania | 1 | 0.11 |
| 32 | Scotland | 1 | 0.11 |
| 33 | Sri Lanka | 1 | 0.11 |
| 34 | Tanzania | 1 | 0.11 |
| 35 | Turkey | 1 | 0.11 |
| | | 913 | 100.00 |

Table 3: Subject Distribution of Journals as per DDC in Gandhian Literature

| Class No. | Subjects | Number of Journals | Percentage |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 000 | Generalities | 86 | 9.42 |
| 100 | Philosophy | 48 | 5.26 |
| 200 | Religion | 69 | 7.56 |
| 300 | Social Sciences | 455 | 49.84 |
| 400 | Language | 15 | 1.64 |
| 500 | Pure Science | 15 | 1.64 |
| 600 | Technology | 26 | 2.85 |
| 700 | Art | 22 | 2.41 |
| 800 | Literature | 59 | 6.46 |
| 900 | History & Geography | 118 | 12.92 |
| | Total | 913 | 100.00 |

8 Conclusion

On the basis of analysis of data, the following major conclusions have been drawn:

- There were 913 journals which contains the articles on Gandhian. It is worth to mention that the popular and the oldest journals has also given the space for Gandhian. The 42 journals were started during 1810 – 1900.
- Though Gandhian literature had been publishing since 1920, it started appearing prominently in the beginning of the second half of the 20th century.

- The journals were distributed among 35 countries.
- The 85 percent of journals were from USA (39.10%), India (23.99%) and UK (22.23%).
- Gandhian literature is truly covered by the international journals.
- The Gandhian was so dominated that journals from all the subjects were covering it. It was observed that about 50% of the total journals were covered under subjects Social Sciences.

Hence, the Gandhian literature is widely spread across the universe knowledge and it is a multidisciplinary field of study.

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