Research Output of School of Economics, Management and Information Science (SEMIS), Mizoram University during 2012-2021: An Evaluative Study

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Abstract

This paper attempted to conduct an evaluative study of the research output of School of Economics, Management and Information Science (SEMIS) Mizoram University during 2012-2021. The objectives of the study were to find out the year-wise research output and department that produces highest research output, to highlight the guide-ship pattern of research output and to analyse the categories of subject areas of research conducted by different departments of SEMIS.For this study, primary data was gathered from Mizoram University's Digital Repository in order to collect relevant data among the MPhil and PhD academics from the six Departments of SEMIS, Mizoram University during 2012-2021. The study found out that the highest number of MPhil i.e. 30 was awarded in 2016 and PhD i.e. 13 in 2020.The findings of the study may be useful in identifying the specific research areas on which more stress should be given and may also help prospective academics and researchers in furthering their research in the designated research cluster.

Keywords

Research output; Mizoram University; Digital Repository; Research productivity

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1. Introduction

Research plays an important role in underpinning a country's economic, social and educational development. The goal of research output is to highlight the accomplishments and progress of the study. The findings of research serve as a foundation for empirical testing. It is often assumed that a country's ability to produce wealth and achieve high levels of happiness is inextricably linked to its ability to generate knowledge (Huang, 2008)[1]. In modern civilizations, knowledge is the cornerstone for innovation and a crucial prerequisite for increasing production, which is attained through inquiry and rigorous research. Research productivity increase in higher education and have become increasingly important over the last decade. The research output of SEMIS serves as an important direction for future research by highlighting subject areas that have been carried out by the research scholars. This research output is intended to aid academics in obtaining reliable quality indicators, to bring attention to the progress they've made in their work and to make way for more research. Mizoram University is one of the most prestigious institutions of its kind in India, and it is an enduring symbol in the field of higher education. It produces a significant amount of research output each year, so it is necessary to have a thorough investigation of the research output by various departments at this institution.

2. A profile of School of Economics, Management and Information Science (SEMIS), Mizoram University

Mizoram University (MZU) is a Central University which was established on 2nd July 2001, by an Act of Parliament i.e. Mizoram University Act, 2000. It is located in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram. It was accredited 'A' grade by NAAC in 2019 and also ranked as one of the top 100 universities in India assessed by the NIRF rankings in 2016, 2017, and 2018 under MHRD. Currently, the university has 39 functioning academic departments offering undergraduates, postgraduates, MPhil and PhD programs. SEMIS have six departments viz. Department of Economics, Department of Commerce, Department of Management, Department of Library & Information Sciences, Department of Mass Communication and Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management. Most of the departments have been offering M.Phil and PhD programmes, in addition to Post-graduate programmes. SEMIS has a regular feature to organize national and international

seminars and workshops for the benefit of research scholars, academics and practitioners. A good number of passed-out students have occupied coveted positions in many organizations of repute (Mizoram University Annual Report 2020-2021)[2].

The Department of Economics is the oldest among other departments of SEMIS which was incepted in 1979 at NEHU Mizoram Campus. All the departments of SEMIS have been offering Post-graduate and PhD programs. MPhil program was offered but it was recently discontinued. The Departments under study produce a significant number of research work but the research output performance varies among the departments. The two youngest departments of SEMIS i.e. the Department of Mass Communication and the Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management produce less research output which is reflected in their research performance. The details of the Departments under SEMIS, MZU along with their research output consisting of MPhil and PhD work during the period covered i.e. 2012-2021 are highlighted in Table 1:

Table 1: Details of departments under SEMIS, MZU

Sl. No.	Departments	Year of Estd.	Courses offered	MPhil & PhD output during 2012-2021
1.	Economics	1979	M.A, MPhil*, PhD	MPhil – 47 PhD – 17
2.	Commerce	2002	B.Voc (Handloom Weaver), M.Com, MPhil*, PhD	MPhil – 22 PhD – 15
3.	Library & Information Science	2002	MLISc., MPhil*, PhD	MPhil – 50 PhD – 28
4.	Management	2006	MBA, MPhil*, PhD	MPhil – 18 PhD – 23
5.	Mass Communication	2010	MJMC MPhil*, PhD	PhD – 4
6.	Tourism & Hospitality Management	2019	MBA(T&HM), PhD	-

**MPhil course was discontinued for all Departments since 2020 as per UGC instruction.*

3. Literature Review

Abbott and Doucouliagos (2010)[3] in their article "Research output of Australian Universities" said that research is critical to a country's economic and social well-being. Universities are at the heart of the research and development of human capital process. The purpose of their work is to investigate the relationships between research production, research income, academic and non-academic labour, and some characteristics of Australian institutions. Research income, academic personnel, and postgraduates are all favourably associated with research output, according to the findings. Different types of institutions have substantial disparities in research performance, with newer universities lagging behind. Kumbar, M., Gupta, B. M., & Dhawan, S. M. (2008)[4] "The influence and expansion of the University of Mysore's research output were highlighted in this article" describes the growth, contribution, and influence of University of Mysore scientists' research in science and technology. They display university scientists' communication habits and analyze the concentration and dispersion of their research output throughout periodicals. They also look at the strong and weak areas of university research, as well as their growth rate and influence in terms of average citations. Also looks into the output and impact of the university's many topic departments' research. Also included are the global and subject-by-subject collaborative shares of research output, as well as the major countries involved in international collaboration. They also mention some of the distribution and characteristics of a highly cited works, as well as the most productive authors.

Claudia Gonzalez-Brambila and Francisco M. Veloso (2007)[5] in their article "The determinants of research output and impact: A study of Mexican researchers" uses a unique data set of Mexican researchers to explore the determinants of research output and impact. The findings support the existence of a quadratic link between age and the number of papers published. However, research publication peaks around the age of 53, 5 or 10 years later than previous studies have revealed. Overall, the findings show that age has little bearing on the output and impact of research. We also discovered that reputation affects the quantity of citations but not the number of publications. The findings also reveal significant heterogeneity across domains of expertise. Interpretations of other factors, such as gender, PhD

nation, and cohort effect are also considered. Kumar, R., Gupta, B. M., Thakur, J. S., Sharma, R. K., Baidwan, K., and Goyal, A. B. (2006)[6] article report examines the research activities of the postgraduate institute of medical education and research (PGIMER) Chandigarh as represented in its cumulative publication output in the Scopus international multidisciplinary bibliographical database during a ten-year period (1999-2008). The current study examines the broad characteristics of 4771 research papers published by PGIMER faculty members, focusing on publication growth characteristics such as format and media of communication, research impact and quality, pattern of research collaboration, broad and narrow areas of research, and focus and characteristics of high-cited papers. Fox, K. J. and Milbourne, R. (1999)[7] in their article "What determines research output of academic economists?" look at the characteristics that explain research productivity in a cross section of academic economists. They gathered data on a variety of human capital factors, teaching loads, and research funds from a sample of 150 economists. The findings imply that human capital characteristics, such as honours grade and the kind and location of the PhD, have a significant role in explaining a quality-weighted research output metric. The amount of time spent teaching is also significant. They discovered that a 10% increase in teaching hours can reduce research production by up to 20%, whereas a 10% increase in the number of grants held every year can improve output by up to 15%.

4. Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study include the following:

i) To find out the 10 years research output of six departments of SEMIS, MZU.
ii) To find out which department gives maximum output in research during 2012-2021.
iii) To highlight the guide-ship pattern of research output.
iv) To analyse the categories of subject areas of research carried out by six departments of SEMIS, MZU.

5. Scope and Methodology

The present study includes six academic Departments of SEMIS, MZU viz. Department of Economics, Department of Commerce, Department of Management, Department of Library & Information Sciences, Department of Mass Communication and Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management. Primary data is collected from the Digital Repository of Mizoram University. The data covers the research output of MPhil and PhD scholars of the six departments during the period of ten years i.e. 2012-2021.The study includes a total number of 224 theses and dissertations consisting of 137 MPhil dissertations and 87 PhD theses.

6. Data analysis

6.1. Year-wise Research Output

Table 2 reveals the year-wise research output ofsix academic Departments under SEMIS, MZU during 2012-2021. The analysis highlights that in 2016, highest numbers of MPhils were awarded, i.e., 30 as compared to other years. A significant number of MPhil research output i.e. 22 MPhils were awarded in 2018 followed by 17 MPhils in 2015, 16 MPhils in 2013 and 12 MPhils in 2014. An equal number of MPhils i.e. 10 were awarded in the year 2019 and 2021 followed by 8 MPhils in 2012, 7 in 2020 and 5 in 2017. The highest numbers of PhDs were awarded in the year 2020 i.e. 13 PhDs followed by 12 PhDs in 2019 and 11 PhDs in 2018. An equal number of PhDs, i.e. 10 were awarded in 2014 and 2017 followed by 9 PhDs in 2016, another equal number of 7 PhDs in 2015 and 2021 followed by 6 PhDs in 2012 and 2 in 2013 respectively.

Table 2: Year-wise Research Output

	MPhil							PhD						
Year	**Lib.sc**	**Eco**	**Management**	**Commerce**	**Mass Comm.**	**Tourism & Hosp**	**Total**	**Lib.Sc**	**Eco.**	**Management**	**Commerce**	**Mass Comm.**	**Tourism & Hosp**	**Total**
2012	3	2	-	3	-	-	8	2	2	-	2	-	-	6
2013	9	5	-	2	-	-	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
2014	5	5	-	2	-	-	12	1	3	4	2	-	-	10
2015	6	8	-	3	-	-	17	1	4	-	2	-	-	7
2016	7	14	5	4	-	-	30	2	2	5	-	-	-	9

2017	2	2	-	1	-	-	5	3	1	4	2	-	-	10
2018	5	7	6	4	-	-	22	7	-	3	-	1	-	11
2019	4	3	3	-	-	-	10	3	3	2	3	1	-	12
2020	3	-	1	3	-	-	7	4	1	4	2	2	-	13
2021	6	1	3	-	-	-	10	3	1	1	2	-	-	7
Total	**50**	**47**	**18**	**22**	**-**	**-**	**137**	**28**	**17**	**23**	**15**	**4**	**-**	**87**

6.2. Research output of high performing Departments

During the total period of 10 years (2012-2021) under study, 137 MPhils and 87 PhDs have been awarded by various departments under SEMIS, MZU. The ranks have been given to these departments except for the Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management who has not yet produce any research output due to its late inception of the department. The Department of Library & Information Science is the leading department with 78 total number of research output consisting of 50 MPhils and 28 PhDs followed by the Department of Commerce with a total of 64 research output consisting of 47 MPhils and 17 PhDs. The Department of Management comes in the 3rd position with a total number of 41 where 18 are MPhils and 23 are PhDs, followed by the Department of Commerce which comes in the 4th position with 37 total research outputs which consist of 22 MPhils and 15 PhDs. The Department of Mass Communication comes in the 5th position with 4 PhDs (Table 3).

Table 3: Research Output of High Performing Departments of SEMIS, MZU

Department	**Research Output of-**		**Ranking**
	MPhil	**PhD**	**Total**	
Library and Information Science	50	28	78	1
Economics	47	17	64	2
Management	18	23	41	3
Commerce	22	15	37	4
Mass Communication	-	4	4	5
Tourism & Hospitality Management	-	-	-	-
Total	**137**	**87**	**224**	

6.3. Guide-ship pattern of Research work of MPhil and PhD under SEMIS, MZU

Table 4 highlights the number of research output that has been supervised by single guide and joint guide. It is shown in the table that maximum number of MPhil and PhD research work has been supervised by single guide. Only 1 MPhil research work from the Department of Commerce and an equal number of PhD research work i.e. 3 from the Department of Library & Information Science and the Department of Economics has been carried out under joint supervision.

Table 4: Guide-ship pattern of Research work of MPhil and PhD under SEMIS, MZU

Guide ship	**MPhil**						**PhD**					
	No. of Research Work						**No. of Research Work**					
	1*	**2***	**3***	**4***	**5***	**6***	**1***	**2***	**3***	**4***	**5***	**6***
Single	50	47	18	21	-	-	25	14	23	15	4	-
Joint	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
No information	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**50**	**47**	**18**	**22**	**-**	**-**	**28**	**17**	**23**	**15**	**4**	**-**

**1 Deptt. Of Lib.sc.*
**2 Deptt. Of Economics*
**3 Deptt. Of Management*
**4 Deptt. Of Commerce*
**5 Deptt. Of Mass Communication*
**6 Deptt. Of Tourism & Hosp. Management*

6.4. Subject-wise Research output

6.4.1. Subject-wise Research output of Department of Library & Info. Science

Table 5 mentions that Bibliometric/ webometric/ scientometric study (12), content/citation analysis (8), information seeking behaviour (7), information sources and services (4), collection development (4), library consortium (4), e-resources (4), social networking sites (3), information literacy (3), ICT (2), research output (2) and library networking (2) are the main thrust areas of research carried out by the Department of Library and Information Science during the last 10 years i.e. 2012-2021. 23 research works are categorised in miscellaneous areas of LIS concerned which are not specifically mentioned in the Table.

Table 5: Subject-wise Research output of Department of Library &Info.Sc.

Categories of Subject Areas	**Research Output**
Bibliometric/Webometric/Scientometric study	12
Content/Citation analysis	8
Information seeking behaviour	7
Information sources and services	4
Collection development	4
Library Consortium	4
e-resources	4
Social Networking Sites	3
Information Literacy	3
ICT	2
Research output	2
Library Networking	2
Miscellaneous	23
Total	**78**

6.4.2. Subject-wise Research output of Department of Economics

The main thrust areas of research work of Department of Economics include performance study (8), economical study (5), poverty (3), women empowerment (3), determinant analysis (3), marketing (3), shifting cultivation (3), socio-economic condition (3), MGNREGS (2) and Self Help Groups (2). However, 29 research works are included in miscellaneous areas of economic concerned and are not highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6: Subject-wise Research Output of Department of Economics

Categories of Subject Areas	**Research Output**
Performance study	8
Economical study	5
Poverty	3
Women empowerment	3
Determinant analysis	3
Marketing	3
Shifting cultivation	3
Socio-economic condition	3
MGNREGS	2
Self-help Groups	2
Miscellaneous	29
Total	**64**

6.4.3. Subject-wise Research output of Department of Management

Table 7 shows that the Department of Management has 9 research output in the area of consumer behavioural study which is followed by 5 research output in the area of bank/banking. 3 research projects were completed in the domain of performance analysis, while 2 research projects were completed in each of the following areas: Indian equity market, management, job satisfaction, entrepreneurship, market/marketing, and attrition/retention. There are 12 research works which are included in miscellaneous areas of management concerned that are not expressly noted in the Table.

Table 7: Subject-wise Research Output of Department of Management

Categories of Subject Areas	**Research Output**
Consumer behavioural study	9
Bank/banking	5
Performance analysis	3
Indian equity market	2
Management	2
Job satisfaction	2
Entrepreneurship	2
Market/marketing	2
Attrition/Retention	2
Miscellaneous	12
Total	**41**

6.4.4. Subject-wise Research output of Department of Commerce

During the period covered in the study, the Department of Commerce produces 7 behavioural studies, 6 entrepreneurial studies, 4 financing studies and 3 each job satisfaction and banking studies. In the categories of quality of work life, tourism, MNREGA, consumer trust/protection, and management, an equal number of research projects, namely 2, have been completed. 4 research works are included in the subject's various categories, which are not listed in Table 8.

Table 8: Subject-wise Research Output of Department of Commerce

Categories of Subject Areas	Research Output
Behavioural study	7
Entrepreneurship	6
Financing	4
Job satisfaction	3
Banking	3
Quality of work life	2
Tourism	2
MNREGA	2
customer trust/protection	2
Management	2
Miscellaneous	4
Total	**37**

6.4.5. Subject-wise Research output of Department of Mass Communication

Table 9 shows that the Department of Mass Communication has awarded 2 PhDs in the field of social media, 1 in the field of socio-cultural dimensions, and another in the field of conflict and communication.

Table 9: Subject-wise Research Output of Department of Mass Communication

Categories of Subject Areas	Research Output
Social media	2
Socio-cultural dimensions	1
Conflict and communication	1
Total	**4**

7. Findings of the study

The major findings of the study are as follows:

i) It is found out from the study that SEMIS, Mizoram University awarded the highest number of MPhil (30) in 2016 and the highest number of PhDs (13), respectively, in 2020.

ii) The study reveals that the Department of Library and Information Science is the leading department with regard to awarding of MPhil and PhD among other departments of SEMIS, Mizoram University.

iii) It is found out from the study that out of 137, a maximum number of 136 MPhils has been supervised by single guide and only 1 MPhil was supervised by two supervisors. A maximum number of PhDs (81 out of 87) has been supervised by single guide whereas 6 PhDs were carried out under joint supervision.

iv) During the period covered in the study, the research interest among the Library and Information Science scholars were primarily focussed on emerging areas such as bibliometric/webometric/scientometric study, content/citation analysis, information seeking behaviour, information sources and services, collection development, library consortium, e-resources and with less emphasis on other areas of library and information science research.

v) The study also reveals that the interest areas of scholars of the Department of Economics include performance study, economical study, poverty, women empowerment, determinant analysis, marketing, shifting cultivation and socio-economic condition.

vi) Consumer behavioural studies, bank/banking, performance analysis, Indian equity market, management, job satisfaction, entrepreneurship, market/marketing, attrition/retention, and a lesser emphasis on other management research areas are the main areas of research work of the

Department of Management during the period of 2012-2021.

vii) The research interest areas of scholars of the Department of Commerce include behavioural study, entrepreneurship, financing, job satisfaction, banking, quality of work life, tourism, MNREGA, customer trust/protection and management.

viii) The Department of Mass Communication's researchers are interested in social media, socio-cultural elements, conflict, and communication.

8. Conclusions

Research output means the results of a particular action to which access can be granted in the form of scientific articles, data, or other manufactured outputs and processes are referred. Research output broadens knowledge, provides up-to-date information, establishes credibility, and aids in the narrowing of research scope for greater discernment (LawInsider)[8]. The value of research is so great that it has had an impact on the country's economic and social well-being, with universities in the forefront of this issue. The present study highlights the achievement and progress of academic departments of SEMIS, Mizoram University to research that will tremendously contribute for the development of the society and the country as well. However, there are noticeable differences among the departments of SEMIS, with the younger departments lagging in research performance.

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