Sanskrit Doctoral Thesis Submitted to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

The paper presents the results of a study of Bibliometric analysis of Sanskrit Ph.D. theses submitted to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The bibliometric characteristics including Year wise, subject wise, language wise, department wise and research guide wise analysis of most number of theses supervised, etc. has been presented. The study provides salient features of account of theses awarded in the field of Sanskrit. It found that he majority of theses 221(40.63%) awarded in 'Hindi' language and only one theses awarded in 'Pali' language.The majority of 79 (14.52) Ph.D. Theses awarded in "Hinduism" of Sanskrit, and lest Ph.D. Theses were awarded in 18 (3.31%) in "Scripture" subject. Out of544 Theses, Dr. Verma V K has guided highest 27 Ph.D. theses and ranks top among numbers of guides, whereas, Dr. Bhattacharya B has guided 19 numbers of Ph.D. theses and ranks second top among the guides.

Keywords

Websites; Tirunelveli District; Engineering College; Library; Content Analysis.

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INTRODUCTION

The studies on evaluation of academic productivity and quality have led to development of new academic fields such as Bibliometrics, Scientometrics and Informetrics. Etymologically, bibliometrics is derived from two Greek words, 'biblio' and 'metrikos' meaning book and measurement. Bibliometrics and librametry were commonly defined by Ravichandra Rao as "Information processes and information handling in libraries and information centres by quantitatively analyzing the characteristics and behavior of documents, library staff and library users" (Ravichandra Rao, 1981). bBibliometrics is the application of quantitative methods to the study of information resources. The work on bibliometrics was conducted more than seventy years ago. The term Bibliometrics was proposed by Alan Pritchard (1969) as a replacement to the term "Statistical Bibliography". Two other areas closely related to Bibliometrics are Scientometrics and Librametrics, which encompasses all quantitative analysis of scientific productivity and citation analysis which refers to the practices and patterns of scholarly references to search the characteristics of information sources in relation to regular patterns, is the major focus of bibliometrics. Ranganathan (1969) suggested that it is necessary for librarian to develop "librametry" on the lines of biometry, econometry and psychometry since many of the matters connected with library work and services involve large members.

Alan Pritchard (1969) coined the term "Bibliometrics" i.e. the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of written communications. Fairthrone (1969) has defined Bibliometrics as "quantitative treatment of properties of recorded discourse and behaviour pertaining to it". The British Standard Glossory of Documentation of terms explained Bibliometrics as " the study of use of documents and patterns of application in which mathematical and statistical methods have been applied". Bibliometrics can be defined in simple words, as quantitative or numerical or statistical analysis of recorded communication printed and non-printed sources. The analysis can be done by observation, measurement and grouping or classifying. Further this analysis deals with intrinsic, extrinsic characteristics and behaviour of documents. Intrinsic (essentials) here includes the entire machinary that works behind the scene, i.e. those responsible in bringing out the printed records (authors, publishers, research agencies etc.), intention

of authors and place of publication of journals. Extrinsic includes anything and everything like type of journals, coauthors, and bibliographical details. For the purpose of present study, bibliometrics is defined as a branch of library science which is concerned with the techniques of measurement and evaluation of communication media.

Sengupta (1991) defined thesis as, "A thesis is a statement of investigations of research presenting the authors findings and any conclusions reached, submitted by the author in support of his candidate for a Ph.D. degree in science". In the present study term thesis is confined for which Banaras Hindu University awarded Ph.D. in Sanskrit.

SANSKRIT LANGUAGE

Ancient History Encyclopedia definition of Sanskrit is the term 'Sanskrit' is derived from the conjoining of the prefix 'Sam' meaning 'samyak' which indicates 'entirely', and 'krit' that indicates 'done'. Thus, the name indicates perfectly or entirely done in terms of communication, reading, hearing, and the use of vocabulary to transcend and express an emotion. An extraordinarily complex language with a vast vocabulary, it is still widely used today in the reading of sacred texts and hymns. Sanskrit is the classical language of India. Today there is no speech community of Sanskrit, that is, nobody uses Sanskrit as the main language of normal daily use (except a couple of Brahmin villages in Shimoga district, Karnataka). In the vocabulary of standard modern Indian languages, there are a large number of words derived from Sanskrit. The popular notion about Sanskrit is that it is the mother of all modern Indian languages. The main argument is the profusion of Sanskrit words in all Indian languages.

There are probably a few hundred people who know Sanskrit well, most of who are Brahmins. There are also a large number of Brahmin priests who know enough Sanskrit to perform rituals. The level of their knowledge varies a lot from priest to priest. Sanskrit also has been the language of Shastra, of knowledge of the Indian tradition. Even in the 20^{th} century the musicologist Bhatkhande wrote his book in Sanskrit. Over the last two thousand years, there have been books in Sanskrit on politics, philosophy, religion, theology, ethics, mathematics, astrology, medicine and a host of other fields of knowledge. Panini's grammar, Patanjali's Yogashastra, Chanakya's Arthashastra, Manu's Dharmashastra, Aryabhatta and Varahamihir in mathematics and astronomy are just some of the known books. Today many of them are translated into English and into some Indian languages and are used mainly by scholars.

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

Banaras Hindu University is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This Creative and innovative university was founded by the great nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, in 1916 with cooperation of great personalities like Dr Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. The area of the main campus of this premiere Central University is 1300 acres, having well maintained roads, extensive greenery, a temple, an air strip and buildings which are an architectural delight. Another campus of the university at Barkachha , in Mirzapur district, covering an area of 2700 acres is coming up. The university comprises 3 Institutes, 14 Faculties 140 Departments, 4 Inter disciplinary Centers a constituent college for women's and 3 Constituents Schools, spanning a vast range of subjects pertaining to all branches of humanities, social science, technology, medicine ,science, fine arts and performing arts. It has 6 centres of Advanced Studies, 10 Departments under Special Assistance Programme and a large number of specialized Research Centers. Four Degree Colleges of the city are affiliated to the University.

The Department Of Sanskrit was established in 1919 with the vision of preservation and enrichment of oriental learning, culture, philosophy and thought by virtue of deep studies and research of the both Vedic and Classical Sanskrit Literature. It includes teaching and research of traditional Sanskrit Texts covering various domains like the Vedas. Indian Philosophy, Sanskrit grammar and Linguistics, Classical Sanskrit and Poetocs to focus on the thoughts of the both oriental and occidental thinkers to make this globe a place of happiness and co-existence. The Department embodies a mission to encourage the usage of Sanskrit language and researches on the various fields of its literature and to welcome the comparative studies on the scientific thoughts prevailing different Sanskrit texts. Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vijnan Sankaya was established in 1918 by the great founder Pt. Madan Mohan Malviyaji in order to materialize the chief goal of this University i.e. to preserve and promote the studies of Ancient Indian Shastras, Sanskrit language and literature with

the intention to bring about a fruitful dialogue between the East and the West.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bibliometrics as a research technique has been used to study the literature of many subject fields. The literature in this area has grown tremendously. Gupta and Kumar (1998) described that "when productivity is considered, it can be of individual scientists, scientific groups, scientific institutions / firms and countries. Productivity of individual scientists, research groups and scientific institutions is most commonly studied in the Literature. However the productivity of institutions and industrial firms and inventors are rarely studied. As a result, we decided to study the productivity of industrial firm and individual inventors. Birdar and Premalatha (1998)21 conducted a bibliometric study of Psychiatric (Alcoholism) literature cited in 14 MD psychiatric dissertations submitted to the Department of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore, during the period, 1974-1995. Most of the citations (73.22%) are articles in periodicals. The other bibliographic forms are books (16.32%), reports (4.35%), seminar/conference proceedings (2.32%), manuals (0.94%) and other forms (1.8%). Doraswamy and Pulla Reddy (2001)25 in their study analysed 2471 citations appended to Geographical theses submitted to Sri Venkateswara University for the award of doctoral degree during the period 1991-2000. Books appeared to be the most preferred source of information contributing the highest number of citations (41.89%). Most of the citations (76.12%) are single authored papers. The articles are scattered in 154 different journals. The Journal, 'Geographical Review of India' got the first rank. The researchers in Geography mostly depended on the journals of their own subject i.e., (69.19%). Geographical researchers heavily cited Indian journals. The country-wise scatter of citations showed that India occupied first position with 32.41% of the total citations, followed by USA (8.63%) and UK (7.64%). Pillai (2007) in his citation study comprised 690 journals containing 11412 references collected from 71 doctoral theses awarded by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore during 1999-2003. Waugh and Ruppel (2004) had conducted a study of citation analysis of dissertations, thesis and research paper references of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC).

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the present study is

- To analyze the Sanskrit Ph.D. theses submitted to the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
- To find out the chronological distribution of the documents.
- To find out the Subject-wise distribution of the documents.
- To find out the Language-wise distribution of the documents
- To find out the Department-wise distribution of the documents
- To find out the Research guide t-wise distribution of the documents

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The present study is based Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian Theses. There are on 544 Sanskrit Ph.D. research theses found which is submitted to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
The bibliographical entries collected from Shodhganga project and analysed using various parameters.

Year wise distribution of Ph.D. Theses

Table-1 show the During the period 544 Ph.D. theses have been awarded. Out of these 124 (22.79%) have been awarded in the 1986-1990; following 69(12.68%) have been awarded in 1991-1995 period. And 64 (11.76%) theses awarded during the year 1976-1980; 56(10.29%) theses awarded during the year 1981-1985; 51 (9.38%) between 1996-2000; 45 (8.27%) theses awarded during 2001-2005 and 2006-2010 and 28 (5.15%) during the 1966-1970; 24 (4.41%) during the year 1961-1965; 15 (2.76%) theses awarded in 1956-1960 and 1971-1975; remaining years 1951-1955 5 (0.92%); 1946-1950 2 (0.37%) and least number of 1(0.18%) Ph.D. theses awarded in during the year 1941-1945. The large number of Ph.D. Theses produced in 1986-1990 period.

Table 1: Year wise distribution of Ph.D. Theses

S.No.	Year	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	1941-1945	1	0.18
2	1946-1950	2	0.37
3	1951-1955	5	0.92
4	1956-1960	15	2.76
5	1961-1965	24	4.41
6	1966-1970	28	5.15
7	1971-1975	15	2.76

8	1976-1980	64	11.76
9	1981-1985	56	10.29
10	1986-1990	124	22.79
11	1991-1995	69	12.68
12	1996-2000	51	9.38
13	2001-2005	45	8.27
14	2006-2010	45	8.27
Total		544	100

Subject-wise Distributions of Ph.D. Theses

Table-2 indicates that Subject-wise distribution of awarded Ph.D. Theses. The majority of 79 (14.52) Ph.D. Theses awarded in "Hinduism" of Sanskrit; following 78(14.34%) in "Humanities"; 55(10.11%) in "Language and Literature"; 51(9/.38%) in "Post Vedic Period"; 43 (7.90%) in "Poetry"; 42 (7.72%) in "Vedas"; 36 (6.62%) in "Linguistics"; 27 (4.96%) in "Rigveda"; 39 (7.16%) in "Indian Philosophy"; 20(3.68%) in "Vedic Period"; 19 (3.49%) in "Drama"; and lest Ph.D. Theses were awarded in18 (3.31%) in "Scripture" subjects.

Table 2: Subject wise Distributions of Ph.D. Theses

S.No.	Year	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	Hinduism	79	14.52
2	Humanities	78	14.34
3	Language and Literature	55	10.11
4	Vedic Literature	38	6.99
5	Post Vedic Period	51	9.38
6	Poetry	43	7.90
7	Vedas	42	7.72
8	Linguistics	36	7.16
9	Vedic Period	20	3.68
10	Rigveda	39	4.96
11	Indian Philosophy	26	4.78
12	Drama	19	3.49
13	Scripture	18	3.31
Total		544	100

Language-wise distribution of Ph.D. Theses

Table-3 shows the language-wise distribution of awarded Sanskrit Ph.D. Theses. The majority of theses 221(40.63%) awarded in Hindi language; 190 (34.93%) in English language;132 (24.26%) and Sanskrit language and only one theses awarded in Pali language.

Table 3: Language-wise distribution of Ph.D. Theses

S.No.	Year	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	English	190	34.93
2	Hindi	221	40.63
3	Pali	1	0.18
4	Sanskrit	132	24.26
Total		**544**	**100**

Ranking of Ph.D. Guides in terms of Ph.D. Scholar guided

During the period of 1941 to 2010, a total numbers of 544 doctoral theses has been awarded and guided by 281 numbers of registered guides. Dr. Verma, V.K. has guided highest 27 (20.15%) Ph.D. scholars and rank top among the 281 numbers of guides, whereas, Dr. Bhattacharya B. has guided 19 (14.18%) numbers of Ph.D. scholar and ranks second top among the guides. Following 12 (8.96%) scholars guided by Dr. Singh P.D., each 11 (8.21%) scholars guided by Dr. Dwivedi R P and Dr. Jain S L., each 10 (7.46%) scholars guided by Dr. Mishra S N and Dr. Tripathi J S L; each 7 (5.22%) scholars guided by Dr. Dwivedi L D and Dr. Singh K P., each 6 (4.48%) guided by Dr. Dubey R P and Dr. Mishra Padma and very less of each 4(2.99%) scholars guided by Dr. Chaturvedi Ramadhin and Dr. Panda R C. and Co-guides were very few and are not included in the list.

Table 4: Ranking of Ph.D. Guides in terms of Ph.D. Scholar guided

S.No.	Year	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	Dr. Verma V K	27	20.15
2	Dr. Bhattacharya B	19	14.18
3	Dr. Singh P D	12	8.96
4	Dr. Dwivedi R P	11	8.21
5	Dr. Jain S L	11	8.21
6	Dr. Mishra S N	10	7.46
7	Dr. Tripathi J S L	10	7.46
8	Dr. Dwivedi L D	7	5.22
9	Dr. Singh K P	7	5.22
10	Dr. Dubey R P	6	4.48
11	Dr. Mishra Padma	6	4.48
12	Dr. Chaturvedi Ramadhin	4	2.99
13	Dr. Panda R C	4	2.99
Total		**134**	**100**

Finding & Conclusions

- There are 544 Ph.D's awarded in Sanskrit literature during the 1941-2010. The majority of

Ph.Ds are awarded in 124 (22.79%) have been awarded during the 1986-1990 period.

- The majority of theses 221(40.63%) awarded in 'Hindi' language and only one theses awarded in 'Pali' language
- The majority of 79 (14.52) Ph.D. Theses awarded in "Hinduism" of Sanskrit, and lest Ph.D. Theses were awarded in 18 (3.31%) in "Scripture" subject.
- Out of544 Theses, Dr. Verma V K has guided highest 27 Ph.D. theses and ranks top among numbers of guides, whereas, Dr. Bhattacharya B has guided 19 numbers of Ph.D. theses and ranks second top among the guides.

Research is the key to academic achievement and it is also a base for further study. As per previous activity and on the basis of collected data, it is found that, research activities are increasing every year. The study provides interesting and important findings with regard to salient features of theses completed in Sanskrit Literature in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. I hope to see this trend continue in the years to come, for the benefit of the student and research scholars of Sanskrit

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