

## Publications by Faculty Members of Humanities and Social Science Departments of IIT Kharagpur: A bibliometric study

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### ABSTRACT

This paper evaluates the citation count of article publications in journals by faculty members in the Humanities and Social Science (HSS) Departments of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. The publication data is retrieved from the individual bio-sketch and annual reports available in the websites for 17 year from 2000-2016. Web of Science database has been used for counting the citations. Parameters like total publications in journals, most preferred journal for publication, highly cited journals, collaborative status of faculty publications and thereby their citation counts, faculty member receiving highest citation are studied. The finding reveals that 623 articles are found in total 359 journal. There is an increasing trend in the number of publications over the years. The journal named Psychological Studies ranked first with 27 publication of faculties whereas Journal of Business Ethics received highest citations and grabbed the first position amongst the journals. Collaborative researches by three author received maximum citations. The faculty members are engaged in variant fields of research but the impact is higher at national level than that of international level. Sage is found to be the most preferred publisher publishing journal articles of the faculty members from HSS Departments of IIT, Kharagpur.

**Keywords:** Faculty publication; Research output; IIT Kharagpur; Humanities; Social science; Citation study; Bibliometrics

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Faculty publications of any institute and appraisal of it has immense value in the inspection of performance of the institute. The publications of faculty members is regarded as one of the criteria in order to rank the University/Institute in 2016<sup>1</sup>. It has been noticed that in Indian and world academia, more studies were done on natural/pure sciences relatively to humanities and social sciences<sup>2</sup>. Since, journals have been very popular means for spreading of innovative thoughts and research communications, this work plans to inspect the journal publication output of all the full-time faculty members of (HSS) Departments of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. It thereby studies the citation count of these publications. Citation analysis has emerged as a more significant and vital means for assessing research excellence all the way through the development and use of various impact indicators for e.g. journals, universities and institutions. Moreover, citation analysis is regarded as one of the major and popular branches of bibliometrics<sup>3</sup>. Citation analysis is also very much important to discover the bang of any journal, for acquiring the knowledge of comparative and up-to-date information of the literature or to sketch the knowledge-dissemination patterns<sup>4</sup>. In this regard, the publication data is retrieved from the individual bio-sketch and annual reports available in the websites for over 17 years from 2000-2016. For citation count, Web of Science database

has been used. This study will go afar of the academic norms and will showcase how well these scholarly publications are being cited or identified by the intellectual society.

### 2. RELATED WORKS

Gautam and Mishra<sup>5</sup> investigated the scholarly research trends of Banaras Hindu University and collected 1041 article from Indian Citation Index from 2004-2013. They studied year-wise distribution, authorship pattern, collaborative work etc. Results showed, out of 1041 publication, 163 (15.66 %) were added by single-author and the most dynamic authors are A.K. Singh and Arvind Singh of Physics and Botany department respectively. Gopikuttan and Aswathy<sup>6</sup> showed the scientometric view of publication from Kerala University. They collected data from Web of Science for 13 year (2000 - 2012). Year-wise, subject-wise, most industrious authors, preferred journals etc. are considered for the study. Khaparde<sup>7</sup> analysed the research publications of Chemistry department of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad from 1975-2012. He analysed 774 publications in 144 journals. He examined year-wise distribution, authorship pattern, faculty productivity etc. and found that the researches have improved constantly from 1975 - 2012.

Maharana and Sethi<sup>8</sup> investigated the research production of Sambalpur University and collected data from Web of Science from 2007 to 2011. They studied total contribution, growth pattern, authorship pattern, collaboration etc and found amongst 170 research papers, Chemistry department

contributed utmost papers with 35.29 per cent. Nagarkar<sup>9</sup>, *et al.* studied the publications of faculty members of Life sciences department at the university and found much increase in research productivity and good publication citations. Total 690 papers in 362 journals, obtained 6210 citations and Current Science is the preferred journal. Radhakrishnan and Velmurugan<sup>10</sup> investigated the publications done by faculties from Periyar University. Data assembled from Web of Science from 1998 to 2014. Findings revealed that out of 703 articles, 148 were brought out in 2014. Dr. V. Krishnakumar ranked first in number of outputs with 111 publications. Sharma<sup>11</sup> investigated 2603 articles contributed by the authors of Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) during the year 1991 to 2007. For data collection he considered annual reports of CPRI and the Journal of the Indian Potato Association. He revealed authors preferred to publish papers collaboratively and in year 2003 maximum papers are published. Sudhier<sup>12</sup> analysed the publications of physicists at the Indian Institute of Science and Kerala University during 2004-2008. He analysed 352 articles from doctoral theses of Physics of both the institutions and found that multi-authored papers are maximum from IISc and single authored papers are maximum from Kerala University and the most familiar publisher is Elsevier.

Sudhier and Priyalakshmi<sup>13</sup> analysed the scientist's publication output of Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram. They collected 1076 research articles from annual report and concluded that 169 papers published in 2006. Much publication is made by three authors and made known in the foreign journals. Tamilselvan<sup>14</sup> studied the research activity of all NITs in India from Web of Science, Scopus and EI Compendex database. He concentrated on their searches on science that includes collaboration research, authorship pattern, core journal outputs by Bradford's law, geographical output etc.

Condic<sup>15</sup> studied the citations in dissertations of students and faculties in reading and educational leadership at Oakland University from pre web 1983 to post web 2014. 75 dissertations and 63 faculty articles were taken into consideration which resulted in 11,082 cited items. He analysed diverse document types that were cited during the period. Khalifa<sup>16</sup> analysed the Saudi publication productivity in computer science from 1978-2012 as covered by Web of Science. A totality of 998 publications were examined and found productivity increased in computer science field after 2007 and the computer science research trends focused on engineering, mathematics and telecommunications. Moghaddam<sup>17</sup>, *et al.* examined the faculty publications of Allameh Tabatabai University of Iran as indexed in science citation index and Scopus from 1987 to 2015. Scientometric techniques were used and co-authorship network were analysed. Faculty members mostly collaborated with U.S and Switzerland and jointly authored papers are more predominant.

### 3. RESEARCH GAP

All the above works are vital in their own way, but no study has been identified which has tried to showcase the collaborative status of the faculty members and thereby their citation counts. Also, the publication trend in relation to citation received by

the journals is left unidentified. So, this study will try to spot the citations of the authors, citations received in addition to finding out the other parameters like collaboration status, highly preferred journal for publication and highly cited journals.

### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the publications in journal by the faculty members from Humanities and Social Science (HSS) departments at IIT Kharagpur
- To find out the rolling year in five year period publication
- To rank the top-five journals according to the number of publications by the faculty members
- To rank the top-ten highly cited journals depicted in Web of Science database where faculty members from HSS departments of IIT Kharagpur publishes their articles
- To portray the collaboration status of the faculty members and thereby their citation counts
- To rank the top-five faculty members according to publications in journals
- To rank the top-five faculty members receiving highest number of citations
- To identify the areas of research of the faculty members
- To identify the impact of research at national and international levels
- To depict the top-five publishers who published maximum number of journal articles of the faculty members.

### 5. METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

This paper studies the journal publications of full-time faculty members of Humanities and Social Science department from the website of IIT Kharagpur<sup>18</sup> as revealed on July 21, 2017. The author's publications in the journals are collected from the individual bio-sketch of the faculty members and annual reports available in the institute's website for 17 years from 2000-2016. The citation count is done till November 2017 from Web of Science database. The various parameters such as total publications in journals, journal preferences, highly cited journals, top publishers etc. are considered and then the collected data has been tabulated by using excel spreadsheet for analysis and drawing the conclusion. The scope of the study is limited to the 25 full time faculty members of humanities and social science department of IIT Kharagpur.

### 6. LIMITATIONS

The study is limited for a certain period of time and confined to the full-time faculty members. Data is collected from institute's departmental website and annual reports, so some of the faculty member's bio-sketch as well as annual reports, which are not uploaded or updated and are under maintenance, could not be accessed and therefore if they had made more number of publications then it could have been missed. For citation count, only the Web of Science database is considered.

### 7. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 7.1 Number of Publications in Journals

The publications are spread over 359 journals. In total

623 articles are published from 2000-2016 by 25 full time faculty members of humanities and social science departments of IIT Kharagpur. Though there is a general conception that researchers in humanities and social sciences are inclined towards writing a book but here the number of articles says that it is somewhat false.

**7.2 Rolling Year in Five-Year Publication Period**

It has been observed from the study that if we consider a five-year rolling period then the maximum number of publications is made during the period 2010-2014 followed by the years 2005-2009. As 102 publications are already made in just the last two year period 2015-16, so we may always think that it will definitely supersede all other rolling five years in the number of publications. So we may claim that there is an increasing trend in the number of publications over the five year periods as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Number of articles published in five year rolling period**

Year	Article Publication
2000-04	104
2005-09	178
2010-14	239
2015-16	102
Total	623

**Table 2. Top five journals**

Journals	Discipline	Articles	Rank
<i>Psychological Studies</i>	Social Science	27	1
<i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	Social Science	20	2
<i>Muse India</i>	Humanities	12	3
<i>Management and Labour Studies</i>	Social Science	9	4
<i>Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research</i>	Humanities	8	5
<i>Journal of Management Research</i>	Humanities	8	5
<i>South Asian Diaspora</i>	Humanities	8	5
<i>Vidyasagar University Journal of Economics</i>	Social Science	8	5

**7.3 Top Five Journals with Number of Publications**

The Table 2 depicts the top five journals in which the faculty members of HSS department of IIT Kharagpur prefer to publish their article. *Psychological Studies* which deals with

the discipline of social science is the most preferred journal for publication in which 27 articles have been published. Second and third selection of journal by the faculty members of HSS department is *Economic and Political Weekly* which also deals with the Social Science discipline and *Muse India* of humanities discipline in which 20 and 12 articles are published respectively. The fourth position is bagged by the journal

**Table 3. Ten highly cited journals**

Journals	Articles	Citations	Citation per article	Publisher	Rank
<i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>	3	166	55.33	Springer	1
<i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i>	1	38	38	Elsevier	2
<i>Tourism Management</i>	1	31	31	Elsevier	3
<i>Journal of Traumatic Stress</i>	1	22	22	Wiley	4
<i>Social Responsibility Journal</i>	1	22	22	Emerald	4
<i>Ecological Economics</i>	3	61	20.33	Elsevier	5
<i>Forest Policy and Economics</i>	6	58	9.66	Elsevier	6
<i>International Journal of Neuro science</i>	2	19	9.5	Taylor & Francis	7
<i>Energy</i>	3	24	8	Elsevier	8
<i>Global Business Review</i>	7	16	2.28	Sage	9
<i>Psychological Studies</i>	27	15	0.55	Springer	10

named *Management and Labour Studies* where 9 publications are made. From the table it is clear that the faculties from social science discipline are engaged in writing more journal articles than the faculty members from humanities discipline. This may be due to the focus of faculty members from humanities discipline towards books than that of journals.

**7.4 Top Ten Highly Cited Journals**

The journals in which faculty publications from HSS department of IIT Kharagpur received highest number of citations with respect to the number of publications are provided in Table 3. Here the top 10 journals that received highest citations as depicted in Web of Science database are shown. The *Journal of Business Ethics* with only 3 articles published by Springer ranked first with maximum number of citations i.e. 166 and showed its greater visibility and acceptability among the peers. The journal that ranked second is the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* with 38 citations for just 1 article followed by the *Journal Tourism Management* with 31 citations for 1 article. It is seen from the table that out of the eleven journals that held the top rank in citations, five of the journals were published by Elsevier. This may be due to the greater visibility of Elsevier journals in the field of social sciences particularly. Also noted point here is that all

**Table 4. Collaboration status**

Collaboration status	No. of articles	Citations received	Citation per article
Single Author	205	58	0.28
2 Authors	289	390	1.35
3 Authors	105	197	1.87
4 Authors	17	23	1.35
More than 4 Authors	7	10	1.43
	623	678	

are international publishers receive maximum citations and no Indian publisher is found in the list.

### 7.5 Collaboration Status of the Faculty Members

The Table 4 shows the collaboration status of the faculty members and thereby their citation counts. It depicts that the journal articles published by three authors received maximum citations when considered in terms of citation per article; followed by the journal articles published by more than four authors and then in similar ratio of citations published by two authors and four authors. So it is clear that collaborative works

**Table 5. Top 5 faculty highest publications**

Faculty Name	Discipline	Article Publication	Area of Research	Rank
Anjali Gera Roy	Humanities	67	Literary, Cultural and Media Studies Popular Culture(South Asian Popular Music/Dance, Film and Fiction) Folklore and Translation Globalisation and Nationalism Punjab Studies Partition and Oral Histories (Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Partition)	1
Damodar Suar	Social Science	57	Social and organisational psychology, Neuropsychology, Research methodology	2
Vijai Nath Giri	Social Science	47	Interpersonal Communication, Organisational Communication, Intercultural Communication, Gender and Communication, Communication Style, Computer-Mediated Communication	3
Kailash Bihari Lal Srivastava	Social Science	43	Knowledge management, management of innovation, Strategic HRM, Performance management, leadership, emotional intelligence, Human factors in mergers and acquisitions, competency mapping, training and development.	4
Bhagirath Behera	Social Science	41	Environment and Natural Resource Economics, Development Economics, Green Economics, New Institutional Economics, Public Policy and Governance, Economics of Religion, Human Transformation and Well-Being	5

**Table 6. Top 5 faculty highest citations**

Faculty Name	Discipline	Citations	Area of Research	Rank
Damodar Suar	Social Science	331	Social and organisational psychology, Neuropsychology, Research methodology	1
Bhagirath Behera	Social Science	154	Environment and Natural Resource Economics, Development Economics, Green Economics, New Institutional Economics, Public Policy and Governance, Economics of Religion, Human Transformation and Well-Being	2
Zakir Husain	Social Science	82	Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, Education, Ageing, gender, Household and Family	3
Kishor Goswami	Social Science	36	Development Economics (micro-entrepreneurship, credit risk, technology adoption, gender and trade, women empowerment, and poverty), Agricultural Economics, and Economics of Biofuels	4
Jitendra Mahakud	Social Science	35	Corporate Finance, Equity Research, Portfolio Management and Financial Markets	5

received more citations than the article published singly. This may be due to the fact that multiple-authorship brings more recognition as the number of search by author access points increases. Also when researchers work in collaboration more ideas are generated which improves the quality of publications and makes it worth.

#### 7.6 Top Five Faculty with Number of Publications

The Table 5 ranks the top 5 faculty members with highest number of publications. It clearly shows that Anjali Gera Roy of Humanities discipline ranked first with 67 journal publications, Damodar Suar of Social Science discipline ranked second with 57 journal publications followed by Vijai Nath Giri, Kailash Bihari Lal Srivastava and Bhagirath Behera with 47, 43, and 41 publications of social science discipline, respectively. Though here it has been observed that among the five faculty members making highest number of publications, four are from social science discipline but the top rank in number of publications is occupied by a faculty member from humanities discipline. So it is proved that if somebody has personal flair in writing for journals, the discipline is immaterial. If we consider the area of research of the faculty members we can see from the table above that each of them are engaged in multi-dimensional research areas. So we can say that they have multi-dimensional expertise which makes their articles easily acceptable in reputed journals.

#### 7.7 Top Five Faculty Members Receiving Highest Citations

The Table 6 ranks the top 5 faculty members with highest number of citations received by the faculty members. It clearly shows that each of the faculty members belong to the Social science discipline. Damodar Suar ranked first with 331 citations in journal articles, Bhagirath Behera ranked second with 154 citations followed by Zakir Husain, Kishor Goswami and Jitendra Mahakud who received 82, 36, and 35 citations, respectively. So comparing Tables 5 and 6 it can be concluded that if we judge the publications in journal with respect to citations received, then we can say that the faculty member from exclusively Social science discipline, Damodar Suar makes more qualitative publications though he ranked second in terms of number of publications in journal. Also some faculty members like Zakir Husain, Kishor Goswami and Jitendra Mahakud who did not ranked in top five in the number of publications got ranks third, fourth and fifth in terms of citations received and therefore can be said to produce much more qualitative papers. Quality of the paper and visibility are the two most important factors which count when we look for citation study. If we consider the area of research from the above table we may say that Damodar Suar who received the highest number of citations has Research Methodology as one of his areas of research, so it is very obvious that he will receive citations not only from his own discipline researchers but also from researchers in variant disciplines as Research methodology is common area in almost every field of study nowadays. Bhagirath Behera who ranked second in the number of citations works for some of the emerging fields of knowledge like Green economics, Economics for religion etc which makes

his works more popular among the other researchers in the field.

#### 7.8 IMPACT OF THE STUDY: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

From the Table 7 it is clear that the impact at the national level is greater than that of the international level in three out of the five cases. This may be due to the more familiarity of the faculty members of IITs in India than that of abroad. Also the research areas of these faculty members may be more popular among Indian authors and therefore receives more attention from their end.

Table 7. Number of Indian and Foreign citing authors

Faculty Name	Citations Received	No. of Indian Citing Authors	No. of Foreign Citing Authors
Damodar Suar	331	201	130
Bhagirath Behera	154	106	48
Zakir Husain	82	39	43
Kishor Goswami	36	17	19
Jitendra Mahakud	35	21	14

#### 7.9 Top Five Publishers who Published Maximum Number of Journal Articles

The Table 8 shows top five publishers who published maximum number of journal articles of faculty members. Amongst them, Sage published maximum number of works of faculty members and ranked first with 62 publications followed by Springer which ranked second with 58 publications. Taylor and Francis, Elsevier and Sameeksha Trust ranked third, fourth and fifth respectively. Sage has huge scope for both Social science and Humanities discipline and therefore the intellectual community prefers them as publishers when compared to others. Springer and Elsevier are famous for science publications but still they are in the list probably because of their recognition throughout the world.

Table 8. Top 5 publishers

Publisher	Publications	Rank
Sage	62	1
Springer	58	2
Taylor & Francis	36	3
Elsevier	32	4
Sameeksha Trust	20	5

#### 8. FINDINGS

The present study gives a clear picture of the intellectual output of the full time faculty members from IIT Kharagpur belonging to Humanities and Social Science departments

- 623 articles are published in 359 journals from 2000-2016 by 25 full time faculty members of humanities and social

science departments of IIT Kharagpur

- An increasing trend in the number of publications is found if we consider the five year rolling period
- Most of the faculty members are inclined to publish their research article in the top three journals named *Psychological Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly* and *Muse India*. The first two are the journals of Social science and the third one is from the discipline of Humanities
- *Journal of Business Ethics* published by Springer is the most highly cited journal among the group though in terms of publications it is not included in top ten journals, followed by *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, published by Elsevier which again does not rank among the top five journals in terms of publications
- The study reveals that the journal articles published by three authors received maximum number of citations followed by collaboration by more than four authors when considered in terms of citation per article which confirms that collaborative works received more citations than the article published singly
- Among the faculty members, Anjali Gera Roy of Humanities discipline ranked first with highest number of publications but Damodar Suar of Social science discipline ranked first when numbers of citations are considered for the faculty members. This confirms that Damodar Saur made more qualitative publications though he ranked second in terms of number of publications in journal. The study reveals that the faculty members are engaged in variant fields of research and are not confined only to a specific area. However they have greater national impact than international impact as found from the citation count.
- Among the publishers who published the works of faculty members as journal articles, Sage stands at the top most position, followed by Springer and Taylor and Francis. Conversely we can say that faculty members mostly prefer Sage Publishers to publish their works.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

Journal publications are an indicator of research productivity from an institution as a whole. Citation count on the other hand is the depiction of quality of any work, its visibility, acceptability among peers, relevance of the work for the society and research etc. The study reveals that 25 full time faculty members i.e. 4 from humanities department and 21 from social science department have published 623 articles in all over 359 journals. These faculty members belong to different disciplines such as English language and literature, German, Philosophy and Sanskrit of humanities group and communication studies, economics, psychology, human resource management, history, sociology, and linguistics of social science group in IIT Kharagpur. In comparison to humanities, more number of faculty members are present in social science department. The study also reveals that quantity in publications alone does not produce more citations. Faculty members prefer Sage from other publication houses which qualify its popularity in social science and humanities discipline. The increase in collaboration of researchers is a clear sign of

rising professionalism in different fields of knowledge, which is a motto of digital humanities.

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Her contribution in the current study is that she carried out data collection, literature review, prepared the tables and analysis and also prepared the initial draft of the study.

**Dr Nivedita Bhattacharyya Sahu** has completed her BLISc, MLISc and PhD from the University of Calcutta. She is presently the Assistant Professor in Vidyasagar University, Midnapore. She has authored a book and published many research articles in journals and conference proceedings. Her domains of interest mainly are : Reference sources and services, Information products and services, community information service and bibliometrics. Her contribution towards this study is the conceptualisation, improvement in contents and preparation of the final draft of the study.