



## A bibliometric study of world research output on Dalit literature during 1969-2017

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### Abstract

A bibliometric study is generally used to measure the literature output on any given subject. Bibliometric analysis use data on numbers and authors of scientific publications and on articles and the citations therein (and in patents) to measure the “output” of individuals/research teams, institutions, and countries, to identify national and international networks, and to map the development of new (multi-disciplinary) fields. Similar approach has been adopted in this paper to identify the global literature output on Dalit literature. The research data used for the study has been retrieved from ‘Scopus’ database source. The study in hand attempts to identify the bibliometric characteristics of the research publications from SCOPUS Database during the study period 1969-2017 (48 years). A total of 876 publications have been identified. Bibliometric techniques have been used to analyze the data. The collected data was classified by using Excel Spreadsheet. The results show that the total publication output (876) shows a healthy trend in citation on yearly basis, the articles (56.8%) are the most prominent publications, most prolific author is H. Teltumbde with 32 articles and ‘S. K. Rai with 10 articles. The most productive institution is Jawaharlal Nehru University which produced 4.57% publications. ‘Economic and Political Weekly’ (EPW) is the highly productive journal with 206 (23.52%) publications. India tops the list of countries with publication output being 364 (41.55%) publications.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics, Dalits, Dalit literature

### 1. Introduction

The literature in any language, being merger of varied sections, castes, creeds and religions is an integral part of the culture and society. It habitually represents the individuals, their knowledge, ecstasy, sufferings, thoughts, beliefs, passion, sentiments, etc. from time to time. People get pleasure from reading literature produced by writers belonging to different class, caste, religion etc. Hence, there is British Literature, American Literature, African Literature, Indian Literature and so is the Dalit Literature – a segment of Indian Literature. India, despite being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, is infamous for its rigid caste system. The literature shows that the condition of Dalit community in caste based society of India was quite vulnerable decades ago. With the passage of time, strong Dalit movements as well as Dalit literature writings by various writers and thinkers have shaped an affirmative approach towards egalitarianism in various aspects of social life of Dalit community. Dalit history is a burgeoning field of study in academia, both in the United States and India alike. The Dalit literature is about Dalits which is written to advocate the cause of Dalits for the sake of human dignity and social equality in the otherwise biased society.

Dalit is a Sanskrit word which means “oppressed” and “downtrodden.” In 1970, the Dalit Panther movement, led by writers kick-started the term “Dalit”. The “untouchable” writers and activists used it to describe their fraternity and signifying their self identification, both in the present as well as historical contexts. These days, the term is extensively used in many academic and literary fields. According to Census 2011, the Dalit community constitute approximately 20% of

India’s population. They were detached previously because of their habitation and tainted trade skills in rural areas such as leather work, sanitary work, removing dead animals, etc. Therefore, they are considered and practiced as untouchable by ethical and sacred sanctions in Hindu mythology.

The Dalit literature highlighted Dalit intellectualism and political activism that established the political struggles and ideological schema in India. The studies were mainly focussed upon the vital issues of dignity and caste discrimination. It is also seen that there is dearth of research on 20th-century Dalit intellectuals such as Swami Achhutanand, Bhagya Reddy Varma, Kusuma Dharmanna, and Iyothee Thass. Various political movements such as rise of Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh; Dalit movements in Tamil Nadu; recommendations of the Mandal commission report to give rise to lower caste groups implemented by government of India and the emergence of a group of Dalit activist/intellectuals in universities across India gave rise to the Dalit studies as a discipline. Recently, Dr. Ambedkar has been recognized as philosopher and social scientist as he has made significant contribution to the studies of Dalit literature and histories all over the academic world especially in United States. Dalit literature, its interpretation and contention of marginalised cultures is the considerable development in Indian literature in last three decades. It has not yet received the international recognition it deserves because there has been very little research on the concept.

### 2. Review of literature

Gopalakrishnan and Ashok Kumar (2013) <sup>[1]</sup> in their study examined the global literature output on textile research from

1983-2012. They found growth of literature was 30.76% during the period of 2007-2012. They observed that there were few contributions in textile research as compared to other novel subjects such as nano technology, smart materials etc.

Surulinathi, Srinivasaragavan and Jeysanka, R. (2013) <sup>[14]</sup> in their study analysed 480 publications published during 1971 to 2012. The Scopus online Database indicates that Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University are the major producers of research output. They found that the majority of the prolific authors were from the highly cited papers.

Satyanarayana (2000) <sup>[12]</sup> in his study investigated Indian contributions in biomedical research (3605 papers in 1990 and 3241 papers in 1994). The data source used for the study was three indexing databases, such as Index Medicus, Excerpta medical and Tropical Disease Bulletin.

Gupta and Bala (2011) <sup>[3]</sup> in their study analysed the research activities of India in Medicine for the period 1999-2008. The Scopus online database was used to retrieve the publications on medicine. The result of the study revealed that India contributed 65,745 papers in medicine research and holds 12th rank among the productive countries. They found that the global publication share of India was 1.59% with a growth rate of 76.68% for the papers published during the said study period.

Mulla and Chandrashekara (2011) <sup>[8]</sup> in their paper analyzed 2253 publications on industry and trade during 2002–2006. The main source for their study was online database of the Indian science abstracts. They observed that the average number of publications per year was 451, majority of the articles (1690) were published during the years 2004 to 2006. They found that maximum numbers of 968 (42.96%) papers were contributed by corporate bodies the degree of collaboration in industrial and trade literature was found to be 0.61.

Krishnamoorthy, Ramakrishnan, & Devi (2009) <sup>[6]</sup> in their study conducted bibliometric analysis of diabetes literature. The data was retrieved from indexed MEDLINE database for the period 1995-2004. The results of the study revealed that maximum number of records (13244) were during 2003. They found that Relative Growth Rate (RGR) was decreasing year by year and the Doubling Time (Dt) was increasing. They found that USA was the largest contributor of literature on diabetes research.

The review reveals that the bibliometric analysis of dalit literature has not been dealt elaborately by the researchers till date. However, no systematic study has been undertaken for presenting the growth of literatures on dalit literature. Keeping in view the above, an attempt has been made in this paper to analyse the research productivity of Dalit literature all over the globe. Therefore, the investigator has chosen the subject of dalit literature research output covered in SCOPUS database for the purpose of studying and analyzing quantitatively by using bibliometric indicators and tools.

### 3. Statement of the problem

The research problem is conceived under the title “A Bibliometric Study of World Research Output on Dalit Literature During 1969-2017”.

### 4. Objectives

The main objective of this study was to analyze the research output of dalit literature in national and global contexts as reflected in the publications output during 1969-2017. The study has the following objectives:

- To examine the worldwide research production on Dalit literature
- To identify the journal distribution of research productivity
- To identify the most prolific authors producing more than five articles
- To identify and rank the organizations involved in research on dalit literature.
- To identify research productivity count of the publications on the basis of geographical distribution.
- To identify the document type of publications
- To study the characteristics of highly cited papers

### 5. Methodology

The study used Scopus International, a multidisciplinary online database, which is the world’s leading indexing and abstracting database. The relevant data on dalit literature was extracted published in India and other most productive countries for the period 1969-2017 (47 years). The updated data has been retrieved till January 20, 2017 from Scopus online database. The advanced search strategy involving the search terms such as ‘dalit’, ‘dalits’, ‘dalit people’, ‘dalit sect’, ‘dalit literature’, ‘dalit caste’, dalit community’, ‘dalit women’, ‘dalit men’, ‘dalit writings’, and ‘dalit literature translations’ was used to search and download the data using Title, Abstract, and Keywords fields together, resulting in downloading of 876 records. Bibliometrics analysis method was used for the study in hand. The literature output was studied for the period from 1960 to 2017. The appropriate approach related to the literature produced, the bibliographic details for each record included author, authors affiliation, title, name of the journal, type of document, source of publication, year of publication, and country of input have been collected. Subsequently, all the collected data was computed using a spreadsheet package. Statistical tools such as frequency distribution and percentage analysis and interpreted.

### 6. Data Analysis

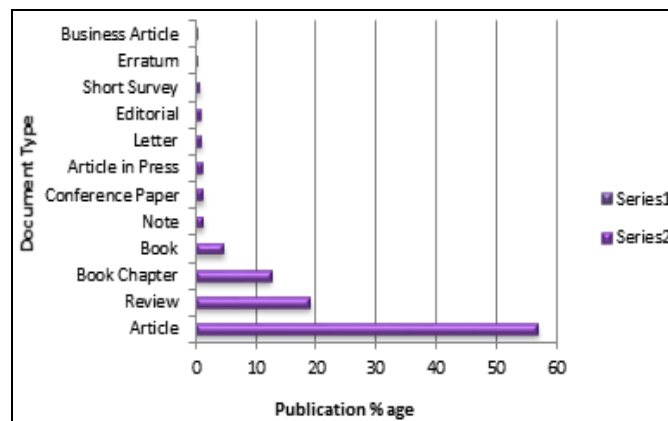
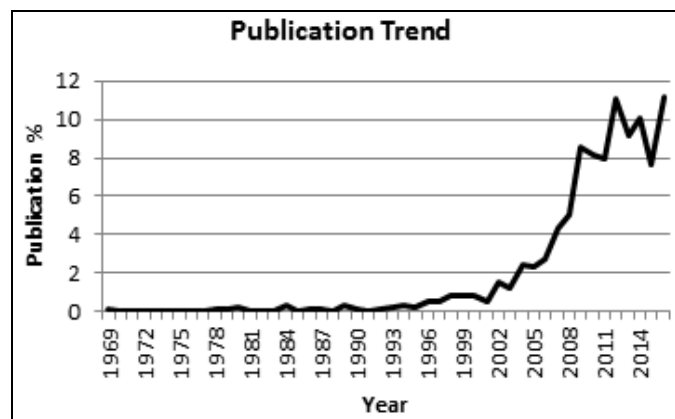


Fig 1: Document - Wise Publications (%)

Fig.1 shows the data about share of publication output in different types of documents. Out of total 876 documents on dalit literature, articles are the most prominently found publication and it contains 498 (56.8%) of total publications, followed by 167 (19%) reviews, 111 (12.7%) book chapters, 41 (4.7%) books, 12 (1.4%) notes. The conference papers, articles in press and other remaining document types scored the low numbers of output i.e., below 1.4% of output for dalit literature.

**Table 1: Year-Wise Distribution of Research Publications**

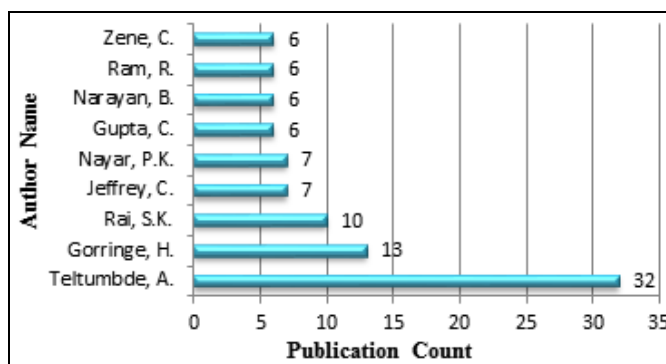
Sr. No.	Year	TP	% age	Sr. No.	Year	TP	% age
1.	1969	1	0.11	26.	1994	3	0.34
2.	1970	0	0	27.	1995	2	0.23
3.	1971	0	0	28.	1996	4	0.46
4.	1972	0	0	29.	1997	4	0.46
5.	1973	0	0	30.	1998	7	0.8
6.	1974	0	0	31.	1999	7	0.8
7.	1975	0	0	32.	2000	7	0.8
8.	1976	0	0	33.	2001	4	0.46
9.	1977	0	0	34.	2002	13	1.48
10.	1978	1	0.11	35.	2003	11	1.26
11.	1979	1	0.11	36.	2004	21	2.4
12.	1980	2	0.23	37.	2005	20	2.28
13.	1981	0	0	38.	2006	24	2.74
14.	1982	0	0	39.	2007	38	4.34
15.	1983	0	0	40.	2008	44	5.02
16.	1984	3	0.34	41.	2009	75	8.56
17.	1985	0	0	42.	2010	71	8.11
18.	1986	1	0.11	43.	2011	70	7.99
19.	1987	1	0.11	44.	2012	97	11.07
20.	1988	0	0	45.	2013	80	9.14
21.	1989	3	0.34	46.	2014	88	10.05
22.	1990	1	0.11	47.	2015	67	7.65
23.	1991	0	0	48.	2016	98	11.19
24.	1992	1	0.11	49.	2017	4	0.46
25.	1993	2	0.23	Total		876	100.00



**Fig 2: Publication Trend (Year-Wise %)**

It is clearly observed from table 1 that during the period 1969-2017 a total of 876 publications were published at the global level. Table 1 shows that publication output on dalit literature grew from nil in 1969 to 98 publications in 2016. For almost a decade in the period 1969-1977 no publication on dalit literature are observed. In the next two decades, a minor increase in the count of publications was noticed i.e. less than

4 publications annually. It was only after 1998 that the publication of literature on dalits gained momentum. The highest number of contributions of 98 (11.19%) items is observed in 2016, followed by 97 (11.07%) in 2012 and 88 (10.05%) in 2014. It is inferred from the said data that all these 876 publications show a healthy trend in citation found among the researchers. It is observed from Fig. 2 that the publication of dalit research seems to be in linear trend. During the last ten years there is a substantial increase in the publications. This indicates that the awareness and importance of dalit literature has been in increasing trend.



**Fig 3: Most Prolific Authors Contributing More Than Five Articles**

Fig. 3 shows data on top productive authors who published more than 5 papers. The most publishing author is H. Teltumbde with 32 articles, followed by H. Gorringe with 13 articles and S. K. Rai with 10 articles who have contributed less than 50% of the top publishing author. The remaining authors have contributed less than 10 articles on dalit literature. The trend shows a substantial and growing body of work in the field of dalit literature in future.

**Table 2: Most Productive Institutions and Impact of their Output**

Rank	Name of the Institution	TP	% of TP
1	Jawaharlal Nehru University	40	4.57
2	University of Edinburgh	23	2.63
3	Tata Institute of Social Sciences	19	2.17
4	Committee for the Protection of Democratic Rights	17	1.94
5	University of Delhi	16	1.83
6	SOAS University of London	16	1.83
7	Panjab University	13	1.48
8	Tribhuvan University	12	1.37
9	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies India	12	1.37
10	University of Hyderabad	10	1.14
11	Australian National University	8	0.91
12	University of Oxford	8	0.91
13	Carleton University	7	0.80
14	Guru Nanak Dev University India	6	0.68
15	University of Michigan	6	0.68
16	University of Sussex	6	0.68
17	EHESS Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales	6	0.68
18	University Michigan Ann Arbor	6	0.68
19	Centre for Development Studies Trivandrum	6	0.68
20	University of Cambridge	6	0.68
Total		243	27.71

Twenty high productive institutions together have published 243 research papers in dalit literature, which accounts for 27.71% of the total output during 1969-2017. Although Jawaharlal Nehru University produced the highest number of publications, table 2 shows 11 foreign institutes in the top 20

producers of dalit literature. It is significant to observe that foreign institutes are involved in research on dalit literature in parallel to India. Indian institutes have produced 151 publications whereas foreign institutes have published 92 out of total 243 by top 20 institutes.

**Table 3: Most Prolific Journals**

Rank	Name of the Journal	TP	% of TP
1	Economic and Political Weekly	206	23.52
2	Indian Journal of Social Work	23	2.63
3	Contributions to Indian Sociology	18	2.05
4	Contemporary South Asia	16	1.83
5	South Asia Research	15	1.71
6	Modern Asian Studies	12	1.37
7	South Asia Journal of South Asia Studies	12	1.37
8	Nepal Medical College Journal Nmcj	9	1.03
9	Iup Journal of English Studies	8	0.91
10	Journal of Asian Studies	8	0.91
11	Asian Studies Review	6	0.68
12	Comparative Studies of South Asia Africa and The Middle East	6	0.68
13	Focaal	6	0.68
14	Indian Economic and Social History Review	6	0.68
15	Journal of Rural Development	6	0.68
16	Transformation An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies	6	0.68
17	Journal of Asian and African Studies	5	0.57
18	Kathmandu University Medical Journal	5	0.57
19	South Asia Bulletin	5	0.57
20	Ariel	4	0.46
Total		382	43.58

Table 3 shows the twenty high productive journals published 382 research papers in dalit literature, which accounts for nearly 43.6% of the total output during 1969-2017. It is observed that Economic and Political Weekly is the highly productive journal with 206 (23.52%) publications. However, the journals with second and third highest output have less than 3% publications namely, Indian Journal of Social Work with 23 (2.63%) and Contributions to Indian Sociology with

18 (2.05%). 05 journals have produced dalit literature articles between the range of 1-2%. The remaining journals have less than 1% of the total publication output. Thus, it is observed that spread of articles across journals is more, however, per journal output is meagre. Results show that the only preferred journal by researchers of dalit studies is Economic and Political Weekly.

**Table 4: Country-Wise Distribution of Publications**

Rank	Country	TP	% of TP
1	India	364	41.55
2	United States	146	16.67
3	United Kingdom	108	12.33
4	Nepal	33	3.77
5	Canada	28	3.20
6	Australia	19	2.17
7	France	16	1.83
8	Norway	8	0.91
9	Japan	7	0.80
10	Italy	6	0.68
11	Netherlands	5	0.57
12	Germany	4	0.46
13	Israel	4	0.46
14	Switzerland	4	0.46
15	Bangladesh	3	0.34
16	Belgium	3	0.34
17	Denmark	3	0.34
18	Malaysia	3	0.34
19	Czech Republic	2	0.23
20	Hong Kong	2	0.23
Total		768	

Table 4 presents country-wise distribution of dalit literature by the topmost twenty countries. India tops the list of countries producing publication output on dalit literature with 364 (41.55%) during the period 1969-2017 followed by United States (16.67%) and United Kingdom (12.33%). Nepal, which comes fourth on the list, produced a meagre 3.77% of total output on dalit literature even though it is in close proximity with India. It is clearly revealed that nearly 77.5% of the

outputs are provided by five countries, India, US, UK, Nepal and Canada. Remaining countries produced publication output between 0.23-3.20%. It is observed that apart from India, it is only larger developed nations which have contributed towards publication output of dalit literature. The smaller countries have very scanty output on the same during the period 1969-2017.

**Table 5: Highly Cited Research Papers**

Rank	Year of Publ	Author	Title	Journal / Book Title	Citation Count
1	2009	Rao, A.	The caste question: Dalits and the politics of modern India	The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India (Book)	112
2	2010	Mosse, D.	A relational approach to durable poverty, inequality and power	Journal of Development Studies	83
3	2003	Mahalingam, R.	Document Essentialism, culture, and power: Representations of social class	Journal of Social Issues	75
4	2009	Sax, W.S.	God of Justice: Ritual Healing and Social Justice in the Central Himalayas	God of Justice: Ritual Healing and Social Justice in the Central Himalayas pp. 1-304	51
5	1999	Osella, F., Osella, C.	From transience to immanence: Consumption, life-cycle and social mobility in Kerala, South India	Modern Asian Studies	50
6	2008	Desai, S., Kulkarni, V.	Changing educational inequalities in India in the context of affirmative action	Demography	46
7	2004	Jeffrey, C., Jeffery, P., Jeffery, R.	A useless thing!" or "nectar of the Gods?" The cultural production of education and young men's struggles for respect in liberalizing north India	Annals of Association of American Geographers	39
8	2010	Kapur, D., Prasad, C.B., Pritchett, L., Babu, D.S.	Rethinking inequality: Dalits in Uttar Pradesh in the market reform era	Economic & Political Weekly	38
9	2009	Kohrt, B.A., Speckman, R.A., Kunz, R.D., (...), Nepal, M.K., Worthman, C.M.	Culture in psychiatric epidemiology: Using ethnography and multiple mediator models to assess the relationship of caste with depression and anxiety in Nepal	Annals of Human Biology	35
10	2011	Aldrich, D.P.	The externalities of strong social capital: Post-tsunami recovery in Southeast India	Journal of Civil Society	34

Table 5 analyzes the top 10 most highly cited papers in dalit literature during 1969-2017. Only one paper has received more than 100 citations and only 4 papers received more than 50 citations per paper. Of the highest cited publications two are books and remaining 8 are journal articles. The most cited work is "The caste question: Dalits and the politics of modern India" by Rao, which is a book and has been cited 112 times. The second highest citation (83) belongs to an article, "A relational approach to durable poverty, inequality and power" by Mosse, appeared in the "Journal of Development Studies". The highly cited sources are observed to be from the period 1999-2010. It reiterates the previously observed fact that the work on dalit literature gained momentum post year 1998.

## 7. Findings

The major findings of the study are:

- There exist 876 publications during the year 1969-2017.
- Publications in the form of articles are found to be the most prominent publication (56.8%)
- The publication output on dalit literature grew from nil in 1969 to 98 publications in 2016.
- During the period 1969-1977, no publication on dalit

literature are observed.

- The highest number of contributions of 98 (11.19%) items is observed in 2016.
- The most publishing author is H. Teltumbde with 32 articles.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (India) produced the highest (4.57%) number of publications.
- Economic and Political Weekly is the highly productive journal with 23.52% publications
- India tops the list of countries producing 41.55% publications during the period 1969-2017.
- The publication of Dalit research seems to be in linear trend. During the last ten years there is a substantial increase in the publications.
- Nearly 77.5% of the outputs are provided by five countries, India, US, UK, Nepal and Canada
- Nearly 382 (43.6%) articles are published in top 20 journals.
- Nearly 243 (27.71%) research papers are published by top 20 organizations.
- The most cited work is "The caste question: Dalits and the politics of modern India", a book by Rao, which has

been cited 112 times.

## 8. Conclusion

The country's research performance in dalit literature is quite good in the global context. However, the country needs to intensify the quality and quantity of its research carried out by different organizations including government institutions, with international collaboration. It is suggested that significant efforts should be made for research in dalit literature with proper supervision and clearly defined goals.

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