number.

References


CHAPTER V

Findings , Conclusions and Suggestions.

5.1 Findings

There is a gradual increase in Social Science Research productivity from 1999 to 2005. Without any reason the productivity has doubled in 2006. Throughout the study period there is both positive and negative growth. The maximum growth rate is in the year 2006 and the minimum growth rate is in the year 2011.

The analysis is extended to the various subfields in Social Sciences as categorized by Thomson Reuters. It is found that the maximum output is in the subject Biomedical Social Sciences followed by Business and economics.

Single authored publications takes a major share of one third of the total output. Joint authored publications forms 28.12 per cent while three authored publications forms 16.25 per cent. Only less than one third of the publications
are by more than 3 authors. Hence it can be inferred that collaborative publication is the trend of the day and the optimum members in team research is 2 to 3.

Though there is variation in authorship pattern in the sub-disciplines of Social Science, it can be generalized that collaborative publications are more in number.

The total journals that have contributed 53801 papers is 174 of which 9 are core in nature. Among the journals, Social Science and Medicine has the highest productivity. The second ranked journal is Accident analysis and prevention. An analysis of the core journals in various sub-disciplines of Social Sciences show that there is variation in the number of core journals in each discipline.

The Geographical distribution of authors in the field of biomedical sciences is from 109 countries of which USA ranks first followed by England and Canada. The ranking of county of authors show that in most of the disciplines USA ranks first and England ranks second except in Mathematical Methods in Social Sciences England takes lead. Authors from 109 countries publish their research findings in journals from various countries. In majority of the cases, USA is the highly preferred country for publishing. Scholars from England prefer to publish their research findings in their own country.

The number pages of an article ranges from a single page report to a proceedings of more than 100 pages. Single page article are more in number. As regards to the number of references appended to the articles nearly 3 per cent of the articles do not have references. The average and ideal number of
references in a journal article is one to 20. There is variation in the number of references in the sub-disciplines of Social Sciences. Similarly there is also variation in the number of citations in a research paper. The number of citations in papers in various disciplines of Social Sciences vary. Most of the papers in History and Philosophy of science do not have a citation.

Kawachi, I from United States of America is the high productive author in Biomedical Social Sciences, followed by Lester, D from USA. Here it is to be noted that almost all the first few ranked authors are from USA.

Phillips, PCB from United States of America is the high productive author in Business and Economics. followed by Taylor, AMR from England. Here it is to be noted that the third and fourth ranked authors are from England.

Raykov, T from United States of America is the high productive author in Mathematical Methods in Social Sciences followed by Lee, SY from England. Here it is to be noted that most of the high productive authors are from USA.

Williams, AF from United States of America is the high productive author in Social Sciences-Other Topics followed by Abdel-Aty, M from USA. Here it is to be noted that most of the high productive authors are from USA.

In the present study 66.12 percentage of authors have contributed only one paper and 17.73 per cent of the authors have contributed 2 papers and hence the results matches with that of Lotka Law

In the present study, the three zones of Bradford are in the ratio 9:28:137 :: 1:3.12:15.2 which is not in the form 1:n:n² and hence the present study deviates from Bradford’s Law.
The degree of collaboration in publishing pattern of Social Sciences varies from 0.28 to 0.68. There is a positive correlation between them and the Correlation Coefficient is 0.65 which is positive and not so strong. The average growth rate of publications in various disciplines of Social sciences varies from 0.09 to a maximum of 0.16.

Phillips PCB who is the high productive author is highly referred by others in Social Science. Here it is to be noted that most of the high productive authors are referred much. The highly referred journal is Social Science Medicine which ranks first in the list of high productive journals. Here too most of the high productive journals are referred by the authors to the maximum extent. There are 1290 papers which refer to journals published before 1800. Maximum references pertain to the year 2000. The research papers belonging to the period from 1990 onwards is more in number.

5.2 Conclusion

Social science is an agglomerated subject consisting of various subjects. The present investigation throws light on the various aspects of Social Science research in terms of publication productivity, authorship pattern, journal productivity, referencing pattern and citation pattern. The study shows that there is considerable growth in various sub-disciplines of Social Science Research. Though the disciplines like Biomedical Social Sciences, Business & Economics, Mathematical Methods In Social Sciences, History & Philosophy of Science etc all belong to the major subject Social Sciences, the present study shows that there is differences in all aspects of Bibliometric indicators like Authorship
pattern, Collaboration trend, number of core journals referencing pattern etc. But a commonality is found among the two sub-disciplines namely Biomedical Social Sciences and Mathematical Methods In Social Sciences. Perhaps the reason may be due to the fact that they both are subjects that have been formed by fusion of two subjects of which one belongs to science discipline and the other belongs to sociology.

5.3 Suggestions for further research

The present investigation is based on the data downloaded from ISI Thomson Web of Science database. There are other databases like Scopus etc. ISI Thomson Web of Science database has its own limitations of inclusion or exclusion of journals. Also the present study has considered the categorization of subjects according the Thomson Reuters. Further research can be conducted by including other databases like Scopus and the classification by Dr,S.R.Ranganathan. Also this investigation is purely quantitative in nature and hence further research can be done using qualitative measures like citations and impact factors.

References.


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