Executive Summary

We are living in the age of knowledge and information revolution. In this age of literature explosion, information is growing very fast in all the fields of knowledge and Women’s Studies are no exception. Due to accelerated research and development activities in the area of Women’s Studies, the literature has proliferated enormously. Moreover, this literature is scattered in a large number of journals due to its interdisciplinary nature. Hence it is necessary for the librarians to identify the core journal in which most of the literature is published in the subject. Identification of core journals helps librarians, who are facing the problems due to the rising costs of periodicals every year, ever increasing demands of user community for getting new periodicals and diminishing budgetary provisions to meet the user requirements, in the procurement of useful periodicals within the given financial resources for providing effective service to the users of the library. Bibliometric technique is helpful in the formation of need based collection development policy, weeding and stacking policy and many others. It has extensive applications in identifying the research trends in a subject, trends in authorship and collaboration in research, studying the productivity, core journal and obsolescence of literature. The term ‘Bibliometric’ was coined by the British scientist Alan Pritchard in 1969. This study highlights the genesis of bibliometrics, and also explains the different analogous terms of bibliometrics like ‘Librametrics’, ‘Infomietrics’, ‘Scientometrics’, ‘Cybermetrics’ and more recent terms like ‘Webometrics’ and ‘Altmetrics’.

Women’s studies is an important field for research in this country and a subject of great interest in countries abroad today. It explores and re-read women’s representation and their position in literature. Women’s studies have moved around the world as an idea, a concept, a practice, and finally a field. By the early twentieth century, this area of Women’s studies was recognised in higher education from India to Indonesia, United States to Uganda, China to Canada, Austria to Australia, England to Egypt, and South Africa to South Korea.

The present study undertakes to explore the information sources in Women’s Studies in India from the selected journals and analyses them with the assistance of suitable bibliometric techniques. The primary objective of the study is to determine the significant bibliometric indicators such as the growth of the subject, authorship
patterns (Lotka’s Law), highly productive authors, content analysis (Zipf’s Law), and citation pattern.

For the purpose of the study, two computerised databases have been designed and created for this study; one for compilation of Women’s Studies literature and another for citation analysis of ‘Indian Journal of Gender Studies’. The required data has been collected from the different journals like Kurukshetra (1952-2008), Social Welfare (1953-2008), Seminar (1959-2008), Mainstream (1962-2008), Economic & Political Weekly (1966-2008), Contributions to Indian Sociology (1967-2008) and Indian Journal of Gender Study (1994-2008). Further, ‘Guide to Indian Periodical Literature’ too has been scanned to have a better coverage of literature on Women’s Studies. For this database each article is scanned and checked, then the data is entered in the computer using MS Office-Excel software and the results are obtained in tabular form by using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software.

The thesis is organized into eight chapters. The contents of each chapter are described below:

The first chapter entitled ‘Introduction and Basic Concepts of the Study’ briefly discusses the different analogous terms of bibliometrics. The chapter also deals with the concept of Women’s Studies, the development of literature in the subject, laws of bibliometrics and citation analysis. The objectives of the study, research hypothesis and the methodology have also been discussed in this chapter.

The second chapter ‘Literature Review of the Related Studies’ presents a review of related literature available in various sources of information and also attempts to explore some significant studies though a large number of studies which have been conducted in the field of library science.

The third chapter ‘Growth of Women’s Studies Literature in India’ describes the growth of literature and also position of Indian women in different era from the Vedic period to the modern period.

Chapter four is entitled ‘Growth and Development of Knowledge in Women’s Studies in India’. For the purpose of the study, 5530 articles have been considered from 314 different journals published during 64 years from 1945-2008. This chapter explores the growth of literature chronologically. The growth of authors, the growth in thrust areas and the emerging trends of study.
Chapter five ‘Authorship Pattern and Productivity’ describes the author’s productivity as measured by the application of Lotka’s Law and its validity using ‘Kolmogorov- Smirnov test’. It also deals with the pattern of authorship collaboration of high ranking authors.

Chapter six entitled ‘Topical Content Analysis’ examines the contents of the articles in terms of substantive keywords on the basis of Zipf’s Law. Mapping of terms also reflects the trends in research development in the subject.

Chapter seven ‘Citation Analysis of Indian Journal of Gender Studies’ identifies the citation pattern, chronological distribution of citation, most frequently cited information sources, Half-life of journals and books, core journals and classic book in Women’s Studies subject.

Chapter eight ‘Findings and Recommendations’ embodies a resume of the findings with discussions emerging from the study, recommendations and areas for further research. The major findings are as under:

**Findings of the ‘Growth and Development of Knowledge in Women’s Studies in India’**:

- The articles of journal are scattered in 314 different journals, and the journal *Social Welfare* accounts first position for a maximum of 1592 (28.79%) articles out of 5530 articles.

- It has been explored that the maximum number of articles, 1139, belongs to the period of 2001 to 2005, accounting for growth rate 80.69.

- It is observed that the trend in the growth of literature gradually increased upward direction.

- It is evident that the earliest period 1945 to 1950 recorded five articles.

- It is brought to light that in the beginning, the period of 9 years (1945 to 1953) only one author contributed every year.

- The increase in thrust areas was revealed that ‘Women Empowerment’ (7.27%) has the most predominant subject.

- It is observed that articles increased on the ‘Sati Pratha’ during 1985-89 (0.66%) due to the incident of sati Roop Kanwar.
• The study depicts the tremendous growth in the thrust areas. The trend was these sectors has been as Women Empowerment > Working Women > Women's Rights > Violence against Women > Women's Education.

• The study shows the range of the pages vary from 1 to more than 45. Only 9 (0.16%) articles have been of the page length of 41-45 pages.

Findings of ‘Authorship Pattern and Productivity’:

• In this study the collected data has been tested by Lotka’s law and the results have been obtained. The average value of author's productivity has been observed to be 2.61, which is higher to the inverse square value (i.e. 2) of Lotka’s law.

• It is observed that Lotka’s law is applicable to the data of Women’s Studies literature.

• The maximum deviation (D) using Kolmogorov- Smirnov statistics test has been found to be 0.01; the level of significance has been calculated to be 0.0254.

• The study has examined that the total number of single authored articles claim maximum scores 4690 (84.81%) and more than four authors contributed only 2 (0.04%) articles.

• It has been observed that the multi-authored articles have been 743(13.68%), their contribution is very less in comparison to single authors 4690(86.32%).

• The study reveals that Vimal Balasubrahmanyan occupies the first rank with 50 articles, an average of 2.17 articles per year in 23 years.

• Maithreyi Krishnaraj has contributed 23 articles, and 3 of her articles appeared under joint authorship.

• It has been revealed that the main area of interest of Anjali Deshpande, K Saradamoni and Durgabai Deshmukh appear to be self-employed women, women's rights, domestic violence, and women empowerment respectively.

• Devaki Jain has contributed her articles in eight different journals, while Bina Agarwal has contributed her articles seven different journals. Asghar Ali
Engineer, Vibhuti Patel and Bharat Dogra have contributed their articles in six different journals.

- In this study, preponderance of female over the male authors is observed. Out of 4033 authors, female authors are 2297 (56.1 percent) and 1796 (43.79 percent) are male authors.

Findings of ‘Topical Content Analysis’:

- The ‘Women’s Studies’ database brings to light that during 1945-1950, only one keyword Child Marriage occurred. It has been observed that some keywords such as Sati Pratha, Police Brutality, Bride Burning and Devdasi (temple prostitution) occurred 20, 21 and 24 times in different periods.

- The value of the products of rank (r) of a keyword and frequency (f) of occurrence of the keyword has ranged between log 2.72 and log 3.72. The graphical presentation of rank (r) and frequency (f) on logarithmic scale has turned out to be a straight line which indicates the applicability of Zipf’s Law in Women’s Studies literature.

- Among 21968 words, only 15821 words have been considered as keywords.

- The keyword Women's Empowerment has the highest frequency with 526 followed by Working Women with 502 frequencies.

- A total number of 171 keywords have occurred $\geq$ 20 times in Women's Studies database.

Findings of ‘Citation Analysis of Indian Journal of Gender Studies’:


- It has been observed that every volume has an average of 369 citations.

- The highest number of citations has appeared in volume 15 in the year 2008 with 629 (11.38%) citations.

- It is observed that 3051 books (55.18%) are the backbone of sources for writing of articles.

- Journals occupy the second highest position with 1471 (26.61%) citations.
• The study has explored that the highest 2376 (42.97%) citations have occurred during the period 1991-2000.

• The period 1851-1860 has the least with three (0.05) citations only.

• It is has been explored that out of 3051 total book citations, books of the current 17 years cover cumulative 50.25% from the year 1991.

• Journals citations of current 14 years cover cumulative 50.17% from the year 1994 out of 1471 journal citations. This shows that the most recent books and journals are used by authors for their writing.

• Half - life period of books and journal citation for the present analysis is taken to be 17 years and 14 years.

• Study reveals that maximum citations 4456 (80.59%) have been used by single authors; which is a total number of 5529 citations, followed by 851 (15.39%) citations by two authors.

• The study brings to light that the Government of India is the most cited with 73 (1.05%) citations.

• Amartya Sen occupies the second rank with 34 (0.49%) citations.

• The Economic and Political Weekly has received (14.75%) citations with the first rank.

• The book Poverty and Famine: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation received the highest 23(0.75%) citations with the first rank

• Title A Field of One’s Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia occupies the second rank with 21(0.69%) citations.

Finally this study gives an insight into the Women’s Studies literature in India bibliometrically. This study has enabled to have better control of literature on the subject and delves deep into the growth and trends of the subject. It is hoped that the study will be useful for the users’ requirement and thus build up a sound collection and development of libraries and also of Women’s Studies and Development Centers.