Chapter 5
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

As powerful products of human creativity, books constitute an effective instrument for the educational, cultural and economic development of people. They help in bridging the wide gaps that exist in the level of the development of nations. Moreover, books project the political thinking, customs, conventions, the social, religious and cultural values of their people.

India produces a large number of social science books. So is the case with social science books in Malayalam. It was found that there are altogether 5920 Malayalam books in social sciences produced during the period 1835-2000. The bibliometric analysis enables to identify the trends in authorship, concentration of books in certain disciplines, within each discipline in some particular areas, the growth pattern of books, author productivity, share of translations etc.

The present study focuses on books published from 1835, the publication of the first social science book in Malayalam, up to 2000 A.D. In order to provide a background of the study, several social science publications are consulted to get an idea of:

- the nature of the social sciences
- the literature of the social sciences
- the growth of social science publications in India
- Social science books in Malayalam and their rate of growth
The observations made through this survey of literature are presented in chapter two, three and four. An analysis of the definitions and scope of social sciences shows that Anthropology, Commerce, Economics, Education, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Management, Psychology, Public Administration and Sociology can be brought under its purview. But since the objective of the study is to analyse the publications in a regional language, where books in all the above subjects are not available and the available ones are not numerous, the investigator thought it fit to incorporate only the major subjects and from this point of view, the policy adopted by colon classification is found to be ideal. The major findings of the literature survey and bibliometric analysis are summarised below.

5.2 Social Science books in Malayalam

The publication of Malayalam books in social sciences started from 1835, and it has been consistently on the increase.

5.3 Subject-wise distribution of books

i) History books constitute 41.37 percent of the total social science books in Malayalam

ii) Books on Education constitute only 5.27 percent though Kerala claims 100% literacy.

iii) Law books are also relatively quite limited (2.43%)

iv) Books relating to geography topics are few, but travelogues make up the deficiency in the total number.

v) Specialization in each subject resulted in the reduction of General Social Science books.
5.3.1 Concentration of publication of Social Science books in Malayalam

The application of the Herfindahl Hirshman Index (HHI) for measuring the degree of concentration of publication of social science books in Malayalam reveals that, though there exists concentration of publication among a few subjects, the intensity of concentration remain almost the same. There has not been any perceptible change, neither upward nor downward, with respect to the concentration of publication under various subjects.

5.3.2 Areas of publication in various subjects in Social Sciences

5.3.2.1 Education

(i) General books on Education, especially basic books constitute nearly half of the total books on Education. In other words, books on specialized fields of Education are less.

(ii) Books on Higher Education especially technical education are very less. Other weaker areas are Physical Education and Education in other countries.

5.3.2.2 Geography

(i) Travelogues constitute more than half of the geography books

(ii) Books on Meteorology and Economic geography are very few.

5.3.2.3 History

(i) Excluding biography Books on Kerala History, score the highest number (17.11%) followed by Indian History (14.66%).

(ii) Books on Disarmament, the French Revolution and the League of Nations Parliament are rare.
5.3.2.4 Political Science

(i) Political theory which includes communism, Marxism, Socialism, etc. constitute 56.31% of political science books.

(ii) Weaker areas are State, Monarchy, Contemporary Politics, etc.

5.3.2.5 Economics

(i) Representation of books in almost all topics is evident in Economics.

(ii) One fifth of the Economics books are on general topics.

(iii) Weaker areas are ‘Budget’, ‘Finance’ and poverty.

5.3.2.6 Sociology

(i) The highest number of books is on Caste which account for 15.15 per cent of the total. Topics relating to women constitute 7.27 per cent.

(ii) Books on Anthropology, Child Welfare, Social Services, etc. are comparatively less.

5.3.2.7 Law

(i) General books on Law have the major share.

(ii) Publications are more in Civil Law, Law of Inheritance, Service Rules, Muslim Law, Criminal Law etc.

(iii) Books dealing with specific laws like IPR laws and acts are very few.
5.4 Types of books
5.4.1 Biographies

(i) Biographies form 16.25 per cent of the social science books.
(ii) Out of the 962 biographies, 767 are in History.
(iii) Biographies are few in Education, Geography and Law.

5.4.2 Children’s Literature

(i) Only 5.69 per cent of books fall under children’s literature.
(ii) The highest number of books on children’s literature is in History (7.55%) and the lowest number is in Social Science General (1.25%) and in Law (1.39%).

5.4.3 Ready Reference Books

(i) Ready reference works constitute only 0.63% of the total social science books.
(ii) Year books and atlases are made conspicuous by their absence.

5.4.4 Text books

(i) Text books form only 1.77 per cent of the total and their representation is minimal in almost all subjects.
(ii) Text books are absent in political science and law.
5.4.5 Multivolumed books

(i) Multi – volumed books constitute 4.86 per cent of the total.
(ii) There is an inverse relationship between the number of volumes and the number of titles.
(iii) There are only three books which have more than five volumes.

5.5 Decade – wise production of Social Science books

(i) History books retained the number one position in terms of the total number except during 1861-70 and 1871-80.
(ii) The period 1981-90 was the most productive decade of social science books in Malayalam. 19.27 per cent of books were produced during this period.
(iii) Of the three periods taken, while estimating the period wise growth, the second period (1901-1950) witnessed an average growth rate of 7.04 percent when compared to the first period (1835-1900).
(iv) During the second period, the highest growth rate was for sociology (15.5%) followed by Economics (13.33%) and History (11.3%).
(v) The growth rate during the third period was only 3.54 per cent, showing a decline compared to the previous period.
(vi) During the third period, Political Science Witnessed the highest growth rate (16.31%) followed by General Social Science (8%)
(vii) Though the number of publication increased, the actual growth rate had declined during the third period.
5.6 **Authorship pattern**

5.6.1 **Type of authorship**

(i) Books written by single authors form 86.08 per cent; two authors form 3.06 percent and more than two authors constitute 1.08 percent of the total.

(ii) Single authorship is the highest in Geography, but it is relatively low in Law (72.22%).

(iii) Books written by two authors are more in Geography but form the least in History.

(iv) Multiple authorship is visible in all social science disciplines.

(v) Compilations constitute 1.01 per cent and edited works 1.52 per cent.

(vi) Books written by corporate authors constitute 3.26 per cent.

(vii) Books which do not specify the names of authors (Anonymous works) appear in all subjects and these constitute 3.99 per cent of the total.

5.6.2 **Productivity of authors**

(i) The study shows that there is inverse relationship between the number of books and the number of authors.

(ii) ‘Lotkas’ Inverse Square Law’ on the productivity of authors is found to be applicable here with slight variation in the value of the index number ‘n’. In the study the value assigned was 2.71.
5.6.3 Prolific writers in Social Sciences

(i) The following are the most prolific writers in each social science subject.

Social Science General - Sreevaraham Pillai
Education - Erumeli Parameswaran Pillai
Geography - S.K. Pottekkattu
History - M.K. Gandhi
Political Science - E.M.S Namboothirippad
Economics - K. Damodaran
Sociology - E.M.S. Namboothirippad
Law - Sreemandiram, K.P

(ii) A good number of prolific writers are politicians and political thinkers.

5.6.4 Gender–wise distribution

(i) Women writers are far fewer, compared to men.

(ii) In the single author category the ratio between men and women writers is 27:1.

(iii) The ratio of women is the highest in Geography (17.57:1) followed by Sociology (19.61:1).

(iv) The difference in the ratio is much higher in law (51:1).

(v) Regarding joint authorship, only 7 are women while their male counterparts constitute 174.

(vi) Considering multiple authorship, there is only one women writer while there are 63 male authors.

(vii) The male-female collaboration in authorship shows that the number of women is limited to 6.
5.7 Countries covered by Social Services books in Malayalam

(i) Out of the total books, 39.09% focus on a single country or countries.

(ii) Among the countries covered, 79.04 per cent are on India, 4.36% on Russia and 3.59 America.

(iii) Among the subjects, 52.59 per cent of books in history deal with various countries, and among them 87.34 percent deal with Indian History.

(iv) Country specific studies are very few in General Social Science and Law.

5.7.1 Social Science titles with geographical appellations

(i) Only 13.24 percent of the books have geographical appellations in the title.

(ii) As can be expected it is more in Geography (29.59%) and History (15.11%).

(iii) It is the least in General Social Science books (3.75%).

5.7.2 Distribution of books dealing with Kerala.

(i) The study reveals that only 15.88 percent of books deal particularly with Kerala.

(ii) In Sociology and Law, a quarter of the books deal with Kerala.

(iii) Books dealing specifically with Kerala are comparatively less in Social Science-General and Geography.
5.8. Publishers of Social Science Books

(i) Altogether 929 publishers could be identified.
(ii) The main categories of publishers are Private, State and Central Government, Universities, scholarly Institutions, etc. Books published by the authors themselves are also visible.
(iii) Prabhat Book House ranks as the topmost publisher which alone is responsible for 15.95 per cent of the total Publications. Kerala Bhasha Institute, TVM Chinta Publishers, TVM, DC Books Kottayam and Sahitya Prvarthaka Co-operative Society (SPCS) Kottayam occupy the second, third, fourth and fifth positions.

5.8.1 Government Publications

(i) Government/government sponsored institutions constitute only 4.95 percent of the total.
(ii) The Kerala Bhasha Institute is the top government publisher of social science books in Malayalam, followed by the Govt. Press, TVM and Publication Division of the Govt. of India.
(iii) Though there are only 46 government publishers, the number of books produced them are very few.

5.8.2 Author as publisher

(i) Books published by the authors themselves constitute 5.39 per cent.
(ii) Publishing of books by the authors themselves is more evident in Geography (11.12%) and the least in political science (3.73%).

(iii) The highest number of books published by a single author is ten.

5.8.3 Geographical location of publishers

Social Science books are published not only from Kerala, but also from various other Indian States and even from foreign countries.

5.8.3.1 Publications from Kerala

(i) Nearly 93 percent of books are being published from Kerala.

(ii) Thiruvananthapuram is the most productive district which accounts for 35.15 per cent of the books from Kerala.

(iii) Wynad, Kasargod and Idukki are the districts which lag behind in the production.

(iv) The publishing trends at 50 years intervals show that Thiruvananthapuram has maintained the lead throughout the period.

5.8.3.2 Publications from outside Kerala

(i) 420 books are published outside Kerala of which 393 are published from the various Indian States and 27 from outside India.

(ii) New Delhi is the largest contributor of social science books in Malayalam from outside Kerala.
The Indian Atheist Publishers, Publication Division of the Government of India, the National Book Trust and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India are the major publishers from Delhi.

5.8.3.3. Publications from outside India

The Russian Federation (the erstwhile Soviet Union), Singapore and Sri Lanka are the foreign countries which publish Malayalam books in social sciences.

5.9 Various editions of Social Science books

(i) The first edition constitutes 93.53 per cent.
(ii) 15 percent of the General Social Science books have run into more than one edition and the corresponding figures for Education, Geography, History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology and Law are 16.03%, 4.47%, 6.49%, 5.46%, 6.15%, 4.39% and 9.03%.
(iii) The highest number of editions comes out in History.
(iv) The ratio of social science books, running into first, second, third and fourth editions is 221.5: 10.2:3:1.

5.10 Translations

(i) Translations constitute 22.57 percent of the total social science books in Malayalam.
(ii) The highest number of translation is in Political Science (40.18%). In History, Economics and Law, about 25% of the books are translations.
5.10.1 Language-wise distribution of translations

(i) The majority of the works are translated from English.
(ii) The next position is occupied by Russian.
(iii) Representation of almost all prominent languages could be seen in translation.
(iv) Translations from only seven Indian languages appear in Malayalam.

5.10.2 Decade-wise production of translations

(i) Post-independent period witnessed a sudden increase in the production of translations.
(ii) The period 1981-70 is found to be the most productive decade of translations.

5.10.3 Prominent authors of translated works

(i) The study shows that Mahatma Gandhi’s works stand first in terms of number of translations.
(ii) Other prominent writers whose works are translated most are Lenin and Karl Marx.

5.10.4 Gender-wise distribution of translations

(i) Women translators constitute only 5.86 per cent.
(ii) The ratio between male and female translators is 16.06:1
5.10.5 Publisher-wise distribution of translated works

(i) Prabhat Book House and Chinta the propagators of communist literature occupy the top position among the publishers of translated works.

(ii) Among the major ten prominent publishers of translations only three are government.

5.10.6 Translations of biographies

(i) Translation of biographies constitute only 9.58 percent of the total translations of social science books in Malayalam.

(ii) Most of these translations are in History

(iii) The biographies of Gandhiji constitute a major share in History.

(iv) Translation of biographies are totally absent in Social Science General, Education, Economics and Law.

5.11 Estimation of price per page in Social Sciences

(i) The average price per page of a social science book in Malayalam is 17 paise.

(ii) There has been a variation in the average price over the decades.

(iii) From 1951-60 onwards, there is a steady increase in price per page.

(iv) The ANOVA reveals that the price variation is statically significant.
5.11.1 Estimation of price per page between various Social Science subjects

(i) There is variation in price per page in each social science discipline.

(ii) Among the subjects Sociology has the highest price and Political Science has the least.

(iii) The variation in price per page among subjects is statistically significant.

5.11.1.1 Decade-wise estimation of price per page in social science disciplines

(i) During the period 1991-2000 the price reached its highest in almost all subjects except Sociology and Law.

(ii) Regarding the lowest price, there is no such visible period. It varies from discipline to discipline.

5.11.2 Estimation of price per page of text books and other categories of books

(i) The average price per page of text book is 14 paise where as it is 17 paise for other categories of books.

(ii) The variation in price per page between text books and non-text books is statistically significant.
5.11.2.1 Estimation of price-page variation in text books and other categories of books in various social science disciplines.

(i) The price per page variation between texts and other categories of books is higher in sociology.

(ii) In General Social Science books, Geography, History and Sociology, the price of text books are low when compared to non-text books.

(iii) In Education and Economics there is no price variation between text books and non-text books.

5.11.2.2 Decade-wise analysis of price per page variation between text books and non-text books

(i) During 1971-80 both text books and non-text books have the same price while there are some differences in price between the two in other decades.

(ii) The price per page of text books and non-text books is maximum during 1991-2000.

(iii) For the text books, the price is at the lowest during 1941-50 and for the non-text books during the period 1951-60

5.11.3 Comparison of price per page in Children’s Literature and other categories of books

(i) The average price of Children’s Literature is 21 paise per page whereas that of Other books is only 17 paise.
Though there is some difference in price per page between Children’s Literature and other books, the variation in price is not statistically significant.

5.11.4 Estimation of price per page between Private and Government publishers

(i) Books published by government agencies lost only 16 paise per page whereas books private publishers cost 18 paise per page.
(ii) The variation in price per page between government and private publishers is statistically significant.

5.11.4.1. Decade-wise calculation of price per page between government and private publishers

(i) The price of books brought out by government publishers is found to fluctuate. During 1951-60 the price was 16 paise per page. But during 1961-70 it came down to 13 paise. The price of private publishers on the other hand steadily increased from 1951-60 onwards.
(ii) For both the publishers the price reached its maximum during 1991-2000.

5.12 Price and page number correlation

There is high number correlation between the number of pages and real price. The real price charged increases along with the increase in the number of pages.
5.12.1 Correlation between the number of pages and real price in various Social Science subjects

(i) Correlation between the number of pages and real price is the highest in Law followed by Education and Political Science.
(ii) The lowest value correlation between the number of pages and real price is in Social Science General.

5.12.2 Correlation between pages and real price in Social Science subjects among decades.

(i) The correlation between the number of pages and real price is the highest during the period 1961-1970.
(ii) The lowest value correlation is during the period 1981-90.

5.13 Determinants of publication output of Malayalam books in Social Sciences

(i) Population is the greatest determinant affecting publication output of social science books in Malayalam. One per cent change in population would lead to 0.83 per cent change in publication output.
(ii) Total literacy is the second important factor which influences the publication output.
(iii) SDP and real per capita have the least impact.
(iv) The existing relationship between publication output and explanatory variables are very significant.
5.14 Suggestions and recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, certain suggestions and recommendations are given below.

i. The existing bibliographical tools do not contain all the necessary information sought by the users. It lacks comprehensive coverage of books. Many voluntary institutions publish social science books in Malayalam which are not covered by any of the existing bibliographies. So the Delivery of Books Act, 1954 should be reviewed and amended suitably so as to ensure effective supply of publications to the National Library, Kolkata, and the other three public libraries of Chennai, Mumbai, and Delhi. The Central government should conduct awareness programmes to individual publishers as well as Publisher’s Associations of every state to highlight the importance of preserving all the publications at one place in the country and bringing out a comprehensive bibliography for reference. The National Library should make arrangements to put the details of all the books received under the Delivery of Books Act in their website which may prompt publishers to send their books without fail. Moreover, the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation should be entrusted to give directions to all the state governments not to consider the books of publishers who do not comply with the Delivery of Books Act and also force them to take legal action to those who purposely violate the Act.

ii. A Regional Deposit Library in every state should be established and entrusted with the task of collecting, organizing, and holding relevant
literature in a regional language and thus supplement and complement the efforts of the Indian National Library. This regional library in cooperation with the publishers and other bibliographical agencies should prepare current as well as retrospective bibliographies. As far as Kerala is concerned the State Central Library should be charged with the responsibility of enforcing the Delivery of Books Act by modifying the Press and Registration Act, 1867 to ensure that a copy of the book published be vested with the State Central Library.

iii. A High Level Committee consisting of the representatives of the State Central Library, Kerala; the Kerala Sahitya Academy; and prominent publishers and authors has to be constituted to ensure the comprehensive collection and proper bibliographic control of books in Malayalam.

iv. Lack of adequate translation facility hinder the growth of social science books in Malayalam. In many parts of the world, multi-lingualism is a fact of life and highly creative works produced can be intelligibly transmitted to other linguistic communities in the same country or in other countries only through the medium of translation. Translations in the present day world have therefore assumed a unique significance. The National Book Trust, New Delhi; Kerala Sahitya Academy, Trissur; the Kerala Bhasha Institute (State Institute of Languages), Thiruvananthapuram and a few enterprising publishers like Prabhat Book House, Chinta, DC Books, etc., have taken some good efforts in this regard. But the social science books are by and large translated by individuals themselves. The Kerala Sahitya Academy has to take an active role in identifying the works worthy of translation to Malayalam and getting them translated. For this, a panel of translators who are proficient in social sciences have
to be identified. Similarly, an index of translations in the model of **Index Translationnum** by UNESCO should be published.

v. The universities should offer courses in translation as part of post graduate degree course in Language Departments of the Universities of Kerala. Similarly, there should also be facilities to translate works from other languages to Malayalam.

vi. The shortage of women writers in the nonliterary field could be made good to some extent by giving training in technical writing by conducting seminars, workshops, and camps. They can also be persuaded to come forward by offering incentives like awards of various sorts.

vii. The International Conference on Science Information, 1948, held in UK and similar conference held in USA in 1958 paved the way for far reaching changes in the information scenario in the science and technology fields. Similarly, the world Malayalam conference which is occasionally held in different parts of the world should seriously consider sessions devoted to SWOT analysis of the Malayalam publications in different subject fields and point out creative methods to overcome the weaknesses and enhance the existing strength.

viii. In the model of the Tamil University, a Malayalam university should be established to foster studies relating to Malayalam. It should offer courses and conduct researches that would help augment the growth of publication of Malayalam books in individual subject fields. Naturally, the university would be able to identify gaps in Malayalam publications and take steps to overcome the lacunae.

ix. Formation of research centers for resource development in language and culture in the pattern of ‘Mozhi’ in Tamil Nadu can also be thought of. Mozhi is a charitable trust formed in 1990 for the development of resources in Tamil language and culture. It was
founded by a group of individuals belonging to disciplines such as Linguistics, language teaching, publishing, Information Sciences, etc., pooling their long experience in respective areas to develop conceptual and technical facilities in language teaching and learning and understanding culture. It is now engaged in creating a library for Tamil studies in collaboration with the University of Chicago. The collection contains about 1,00,000 items consisting of books and a variety of non-book materials. This collection is a rare one covering all major subjects will prove to be a boon to scholars in Tamil studies.

5.15 The tenability of hypotheses

The hypotheses formulated at the beginning of the study are that:

i There is a rich collection of social science books in Malayalam but there is imbalance in growth in different subjects with the result that while some are well developed, others are lagging behind.

ii The government is not keen on providing translation services in the field of social sciences with the result that many good works in various social science disciplines available in other Indian languages are not translated into Malayalam.

iii There are certain socio-economic factors which determine the growth of publication in any subject or language like population, total literacy, female literacy, Real State Domestic Product, and Real Per Capita Income.

The findings show that these hypotheses are proved to a very great extent.
5.16 Areas for further study

The bibliometric study of social science books in Malayalam consists of many aspects and it is a wide topic with various facets. All the aspects could not be covered since they would become diffused. However, the study gave insights into areas which can be taken up for further study.

i. Bibliometric studies of translations in Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities including literary works can be undertaken.

ii. Each individual discipline that comes under social sciences like History, Geography, Sociology, etc., can be taken as a topic and its bibliometric study can be conducted.

iii. The user needs and use pattern of social science books in Malayalam can also be taken as an area of study.

iv. A comparison of the publication pattern in Social Sciences and the user needs and use pattern.

v. Bibliometric study of journal literature in social science subjects in Malayalam.

vi. Comparison of the publication pattern of social science books in Malayalam with other languages like Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, in short, all Indian languages.

5.17 Conclusion

Kerala is on the threshold of transforming itself into an information society with its upper hand in literacy, education, health, transportation and communication sectors. But as elsewhere there is an over emphasis on study
and research in science and technology subjects, sometimes to the exclusion of social science and humanities subjects. This is very much evident from the fact while there is a mad rush of students to engineering and medical fields, social sciences get only a lukewarm attention. Social scientists have already warned of a society which lacks sympathy, empathy, sensibility, and sensitivity to the weaker sections of the society mainly due to the absence of imbibing human values. The human values can be imparted to the generations only through a study of the subjects concerned with human beings and society in general i.e. Social Sciences.

This calls for a concerted policy on the part of the government of Kerala regarding the production and distribution of books in Malayalam. It is imperative that the government should have an Information Policy and the policy on books can form part of it. The study has shown that the share of social science books in Malayalam, though not deplorable, is not that much high. There are a number of areas where books are not available. These factors have to be taken care of while formulating a book policy as part of the total information policy. Such a policy is indispensable for the proper growth and development of the information society and the transformation into a knowledge society. It is relevant to note here that a proposal of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) to set up a National Translation Mission (NTM) to promote and disseminate good quality translations to broadbase education that has perennially suffered from limited access to well translated material in various domains of study. Some of the activities proposed as part of the NTM are creation of a National Register for Translators, translation education, translating pedagogic materials at all levels - including primary to tertiary education - particularly in natural and social sciences, a national web portal on translations as a one - stop shop for related information and promoting machine translation.
The proposal which has already been approved by the Planning Commission is under the active consideration of the Government of India. The relevance of the project lies in the fact that it aims to promote translations not only of literature but texts in practically every domain of study and between various Indian languages instead of to and from English. The study has shown that though there are many translated works from English, the number of translations from Indian languages to Malayalam is meagre. The Government of Kerala in collaboration with stakeholders in the private sector has to take urgent measures to reap the benefits of this central programme and gear up the overall production and dissemination of social science information aimed at the balanced growth of the society.