

Authorship pattern of Gandhian literature: a bibliometric study

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ABSTRACT

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is internationally venerated for his doctrine. His philosophies of truth, non-violence, satyagrah, untouchability etc are alive and blossoming day by day, even after the 60 years of his death. In the present paper an attempt has been made to explore the Gandhian scholars, who are actively engaged in analysing the different facets of Gandhi. This work focuses on the periodical literature published on Gandhi till 2010 in English Language. There were 6175 articles contributed by 3803 authors. He is internationally acknowledged is clearly reflected by the fact that among the three contributors, at third position is Thomas weber from Australia.

KEYWORDS: Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhiana, Bibliometric study, Periodical Literature,

I. INTRODUCTION

The Rabindranath Tagore called M K Gandhi the Great Soul i.e. Mahatma. Mahatma Gandhi is now one of the most universally recognized on earth. His fame spread global during his lifetime and only increased after his death. This is clearly reflected by the active engagement of scholars in the Gandhian studies, after approx. 60 years of his death. In this paper an effort has been made to analyze the periodical literature in Gandhi, for recognizing the researchers, who had made Gandhi alive till date.

II. OBJECTIVES

The prime objectives of the present work are to explore the periodical literature in English published on Gandhi in the view of the following perspectives:

1. Productivity of the scholars engaged in Gandhiana
2. Authorship pattern of highly productive authors
3. Authorship Position in Collaborative Papers of Highly Productive Authors

III. METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the above objectives, several primary and secondary sources in English language were scanned solitary for collecting the periodical data on Gandhian Nonviolence Philosophy till 2010. The obtained data were processed with different bibliometric techniques with the help of MS excel.

IV. DATA INTERPRETATION

Figure 1 demonstrates the growth of authors for the period of 1920-2010. It is important to note here that the number of authors vary from 0 for the years 1924 and 1935 to 374 authors for the year 1969. Moreover, new authors added in 1969 were maximum i.e. 256. The maximum growth rate was observed to be 44.05 authors in year 2010, whereas the minimum growth rate was 1.00 authors for the year 1920. Till the year 1940, there had been no trend of the growth of authors. After this year, the growth rate had gradually started increasing and such trend continued till the year 2010, except 1968-1969. It is significant to mention that percentage of authors has increased rapidly by 4.87 from 1968 to 1969.

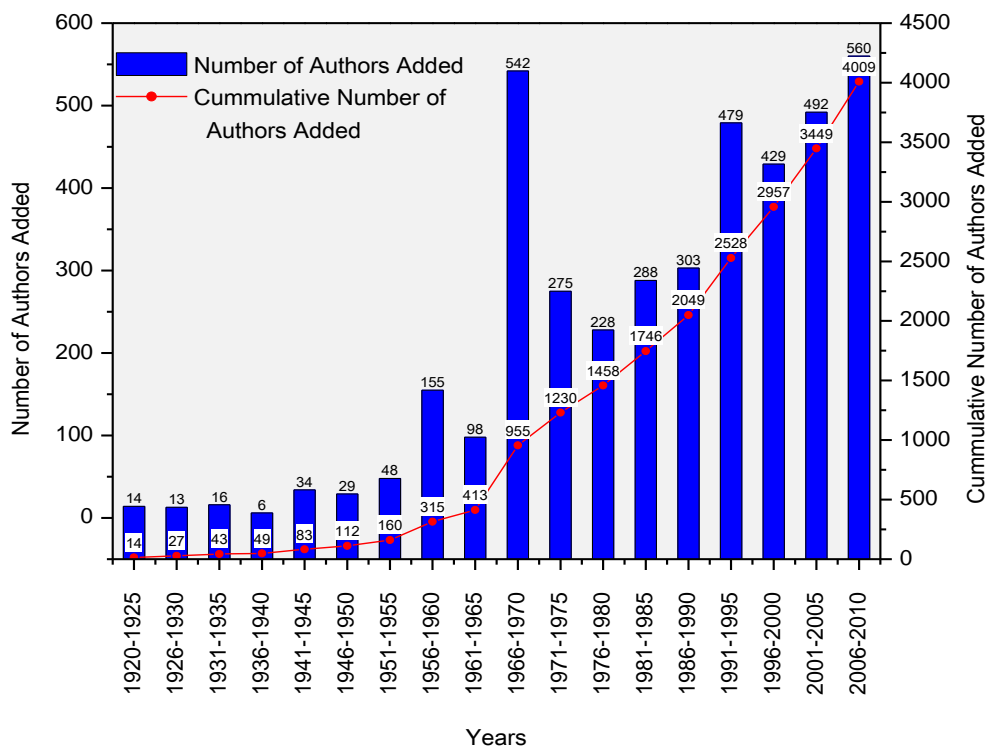


Figure 1 Emerging trend of authors in Gandhian literature

Distribution of the Highly Productive Authors in Gandhian Literature

Productive authors or researchers are chief source of information in any discipline. It is necessary to know the dynamic authors and their research works for the better establishment of any research. In case of Gandhian literature, the top 20 authors who have made ≥ 12 contributions have been considered to be highly productive authors. Highly productive authors in a decreasing order of productivity (number of papers) along with period and number of years an individual continued to contributed, total number of journals in which they contributed and number of main subject areas studied were listed in Table 1. In the present case, out of 3803 unique authors, 20 authors were found to be highly productive authors. These 20 authors contributed about 5.39 % of the total literature. All details of an individual of highly productive authors are given separately at the end of this chapter.

From Table 1, it was observed that R.R. Diwakar holds the first position with 40 papers contributed in seven journals. P.C. Joshi has the second rank with 27 papers followed by Thomas Weber who has got third rank for contributing 23 papers.

On the basis of period of contributions, all 20 highly authors can be categorized into four groups. The first group was of those authors who started contributing in the decade (1951-1960). In this group there were seven authors, namely– J.S. Mathur (1956-1982), R R Diwakar (1957-2007), G. Ramachandran (1957-1996), J.B. Kripalani (1958-1979), Marie B Byles (1958-1976), Gene Sharp (1959-1997) and Jayaprakash Narayan (1960-1996).

In Second group, there were only two authors, who started contributing in the decade (1961-1970), namely-, Vishwanathan Tondon (1966-2008) and P.C. Joshi (1967-2007).

The third group was of those authors who began contributing in decade (1971-1980), namely – Romesh Diwan (1971-2001), Nikhil Chakravartty (1972-2010), J.D. Sethi (1974-1994), Arvind Sharma (1974-2005), Balraj Puri (1978-2003).

The Fourth group was of those authors who started contributing in the decade (1981-1990), namely - E.S. Reddy (1984-2005), G.P. Deshpande (1984-2007), Ramachandra Guha (1985-2009), Thomas Weber (1986-2010), V. Lal (1988-2009), and K.D. Gangrade (1989-2007).

Thus, all the highly productive authors had started contributing their articles after the death of Mahatma Gandhi. Few of the authors like Ramachandra Guha (1985-2009), V. Lal (1988-2009), Thomas Weber

(1986-2010), Nikhil Chakravartty (1972-2010), can be regarded as active authors because these authors are still exploring and contributing to Gandhian literature.

On the basis of classification of subjects, P.C. Joshi holds the first rank for contributing the various articles in 23 disciplines of Gandhian literature. The second position was occupied by R.R. Diwakar for contributing in 20 subjects.

The publishing behavior of these authors showed that J.B. Kripalani, Ramachandra Guha and V. Lal have contributed their articles in 11 different journals each, while Thomas Weber and Arvind Sharma have contributed in eight journals each. The articles of R.R. Diwakar and P.C. Joshi were distributed in seven journals each. Other 13 authors have made their contribution in less than seven journals. It is to be noted that four authors were restricted to one journal only.

Table 1 also presents the duration of contributions and average contribution per year of highly productive authors. The duration of contributions of R.R. Diwakar (1957-2007), was maximum i.e 51 years, whereas both K.D. Gangrade and Marie B. Byles have contributed for minimum period i.e. 19 years.

The overall average of highly productive author's contributions was 0.58 papers per year. The scholar from Australia "Thomas Weber" have contributed 23 papers in the span of 25 years, and also having maximum average contributions 0.92 papers per year. The second and third positions were occupied by J.B. Kripalani (0.91 papers per year) and V. Lal (0.86 papers per year) respectively. On the other hand, the minimum average was 0.28 papers per year by Vishwanathan Tondon.

Most of the highly productive authors were affiliated to more than one institution and countries. The countries distribution of highly productive author indicates that 13 of them have been from India, four were from USA, two were from Australia, and one author was affiliated from both Canada and Australia. The contributions along with time duration have been summarized in Figure 2.

Name of Author	Time Period	Duration of Contribution	No of Contribution	Average Contribution	Journal Distribution	No. of Subject
R R Diwakar	1957-2007	51	40	0.78	7	20
P C Joshi	1967-2007	41	27	0.66	7	23
Thomas Weber	1986-2010	25	23	0.92	8	13
J B Kripalani	1958-1979	22	20	0.91	11	15
Nikhil Chakravartty	1972-2010	39	19	0.49	2	13
V Lal	1988-2009	22	19	0.86	11	18
G Ramachandran	1957-1996	40	18	0.45	6	12
Gene Sharp	1959-1997	39	17	0.44	6	8
J D Sethi	1974-1994	21	17	0.81	6	13
Ramachandra Guha	1985-2009	25	15	0.60	11	9
Romesh Diwan	1971-2001	31	15	0.48	6	10
Arvind Sharma	1974-2005	32	13	0.41	8	9
Balraj Puri	1978-2003	26	13	0.50	3	10
E S Reddy	1984-2005	22	12	0.55	1	9
G P Deshpande	1984-2007	24	12	0.50	1	8
J S Mathur	1956-1982	27	12	0.44	4	12
Jayaprakash Narayan	1960-1996	37	12	0.32	6	9
K D Gangrade	1989-2007	19	12	0.63	4	9
Marie B Byles	1958-1976	19	12	0.63	1	8
Vishwanathan Tondon	1966-2008	43	12	0.28	1	10
Average Contribution				0.58		

Table 1 Highly productive authors in Gandhian literature

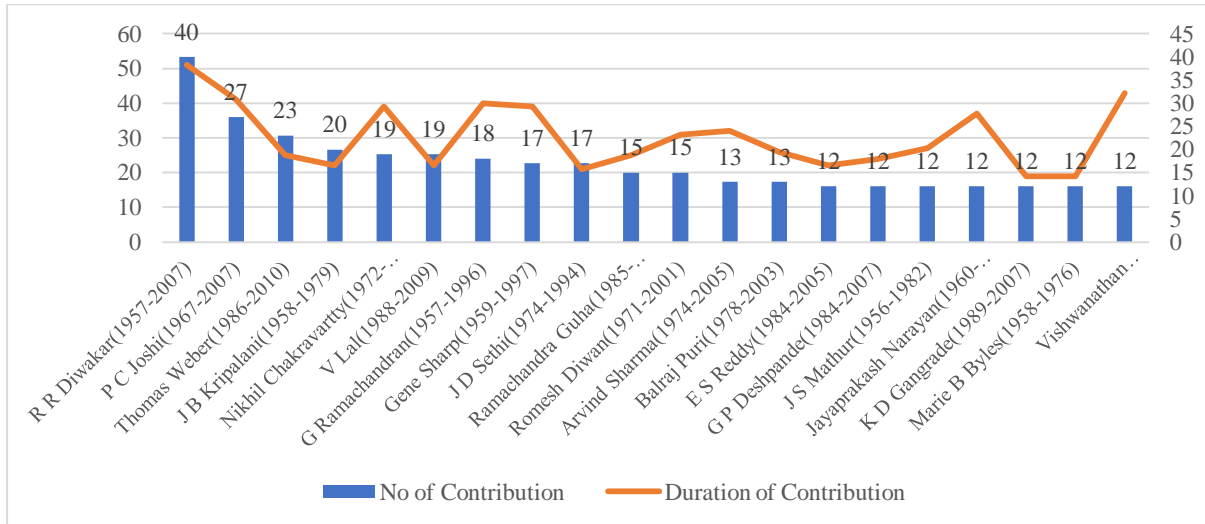


Figure 2 The emerging trend of authors

Authorship Pattern of the Highly Productive Authors

The contributions of highly productive authors as a first (primary) author and a second author have been presented in Figure 3. Majority of papers, were contributed by single authors accounting for 98.82 %. The authors who have contributed as second authors were only four in number.

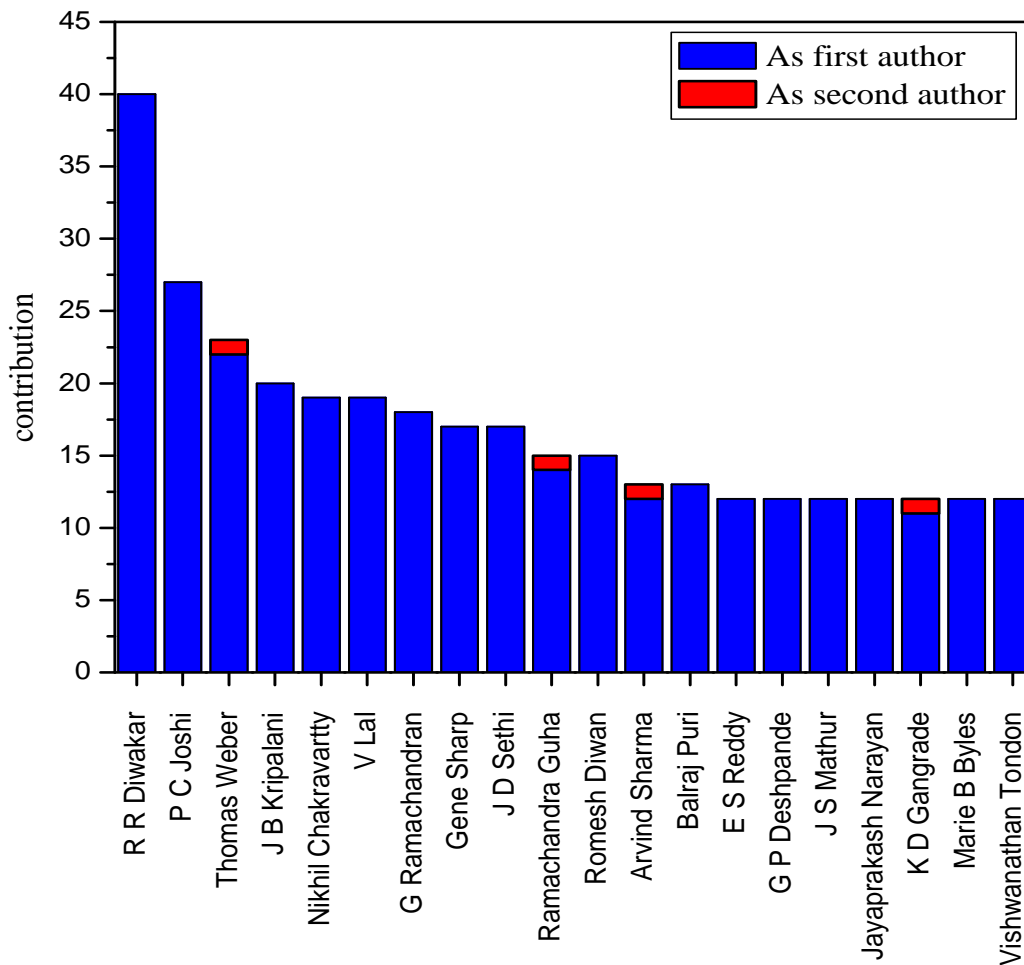


Figure 3 Authorship pattern of highly productive authors

Authorship Positions in Joint Authorship of Highly Productive Authors

In order to have an idea about the authorship position, the joint contributions of Highly Productive Authors were further analysed (Figure 4). Of 340 articles, a huge number of papers were contributed by solo author, more specifically 332 (97.65 %) numbers of papers. Only 8 (2.35 %) papers were contributed by them as jointly.

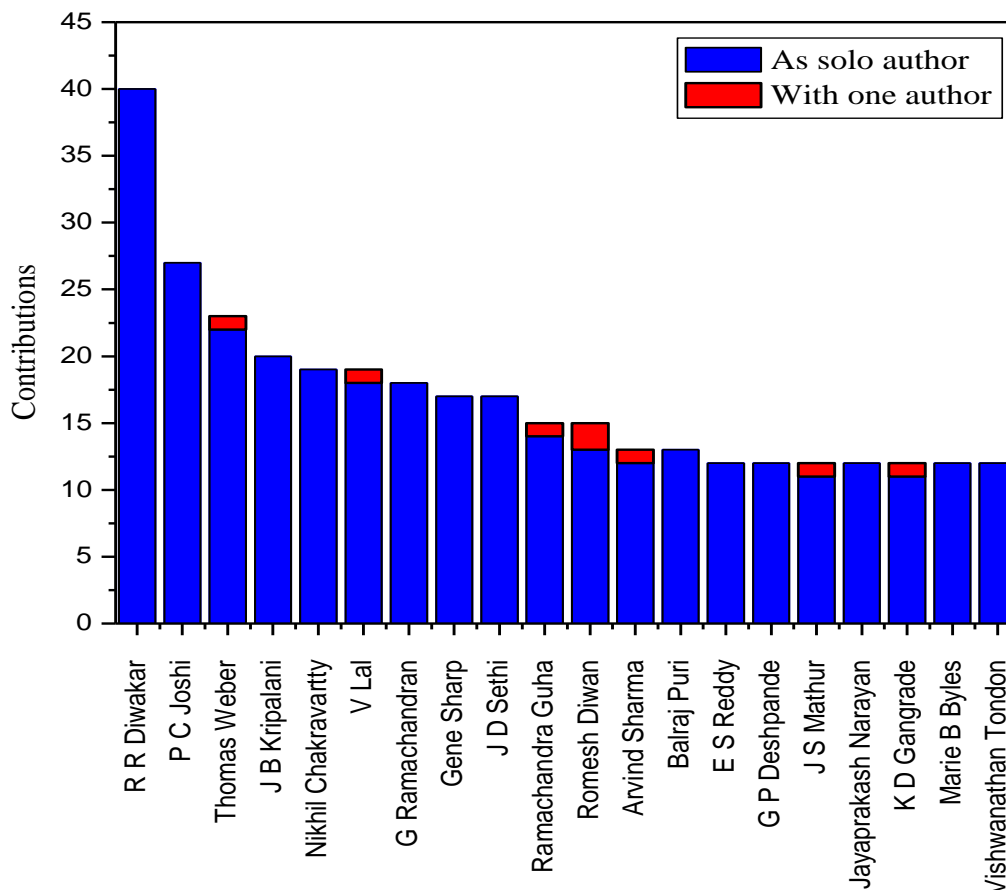


Figure 4 Authorship position in collaborative papers of highly productive authors

V. SUMMARY

Mahatma Gandhi is tremendously popular Universally. Many youths have not seen him but his principles are alive in the millions of heart. Almost all of the scholars preferred to be a single author. The contributors were from the India, USA, Australia, and Canada. It is bewildering to note the maximum average contribution on dynamic Indian personality “Mahatma Gandhi” is from the Australian author Thomas Weber.

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