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Review Article

Research productivity and impact of Indian authors in arts: A bibliometric perspective

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Abstract

This study examines the research output of Indian authors in the 'Arts' subject from 2015 to 2024 using bibliometric data from Scopus. It analyzes publication trends, citation impact, prolific authors, institutional contributions, and global collaborations. The Findings of the paper indicates a steady increase in research productivity in this field, with a significant proportion of publications appearing in high-impact journals. Paper finds that International collaborations yield the highest citation impact, emphasizing the importance of cross-border research partnerships. The integration of emerging technologies in Arts research highlights evolving interdisciplinary trends. Despite this progress, Indian researchers face some challenges such as underrepresentation in global rankings. In Future, research can be focused on discipline-specific citation trends and the role of digital transformation in Arts scholarship. The global visibility and impact of Indian Arts research can be strengthened with institutional support and by expanding their collaborative networks.

Keywords: Arts Research in India, Bibliometric Analysis, Scopus, Institutional Research Productivity, Citation Impact

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1. Introduction

A robust and efficient higher education system is essential for any nation aspiring to achieve prosperity and global recognition. Universities serve as the cornerstone of modern education and research, acting as leading institutions for intellectual and scientific progress. In contemporary times, higher education institutions, particularly universities, must advance research alongside their teaching responsibilities.

As competition in the global education arena intensifies and funding for education and research becomes increasingly constrained, evaluating research productivity has become crucial for students, administrators, policymakers, and funding bodies. Various agencies annually publish indices and metrics to assess universities based on teaching performance and research output. One significant criterion in these evaluations is research output, which includes published research papers, patents, technology transfers, and industry collaborations. Among these, research publications serve as a reliable indicator of research productivity at individual, university, and national levels.

The Scopus bibliographic database plays a critical role in indexing academic publications, covering journals from diverse specializations. This paper examines the research output of Indian authors in the Arts category from 2015 to 2024, using publication data retrieved from Scopus and SciVal. By analyzing parameters such as annual publications, leading journals, author profiles, communication trends in national and international journals, and the characteristics of top productive authors, this study provides a comprehensive overview of India's research contributions in this domain over the past decade.

2. Literature Review

Understanding publication patterns and scholarly contributions is essential in every academic discipline, including Arts and Humanities. Several bibliometric studies highlight the need to assess scholarly contributions in these

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fields, focusing on publication trends, citation impact, and authorship patterns.

Singh, Bawa, and Singh (2017) examined the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) from the Web of Science for the period 1999–2017. Their study showcased a gradual increase in publications by Indian authors, identifying gaps in international collaboration and citation frequency. Similarly, Kumar and Singh (2020) analyzed Indian contributions in the Law category of the Web of Science, emphasizing the gradual rise in productivity but pointing out underrepresentation compared to other Asian countries.[1-3]

In disciplines such as Science, Technology, and Medicine, bibliometric studies have demonstrated significant insights. Kapoor et al. (2016) analyzed Indian contributions to anesthesia-related journals, finding low representation in randomized controlled trials despite a growing overall output. These findings align with those of Garg and Kumar (2014), who documented Indian scientific output in life sciences, highlighting disparities between publication quantity and quality.

Other recent studies, such as that of Nazarovets (2025), explored acknowledgments in Ukrainian scientific literature during wartime, revealing that 7% of acknowledgments in 2,762 Scopus-indexed publications (2022–Feb 2024) expressed gratitude to defenders for ensuring researchers' security. Ghanadinezhad and Ghane (2024) analyzed bibliometric trends in university-industry interactions, identifying key challenges such as differing institutional goals while highlighting the role of science parks and incubators in facilitating research commercialization.

2.1. Objectives of the study

This study aims to evaluate the research contributions of Indian authors in the "Arts" category by:

1. Analyzing publication and citation metrics to assess overall scholarly impact and research productivity.
2. Identifying prolific institutions and researchers contributing significantly to Arts research and assessing their contributions to high-impact journals.
3. Examining global collaboration networks to visualize institutional partnerships in Arts research.
4. Exploring emerging research trends by analyzing keyword occurrences and thematic developments.
5. Assessing the impact of research outputs through publications in high-impact journals and top citation percentiles. These objectives ensure a comprehensive understanding of research impact, trends, and collaborations in the domain of Arts.

2.2. Limitations of the study

This study relies on the Scopus database as the primary data source. However, non-indexed regional or vernacular journals, smaller publishers, and niche journals are not included. Additionally, the analysis covers a specific time frame 2015–2024, other work published before 2015 or recent publications after 2024 are not included in this study. Furthermore, this study does not include books, conference proceedings, and book series that are indexed under the "Arts" category in Scopus.

3. Materials and Methods

The research utilized Scopus data from 2015 to August 2024, accessed via Elsevier, to assess the research output of Indian authors. Data collection involved conducting an online search in January 2025 using the following query:

Subjarea (arts) and (Limit-To (Affilcountry, "India")) And (Limit-To (Srctype, "j")).

This search yielded 15,442 publications affiliated with Indian authors. Comprehensive bibliographic details were retrieved for these records. Separate datasets were generated to categorize publication types, author details, and journal names for in-depth analysis.

3.1. Data analysis

After applying the search strategy, the retrieved data were exported in .csv format for analysis, completed on 15 January 2025. Analytical tools such as SciVal and RStudio were employed to derive meaningful insights. These tools facilitated the examination of various bibliometric indicators, including:

1. Publication and citations metrics
2. Outputs in top citation percentiles
3. Prolific authors and institutions
4. Publications by CiteScore quartile
5. Geographical collaboration networks
6. Keyword Trends in Arts Publications
7. High-Impact Articles and journal percentiles

The findings of the study are organized into summary tables to display frequencies and percentages, ensuring clarity and ease of interpretation.

3.2. Ethics

The study adhered to strict ethical standards, ensuring the responsible and ethical use of Scopus metadata. Since the data were publicly available in the evaluated database, no ethics committee approval was required. The study ensured there was no potential for harm or violation of privacy.

3.3. Data collection

The dataset was extracted from Scopus, utilizing an advanced search query that limits the subject area to Arts and the publication years from 2015 to 2024. The query further refined results by affiliation to India, ensuring that only contributions from Indian authors were considered. The initial search yielded a dataset of 26,195 documents across various source types, including journals, books, conference

proceedings, and book series. For the purpose of this focused study, the dataset was narrowed to 15,442 journal documents, which form the core material for analysis.

4. Yearly Trends of Publications (2015-2024)

The analysis of yearly publication trends highlights the steady growth of Arts research by Indian authors between 2015 and 2024. Starting with 873 publications in 2015, the numbers demonstrate a consistent increase, peaking at 2,410 publications in 2021. This upward trend reflects the expanding interest and scholarly contributions in Arts over the years Notable increases in publication numbers can be observed between 2019 and 2021. The year 2019 recorded 1585 publications, which sharply rose to 2410 by 2021. This surge might correspond to increased academic funding, enhanced digital accessibility to resources, or the global shift to virtual platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

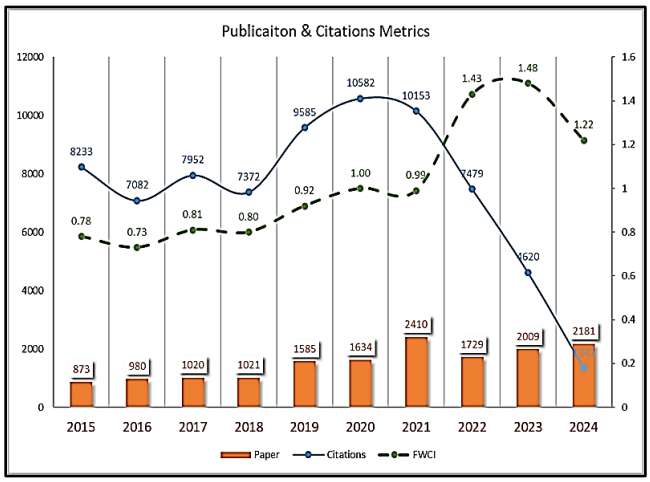

Figure 1:

While 2022 shows a slight dip to 1729 publications, the subsequent years of 2023 and 2024 witnessed a resurgence, with 2009 and 2181 publications, respectively. These fluctuations reflect researchers' resilience and adaptability in continuing their work amidst changing global and local circumstances.

This yearly trend demonstrates the vibrancy and growth of Arts research in India, showcasing the community's contribution to global academic discourse. It also highlights the increasing integration of contemporary and interdisciplinary themes in the Arts over the decade.

The total number of publications is 15442 till data fetched on 16th January 2025, which received a total of 74405 citations till that date. The graph This gives us an average of 4.8 citations per publication. This drop in citations for recent years may reflect the natural lag in accumulating citations for newly published works.

With this, Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) is also calculated, which indicates how the number of citations received by an entity's publications compares with the average number of citations received by all other similar publications in the data universe. Our data shows 1.08 average FWCI.

Overall, the data reflects a period of robust growth in research output and impact until 2021, followed by a decline in both citation count and publication output in subsequent years. Nevertheless, the steady increase in FWCI highlights that the quality and relevance of research outputs have improved over time, despite the challenges in maintaining citation momentum and publication numbers in recent years. This analysis underscores the importance of focusing on high-impact research to sustain and enhance the institution's research profile.[4-6]

5. Outputs in Top Citation Percentiles Indicate

Outputs in Top Citation Percentiles indicate the extent to which an entity's publications are present in the most-cited percentiles of data in Scopus. It shows how many publications are in the top 1%, 5%, 10% or 25% of the most-cited publications.

The graph highlights the trends in publications within the top citation percentiles from 2015 to 2024, showcasing a steady growth in high-impact research outputs. Publications in the top 25%, 10%, and 5% most cited steadily increased from 161, 66, and 31 in 2015 to peaks of 566, 307, and 198, respectively, in 2023, followed by slight declines in 2024. Similarly, publications in the top 1% most cited rose from 5 in 2015 to 67 in 2023 before dropping to 43 in 2024. This upward trend, particularly during 2019–2023, reflects the institution's increasing research visibility and impact. The slight decline in 2024 suggests a need for sustained efforts to maintain this trajectory and further enhance global research recognition.

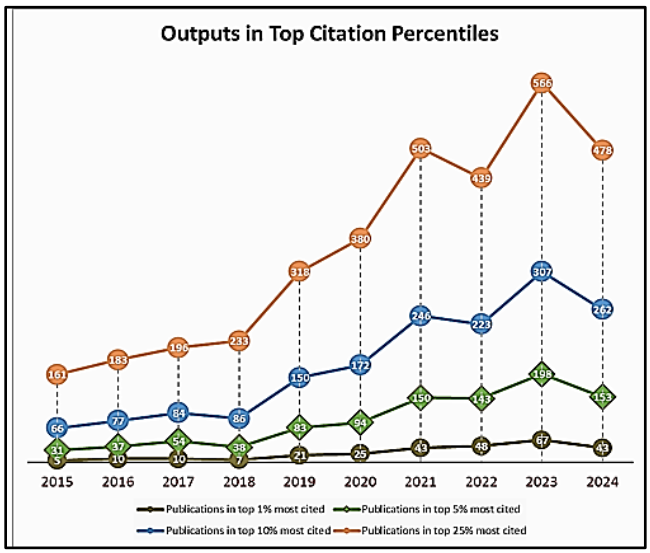

Figure 2:

6. Publications in top Journal Percentiles

The graph illustrates to what extent the "Arts" publications are published within the top 1% and top 10% Scopus index journals from 2015 to 2024, This indicates the quality of journals in which the research is published, the top cited journals are defined by the journal metrics like SNIP, CiteScroe and SJR. Publications in the top 10% of journals (orange line) increased gradually from 114 in 2015 to a highest of 932 in 2024, showing a significant improvement in the visibility of research. Similarly, publications in the top 1% of Scopus sources (blue line) grew from 20 in 2015 to 253 in 2024, depicting a consistent increase in high-impact journal publications.

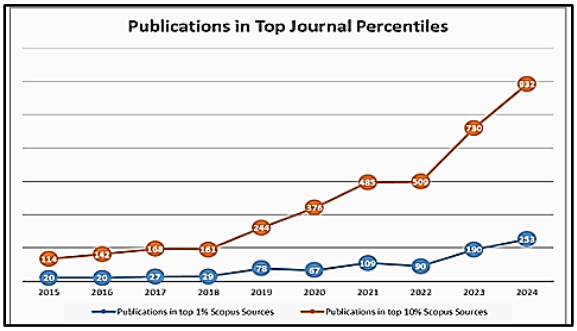

Figure 3:

The data shows that 3,861 (28.2%) publications are in the top 10% of journals by CiteScore.

7. Publications by Citescore Quartile

The graph depicts the distribution of publications by CiteScore quartiles (Q1 to Q4) from 2015 to 2024, highlighting the quality of journals in which the research is published. Publications in Q1 (top 25%) have shown a consistent increase over the years, rising from 281 in 2015 to 1591 in 2024, making up the largest share of publications annually. Q2 (26%–50%), Q3 (51%–75%), and Q4 (76%–100%) also reflect growth, with Q2 reaching a peak of 557 in 2022, while Q3 and Q4 maintain smaller contributions.

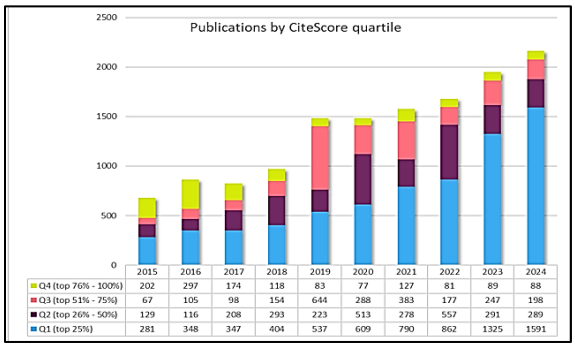

Figure 4:

It is also determined from the data that 51.8% of all publications fall in Q1, and a combined 73% of publications are in Q1 and Q2 (top 50%). Furthermore, 90.2% of publications are in Q1 to Q3 (top 75%), indicating a strong focus on publishing in higher-ranked journals. This demonstrates a significant emphasis on quality in research output, with a substantial majority of publications in top-tier journals.

8. Geographical Collaboration

Geographical collaboration indicates the extent to which an entity's publications have international, national, or institutional co-authorship, and single authorship. This data highlights a strong focus on research efforts and opportunities to further enhance collaborative research networks.

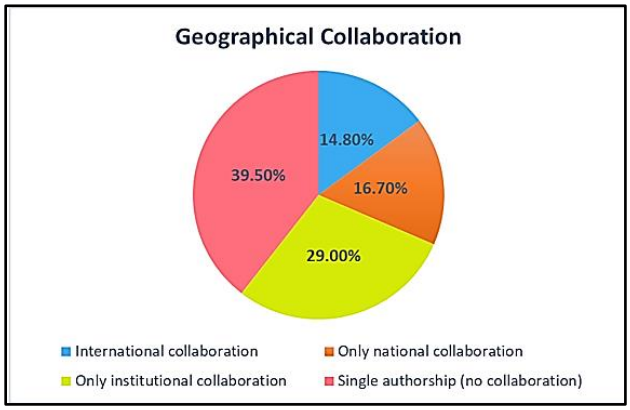

Figure 5:

The data illustrates the distribution of research publications based on geographical collaboration. Single-authorship publications, which involve no collaboration, constitute the largest proportion, accounting for 39.5% of the total scholarly output (6,108 publications) but have the lowest citation impact, with 2.2 citations per publication and a FWCI of 0.57. Then, 29% of the publications result from institutional collaboration within the same organization (4,476 publications) and achieve 4.9 citations per publication with an FWCI of 1.06. National collaborations involving co-authorship with researchers from different institutions within the country, account for 16.7% of the total (2,572 publications), achieving 5.9 citations per publication and an FWCI of 1.25. International collaborations, while comprising only 14.8% of the output (2,286 publications), have the highest impact, with 10.5 citations per publication and an FWCI of 2.28, demonstrating their significant contribution to research visibility and quality.

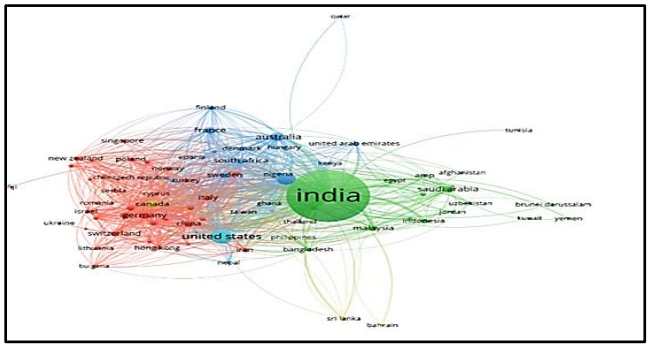

Figure 6:

The United States leads with 700 publications, followed by the United Kingdom with 452, and Australia with 246. Germany and Saudi Arabia also contribute significantly, with 152 and 146 publications, respectively. These figures emphasize the institution's robust international research ties, particularly with countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, reflecting the global reach and impact of its research outputs. Expanding these collaborations further could enhance research diversity and visibility.

9. Keyword Trends in Arts Publications

The keyword analysis reveals significant themes explored by Indian authors in Arts research from 2015 to 2024. The most frequently occurring keyword, "India," appears 1,211 times, underscoring a strong focus on studies related to the country's cultural, societal, and academic contexts. "Human" and related terms such as "female," "male," and "humans" also rank prominently, reflecting a substantial interest in research addressing human-centric topics and gender studies within the Arts.

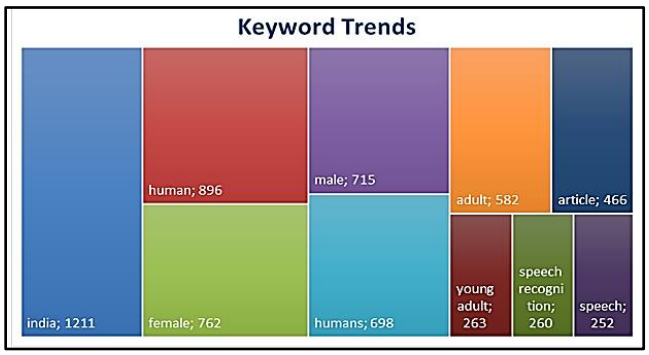

Figure 7:

Further notable keywords include "adult" (582) and "young adult" (263), indicating a focus on age-specific studies, potentially in behavioral, cultural, or artistic contexts. "Speech recognition" (260) and "speech" (252) highlight the integration of technology into Arts research, suggesting interdisciplinary exploration, particularly in linguistics and artificial intelligence.

This analysis underscores the diverse nature of Arts research, blending traditional themes with emerging technologies and contemporary societal issues, reflecting a dynamic and evolving scholarly landscape.

10. Prolific Authors in Arts Research

The analysis of prolific authors in Arts research by Indian scholars reveals key contributors who have significantly shaped the field. The table highlights the research productivity and impact of various authors across institutions. Venkatesan, Sathyaraj (NIT Tiruchirappalli) and Thanuskodi, S. (Alagappa University) stand out with 119 and 143 citations, respectively, showcasing significant influence. Manager Rajdeo Singh (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University) leads in citations with 176 and an h-index of 12, indicating high impact and sustained contributions. Other contributors, like Priyanka Tripathi (IIT Patna) and Rajni Singh (IIT Dhanbad), also demonstrate notable research output with 58 and 21 citations, respectively. The data reflects a strong mix of publication counts and scholarly impact across institutions.

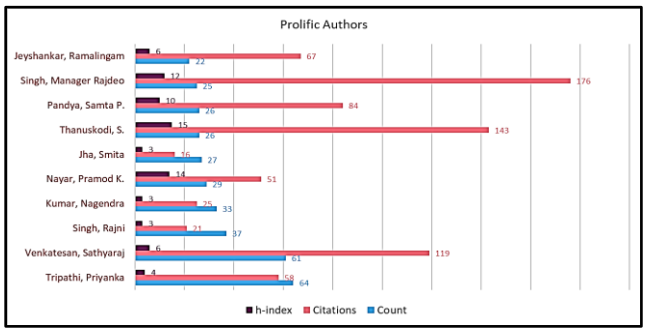

Figure 8:

11. Prolific Institutions in Arts Research

The analysis of prolific institutions in Arts research by Indian scholars showcases the dominance of premier universities and research organizations. The table highlights the research performance of various institutions based on publications, citations, average citations per publication, and FWCI. The University of Delhi leads in publications (674) and citations (2025), emphasizing its strong academic infrastructure and long-standing reputation for excellence in Arts and Humanities. But this institutions has a relatively low FWCI of 0.77, indicating average performance relative to the global standard. In contrast, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has fewer publications (202) but a remarkable FWCI of 4.31, reflecting high research impact. Institutions like Manipal Academy of Higher Education is with 251 publications and total 1316 citations (FWCI 1.31) and O.P. Jindal Global University has 197 Publications with 725 citations (FWCI 1.39) also demonstrate strong research impact despite smaller publication volumes. Symbiosis International University and Jawaharlal Nehru University have moderate outputs with FWCI of 1.07 and 0.92, respectively. Meanwhile, institutions like Banaras Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad have average citation metrics, with FWCI below 1. This data highlights the

varying balance between research quantity and quality across institutions. These institutions represent the backbone of India's Arts research landscape, driving innovation and preserving cultural heritage through impactful academic contributions.

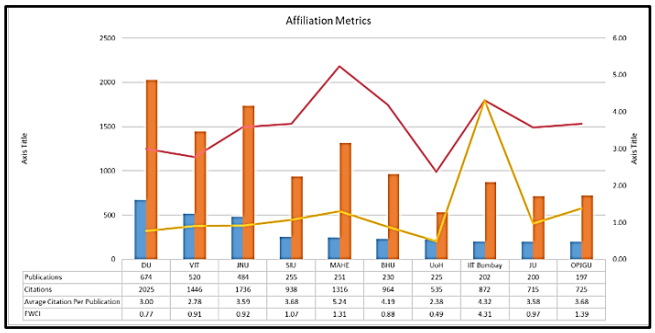

Figure 9:

12. High-Impact Articles in Arts Research

The analysis of high-impact articles highlights significant contributions by Indian researchers that have shaped the global discourse in Arts. Leading the list is the article *"Vision based hand gesture recognition for human computer interaction: a survey"* (2015), with 1,244 citations, and has a high FWCI of 99.12, reflecting exceptional influence in its field and emphasizing the integration of computer vision in enhancing human-computer interaction within artistic domains. Similarly, *"Recent automatic text summarization techniques: a survey"* (2017, 581 citations) and *"Sentiment analysis using deep learning architectures: a review"* (2020, 539 citations and FWCI of 70.97) this demonstrate significant academic impact and explore advancements in artificial intelligence and its application to textual and emotional analysis, showcasing interdisciplinary research at the intersection of Arts and technology.

Articles such as *"Problem formulations and solvers in linear SVM: a review"* (2019, 383 citations) and *"A comprehensive survey on model compression and acceleration"* (2020, 332 citations) delve into computational techniques with significant implications for large-scale artistic data analysis. Studies like *"Mobile shopping apps adoption and perceived risks: a cross-country perspective"* (2018, 325 citations) and *"Understanding Emotions in Text Using Deep Learning and Big Data"* (2019, 283 citations) address behavioral and emotional dimensions, bridging technology and human-centric themes.

These high-impact works underscore the role of Indian researchers in advancing innovative methodologies and their application to Arts, contributing to both traditional and contemporary global research challenges.

Table 1: Top 10 High Impact Articles along with their citation count and FWCI

Title	Citations	FWCI
Face detection techniques: a review	281	30.9
Understanding Emotions in Text Using Deep Learning and Big Data	283	17.83
Mobile shopping apps adoption and perceived risks: A cross-country perspective utilizing the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology	326	10.64
Machine Learning in Drug Discovery: A Review	335	81.33
A comprehensive survey on model compression and acceleration	334	37.95
Problem formulations and solvers in linear SVM: a review	384	37.67
A survey on sentiment analysis methods, applications, and challenges	533	133.76
Sentiment analysis using deep learning architectures: a review	539	70.97
Recent automatic text summarization techniques: a survey	582	48.84
Vision-based hand gesture recognition for human-computer interaction: a survey	1,246	99.12

The table highlights the citation counts and FWCI of various scholarly works, showcasing their research impact. The article "Vision-based hand gesture recognition for human-computer interaction: a survey" leads in citations (1,246) and has a high FWCI of 99.12, reflecting exceptional influence in its field.

Similarly, "A survey on sentiment analysis methods, applications, and challenges" (533 citations, FWCI 133.76) and "Sentiment analysis using deep learning architectures: a review" (539 citations, FWCI 70.97) demonstrate significant academic impact. Articles like "Machine Learning in Drug Discovery: A Review" (335 citations, FWCI 81.33) and "Recent automatic text summarization techniques: a survey" (582 citations, FWCI 48.84) also exhibit strong influence. While all articles have garnered substantial citations, their FWCIs indicate varying degrees of global impact, with some reviews, such as those on sentiment analysis and text summarization, achieving particularly outstanding recognition.

13. Network Visualizations of Global Institute Collaboration

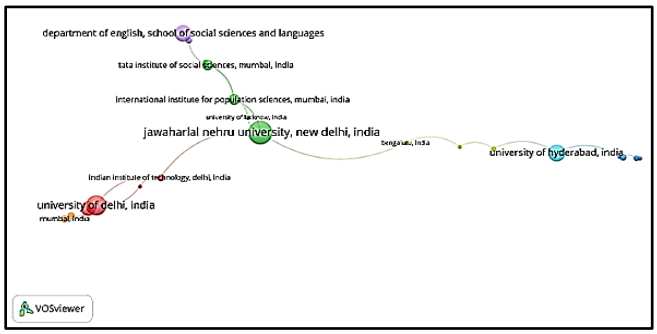

Figure 10:

The network visualisation of co-authorship above shows the organization from where the authors collaborated, among others, in the publication of literature in the "Arts". The visualisation is derived from VosViewer and shows the entire literature in arts is clustered in 7 groups of institutions from where authors collaborate in authorship. The core of the cluster is Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Lucknow, which collaborates with IIT, Delhi and the University of Oxford. The University of Delhi is in the second cluster that majorly collaborates with Jamia Milia Islamia and Delhi Technological University. The third Major cluster comprises IIT Hyderabad, Uppsala University Sweden and the University of Manchester. IIT Hyderabad has active collaboration with authors from foreign universities**,** and in the Fourth cluster, Azim Premji University has active collaboration with the University of Oxford.

14. Conclusion

The study focused on analysing the growth of literature on Arts among Indian authors to find the publication pattern and to identify the impactful literature in the field. Our paper found that the number of research publications in the arts has gradually increased since 2015. There has been a significant spike in 2021, which is assumed to have been a product of the lockdown during COVID-19, when online collaborative publications increased. With this steady publication in 2019-21, the Citation of the published literature has also increased remarkably. However, in the last 2 years, we have seen some decline in publications.

The increasing proportion of publications in high-ranking journals, particularly in the top CiteScore quartiles and top citation percentiles, demonstrates a significant emphasis on publishing impactful and globally relevant research. The analysis also showcases strong geographical collaborations, with international partnerships yielding the highest citation impact. During this period, high-impact articles reflected a blend of traditional and contemporary themes. The integration of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data, with Arts research has opened new avenues for interdisciplinary exploration. Prolific authors and institutions from India are contributing in the research in the Arts domain.

In conclusion, the findings underscore the remarkable progress in Arts research by Indian authors over the past decade, driven by increasing academic rigor, collaborative efforts, and innovative approaches. To sustain and build upon this trajectory, continued focus on high-impact research, fostering international collaborations, and leveraging technological advancements will be pivotal. This growth not only contributes to the global academic discourse but also solidifies India's position as a key player in Arts research and innovation.

15. Future Research Directions

Further research could explore discipline-specific citation trends within the Arts to identify high-impact subfields. Apart from this, some studies comparing the findings of Indian and international studies could throw light on the most successful approaches for increasing recognition worldwide. Research on the role of digital transformation, particularly the use of digital humanities technologies, also has great potential.

16. Acknowledgments

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17. Source of Funding

None.

18. Conflict of Interest

None.

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