DOCTORAL THESES AWARDED IN SCHOOL FOR LEGAL STUDIES: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

Madhu Patel ,

Research Scholar,
Department of Library and Information Science,
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University,
Lucknow

K. L. Mahawar,

Professor/Supervisor,
Department of Library and Information Science,
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University,
Lucknow

ABSTRACT

The study conducted on Doctoral theses awarded in the School for Legal Study, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. The collected data were analyzed for quantitative (Bibliometric) study. This study produced the result based on various aspects i.e.Year -wise analysis, Supervisor-wise output of theses, Gender-wise contribution and Discipline-wise distribution of the doctoral thesis awarded in SLS.

Keywords: *Bibliometric study, School for Legal Studies (SLS), Doctoral theses, Department of Human Rights, Department of Law.*

INTRODUCTION

Bibliometric is a quantitative analysis of various aspects of written documents and one of the important fields of Library and Information Science. Cole and Eales describe Bibliometrics as graphically mapped the literature and called this method of analysis as Statistical analysis (Cole and Eales, 1917). Fairthorne define Statistical bibliography as "Quantitative treatment of properties of recorded discourse and behaviour appertaining to it" (Fairthorne, 1969). The present bibliometric study conducted on various aspects of the doctoral theses like year-wise, supervisor-wise, gender-wise and discipline-wise awarded at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow in the School for Legal Studies. The two functioning departments under the school are: 'Department of Human Rights' and 'Department of Law'. The Period selected for this study under the school for legal studies from 2009 to June 2015.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bharvi, Garg, and Bali (2007) analyzed 1,317 papers published from 1978 to 2001 in International Journal Scientometrics and found that the share of the papers by the U.S. is constantly declining, while the countries the Netherlands, India, France, and Japan are rising and that the Scientometric output is dominated by single-authored papers. Sen (2010) in his study 'Lotka's Law: A viewpoint' reveal that the simple methods have been described to determine the value of 'c' and 'a' pertaining to the equation that fits in Lotka's Law. Khanna (2014) worked on 'Bibliometric scoring of an individual's research output in science and engineering'. Cronin and Sugimoto (2014) authors in their book 'Beyond

Bibliometrics: Harnessing Multidimensional Indicators of Scholarly Impact' describe that the modern research for theory and practical is now metric based and is very useful to scientists in the field of Information Science, Social Science, Statistical and Mathematical. Singh (2014) reveals in his study 'Library Herald: A bibliometric Study (2003-2012)' that 48.72% (114) articles were contributed by single authors. The study also shows the length of articles and the average number of references in the papers. Pillai & Dileep (2010) in their paper 'Scientometric study of Doctoral Dissertations in Biochemistry in the University of Kerala, India', collected a total of 168 doctoral dissertations for study which were awarded during 1966 -2007 at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Kerala. Mishra, Gawde, and Solanki (2014) authors conducted a study on 'Bibliometric study of the Ph.D. thesis in English' to find out the citation pattern of research scholars of English by using bibliometrics techniques. The study further reveals

that there are several means and modes available to know the importance of various types of information resources reflecting the productivity and usability of a particular area by using techniques of bibliometric analysis.

SCHOOL FOR LEGAL STUDIES (SLS)

The School for Legal Studies was established by the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in 1999 with the aim to promote research in law and its allied disciplines. Presently, the School has two departments and one Centre, such as Department of Human Rights, Department of Law and Centre of Post Graduate Legal Studies, offering B.B.A.L.L.B. (Hon') , LL.M. and Ph.D. Programmes. The School has Legal Aid Clinic forum for providing the legal aid services to poor and needy people and interfaces with the common mass. The clinical legal education and extension activities are the integral parts of the academic programmes of the SLS (website BBAU).

Figure1: Departments under School for Legal Studies

- Department of Human Rights: conducts a study on postgraduate teaching and research programmes in the areas relating to Human Rights and Law.

- Department of Law: offering four-Semester LL.M and Ph.D. programmes in Law with aim to provide quality legal education and to prepare the students for socially responsible, make them self-

employed and well- placed in 'Supreme Court of India', 'High Courts', 'national and international organizations', 'non-governmental organizations', multi-national organizations (Website BBAU).

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The key objectives of the study are:

- To study the year-wise growth of awarded theses.
- To study the supervisor-wise awarded theses.
- To study the gender-wise awarded theses.
- To study the discipline-wise awarded theses.

METHODOLOGY

For analysis of the study, doctoral theses have been selected during 2009 to June 2015. Selected data were analyzed and organized in MS-Excel spreadsheets for interpretation in details like year of the award, number of theses guided by supervisors, number of research done by gender (male/ female), most common discipline selected by research scholars.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

a. *Year wise analysis*

The year has been selected as an indicator to achieve the research output. In the School for Legal Studies, 1st doctoral thesis submitted and awarded in 2009. The table below shows the year-wise award of doctoral theses in the School for Legal Studies.

Table 1: Year-wise analysis of theses

Sl.No.	Year	Number of theses count	Cumulative count	% of theses	% of cumulative theses
1	2009	4	4	20	20
2	2010	2	6	10	30
3	2011	1	7	5	35
4	2012	1	8	5	40
5	2014	6	14	30	70
6	2015	6	20	30	100
	Total	20		100	

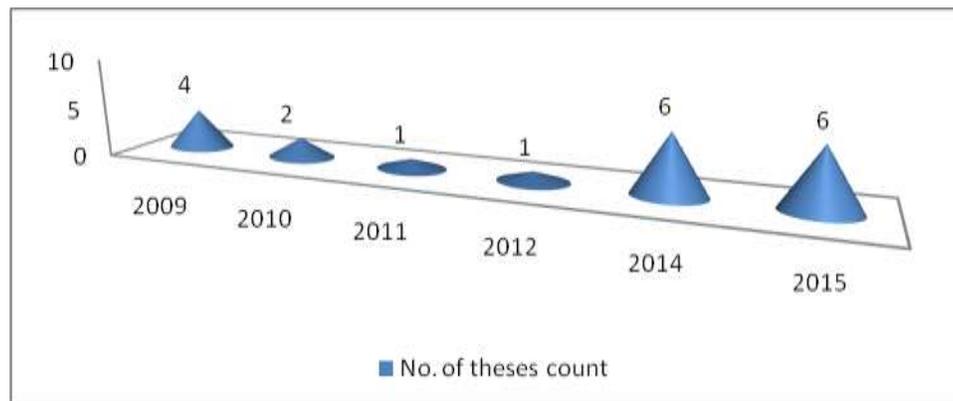Figure 2: Year-wise analyses of theses.

Table and figure above indicate that outputs of doctoral researches are highest in the following years i.e. 2014 and 2015 respectively 30% each year. The next productive year is 2009 which shows 20%, followed by the year 2010 which shows 10% of the total research output. Years 2011 and 2012 shows the lowest productive years.

b. *Supervisor-wise output*

Supervisor-wise output of Doctoral theses has been taken as an indicator to assess the status of research output in the form of Doctoral theses in the School for Legal Studies.

Table 2: Supervisor-wise output of theses

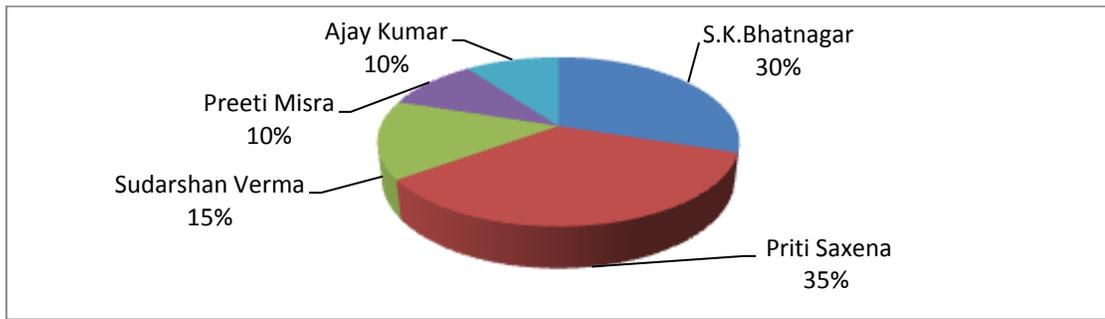| S.No.	Supervisor	Number of theses count	cumulative count	% of theses	% of cumulative count
1	S.K.Bhatnagar	6	6	30	30
2	Priti Saxena	7	13	35	65
3	Sudarshan Verma	3	16	15	80
4	Preeti Misra	2	18	10	90
5	Ajay Kumar	2	20	10	100
	Total	20		100	

Figure 3: Supervisor-wise output of theses

Table 2 depicts that out of 20 theses, Professor Priti Saxena supervised/ guided 35% doctoral theses. Under the guidance of Professor S.K. Bhatnagar 30% of total doctoral theses were awarded, followed by Professor Sudershan Verma who supervised 15% doctoral theses. Professor Ajay Kumar and Dr. Preeti Misra supervised respectively 10% by each during the study period.

c. *Gender-wise contribution*

Gender has been taken as an indicator to assess the status of research carried out in the School for Legal Studies. The status of Gender contribution is indicated in the table below.

Table 3: Gender-wise contribution of doctoral theses

Sl.No.	Gender	No of theses count	No of theses cumulative count	% of theses	% of cumulative count
1	Male	15	15	75	75
2	Female	5	20	25	100
	Total	20		100	

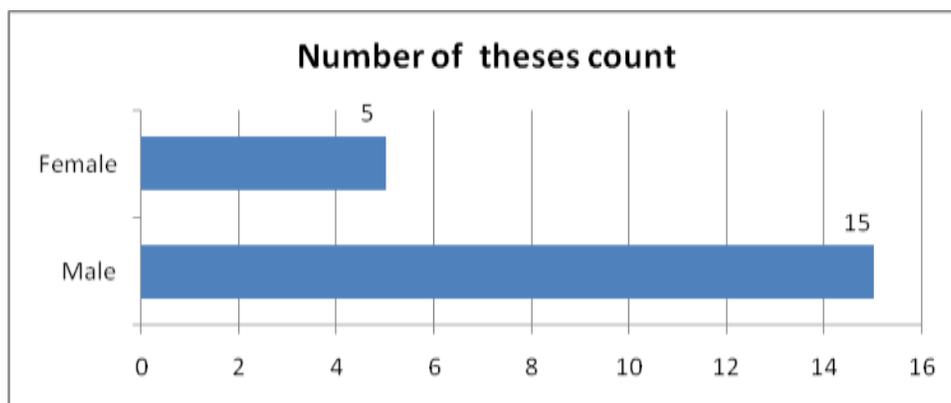**Figure 3: Gender-wise contribution of Doctoral theses**

Table 3 reflects that males are taking more interest in research than females. Male percentage of research output of doctoral theses is 15 i.e 75% while the female is only 5 i.e. 25% of total research output in the School for Legal Studies.

d: *Discipline-wise distribution*

Discipline is selected as an indicator for the research output of Doctoral theses in the School for Legal Studies.

Table 4: Discipline-wise distribution of theses

S.No.	Discipline/ Subject	No of theses count	% of theses	DDC No.
1	Labour, social, education & cultural law	10	50	344
2	Law of Nations	6	30	341
3	Constitutional & Administrative law	3	15	342
4	Criminal law	1	5	345
		20	100	

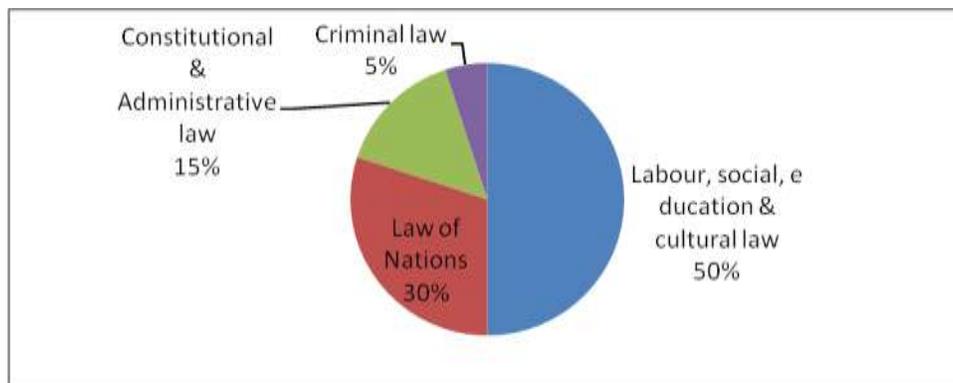**Figure 4: Discipline-wise distribution of theses**

Table and figure 4 indicate that larger portion of research has been carried out in discipline 'Labour, social, education & cultural law' i.e. 50%, followed by the discipline 'Law of Nations' i.e. 30%. 'Constitutional & Administrative law' discipline covered 15% and 'Criminal law' with minimum 5% of total theses in the School for Legal Studies.

FINDING AND CONCLUSION

This study examined from the period 2009 - June 2015, total 20 theses were awarded and the highest numbers of theses were awarded in the years 2014 and 2015. The maximum number of theses were supervised by Professor Priti Saxena. The study also shows that male has contributed more to the research i.e. 75% while females contributed only 25%. The larger portion of research is carried out in discipline 'Labour, social, education & cultural law', followed by the discipline 'Law of Nations'.

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