

Empowerment of Women Through Self-Help Groups: A Bibliometric Analysis and Systematic Review (2013-2023)

Ms. Monika* and Dr. Aparna Marwah

- 1. Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Pune, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management and Research, New Delhi, India*
- 2. Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Pune, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management and Research, New Delhi, India*

Abstract:

Purpose

The paper aims to investigate the research background on empowerment of women through self-help group (SHG) participation. It does this by conducting a thorough bibliometric analysis and systematic review, recognising important figures, academic circles, and areas of future study for SHGs and women's empowerment.

Design/methodology/approach

For the purposes of bibliometric analysis, all published publications worldwide that dealt with the theme of SHGs and women's empowerment between the years 2013-2023 were scanned from the J-Gate database, a total of 653 English-language items were taken out. VOSviewer software is used for bibliometric analysis.

Findings

The study highlights the importance of (SHGs) self-help groups in rural and Urban Slum women's empowerment, with the most significant contributor. Das, Sanjay Kanti, who has authored 12 documents, making him the most prolific author in this dataset. The study provides a comprehensive conceptual framework to illustrate the basic steps of females' empowerment accomplished through SHG membership.

Practical implications

Researchers studying SHGs and women empowerment as well as practitioners, governments, and policymakers will find this bibliometric analysis that shows a framework containing the main elements of women empowerment and associated indicators useful.

Originality/value

This study provides a succinct overview of the collected works for new academics employed in the field of SHGs and womanhood empowerment while acknowledging the many important contributions made by renowned scholars.

1. Introduction:

Self-help Groups (SHGs) show a pivotal part in empowering women, particularly in rural areas, by providing them with credit options to start new businesses or expand existing ones.

Badugu D. & Tripathi V.(2016) The study revealed that there is a significant demand-supply mismatch in microfinance, making it a very capital-intensive industry. Microfinance is a crucial instrument for ending poverty, according to an analysis of secondary data included in the study.

Chavan, R., Herekar, P., & Mahajan, S. (2016). The study came to the conclusion that joining SHGs significantly boosted the groups' ability to make decisions. In addition, the respondents assisted other women in gaining sufficient knowledge about banking and financial services.

Nayak et al.,(2020) The study aimed to categorize and explore the evolving fields that bolster the effectiveness and reach of self-help groups, thereby contributing to their ongoing development and success.

The study aimed to identify newly emerging areas that enhance the effectiveness of self-help groups (SHGs). To achieve this, a bibliometric analysis was conducted using network diagrams created with Vosviewer software. The data for this study were extracted from the J-Gate database. SHGs have been instrumental in fostering an environment of economic self-sufficiency among the rural poor, contributing significantly to economic growth and the promotion of informal sectors. By analyzing the latest trends and developments, the study sought to uncover additional areas that could further support and expand the impact of SHGs.

2. Literature Review:

Garu, S., & Dash, S. (2023) This research explores the role of financial literacy in promoting economic empowerment and sustainable development among rural SHG women, aiming to inform policy formulation and the design of targeted interventions. **Bhatnagar, D., & Yadav, K. (2023)** The study found that older SHGs perform better in payback, but their age affects repayment performance. High delinquency rates are due to members' lack of excess income from business failures, natural disasters, and health issues. Freshness research is needed to understand why this occurs.

In order to deal with changes in the social environment, strategy and change are essential. Creating innovative approaches to problems is a component of social innovation. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are a novel kind of social innovation that empower people and include them in local decision-making. Social-economic development programs should be put in place by governments to raise public awareness and knowledge.

Das, S., & Sahu, S. (2023) In order to solve social issues like poverty and environmental degradation, social entrepreneurship combines opportunities and resources. In rural areas, Self Help Groups (SHGs) encourage social entrepreneurship and assist low-income women in achieving stable lives. Gender inequity, the promotion of societal values, and the creation of jobs are the factors that drive women to join SHGs.

3. Objectives:

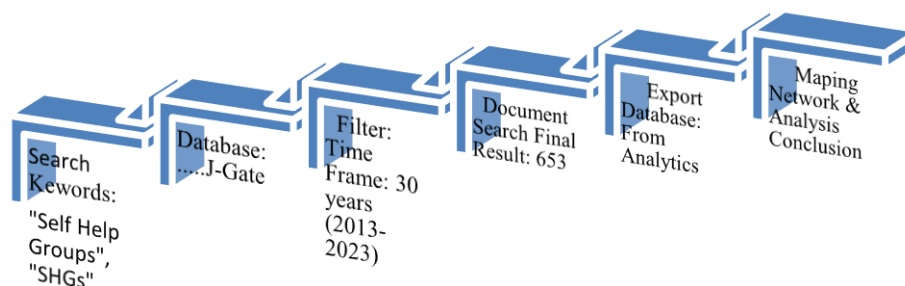
- To understand the literary canon of authors.
- To identify the top ten authors' citation.
- To mapping the terms that appear often in the authors' work as well as in the title and abstract fields.
- To showcase the research disciplines' most referenced papers

4. Research Methodology:

4.1 Database, keywords and inclusion criteria:

For the study, data was sourced from the interdisciplinary J-Gate database. Initially, over 1514 publications were retrieved without applying any inclusion or exclusion criteria. Subsequently, the dataset was refined to include only those publications with "Self Help Group" or "SHGs" in the title or abstract, resulting in 1046 relevant articles for the research. The following search string was used to retrieve the data: Title-abs-key ("Self Help Groups" OR "SHGs"). Additionally, the VOS viewer analysis tool was utilized to examine keyword occurrences.

4.2 Material & Methodology

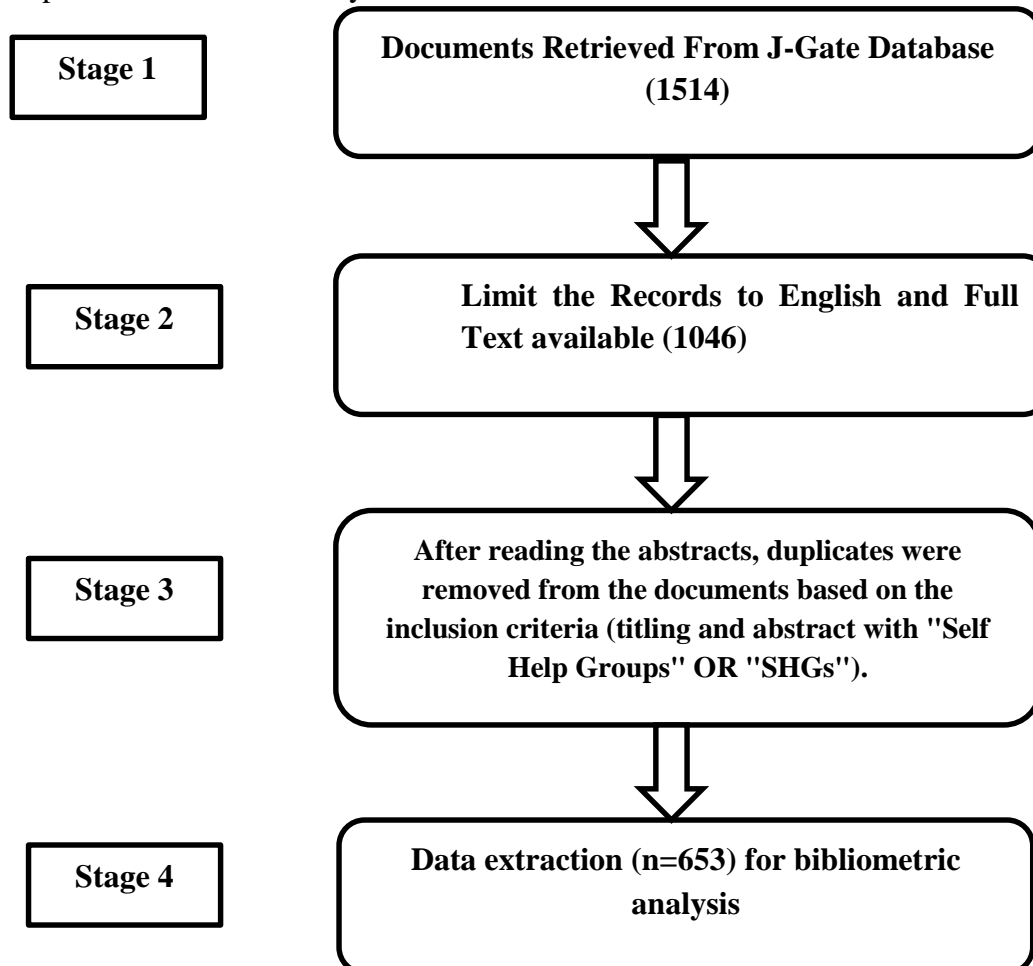


Source: Author's Own

This research study appears to use a comprehensive bibliometric analysis approach to classify and examine research articles published across various journals. The key elements of the study are:

1. **Article Collection:** The researchers collected the articles for analysis from online sources, likely leveraging database platforms such as J-Gate.
2. **Analysis Method:** The study employed bibliometric analysis techniques, which involve quantitative assessment of publication data, citations, and other bibliographic information. This allows for systematic mapping and visualization of research trends and patterns.
3. **Visualization Tool:** The researchers utilized VOSviewer software, a widely used tool for creating bibliometric network visualizations that depict relationships between publications, authors, keywords, and other bibliometric entities.
4. **Timeline:** The data collection spanned a 10-year period from 2013 to 2023, providing a longitudinal perspective on the research landscape.
5. **Dataset Size:** The study analyzed a substantial dataset of 1,046 complete research articles, ensuring a comprehensive coverage of the topic.

By adopting this methodological approach, the researchers were likely able to uncover insights into the thematic focus, collaboration patterns, and evolving trends within the body of research articles published across the selected journals during the specified time frame. The bibliometric analysis and visualization techniques enable a structured, data-driven exploration of the scholarly literature in this field.



The image presented is a detailed flowchart that outlines the various stages of a research process. The flowchart appears to be focused on a systematic approach to document retrieval and analysis.

The first stage involves retrieving documents from a J.Gale database, which is a commonly used scholarly database for academic research. This initial step is crucial in gathering the relevant source material that will form the foundation of the research.

The next stage involves limiting the retrieved records to those that are available in English and in full-text format. This filtering process ensures that the researcher can access the complete content of the documents, rather than just the abstracts or summaries, which is important for a thorough analysis.

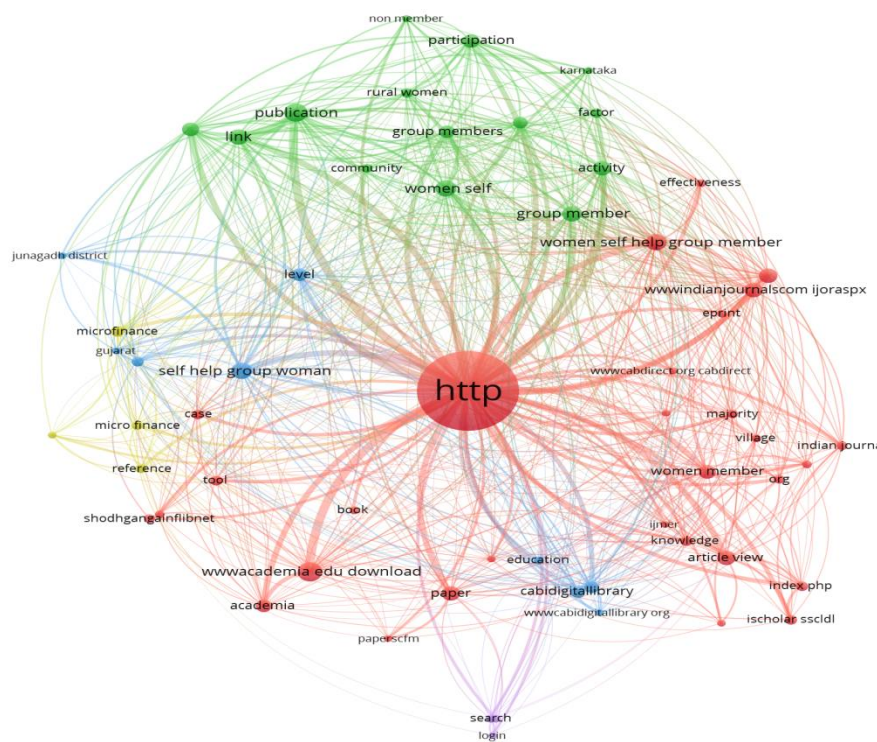
After the document selection, the flowchart indicates that the researcher will read the abstracts of the retrieved documents to identify those that are most relevant to the research objectives. This step of reviewing the abstracts allows the researcher to efficiently narrow down the pool of documents and focus on the most pertinent sources.

The final stage of the process involves data extraction for the purpose of bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method of evaluating scholarly publications,

their impact, and various aspects of the research landscape. By extracting data from the selected documents, the researcher can gain valuable insights and draw meaningful conclusions from the available literature.

The overall structure of the flowchart provides a clear and logical sequence of steps, guiding the researcher through the various stages of the research process. This visual representation of the methodology helps to ensure a systematic and organized approach, which is crucial for the success of the research project.

Bibliometric Analysis



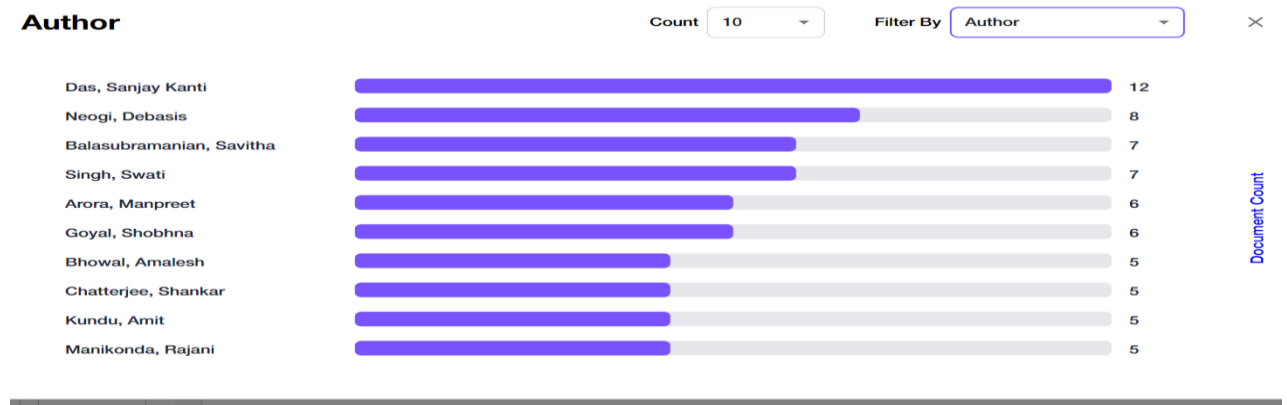
This image appears to be a complex network visualization, displaying various interconnected nodes and labels. The central node is labeled "http", suggesting the visualization may be related to web-based information or resources.

Surrounding the central node are numerous other nodes, each containing labels that seem to represent different concepts, topics, or entities. The nodes are connected by lines of varying thickness, indicating the strength or nature of the relationships between them. For example, the node labeled "link" appears to have strong connections to several other nodes, suggesting it may be a central or important concept within this network.

Other notable nodes include terms related to community, women's empowerment, and microfinance, hinting at the potential focus on social and economic development themes within the context of this visualization.

Without more contextual information, it is difficult to provide a deeper analysis of the specific meanings and relationships depicted in this complex network diagram. However, the overall structure and content suggest this visualization may be intended to illustrate

interconnected concepts, themes, or resources related to academic, social, and development-oriented topics.

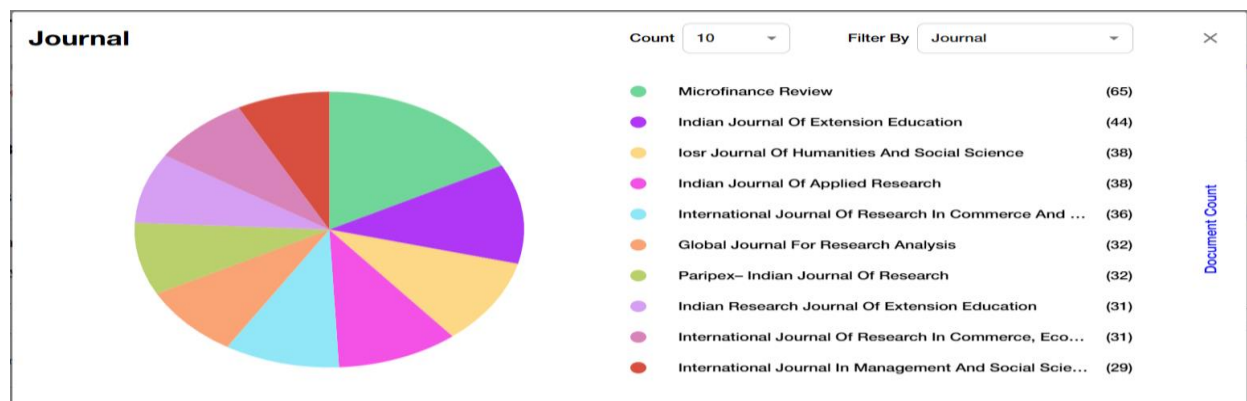


The image depicts a bar chart illustrating the document counts attributed to the top 10 authors, filtered by "Author." The horizontal axis represents the number of documents, while the vertical axis lists the authors' names. Each bar's length corresponds to the document count for each author.

At the top of the list is Das, Sanjay Kanti, who has authored 12 documents, making him the most prolific author in this dataset. Following him is Neogi, Debasis with 8 documents, indicating a significant but lesser contribution compared to Das. Balasubramanian, Savitha and Singh, Swati each have 7 documents, placing them next in line. Arora, Manpreet has 6 documents, showcasing a notable contribution.

The remaining authors Goyal, Shobhna, Bhowal, Amalesh, Chatterjee, Shankar, Kundu, Amit, and Manikonda, Rajani each have 5 documents. This shows a balanced distribution among these authors, with their contributions being relatively equal.

Overall, the chart provides a clear visualization of the distribution of document counts among the top contributing authors, highlighting the leading contributors and offering insights into the relative productivity of each author within the dataset.



The provided image is a screenshot of a pie chart that displays the distribution of documents across various academic journals. The chart is accompanied by a legend on the right, which lists journals with corresponding document counts and is color-coded to match the pie chart sectors.

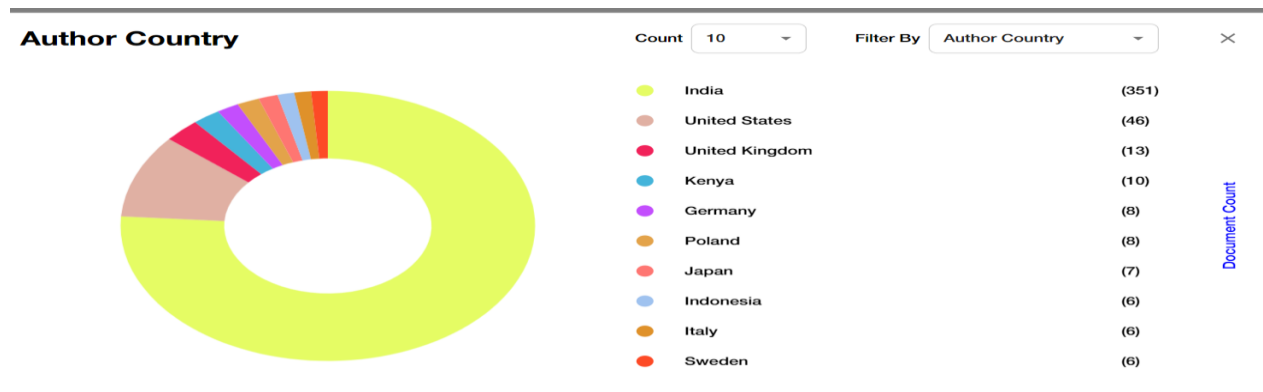
At the top of the screenshot, the header reads "Journal," indicating the data presented pertains to different journals' publication activity. The chart itself shows that "Microfinance Review" has the largest share with 65 documents, depicted by a significant green sector of the pie. This is followed by a variety of other journals, such as the "Indian Journal of Extension Education" with 44 documents in purple and "Iosr Journal Of Humanities And Social Science" with 38 documents in aqua blue.

Each journal's name in the legend is followed by the number of documents published, demonstrating the distribution of document output across the sampled journals. This visual representation allows for an intuitive grasp of which journals have higher or lower publication volumes.

Two dropdown menus are prominently displayed at the top of the chart: the "Count" menu is set to "10," suggesting that the chart is currently set to display the top ten journals by document count. The "Filter By" menu is set to "Journal," signaling that the data can be filtered by different parameters, although only 'Journal' is visible in the screenshot.

This pie chart is particularly useful for quickly understanding the proportion of documents different journals contribute to the overall publication landscape within a certain context or dataset. Furthermore, the interactive elements suggest this visualization is part of a dynamic report or database where users can potentially change what data is displayed based on their interests or research needs.

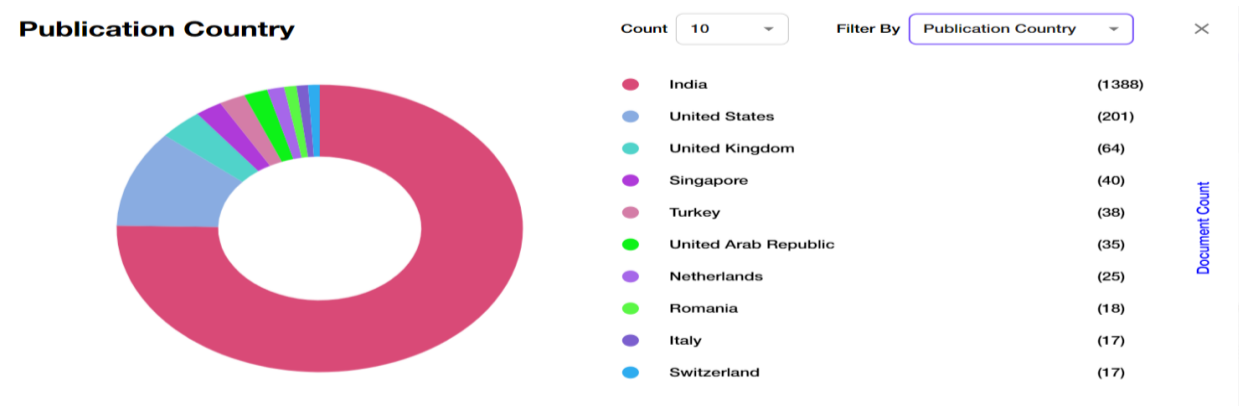
The pie chart provides a clear and visually appealing representation of document distribution among the top 10 journals. It highlights that the *Microfinance Review* has the most documents, whereas the *International Journal in Management and Social Science* has the least among the top 10. This visualization helps in understanding the concentration of research publications across different journals, indicating the journals with higher academic contributions in the dataset.



The image you've provided displays a donut chart representing the number of documents produced by authors from various countries, with a title "Author Country" at the top. This type of chart is a variant of the pie chart, where the center has been removed to create a ring, thus emphasizing the data as segments of a whole.

The chart includes a legend on the right, correlating colors to countries, along with a numerical count of documents next to each country's name. According to the provided legend, the dominant color segment represents India, with a count of 351 documents, indicating that Indian authors have the highest number of documents among the displayed

countries. This is followed by the United States with 46 documents, the United Kingdom with 13 documents, and so on. Other countries listed include Kenya, Germany, Poland, Japan, Indonesia, Italy, and Sweden, with document counts ranging from 10 to 6.



The image provided appears to be a screenshot of a data visualization from a report or dashboard, specifically a donut chart accompanied by a legend indicating the distribution of document counts per country, titled "Publication Country." The donut chart is a hollowed-out version of a pie chart, displaying color-coded segments which represent different countries and the number of documents associated with each.

In the legend to the right of the chart, individual countries are listed with corresponding colors and numbers indicating the count of documents. India dominates the chart with a giant magenta-colored segment representing 1,388 documents, suggesting that India has the largest share of publications within the presented data. The United States follows, marked in blue, with 201 documents. The United Kingdom, Singapore, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Netherlands, Romania, Italy, and Switzerland are also included, with document counts descending from 64 to 17.

At the top of the chart, two interactive elements are visible. A dropdown menu titled "Count 10" implies that the viewer can alter the number of countries displayed in the chart. To the right of this is another dropdown menu titled "Filter By Publication Country," which likely allows the user to refine the displayed data based on the country of publication.

The background of the visualization is simplistic and clean, which helps to focus attention on the graphical representation of the data. This type of chart is commonly used to give stakeholders or decision-makers a quick, comparative view of a given metric across various categories—in this case, publication output by country.



The image you've provided appears to depict a horizontal bar chart that ranks various institutions according to a specific metric, most likely the number of documents associated with each. At the top of the chart, the label "Institution" suggests that the chart is categorizing data based on educational or research institutions.

The institution at the top of the chart is "Pondicherry University," with a count of 8, indicated by the longest bar, which suggests it has the highest document count among the listed institutions. The second institution is "Gokhale Institute Of Politics And..."—the text is cut off, but it is clear that it has 7 documents associated with it, as shown by the length of the bar and the number next to it. This pattern continues with shorter bars for "Amity University," "Bharathiar University," "University Of Mysore," "Central University Of Himachal ...," "Kiit University," "Lumding College," "Manipal University," and "Punjab Agricultural University," each with a count of documents ranging from 5 to 4.

Above the chart, there is a navigation panel with interactive elements. It contains a "Count" dropdown menu set to "10," indicating that the chart may be configurable to display a different number of institutions. Adjacent to it is a "Filter By" dropdown menu with "Institution" selected, implying that users have the option to filter the data being displayed according to various criteria, possibly other attributes like subject areas or locations.

The chart is presented with a minimalist and functional design, using shades of purple to represent the number of documents. Such visualizations are typically employed in reports and data dashboards to convey statistical information in a clear and accessible manner, allowing viewers to quickly assess and compare the output or activity of different institutions.



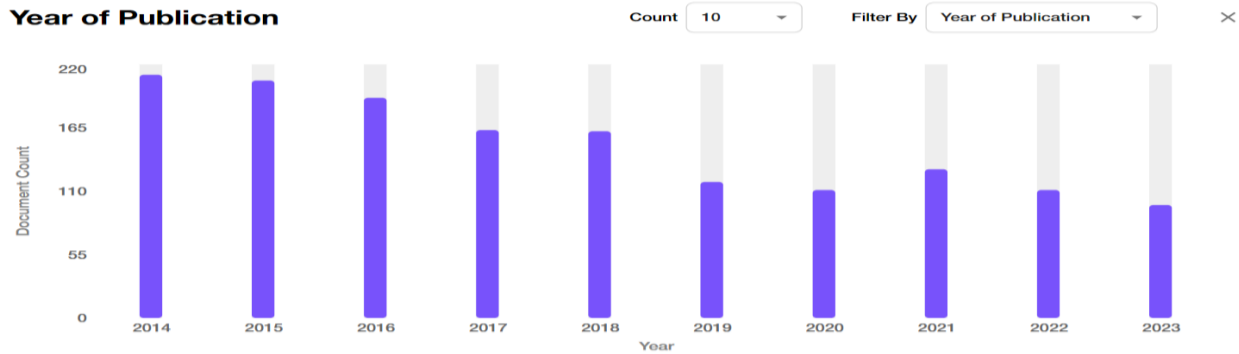
The image is a bar chart summarizing the number of documents published by various publishers. The chart is titled "Publishers" and includes a horizontal bar for each publisher, with the length of the bar representing the quantity of documents published.

At the top right of the chart, there are two dropdown menus: one labeled "Count" with a current selection of "10", suggesting that the chart is displaying the top ten publishers. The second dropdown is labeled "Filter By" followed by the word "Publishers", indicating that users may filter the data according to different categories, although the specifics are not fully visible in this image.

The first publisher, "World Wide Journals," leads with the highest number of documents at 127. The bars decrease in length from "World Wide Journals" down to "AkNik Publications," which has 35 documents. The quantities are listed in descending order: the "International Journal Of Research." has 80, "Bankers' Institute Of Rural Dev..." and "International Organization Of S..." both have 65, "ACS Journals" has 44, "Indian Society Of Extension

Ed..." also 44, "Associated Management Cons..." has 39, "Informatics Publishing Limited" has 38, "Inspira Research Association" has 36, and "AkNik Publications" has 35.

The color scheme for the bars is uniform, with each bar a shade of purple. On the right, a vertical axis titled "Document Count" correlates the length of each bar to the number of documents published, allowing for easy comparison amongst the publishers listed. The visualization communicates the relative productivity of each publisher within the set parameters, making it an effective tool for quickly assessing publishing's output.

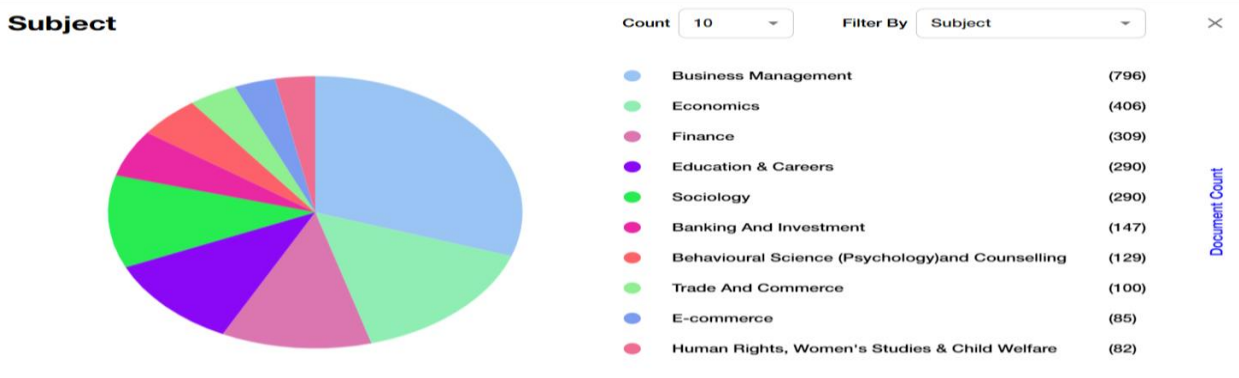


The image is a bar chart that visualizes the number of documents published each year over a span of ten years, from 2014 to 2023. Each year is represented by a vertical bar that corresponds to the number of documents published in that year, with the height of the bar indicating the quantity.

The y-axis on the left measures the document count and is scaled from 0 to 220 in increments of 55. The x-axis below the bars represents time, with each year labeled accordingly. The bars are colored in shades of purple, with darker bars indicating years with more publications and lighter bars indicating fewer publications. Notably, the bar for 2023 is significantly shorter than the rest, suggesting fewer documents were published that year compared to previous years; this could be due to incomplete data if 2023 is the current year and the data collection is still ongoing.

At the top of the chart, there are interactive elements such as a "Count" dropdown menu set to "10," implying that the chart might show counts for a customizable number of categories or items. There's also a "Filter By" option set to "Year of Publication," which suggests the ability to filter the dataset according to different criteria.

Overall, the bar chart is a straightforward visual tool used to display publication trends over time, illustrating increases or decreases that can help in analyzing patterns, forecasting future publication activities, or specifically assessing the productivity of a given year.



The image provided is a screenshot of a pie chart representing the distribution of documents across various academic subjects. The chart includes a legend on the right side that correlates the color of each pie slice with a specific subject and the corresponding number of documents.

Business Management is the most represented subject with 796 documents, constituting the largest slice of the pie, illustrated with a light blue color. The second most prominent subject is Economics with 406 documents, represented by a green slice. Following in size is Finance with 309 documents depicted in purple, and Education & Careers with 290 documents illustrated in pink.

Other subjects with smaller proportions include Sociology with 290 documents, Banking and Investment with 147, Behavioral Science (Psychology and Counseling) with 129, Trade and Commerce with 100, E-commerce with 85, and Human Rights, Women's Studies & Child Welfare with 82 documents.

At the top of the pie chart, there are two dropdown menus indicating interactive capabilities. The "Count 10" dropdown appears to control how many subjects are displayed in the chart, and the "Filter By" dropdown menu is set to "Subject," suggesting users can modify the filter criteria.

This pie chart is an effective visual tool to quickly grasp the quantity and relative proportions of documents associated with each subject. The color coding and direct annotation of document counts streamline the process of comparing subjects based on their academic publication output.

Conclusion

1. Author Country (Donut Chart): This chart shows the distribution of document counts by authors' countries. The most dominant segment is India, with a substantial lead, followed by the United States, and several other countries with much smaller contributions. This suggests that the dataset might be focused on or heavily contributed to by Indian authors.
2. Publication Country (Donut Chart): Similar to the first chart, this visualization focuses on the countries where the documents were published. Again, India is leading with a vast majority of publications, followed by the United States and other countries. The similarities in the patterns of the two charts may indicate a strong correlation between the countries of authors and publication outlets.
3. Institution (Bar Chart): This bar graph illustrates the number of documents associated with different academic institutions. Pondicherry University tops the chart, with a few others following closely. The close numbers suggest a somewhat even distribution of document output among these institutions.
4. Publishers (Bar Chart): This chart displays the document count connected to various publishers. "World Wide Journals" has the highest number at 127, and other publishers show a descending order of document counts. This demonstrates the relative output levels among different publishing bodies.
5. Year of Publication (Bar Chart): A year-by-year analysis of document counts, showing various amounts of publication over time. There appears to be some fluctuation, with 2023

having a significantly lower document count, which could be due to being the current year or early in the year with incomplete data.

6. Subject (Pie Chart): This chart categorizes document counts by academic subjects. Business Management is the most prominent field by a considerable margin, followed by Economics and Finance. This suggests that these subjects are the most researched or published within the dataset's context.
7. Journal (Pie Chart): This visualization segments journals by their document counts. "Microfinance Review" has the highest share, which indicates it might be a key outlet for scholarship within this set of data.

Overall, these charts present a comprehensive picture of academic publication trends, highlighting the prolific nature of institutions, authors, and publishers from India within this dataset. Subjects like Business Management and Economics are prevalent fields, and certain journals stand out as major contributors. The consistency of document output over time suggests sustained academic interest and activity in the represented areas, except for what seems like an incomplete year in 2023.

References:

1. BADUGU, D., & TRIPATHI, V. (2016). Micro-finance research structure studies: the microfinance structures, microfinance systems, and microfinance institutions, such as the social, economic empowerment of the poor. *International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science*, Vol.2(No.2), 1-24
2. Bhatnagar, D., & Yadav, K. (2023). A Study on Loan Delinquency of the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme in Rural Rajasthan. *Folia Oeconomica Stetinensia*, 23(2), 86-101. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/fofi-2023-0020>
3. Chavan, R., Herekar, P., & Mahajan, S. (2016). Women Empowerment through SHGs A Case Study in Kolhapur District. *ETHOS*, Volume 9(No. 2), 13-20.
4. Das, S., & Sahu, S. (2023). A Study of Shg as a Model of Social Entrepreneurship in Mayurbhanj District, Odisha. *SDMIMD Journal of Management*, 14(1), 1-8. <https://www.i-scholar.in/index.php/sdm/article/view/222242/205628>
5. Garu, S., & Dash, S. (2023). Role of Financial Literacy in Driving Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth of Women in Odisha. *Parikalpana: KIIT Journal of Management*, 19(2), 194-203. <https://www.i-scholar.in/index.php/Parikalpana/article/view/223470/206941>
6. Knoll, J., & Matthes, J. (2017). The effectiveness of celebrity endorsements: A meta-analysis. *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, 45(1), 55–75. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11747-016-0503-8>
7. Kumar, S., Tomar, S., & Verma, D. (2019). Women's financial planning for retirement: Systematic literature review and future research agenda. *International Journal of Bank Marketing*, 37(1), 120–141. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJBM-08-2017-0165>
8. Li, C., Wu, K., & Wu, J. (2017). A bibliometric analysis of research on haze during 2000–2016. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 24(32), 24733–24742. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-017-0440-1>
9. Mahato, T., Jha, M. K., Nayak, A. K., & Kaushal, N. (2023). Empowerment of women through participation in self-help groups: a bibliometric analysis and systematic

review. *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy*, 17(6), 1511-1538.

10. Mohapatra, S., & Sahoo, B. K. (2016). Determinants of participation in self-help groups (SHG) and its impact on women empowerment. *Indian Growth and Development Review*, 9(1), 53–78. <https://doi.org/10.1108/igdr-04-2015-0016>
11. Paul, J., & Benito, G. R. (2018). A review of research on outward foreign direct investment from emerging countries, including China: What do we know, how do we know and where should we be heading? *Asia Pacific Business Review*, 24(1), 90–115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602381.2017.1357316>
12. Paul, J., & Mas, E. (2019). Toward a 7-P framework for international marketing. *Journal of Strategic Marketing*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0965254X.2019.1569111>
13. Randhawa, K., Wilden, R., & Hohberger, J. (2016). A bibliometric review of open innovation: Setting a research agenda. *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, 33(6), 750–772. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpim.12312>
14. Rosado-Serrano, A., Paul, J., & Dikova, D. (2018). International franchising: A literature review and research agenda. *Journal of Business Research*, 85, 238–257. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2017.12.049>
15. Saha, A., & Das, A. (2022). Microcredit, SHGs & rural entrepreneurship in India: A bibliometric study through Scopus. *International Journal of Applied Research*, 8(1), 375–380. <https://doi.org/10.22271/allresearch.2022.v8.i1f.9642>
16. Singh, A. (2014). Leadership in female SHGs: traits/abilities, situational or forced? *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 34(3/4), 247–262. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ijssp-10-2013-0110>
17. Singh, V., & Padhi, P. (2017). Loan demand by microfinance borrowers: Do self-help groups and joint liability groups differ? A case study of Mirzapur district. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 44 (12), 1892-1905. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSE-02-2016-0066>
18. Talan, G., & Sharma, G. D. (2019). Doing well by doing good: A systematic review and research agenda for sustainable investment. *Sustainability*, 11(2), 353. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11020353>
19. Tranfield, D., Denyer, D., & Smart, P. (2003). Towards a methodology for developing evidence-informed management knowledge by means of systematic review. *British Journal of Management*, 14(3), 207–222. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8551.00375>