

Ranking of Indian Universities in Social Sciences using Bibliometric Indicators during 2008-12

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyses the rankings of 25 most productive Indian universities in overall social sciences and in its four subfields, based on various quantitative indicators, such as the total number of papers and international collaborative papers, qualitative indicators such as the average number of citations per paper and *h*-index value, and in terms of new composite indicator (which combines quantitative and qualitative aspects). Many universities changed their ranking positions, when their ranking based on quantitative and qualitative indicator is compared with composite indicator. Finally, analysed that the ranking, based on composite indicators, gives much better results than other indicators as it combines both quantity and quality. The overall ranking of top 25 Indian universities in social sciences give an indicative, if not nearly comprehensive, assessment of how the social science education is performing as generators of new knowledge.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, social science, Indian universities

1. INTRODUCTION

University rankings have gained popularity, especially after the launch of Academic Ranking of World Universities (also known as Shanghai Ranking) in 2003 and the ranking played an importance role in the growth, development, and management of universities. During the last few years, ranking of universities, through controversial, have become increasing popular. Global university ranking are used for variety of purposes. The governments, funding agencies and the media use university rankings as a source of strategic information on the global competition among the universities. The university managers use these university rankings as a marketing and decision support tool. Students and their parents use this university ranking as selection instrument¹⁻².

At the international level, few major ranking in general and in particular in social sciences are available. The most popular being:

(i) Shanghai Academic Ranking of World top 50 universities in social sciences–2012³: This ranking combines four criteria: Quality of education,

quality of faculty, research output, and per capita performance;

(ii) World Universities Rankings: Social Sciences 2012/13 by Times Higher Education⁴. This ranking combines 13 indicators categorised into five areas: Teaching, research, citations, industry income, and international outlook; and

(iii) SCImago Ranking of World Institutions (Social Science & Humanities)⁵. This ranking employs bibliometric data from Scopus database and the analysis is based on 6 indicators addressing issues like the scientific impact, thematic specialisation, output and international collaboration¹⁻².

At the national level only few efforts have been made on ranking Indian organisations in social sciences. Stanford university⁶ provides ranking of Indian universities and research institutions (with minimum of 20 publications in each sub-field) in four subject categories of social sciences, such as: (i) sociology, demography & family studies; (ii) economics, (iii) psychology, and (iv) business & management, using on two variables, namely, number