

Chapter - 8

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Chapter 8

Conclusion, Findings and Future Prospects

The present study is carried out to find out the characteristics of literature used by scholars in the area of Women's Studies. This study aimed to make an attempt to analyze the growth and development of Women's Studies literature. For the analysis of the study, two computerised databases have been designed and created; one for compilation of Women's Studies literature, the required data (5530 articles) has been collected from 314 different journals published during 1945- 2008. Other database has been created for citation analysis of *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*. A total of 5529 cited references are considered for the analysis of the study based on the objectives. The required data of the present study is comprises of 5529 cited references appended to the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* from volume 1, 1994 to volume 15, 2008. For this database each article/ citation is scanned and checked, then the data is entered in the computer using MS Office-Excel software and the results are obtained in tabular form by using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software. This chapter is confined to the aspects such as major findings, testing of hypotheses and recommendations for future study.

8.1 An Overview of Women's Studies Literature in India

As previous discourse and an extensive literature review on the position of woman divulges the fact that the position and condition of woman have been fluctuating “From Age to Age” in a different era. While one school calls women the highest gift of God to man, the other asserts that the best way to reach God is to avoid women. On one hand women were regarded as an originator, a beginner, a divinity a mark of prosperity and most beautiful and marvelous, creation on earth but on the contrary they are oppressed and controlled.

Position of Indian Women in Different Era

With the ups and downs, the status of women in society has been affected. On the basis of literature studies and review, the status of women in society has been drawn in different periods.

8.1.1 Vedic Period: 2500 to 1500 BC

In this time, the woman enjoyed considerable liberty and their dignity and rights were socially recognised. Girls, were given education, and they were given training in fine arts like music, dance, etc. And even widow remarriage was allowed in Vedic period.

8.1.2 Upnishadic period: 1500 BC to 500 BC

During the Upnishadic period, there were great Brahmanavadins who were enriched with deep knowledge of philosophy. Gargi and Maitraye asked difficult questions in a challenge with their husband Yajnavalkya, the great thinker.

8.1.3 Epics and early Smritis Period: 500 BC to 500 AD

Sita is considered as the ideal for womanhood by Indians due to her chastity, sacrificing spirit and dedication. In Mahabharata *Draupadi* fights for justice and asserts she, in spite of odd situations confronting her. Vyasa says that “A woman is equivalent to ten Gurus”.

8.1.4 Later Smritis period: 500 AD to 1800 AD

In this age status of women was near equality with men, and a slow decline began in early 1000 BC and lasted a millennium followed by 2000 years of deterioration. . By the mid-18th century women's status had hit rock bottom and begun its slow recovery.

8.1.5 Medieval Period: 1000- 1700 AD

The position of women in India steadily deteriorated though she was fondled by the parents, loved by the husband, and revered by her children. The revival of Sati, the prohibition of remarriage, the spread of purda and the greater prevalence of polygamy made her condition awful.

8.1.6 Muslim Period: 1526- 1707

Prostitution was common during this period; one of the ugliest institutions of the day was ‘Devadasi’ system. According to this system young unmarried girls were supposed to remain and work in the temples throughout their life. Birth of a daughter

was considered as a bad omen. The practice of ‘Sati’ and ‘Child marriage’ was common among the people.

8.1.7 Rajputs Period: 8th Century- 12th Century

In this period female infanticide and Sati system was prevalent and the Rajput women used to perform (more especially the Chauhans) ‘Jauhar’ to save themselves from falling into the hands of the enemy and thus being dishonored. But, it was not a common practice applicable to all.

8.1.8 British Period (A.D. 1757- A.D. 1947)

Some reformers like Dayanand Saraswati, Mahadev Govind Ranade, Jyotiba Phule, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, and Swami Vivekananda were the torch bearers to uproot the social evils like the killing of daughters, sati system, child marriages and they rescued the woman from her pathetic state. Their influence encouraged the British government to enact certain laws against the sati system, permitting women to remarry, abolish the custom of child marriage, etc. Efforts were also made to bring in Hindu Widows and Remarriage Act of 1856 and the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 which gave Hindu women much greater rights than previously enjoyed by them.

8.1.9 After Independence (1947-)

The post-independence movements for equality and better conditions of Indian women-from the enlightened to the downtrodden have been picturised. Today women have attained a remarkable position in probably all fields and they are in no way inferior to men. They have contributed in almost every field and made the country feel proud at every occasion. They are in front, leading the country, creating milestones and are source of inspiration for many. However they are struggling for their identity, shouting for diffusion of their voices and fighting for their esteem. They continue to face many problems viz female infanticide, neglect of girl child, dowry death, incidence of bride-burning, woman battering, violence against women in and outside the family, sexual exploitation and discrimination at the workplace and lack of inheritance and feminine trafficking etc.

Major Findings

❖ 8.2. Growth and Development of Literature

This study aimed to make an attempt to analyze the growth and development of Women's Studies literature. For the purpose of the study, 5530 articles considered from 314 different journals published during 1945- 2008.

8.2.1 Distribution of Articles among Journals

The analysis of data depicts that the *Social Welfare* accounted first position for a maximum of 1592 (28.79%) articles out of 5530 articles, followed by *Economic and Political Weekly* with 874(15.80%) articles. Selected seven journals of highly publishing literature on Women's Studies covered 3798 (68.68%) articles of the total articles.

8.2.2 Chronological Growth of Literature

The study shows temporal variation of publication since 1945 to 2008. It was observed that the maximum number of articles, 1139, belonged to the period of 2001 to 2005, accounting for growth rate 80.69. Further, the maximum growth rate was observed 86.41 in the recent years. It is ascertains that the trend in the growth of literature gradually increased upward direction.

8.2.3 Growth of Authors

The collected data from 1945 to 2008 (64 years) were explicitly examined regarding the growth of authors. It was brought to light that in the starting the period of 9 years (1945 to1953) only one author contributed every year. It was the lowest growth during this time span. The maximum number of authors, consisting of 332, founded in 2005. The highest growth of rate was observed to be 98.6.

8.2.4 Growth of Thrust Areas

The increase of thrust areas was revealed that 'Women Empowerment' (7.27%) was the most predominant subject. The topics like 'Working women' 'Women's Rights' and 'Violence against Women' accounted for 6.49%, 5.75% and 5.48%, of the total occurrence of subject respectively. The study observed that articles

were increased on the 'SatiPratha' during 1985-89 (0.66%) due to an incident of sati Roop Kanwar.

8.2.5 Emerging Trend of Thrust Areas of Study

The study depicts the tremendous growth among the thrust areas. The trend was in these sectors like Women empowerment > Working women > Women's rights > Violence against Women > Women's education. It was observed that rapidly emerged growth during 1999- 2008 was, Women empowerment (268 out of 402 occurrences) then Working women (251 out of 359 occurrences) and Violence against women (206 out of 303 occurrences) It was revealed that a tremendous growth in all areas of Women's Studies literature was found from 1991 to 2008.

8.2.6 Page Length of the Articles

The study showed the range of the pages varied from 1 to more than 45. It was evident that 3608 (65.24%) articles were of the page length of 1-5 pages, 1040 (18.81%) articles were of the page length of 6-10, and 285 (5.15%) articles were of the page length of 11-15 and so on. It is also interesting to note, that, 9 (0.16%) articles were of the page length of 41-45 pages. Only four articles have more than 45 length of page.

❖ 8.3 Authorship Pattern and Productivity

In this study collected data tested by Lotka's Law and obtained the results. Concerned data is also explicitly examined regarding the authorship pattern, authorship collaboration, and highly productive authors, etc.

8.3.1 Application of Lotka's Law

Lotka's law was applied to know the number of authors contributing single paper, two papers and three papers. It has been found that 3126 (76.23%) authors have contributed only single articles. The average value of author's productivity has been observed to be 2.61, which is higher to the inverse square value (i.e. 2) of Lotka's law. By using $b = 2.61$, the expected frequencies of authors were calculated. The maximum deviation (D) using Kolmogorov- Smirnov statistics test was found to be 0.01; the level of significance was calculated to be 0.0254. Here, $D < 0.0254$, upholds the applicability of Lotka's Law to the data of the present study.

8.3.2 Authorship Pattern and Collaboration

The study examined that the total number of single authored articles claim maximum scores 4690 (84.81%). The next highest score is two authors articles 655(11.84%) followed by three authored accounts for 66(1.19%), four author's articles 20(0.36%) and more than four authored contributed 2 (0.04%) articles. This study reflects that solo authorship pattern is the growing trend of Women's Studies literature due to various factors.

8.3.3 Single V/s Multiple Authorship Trend

It was observed that in the sixty four years, contribution of multi-authored articles were 743(13.68%), their contribution is very less in comparison to single authors 4690(86.32%). During this time span of 1945 to 1950, in six years only, five articles were contributed by single author, multiple authorship was not observed. It is worth mentioning that the highest number of articles, 953(84.71%) were provided by single and 172 (15.29%) by multiple authors in the year 2001-2005.

8.3.4 Period wise Distribution of Highly Productive Authors

The study observed a bird's eye view of highly productive authors, who started contributing in the early 1950s. In this period, there were three authors, namely- Padmani Sengupta who contributed 18 articles from 1954 to 2007, D. Paul Chawdhry, 14 articles during 1955 to 1995 and Durgabai Deshmukh, 11 articles from 1956 to 1979. It was evident that during the period 1981- 1990, nine authors contributed namely- Anjali Deshpande, 45 articles from 1981 to 1997, U. Kalpagam, 13 articles from 1981- 2008, Vimal Balasubrahmanyam, 50 articles in the period 1982 to 2004, Uma Joshi, 16 articles during 1982- 2007, Gargi Chakravarty, 14 articles in the period of 1982- 1991, Asghar Ali Engineer, 19 articles in 1983- 2004 and other three authors. As for the duration of contribution, Padamani Sengupta (1954- 2007) contributed for the maximum 54 years and L.N. Mittal (1990- 1997) contributed for only eight years. It was revealed that Vimal Balasubrahmanyam occupied the first rank with 50 articles, average 2.17 articles per year in the 23 years.

8.3.5 Most Prolific Authors as a First and Second Author

On individually analysing the prolific authors, the study reveals that the most prolific contributor of articles, Vimal Balasubrahmanyam occupied the first position with a contribution of 50 articles followed by Anjali Deshpande 49 articles; one of her article has appeared under joint authorship. Maithreyi Krishnaraj contributed 23 articles, and 3 of her articles appeared under joint authorship. Madhu Kishwar contributed 11 articles; 2 of her articles appeared under joint authorship. Durgabai Deshmukh, Bina Agarwal, Bharat Dogra, Padmini Swaminathan, Poonam Sharma and B. Suguna have 11 articles on their credit.

8.3.6 Subject Specialisation of Most Prolific Authors

It was revealed that the main area of interest of Anjali Deshpande, K Saradamoni and Durgabai Deshmukh appeared to be self-employed women, women's rights, domestic violence, and women empowerment respectively, while Asghar Ali Engineer concentrated on Muslim women's social condition. Vimal Balasubrahmanyam and Padmini Swaminathan's main area of interest were reproductive health, sex preselection and women oppression. Poonam Sharma and B. Suguna concentrated mainly on women entrepreneurship, women prisoners, police brutality and prostitution respectively.

8.3.7 Publishing Behavior of Most Prolific Authors

Devaki Jain has contributed her articles in the eight different journals, while Bina Agarwal has contributed her articles in the seven different journals. Asghar Ali Engineer, Vibhuti Patel and Bharat Dogra contributed their articles in six different journals. Leela Gulati and U. Kalpagam contributed their articles in four different journals. Other 12 authors have made their contribution in less than 4 journals. It was to be noted that only six authors were restricted to one journal.

8.3.8 Gender- Wise Distribution of Authors

In this study, preponderance of female over the male authors is observed. Out of 4033 authors, female authors are 2297 (56.1 percent) and 1796 (43.79 percent) are male authors.

❖ 8.4 Topical Content Analysis

The topical content analysis gives a better picture of the discipline for better understanding about the trend of research and development in a particular field. The ‘Women’s Studies’ database brings to light that during 1945- 1950, only one keyword ‘Child marriage’ occurred. It was observed that some keywords such as Sati pratha, Bride burning and Devdasi (temple prostitution) occurred 20, 21and 24 times.

8.4.1 Zipf Law of Word Occurrence

The value of the products of rank (r) of a keyword and frequency (f) of occurrence of the keyword ranged between log 2.72 and log 3.72. The graphical presentation of rank (r) and frequency (f) on logarithmic scale turned out to be a straight line which indicates the applicability of Zipf’s Law in Women’s Studies literature. Therefore, occurrences of a word in Women’s Studies literature, multiplied by its rank turned out to be near constant.

8.4.2 Keywords with High Frequency

Among 21968 words only 15821 words were considered as keywords. It was found that only 30 words had frequency > 80 . The keyword ‘Women's Empowerment’ had the highest frequency with 526 and next keyword ‘Working women’ with 502 frequency. The other keywords in the decreasing order of frequency were Women's rights $>$ Violence against Women $>$ Women's Education $>$ Women Employment $>$ Women's movement $>$ Self-employed women $>$ Social condition $>$ Professional women $>$ Domestic violence with 318, 303, 244, 238, 166, 146, 124, 116 and 102 respectively.

8.4.3 Mapping of Keywords Occurring ≥ 20 Times

A total number of 171 keywords occurred ≥ 20 times in ‘Women’s Studies’ database along with the number of occurrences of each word were taken of the study. It has been observed that a large number of key terms had covered in this mapping. The distribution of keywords shows that the studies have been conducted in a large number of areas of study in Women’s Studies. Keywords Sati pratha, Insecurity, Refugee women and Police brutality occurred 20 times and keywords Women's empowerment occurred 526 times in this study.

❖ 8.5 Citation Analysis

Citation approach, as the methodology was chosen for this study, is based on the analysis of the bibliographic references taken for study. The required data of the present study comprises of 5529 citations appeared in the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* from Vol. 1, (1994) to Vol. 15, (2008).

8.5.1 Frequency Distribution of Articles (Volume Wise)

Study shows temporal variation of publication of articles in the different volumes. The highest number of articles published in 2008 with 20 articles followed by 19 articles in the year 2000. Six articles were published in 1998 which was the lowest.

8.5.2 Frequency Distribution of Citations (Volume Wise)

It was observed that every volume has an average of 369 citations and the highest number of citations appeared in volume 15 in the year 2008 with 629 (11.38%) citations and volume 13 in the year 2006 with 627 (11.34%) citations respectively. The lowest number was in volume 6, in the year 1999 with 115 (2.08%) citations out of the total 5529 citations.

8.5.3 Most Frequently Cited Information Sources

On the basis of citation data, it was observed that the books 3051 (55.18%) were the backbone of sources for writing of articles, out of total 5529 citations and journals were the second highest position with 1471 (26.61%) reports were the next highly cited source accounted with 342 (6.19%) and research papers with 208 (3.76%) citations.

8.5.4 Volume Wise Bibliographical Distribution of Citations

Volume wise distribution of cited documents shows that the books received maximum 294 citations in volume 15 (2008) out of a total number of 3051 citations. Journals received highest 227 citations in volume 15 (2008) out of a total number of 1471 citations. Web Resources were cited 14 time in volume 13 (2006) out of a total number of 34 citations.

8.5.5 Chronological Distribution of Citation

Study observed that the highest 2376 (42.97%) citations have occurred during the year of 1991-2000. Whereas 1305 (23.6%) of citations were made during 1981-1990 and the period 1851-1860 having the least with three (0.05) citations only. This study indicates that the recently published articles are more cited and authors prefer current information for their activities.

8.5.6 Half- Life of Women's Studies Literature

Half-life means the time during which one half of all the currently active literature was published. In this study, out of 3051 total book citations, 17 years old books cover cumulative 50.25% and 14 years old journals citations covered cumulatively of 50.17% of total 1471 journals. Thus half life period of books and journal citation for the present analysis is taken 17 years and 14 years. It can be said that 17 years back book and 14 years back journal as being the most active literature of women's Studies.

8.5.7 Authorship Pattern of Cited Documents

Study revealed that maximum citations 4456 (80.59%) were used by single author out of a total number of 5529 citations, followed by 851 (15.39%) citations by two authors, the lowest citations was by nine authors, i.e. 1 (0.02%). Thus, the study concludes that the Women's Studies discipline is dominated by solo authorship.

8.5.8 Rank List of Most Cited Authors

Study brings to light that Government of India most cited with 73 (1.05%) citations after that Amartya Sen occupied the second rank with 34 (0.49%) citations and Bina Agarwal occupied the third rank with 29 (0.42%) citations, followed by Partha Chatterjee 22 (0.32) fifth rank. Vina Mazumdar, Veena Das and Devika Jain occupied the 6th rank with 21 (0.30%) citations.

8.5.9 Rank List of Most Frequently Cited Journals

The study provides assessment of the most frequently cited journal. Among the highest cited journals, The *Economic and Political Weekly* received (14.75%) citations with the first rank. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank marked to *Population and Development Review* (2.18%), *World Development* (2.11%) and *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 28 (1.90%) respectively.

8.5.10 Rank List of Most Frequently Cited Books

In the rank list of books, *Poverty and Famine: an Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation* received highest 23(0.75%) citations with first rank and title *A Field of One's Own; Gender and Land Rights in South Asia* occupied second rank with 21(0.69%) citations. The third rank was occupied by the *Community, Gender and Violence* with 20(0.66%) citations.

8.6 Validity of the Hypothesis

The validity of the hypotheses is stated below:

H1) A high level of solo authorship in the Women's Studies literature in India.

The study examined that the total number of single authored articles claim maximum scores 4690 (84.81%). The next highest score is two authors articles 655(11.84%) followed by three authored accounts for 66(1.19%), four author's articles 20(0.36%) and more than four authored contributed 2 (0.04%) articles. This study reflects that solo authorship pattern is the growing trend of Women's Studies literature due to various factors. Therefore the hypothesis is validated.

H2) Preponderance of female over male authors in the Women's Studies literature in India.

There were a total of 4101authors for the 5530 contributions which appeared in the journals during the period under this study. Gender could be determined only in case of 4033 contributors. Out of them, 2262 (55.16 percent) were female and 1771 (43.18 percent) were male contributors. The gender of remaining 68(1.66 Percent) contributors could not be determined because their first names were mentioned in the journal in initials only. Hence the hypothesis is validated.

H3) Growth in literature in the Women's Studies may increase after 1970.

The study shows temporal variation of publication since 1945 to 2008. It was observed that the maximum number of articles, 1139, belonged to the period of 2001 to 2005, accounting for growth rate 80.69. Further, the maximum growth rate was observed 86.41 in the recent years. It is ascertains that the trend in the growth of literature gradually increased upward direction. Hence the hypothesis is disproved.

H4) Key words distribution would be according to Zipf's Law in the subject.

The value of the products of rank (r) of a keyword and frequency (f) of occurrence of the keyword ranged between $\log 2.72$ and $\log 3.72$. The graphical presentation of rank (r) and frequency (f) on logarithmic scale turned out to be a straight line which indicates the applicability of Zipf's Law in Women's Studies literature. Therefore, occurrences of a word in Women's Studies literature, multiplied by its rank turned out to be near constant. Hence the hypothesis is fully substantiated.

8.7 Future Prospects of the Study

- The future researches may be worked out on comparing citations data in leading International level Women's Studies journals; comprehensive citation analysis of source authors' background information in relation to citing behavior, citing preferences and citing tendencies.
- For purpose of this study all data selected from print journals and physically scanned individually, for more comprehensive study, other online database like SCOPUS, Web of Science and Google Scholars, etc. may be considered.
- The requirements of users change from time to time, so such bibliometric study can be conducted from time to time at different intervals to make proper assess of the users requirement and thus to build up a sound collection development of libraries.
- The present study is limited to only 15 volumes i.e., from 1994 to 2008, it can further be extended up to the year 2015 to supplement the present study and to assess the trends and compare them with the present study.
- Some journals of social science have not appeared references in the articles; references must be appended to the each article.
- There is a need to identify the core area of research in Women's Studies and promote research on women's issues by the Women's Studies & Development Centers and also by universities.
- Bibliography of Women's Studies periodical literature can be compiled for the case of different users.