India University Rankings 2016

National Institutional Ranking (NIR) Framework[1] was created by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on 9th October, 2014. The ranking is based on 22 parameters under 5 major heads, several of those employed globally such as excellence in teaching, learning and research. However, some India-centric parameters were also employed, e.g. outreach, gender equity and inclusion of disadvantaged sections of society.

It is a laudable effort by MHRD to compile the NIR data of 3565 institutions, including 233 Universities, in just 18 months and release the report on April 4, 2016. The most important parameter for NIR is weightage given to research output of Universities under the heading "Research Productivity, Impact and IPR (RPII)" which amounts to 40 percent. It is a well-known fact that Indian Universities are rated poorly in international rankings[2] and none of our Institutions appear in the top 200 at global level.

It is reported in NIR framework document that three databases, namely Web of science, Scopus and Indian Citation Index, have been used as sources for retrieving the number of publications, citations and collaborative publications for ranking in one or more disciplines. These three databases were searched to determine the quantitative productivity of all 3565 institutions for ranking in terms of research articles published by them and citations received by these publications in a span of 3 years, i.e. 2012 to 2014.

India University Ranking 2016 data of top 25 Universities is provided in a tabulated form; Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore occupying the first rank and Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar at 25th rank. BHU Varanasi is listed at rank 7, AMU Aligarh at 10 and PU Chandigarh at 12. However, if we consider ranking on the basis of research output or RPII parameter of the same universities, the ranking position is slightly altered. The first position goes to Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, IISC occupies the 2nd position, while BHU, AMU, PU and GNDU are ranked at 10, 7, 6 and 17 positions, respectively.

During 1984, Rashmi Mehrotra and F.W. Lancaster of University of Illinois, USA carried out a bibliometric analysis to evaluate the research productivity of Indian scientists. They published their findings in Current Science[3]. Their findings were based on analysis of 3378 publications by Indian scientists during the period Jan. 1979 to June 1981 using Science Citation Index (SCI). It is interesting to recall that among top 25 Institutions of India, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore occupied the first rank and BHU, AMU, PU and GNDU were ranked at 2nd, 9th, 12th and 25th positions, respectively. In addition to University ranking, this report concluded that Current Science was the most productive Indian journal out of a list of 35 Indian Science journals which were used in SCI database.

References

1. NIRF Website: https://www.nirfindia.org/
2. Balaram, P., Curr. Sci., 2004, **86**, 1347-1348.
3. Mehrotra, R. and Lancaster, F.W., Curr. Sci. 1984, 53, 684-688.

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