Unveiling Identity Politics in India: A Bibliometric Mapping of Scholarly Literature

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ABSTRACT

This research article conducts a bibliometric mapping of scholarly literature on identity politics in India from 1993 to 2024. The study examines publication trends, citation patterns, author productivity, and document types to understand the evolution of discourse on Indian identity politics. Findings indicate a substantial increase in research output, reflecting the growing academic interest in this area. Investigation of citation patterns identifies key works and authors contributing to the field. Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law reveal the uneven distribution of author productivity and the dominance of certain journals. Articles are the predominant document type, emphasizing original research dissemination, while other types like book reviews and meeting abstracts contribute to the diverse scholarly discourse. This study enhances understanding of Indian identity politics and offers insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners navigating this dynamic field.

KEYWORDS: Identity politics, India, Bibliometric analysis, Scholarly literature, Publication trends, Citation patterns, Author productivity, Document types, Lotka's Law, Bradford's La.

INTRODUCTION

Identity politics has emerged as a pivotal topic in contemporary Indian discourse, encompassing various social movements and academic scholarship that focus on the experiences and assertions of specific identity groups, such as caste, religion, gender, and tribe (Wojczewski, 2020). This emphasis on identity has propelled social activism and political mobilization, influencing national dialogues on equality, representation, and social justice (Borah & Borah,

2024). Understanding the scholarly landscape of identity politics in India is essential for several reasons. Firstly, it enables us to recognize the main themes, trends, and discussions that have influenced academic exploration in this field. Secondly, a bibliometric analysis can unveil the leading scholars, institutions, and journals that are shaping the discourse (Taylor, 1979). This knowledge can then be used to trace the intellectual lineages and theoretical frameworks that form the basis of the study of identity politics in India. Lastly, such a study can reveal potential research gaps and pinpoint areas where further scholarship is required (Michelutti, 2020).

This study aims to unveil the dimensions of identity politics in India by utilizing a bibliometric approach to chart the scholarly literature. Bibliometrics is a subfield of library and information science that uses quantitative approaches to examine academic publications. By analyzing citation patterns, authorship trends, and publication keywords, we can acquire significant insights into the intellectual structure and growth of a certain study subject. In the following sections, we will describe the approach utilized in this bibliometric analysis. We will next describe the important findings, focusing on the dominant themes, notable researchers, and productive institutions that have affected the study of identity politics in India. Finally, we will examine the consequences of our results and recommend directions for future research.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the temporal evolution of scholarly literature on identity politics in India from 1993 to 2024.
- To identify trends in publication growth, including fluctuations and significant peaks, over the study period.
- To assess author productivity using Lotka's Law and understanding the distribution of authors based on the number of publications.
- To examine citation patterns, including mean citations per article and year, to gauge the impact of scholarly work in this field.
- To determine core journal sources through Bradford's Law, elucidating the concentration of literature within specific journals and their productivity zones.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jha, M.K. (2020). In their study, Jha explores the intersections of caste and identity politics in India, emphasizing the role of caste in shaping political narratives and electoral outcomes. They argue that identity politics in India cannot be understood without considering the historical and social context of caste hierarchies (Jha, 2020). Kumar, A. (2019). Kumar investigates the impact of regional identity movements on national politics, focusing on the demands for statehood and autonomy by various ethnic groups. Their research highlights the dynamic interplay between regional aspirations and national integration (Kumar, 2019). Paleri, D. (2021). Paleri's work delves into the role of religious identity in political mobilization, particularly in the context of Hindu-Muslim relations. They examine how political parties use religious symbols and narratives to galvanize support and influence voter behavior (Paleri, 2021). Santhosh, R. (2018). Santhosh examines the intersectionality of gender and caste in political participation. They argue that caste affiliations often influence women's involvement in identity politics, which shapes their political opportunities and constraints (Santhosh, 2018). Banerjea, N. (2017). Banerjea explores the

representation of Dalit identities in Indian literature and media. They argue that cultural productions are critical in shaping public perceptions of Dalit politics and activism (Banerjea, 2017).

Banerjee, S. (2020). Banerjee's research focuses on the political activism of tribal communities in India. They analyze how tribal identity is constructed and mobilized in the context of land rights and resource extraction conflicts (Banerjee, 2020). Chakrabarty, A. (2019). Chakrabarty investigates the role of language in identity politics, particularly in states with significant linguistic diversity. They argue that language movements have been pivotal in shaping regional political landscapes (Chakrabarty, 2019). Chaudhuri, B. (2018). Chaudhuri explores the impact of globalization on identity politics in India. They argue that economic liberalization has intensified identity-based conflicts as communities compete for resources and representation (Chaudhuri, 2018). Chhetri, N. (2021). Chhetri examines the political participation of Northeast Indian communities, highlighting how ethnic identity influences electoral politics and governance in the region (Chhetri, 2021). Chowdhury, S.R. (2017). Chowdhury's study focuses on the role of youth in identity politics. They argue that young people are increasingly influential in shaping political discourses around identity, leveraging social media and digital platforms (Chowdhury, 2017). Das, A. (2019). Das investigates the intersection of economic policies and identity politics, particularly how economic marginalization contributes to the politicization of identity among disadvantaged groups (Das, 2019). This bibliometric study is crucial as it systematically maps the scholarly landscape of identity politics in India, identifying key contributors, trends, and gaps. By analyzing publication patterns and core sources, it provides valuable insights into the development and focus areas of the field, guiding future research efforts and helping policymakers and academics better understand and address complex identity-related issues.

METHODOLOGY

A bibliometric analysis was conducted to examine scholarly literature on identity politics in India. Data was collected from Web of Science databases covering articles published from 1993 to 2024. The study analyzed publication trends, citation patterns, author productivity, and document types. Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law waw applied to assess author productivity and core journal sources, respectively. The dataset included 248 documents categorized into various types. Statistical analysis was employed to identify trends and patterns over time, providing insights into the evolution and dynamics of identity politics research in the Indian context.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Scope:

This study explores scholarly literature on identity politics in India from 1993 to 2024, encompassing various document types like articles, book chapters, and reviews. By employing bibliometric analysis, it aims to unveil trends, author productivity, citation patterns, and core journal sources. Additionally, it utilizes Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law to understand author productivity distribution and core journal concentrations, respectively. The research offers insights into the evolution and dynamics of identity politics discourse within the Indian context, contributing to a better understanding of academic trends in this area.

Limitations:

The study is limited to English-language publications, potentially excluding relevant literature in other languages. It may also overlook qualitative aspects of research and emerging trends due to its retrospective nature. Despite efforts

to ensure dataset comprehensiveness, some publications may have been missed. Additionally, the interpretation of bibliometric indicators is subject to assumptions and methodological constraints. Nevertheless, this analysis provides valuable insights into the scholarly landscape of identity politics in India, laying the groundwork for further research.

DATA ANALYSES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The data in Table 1 shows a significant growth in literature from 1993 to 2024. Initially, from 1993 to 2008, the number of articles published each year was relatively low, with a few years showing no growth. This period saw a cumulative total of 30 articles. A notable increase began in 2009 with 12 articles. The upward trend continued, with significant peaks in 2016 (15 articles) and 2017 (17 articles). The most dramatic growth occurred from 2019 onwards, with 18 articles in 2019 and reaching a peak of 40 articles in 2023, the highest in the dataset. By 2024, the cumulative total reached 248 articles, reflecting a clear trend of accelerating growth in academic publications, especially over the past decade. This indicates a substantial increase in research activity and interest in the field, particularly in recent years.

Table-1-Year-wise Growth of Literature			
Year	Articles	%	Cumulative
1993	1	0.40%	1
1994	2	0.81%	3
1995	1	0.40%	4
1996-1998	0	0.00%	4
1999	4	1.61%	8
2000	4	1.61%	12
2001	1	0.40%	13
2002	1	0.40%	14
2003	4	1.61%	18
2004	4	1.61%	22
2005	4	1.61%	26
2006	1	0.40%	27
2007	1	0.40%	28
2008	2	0.81%	30
2009	12	4.84%	42
2010	7	2.82%	49
2011	7	2.82%	56
2012	1	0.40%	57
2013	4	1.61%	61
2014	5	2.02%	66
2015	9	3.63%	75
2016	15	6.05%	90
2017	17	6.85%	107

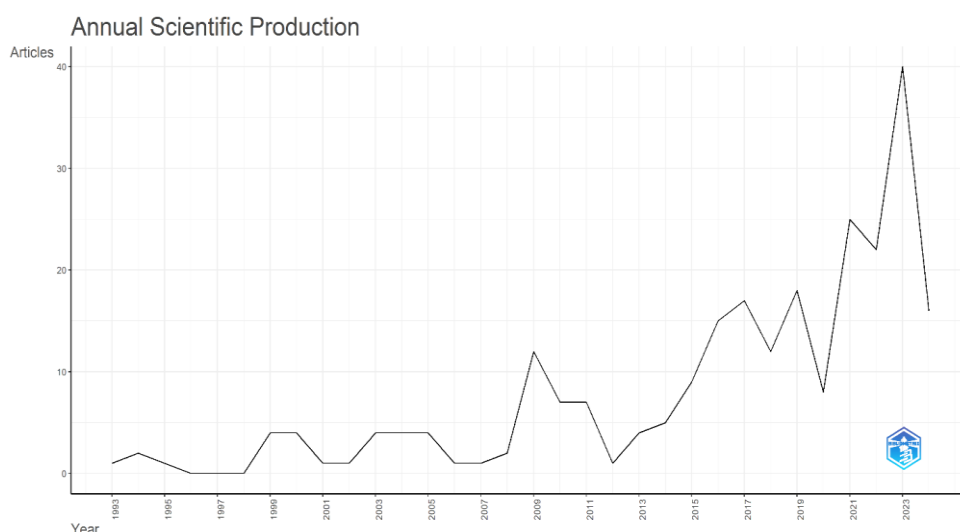|			
2018	12	4.84%	119
2019	18	7.26%	137
2020	8	3.23%	145
2021	25	10.08%	170
2022	22	8.87%	192
2023	40	16.13%	232
2024	16	6.45%	248
Total	248	100.00%	

Figure-1

Table 2 presents the year-wise distribution of citations from 1993 to 2024. Initially, the mean total citations per article (MeanTCperArt) were low, with several years (1993, 2001, 2006) having zero citations. However, notable peaks occurred in 2003 (68.75), 2005 (26.25), and 2014 (15.6), indicating significant citation impact for articles from these years. From 2009 onwards, there is a general increase in MeanTCperArt, reflecting growing citation activity. The highest values during this period were seen in 2010 (12.86) and 2014 (15.6). The mean citations per year (MeanTCperYear) also showed an upward trend, with notable increases in 2003 (3.12), 2005 (1.31), and 2014 (1.42), indicating consistent citation accumulation over time.

The citable years (CitableYears) metric, which represents the duration articles have been available for citation, affects citation averages, with longer citable periods generally leading to higher total citations. Recent years (2023, 2024) show lower citation metrics due to their shorter citation durations. Overall, the data reflects an increase in both publication and citation activity over time, with certain years standing out for their higher impact.

Table 2- Year-wise Distribution of Citations				
Year	MeanTCperArt	N	MeanTCperYear	CitableYears
1993	0	1	0	32
1994	5	2	0.16	31
1995	2	1	0.07	30
1999	2.75	4	0.11	26

2000	5	4	0.2	25
2001	0	1	0	24
2002	12	1	0.52	23
2003	68.75	4	3.12	22
2004	9	4	0.43	21
2005	26.25	4	1.31	20
2006	0	1	0	19
2007	6	1	0.33	18
2008	13.5	2	0.79	17
2009	9.5	12	0.59	16
2010	12.86	7	0.86	15
2011	3.86	7	0.28	14
2012	3	1	0.23	13
2013	7.75	4	0.65	12
2014	15.6	5	1.42	11
2015	15.22	9	1.52	10
2016	4	15	0.44	9
2017	7	17	0.88	8
2018	6.75	12	0.96	7
2019	3.67	18	0.61	6
2020	5.5	8	1.1	5
2021	4.2	25	1.05	4
2022	2.23	22	0.74	3
2023	0.78	40	0.39	2
2024	0.12	16	0.12	1

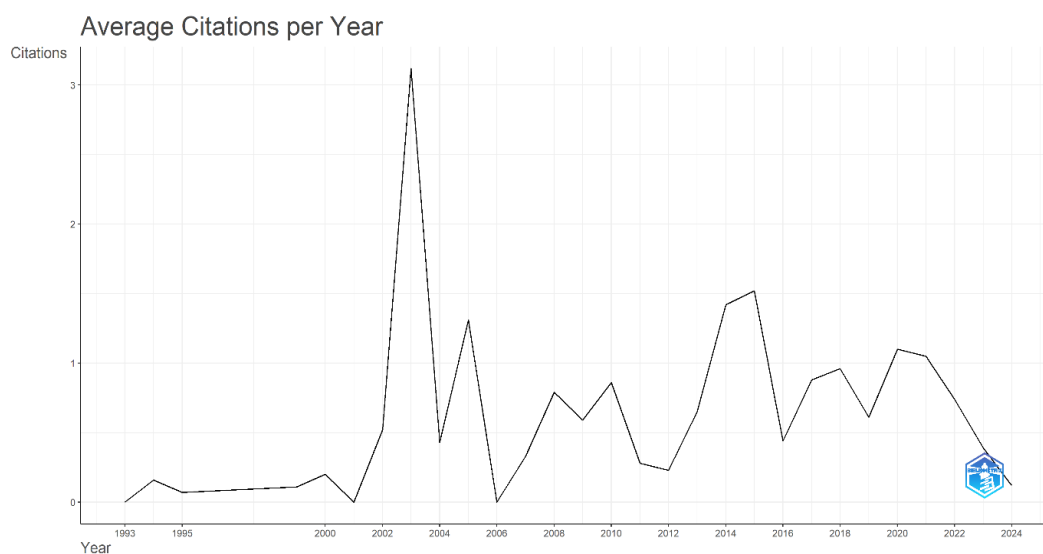**Figure-2**

Average Citations per Year

Table 3 presents data on the most prolific contributors to the literature on identity politics in India. The highest contributors, with three publications each, are JHA MK, KUMAR A, PALERI D, and SANTHOSH R, each contributing 1.21% to the total publications. Authors with two publications each, like BANERJEA N, BANERJEE S, and 26 others, contribute 0.81% each. Collectively, these 31 authors account for 66 publications, which is 26.61% of the total.

A significant majority, 441 authors, have contributed only one paper each, making up 73.39% of the publications. This indicates a high level of individual contributions but a lower number of repeat contributions. The data highlights the breadth of participation in identity politics research in India, with a few key authors contributing multiple works and a large number of authors making singular contributions, emphasizing both diversity and a concentration of expertise among a few scholars.

Table 3 Highest contributors in Identity Politics Literature in India			
Sl. No.	AUTHOR	No. of Publication	%
1	JHA MK	3	1.21
2	KUMAR A	3	1.21
3	PALERI D	3	1.21
4	SANTHOSH R	3	1.21
5	BANERJEA N	2	0.81
6	BANERJEE S	2	0.81
7	CHAKRABARTY A	2	0.81
8	CHAUDHURI B	2	0.81
9	CHHETRI N	2	0.81
10	CHOWDHURY SR	2	0.81
11	DAS A	2	0.81
12	DAS R	2	0.81
13	DHAWAN NB	2	0.81
14	DUTTA S	2	0.81
15	GEETHA KA	2	0.81
16	KIPGEN N	2	0.81
17	KUMAR N	2	0.81
18	MARTELLI JT	2	0.81
19	MISHRA A	2	0.81
20	MUKHERJEE S	2	0.81
21	PANI N	2	0.81
22	PARAMTHOTTU JV	2	0.81
23	PRIYA R	2	0.81
24	RAM R	2	0.81
25	ROY K	2	0.81

26	SAHOO S	2	0.81
27	SATYANARAYANA K	2	0.81
28	SEN R	2	0.81
29	SHARMA D	2	0.81
30	SHARMA M	2	0.81
31	UPADHYA C	2	0.81
	Total	66	26.61
	One paper each author	441	73.39
	Total	248	100.00

Figure 3 Highest contributors in Identity Politics Literature in India
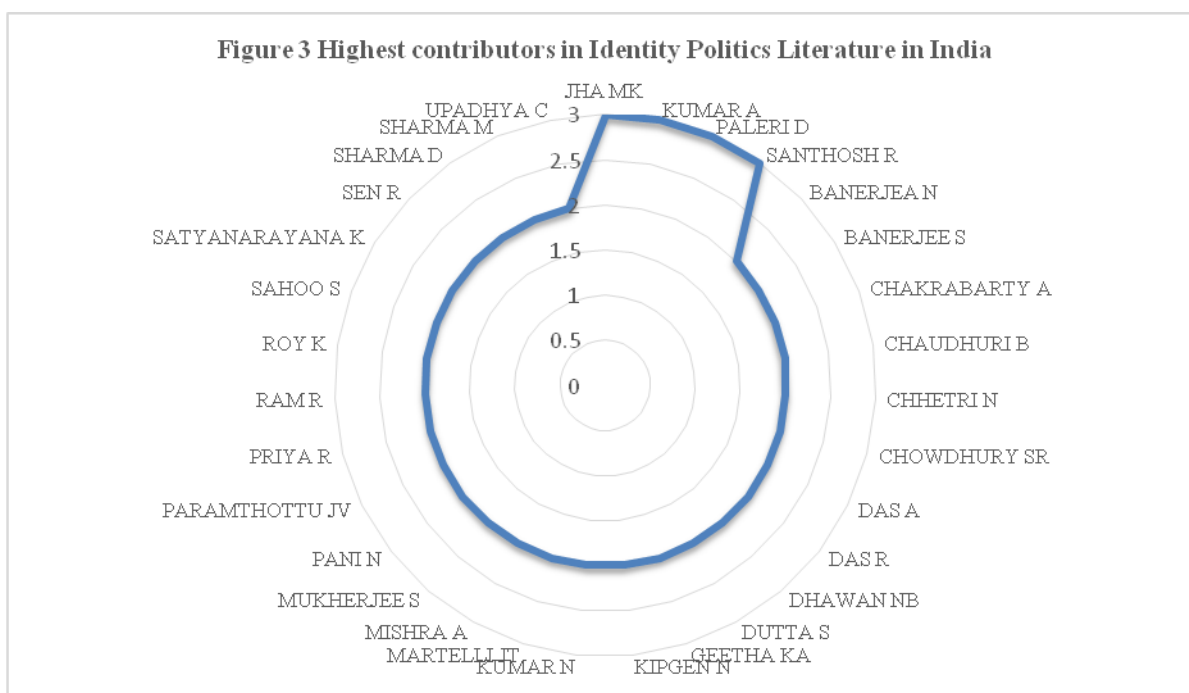
Table 4 presents author productivity data through the lens of Lotka's Law, highlighting the distribution of authors based on the number of documents they have written. The overwhelming majority of authors, 697 out of 728 (95.7%), have authored only one document, demonstrating a high prevalence of single-publication authors in the dataset. A smaller proportion, 27 authors (3.7%), have written two documents, while only 4 authors (0.5%) have contributed three documents.

This distribution aligns with Lotka's Law, which posits that the number of authors producing multiple works diminishes exponentially as the number of publications increases. The data reflects a typical pattern observed in scientific publishing, where a few prolific authors contribute significantly more publications compared to the majority. This suggests that while there is a broad base of contributors, a small core of authors drives a substantial portion of the research output, underscoring the uneven nature of author productivity.

Table 4 -Author Productivity through Lotka's Law		
Documents written	N. of Authors	Proportion of Authors
1	697	0.957
2	27	0.037
3	4	0.005

Figure-3
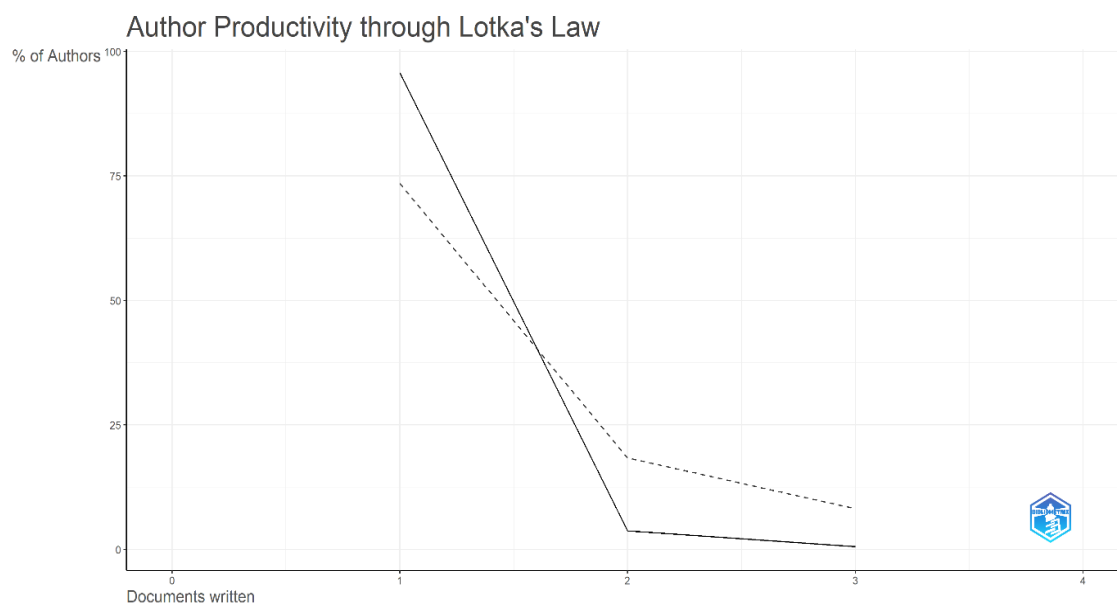

Author Productivity through Lotka's Law

Table 4 illustrates the core sources of literature according to Bradford's Law, which categorizes journals into different zones based on their productivity. Zone 1 includes journals with the highest frequency of articles. "Contributions to Indian Sociology" tops the list with 18 articles, followed by "South Asia-Journal of South Asian Studies" with 12 articles. Other notable journals in Zone 1 include "Contemporary South Asia" and "Indian Journal of Gender Studies," each contributing between 9 and 10 articles.

Table 4 Use of Channels for Scientific Communication			
Journal-Name	**Freq**	**%**	**Cumfreq**
Contributions to Indian Sociology	18	7.26%	18
South Asia-Journal of South Asian Studies	12	4.84%	30
Contemporary South Asia	10	4.03%	40
Indian Journal of Gender Studies	9	3.63%	49
Indian Economic and Social History Review	6	2.42%	55
Journal Of South Asian Development	6	2.42%	61
Asian Journal of Womens Studies	5	2.02%	66
Interventions-International Journal of Postcolonial Studies	5	2.02%	71
Community Development Journal	4	1.61%	75
Indian Historical Review	4	1.61%	79
Modern Asian Studies	4	1.61%	83

Third World Quarterly	4	1.61%	87
Ethnicities	3	1.21%	90
International Journal of Psychology	3	1.21%	93
Journal of Dharma	3	1.21%	96
Man, In India	3	1.21%	99
Nations and Nationalism	3	1.21%	102
Political Studies Review	3	1.21%	105
2- Publication Each-Journal-20	**40**	**16.13%**	**145**
1-Publication Each Journal-103	**103**	**41.53%**	**248**
Total	**248**	**100.00%**	

Figure-4
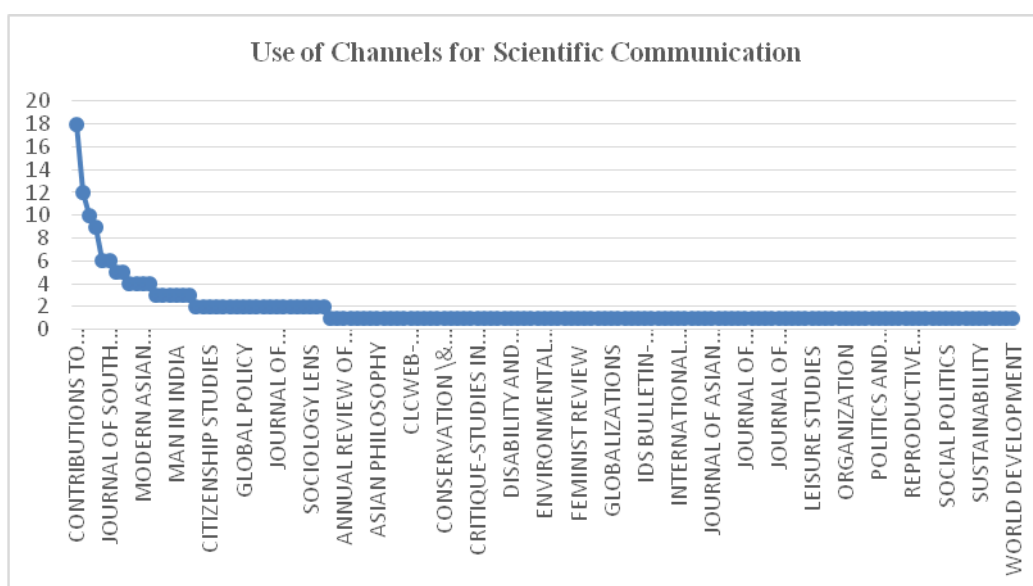
Zone 1 journals collectively account for the first 11 ranks and a cumulative frequency of 83 articles. Zone 2 consists of journals that contribute a moderate number of articles. Each journal in this zone has between 2 to 4 articles, including "Third World Quarterly," "Ethnicities," and "Political Studies Review." This zone spans ranks 12 to 60, with a cumulative frequency of up to 168 articles. Zone 3, representing journals with the lowest frequency of articles, includes those with a single contribution each. This zone extends from rank 61 to 141, covering journals like "Culture & Psychology," "Demography," and "World Development." These journals collectively add up to the remaining articles, reaching a cumulative frequency of 248.

Bradford's Law demonstrates a sharp drop in productivity as we move from Zone 1 to Zone 3, indicating that a small number of journals contribute most of the literature, while a large number of journals contribute only a few articles each. This distribution highlights the concentrated nature of academic publishing, where core journals play a pivotal role in disseminating research. These ratios are not consistent with a simple exponential increase (such as 1:2:4 or 1:3:9). The increase from Zone 1 to Zone 2 is much steeper than from Zone 2 to Zone 3, indicating that the distribution does not strictly follow the exponential growth predicted by Bradford's Law.

Table 5 Core Sources by Bradford's Law			
Zones	Journal	Publication	Bradford Multiplier
1	11	83	
2	49	84	
3	81	81	3.05.
Total	141	248	

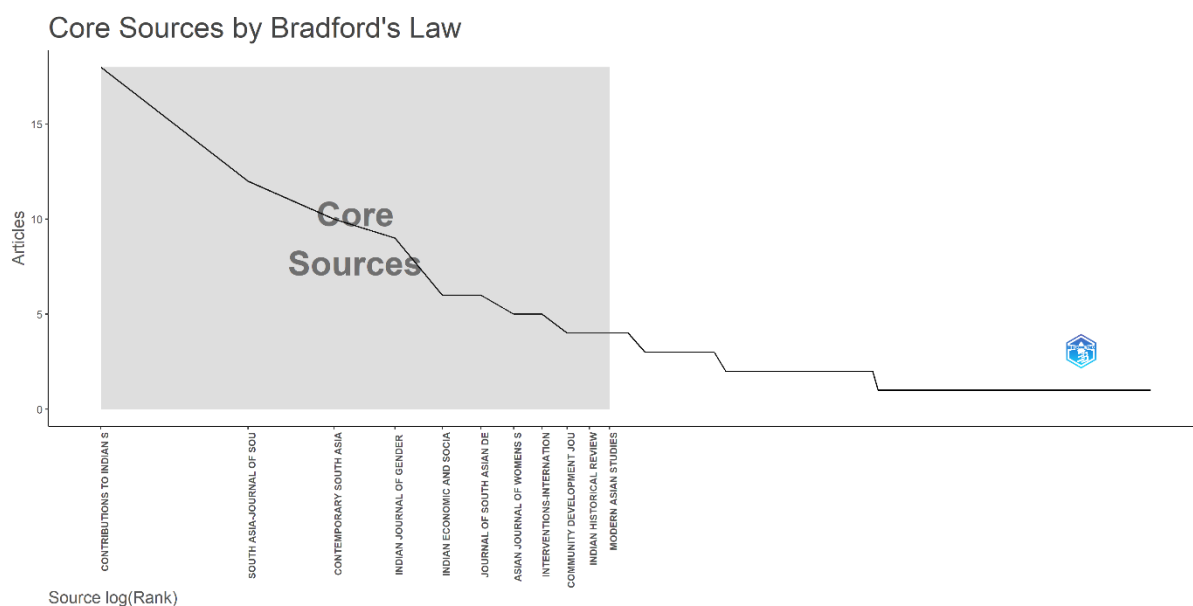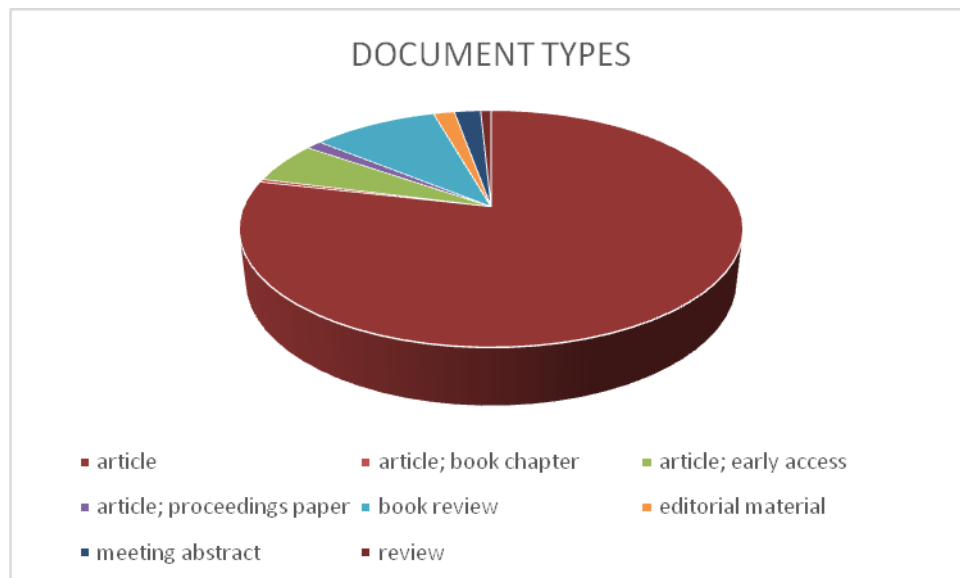**Figure -5** Core Sources by Bradford's Law

Table 5 categorizes the types of documents in the dataset, revealing that the predominant type is articles, comprising 78.63% (195 out of 248). Other document types are significantly less common. Book reviews make up 9.68% (24 documents), followed by early access articles at 5.65% (14 documents). Proceedings papers and meeting abstracts are relatively rare, accounting for 1.21% (3 documents) and 2.02% (5 documents) respectively. Editorial materials constitute 1.61% (4 documents), while reviews and combined types (article; book chapter) are the least frequent, each under 1%.

This distribution highlights that traditional research articles dominate the literature, indicating a strong emphasis on original research dissemination. Other document types, such as book reviews and early access articles, provide additional but smaller contributions to the academic discourse.

Table 5- Document Types		
article	195	78.63%
article; book chapter	1	0.40%
article; early access	14	5.65%
article; proceedings paper	3	1.21%
book review	24	9.68%
editorial material	4	1.61%

meeting abstract	5	2.02%
review	2	0.81%
Total	248	100.00%

Figure-5

Top 5 Highly Cited Papers in Identity Politics in India Literature

Author Name	Title	Journal or Publication Title	Published Year	Document Type	Total Citations
Pani N	Between Violence and Desire: Space, Power, And Identity in The Making of Metropolitan Delhi	Contemporary Politics	2011	Article	265
Kumar A; Elliott-Cooper A; Iyer S; Gebrial D	Representing World History in the 21st Century the Impact Of 9/11, The Iraq War, And the Nation-State on Dynamics of Collective Remembering	Historical Materialism-Research in Critical Marxist Theory	2018	Editorial Material	79
Kaushal A	Caste and Politics: Identity Over System	Journal of The Royal Asiatic Society	2022	Article	75
Ahmed H	Modi-Masculinity: Media, Manhood, And ``Traditions'' In A Time of Consumerism	Hau-Journal of Ethnographic Theory	2020	Article	61
Suan Hkk	Young Muslim Women on The Face Veil: A Tool of Resistance in Europe But Rejected in The United States	Contributions to Indian Sociology	2011	Article	48

MAJOR FINDINGS

- The study reveals a significant increase in academic publications from 1993 to 2024, highlighting substantial growth, particularly in the last decade. Early years (1993-2008) had minimal publications, totalling only 30 articles. A marked rise began in 2009, with a notable peak in 2023 at 40 articles, bringing the cumulative total to 248 by 2024.

- Citation analysis shows initial low activity, with zero citations in several early years. Peaks in mean total citations per article were observed in 2003 (68.75), 2005 (26.25), and 2014 (15.6), indicating significant impact for articles from these years. Post-2009, there is a general increase in citation activity, reflecting growing recognition and influence of recent research.

- Author productivity data aligns with Lotka's Law, with 95.7% of authors contributing only one document. A small proportion of authors (3.7%) authored two documents, and a mere 0.5% contributed three, indicating a highly skewed distribution where a few prolific authors dominate the publication landscape.

- Core journal analysis based on Bradford's Law identifies "Contributions to Indian Sociology" and "South Asia-Journal of South Asian Studies" as major contributors. Zone 1 journals contribute 83 articles, while Zones 2 and 3 have progressively fewer, illustrating the concentrated nature of academic publishing.

- Document type analysis reveals that articles (78.63%) dominate the literature, followed by book reviews (9.68%) and early access articles (5.65%), underscoring a strong emphasis on original research dissemination.

SUGGESTIONS

- To further enhance the growth and impact of academic publications, several strategies can be adopted. Firstly, promoting interdisciplinary research can attract a broader audience and foster innovation by combining insights from various fields. Institutions and funding bodies should support collaborative projects that span multiple disciplines.

- Secondly, increasing accessibility to research through open-access publications can significantly boost citation rates and dissemination of knowledge. Researchers and institutions should prioritize publishing in open-access journals and repositories.

- Additionally, mentorship programs for early-career researchers can help cultivate prolific authors, enhancing overall productivity and diversity in research contributions. Experienced researchers can guide new entrants in navigating the publication process and developing impactful research.

- Efforts should also be made to support underrepresented regions and groups in academic publishing, ensuring a more inclusive and comprehensive representation of global research perspectives.

- Finally, enhancing digital tools and platforms for research dissemination and networking can facilitate better collaboration and visibility of research outputs, contributing to sustained growth in academic publications.

CONCLUSION

The bibliometric mapping of scholarly literature on identity politics in India provides valuable insights into the academic discourse surrounding this complex and multifaceted subject. The analysis reveals a steady growth in research output over the years, reflecting the increasing significance of identity politics in the Indian context. Notably, the distribution of citations and author productivity follows established patterns, with a small number of highly cited works and prolific authors contributing disproportionately to the literature. The dominance of articles as the primary document type underscores the emphasis on original research dissemination in this field. However, the presence of other document types, such as book reviews and meeting abstracts, highlights the diverse nature of scholarly contributions.

Moving forward, it is imperative to continue exploring the nuances of identity politics in India through interdisciplinary research and collaborative initiatives. By fostering inclusivity, encouraging open dialogue, and addressing emerging themes, scholars can contribute to a deeper understanding of identity dynamics and their implications for Indian society and politics.

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