

## Research Landscape of "The Bhagavad Gita": A Bibliometric Visualization Analysis based on Scopus Database

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### Abstract

This study aims to analyze research trends and perspectives on The *Bhagavad Gita* based on bibliometric data retrieved from the Scopus database. The *Bhagavad Gita*, a 700-verse Hindu scripture embedded within the Indian epic *Mahabharata*, is widely regarded as a life strengthening text. It presents a philosophical and spiritual discourse between Prince Arjuna and the deity Krishna, addressing key concepts such as Dharma, Yoga, and various ethical and metaphysical themes. For this bibliometric analysis, data were collected using the search term "Bhagavad Gita" in article titles, covering the period from 1990 to November 2023. A total of 330 records were identified and analyzed using VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel. The analysis considered multiple parameters, including country-wise distribution, journal-wise publication trends, institutional contributions, subject classifications, keyword occurrences, citation patterns, document types, languages, and authorship trends. The findings indicate that 330 publications were produced over the 33-year period, accruing a total of 1,322 citations, with an average citation count of 4.0 per publication and an h-index of 16. The highest number of publications was recorded in 2023, with 30 articles (9% of the total output). The majority of research contributions fell within the subject area of Arts and Humanities (210 publications, 64%). The United States emerged as the leading contributor to this field, while the most prolific author was Muniapan B., with six publications (2%). This study provides valuable insights for librarians, researchers, and scholars of religion and philosophy, offering a comprehensive overview of the academic discourse surrounding *The Bhagavad Gita*. The findings serve as a foundation for future scholarly investigations, facilitating further exploration of its philosophical, ethical, and theological dimensions.

**Keywords:** Bhagavad Gita, spiritual, hindu scripture, dharma, yoga, bibliometric

### Introduction

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative research method used to assess and evaluate scholarly literature within academic and scientific domains. It involves the systematic examination of bibliographic data, including citations, publications, and other metadata associated with academic research. This methodology provides valuable insights into research productivity, impact, and trends across various disciplines. Key components of bibliometric analysis include citation

analysis, author and journal productivity, co-authorship and collaboration patterns, research topic trends, journal impact factors, institutional contributions, researcher evaluation, scientific mapping, and funding analysis.

One of the most extensively studied areas within Indian philosophy is *The Bhagavad Gita*. Commonly referred to as the *Gita*, it is a 700-verse Hindu scripture forming part of the Indian epic *Mahabharata*. The *Gita* is structured as a dialogue between Prince Arjuna and the deity Krishna, who serves as his charioteer. This conversation takes place on the battlefield, where Arjuna grapples with doubt and moral dilemmas regarding his duty as a warrior. The text addresses fundamental existential questions concerning life, duty, and righteousness (*dharma*), while expounding various paths to spiritual realization, including the paths of devotion (*bhakti*), knowledge (*jnana*), and selfless action (*karma yoga*). *The Bhagavad Gita* is widely regarded for its philosophical depth and practical guidance on leading a balanced and meaningful life. Key themes explored within the text include the concept of *dharma* (*righteous duty*), the nature of the self (*atman*), the concept of the individual soul (*jivatman*), and the ultimate goal of spiritual liberation (*moksha*). The teachings of the *Gita* have had a profound influence on Hindu philosophy and have also significantly impacted various spiritual and philosophical traditions worldwide. Today, *the Bhagavad Gita* continues to be studied as a guide for personal growth and ethical decision-making.

This study is significant as it provides valuable insights into research trends, scholarly contributions, and the academic impact of this ancient Hindu scripture. By analyzing publication patterns, author productivity, and citation metrics, this study aims to assess how *The Bhagavad Gita* has been explored across various academic disciplines. It serves as a model for bibliometric research on religious and philosophical texts and addresses a gap in the literature by being the first bibliometric study of *The Bhagavad Gita* based on the Scopus database. Academically, the findings of this study will benefit researchers, scholars, and librarians by identifying top-contributing institutions and prolific authors, thereby fostering potential collaborations. Furthermore, this study highlights the interdisciplinary influence of *The Bhagavad Gita* in fields such as philosophy, theology, ethics, psychology, and management, demonstrating its broad academic relevance. By identifying key research gaps and emerging areas, this study provides a roadmap for future scholarly inquiry, encouraging further exploration of the scripture in diverse academic contexts. The primary objective of this study is

to analyze research trends on The Bhagavad Gita indexed in the Scopus multidisciplinary citation database.

### **Objective of the Study**

This study focuses on 330 publications, which were published in Scopus database period from 1990 to 2023. Followings are main objectives of the study.

1. To examine the research trend on the Bhagavad Gita.
2. To identify the type of publications, most prolific author, most productive country, most productive language, top ten institutions in the publications and to know most favorite area of research.
3. To determine the authorship patterns in the papers published.
4. To determine the top ten key words of publications and funding agencies.

### **The Significance of the Study**

1. This research would be useful for the research scholars, librarians and religious enthusiastic to know about current research trends on Bhagavad Gita.
2. The study may contribute as a model for other bibliometric studies in future.

### **Literature Review**

Bibliometric studies have been conducted across various disciplines using different academic databases such as Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus. These studies provide valuable insights into research trends, publication patterns, and the scholarly impact of various research topics. However, no bibliometric study has specifically analyzed publications on *The Bhagavad Gita* using the Scopus database. While a previous bibliometric study on The Bhagavad Gita exists, it is based on the Web of Science database and covers a different time period. This gap in research necessitated the present study, which aims to analyze the bibliometric trends of *The Bhagavad Gita* using Scopus. To contextualize this study, an overview of relevant bibliometric analyses conducted across different disciplines is presented below.

### **Bibliometric Studies Using the Scopus Database**

Ahuja and Madan (2022) conducted a bibliometric analysis of Vedic studies using the Scopus database, covering the period from 1970 to 2020. Their study examined trends in Vedic literature, analyzing annual publication patterns, the most research-active countries, and the dominant subject areas. Using VOSviewer software, they performed keyword co-occurrence analysis, author co-citation, reference co-citation, and journal co-citation analysis. The findings revealed a significant increase in publications on Vedic studies over the past decade, with

India contributing the highest number of publications, followed by the United States.

Rajni et al. (2022) performed a bibliometric analysis of workplace spirituality (WPS) research published between 2001 and 2021. Their study retrieved 438 articles from the Scopus database, focusing on citation analysis, cluster analysis, and co-citation analysis to outline the intellectual structure of the field. They identified five major research clusters and key themes using bibliometric techniques, revealing gaps in the literature and future research directions.

Sheeraz et al. (2021) analyzed bibliometric trends in organizational justice research using the Scopus database. Their study examined publication trends from 1941 to 2018, assessing key contributors, countries, academic disciplines, research institutions, and frequently used keywords. The analysis covered 5,650 research articles and identified procedural justice as the most frequently studied aspect of organizational justice. The study also highlighted major related themes, such as organizational trust, job satisfaction, organizational commitment, ethical considerations, and employee turnover.

#### **Bibliometric Studies Using the Web of Science Database**

Gaffar et al. (2020) conducted a bibliometric study on tourism literature using the Web of Science database. Their analysis examined the distribution of publications by year, document type, language, institution, country, author, journal, and keyword frequency. They also assessed citation metrics to identify highly cited research within the field.

Kumar et al. (2023) investigated research trends on *The Bhagavad Gita* using the Web of Science database, analyzing publications from 2011 to 2022. Using the keyword "Bhagavad Gita" in the title search, they identified 64 publications, accounting for 61.54% of the total 104 publications on the topic over the past 36 years. Their findings revealed that anthropology was the dominant subject area, with the United States contributing the highest number of publications (53) and total citations (165).

Moustakas (2022) conducted a bibliometric analysis on social cohesion research using the Web of Science database. His study aimed to examine the evolution of literature on social cohesion and identify key thematic areas within the field. By analyzing 5,027 articles, he observed a substantial increase in research activity and highlighted the multidisciplinary nature of social cohesion research. However, the study also emphasized the need for greater interdisciplinary collaboration.

Silveira et al. (2018) analyzed bibliometric trends in Industry 4.0 research using the Web of Science database. Their study examined 1,382 publications from 2013



to 2017, identifying major contributing countries, with Germany leading in research output. Their keyword analysis revealed prominent research themes, including big data, smart manufacturing, and technological opportunities associated with Industry 4.0.

### Methodology

For this study, a total of 330 records were retrieved from the Scopus database using the search term *Bhagavad Gita* in the article title for the period 2000–2023. Scopus is a comprehensive abstract and citation database covering a wide range of disciplines, including science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. It is designed to assist researchers, academics, and institutions in systematically tracking, analyzing, and measuring the impact of scholarly research. The retrieved data were analyzed using VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel in accordance with the study's objectives. The analysis includes authorship patterns, the most productive countries, institutional productivity, keyword analysis, subject-wise distribution, country-wise distribution, and the most frequently explored research areas. The findings are presented in both tabular and graphical formats for enhanced clarity and comprehension. The bibliometric analysis of the 330 retrieved records revealed a total of 1,322 global citations, with an average of 4.0 citations per article. Additionally, the overall *h*-index for these publications was found to be 16, indicating their academic influence and research impact within the scholarly domain.

### Data analysis and Interpretation

Country	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-Index
United States	108	33%	499	12
India	107	32%	249	08
United Kingdom	27	8%	178	08
Norway	21	6%	268	05
Australia	13	4%	67	04
Canada	09	3%	33	03
Malaysia	09	3%	50	03
Israel	07	2%	17	02

total citation 499 and H-Index is 12, followed by India is second place in the publications is 107 (32%) records with 249 total citations and 08 H-Index, U.K published 27 (8%) documents with 178 total citations and h-index 08, 21 (6%) documents were published by Norway with 268 citations and h-index 05, Australia were published 13 (4%) records with 67 citations and 04 h-index. Furthermore, Canada, Malaysia, Israel, South Africa and Russian Federation were published respectively.

**Figure-01** Co-authorship Pattern with other Countries



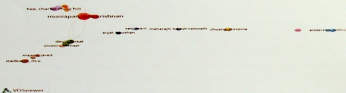
The figure -1 explains the co-authorship links with other countries, totally 05 clusters 19 links. The India has 02 clusters & 08 links, USA has one cluster & 06 links and UK has 01 cluster & 05 links with other countries.

**Table-02:** Author wise Distribution of Publications

Authors	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-Index
Muniapan, B.	06	2%	44	02
Theodor, I.	06	2%	17	02
Dhiman, S	05	2%	05	01
Bhawuk, D.P.S.	03	1%	53	03
Gupta, R.M.	03	1%	04	02
Joshi, A.	03	1%	04	01
Kalra, B.	03	1%	04	01
Kalra, S.	03	1%	04	01
Aggarwal, S.	02	1%	04	01
Agrawal, N.	02	1%	04	01

Table-02 shows that highest published publications on Bhagavad Gita in the Scopus database by authors. Totally,  $n = 437$  authors contribute to 330 publications. Muniapan, B. and Theodor, I., who Published 06 (2%) publications with total 44 and 17 citations and h-index 02, respectively, they occurrence in the top place in the publication list, followed by *Dhiman, S* recorded 05 (2%) publications with 05 citations and 01 h-index, *Bhawuk, D.P.S., Gupta, R.M., Joshi, A., Kalra, B. and Kalra, S.* published same number of publications 03 (1%) their citations with 53,04,04,04 and 04 total citations and 03, 02,01,01, and 01 h-index respectively. *Aggarwal, S. & Agrawal, N.* published 02 (1%) documents with total citations 04 and also 01 h-index respectively.

**Figure-02 Authors' Network Analysis**



The figure 02 illustrates the authors' network analysis, highlighting the researchers with the highest publication output.

**Figure-03 Networking and Collaboration among the Authors**

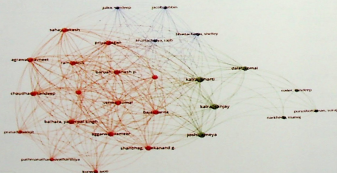


Figure-03 visualizes the networking and collaboration among the authors. Totally, 276 links, 03 clusters and 27 items are visualized in the map. Only three authors are collaborated with 26 links, others are less than 26 links.

**Table- 03** *Distribution of Publications by Institution wise*

Institutions	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-Index
University of Oxford	07	2%	26	02
Wawasan Open University	06	2%	44	02
Woodbury University	05	2%	05	01
University of Hawai'i at	04	1%	54	03
Mānoa University of Delhi	04	1%	13	02
University of Cambridge	04	1%	71	04

Table-03 explains the most contributed institutions in the publications on "Bhagavad Gita" in the Scopus database. Totally 159 institutions contribute to 330 publications. University of Oxford is highest contributed institution, which published 07 (2%) publications with total citation 26 and h-index is 02, followed by Wawasan Open University published 06 (2%) records with 44 citations, Woodbury University published only 05 (2%) publications with 05 citation, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa published 04 publications with 54 citations and 03 h-index. University of Delhi, University of Cambridge published 04 (1%) publications for each one with citations 13, 71 and, H-Index is 02 and 04 respectively.

**Table-04** *Year-wise Publication Analysis*

Years	Records	Percentage	Total citation
2023	30	9%	189
2022	23	7%	174
2021	26	8%	142
2020	26	8%	130
2019	21	6%	84

Table-04 explains the year wise publications of research, totally 30 (9%) publications were published in the year 2023 with 189 citations, followed by in 2022, 23 (7%) publications were recoded with 174 citations, 26 (8%) publications were received in 2021 and 2020 with 130 and 84 citations respectively. Totally 330 publications were published from 1990 to 2023 with 1325 total citations.

**Table -05: List of top Five most Cited Papers**

Papers	Author/s	Citation	Citation
Who invented Hinduism?.	<i>Lorenzen, D.N.</i>	15%	192
Comparison of the conceptualization of wisdom in ancient Indian literature with modern views: Focus on the Bhagavad Gita.	<i>Jeste, D. &amp; Vahia, I</i>	6%	76
The Neoliberal Yogi and the Politics of Yoga.	<i>Godrej, F.</i>	4%	54
Dietary Cultures and Antiquity of Fermented Foods and Beverages.	<i>Tamang, J. &amp; Samuel, D.</i>	4%	48
Globalization and indigenous cultures: Homogenization or differentiation?	<i>Bhanuk, D.</i>	3%	35

Table-5 depicts that top five most cited articles with the detail of authors and publication titles. Most of the citations 192 (15%) received by "Who invented Hinduism?" authored by Lorenzen, D.N., followed by "Comparison of the conceptualization of wisdom in ancient Indian literature with modern views: Focus on the Bhagavad Gita" was received 76 (6%) citations written by Jeste, D.V., & Vahia, I.V., "The Neoliberal Yogi and the Politics of Yoga", "Dietary Cultures and Antiquity of Fermented Foods and Beverages" and Globalization and indigenous cultures: Homogenization or differentiation? , which were received 54 (4%), 48 (4%) & 35 (3%) citations respectively.

**Table-06: Document-wise Distribution of Publications**

Document type	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-index
Article	171	52%	805	13
Book chapter	77	23%	176	06
Review	38	12%	270	10
Book	20	6%	68	04
Conference paper	10	3%	14	02
Letter	08	2%	00	00
Note	03	1%	00	00
Short survey	02	1%	12	01
Erratum	01	0%	00	00

Table 06 displays the documents wise distribution of the publications. It seems to be that the number of 171 (52%) categories of articles are highest place with total 805 citations, followed by book chapter 77 (23%) with 176 citations, review 38 (12%) with 270 citations, book (6%) with 68 citation, conference paper 10 (3%) with 14 citation.

**Table-07 Journal - wise Distribution of Publication**

Journals	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-Index
Purushartha	14	4%	14	02
Religions	10	3%	15	01
Modern Intellectual History	09	3%	131	08
Asian Philosophy	07	2%	16	03
Ethical Leadership Indian and European Spiritual Approaches	06	2%	04	01
Journal Of Dharma Studies	06	2%	04	01
Journal Of Human Values	06	2%	42	03
International Journal Of Hindu Studies	04	1%	11	01
Journal Of Indian Council Of Philosophical Research	04	1%	04	01
Business Week	03	1%	00	00







Figure- 06 explains the Co-occurrence of all key words network analysis map. *Bhagavad Gita* as the most central keyword, linked to themes of religion, ethics, leadership, yoga and psychology.

**Table-09** *Subject-wise Distribution of Publications (by Discipline)*

Subjects	Records	Percentage	Citation	H-Index
Arts and Humanities	210	64%	817	13
Social Sciences	107	32%	654	13
Business,Management&Accounting	69	21%	201	08
Economics, Econometrics and				
Finance	32	10%	43	03
Psychology	32	10%	146	07
Medicine	25	8%	129	04
Engineering	13	4%	95	06
Computer Science	08	2%	16	02
Environmental Science	08	2%	27	02
Nursing	07	2%	22	02

Table 09 explains the subjects wise distribution about "Bhagavad Gita" for 33 years. Arts and Humanities discipline alone has been contributed more number of publications, i.e. 210 (64%) with total citations 817, followed by Social Sciences 107 (32%) with 654 citations, Business, Management and Accounting 69 (21%) with 201 citations, Economics, Econometrics and Finance 32 (10%) with 43 citations, Psychology 32 (10%) with 146 citations and Medicine 25 (8%) publications with 129 total citations. Here, we should mention that some publications are included more than one subject categories.

**Table -10 Publications by Language wise**

Language	Records	Percentage	Total citation	H-Index
English	321	97%	1330	16
French	03	1%	01	01
Russian	03	1%	04	01
Chinese	01	0%	00	00
Croatian	01	0%	01	01
Italian	01	0%	00	00

Table-10 Shows that much number of publications 321(97%) published in the English language with total citations 1330 and h-index 16, followed by French and Russian published same number of publications 03 (1%) with 01 & 04 citations. Language of Chinese, Croatian and Italian published same number of publication 01.

### Conclusions

This bibliometric study analyzes the research landscape of *The Bhagavad Gita* using data retrieved from the Scopus database for the period 1990–2023. A total of 330 publications were examined using VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel to identify trends in authorship, country-wise contributions, institutional output, subject areas, keyword occurrences, citation impact, and document types. The findings indicate that the United States emerged as the leading contributor, accounting for 108 publications (33%), followed closely by India with 107 publications (32%). The research output spans multiple disciplines, with the majority (64%) classified under Arts and Humanities. The most prolific author was Muniapan B., with six publications, while the University of Oxford was the leading institution, contributing seven publications. The study recorded a total of 1,322 citations, with an average of 4.0 citations per publication and an h-index of 16. Notably, the year 2023 witnessed the highest number of publications, with 30 articles, reflecting a growing academic interest in the subject.

The interdisciplinary nature of research on *The Bhagavad Gita* is evident, encompassing diverse fields such as philosophy, theology, ethics, psychology, and management. Co-authorship analysis revealed collaborative networks among researchers, while keyword analysis identified dominant themes, including Dharma, Yoga, and spiritual philosophy. This study serves as a foundational bibliometric analysis of *The Bhagavad Gita* within the Scopus database, addressing a research gap and providing valuable insights for scholars, librarians, and researchers interested in the scripture's academic impact.

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