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Gandhian Philosophy and Literature: A Citation Study of *Gandhi Marg*

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Abstract

Gandhian Studies is at the brink of becoming as an established discipline. On the basis of a pilot study conducted, the journal "Gandhi Marg" was considered as a primary source in this field. Thus, a citation study of journal "Gandhi Marg" for the period of 1994 to 2013 has been conducted in order to understand the development and distinctiveness of the discipline i.e. Gandhian Study. For this purpose every issue of the journal "Gandhi Marg" has been examined for the period of 1994-2013 and all necessary information, related to references/citations appended were collected and tabulated in the Excel database. The study revealed many important indicators pertaining to Gandhian literature relating to the citation behavior. The results of the study revealed that out of 507 articles, 56 articles were found without citations or references. So, the remaining 451 articles have contributed to 9612 citations with average citations 21.31 per article. Almost all the bibliographic document types were referred by the authors. Like most of the social disciplines, the citations were scattered among books, which have been the contributing factors mainly in the development of the subject. The citing literature 'half-life' indicates the dominance of current citations/literature which is good for any discipline. Further, present work helps to compare with the established disciplines and also perceives the practical utility for library professionals and Gandhian Admirers/followers/scholars.

Keywords- Citation Analysis, Bibliometrics, M K Gandhi, Gandhiana, Gandhian literature

1 Introduction

Scholarly communication is remarkably essential for the understanding of the genesis and progress of disciplines. There are various statistical tools used to explore the databases in library science. Among these, bibliometric have been developed as a tool for measuring and monitoring scientific output (Pritchard (1969), Nicholas et al. (1978)). The statistical models of scholarly communication flow can be established by bibliometric techniques using reference made to other documents i.e. citation analysis. Counting citations is often called "citation analysis". Information about the article's impact on its discipline can be gained by counting the number of times that article has been cited. If an article has a high number of citations, then one can conclude that it has been the subject of discussion or criticism in its discipline. Thus, citation analysis is used to develop relationships between scholarly communications like documents, journals etc. Further it also can be used to identify the flow of topics within and among disciplines (Garfield (1955, 1978,

1979)). There have been numerous study conducted on citation analysis of various single and multiple journals in different fields (Sandison (1989), Clark (2009), Rana (2010), Singh (2013)).

2 Scope

Gandhian Literature for decades was matter of discussion for Gandhi’s impact on varied disciplines and nowadays, it has is emerged as a full- fledged new discipline. Looking into this emerging trend and increased publication activity on this subject, the present work is related to citation analysis of the one of the most popular and the oldest journal "Gandhi Marg".

3 Objectives

The prime objectives of this study are to find out the different characteristics of citations in the source journal under consideration, in terms of:

- a) The year wise distribution of citations, the rate of citations per article, and the use pattern of different type of documents cited.
- b) The core books and journals and the classic publications in the field.
- c) The citing ‘half-life’ of the literature in the field.
- d) The authorship pattern of citations, and highly ranked/core authors in the field.

4 Methodology

In the present study, the journal *Gandhi Marg* is considered for citation analysis. It was started in 1957 and, it has been publishing Quarterly by Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. Every issue of the journal has been examined for the period of 1994 to 2013 and all necessary information related to citations is arranged in the form of database specifically designed for citations analysis.

5 Results and Discussion

5.1 Citation Availability in the Journal of “Gandhi Marg”

In order to carry out citation analysis the citations were collected from the papers of the journal *Gandhi Marg*, for 20 years i.e. during 1994-2013. The database for analysis has been planned on the basis of all essential information associated with citations. The outcome of this came out to 507 articles. Of 507 articles, 56 articles were found without citations or references. So, the remaining 451 articles contributed to 9612 citations after removing duplicate citation (selecting one citation from similar citation(s) repeating in the article) (Table 1).

Table 1 Availability of Citations in the Journal “Gandhi Marg” during 1994-2013

No. of article with citations	No. of articles without citations	Total no. of articles	Total no. of citations
451	56	507	9612

5.2 Year wise Distribution of Citations

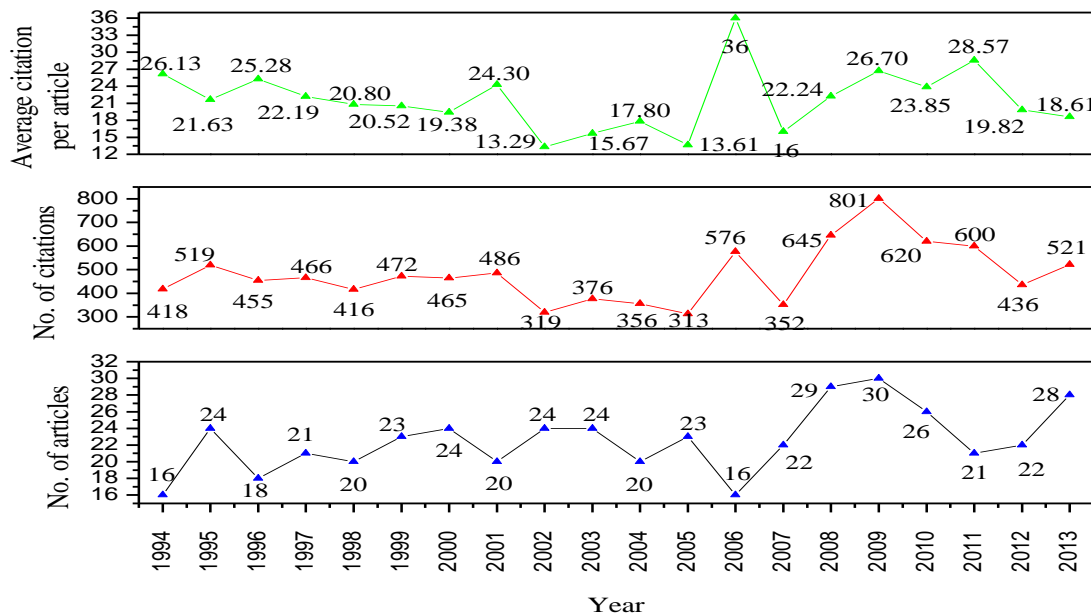
The source journal contained 507 articles, comprising of 9612 citations. The highest number of citations in an article was 114, whereas the lowest number of citations was zero (as 56 articles found without citations). The details of year wise distribution of citing articles with corresponding citations and rate of citation per article in a particular year is illustrated in Table 2 and Figure 1. The articles published in years 1994 and 2006 were observed to have the least number of articles

i.e. 16. Whereas in year 2009, number of articles published were maximum i.e. 30. In case of citation, the least were observed in year 2002 with 319 citations and maximum were 645 in year 2008. However, it is important to note that the highest value of average citations per article was 36 for the year 2006 and the lowest value was 13.29 for year 2002. Further, the overall average citations per article for the period 1994 to 2013 were 21.31.

Table 2 Year wise Distribution of Citations

Year	Total Number of Articles	Total Number of Citations	Average citation per article
1994	16	418	26.13
1995	24	519	21.63
1996	18	455	25.28
1997	21	466	22.19
1998	20	416	20.80
1999	23	472	20.52
2000	24	465	19.38
2001	20	486	24.30
2002	24	319	13.29
2003	24	376	15.67
2004	20	356	17.80
2005	23	313	13.61
2006	16	576	36.00
2007	22	352	16.00
2008	29	645	22.24
2009	30	801	26.70
2010	26	620	23.85
2011	21	600	28.57
2012	22	436	19.82
2013	28	521	18.61
	451	9612	21.31

Figure 1:- Year wise Distribution of Citations



5.3 Bibliographical Distribution of Citations

In order to extend the information in the field of any subject every document has its own importance. For communicating and documenting the knowledge for future discussion and reference, the various types of past information channels are being used like books, composite books, journals, reports, proceedings, letter etc. Table 3 gives the range of documents along with their citation analysis and shows that the mostly cited documents are chief sources i.e. books, journals and composite books. These three documents all together have 73.62 % of the total citations. It is interested to note here that 4525 citations out of total 9612 citations were books. It forms about 47.08 % of the total. This was followed by journals and composite books having 14.11 % and 12.43 % citations respectively. The sources originated by Gandhi like Harijan, Young India and Harijan Sevak were shown separately as these were referred frequently. The comparative position of various bibliographical forms used by the authors during the period is shown in Table 4. From this table, it is clear that there is no specific trend because most of the cited forms have same kind of distribution in all the years. Moreover, the year wise citing trend of top three bibliographical forms have been presented in Figure 2.

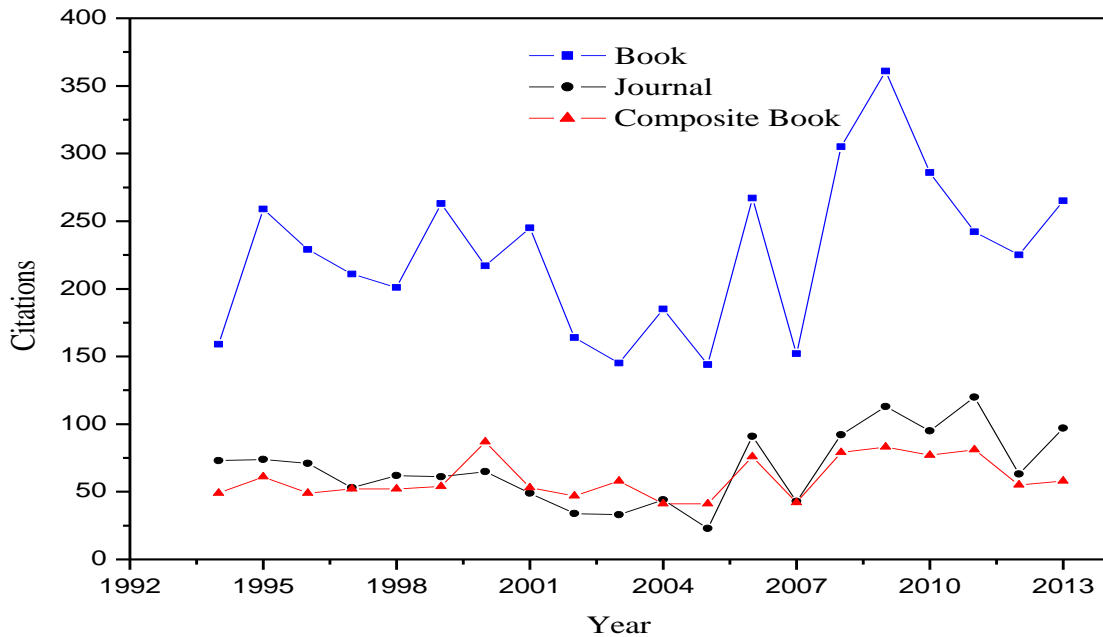
Table 3:- Bibliographical Distribution of Citations

Rank	Document Type	Citation	Cumulative citation	%	Cumulative %
1	Book	4525	4525	47.08	47.08
2	Journal	1356	5881	14.11	61.18
3	Composite Book	1195	7076	12.43	73.62
4	Publications started by Gandhi	870	7946	9.05	82.67
5	CWMG (Collected works of Mahatma Gandhi)	468	8414	4.87	87.54
6	Newspaper	372	8786	3.87	91.41
7	Report	279	9065	2.90	94.31
8	Newsletter	134	9199	1.39	95.70
9	Website	112	9311	1.17	96.87
10	Conference Proceeding	73	9384	0.76	97.63
11	Speech	38	9422	0.40	98.02
12	Lecture	30	9452	0.31	98.34
13	Interview	28	9480	0.29	98.63
14	Thesis/Dissertation	27	9507	0.28	98.91
15	Magazine	12	9519	0.12	99.03
16	Manuscript	12	9531	0.12	99.16
17	News channel	10	9541	0.10	99.26
	Other	71	9612	0.74	100.00

Table 4:- Year-wise comparative data of Bibliographical Distribution of Citations

Document Type	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Book	159	259	229	211	201	263	217	245	164	145	185	144	267	152	305	361	286	245	225	265	4525
Journal	73	74	71	53	62	61	65	49	34	33	44	23	91	43	92	113	95	120	63	97	1356
Composite Book	49	61	49	52	52	54	87	53	47	58	41	41	76	42	79	83	77	81	55	58	1195
Publications started by Gandhi	75	56	44	56	37	31	29	75	33	91	35	32	44	50	71	45	23	15	17	11	870
CWMG	28	31	15	26	24	18	21	23	5	26	25	12	28	9	11	56	41	7	40	22	468
Newspaper	19	17	16	12	5	24	14	18	23	6	12	25	15	7	16	47	18	50	11	17	372
Report	2	4	12	16	15	8	7	10	7	3	4	11	15	16	27	16	46	32	11	17	279
Newsletter	6	6	4	17	8	7	7	7	1	6	2	12	10	11	11	16	2	1			134
Website			1				6		3	4	3	1	8	9	12	28	5	11	2	19	112
Proceeding	4	3	9	3	1		4	2	1	1	3	3	7	6	6	11	6	3			73
Speech		3	2	4	2		1				1	4	3	1	7	1	1	3		5	38
Dissertation	1	3		1	3		1			1			1	3		1	7	1	3	2	28
Interview		1					2			1		1	3		1	14		1	3	1	28
Lecture		1			1		1	1		1		1	3		1	2	4				16
Presentation	1		2				1	1									1	6		2	14
Magazine																		11		1	12
Manuscript				4	2	1	1	1				1	1		1						12
News channel				1								1	1			4	3				10
Others	1	1	0	10	3	5	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	3	5	3	5	16	6	4	70

Figure 2:- Citing Trends of Book, Journal, and Composite Book Citations



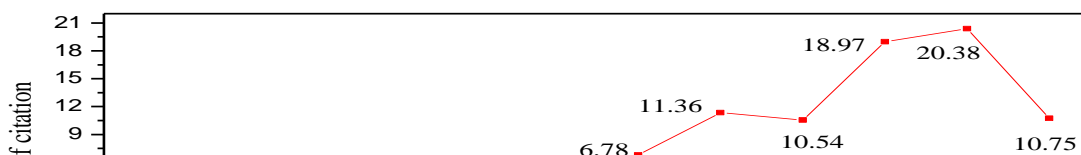
5.4 Chronological Distribution of Citations and Aging of Literature

The characteristic of the cited literature that are studied often of any discipline is called an age. This study helps to reveal how rapidly the literature on the any subject becomes obsolete. It is also useful for the prediction of how far a search must go back for obtaining a representative sample of the published area. In order to identify the period from which the literature was frequently used, the comparison of the chronological distribution of the cited document has been presented. In the present case, only 9311 citations are taken into account (since 301 citations were found without year) for analysis. The chronological distribution of citations from year 1687 to 2013 is presented in Table 5 and Figure 3. This period has been distributed into 12 groups, each of one decade (except the first group having the span of 216 years i.e. from 1687 to 1903). It is clear that about 20.38 % of the cited literature i.e. 1959 citations, irrespective of the documents has published during the decade 1994-2003 followed by those published during 1984-1993, having 1823 citations or 18.97 %. Further, for period 1964-1973, 2004-2013 and for 1974-1983, the percentage of citations were very close i.e. 11.36 %, 10.75 % and 10.54 % respectively. The decade from 1904-1913 has the lowest number of citations i.e. 78 or 0.81 %. It is also observed that the number of citations dominates for the four consecutive decade i.e. from 1964-2013.

Table 5:- Chronological Distribution of Citation

Year	Document Citation	Percentage of Citations
1687 - 1903	42	0.44
1904 - 1913	78	0.81
1914 - 1923	192	2.00
1924 - 1933	462	4.81
1934 - 1943	504	5.24
1944 - 1953	461	4.80
1954 - 1963	652	6.78
1964 - 1973	1092	11.36
1974 - 1983	1013	10.54
1984 - 1993	1823	18.97
1994 - 2003	1959	20.38
2004 - 2013	1033	10.75
Year not found	301	3.13
	9612	100.00

Figure 3:- Chronological Distribution of Citation



5.5 Chronological Distribution of Books Citations

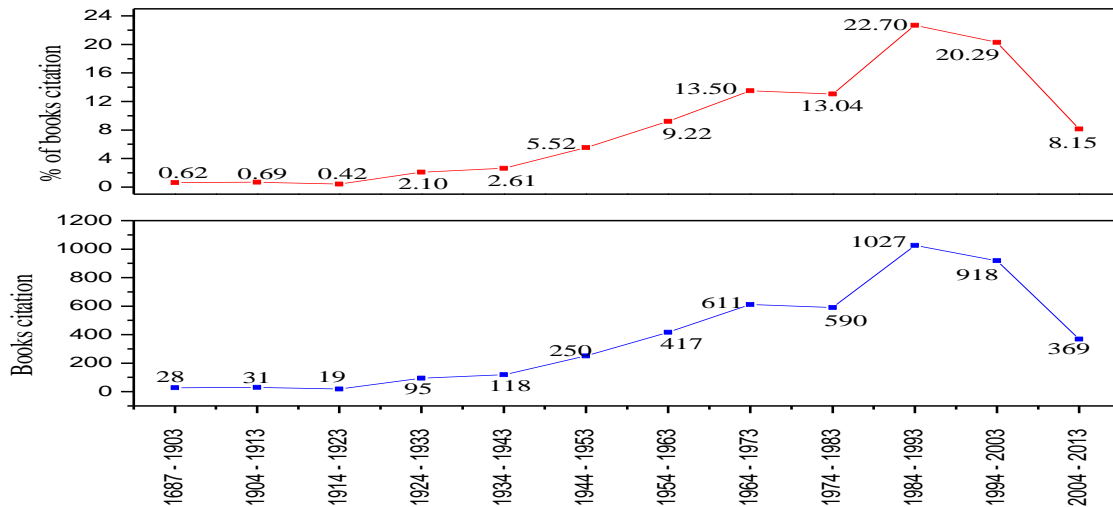
The chronological distribution of all the 4525 (remaining 52 citations were cited without year) books citations is shown in Table 6 and Figure 4. The book citations cover the time period from 1687 to 2013. It is observed that the decades 1984-1993 and 1994-2003 have the highest (1027, contributing 22.70 % and 918 contributing 20.29 %) and the lowest (19, contributing 0.42 %) number of citations respectively. It is also observed that the recent four decades i.e. 1964-1973; 1974-1983; 1984-1993 and 1994-2003 have contributed more than 50 % citations i.e. about 69.52 % of the total citations.

Table 6:- Chronological Distribution of Books Citations

Year	Document Citation	Percentage of Citations
1687 - 1903	28	0.62
1904 - 1913	31	0.69
1914 - 1923	19	0.42
1924 - 1933	95	2.10
1934 - 1943	118	2.61
1944 - 1953	250	5.52
1954 - 1963	417	9.22
1964 - 1973	611	13.50
1974 - 1983	590	13.04
1984 - 1993	1027	22.70
1994 - 2003	918	20.29
2004 - 2013	369	8.15
Year not found	52	1.15

	4525	100.00
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Figure 4:- Chronological Distribution of Books Citations



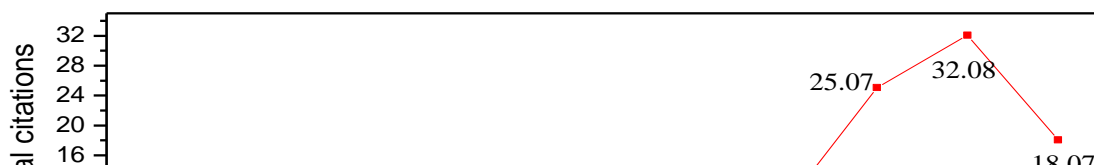
5.6 Chronological Distribution of Journal Citations

In case of journals, 1356 citations are found with year and 32 citations found without year. The sequential distribution of journals citations from the time period 1904 to 2013 is illustrated in Table 7 and Figure 5. Like the chronological distribution of book, it is observed that the recent three decades i.e. 1984-1993; 1994-2003 and 2004-2013 have contributed 1020 citations that contributes more than 75.22 % of the total citations.

Table 7:- Chronological Distribution of Journal Citations

Year	Document Citation	Percentage of Citations
1904 - 1913	2	0.15
1914 - 1923	12	0.88
1924 - 1933	19	1.40
1934 - 1943	5	0.37
1944 - 1953	9	0.66
1954 - 1963	56	4.13
1964 - 1973	74	5.46
1974 - 1983	127	9.37
1984 - 1993	340	25.07
1994 - 2003	435	32.08
2004 - 2013	245	18.07
Year not found	32	2.36
	1356	100.00

Figure 5:- Chronological Distribution of Journals Citations



5.7 Half-Life of Gandhian Literature

The overall half-life of Gandhian literature was 30 years, whereas 20 years in Journals and 29 years in books. The overall half-life of literature indicates that the libraries on social science can consider in their acquisition policy to acquire 30 years back literature as being the most active life of literature. It means that the researchers should consult the journals and books at least of the last 20 years for journals literature and 29 years for books from the current year while pursuing their research on social science and allied subjects as being most active literature, covering 50 % of the current literature.

5.8 Authorship Pattern

The uniqueness of any subject literature not only depends on the basic publishing patterns but also on author's contribution. Therefore, authorship analysis is important for the citation analysis of any field. Thus, in this work, the authors were analysed to determine frequencies of single, multiple and the noteworthy or core authors available in the subject. A clear picture of an analysis of year wise distribution of authorship pattern is presented in Table 8. From 9612 citations, 7586 citations had author's names, while 2026 citations were found either without authors or having corporate authorship. It is identified from the table that single authorship has prominently been observed, with 6860 citations (90.43 %) in the field. Two author's contributions ranked on second position

with 611 citations contributing 8.05 %, whereas three and more than three authors contributed only 1.52 %. In the year 2009, single author and two authors citations were highest i.e. 532 (7.01 %) and 61 (0.80 %) citations respectively, whereas three or more than three authors citation were highest in the year 2008.

Table 8:- Year-wise Distribution of Authorship Pattern

Year	Single		Two		More than three		Total		Multiple-authorship	
	No of Authors	%	No of Authors	%	No of Authors	%	No of Authors	%	No of Authors	%
1994	298	3.93	30	0.40	8	0.11	336	4.43	38	0.50
1995	381	5.02	30	0.40	1	0.01	412	5.43	31	0.41
1996	325	4.28	28	0.37	3	0.04	356	4.69	31	0.41
1997	312	4.11	21	0.28	0	0.00	333	4.39	21	0.28
1998	304	4.01	27	0.36	1	0.01	332	4.38	28	0.37
1999	349	4.60	33	0.44	7	0.09	389	5.13	40	0.53
2000	346	4.56	31	0.41	4	0.05	381	5.02	35	0.46
2001	320	4.22	26	0.34	3	0.04	349	4.60	29	0.38
2002	237	3.12	15	0.20	4	0.05	256	3.37	19	0.25
2003	227	2.99	14	0.18	3	0.04	244	3.22	17	0.22
2004	272	3.59	12	0.16	4	0.05	288	3.80	16	0.21
2005	194	2.56	14	0.18	2	0.03	210	2.77	16	0.21
2006	413	5.44	46	0.61	6	0.08	465	6.13	52	0.69
2007	226	2.98	23	0.30	3	0.04	252	3.32	26	0.34
2008	476	6.27	44	0.58	6	0.08	526	6.93	50	0.66
2009	532	7.01	61	0.80	10	0.13	603	7.95	71	0.94
2010	450	5.93	52	0.69	11	0.15	513	6.76	63	0.83
2011	464	6.12	34	0.45	13	0.17	511	6.74	47	0.62
2012	351	4.63	26	0.34	10	0.13	387	5.10	36	0.47
2013	383	5.05	44	0.58	16	0.21	443	5.84	60	0.79
	6860	90.43	611	8.05	115	1.52	7586	100.00	726	9.57

5.9 Core and significant authors in Gandhian Literature

Core authors or researchers play extremely important role in the development of any discipline. Core authors are considered as the foundation of the particular discipline, since they play a significant role in the development of that subject. Thus, it is indispensable to know the core authors and their works for better understanding of any research. For this purpose, the citation analysis is considered as one of the suitable method to identify significant and core authors.

The first five positions were occupied by M K Gandhi, Gene Sharp, RaghavanIyer, Bhikhu Parekh and D.G. Tendulkar. As expected, the citations from M K Gandhi's contributions were maximum i.e. 614 of the total citations. The second position was received by Gene Sharp with 76 citations.

It is clear that there is a tremendous gap of citations, an obviously every author prefer to read the paper written by M K Gandhi. One more important parameter came into the picture is that Jawaharlal Nehru holds the sixth position with 39 citations.

5.10 Core and Significant Journals in Gandhian Literature

The journals which are highly cited by the authors are known as core journal. These journals are very useful for researchers for their scientific communication. The study of quality, usefulness and suitability of journals is important for a librarian. The study related to core journal ranking is important in selection of journals and for assessing the significant journals in a particular subject field. The articles published in highly cited journals are always highly related and relevant articles to a particular subject. It was observed that there were 620 journals having 1356 citations among them the *Gandhi Marg* has highest citations i.e. 177 citations of the total citation. This was followed by *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Journal of Peace research*, *Mainstream* and *Alternatives*, having 87, 38, 18 and 16 citations respectively.

5.11 Core and Significant Books and Composite Books in Gandhian Literature

Like journals, books are also frequently referred by the researchers. The repeatedly referred books are close to the subject. These highly cited books are also known as the citation classics. In the present field, it was found that there are 3261 books with 4525 citations. Among these, the most dominated book was *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* with 468 citations. The second position was occupied by *The Story of My Experiment with Truth: An Autobiography* with 71 citations. This was followed by *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule*, *Hind Swaraj*, *The Conquest of violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict* and, having 44, 41 and 31 citations respectively. These titles can be considered as the core titles of the cited books.

6 Conclusion

Citation analysis of the journal "*Gandhi Marg*" for the period under study reveals following findings:

- 1) The average number of citations about 21.31 per article shows that reasonably good numbers of past studies have been cited by the scholars while publishing the articles in the journal.
- 2) Books, journals and composite books were mostly cited by the scholars, which were accounting for 47.08 per cent, 14.11 per cent and 12.43 per cent of the total citations respectively. On the other hand, the publications started by Gandhi himself (*Harijan*, *Young India* and *Harijan Sevak*) have been cited 9.05 per cent of the total citations. Like other social science subjects, books, being the primary form were cited mostly. The study also shows that there has been proliferation of Gandhian Thoughts, however, the publications started and written by the Gandhi are still having the importance for the scholars.
- 3) The cited half-life of the literature published in the journals and books is 20 years and 29 years respectively. However, the overall half-life of Gandhian literature is 30 years. It is a good indicator for Gandhian Philosophy in a way that the Gandhi ji (died in 1948) had written most his contributions before 65 years ago, which is a double of the half-life of overall citing literature and

three times of journals' citing half-life. It shows that the Gandhian thoughts and philosophy have been proliferating very well among the followers and scholars as they are being cited mostly, which is very good for the growth of the discipline.

4) Only 611 citations (8.05 %) have been authored by more than one author i.e. multiple authors, whereas 6860 citations (90.43 %) were authored by single author. It is evident that most of the studies have been cited which were contributed by individuals. The authors who got high degree of acknowledgement/citations for their thoughts were: *M K Gandhi* (7.24%), *Gene Sharp* (0.90%), *RaghavanIyer* (0.72%), *Bhikhu Parekh* (0.61%) and *D G Tendulkar* (0.58%). Only 7.24% citations of the literature written by Gandhi indicates that recently the Gandhian philosophy is not confined to only the writings by Gandhi, but due to proliferation of the subject many new scholars (4582 number of scholars) have emerged as per this study and they have been carried out the Gandhian philosophy further through their quality contributions/writings on Gandhian Philosophy.

5) M K Gandhi has received the maximum number of citations i.e. is 614. And there is a huge gap between the first and second position. As on second position the author Gene Sharp came with 76 citations

6) The journals' citations were scattered among 620 journals. The *Gandhi Marg* was ranked first with the highest citations i.e. 177, accounting for 13.05 per cent of the total citation received by the journals. The second position was occupied by *Economical and Political Weekly* with 87 citations accounting with 6.42 per cent. The mostly cited books were *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* and *The Story of My Experiment with Truth: an Autobiography* with 468 and 84 citations respectively, both written by Gandhi ji. These sources can be considered the classic in the field of Gandhian Studies.

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