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A Bibliometric Study of Global Feminism Research based on Scopus Database

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Abstract

The present study analyzed 11681 global publications on feminism published from 2000 to 2017. The Scopus citation database was used to extract the required data. After analysis of the data it is found that the highest contribution in feminism research takes the form of journal articles. It is observed that the publications are steadily growing. The top 15 countries accounted for as much as 83 % global publications share. The United States topped the list with highest share (37.45%) of publications. The highest Relative Citation Impact (RCI) is contributed by London School of Economics and Political Science. The highly preferred journals predominantly belong to United States and United Kingdom. On the basis of study it is noticed that, the European countries, authors, journals, and universities have dominated the feminism research realm during the reported period. The study reported care, feminist theory, masculinity, race, black feminism, freedom, science, nationalism, third wave feminism etc. as the research hotspot in the feminism field.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Feminism, Scopus, VOSviewer Software, Relative Citation Impact

1. Introduction

According to International Women's Development Agency (2019), "feminism is about respecting diverse women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, and striving to empower all women to realize their full rights." It comprises a number of social, cultural and political movements, theories and moral philosophies concerned with gender inequalities and equal rights for women. The contemporary feminists consider three "waves" in the history of feminism. The first-wave feminism refers to feminism movement during nineteenth and early twentieth century, which mainly dealt with the Suffrage. The second-wave (1960s-1980s) is

related to inequality of laws as well as cultural inequalities. The third-wave feminism (1990s) emerged in response to the perceived failures of the second-wave ("Feminism", 2019). The Encyclopedia Britannica in its article on feminism mentioned that, fourth wave of feminism had began in 2012,with a focus on sexual harassment, body shaming, and rape culture etc. issues. Many high profile incidents are associated with it.

According to United Nations Economic and Social Council (2019), "Globally, 750 million women and girls were married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). One in five women and girls, including 19 per cent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Yet, 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence." Keeping track of such type of worst situations, the United Nation (UN) decided to end all forms discrimination against all women and girls. The inclusion of sustainable Development Goal 5 titled as 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' is the reflection of sincere efforts and action taken by the United Nation (UN).

The study of feminism is multi-disciplinary in nature. Researchers from various fields such as political science, sociology, history, philosophy, psychology, literature, media studies, law, and communication sciences etc. have contributed in this subject domain. The present study aims to identify and analyze the global trends in feminism related research by applying bibliometric tools.

2. Review of Literature

Bhardwaj and Jain (2015) evaluated the research trends in mobile learning for the period of 20 years (1991-2010) and found Taiwan as the most productive country.

Ali, Malik and Raza (2018) analyzed global research output on knowledge sharing for 27 years (1990-2016) using Web of Science (WoS) database. The results reveal the upward trend in the annual production of the research publications during the reported period.

Jalal (2019) used VOSviewer software to generate co-authorship network and keyword co-occurrences analysis.

Ospina-Mateus, Quintana Jimenezz, Lopez-Valdes and Salas-Navarro (2019) analyzed 1813 research articles on motorcycle accident research published from 2000 to 2017. The network visualization map generated through VOSviewer software revealed that the vehicle, model, system, road, speed, safety, and behavior as the frequently occurred key terms.

Alagu and Thanuskodi (2019) examined global contribution in digital literacy research for the period of 1992-2011.The study reported that the doubling time (DT) of research publications was increased from 0.43 in 1993 to 2.45 in the year 2011.

The study carried out by Waqas et al. (2019) found that the Western countries accounted highest publication share on online hate research during the reported period. The USA found to be most prolific country in this subject domain.

A study by Teixeira, da Silva, Fabre, and Batista (2019) elucidated the status of marine shrimp fisheries research reflected in Web of Science (WoS) database. The VOSviewer software was used to generate term co-occurrence and countries co-authorship maps. The model used in the present study investigated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the most prominent factor in number of the articles.

Alvarez-Garcia, Maldonado-Erazo, Rio-Rama, and Castellano-Alvarez (2019) carried out a bibliometric study on the use of cultural heritage by tourism as an alternative for regional development. The required data was harvested from Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus database. The results of a study revealed China as the most productive country in the scientific production.

The objectives of the present study stemmed from the literature review.

3. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the performance of global feminism research reported during 2000-2017 and indexed in the Scopus database. In particular, the study aims to find:

- Document -wise distribution of publications
- Growth of the publications and citations on feminism

- Highly productive countries

- Most prolific institutes

- Most preferred journals

- Most productive authors

- Highly cited publications on feminism

- Frequently occurred significant keywords in the titles of publications
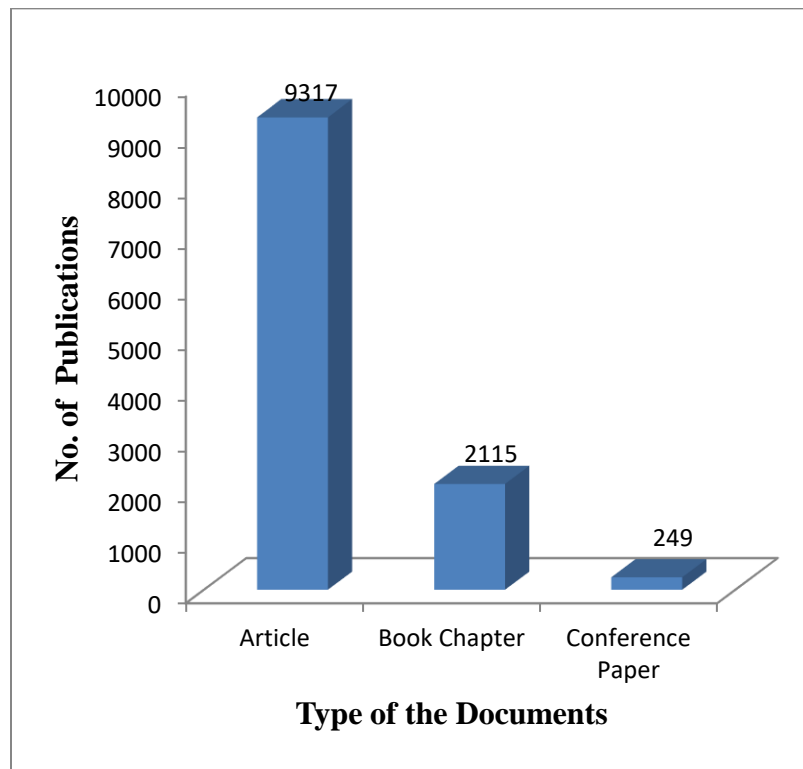
4. Methodology

A bibliometric method was used for the present study. The study period was set from 2000 to 2017. The study is based on the global feminism research publications indexed by Scopus database. The research data was retrieved from the Scopus citation database (http://www.scopus.com/search/) using search string TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Feminism") AND PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2018 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE,"ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE,"ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE,"cp")) on 7 November 2019. The search strategy yielded 11681 records, which was used for further analysis. The records selected for the study include journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers. The VOSviewer software (https://www.vosviewer.com/) was used for keyword analysis. Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis. The dataset obtained was checked and curated manually.

5. Results and Discussion

5.1 Forms of Publications

Fig. 1: Document - wise Distribution of Publications

The highest contribution in feminism research takes the form of journal articles. The Journal articles accounted for 79.76% share among the total output, followed by book chapters (18.11%) and conference papers (2.13%).The present study has excluded the reviews, editorial, letter, erratum, conference reviews and note (**Figure 1**).

5.2 Growth of the Publications

Table 1: Growth of the Publications and Citations on Feminism

S.N.	Year	World Research Output						
		TP	CG	% of TP	AGR in %	TC	% of TC	ACPP
1.	2000	369	369	3.16	0	8118	6.96	22
2.	2001	395	764	3.39	7.05	7103	6.09	17.98
3.	2002	275	1039	2.35	-30.38	5583	4.79	20.30
4.	2003	311	1350	2.66	13.09	5040	4.32	16.21
5.	2004	314	1664	2.69	0.96	6675	5.72	21.26
6.	2005	376	2040	3.22	19.75	5636	4.83	14.99
7.	2006	474	2514	4.05	26.06	7502	6.43	15.83
8.	2007	593	3107	5.08	25.11	9402	8.07	15.85
9.	2008	666	3773	5.70	12.31	9569	8.21	14.37
10.	2009	659	4432	5.64	-1.05	9093	7.80	13.80
11.	2010	740	5172	6.33	12.29	7237	6.21	9.78
12.	2011	677	5849	5.80	-8.51	7090	6.09	10.47
13.	2012	788	6637	6.75	16.40	5935	5.09	7.53
14.	2013	907	7544	7.76	15.10	6199	5.31	6.83
15.	2014	881	8425	7.54	-2.87	4832	4.14	5.48
16.	2015	958	9383	8.20	8.74	5264	4.51	5.49
17.	2016	1107	10490	9.48	15.55	3823	3.28	3.47
18.	2017	1191	11681	10.20	7.59	2502	2.15	2.10
	Total	**11681**	--	**100**	**7.62**	**116603**	**100**	**12.43**
TP - Total Publications; TC - Total Citations; ACCP - Average Citations Per Paper; CG - Cumulative Growth; AGR - Annual Growth Rate								

As reflected in the Scopus citation database, the global output in the field of feminism research cumulated to a total of 11681 publications with an average output of 648.94 papers

per year during 2000-2017. The highest publications (1191) on feminism were appeared in the year 2017, while the lowest publications (275) were published in 2002. It is clearly noticed from the table that there is a fluctuation trend of growth in the study period. The reason behind is that there is no constant growth of publications in every year. The highest growth rate of global feminism research literature was observed during years 2006, 2007 and 2005 with Annual Growth Rate (AGR) of 26.06%, 25.11% and 19.75% respectively. The AGR has declined in the year 2002, 2009, 2011, and 2014. AGR in eighteen years is 7.62 %.

The total citations of the research papers during 2000-2017 are 116603. The highest Citations (9569) to the publications on feminism are received in the year 2008 and lowest citations (2502) are received in the year 2017. The highest Average Citations Per Paper (22) is recorded in the year 2000.The lowest Average Citations Per Paper (2.10) is received in the year 2017.The Average Citations Per Paper (ACCP) received by the global publications is 12.43 during 2000-2017 **(Table 1)**.

5.3 Highly Productive Countries

Table 2: Profile of Top 15 Most Productive Countries in Feminism Research

Rank	Country	Total Publications (%)
1.	United States	4375 (37.45%)
2.	United Kingdom	2015 (17.25%)
3.	Canada	978 (8.37%)
4.	Australia	745 (6.38%)
5.	Spain	306 (2.62%)
6.	Brazil	170 (1.46%)
7.	Sweden	169 (1.45%)
8.	South Africa	157 (1.34%)
9.	New Zealand	150 (1.28%)
10.	Netherlands	125 (1.07%)
11.	India	120 (1.03%)

12.	France	109 (0.93%)
13.	Israel	96 (0.82%)
14.	Germany	95 (0.81%)
15.	Norway	86 (0.74%)
Share of 15 Countries =		**9696 (83%)**
Total Publications of World =11681		
(N ≥ 80) N = No. of the Publications		

The world research output in feminism subject field originated from 106 countries during 2000 – 2017. The top 15 countries accounted for as much as 83 % global publications share. The United States topped the list with highest share (37.45%) of publications.

The other productive countries were United Kingdom with 2015 Publications (17.25%) followed by Canada with 978 publications (8.37%), and Australia with 745 Publications (6.38%). Only two Asian countries i.e. India and Israel are included in the list of top 15 most productive countries in feminism research. India ranks 11th among the top 15 most productive countries in feminism publications with its global contribution share of 1.03 % during 2000-2017.

It is observed that four countries i.e. United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia contributes 69.45 % publications share among the total output **(Table 2)**.

5.4 Most Prolific Institutes

Table 3: Most Prolific Institutes

Institution	**TP (%)**	**TC (%)**	**ACPP**	**RCI**	**h-index**
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada	125 (1.07)	1436 (1.23)	11.48	1.2	19
York University, Toronto, Canada	98 (0.84)	1166 (1)	11.90	1.2	18
University of London, London, United Kingdom	88 (0.75)	1204 (1.03)	13.68	1.4	19
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada	80 (0.68)	2056 (1.76)	25.7	2.6	25

Institution	TP	TC	ACPP	RCI	
Pennsylvania State University, United States	76 (0.65)	1540 (1.32)	20.26	2	20
City University of New York, New York , United States	76 (0.65)	804 (0.69)	10.58	1.1	17
The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia	74 (0.63)	784 (0.67)	10.59	1.1	16
New York University, New York, United States	66 (0.57)	820 (0.70)	12.42	1.2	12
University of Leeds, United Kingdom	65 (0.56)	1413 (1.21)	21.74	2.2	17
University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC, Australia	63 (0.54)	526 (0.45)	8.35	0.8	13
University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX, United States	61 (0.52)	1142 (0.98)	18.72	1.9	15
London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom	60 (0.51)	2006 (1.72)	33.43	3.3	20
University of California, Berkeley, United States	60 (0.51)	616 (0.53)	10.26	1	14
Monash University, Melbourne VIC, Australia	59 (0.50)	519 (0.45)	8.80	0.9	14
Lancaster University, Lancaster Lancashire, United Kingdom	58	1068 (0.92)	18.41	1.8	21
Sub Total =	**1109 (9.49)**	**17100 (14.67)**	**15.42**	**1.5**	**17.33**
Total of the World =	**11681**	**116603**	**9.98**		**--**
TP - Total Publications; TC - Total Citations; ACPP - Average Citations Per Paper;					
RCI – Relative Citation Impact					
❖ **(N ≥ 58) N = No. of the Publications**					

Table 3 shows the top 15 highly productive institutes that have contributed 58 or more publications on feminism research during 2000-2017.

The publications profile of these top global institutions along with their research output, citations received, average citations per paper, and h-index values are given in Table 3. These 15 global institutions involved in feminism research together have contributed 9.49 % share (with 1109 papers) in the cumulative publications output of world, with an average of 73.93 papers per institution. The findings revealed that University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada with 125 publications is the most productive institution in the field of feminism research followed by York University, Toronto, Canada with 98 publications, University of London, London, United Kingdom with 88 publications and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada with 80 publications.
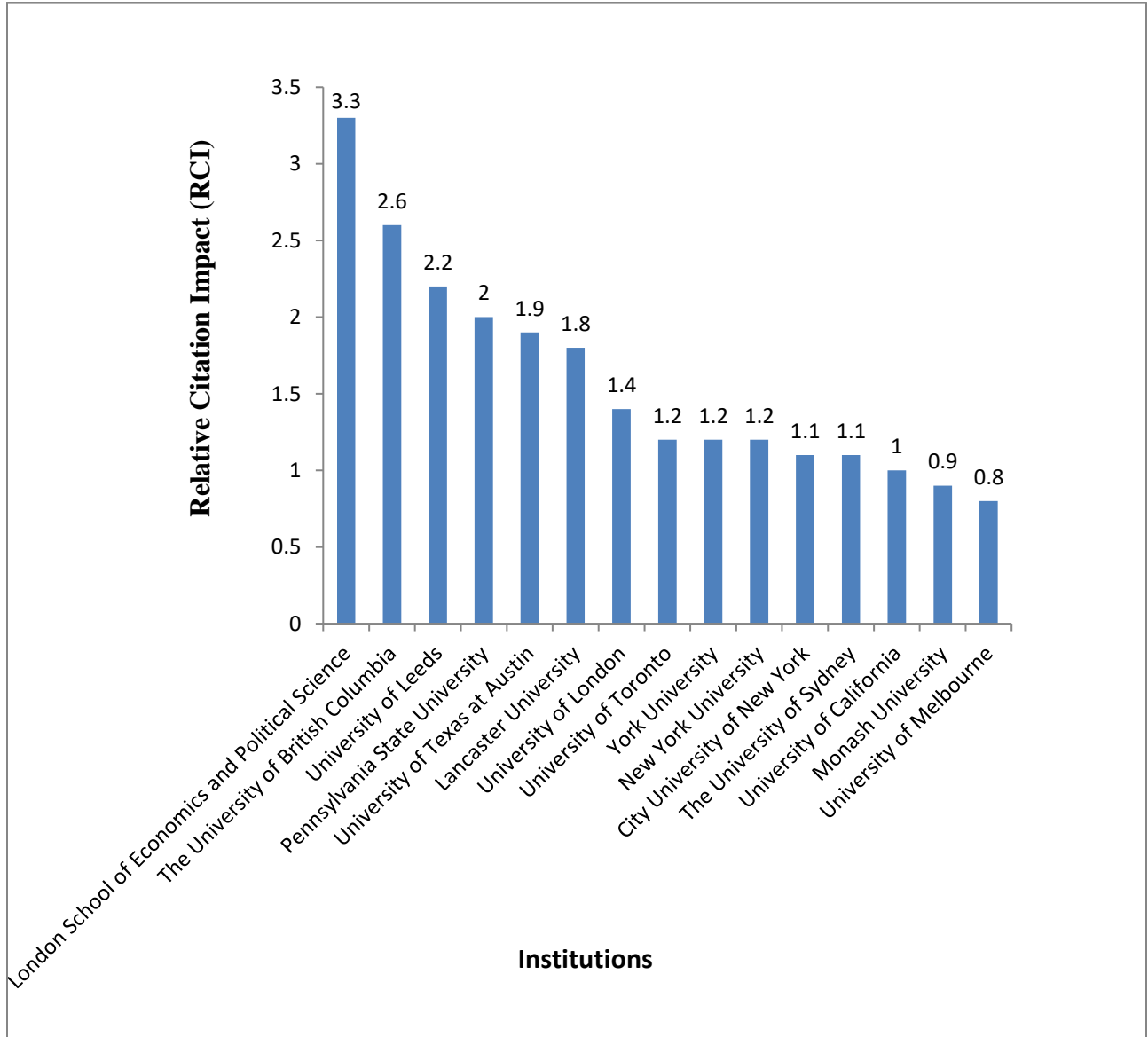
In terms of the citations, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada with 2036 citations ranked top in the list of most prolific institutions.

The average citations per paper registered by the total papers of 15 global institutions are 15.42 during 2000 to 2017. The highest impact of 33.43 average citations per paper was scored by the London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom, followed by the University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada (25.7 ACCP), University of Leeds, United Kingdom (21.74 ACCP), and Pennsylvania State University, United States(20.26 ACCP). In all, total 15 highly productive institutions accounted 14.67% citations share among the total citations. Relative citation impact of prolific institutions was also calculated by using the following formula:

RCI = An Institution's Share of Total Citations / An Institution's Share of Total Publications.

The impact can be understood as RCI = 1 means the institution's citation rate is average, RCI > 1 reveals citation rate is more than the average citation rate and RCI < 1 specifies that citation rate is lower than the average. The RCI of top 15 institutions is shown in **Table 3 and Figure 2**.

Fig. 2: Relative Citation Impact (RCI) of Top 15 Prolific Institutes

5.5 Most Preferred Journals

Table 4: Journals Preferred by the Authors

Source Title	Publishing Country	TP	Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) - 2018
Women's Studies International Forum	United Kingdom	264	0.474
Gender Place And Culture	United Kingdom	179	0.892
Feminism And Psychology	United States	109	0.542
Feminist Media Studies	United Kingdom	100	0.888
Feminist Theory	United States	100	0.592
Journal of Lesbian Studies	United States	98	0.289
Revista Estudos Feministas	Brazil	95	0.219
Sex Roles	United States	91	1.077
Signs	United States	89	0.269
Journal of International Women's Studies	United States	86	0.271
European Journal of Women's Studies	United States	74	0.322
Gender And Education	United Kingdom	69	0.578
Feminist Review	United Kingdom	57	0.776
Development	United Kingdom	55	0.163
Australian Feminist Studies	United Kingdom	54	0.385
Feminist Theology	United Kingdom	53	0.100
Women's Studies in Communication	United Kingdom	53	0.500
Gender and History	United Kingdom	51	0.293
Journal Of Gender Studies	United Kingdom	51	0.342
Publication of Top 19 Publications Sources = 1728			
(N ≥ 50) N = No. of the Publications			

Table 4 presents the top 19 journals (N>50) preferred by the researchers in feminism subject. These 19 journals account for 14.79% share among the total output. The *'Women's Studies*

International Forum' of Elsevier publication (SJR-0.474) is the most preferred journal in which researchers published highest papers (264) followed by *'Gender Place And Culture'* with 179 papers. The '*Journal of Gender Studies*' with 51 papers stood last in the list. The list of highly preferred journals is dominated by two countries i.e. United States and United Kingdom. The journal entitled *'Revista Estudos Feministas'* (SJR-0.219) belonging to Brazil is only the exception. It is observed from the Table 4 that the SJR of all journals except journal entitled *'Sex Roles'* is below 1. The SJR has been used to determine the impact of journals in the feminism field **(Table 4)**.

5.6 Most Productive Authors

Table 5: Prolific Authors engaged in Feminism Research

Name of Author	Affiliation Address	TP	TC	ACPP	h-Index
Im, E.O.	Duke University, Durham, United States	15	243	16.2	10
Sjoberg, L.	University of Florida, Gainesville, United States	14	185	13.21	6
Allen, K.R.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, United States	12	146	12.16	4
Gill, R.	University of London, London, United Kingdom	12	1642	136.83	11
Jackson, D.	University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia	11	252	22.91	8
McRobbie, A.	University of London, London, United Kingdom	11	1149	104.45	8
Wright, M.W.	Pennsylvania State University, University Park, United States	11	245	22.27	9
Bartlett, A.	University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia	10	99	9.9	5
Moghadam, V.M.	Northeastern University, Boston, United States	10	136	13.6	5
Scharff, C.	King's College London, London, United Kingdom	10	119	11.9	6
Total of 10 authors		**116**	**4216**	**-**	-

Total of World	**11681**	**116603**	-	-

TP = Total Publications; TC = Total Citations; ACPP = Average Citations Per Paper
(N ≥ 10)   N = No. of the Publications

The performance of top ten productive authors on the basis publications, citations, and their h-index values is shown in Table 5. These top 10 authors together contributed 116 papers with an average of 11 papers per author and account for 1% share in the cumulative publications output of World during 2000–17. These authors accounts for 3.62% citation share (4216 citations) during the reported period. The average citation per paper of top 10 contributing authors is 36.34.

Based on the number of publications count, it is found that E.O. Im has contributed the highest publications (15) on feminism. In terms of citations count, R.Gill has scored the highest number of citations (1642) for his 12 publications **(Table 5)**.

5.7 Highly Cited Publications on Feminism

Table 6: Highly Cited Articles

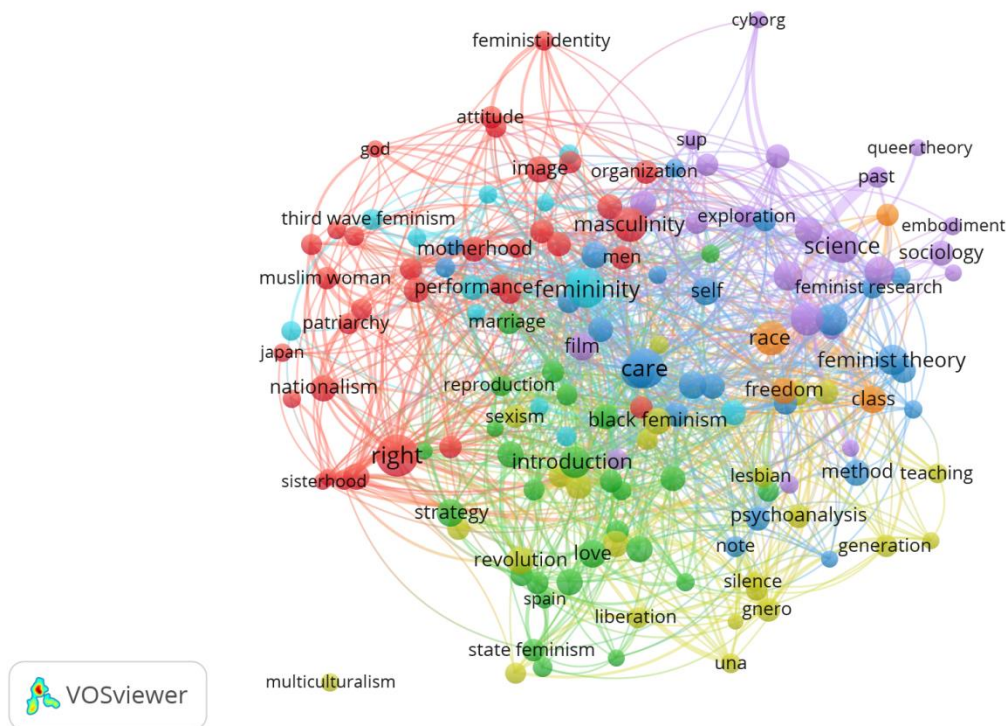| S.N.	Details of Publication(s)	No. of Citations
1	Cole, E. R. (2009). Intersectionality and research in psychology. ***American Psychologist***, 64(3), 170-180. doi:10.1037/a0014564	**922**
2	Gill, R. (2007). Postfeminist media culture: Elements of a sensibility. ***European Journal of Cultural Studies***, 10(2), 147-166. doi:10.1177/1367549407075898	**691**
3.	McLanahan, S. (2004). Diverging destinies: How children are faring under the second demographic transition. ***Demography***, 41(4), 607-627. Retrieved from www.scopus.com	**615**
4.	McRobbie, A. (2004). Post-feminism and popular culture. ***Feminist Media Studies***, 4(3), 255-264. doi:10.1080/1468077042000309937	**573**
5.	Valentine, G. (2007). Theorizing and researching intersectionality: A challenge for feminist geography. ***Professional Geographer***, 59(1), 10-21. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9272.2007.00587.x	**529**

6.	Cook-Sather, A. (2002). Authorizing students' perspectives: Toward trust, dialogue, and change in education. *Educational Researcher*, 31(4), 3-14. doi:10.3102/0013189X031004003	**409**
7.	Rothstein, B., & Teorell, J. (2008). What is quality of government? A theory of impartial government institutions. *Governance*, 21(2), 165-190. doi:10.1111/j.1468-0491.2008.00391.x	**396**
8.	Butler, J. (2013). Contingent foundations: Feminism and the question of "postmodernism? **Feminists theorize the political** (pp. 3-21) doi:10.4324/9780203723999	**368**
9.	Jost, J. T., Nosek, B. A., & Gosling, S. D. (2008). Ideology: Its resurgence in social, personality, and political psychology. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 3(2), 126-136. doi:10.1111/j.1745-6916.2008.00070.x	**345**
10.	Gill, R. (2008). Empowerment/sexism: Figuring female sexual agency in contemporary advertising. *Feminism and Psychology*, 18(1), 35-60. doi:10.1177/0959353507084950	**315**
11.	Pierre, E. A. S. (2000). Post structural feminism in education: An overview. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 13(5), 477-515. doi:10.1080/09518390050156422	**303**
	Total =	**5466**
Where , *N* >300 (N means no. of citations)		

Table 6 indicates the top 11 highly cited articles in feminism related research (As seen through Scopus). The top 11 article leads to 5466 citations. The average citation per article is 496. These article contributes 4.69 % share in total citations output. The paper titled as 'Intersectionality and research in psychology' authored by E. R. Cole secured highest citations (922).

It is observed from the Table 6 that out of eleven sources nine are journal publications and one is book chapter **(Table 6)**.

5.8 Keyword Analysis

Fig. 3: Keywords Co-occurrence Network

The VOS-viewer software was used for analysis of 'Title Keywords'. It provides insight into main topics and research trends. The terms occurring in at least 20 publications were considered. Out of 24024 terms, 248 meet the threshold. For each of the 248 terms, a relevance score will be calculated. Based on this score, the most relevant terms will be selected. The default choice is to select the 60% most relevant terms. Finally, the network contains 149 terms and 7 clusters: cluster -1 (34 items), cluster - 2 (27 items), cluster - 3 (25 items), cluster - 4 (24 items), cluster - 5 (22 items), cluster - 6 (13 items), and cluster - 7 (4 items). The results of the keywords analysis are presented in Figure 3. As can be seen in the map, nodes such as care, feminist theory, feminity, masculinity, race, black feminism, freedom, science, nationalism, third wave feminism etc. have the highest frequency of occurrences and represent research hotspot in the feminism field **(Figure 3)**.

6. Conclusions

The present study analyzed the global feminism research output published during 2000-2017. It is noticed that the publications are steadily growing. On the basis of study it is observed that, the European countries, authors, journals, and universities have dominated the feminism research realm during the reported period. There is a need to increase the contribution of Asian/African countries, authors, journals, and universities in the feminism subject field. The Journal entitled 'Women's Studies International Forum' emerged as the preferred destination for publishing research relating to feminism, reflected in terms of number of publications. The highest Relative Citation Impact (RCI) was contributed by London School of Economics and Political Science. The results of the study revealed the feminist theory, feminity, masculinity, race, black feminism, freedom, science, nationalism, third wave feminism etc. as the active research areas in feminism. It is suggested that the government agencies, departments, R & D institutions, NGO's should financially support more and more to the feminism related studies.

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