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## Research Output of Area Studies Center, for Russia, China and Central Asia, Pakistan; A Bibliometric Analyses of MPhil and PhD Research work of Last Thirty Eight Years

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## **Research Output of Area Studies Center, for Russia, China and Central Asia, Pakistan; A Bibliometric Analyses of MPhil and PhD Research work of Last Thirty Eight Years**

Abid Hussain<sup>1</sup>, Abdus Salam<sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Ibrahim<sup>3</sup> and Zeeshan Khan<sup>4</sup>

### **Abstract**

*This paper attempts to present the bibliometric attributes of the doctoral /postgraduate dissertations/theses submitted to Area Study Center for Russia, China and Central Asia University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Study covers thirty eight Years of productivity ranges from 1981 to the end of the 2019. The objective of the study was to examine the research productively of the Doctoral and Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) Theses of the Center. The primary investigation explored that a total of Eighty Two PhD and Thirty Three MPhil Theses were submitted by the scholars. The gender of the scholars was male dominate; over female. Only 1.74% PhD dissertations were written in and English & Pashto Language. Majority of the theses that is 34 percent has covered Pakistan, followed by Afghanistan that comes to 19 %. About one fourth (25%) of the research was done on the subject of "Political Science" and most productive year was 1995-1996. The minimum duration of completion of MPhil & PhD theses was one and two years respectively while the length of postgraduate dissertation / Thesis reports of the Area Study Centre was ranging from 90 to 700 pages. It was suggested that area covered in the research reports needs to extend to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kagazistan.*

**Keywords:** *Central Asian Research-Pakistan, Statistical Analysis-Central Asia Research, Research Output-Central Asia-Pakistan*

### **Introduction**

Research in any field of walk has a significant role and guides for further development. Research always contributes in developing knowledge resources. It enriches a discipline with the ability to develop the knowledge created in other fields (Sanghera, B., & Satybaldieva, E., 2018). The most productive scholarly area of the research is under and postgraduate level theses and Dissertations. It has been conducted by professionally qualified scholars, under the supervision of the subject experts of the national and international level (Wisker, G., 2012, p. 102). The

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research theses served as a backbone in the research activities that support the claims made by the scholars throughout their study. The purpose of the research theses is to provide a solution to the problem and improve the way of life (Schmidt, H. G., Rotgans, J. I., & Yew, E. H., 2011).

Central Asia (CA) consists of five republics named Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Central Asia has a population of 72 Million (Ferlay, J., et.al, 2019). In the year 1991 after the dissolution of Soviet Union all these countries gained independent status. Their ethnic and economic diversity, all of the Central Asians countries share common cultural and historical roots. The economic crisis that followed the dissolution of the Soviet Union led to the degradation of the established Soviet Era scientific research infrastructure, leaving researchers struggling to compete in a more opened and integrated scientific world (Merrill, M. 2010).

Allison noted that Central Asia offers an array of economic opportunities for major powers, including access and control of valuable natural resources, favorable terms of trade, and efficient trade routes. Central Asia is at the center of two new initiatives for regional economic integration by China and Russia that run against a longstanding economic vision of the United States of America (Allison, R., 2008).

Researchers went for bibliometrics methods in establishing a solid reputation of scientific excellence and to track the intellectual influence of tangible research outputs on the external world in terms of their contributions to scientific progress. The term bibliometrics is defined as “The application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication” (Pritchard, 1969). Bibliometrics provides useful perspectives on the scholarly communication channel, development, and a measure of research performance of a research field (Hu, X., & Rousseau, R., 2009).

The bodies of literature produced in any mean (i.e. articles, books, theses, dissertation, or patents) their citations, structure, lengths and themes provides significant information that make able the scholars to analyze using the data quantitative methods for scholarly communications as they change over time (Sanni, S. A., 2013).

Hence, since scientific research is a global enterprise that should be universal for the benefit of mankind, a very important task is to examine theses and dissertations in terms of their publication quality, productivity, scientific influence and access in international literature, in

order to determine the impact of these theses in their respective discipline. And also looks into the change grew over the years.

After the comprehensive review of the literature, it observed that no such type of research so far has been conducted on countries like; Russia, China, Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Central Asian countries. This paper is an endeavor to present a portrait of the unpublished postgraduate theses of the Area Study Center (ASC) University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

### **Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar**

The Area Study Center for Russia, China and Central Asia, University of Peshawar was established in 1975 by an act of parliament (ASC Ac No XLV, 1975) with five other centers in major public sector universities of Pakistan. The basic aim of establishing these centers was to study those societies which have impact on the interest of Pakistan.

For this purpose the Area Study Center in University of Peshawar was given mandate to conduct high-quality research on present-day Russia, China and Central Asia and serve as a best source of information for government, educational institutions, diplomats and business community of the country. The center started its proper functioning in April 1978 & is academically attached to University of Peshawar, funded by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and run by Board of Governors and Academic Committee under the Act.

At the present Center offer admissions in three major programs of Certificate Level Language Programs in (Uighur, Russian and Chinese languages), MPhil (Master of Philosophy in Central Asian Studies) and PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), Writing Thesis is an integral part for award of M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees.

### **Literature Review**

The review of the literature shows that no such attempt has been to conduct research in the area of Central Asian studies in Pakistan. However some relevant studies have been highlighted in the following reviews.

David Denoon (2016) explains Central Asia being situated in an important part of the world. It is a decisive nucleus between dynamic East Asia and financially and technologically strong Western Europe.

According to Kidd (2007), central Asia range from Caspian Sea to the west and to the east bordering Western China. Michel Hess (2004) is of the opinion that United States war on

terror in Afghanistan has introduced new aspect of Central Asia region importance, its geo-political and geo-strategic aspect.

Allan Pritchard (1969) defined “Bibliometrics” as the use of statistical and mathematical analysis to the books and other medium of bibliographic data. Informetrics, Bibliometrics and Scientometric are three types analyzed by Hood and Wilson (2007) Conclude that roots of bibliometrics are statistics and bibliography to achieve bibliographic data results. Bibliometrics is an apparatus use to citing the publishing achievement of institutions and researchers as well as the impact of work. Bibliometrics as a tool used to analyze the research direction in a subject, researchers productiveness, institutions productivity, collaborative efforts, literature expansion, local contribution in the subject, citation arrangement and many more.

Sheikh, A & Jan, Saeed Ullah (2018) reviewed the library and information science (LIS) research produced by the Pakistani LIS schools till 2015. Their study aimed to explore the resrech trend and present a comprehensive review of the resrech production of LIS schools. They studied MPhil and PhD research contribution of the LIS schools in the prescribed period. In Pakistan 12 schools are offering graduate and postgraduate LIS education out of which only five are offering MPhil and PhD program. Results revealed that 19 professionals succeeded in getting PhD including 125 M.Phil from Pakistani universities till the year 2015. The major cause of not offering post-graduate LIS education noted as “Lake of PhD faculty” in the LIS schools of the country. They recommended standardization of admission of M.Phil and PhD process, renovation of LIS curricula and mandatory resrech publication for M.Phil program to improve the quality of resrech.

Sanni, S. A. (2012) explained that Studies deal with the publication productivity offers an opportunity to identify key areas in a particular discipline, and researchers involved in this areas. In addition, it allows the young and promising scientists to identify successful researchers with whom they can interact during the course of research.

Hussain, Abid. et.al., (2019) Scrutinized the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate theses of department library and information science, Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology (SUIT), Peshawar Pakistan from 2014 to 2017 using Bibliometric attributes. The main objective of the study was to explore the resrech productive of LIS. The authors reported that the major target of graduate and postgraduate programs were the resrech productivity. The study recommended encouraging female scholars by for following the Higher

Education Commission guide lines for academic research to uplift the quality of research in the academic setup especially in higher education of Pakistan.

Saeed, R.A, Saeed-ur-Rehman and Ahmed, R. (2020) analyzed the dissertations of Islamic Studies on Semitic Religions (MPhil, PhD) in the Pakistani universities in Urdu language using bibliometric attributes. Semitic religions consist of the Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Multi-dimensional method was applied on a total of 393 unpublished theses on Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The analysis concluded with a good deal of literature and dissertations available in Pakistani universities on the Study of Religions. It was recommended that contents of theses should be analyzed for improvement of the study of religions in Pakistan.

### **Objective of the Study**

The prime objective of the study in hand was to present the research productivity of Doctoral and Master of Philosophy Theses of the Area Studies Centre, University of Peshawar. However the following are some specific objectives of this research paper;

1. To study the subject area of Postgraduate thesis of Area Studies Center
2. To examine the geographical area covered in the research reports
3. To investigate value of most productive PhD/MPhil level supervisor
4. To study the length of thesis/Postgraduate research reports of Area Studies Center
5. To evaluate the duration of PhD/MPhil study till its Completion
6. To probe out the gender wise productivity of the researcher of Area Study Center
7. To study language opted for writing theses report of Area Studies Center

### **Method and Materials**

The quantitative approach was adopted by the authors for this bibliometric analysis to present a portrait of the research productivity of the doctoral level dissertation of the Area Studies Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar Pakistan. The Centre offers admission twice a year in MPhil and PhD courses for 10 to 15 students. The primary data was collected from the Area Study Center, University of Peshawar, about the enrolled Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) students of thirty eight years starting from 1981 to end of 2019. There are total 82 students succeeded in the completing PhD dissertation with 33 M.Phil theses in the selected duration from the Area Studies Center for Russia, China, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, , Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, University of Peshawar, Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa , Pakistan.

The Abstract, Keywords, Titles, Acceptance Certificates, Length of thesis and dissertations, Year of Enrollment and Date of completion was collected from the printed copies of theses and dissertation available in the library of Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Some printed copies of PhD dissertations and M.Phil Theses were not available in the library. So they were searched and downloaded from the Pakistan Research Repository (PRR)—A digital repository of PhD Dissertation, developed by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan. After dedicated search the affiliation or departments of two supervisors (i.e. Mr. Qalandar Momand & Dr. Ihsan Elahi) couldn't be known while the numbers of pages of four postgraduate dissertations/theses were found missing.

The collected data was entered in the *Microsoft Excel* sheets for purpose of filtering and easy analysis. The Subject and Geographical coverage of the dissertation were determined on the basis of collected data. The final error-free data was tabulated and presented as per bibliometric attributes in the section of analysis using frequencies and percentages. Results were drawn as per standards, objective already defended & recommendation were made on the basis of the findings of study and conclusion was given.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

***Table 1, Demographic representation of PhD & MPhil Research Productivity of ASC, UOP***

<b><i>Group</i></b>	<b><i>Frequency</i></b>	<b><i>Percent</i></b>
<b><i>Program</i></b>		
PhD	82	71.30
M.Phil	33	28.70
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>115</i></b>	<b><i>100.00%</i></b>
<b><i>Gender</i></b>		
Male	94	81.74
Female	21	18.26
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>115</i></b>	<b><i>100.00%</i></b>
<b><i>Language</i></b>		
English	113	98.26
English-Pashto	02	01.74
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>115</i></b>	<b><i>100.00%</i></b>

The analysis of the Table 1, presents demographic information about postgraduate research productivity of the Area Studies Center. Which shows that majority (71.30%) of the dissertations was written by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), students. Male postgraduate scholars

was dominant (81.74%) over females and only (1.74%) of reports were written bilingual i.e. “English-Pashto” for the fulfillment of the award of the Postgraduate degrees in the “Area Studies” from University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

**Table2, Geographical Area covered by the Researches in there Dissertation/Thesis**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Geographical Covering Areas</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>M.Phil</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Afghanistan	16	6	22	19.13
2	Afghanistan-Central Asia	1	0	1	0.87
3	Afghanistan-Pakistan	7	3	10	8.70
4	Afghanistan-Russia	2	0	2	1.74
5	Central Asia	4	4	8	6.96
6	Central Asia-China	0	1	1	0.87
7	Central Asia-Pakistan	3	1	4	3.48
8	Central Eurasia	1	0	1	0.87
9	China-Pakistan	3	0	3	2.61
10	India-Afghanistan	1	0	1	0.87
11	India-Central Asia	1	0	1	0.87
12	Pakistan	24	15	39	33.91
13	Pakistan-Afghanistan	14	2	16	13.91
14	Pakistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan	1	0	1	0.87
15	Pakistan-India-Afghanistan	1	0	1	0.87
16	Pakistan-India-Bangladesh	1	0	1	0.87
17	Pakistan-Russia	0	1	1	0.87
18	Uzbekistan	2	0	2	1.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>71.30</b>	<b>28.70</b>	<b>100</b>	

The analysis of the Table 2 reveals that total eighteen geographical locations were covered by the Postgraduate scholars of Area Studies Center. A good numbers (33.91%) research



reports were conducted covering the area of “Pakistan”, followed by Afghanistan (19.13%), and Pakistan-Afghanistan (13.91%) in their research.

**Table 3, Subject of the Research Dissertation/Thesis or Subject wise Distribution of Dissertation/Thesis of Area Studies Center UOP**

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Subjects</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>M.Phil</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	Political Science	17	12	29	25.22
2	History	16	1	17	14.78
3	Economics	12	1	13	11.30
4	Literature	5	0	5	4.35
5	Sociology	5	1	6	5.22
6	Law	4	2	6	5.22
7	Botany	3	3	6	5.22
8	Language and Literature	3	5	8	6.96
9	Agriculture	2	1	3	2.61
10	Archeology	2	0	2	1.74
11	Islam	2	0	2	1.74
12	Agricultural Economics	1	0	1	0.87
13	Anthropology	1	0	1	0.87
14	Communication Studies	1	0	1	0.87
15	Education	1	0	1	0.87
16	Gender Studies	1	0	1	0.87
17	Islamic Literature	1	1	2	1.74
18	Islam-Sufism	1	0	1	0.87
19	Library Science	1	1	2	1.74
20	Linguistics	1	0	1	0.87
21	Socio-economic-Political	1	0	1	0.87
22	Zoology	1	0	1	0.87
23	Journalism	0	2	2	1.74
24	Islamic History	0	2	2	1.74
25	Biochemistry	0	1	1	0.87
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>

The analysis of the Table 3 presented the subject/Themes of the research reports of the Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar, Pakistan. About one-fourth (25.22%) of total was covered the themes/subject of “Political Sciences”, while some (14.78%) was covered the subject

of “History” followed by (11.30%) the subject of “Economics”. It’s noteworthy that 10 out of total Twenty-five subjects covered only (0.87%) one time.

**Table 4, Duration in Number of Years of PhD/MPhil Dissertations/Thesis Completion**

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Duration (in Years)</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>MPhil</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	One Year	0	2	2	1.74
2	Two Years	1	9	10	8.70
3	Three Years	7	5	12	10.43
4	Four Years	14	5	19	16.52
5	Five Years	12	5	17	14.78
6	Six Years	8	1	9	7.83
7	Seven Years	13	1	14	12.17
8	Eight Years	11	2	13	11.30
9	Nine Years	5	2	7	6.09
10	Ten Years	4	0	4	3.48
11	Eleven Years	1	1	2	1.74
12	Twelfth Years	3	0	3	2.61
13	Sixteen Years	1	0	1	0.87
14	Seventeen Years	1	0	1	0.87
15	Twenty Four Years	1	0	1	0.87
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average Duration (in Years)</b>		<b>7.67 Years</b>			

Research completion duration (in Years) of the PhD and M.Phil degrees presented on table 4 (above), exposed that maximum (16.52%) number of research was completed in “Four Years”, followed by (14.78%) in “Five Years”. It is noteworthy that (1.74%) of M.Phil theses was completed in the shortest duration of “One Year” while (0.87%) of PhD Dissertation in the longest period of “Twenty Four Years” by the postgraduates students of the Center.

**Table5, Ranking of Top Three most Productive Supervisors and their Affiliation**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name of Supervisor</i>	<i>Supervisor Affiliation</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>MPhil</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan	Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar (UOP)	29	5	34	29.57
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Sarfraz Khan	Area Studies Center, UOP	9	2	11	9.57
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dr. Azmat Hayat Khan	Area Studies Center, UOP	3	0	3	2.61
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dr. Qabil Khan Arfidi	Department of English, UOP	3	0	3	2.61

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dr. Zahid Anwar	Department of Political Science, UOP	3	0	3	2.61
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prof. Ahmad Ali	Law College UOP	3	0	3	2.61
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prof. KaramE Elahi	Department of Social Work, UOP	2	1	3	2.61

Supervisor plays a vital role in the resrech process. Table 5 represents the top three productive research supervisors of the postgraduate’s students of the Area Studies Center, UOP. The analysis revealed that Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan, of the Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar supervised (29.57%) students and ranked as “1<sup>st</sup>”, followed by Dr. Sarfraz Khan, of same Department was ranked as “2<sup>nd</sup>” by supervising (9.57%). Five others supervisors of different departments ranked equal to “3<sup>rd</sup>” by supervising (2.61%) research students.

**Table 6, Year of Completion of the dissertations/Thesis of Area studies Center, UOP**

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Years of Completion</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>MPhil</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	1981-1982	0	4	4	3.48
2	1983-1984	0	4	4	3.48
3	1985-1986	0	3	3	2.61
4	1987-1988	5	3	8	6.96
5	1989-1990	3	1	4	3.48
6	1991-1992	8	4	12	10.43
7	1993-1994	6	0	6	5.22
8	1995-1996	13	0	13	11.30
9	1997-1998	5	0	5	4.35
10	1999-2000	8	0	8	6.96
11	2001-2002	2	2	4	3.48
12	2003-2004	6	1	7	6.09
13	2005-2006	2	2	4	3.48
14	2007-2008	6	2	8	6.96
15	2009-2010	2	0	2	1.74
16	2011-2012	3	0	3	2.61
17	2013-2014	5	1	6	5.22
18	2015-2016	4	0	4	3.48
19	2017-2018	4	2	6	5.22
20	Dec, 2019	0	4	4	3.48
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The analysis of table 6 shows the year of completion of the postgraduate research conducted by the students of Area Studies Center, UOP. The analysis reveal that (11.30%) production was recorded in year 1995-1996, followed by year 1991-1992 with (10.43%) research production. The year 2009-2010 was the less (1.74%) productive years among twenty groups of years.

**Table 7, Length of the postgraduate dissertation/Thesis of ASC-UOP**

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Pages Ranges</i>	<i>PhD</i>	<i>M.Phil</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	90 – 150	0	14	14	12.17
2	151-200	6	10	16	13.91
3	201-250	11	5	16	13.91
4	251-300	16	2	18	15.65
5	301-350	19	1	20	17.39
6	351-400	10	0	10	8.70
7	401-450	8	0	8	6.96
8	451-500	1	0	1	0.87
9	501-550	3	0	3	2.61
10	551-600	3	0	3	2.61
11	601 -705	2	0	2	1.74
12	Pagination Unknown	3	1	4	3.48
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Average Pagination</b>		<b>399.54 Pages</b>			

The analysis of table 7 shows the length of resrech reports submitted by the PhD &M.Phil student to the Area Studies Center UOP for the fulfillment of the award of the Postgraduate degree. Some good number (17.39%) and (15.65%) of reports was of 301-350 and 251 to300 pages respectively. Only (1.74%) reports length were up-to 700 pages.

### **Finding and Conclusion**

The major finding of the study exposed that total 82 PhD and 33 M.Phil students were enrolled in the area studies center University of Peshawar from April, 1978 to December, 2019 and successfully completed their theses for the award of their degrees as per the requirement of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The population comprised of 81.74% male and 18.2%female, only 1.74% was bilingual i.e. “Pashto-English”. Geographically top targeted area covered was “Pakistan” 33.91 %, follow by Afghanistan19.13%.The average duration of post-

graduation degree completion from Area Studies Center was calculated 7.67 years. Majority 25.22 % of dissertations were on the theme of “Political Science” and most productive years were “1995-1996”&“1991-1992”. The average pages of the final report of MPhil and PhD program of ASC-UOP, Pakistan was calculated 399.54 Pages. Majority 29.57%of Theses were supervised by Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan, affiliated to the Area Studies Center University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

It was concluded that Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar is producing quality based scholars and striving for excellence of the quality of research production too. The dissertation and theses of the center were well standardized and up to the mark. For maintenance the quality education the minimal numbers of scholars enrolled by the ASC, University of Peshawar.

### **Recommendations**

Research is the core objective of the area studies center. It is recommended to provide grant to the scholars of the center to support the research activity in the area studies. It was noted that major coverage area of research is Pakistan and Afghanistan by highlighting the political issues. The research scholars of the Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar it is well recommended to conducted research on educational development, peace restoration, economic growth, civilization of the Central Asia and tourism etc.

The authority of the area studies center, university of Peshawar suggested to increases number of seats in each batch to enroll more aspiring students in upcoming years.

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