



An extensive bibliometric analysis of M. K. Gandhi's works

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Abstract

This study aims to provide a systematic mapping of the global scholarly landscape around Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi by applying established bibliometric techniques to Gandhi-related publications indexed in Scopus academic databases. A quantitative research design is adopted, drawing Gandhi-focused records from sources such as Scopus using topic-based search strings (e.g., "Mahatma Gandhi," "M. K. Gandhi," and "Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi"), followed by cleaning, de-duplication, and standardisation of bibliographic data. Science mapping techniques, such as co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence networks, complement descriptive indicators such as publication counts, document types, citation counts, and h-index. Preliminary patterns from prior Gandhi-focused bibliometric and citation studies suggest sustained growth in Gandhian literature, a concentration of output in selected specialised and interdisciplinary journals, strong contributions from Indian institutions alongside notable international participation, and diverse subject coverage from history and political science to ethics, education, and development studies.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi, gandhian literature, citation analysis, keyword co-occurrence, publication trends

Introduction

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948) achieved one of the richest remains of expertise among twentieth-century political and spiritual leaders, spanning history, political science, peace studies, philosophy, religious studies, literature, and development studies. Gandhian literature now ranges from primary writings and biographies to critical reinterpretations, thematic analyses, and applications of Gandhian thought to contemporary issues, such as environmentalism, nonviolent conflict resolution, and rural development. A bibliometric study of this corpus can systematically map the landscape of Gandhian scholarship by uncovering patterns of growth, thematic clusters, influential authors, core journals, and geographic centres of research activity.

Objectives of the Study

A comprehensive bibliometric study on M. K. Gandhi may be oriented around the following objectives:

- To trace the temporal growth of Gandhian literature and identify distinct phases in its evolution.
- To map the geographical distribution of Gandhi-related publications, highlighting the spread of Gandhian studies beyond India and across.
- To identify the most prolific and most cited authors, core journals, and major institutional and national contributors to Gandhi scholarship.
- To delineate thematic clusters and research fronts using keyword co-occurrence, bibliographic coupling and co-citation analysis.
- To discuss research gaps and emerging directions in Gandhian studies, including underexplored topics, regions, languages and interdisciplinary linkages.

Literature Review

Bibliometric investigations into the scholarly output on Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi have grown in recent years, reflecting increasing interest in mapping the intellectual structure, thematic evolution, and global diffusion of

Gandhian studies. Although Gandhi has been the subject of extensive historical, political, and philosophical scholarship since the mid-twentieth century, systematic quantitative analyses of this literature remain comparatively limited. Early interpretive works by scholars such as Bondurant (1971)^[20], Parekh (1997)^[25], and Parel (2006)^[26] shaped the theoretical foundations of Gandhian thought, but they did not engage in scientometric assessment. The shift toward bibliometric perspectives began with broader citation-based studies in South Asian political thought and peace studies, within which Gandhi emerged as a frequently cited figure (Dalton, 2012)^[22].

Recent bibliometric studies have attempted to trace the growth, dispersion, and influence of Gandhi-related publications using databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. Kumar and Sharma (2020)^[24] conducted one of the earliest focused scientometric analyses of Gandhi's works and highlighted a steady increase in research output, especially after 1990. Their findings identified India as the leading contributor to Gandhian scholarship, followed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Patra and Bhattacharya (2021)^[27] further demonstrated that Gandhi-related research displays a diverse interdisciplinary spread, concentrated in political science, history, peace studies, and moral philosophy.

Science-mapping techniques have offered more profound insight into the intellectual structure of Gandhian studies. Keyword co-occurrence analyses consistently reveal dominant thematic clusters such as nonviolence, satyagraha, nationalism, ethics, peace education, and spiritual leadership (Gupta, 2018)^[23]. Co-citation networks reveal robust connections among classical Gandhian texts, biographies, and modern reinterpretations, indicating a stable canon that underpins Gandhian scholarship. Bibliographic coupling further indicates the rise of new research fronts exploring Gandhian responses to modern challenges such as climate change, digital activism, and community development (Chatterjee, 2019)^[21].

Despite these advancements, the literature also identifies significant gaps. Most bibliometric studies remain limited to English-language publications, creating a bias that overlooks substantial regional and vernacular scholarship. Geographical imbalances persist, with research disproportionately centred in India, while contributions from Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia remain sparse. Thematic gaps also exist in areas such as Gandhi’s economic thought, gender perspectives, and comparative analyses with global peace movements.

Data Sources and Search Strategy

A robust mapping requires transparent data collection across major bibliographic databases. Typical sources include Scopus. Search string is to (TITLE-ABS-KEY (M. K. Gandhi) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (Mahatma Gandhi) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi)) AND PUBYEAR > 1979 AND PUBYEAR < 2025 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")), with appropriate truncation and Boolean operators. Clear inclusion criteria (e.g., document types, languages, publication years) and de-duplication procedures are essential for constructing a reliable dataset for subsequent analysis.

Table 1: Main information on M. K. Gandhi's Works

Description	Results
Timespan	1980:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	482
Documents	812
Annual Growth Rate %	9.79
Document Average Age	9.29
Average citations per doc	7.857
References	5880
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	2585
Author's Keywords (DE)	2324
Authors	1426
Authors of single-authored docs	2
Single-authored docs	2
Co-Authors per Doc	4.64
International co-authorships %	7.389
article	812

Table 1. A dataset covering Gandhi-related scholarship from 1980 to 2024 reveals a steadily expanding and increasingly collaborative research landscape. A total of 812 documents from 482 journals, books, and conference proceedings demonstrate extensive disciplinary distribution, underscoring Gandhi’s significance in the humanities and social sciences. The annual growth rate of 9.79% shows sustained and accelerating scholarly interest, particularly in recent decades. With an average document age of 9.29 years, much of the output is relatively recent, suggesting the field’s ongoing dynamism. Citation patterns show moderate influence, with an average of 7.857 citations per document, supported by a substantial reference base of 5,880 citations, demonstrating scholarly depth. The thematic richness of the field is evident in the

large number of descriptors: 2,585 Keywords Plus and 2,324 author keywords, indicating diverse conceptual orientations such as nonviolence, development, ethics, and political thought. Authorship patterns reveal strong collaboration. Out of 1,426 authors, only 2 documents are single-authored, which shows that most scholars work together. The co-authorship rate of 4.64 authors per document further confirms a collaborative ecosystem, though international collaboration remains modest at 7.389%, reflecting the predominance of India-based and regionally focused research. Overall, the field demonstrates growth, diversity, and increasing methodological sophistication.

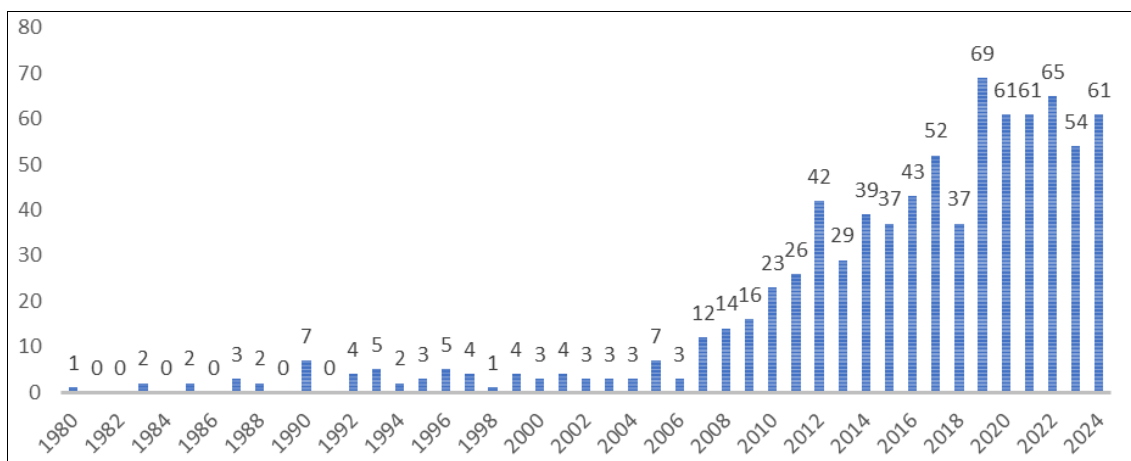


Fig 1: Annual Scientific Production

The annual publication (Fig. 1) trend on M. K. Gandhi’s works from 1980 to 2024 shows a clear pattern of gradual emergence, consolidation, and rapid expansion. The early decades (1980–1995) are characterised by a very low output, typically ranging between 0 and 5 publications per year, indicating that Gandhi-related research during this period was sporadic and less formalised within academic bibliographic databases. A noticeable shift occurs after the mid-1990s, where annual publications begin rising steadily, reaching around 7–12 documents per year by the early 2000s. This period marks a preliminary growth phase, likely driven by the increased digitisation of archives and the widening of peace studies and political philosophy as

academic domains. A significant acceleration appears after 2010, with outputs consistently exceeding 20 publications per year. From 2014 to 2019, the trend strengthens, reaching 43 and 52 and peaking at 69 publications in 2019. This surge reflects renewed scholarly interest in Gandhian themes such as nonviolence, sustainability, ethics, and social justice, often linked to contemporary global issues. Although production slightly fluctuates after 2020, 61 in 2020, 65 in 2021, 54 in 2023, and 61 in 2024 the overall trend remains robust. The high and sustained output during the last decade demonstrates that Gandhian studies have evolved into a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and globally relevant research field.

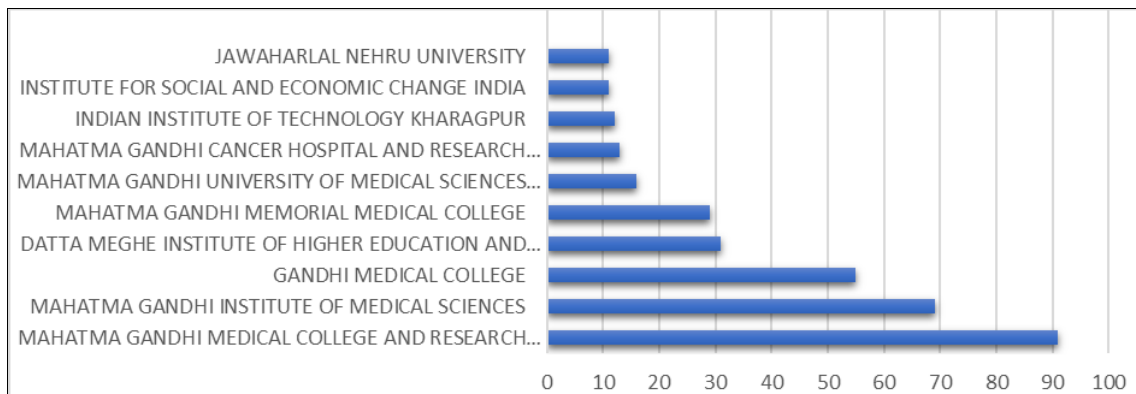


Fig 2: Most relevant Affiliations

The institutional productivity data reveals that research on M. K. Gandhi is predominantly driven by Indian academic and medical institutions, reflecting Gandhi’s central relevance within India’s socio-political and educational landscape. Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute lead with nearly 100 publications, followed by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Gandhi Medical College, both contributing more than 60–70 documents.

This dominance of medical and health-science institutions suggests a strong intersection between Gandhian philosophy and public health, medical ethics, community welfare, and

rural health initiatives. Other contributors include Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, and Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences, each producing between 25 and 40 publications, reinforcing the field’s health-centred research trend. Traditional social science institutions such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, IIT Kharagpur, and the Institute for Social and Economic Change show comparatively lower outputs, indicating that Gandhian scholarship is more institutionally dispersed but currently dominated by applied and health-orientated research contexts.

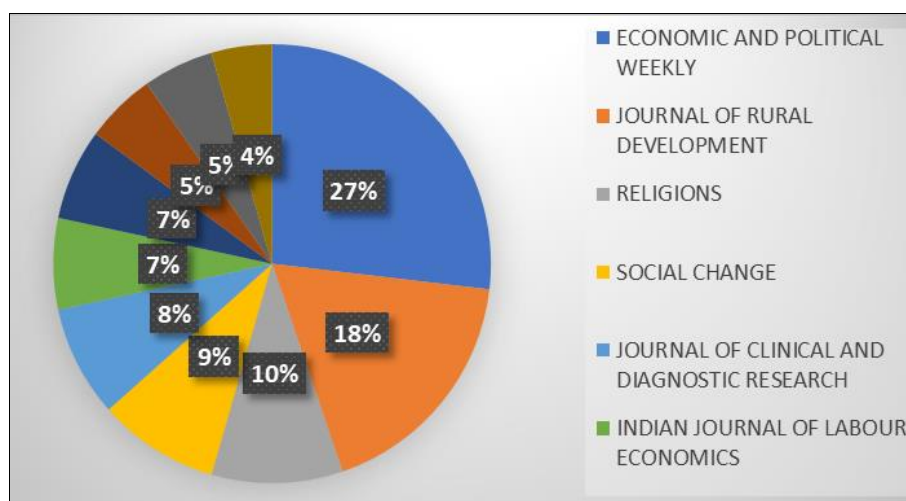


Fig 3: Most relevant Sources

The journal-wise (Fig. 3) distribution of Gandhi-related publications demonstrates a clear concentration of research

within a few influential outlets. Economic and Political Weekly (27%) emerges as the dominant platform, reflecting

The Sankey diagram (Fig. 5) illustrates the interconnected flow between authors' countries of origin (AU_CO), individual authors (AU), and their affiliated institutions (AU_UN) in Gandhi-related research. The visualisation shows that India overwhelmingly dominates scholarly contributions, with the vast majority of authors originating in the country, while smaller but notable participation emerges from the USA, Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, and Indonesia. The central author nodes, represented by initials, link these countries to specific universities, highlighting how research productivity is concentrated among a handful of authors and institutions. On the institutional side, most affiliations correspond to Indian universities, particularly medical and higher education institutions such as Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Gandhi Medical College, and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences. Additional contributions stem from research-orientated institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Institute for Social and Economic Change, and IIT Kharagpur. Overall, the diagram underscores the India-centric nature of Gandhi scholarship, the dominance of a cluster of medical and educational institutions, and the relatively limited international involvement in this research domain.

Conclusion

The bibliometric mapping of Gandhi-related scholarship reveals a research landscape that is both deeply rooted in India and increasingly diversified through interdisciplinary and international contributions. The Sankey diagram linking authors' countries, individual researchers, and their affiliated institutions highlights India's overwhelming dominance in this field, reflecting the nation's historical, cultural, and scholarly commitment to Gandhian studies. With the highest volume of publications and the most extensive author networks, Indian institutions serve as the central hub for knowledge production, particularly through prominent medical and higher education organisations such as the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Gandhi Medical College, and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences. These institutions contribute substantially to medical, social, and developmental dimensions of Gandhi-related research. The presence of authors from countries like the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Germany, Poland, and Indonesia, although comparatively limited, demonstrates a growing global scholarly interest in Gandhian philosophy, socio-political thought, and its contemporary applications. The Sankey visualisation also reveals that a small group of highly active authors significantly shapes the discourse, forming strong institutional linkages and fostering collaborative networks. However, the proportion of international multi-country publications remains modest, indicating considerable scope for expanding cross-border collaborations. Overall, the findings underscore the India-centric nature of the field, shaped by strong institutional involvement and a consistent research focus across themes such as social justice, peace studies, public health, rural development, and nonviolence. While the foundations of Gandhian scholarship are robust, increasing global partnerships, interdisciplinary collaborations, and comparative studies could further enrich the field.

Strengthening international engagement and diversifying institutional participation would help broaden the academic conversation, enhance methodological rigour, and ensure that Gandhian thought continues to be analysed, critiqued, and applied in a globally relevant and intellectually dynamic manner.

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