

Women Involvement in Social Science Journals in India as Members of Editorial Board and Authors: An Analysis

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Abstract

The study of women involvement in social science journals in India as members of editorial board and authors broadly aims to analyse women participation in the scholarly communication process in the domain of social sciences. Out of 1053 members of editorial boards, 166 (15.76%) are women. Similarly 351 (29.77%) women authors out of 1179 contributed papers in social science journals available at IndianJournals.com database. Total of 143 women from Indian states and 23 women from foreign countries contributed as editorial board members in social science journals in India. Uttar Pradesh is the state with highest women participation both as editors and authors.

Keywords: Social Science Journals; Editorial Boards; Current Issues; Women Contributions; Research Organisations; Authorship.

Introduction

In the present world, every society projects the status of women as high as man. It is quite apparent that today's women participating in all spheres of human activities including social, cultural, economic, political and scientific fields in the same positions as men. Particularly, in the field of education and research women have been excelling in various areas. The present study has been designed to make an assessment of the status of women in social science as members in editorial board and authors in journals published in India. Women are working in high level positions in the field of social sciences in different universities and research organizations in India. Many of them are serving in different levels of teaching positions in colleges, universities, and other such organizations of higher learning. These women academicians and researchers contribute significantly in the scholarly communication process as members of editorial boards and authors of research papers in journals.

Editorial board members of social science journals

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are the gatekeepers of social science knowledge because of their pivotal role in deciding what is published. Many of the articles that the editorial board members accept for publication are then used by teaching faculty in social science education. We need to know, therefore, the gender composition of the editorial boards of social science journals and understand the determinants of that composition. This awareness is needed because of the undeniable influence of editorial board members on how the social science field develops and, hence, on what we teach and research. The influence of editorial board members is evidenced in the ongoing debate on the "gatekeepers of knowledge" in social science journals. Similarly, one can argue that women's representation in editorial boards should increase over time as their representation as authors increases.

Review of Literature

Cho, Alyssa H. et al. (2014) [1] carried out a survey of 10 highly regarded journals in environmental biology, natural resource management, and plant sciences to quantify the number of women on their editorial boards and in positions of editorial leadership from 1985 to 2013. They found that during this time period only 16% of subject editors were women, with more pronounced disparities in positions of editorial leadership. Metz, Harzing (2012) [2] accomplished a longitudinal analysis of scholarly management journals over a period of two

decades to update knowledge of women's representation. This study extends the work on women's representation in the editorial boards of 57 management journals from 1989 to 2004 by focusing on the development of gender diversity in editorial board membership over time. They then add empirical richness by conducting a more fine-grained analysis of women's representation at the various editorial board levels over time. Stark, Barbara L. et al. (2015) [3] found the gender composition of archaeological editorial boards. The research was conducted by a subcommittee of the SAA's Committee on the Status of Women in Archaeology (COSWA). The research reflects one of COSWA's central missions, which is to collect data relevant to the status of women in the archaeological profession. Stegmaier, & Assendelft (2011) [4] remarked although the overall representation of women in the field of political science has increased gradually over the last several decades, most gains are being achieved at junior levels. When considering the status of women in the profession, it is instructive to incorporate information on the presence of women in editorial positions at top-ranked political science journals. The authors in most of the studies have remarked that the role model effect and the gate keeping power of editors suggest that greater inclusion of women as authors who bring different perspectives to research could result in a more vibrant range of research topics and methodological approaches published in a journals.

Objectives of Study

- To study the status of gender diversity in Indian social science journals.
- To study the level of women participation in editorial board in Indian Social Science Journals
- To study the level of women participation as authors in current issues of Indian social science journals.

Methodology

The present study focussed on 50 social science journals in India indexed in Indianjournals.com database. The bibliographic details of these journals were analysed by MS-Excel. Particularly, the number of women in the editorial boards of different journals was extracted and author details of published papers in the current issues of these social science journals were examined to find out details of women authors, their affiliation, position, etc. A careful scrutiny of these journals resulted in a total of 1053 editorial

board members, out of which 166 were women. Similarly, out of a total of 705 papers published in current issues (August 2015 to November 2015) of social science journals, 351 have been authored by women.

Members in Editorial Board

The reputation of a scholarly journal is partly but most importantly determined by the academic and research profile of the members of editorial board. The job of an editorial board member is highly intellectual and very crucial as regards to the choice of research papers, content, style of presentation, etc. In the present study the information regarding the editorial board and their gender composition has been taken from the journal information page of each individual journal from indianjournals.com. The collected data has been incorporated in the table below.

Table 1 revealed the status of editorial boards of the 50 journals in social sciences included under the study. Each of these journals has an editorial board constituted with number of members varying from 2 to 105. The editorial board of *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* has highest number (105) of editorial members followed by *International Journal of Social and Economic Research* (78) and *Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology* (64). With regard to women participation in editorial board, it ranged between 0-55.56%. Only 11 out of 50 journals have 25% or more women members in the editorial board. In 5 journals, there are no women in the editorial board.

State wise distribution of women editors in social science Journals

Social science research infrastructure varied across the country depending upon the size of the state, number of universities and colleges, NGOs, etc. Accordingly the women participation in research communication will also vary. In order to find out state wise representation of women in social science journals, the data as represented in following table has been collected.

From Table 2 it was found that, highest numbers of women in editorial board (33) are from Uttar Pradesh. The second highest women participation as editorial board member is from Delhi with 16 (11.11%) women in editorial board. Goa is state where lowest percentage of women is in the editorial board.

Women Editorial Members from Foreign Countries

Many of the social science journals in India have

Table 1: Members in the editorial boards of social science journals

| Sl. No. | Name of the Journal | Nos. of Editorial members | Nos. of Women in Editorial Board | % of Women in Editorial Board |
|---------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond | 9 | 5 | 55.56 |
| 2. | Voice of Intellectual Man- An International Journal | 10 | 5 | 50.00 |
| 3. | Motifs : An International Journal of English Studies | 4 | 2 | 50.00 |
| 4. | World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues | 2 | 1 | 50.00 |
| 5. | Mass Communicator: International Journal of Communication Studies | 11 | 4 | 36.36 |
| 6. | Samajbodh | 18 | 6 | 33.34 |
| 7. | TechnoLearn: An International Journal of Educational Technology | 14 | 4 | 28.57 |
| 8. | International Journal of Sociology, Social Anthropology and Social Policy | 26 | 7 | 26.92 |
| 9. | The Clarion- International Multidisciplinary Journal | 15 | 4 | 26.67 |
| 10. | Learning Community-An International Journal of Educational and Social Development | 20 | 5 | 25.00 |
| 11. | Shikshan Anveshika | 8 | 2 | 25.00 |
| 12. | Journal of Exclusion Studies | 21 | 5 | 23.80 |
| 13. | Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences | 18 | 4 | 22.23 |
| 14. | journal of research the bede athenaeum athenaeum | 28 | 6 | 21.42 |
| 15. | ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal | 11 | 2 | 18.18 |
| 16. | Quest-The Journal of UGC-HRDC Nainital | 11 | 2 | 18.18 |
| 17. | Educational Quest, An International Journal of Education and Applied Social Sciences | 18 | 3 | 16.67 |
| 18. | International Journal of Peace, Education and Development | 18 | 3 | 16.67 |
| 19. | Economic Affairs | 12 | 2 | 16.67 |
| 20. | Gyanodaya: The Journal Of Progressive Education | 25 | 4 | 16.00 |
| 21. | Afro Asian journal of Anthropology and Social policy | 38 | 6 | 15.78 |
| 22. | ZENITH International Research & Academic Foundation (ZIRAF) India | 38 | 6 | 15.78 |
| 23. | Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology | 64 | 10 | 15.62 |
| 24. | Asian Journal of Development Matters | 32 | 5 | 15.62 |
| 25. | Asian Man (The) - An International Journal | 13 | 2 | 15.38 |
| 26. | INROADS- An International Journal of Jaipur National University | 13 | 2 | 15.38 |
| 27. | Indian Journal of Economics and Development | 21 | 3 | 14.28 |
| 28. | Journal of Teacher Education and Research | 7 | 1 | 14.28 |
| 29. | International Journal of Social and Economic Research | 78 | 11 | 14.10 |
| 30. | Sandharv | 22 | 3 | 13.63 |
| 31. | International Journal of Advances in Social Sciences | 16 | 2 | 12.5 |
| 32. | International Journal of Physical Education Sports Management and Yogic Sciences | 16 | 2 | 12.50 |
| 33. | International Journal of Reviews and Research in Social Sciences | 16 | 2 | 12.50 |
| 34. | International Journal of Social Sciences | 8 | 1 | 12.50 |
| 35. | International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Sciences | 42 | 5 | 11.90 |
| 36. | International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences | 105 | 12 | 11.42 |
| 37. | International Journal of Physical and Social Sciences | 18 | 2 | 11.11 |
| 38. | Academic Discourse | 31 | 3 | 9.68 |
| 39. | Journal of Global Communication | 11 | 1 | 9.09 |
| 40. | Spectrum : A Journal of Multidisciplinary Research | 11 | 1 | 9.09 |
| 41. | International Journal of Research in Social Sciences | 26 | 2 | 7.69 |
| 42. | Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities | 13 | 1 | 7.69 |
| 43. | Public Affairs And Governance | 17 | 1 | 5.88 |
| 44. | VIDHIGYA: The Journal of Legal Awareness | 20 | 1 | 5.00 |
| 45. | international journal in management & social science | 48 | 2 | 4.17 |
| 46. | Iassi quarterly | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 47. | Samaj Shashtriya Patrika | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 48. | Indian Journal of Arts | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 49. | International Scientific Journal of Sport Sciences | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 50. | Dynamics of Public Administration | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Table 2: State wise representation of women in editorial board

| Name of the State | No of women editors | % of women editors |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 33 | 22.91 |
| Delhi | 16 | 11.11 |
| Karnataka | 14 | 9.72 |
| Haryana | 12 | 8.33 |
| Maharashtra | 10 | 6.94 |
| Tamilnadu | 7 | 4.86 |
| Rajasthan | 6 | 4.17 |
| Punjab | 6 | 4.17 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5 | 3.47 |
| Odisha | 5 | 3.47 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5 | 3.47 |
| Assam | 4 | 2.78 |
| West Bengal | 4 | 2.78 |
| Chhattisgarh | 4 | 2.78 |
| Uttarakhand | 4 | 2.78 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 3 | 2.08 |
| Gujurat | 2 | 1.39 |
| Telengana | 2 | 1.39 |
| Goa | 1 | 0.69 |
| Total | 143 | 100.00 |

women from countries abroad as editorial board member. The following table lists the foreign countries from which the members of editorial board of some of the Indian social science journals are reflected in the following table.

Out of 166 women members in editorial board, 23 (13.85%) are foreign members. Further, it was revealed that the foreign members in the editorial board represent 14 foreign countries. Highest percentage of women editors are (34.78%) from USA, followed by Australia and Tunisia with 2 (8.69%) members each.

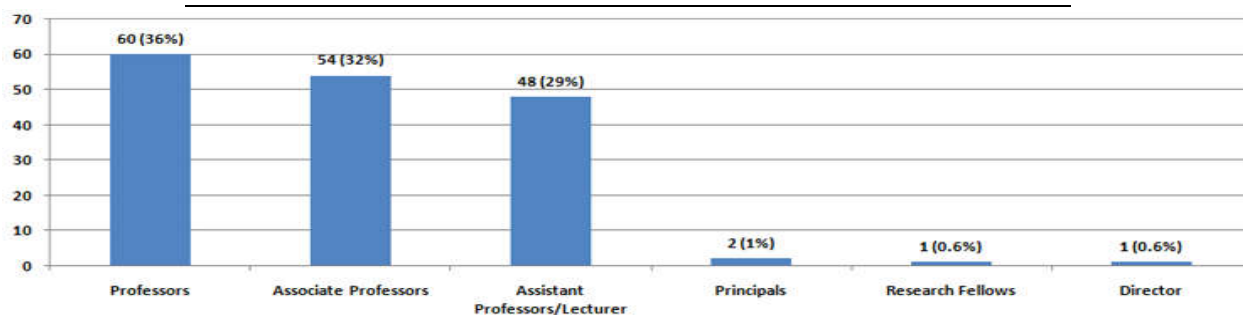
Rest 11 countries have 1 (434%) women member each in the editorial board.

Position Held by Women Editors

It is always seen that scholars at the senior level with specialization and experience are taken as members of editorial board of the journals. In order to find out the positions held by the women editors in the present study the following data has been collected.

Table 3: Women from foreign countries as members of editorial board

| Name of the Country | No of women editors | % of women editors |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| USA | 8 | 34.78 |
| Australia | 2 | 8.69 |
| Tunisia | 2 | 8.69 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 4.34 |
| Oman | 1 | 4.34 |
| Albania | 1 | 4.34 |
| UK | 1 | 4.34 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 4.34 |
| Spain | 1 | 4.34 |
| Malaysia | 1 | 4.34 |
| Sri Lanka | 1 | 4.34 |
| Ethiopia | 1 | 4.34 |
| South Korea | 1 | 4.34 |
| Israel | 1 | 4.34 |
| Total | 23 | 100.00 |

**Fig. 1:** Positions held by members of editorial boards

It is quite clear from the above given Figure 1 that majority of women served in editorial boards of social science journals have academics back ground serving in various positions in universities and colleges as Professors, Associate Professors or Assistant Professors. A little more than one third of the women in editorial boards i.e. 60 (36.14%) are very senior academicians at the position of professor followed by almost equal number of women 54 (32.53%) who are working as Associate Professors. Similarly, 48 (28.91%) are Assistant Professors.

Position of Women in the Editorial Board

The editorial boards are usually constituted with members at different levels in the hierarchy. The head of the editorial board is known as the Chief Editor or the Executive Editor. Associate Editors are in the second level of the hierarchy followed by Assistant Editors. At the bottom most layer of the editorial board hierarchy are members. In the present study the women members in the editorial board of social science journals are placed in different levels of the hierarchy as reflected in the table below.

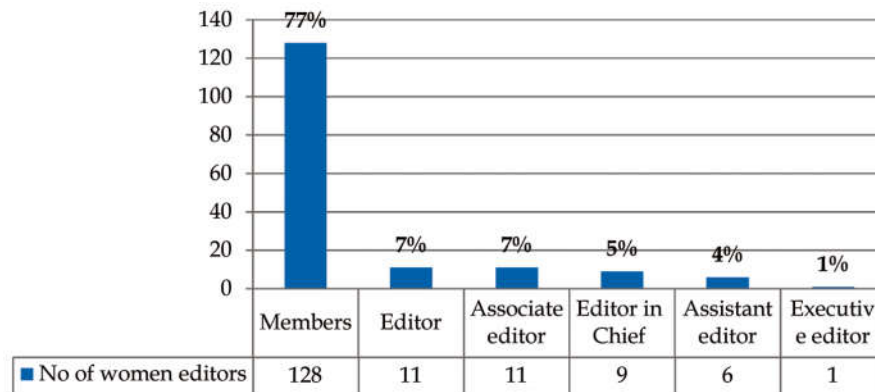


Fig. 2: Positions held by women members of editorial boards

In the above Figure 2 it could be found that a position of women in the editorial board members of social science journals in India. From the table and figure has found that the designation wise of women in editorial board members in social science journals. Here highest percentage of women participation as members' is (77.10%) editorial board in the editorial board members in social science journal in India. In table has given editors and associate editors are equally participation (6.62%) in editorial board of social science journals, and editor in chief (5.42%), assistant editors (3.61%) and executive editors (0.60%) women in editorial board of social science journals in India.

Journal Wise Analysis of Papers Authored by Women Published in the Current Issues

Gender inequalities as regards to authorship of scientific and research papers are quite apparent from bibliometric studies in almost all the scholarly disciplines. However, since social science is a comparatively soft science as compared to other branches of study, it is expected that women participation would have been more than men. In order to find out the fact, the following data was elicited in the present research.

Authorship of Women in Indian Journals

Gender disparity is quite visible in the authorship

pattern of journals where the male authors dominant. In order to know whether the same pattern holds in case of social science also, the following data was derived from the analysis of papers in the journals. The women participation as authors in journals has been categorised into 4 categories of journals in decreasing order of the percentage of women authors in the journals such as >75-100%, >50-75%, >25-50% and >1-25%.

Table-4 reflects the gender disparity with regard to authorship in social science journals in India. Above table has found that out of 1179 authors 351 (29.77%) are women authors in social science journals in India. Thus, overall one third of the authors in social science are women. However, there are few journals in the list in which higher participation of women as authors visible.

Designation Wise Distribution of Women Authors

The academic and professional profile of the authors in the journals matter a lot so far as the process of scholarly communication is concerned. It is always has a vital implication to know who the authors are. In some areas of study high level professionals at senior positions contribute more than the junior professionals or vice versa. The research makes an effort to find out the trend in social science area as well.

Table 4: Gender disparity in authorship pattern of social science journals

| Sl No | Name of the Journal | Total No of authors | No of women authors | % of women authors |
|-------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond | 9 | 8 | 88.88 |
| 2 | Shikshan Anveshika | 15 | 13 | 86.66 |
| 3 | Motifs : An International Journal of English Studies | 12 | 10 | 83.34 |
| 4 | International Journal of Advances in Social Sciences | 12 | 9 | 75.00 |
| 5 | Journal of Teacher Education and Research | 19 | 13 | 68.42 |
| 6 | Journal of research the bede athenaeum athenaeum | 19 | 12 | 63.15 |
| 7 | Learning Community-An International Journal of Educational and Social Development | 13 | 8 | 61.53 |
| 8 | Mass Communicator: International Journal of Communication Studies | 6 | 3 | 50.00 |
| 9 | International Scientific Journal of Sport Sciences | 15 | 7 | 46.67 |
| 10 | VIDHIGYA: The Journal of Legal Awareness | 7 | 3 | 42.85 |
| 11 | The Clarion- International Multidisciplinary Journal | 45 | 19 | 42.23 |
| 12 | ZENITH International Research & Academic Foundation (ZIRAF) India | 34 | 14 | 41.17 |
| 13 | Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology | 18 | 7 | 38.88 |
| 14 | Asian Man (The) - An International Journal | 39 | 15 | 38.46 |
| 15 | International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences | 21 | 8 | 38.09 |
| 16 | Academic Discourse | 19 | 7 | 36.84 |
| 17 | Educational Quest, An International Journal of Education and Applied Social Sciences | 19 | 7 | 36.84 |
| 18 | Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences | 14 | 5 | 35.71 |
| 19 | Voice of Intellectual Man- An International Journal | 14 | 5 | 35.71 |
| 20 | ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal | 37 | 13 | 35.13 |
| 21 | International Journal of Reviews and Research in Social Sciences | 18 | 6 | 33.34 |
| 22 | Journal of Exclusion Studies | 12 | 4 | 33.34 |
| 23 | World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues | 9 | 3 | 33.33 |
| 24 | TechnoLearn: An International Journal of Educational Technology | 6 | 2 | 33.33 |
| 25 | international journal in management & social science | 79 | 25 | 31.64 |
| 26 | Samajbodh | 20 | 6 | 30.00 |
| 27 | Indian Journal of Economics and Development | 34 | 10 | 29.41 |
| 28 | International Journal of Peace, Education and Development | 7 | 2 | 28.57 |
| 29 | International Journal of Research in Social Sciences | 112 | 30 | 26.78 |
| 30 | International Journal of Physical and Social Sciences | 79 | 21 | 26.58 |
| 31 | International Journal of Sociology, Social Anthropology and Social Policy | 16 | 4 | 25.00 |
| 32 | Public Affairs And Governance | 12 | 3 | 25.00 |
| 33 | Gyanodaya: The Journal Of Progressive Education | 8 | 2 | 25.00 |
| 34 | International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Sciences | 42 | 10 | 23.80 |
| 35 | Iassi quarterly | 10 | 2 | 20.00 |
| 36 | Economic Affairs | 74 | 14 | 18.91 |
| 37 | INROADS- An International Journal of Jaipur National University | 28 | 5 | 17.85 |
| 38 | Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities | 24 | 4 | 16.66 |
| 39 | Dynamics of Public Administration | 18 | 3 | 16.66 |
| 40 | International Journal of Physical Education Sports Management and Yogic Sciences | 12 | 1 | 8.34 |
| 41 | Spectrum : A Journal of Multidisciplinary Research | 12 | 1 | 8.33 |
| 42 | Journal of Global Communication | 25 | 2 | 8.00 |
| 43 | Samaj Shashtriya Patrika | 14 | 1 | 7.14 |
| 44 | Asian Journal of Development Matters | 36 | 2 | 5.56 |
| 45 | International Journal of Social Sciences | 18 | 1 | 5.56 |
| 46 | International Journal of Social and Economic Research | 19 | 1 | 5.26 |
| 47 | Quest-The Journal of UGC-HRDC Nainital | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | Afro Asian journal of Anthropology and Social policy | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | Sandharv | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | Indian Journal of Arts | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 1179 | 351 | 29.77 |

Table 5 reveals that majority of women authors i.e. 155 (44.15%) are junior level academicians with designation 'Assistant Professor' followed by next majority of 75 (21.36%) research scholars. The participation of senior level academicians like Associate professors and Professors has 14.24% and 10.82% contribution respectively.

There are some other categories of authors such as principals of colleges, Post Doctoral Fellows, Directors, Scientists, etc. with very little contribution.

Authorship Pattern of Women Authors

Authorship pattern is a major indicator of the dimensions of scholarly communication in any field of research. The first author of a research paper has always given more weightage than the co-authors. The API system of UGC for research appraisal also lays more emphasis on the first author with 60% of the total score accrued from that publication. As regards to the authorship pattern of women authors in social science journals in India, the following table highlights that out of 351 women authors 276 (78.64%) are first authors and rest 75 (21.36%) are co-authors.

Table 5: Designation/position of the women authors in social science

| Designation | No of women authors | % of women editors |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Assistant Professor/Lecturer | 155 | 44.15 |
| Research Scholar | 75 | 21.36 |
| Associate Professor | 50 | 14.24 |
| Professor | 38 | 10.82 |
| Student | 15 | 4.27 |
| Principal | 4 | 1.13 |
| Post Doctoral Fellow | 4 | 1.13 |
| Director | 3 | 0.85 |
| Teacher | 3 | 0.85 |
| Scientist | 3 | 0.85 |
| Total | 351 | 100.00 |

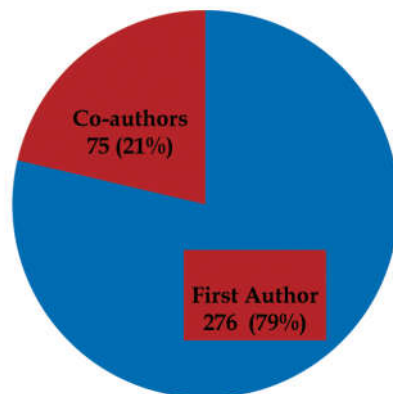


Fig. 3: Women authors in social science journals

State Wise Distribution of Women Authors in Social Science

Bibliometric and scientometric studies have always proved the geospatial disparities as regards to contributions of scientific and research publications and so also representation of authors from different geographical regions. The following table gives a geospatial angle to the representation of women authors in social science from different states in India.

Table-6 demonstrated that Uttar Pradesh is at the top among the Indian states/union territories as regards to women participation in scholarly communication as authors in social science journals with 39 (12.11%) women authors. The other states

which have significant number of women authors are Chhattisgarh (32), Haryana (28), Rajasthan (28), Delhi (25), Punjab (23), Tamil Nadu (21), and Assam (21).

State wise Distribution of Women Authors in Social Science

Many of the Indian journals in various fields have foreign members in the editorial board as well as authors of research papers. The participation of these foreign members definitely adds positively to the reputation of these journals. But it is always important to know the foreign members are from which country. The following table indicates participation of women from countries abroad as authors in social science

Table 6: State wise distribution of women authors in social science

| S.L No. | Name of the State | No of women authors | % of women authors |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Uttar Pradesh | 39 | 12.11 |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 32 | 9.93 |
| 3. | Haryana | 28 | 8.69 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 28 | 8.69 |
| 5. | Delhi | 25 | 7.76 |
| 6. | Punjab | 23 | 7.14 |
| 7. | Tamil Nadu | 21 | 6.52 |
| 8. | Assam | 20 | 6.21 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 18 | 5.59 |
| 10. | West Bengal | 14 | 4.34 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 13 | 4.03 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 10 | 3.10 |
| 13. | Kerala | 8 | 2.48 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 7 | 2.17 |
| 15. | Gujarat | 6 | 1.86 |
| 16. | Manipur | 6 | 1.86 |
| 17. | Uttarakhand | 6 | 1.86 |
| 18. | Andhra Pradesh | 4 | 1.24 |
| 19. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3 | 0.93 |
| 20. | Bihar | 2 | 0.62 |
| 21. | Odisha | 2 | 0.62 |
| 22. | Telengana | 2 | 0.62 |
| 23. | Tripura | 2 | 0.62 |
| 24. | Goa | 1 | 0.31 |
| 25. | Jharkhand | 1 | 0.31 |
| 26. | Pondicherry | 1 | 0.31 |
| | Total | 322 | 100.00 |

Table 7: Participation of women authors from foreign countries

| S.L No. | Name of the State | No of women authors | % of women authors |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Pakistan | 6 | 20.68 |
| 2. | USA | 5 | 17.24 |
| 3. | Australia | 3 | 10.34 |
| 4. | Mexico | 3 | 10.34 |
| 5. | Iran | 2 | 6.89 |
| 6. | Kenya | 2 | 6.89 |
| 7. | Spain | 2 | 6.89 |
| 8. | Bangladesh | 1 | 3.44 |
| 9. | Bhutan | 1 | 3.44 |
| 10. | Brazil | 1 | 3.44 |
| 11. | Indonesia | 1 | 3.44 |
| 12. | Sri Lanka | 1 | 3.44 |
| 13. | Tanzania | 1 | 3.44 |
| | Total | 29 | 100.00 |

journals in India.

From the Table 7 it is evident that 29 women from 13 foreign countries have contributed as authors in the current issues of social science journals. The highest number of women i.e. 6 (20.68%) from Pakistan 5 (17.24%) from USA and 3 (10.43%) each from Australia and Mexico.

Major Findings

As a result a systematic analysis of data obtained for the present study in the previous chapters, the researcher observes the following findings about the women involvement in social science journals in India

as members of editorial board and authors;

- i. Editorial boards in different social science journals in India constituted with members ranging between 2 to 105. The editorial board of *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* has highest number (105) of editorial members followed by *International Journal of Social and Economic Research* (78) and *Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology* (64). With regard to women participation in editorial board, it varied between 0-55%. Only 11 out of 50 journals have 25% or more women members in the editorial board. In 5 journals, there are no women in the editorial board.

- ii. The highest percentage of women participation in editorial board is (55.56%) in the journal *Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond* and second highest percentage of women participation in editorial board is (50.00%) *Voice of Intellectual Man- An International Journal* and *Motifs: An International Journal of English Studies*.
- iii. It was found that, highest numbers of women in editorial board (33, 22.91%) are from Uttar Pradesh. The second highest women participation as editorial board member is from Delhi with 16 (11.11%) women in editorial board. Goa is state where lowest number of women represents in the editorial board. Odisha is among the top ten states with high participation of women in editorial works of social science journals.
- iv. Out of 166 women members in editorial board, 23 (13.85%) are foreign members representing 14 foreign countries. Highest percentage of women editors (34.78%) are from USA, followed by Australia and Tunisia with 2 (8.69%) members each. Rest 11 countries have 1 (4.34%) women member each in the editorial board.
- v. The highest percentage of women in editorial board is 33 (29.10%) women in editorial board of social science journals from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Delhi is second highest in terms of number of women editors with 16 (14.15%) women in editorial board followed by Maharashtra (8.84%), Punjab (5.3%), and Rajasthan (5.3%).
- vi. Majority of women (77.10%) represent to different editorial boards serve as 'members'. In table has given editors and associate editors are equally participation (6.62%) in editorial board of social science journals, and editor in chief (5.42%), assistant editors (3.61%) and executive editors (0.60%) women in editorial board of social science journals in India.
- vii. It was found that 705 papers published in current social science journals have been authored by 351 women authors with an average of 0.49 women authors per paper. In these social science journals, 5 journals (top five in the table) are highly participated by women as authors with 1 or >1 women authors per paper. Rest 45 journals have less than 1 woman in the authors per paper. In 4 journals in the bottom of the list does not have a single women author in any of the 32 papers published in the current issues.
- viii. It was revealed that out of 1179 authors 348 (29.51%) are women authors in social science journals in India. Thus, overall one third of the authors in social science are women.
- ix. Cotton College, Guwahati, is at the top of the ten institutions with 10 women faculty representing as authors in social science. While Pt. Ravi Shankar University stands in the second position with 9 women representing as authors, St. Bede's College, Shimla is at the third position with 6 women representations. However, reputed universities such as university of Delhi, University of Calcutta and B. R. Ambedkar University Lucknow are at the bottom of the list with less than 5 women representing themselves as authors in social science journals.
- x. Out of 351 women authors 276 (78.64%) are first authors and rest 75 (21.36%) are co-authors.
- xi. Uttar Pradesh is at the top among the Indian states/union territories as regards to women participation in scholarly communication as authors in social science journals with 39 (12.11%) women authors. The other states which have significant number of women authors are Chhattisgarh (32), Haryana (28), Rajasthan (28), Delhi (25), Punjab (23), Tamil Nadu (21), and Assam (21).
- xii. The study revealed that 29 women from 13 foreign countries have contributed as authors in the current issues of social science journals. The highest number of women i.e 6 (20.68%) as authors are from Pakistan followed by 5 (17.24%) women from USA and 3 (10.43%) each from Australia and Mexico.

Suggestions

On the basis of the analysis of data and generalization of the findings in the preceding chapter, the following suggestions are structured:

- i. Gender disparities from the base level be tried to be removed by taking special measures for women students in social science by making a reservation of few seats in social science subjects.
- ii. The universities and college, while taking up recruitment of faculty in social science Departments may mandate to reserve 30% to 40% of the available faculty strength for women.
- iii. The presence of women in the editorial board take care of feminine issues be emphasised in the research papers published in the social science journals. Hence, the journal publishers may mandate and ensure the presence of at least one third of women in the editorial board.

- iv. Social Science departments in colleges and universities may be sanctioned special research assistance for women faculty and scholars for their increased participation in the scholarly communication process as authors.
- v. Special scholarships for women students and scholars pursuing higher studies in social science may be launched by the University Grants Commission or by government.
- vi. Social science journals which publish only papers authored by women may be launched to bridge the gender disparities in the scholarly communication.

Conclusion

Women's representation in editorial boards and author panels of social science journals are underrepresented as compared to their male counterpart. However, this does not always reflect lacking in specialties in women in social science. Social and other gender related issues are actively involved in this field. Hence, efforts should be made through appropriate legislation and mandates at different levels to attain parity of women on these boards. The statistics in this investigation only reflect to certain other issues which involved with the under representation of women. These issues have been dealt with logical solutions to ensure gender parity and

balanced representation of women in research contribution towards social science.

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