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Bibliometric Analysis of Regional Studies – A Quarterly Journal of Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan

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Purpose:

This paper aims to extract and scrutinize the published data of Regional Studies (A quarterly journal of Islamabad Regional Studies(IRS).

Designed/methodology/approach: The bibliometric approach is used to analyze the published work of Regional studies during 2012-20. The analysis includes: The Authorship pattern. Contribution of different organizations and most dynamic authorship alongwith the Geographical distribution of the published work.

Research limitation(s): The study is limited to nine years of performance from 2012-20 only, and no other parts were brought into consideration for this paper.

Key finding(s): The study reveals that 122 authors contributed 130 papers during 2012-20 with an average rate of 5.2 articles per issue. The study shows that most of the articles 101 (77.69%) out of 130 articles were contributed by single authors and the most prolific authors were Pakistani by geographical distributions.

Practical implication(s): This study identifies the gap and loophole in the existing style and publication methods. The analysis will undoubtedly create awareness among potential authors, readers, and library information professionals generally and particularly to the stakeholders and researchers of the Institute of Regional Studies. This study will help to understand the scope and coverage of the journal.

Contribution to knowledge: The researchers attempted to highlight this journal's scope for the scholars of social sciences in Pakistan and abroad. The study is the author's first attempt at this journal, and no other similar research has been contributed by others so far. It will also help the researchers as a source of guidance for novice researchers interested in the bibliometric analysis of various journals and scholarly databases. It also contributes to the scholarly world to assist and extend the boundaries of knowledge.

Paper type: Research.

Keyword(s): Regional Studies, Bibliometric Analysis, Institute of Regional Studies, Statistical Review; Research Journal

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Introduction

Since its inception in 1982 as an independent think tank, IRS slogan is "know thy neighbor." It has provided quality in-depth research and critical analysis of political, economic and social events in the region. Over the years, the role of the IRS, its archives and publications have been widely acknowledged. In the momentous times of today, the role of think-tanks is gaining significance. To deal with modern-day challenges, IRS must adopt a proactive, inclusive, and progressive approach. IRS contributed to research in different formats such as Focus, Spotlight, Conference Books, selection, etc. The role of its journal titled regional studies is unique in contributing the latest insights in its deals.

The journal covers a broad spectrum of subjects related to issues of national and international reputation. Broadly Regional studies cover economic, industrial, socio-cultural and security-related issues. This journal has covered different countries that fall within south Asia's purview, such as Pakistan, India, Maldive, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran and Gulf states, etc.

Bibliometrics deals with the quantification of written communication. It is a helpful tool for the published knowledge and highlights the growth of literature and inter-connect the relationships between different branches of knowledge. It also deals with Author productivity, degree of collaboration and patern of authorship. The term Bibliometric was brought in use by Alan Pritchard in 1969 (Hussain, Abid 2020). The word 'bibliometric' is derived from the Latin and Greek words 'biblio' and 'metrics' which refer to the application of mathematics to the study of bibliography". It has been defined as "the application of mathematical and statistical methods on books and other media of communication". The Library Information Science researchers are consistently adopting bibliometric studies to appraise and evaluate the published literature's scientific output on any specific subject, domain for a definite period by applying bibliometric and citation indicators. Moreover, bibliometric studies have been beneficial for librarians in the selection and weeding policies.

Bibliometric methods can evaluate and determine the relationship between single and more authors in their producing works. The regional patterns of research can also be implemented, the collaboration between researchers in their printed works. In last few years, bibliometric has become one of most researched areas in the field of Library and Information science. (Manivannan & Sanjeevi, 2012) Bibliometric evaluation can be used to determine the influence of single author or related works it can also be used to define relationships between two or more authors or works. It is a quantitative description of literatures and helps in measurement of all recorded information ; hence, the researcher chooses the present study.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study concerning published work in the Regional Studies include:
1. To examine the year-wise distribution of articles
2. To study modus operandi of authorship.
3. To determine the geographical distributions of contributions.
4. To find out the most productive and influential authors, universities, and countries.

Methodology:

Regional Studies is a quarterly journal of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) from year 2012 to 2020 has been taken into consideration for this study. Articles published in the journal of Regional studies were extracted and analyzed by using visualization software. Excel programs were used for the most productive and influential authors, degree of collaborations, etc. Cite Space was used to demonstrate the published work of Regional Studies. The result shows a total of 130 articles published from 2012 to 2020 in Regional studies. Efforts were made to analyze the year-wise distribution of articles, authorship patterns, and degree of collaboration. This study is limited to the research articles only; book reviews, short communication etc were excluded from the statistical reviews.

Literature Review

Bibliometric deals with quantification of written communication and helps researchers in published knowledge. It throws light on the pattern of literature growth, inter-relationship among different branches of knowledge, productivity, authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, collection building pattern, and their use. The term "bibliometrics" as an interdisciplinary research field was first coined by Alan Pritchard in 1969 (Abid, 2020). Researchers use bibliometric evaluation methods to determine a single author's influence or describe the relationship between two or more authors or works. Bibliometric studies can be used to study regional patterns of research, the extent of cooperation between research groups and national research profiles. The word bibliometric has been derived from the Latin and Greek words Biblio and metrics, which refer to the application of mathematics to the study of the bibliography. Bibliometric is one of the thrust areas of mathematics and statistic on books and other media of communication to do research on. The Library and Information science constantly deal with bibliographical data of printed material, so the use of Bibliometric in library & information science is a highly applicable method to appraise and evaluate the scientific output of the published literature on any subject for a defined period through citation indicators, it is immensely useful for the library scholars in the selection and weeding policies of library material. In the most prominent quantitative approach of Library and Information Science, bibliometrics' role is of great importance (Laengle et al., 2017). In Library and Information Science, the Bibliometric study is an important thrust area to do research. (Manivannan & Sanjeevi, 2012). Numerous journals in the various fields have been reviewed using bibliometric techniques; the journals include Journal of Documentation (Roy, & Basak, 2013), The Journal of Information Literacy (Panda et al., 2013), Journal of Informetrics (Das, 2013), Journal of School Health (Zhang et al., 2017), Journal of Religion and Health (Şenel &

Demir, 2018). In (Kalita, 2016), a scientometric analysis of the articles published in Science between 2006 and 2015 has been made based on the Web of Science database's citation data. This study found that the average authorship of the research papers has seen an increasing trend. The researches published in Science are highly collaborative (degree of collaboration always ≥0.96). Based on the cited references study, it also was found that each year. Science generates an average of 10% self-citations from the outgoing citations through its research articles. Based on the data collected from the articles listed in Web of Science between 1993 and 2012, the paper (Sangam and Arali, 2016) studied the relative growth rate of research publications versus the Genetics' collaboration and authorship pattern of the world and India. The study showed the higher the growth of literature and the higher the scientific collaboration. Muthumari and Raja (2016) presented a bibliometric analysis of 783 papers published in Defence Science Journal during 2005-2014. In this study, authors analyzed different aspects like communication, growth pattern, authorship pattern, prolific contributors, collaboration trend, etc. Larivière, Sugimoto, and Cronin (2012) presented a century-long analysis of the Library and Information Science (LIS) field using various standard bibliometric techniques. This study provides field-specific indicators of scholarly productivity and impact and includes aggregate data on scholarly publication, authorship and citation trends in the social sciences and humanities in general. Cobo et al. (2015) presented a bibliometric analysis of the journal Knowledge-Based Systems' scientific content (KnoSys) by analyzing the articles published between 1991 and 2014. The research showed that during these 25 years: KnoSys has attracted the interest of the scientific community.The impact factor of KnoSys has increased. The publications of KnoSys are focused mainly on eight great thematic areas (Classification, Data mining, Rough-sets, Decision- support-systems, Agent-systems, Information-retrieval, Group- decision making and Semantic-web). A study in a social science journal titled" Mapping the Research Output of the Journal' Strategic Studies'-Islamabad: A Statistical Review" was conducted by (Abid Hussain, 2020); the study reveals that 317 articles published during the period 2008 to 2018, an average of 7.2 articles per issue. The research shows that most of the articles,132 (73.74%), are single authors. The author attempted to cover the social science journals produced by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

Findings of the Study

Chart 1 shows the year-wise contribution of articles in the regional studies. A total of 130 articles were published from 2012 to 2020. The highest years in terms of article contributions are 2013,14 and 15, which has produced 18 articles with a percentage ratio of 13.85. The lowest articles were contributed during 2020, which has only five articles with a percentage rate of 3.85%.

Chart 1: Year-wise Distribution of Articles
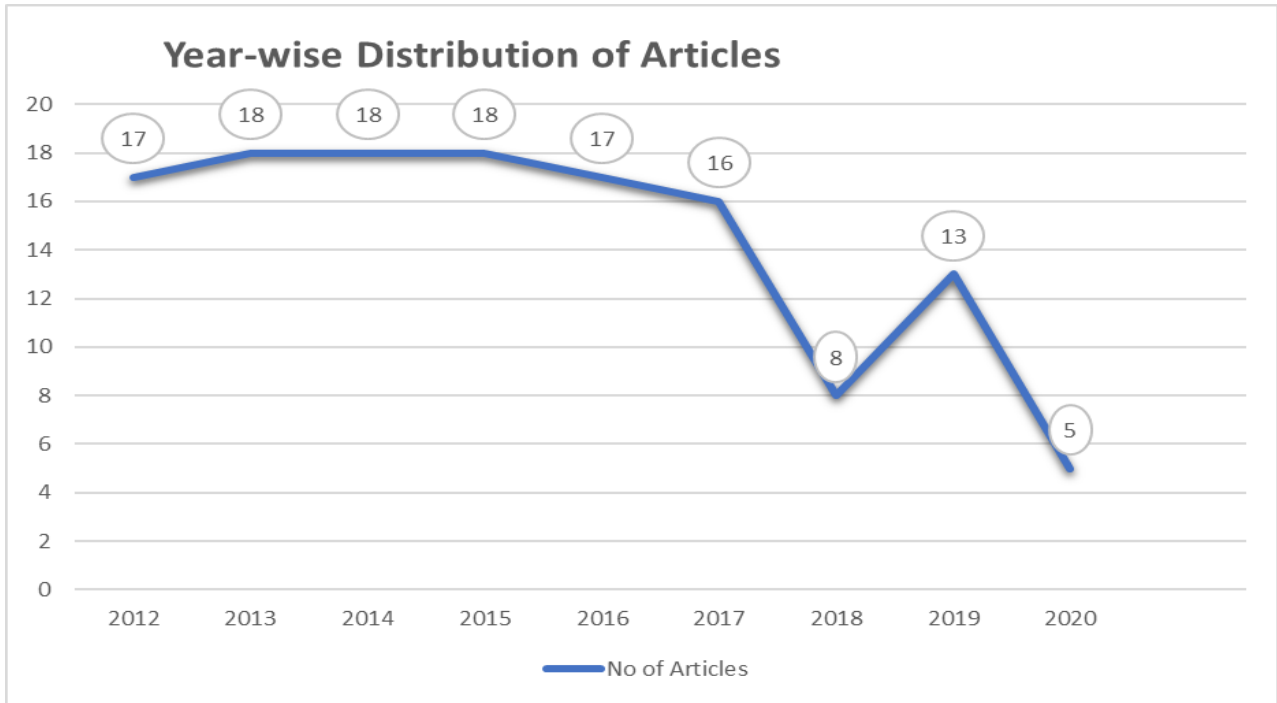
Table 2 represents authorship patterns in terms of their contributions. Signle authors contributed 101 (77.69%) articles out of 130 articles. Two authors contributed total 16 (12.31%) articles out of 130 articles. Three authors contributed 12(9.23%) articles in all issues of Regional Studies. However, four authors have contributed only one article during 2018. The table represents that single authors have contributed more articles as compared to group authors.

Table 2: Authorship Pattern

Year	No of Authors				Total
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	
2012	14	2	1	-	17
2013	15	1	2	-	18
2014	15	3	-	-	18
2015	14	2	2	-	18
2016	13	2	2	-	17
2017	13	1	2	-	16
2018	4	3	-	1	8

2019	9	2	2	-	13
2020	4	-	1	-	5
Total	101	16	12	1	130
Percentage	77.69	12.31	9.23	0.77	100

Table 3 represents the year-wise contribution of authors. It shows that Single authors have contributed a total of 101 (77.69%) articles from 2012 to 2020, while joint authors have contributed 29 (22.31%) articles collaboratively. The Year 2013-14 represents a good sign for single authors; however, for joint authorship year 2015,16, 18 and 19 show good signs indicated in the table.

Table 3: Year-wise Authorship Pattern

Year	Authorship		Total
	Single	**Joint**	
2012	14	3	17
2013	15	3	18
2014	15	3	18
2015	14	4	18
2016	13	4	17
2017	13	3	16
2018	4	4	8
2019	9	4	13
2020	4	1	5
Total	101	29	130
Percentage	**77.69**	**22.31**	**100**

In Chart 4 geographical distribution of authors is analyzed. A total of 122 authors have contributed a total of 130 articles during 2012-20. In terms of geographical distribution, Pakistan remained on top 96(78.6%) contributed by Pakistani authors. The lowest country in the table represents New Zealand country whose authors contributed only two articles. In other countries like UK, USA, Sri Lankan authors contributed eight articles during 2012-20.

Chart 4: Geographical Distribution Of Authors

Pie chart legend: Pakistan (96), Bangladesh (9), China (3), New Zealand (2), India (4), Others (UK, KSA,Sri Lanka (8)
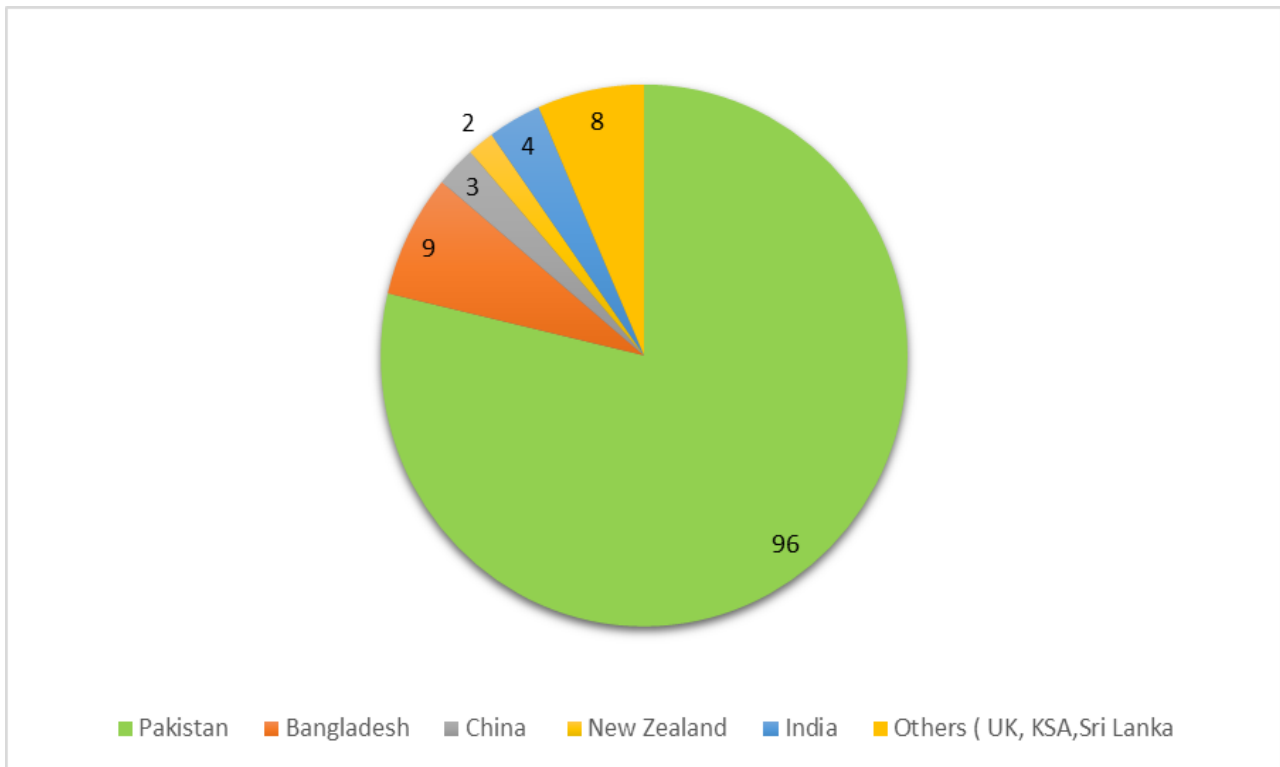
Chart 5 represents the most dynamic authors in terms of their contribution to the journal. Syed Imran Sardar and Humera Iqbal remained in the top position, contributing six articles; Aarish Ullah Khan, Murad Ali, and Asma Yaqoob contributed 5,5 articles consecutively. As shown in the table, numerous authors have contributed two articles in different issues of the journal.

Cahrt 5: Most Dynamic Authors

Graph of Most Dynamic Authors

▣ Total No of Articles Published

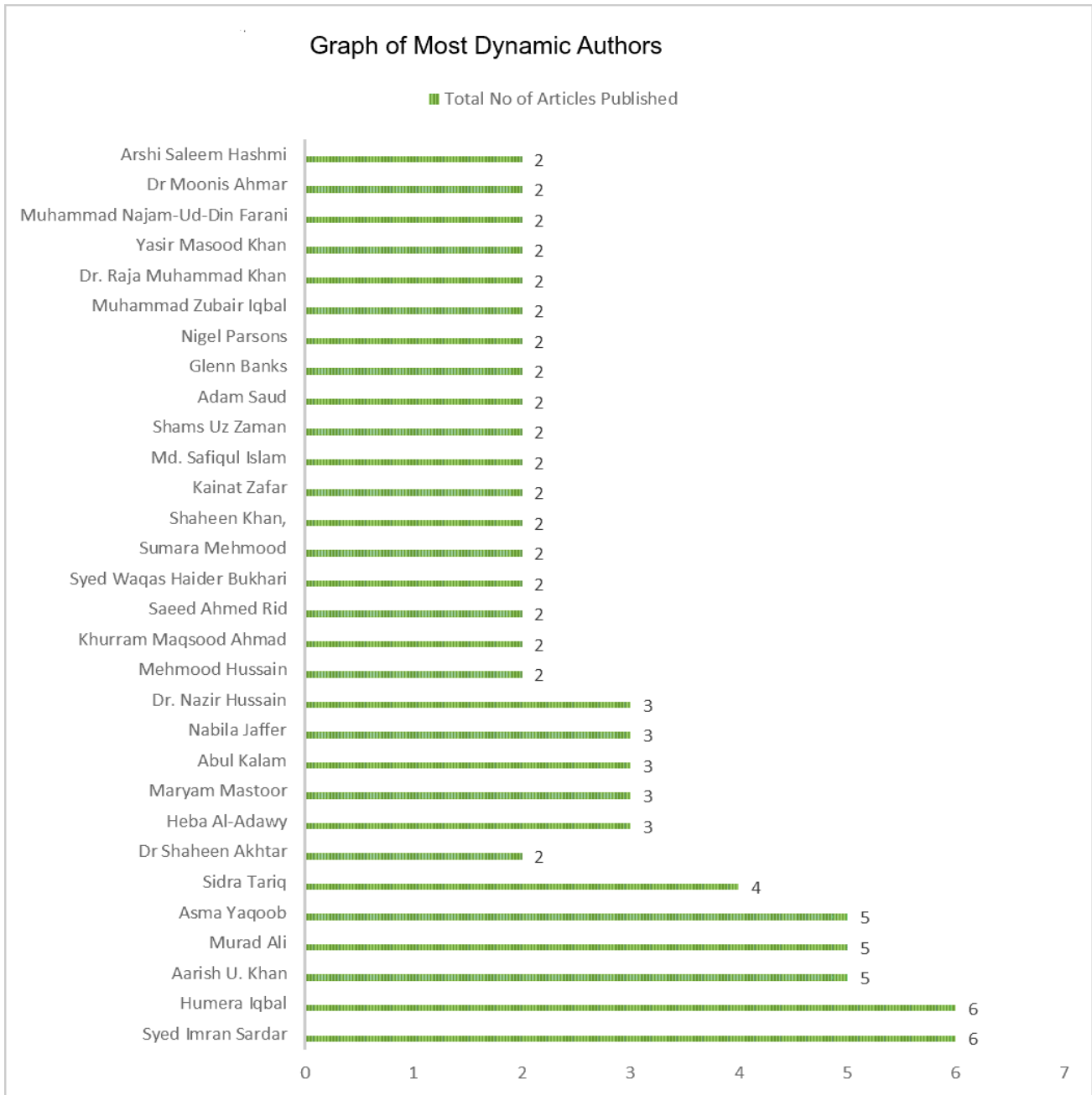| Author	Total No of Articles Published
Arshi Saleem Hashmi	2
Dr Moonis Ahmar	2
Muhammad Najam-Ud-Din Farani	2
Yasir Masood Khan	2
Dr. Raja Muhammad Khan	2
Muhammad Zubair Iqbal	2
Nigel Parsons	2
Glenn Banks	2
Adam Saud	2
Shams Uz Zaman	2
Md. Safiqul Islam	2
Kainat Zafar	2
Shaheen Khan,	2
Sumara Mehmood	2
Syed Waqas Haider Bukhari	2
Saeed Ahmed Rid	2
Khurram Maqsood Ahmad	2
Mehmood Hussain	2
Dr. Nazir Hussain	3
Nabila Jaffer	3
Abul Kalam	3
Maryam Mastoor	3
Heba Al-Adawy	3
Dr Shaheen Akhtar	2
Sidra Tariq	4
Asma Yaqoob	5
Murad Ali	5
Aarish U. Khan	5
Humera Iqbal	6
Syed Imran Sardar	6

Table 6 represents the Area-wise distribution of Pakistani Authors. Authors in Islamabad contributed 61(63.54%) articles, followed by authors in Punjab province, who contributed 13(13.64%) articles. The lowest contribution has been made by Balochistan province; only two articles with (2.08%) have been published in the Regional Studies Journal. Pakistani Authors contributed a total of 96 Articles out of 130 articles.

Table 6: Area-wise Distribution of Pakistani Authors

Area	No of Authors	Percentage
Islamabad	61	63.54
Punjab	13	13.54
Sindh	6	6.25
Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa	10	10.42
Kashmir	4	4.17
Baluchistan	2	2.08
Total	96	100

Table 7 represents the institutional-wise contribution of authors. Among them, the Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad contributed 13 papers, followed by the National Defence University Islamabad, and they contributed a total of 12 articles. The lowest ranking among institutions was Women University AJK, Minhaj University Lahore and Islamia College Peshawar, whose authors contributed only 2, 2 articles.

Table 7: Institutional-wise Distributions of Authors

Institutions	No of Authors	Percentage
Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad	13	10.65
National Defence University	12	9.84
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad	9	7.38
International Islamic University Islamabad	7	5.74
University of Chittagong	4	3.28
The Islamia University of Bahawalpur	4	3.28
Bahria University Islamabad	4	3.28
University of Peshawar	4	3.28
Pakistan Navy War College	3	2.46
NUML	3	2.46
Allama Iqbal Open University	3	2.46
University of Karachi	3	2.46
Women University of AJK Bagh	2	1.64
University of Azad Jammu Muzaffarabad	2	1.64
Minhaj University, Lahore,	2	1.64
Islamia College Peshawar	2	1.64
Others	43	35.24
Total	**122**	100%

Conclusion and Recommendations

Institute of Regional Studies was established in 1982 as an autonomous Think-Tank with the slogan "know thy neighbour." It has provided quality, in-depth research and critical analysis. It published a quarterly journal titled Regional Studies. The authors attempted to cover this journal's different spectrums by evaluating its contribution and coverage at the geographical level. The study revealed that 122 authors contributed 130 articles from different regions during 2012-20. Out of 130 articles, 101 articles were contributed by single authors. The most prolific authors in papers' contributions were Syed Muhammad Imran and Humera Iqbal, who contributed 6,6 articles during the stipulated period. As far as Institutional-wise contribution is concerned, the Institute of Regional Studies remained in the top position, which has contributed 13 articles, followed by National Defence University Islamabad, which has published 12 articles on this journal's issues. In Worldwide contribution, Pakistani authors contributed a total of 96 out of 130 articles. Bangladesh secured the second position with nine articles, followed by China with three articles. From the above discussion, it is evident that Regional Studies is a peer-reviewed HEC recognized journal with a major focus on research articles related to social sciences. Researchers in Foreign countries have also shown interest in publishing their research in this journal, and it has no doubt proved to be an important platform for sharing vital research. The volume of research articles has constantly been increasing. It is a real source of the research network of different scholars and institutions. In collaboration with Higher Education Commission, the stakeholder has keenly interested in making Regional Studies one of the fines journals in Pakistan. Based on the conclusion, the following recommendation is made by the authors.

1. As the journal is quarterly-based and needs to be converted to two-monthly to accommodate more authors.

2. Update Issues could be covered attributing to Pakistan's stance

3. Researchers of less developed areas in Pakistan ought to be provided more opportunities.

4. Quality of the journal should not be compromised

5. Increased the volume of articles from 5-7 to accommodate more authors.

6. Articles of Global issues should be covered in order to capture the mind of international scholars.

7. Separate websites with complete guidelines for the author's submission may clearly be elaborated.

8. The journals may be indexed in quality Databases to capture more scholars from reputed organizations

9. Articles of global interests and international issues should be covered to attract international scholars.

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