

Mapping the Landscape: A Bibliometric Analysis of Knowledge Management Research in India

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Abstract

This bibliometric analysis explores the landscape of Knowledge Management (KM) research in India, aiming to provide insights into publication trends, citation patterns, authorship dynamics, and thematic clusters. The study encompasses 784 documents sourced from 478 sources spanning the years 2000 to 2024, reflecting a robust body of scholarly work on KM. The analysis reveals a diverse array of sources and authors contributing to KM research, with prominent themes including strategic management strategies, technology integration, organizational learning, and evaluation metrics. By mapping the intellectual landscape of KM research in India, this study informs researchers, policymakers, and practitioners about the current state of the field and its implications for organizational practice and policy formulation.

Keywords: Knowledge Management, Bibliometric Analysis, India, Publication Trends, Thematic Clusters.

1. Introduction

Knowledge management (KM) is a multifaceted discipline that has garnered increasing attention due to its crucial role in modern organizations. At its core, KM involves the systematic process of identifying, capturing, storing, sharing, and leveraging knowledge assets within an organization to achieve strategic objectives and enhance performance (Mårtensson, 2000). With the rapid expansion of information and technology, organizations are realizing the importance of managing their intellectual capital effectively. KM encompasses a range of practices, including knowledge creation, capture, sharing, storage, retrieval, transfer, and application. By fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and collaboration, organizations can harness the collective expertise and experience of their employees, leading to improved decision-making, enhanced innovation, increased efficiency, and better customer satisfaction (Ullah et al., 2023). Effective knowledge management involves recognizing and valuing both explicit knowledge – codified and documented information – and tacit knowledge – the insights, experiences, and expertise residing in individuals' minds. While explicit knowledge can be easily captured and shared through databases, documents, and information systems,

tacit knowledge is more challenging to articulate and transfer. Therefore, KM initiatives often focus on creating platforms and processes that facilitate the exchange of tacit knowledge, such as communities of practice, mentorship programs, and collaborative tools (McInerney, 2002). Despite its potential benefits, implementing KM initiatives can pose several challenges. Cultural resistance, technology issues, knowledge silos, measuring impact, and the risk of knowledge loss are among the common barriers organizations face. Overcoming these challenges requires leadership commitment, investment in technology infrastructure, fostering a supportive organizational culture, and implementing effective knowledge sharing mechanisms. Looking ahead, the future of knowledge management is likely to be shaped by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain. These technologies hold the promise of automating knowledge processes, extracting insights from vast amounts of data, and enhancing collaboration and decision-making (Kediya et al., 2023). Furthermore, the growing importance of knowledge sharing networks, communities of practice, and cross-sector partnerships suggests a shift towards more decentralized and collaborative approaches to KM (Khan et al., 2023).

Components of Knowledge Management

KM encompasses a range of practices, including knowledge creation, capture, sharing, storage, retrieval, transfer, and application. By fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and collaboration, organizations can harness the collective expertise and experience of their employees, leading to improved decision-making, enhanced innovation, increased efficiency, and better customer satisfaction (Singh et al., 2023). Effective knowledge management involves recognizing and valuing both explicit knowledge – codified and documented information – and tacit knowledge – the insights, experiences, and expertise residing in individuals' minds (Choy & Suk, 2005).

Challenges and Barriers

Despite its potential benefits, implementing KM initiatives can pose several challenges. Cultural resistance, technology issues, knowledge silos, measuring impact, and the risk of knowledge loss are among the common barriers organizations face. Overcoming these challenges requires leadership commitment, investment in technology infrastructure, fostering a supportive organizational culture, and implementing effective knowledge sharing mechanisms (Girard & Girard, 2015).

Knowledge Management (KM) plays a pivotal role in shaping organizational success and innovation in today's dynamic business environment. As organizations in India increasingly recognize the significance of effectively managing their intellectual capital, the field of Knowledge Management has gained prominence across various sectors. Understanding the trajectory of Knowledge Management research in India is crucial for identifying trends, gaps, and emerging areas of interest. This bibliometric analysis aims to provide insights into the landscape of Knowledge Management research within the Indian context (Paul et al., 2023). By examining publication trends, citation patterns, collaboration networks, and thematic clusters, this study seeks to shed light on the evolution, contributions, and future directions of Knowledge Management scholarship in India. Through a systematic review of existing literature and data-driven analysis, this study endeavours to inform policymakers, researchers, and practitioners about the state of Knowledge Management research in India and its implications for organizational practice and policy formulation (Quintas et al., 1997).

Research questions

- 1.How do authorship patterns vary in Knowledge Management research within the Indian context?
- 2.What are the predominant sources contributing to Knowledge Management research in India?
- 3.What are the recurring themes and emerging trends in Knowledge Management research conducted in India?.

2. Research Methodology

This study employs a bibliometric approach to analyze Knowledge Management (KM) research conducted within the context of India. The primary data source for this analysis is the Scopus database, chosen for its extensive coverage of scholarly literature across various disciplines. To identify relevant publications, we utilized a search strategy based on the following criteria: "TITLE-ABS-KEY ('knowledge management' AND India) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , 'English'))". This search strategy ensures that only articles with 'knowledge management' and 'India' mentioned in their titles, abstracts, or keywords, and published in English, are included in the analysis.

Inclusion Criteria:Publications must contain the terms 'knowledge management' and 'India' in their titles, abstracts, or keywords.

Only articles published in English are considered.

The study period is not specified but covers a comprehensive timeframe to capture relevant literature.

Exclusion Criteria:Publications not related to Knowledge Management or not conducted within the Indian context.

Articles published in languages other than English.

Duplicate publications, conference abstracts, and non-peer-reviewed sources are excluded to maintain the quality and reliability of the dataset.

Once the dataset is compiled, bibliometric techniques will be employed to analyze authorship patterns, citation networks, source characteristics, and thematic clusters within the Knowledge Management literature originating from India. Descriptive statistics, co-authorship network analysis, keyword co-occurrence analysis, and thematic content analysis will be utilized to gain insights into the patterns and trends in Knowledge Management research in India. This methodology enables a comprehensive exploration of the landscape of Knowledge Management scholarship in India, offering valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in the field.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Main Information

TABLE I: DATA DESCRIPTION

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	2000:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	478
Documents	784
Annual Growth Rate %	10.91
Document Average Age	8.65
Average citations per doc	9.893
References	1
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	4202
Author's Keywords (DE)	2226

The dataset comprises 784 documents sourced from 478 sources spanning the years 2000 to 2024, reflecting a robust body of scholarly work on Knowledge Management. With an annual growth rate of 10.91%, the dataset encompasses both recent and older publications, providing a comprehensive longitudinal view of Knowledge

Management research trends. The average age of the documents is 8.65 years, indicating a mix of historical and contemporary perspectives within the dataset. Furthermore, the average citation per document stands at 9.893, underscoring the impact and influence of Knowledge Management literature within the scholarly community. Additionally, the dataset includes 4202 Keywords Plus (ID) and 2226 Author's Keywords (DE), offering insights into the diverse topics, themes, and concepts covered in Knowledge Management research. These metrics provide a foundation for further analysis and exploration, enabling a deeper understanding of Knowledge Management scholarship, its evolution, and its contributions over time.

3.2 Most Influential Sources

The dataset includes a diverse range of sources contributing to Knowledge Management research. The top sources are the Journal of Knowledge Management with 26 articles, followed closely by the Vine Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems with 23 articles. Additionally, the Proceedings of the European Conference on Knowledge Management (ECKM) and the International Journal of Knowledge Management are significant contributors, with 17 and 14 articles respectively. Other notable sources include the Journal of Information and Knowledge Management, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, International Journal of Knowledge Management Studies, and Proceedings of International Conference on Computation, Automation and Knowledge Management (ICCAKM 2020), each contributing between 8 to 13 articles. These sources represent a variety of academic journals, conference proceedings, and book series, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of Knowledge Management research and the diverse platforms where it is disseminated.



Figure 1: Most Popular Sources

3.3 Most Influential Authors

The dataset highlights several prolific authors who have made significant contributions to Knowledge Management literature. Leading the list are D. Chawla and H. Joshi, each with 14 articles, followed closely by S. Kumar with 12 articles. R.K. Pillania, S. Roy, and S. Bhattacharya are also notable contributors, with 10, 8, and 7 articles respectively. Additionally, authors such as R. Gururajan, A. Kumar, A. Singh, and R. Singh have each authored 6 articles, demonstrating their substantial impact on the field. These authors represent a diverse range of perspectives and expertise within Knowledge Management research, contributing to its richness and depth.

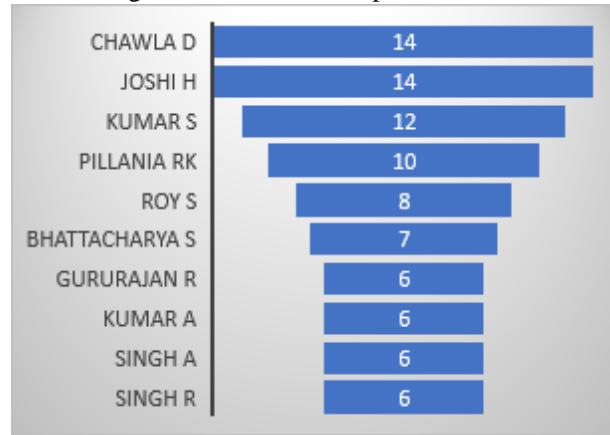


Figure 2: Most Influential Authors

3.4 Co-occurrence of Keywords

Keyword co-occurrence analysis provides valuable insights into the thematic relationships and interconnections within a body of literature. By examining the frequency and patterns of keywords appearing together in documents, researchers can identify clusters of related concepts, emerging themes, and interdisciplinary intersections. This analysis helps uncover the underlying structure of a research field, revealing the prevalent topics, trends, and areas of focus. Additionally, keyword co-occurrence analysis enables researchers to map the intellectual landscape, identify key contributors, and explore the evolution of research themes over time. By leveraging this methodological approach, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between ideas and concepts within a particular domain, informing future research directions, and facilitating knowledge integration and synthesis.

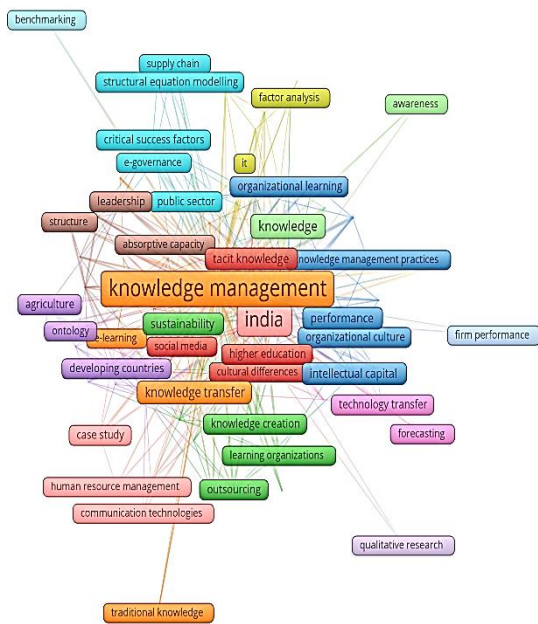


Figure 3: Cooccurrence of keywords

3.5 Most Influential Documents

This provides information on the total citations received by select papers in the field of Knowledge Management. Notably, Singh SK's paper published in the Journal of Knowledge Management in 2008 has garnered the highest number of citations, with a total of 207 citations. Following closely is Hoda R's paper from 2013, published in IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, with 183 citations. Naqshbandi MM's paper in Technological Forecasting and Social Change from 2018 has received 166 citations, while Zahedi M's paper in the International Journal of Information Management from 2016 has accumulated 157 citations. Other notable papers include Patil SK's paper in the Applied Soft Computing Journal from 2014, Rao NH's paper in Technological Forecasting and Social Change from 2007, and Ashworth A's paper in Maternal and Child Nutrition from 2008, each receiving 129, 117, and 113 citations respectively. Pandey SC's paper in the Journal of Knowledge Management from 2013, Jain AK's paper in Learning Organization from 2015, and Nicholson B's paper in Information Organization from 2004 have also received significant attention, with 111, 110, and 109 citations respectively. These papers reflect the diversity and impact of research contributions in the field of Knowledge Management, highlighting key studies that have significantly influenced the scholarly discourse.

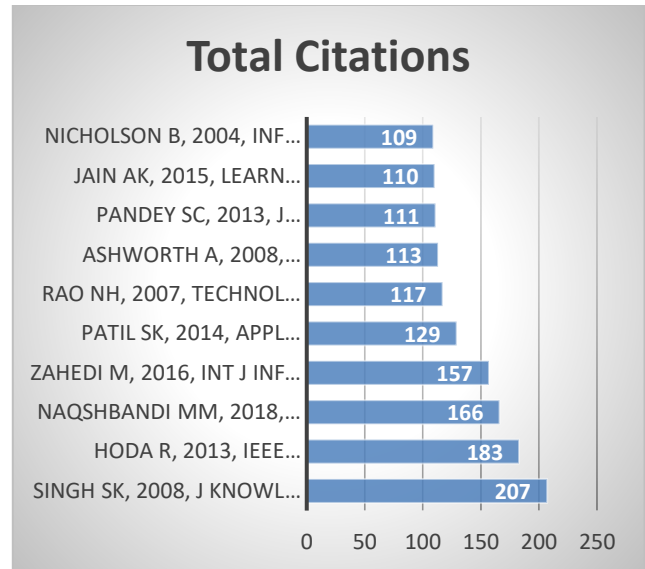


Figure 4: Most Influential Documents

4. Thematic Map

Cluster 1: Knowledge Management Strategies

This cluster encompasses keywords related to the strategic aspects of Knowledge Management. It includes terms such as knowledge management systems, knowledge sharing, transfer, creation, and utilization (Demarest, 1997). These keywords highlight the foundational elements of Knowledge Management strategies, focusing on how organizations manage, disseminate, and leverage their knowledge assets to achieve strategic objectives. Strategies in this cluster encompass the processes and mechanisms through which knowledge is captured, stored, disseminated, and applied within an organizational context (Greiner et al., 2007).

Cluster 2: Information Technology and Knowledge Management

This cluster revolves around the intersection of Information Technology (IT) and Knowledge Management (KM). It includes keywords such as information systems, technology adoption, digital transformation, data analytics, and artificial intelligence. These keywords underscore the pivotal role of IT in facilitating Knowledge Management processes, emphasizing the adoption of technological tools and platforms to enhance knowledge creation, sharing, and utilization within organizations (Khan & Singh, 2023). This cluster reflects the growing influence of digital technologies in shaping Knowledge Management practices and driving organizational innovation and competitiveness.

Cluster 3: Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management

The keywords in this cluster emphasize the relationship between organizational learning and Knowledge Management. It includes terms such as learning organization, organizational culture, employee training, knowledge retention, and knowledge culture. This cluster highlights the importance of fostering a learning-oriented culture within organizations to facilitate effective Knowledge Management practices (Serban & Luan, 2002). It underscores the role of organizational culture, leadership, and learning initiatives in promoting knowledge sharing, collaboration, and continuous improvement (Blumentritt & Johnston, 1999).

Cluster 4: Knowledge Management Metrics and Evaluation

This cluster focuses on the measurement and evaluation aspects of Knowledge Management. It includes keywords such as performance measurement, knowledge metrics, evaluation frameworks, key performance indicators, and knowledge assessment (Hussain et al., 2004). These keywords underscore the need for organizations to develop metrics and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness and impact of their Knowledge Management initiatives. This cluster highlights the importance of measuring tangible outcomes, tracking progress, and refining strategies to enhance Knowledge Management effectiveness and drive organizational success (Gamble & Blackwell, 2001).

Cluster 5: Knowledge Management Challenges and Barriers

The keywords in this cluster address the challenges and barriers associated with Knowledge Management implementation. It includes terms such as cultural barriers, resistance to change, knowledge silos, information overload, and security and privacy concerns. This cluster acknowledges the complexities and obstacles that organizations may encounter in their Knowledge Management journey (Uit Beijerse, 1999). It emphasizes the importance of addressing cultural, organizational, and technological barriers to foster a conducive environment for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation. These clusters provide a structured framework for understanding the multifaceted nature of Knowledge Management and its various dimensions, from strategic planning and technological integration to cultural dynamics and performance evaluation (Coakes, 2003). By organizing keywords into coherent clusters, researchers can gain deeper insights into the complexities and nuances of Knowledge Management and develop more comprehensive and cohesive analyses and discussions.

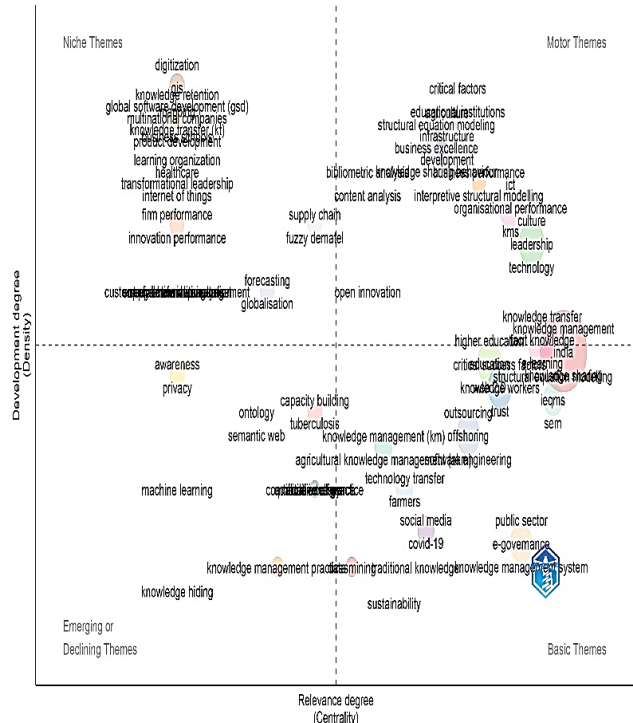


Figure 5: Thematic Map

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, this bibliometric analysis provides valuable insights into the landscape of Knowledge Management (KM) research within the Indian context. The study highlights the multifaceted nature of KM, emphasizing its strategic importance in modern organizations for achieving competitive advantage and driving innovation. Through an examination of publication trends, source characteristics, authorship patterns, and thematic clusters, this analysis offers a comprehensive overview of the evolution, contributions, and emerging trends in KM scholarship in India.

The findings reveal the diverse array of sources and authors contributing to KM research, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the field and the collaborative efforts driving knowledge creation and dissemination. Additionally, the thematic clusters elucidate key areas of focus within KM, ranging from strategic management strategies and technological integration to organizational learning and evaluation metrics. By identifying recurring themes and emerging trends, this analysis informs researchers, policymakers, and practitioners about the current state of KM research in India and its implications for organizational practice and policy formulation.

Moving forward, future research in KM should continue to explore the intersection of technology, organizational

culture, and knowledge sharing mechanisms to address the challenges and barriers hindering effective KM implementation. Furthermore, there is a need for more empirical studies evaluating the impact of KM initiatives on organizational performance and innovation outcomes. By leveraging emerging technologies and fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous learning, organizations can harness the full potential of their knowledge assets to navigate the complexities of the digital age and drive sustainable growth and development.

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