



Mapping the Scholarly Impact: A Scientometric Portrait of Prof. K.S. James, Demographer

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Abstract

Demography is defined as the statistical study of populations, which includes various aspects such as birth rates, death rates, migration patterns, and population distribution. Scientometric is the field that studies the quantitative aspect of scientific research output and its impact. It is one of the methods for documenting and collecting the works of scientists and researchers. This paper explores the scientometric portrait of Prof. K. S. James, highlighting his contributions to the field through quantitative analysis of research output. While numerous scientometric portrait studies have been conducted for various professionals across various discipline, there is notable lack of such studies on demographers. Prof. K. S. James is a leading scholar in this field, having authored 12 books, 143 published articles and 144 conference papers in the Demography.

Keywords: Bibliometrics; Scientometric; Portrait; Demographer; Demography

Introduction

Demography is the science of populations. Demographers plays an important role in understanding population dynamics and their implications for socioeconomic development, public policy, and global issues such as aging, migration, and fertility transitions. The study of “Scientometric Portrait” is a part of bibliometrics. It is the field which is concerned with the exploration and evaluation of scientific research. Scientometric studies of an individual deal with the biographical study of the individual and it correlates with his achievements. The purpose of this study is to explore the contributions of Prof. K.S. James, a leading demographer in the field of Population Science. Assessing the intellectual influence and scholarly impact of a leading demographer is not only academic interest but also a valuable endeavor in mapping the demographic thoughts.

Biographical sketch of Dr. K. S. James

K.S. James was born in Kerala. He holds M.A. in Economics from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala and Master in Population Studies from International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. He did his M.Phil in Population Studies from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai in 1992. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Demography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 1997. He completed postdoctoral training from Harvard Centre for Population and Development, Harvard University, USA in 2000. Throughout his career, Prof. James has held prominent academic positions. Currently, he is the Senior Visiting Scholar at Newcomb Institute, Tulane University, USA. He was formerly the Director and Senior Professor of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, India. He also served as a Professor of Population Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and as Professor and Head of the Population Research Centre at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) in Bangalore, India. Prof. James has been honoured with several fellowships and awards throughout his career. He has been a visiting fellow in many prestigious institutes and universities, including Harvard University, USA; London School of Economics, UK; International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA), Austria; University of Southampton, UK; and the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. He also received the prestigious Srinivasan Award for the best paper published in Demography India in 2001. Broadly, his work examines the interaction of socioeconomic and policy forces on demographic factors, including fertility, marriage, gender, and aging. Deeply interested in population dynamics, he investigates India's demographic changes and their implications on the economy and society. Much of his research aims at improving empirical knowledge of the determinants and consequences of demographic change in India. Prof. James's research is primarily organized into three interrelated areas: (i) demographic change and its implications, (ii) aging, and (iii) data and measurement. His works on demographic changes and dividends are widely recognized as important contributions to understanding new forms of demographic change. The other area of his interest is data systems and measurement. Examining the quality of data available from registration and administrative system as well as from survey forms a primary focus of his research in recent years.

He has published widely on demographic transition, demographic dividend, and data systems in India in journals such as Science, Lancet Global Health, BMC Public Health, Social Science and Medicine, JAMA Network Open, Journal of Biosocial Science, Population and Development Review, Social Indicators Research, Population Studies, Journal of Demographic Economics, Vaccine, Ageing International, Brown Journal of World Affairs, Studies in Family Planning, Economic and Political Weekly etc.

In addition to his academic work, Prof. James has served on several important committees related to population and health in India. He is the president of the Asian Population Association for the period 2025-27. He had been a member of the Governing Board of the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, and has participated in technical advisory committees for organizations like the Indian Statistical Institute and the Office of the Registrar General of India.

Review of literature

Many scientometrics studies have been conducted, and a review of closely related literature is presented.

Chander Harish (2025) presented the Scientometric Portrait of Dr. K P Singh, an academician. This analysis reveals that Dr. K P Singh has 235 published works as of now, which comprise 16 books, 119 journal papers, 21 edited books, 26 book chapters, 35 conference papers, and 18 book reviews. The h-index of Dr. Singh is 16. He has received 836 citations for his publications. There are 65 authors who have collaborated with Dr. Singh.

Mahemei, Lohrii Kaini (2024) presented the scientometric portrait of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, a physicist. He published 518 research papers and received 25378 citations. His h-index is 65. He has eight patents. 98.6% of his research publications were multi-authored and received 99.3% citations, which indicates a high degree of research collaboration. Muthu, D.V.S, with 91 publications, was the most collaborative author. This study also reveals that 2012 was a productive year for him as he published 26 articles.

N. Kavitha & M. Chanrashekara (2020), in their study, explore and analyze various attributes of publications by Prof. K. Byrappa, a renowned Indian academician and researcher. It was found that Prof. Byrappa had written 378 articles. He has received 7774 citations for his scholarly research work. His h-index is 31. The publication productivity of Prof. Byrappawas found to be consistent, and he made an outstanding contribution to the field of science in the last 41 years.

Sharma, Sushil Kumar, Singh, and Sompal (2019) have explored the scientometric portrait of Dr. Anil Kumar Dhiman, an information scientist. This study reveals that Dr. Dhiman has contributed 22 books and 214 research articles in the field of library science and botany. He had presented 62 papers at conferences or seminars of national and international reputes. It is mentioned that from 2007 to 2013, he contributed eight papers among 502 articles published in the journal.

Dixit and Jange (2017) studied the scientometric portrait of Prof.Sreenivasa Murthy, who is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. He has published 105 articles in scientific journals and 182 articles in conference proceedings. His h-index is 15, and he received 739 citations for his research work. Bhim Singh was his most active collaborator.

Objectives

- To analyse the publication productivity in chronological order.
- To analyse the Authorship and Collaborations pattern of publications.
- To identify highly cited papers.
- To explore the most preferred communication channels.

Methodology

The present study is based on the publications by Prof. K.S. James. The data for the study has been collected from official website of International Institute for Population Sciences, Tulane University (www.iipsindia.ac.in), (www.newcomb.tulane.edu), JNU University (www.jnu.ac.in), and Asian Population Association (www.asianpa.org). Further database like Scopus, Pubmed, Google Scholar has been used. The data collected was exported into MS Excel for analysis using different parameters according to the objectives of the study.

Data analysis

The information collected on various points from the website and bio-data of Prof. K.S. James was tabulated, presented and analysed to confirm the objectives of the study. The results are presented through various tables below:

Year Wise Productivity

Table I
Year Wise Productivity

S. No	Year	Research Papers	Conference Papers	Total	Cumulative No of Papers
1	1992	0	1	1	1
2	1993	1	2	3	4
3	1994	3	2	5	8
4	1995	2	1	3	11
5	1996	0	1	1	12
6	1997	0	2	2	15
7	1998	2	2	4	19
8	1999	1	0	1	20
9	2000	3	3	6	26
10	2001	2	2	4	30
11	2002	3	4	7	37
12	2003	2	6	8	45
13	2004	7	2	9	54
14	2005	4	3	7	61
15	2006	2	3	5	66
16	2007	3	4	7	73
17	2008	5	8	13	86
18	2009	2	5	7	93
19	2010	2	6	8	101
20	2011	3	7	10	111
21	2012	5	7	12	123

22	2013	2	7	9	132
23	2014	7	13	20	152
24	2015	4	6	10	162
25	2016	7	5	12	174
26	2017	1	8	9	183
27	2018	2	8	10	193
28	2019	5	7	12	205
29	2020	9	6	15	220
30	2021	14	8	22	242
31	2022	17	2	19	261
32	2023	15	3	18	279
33	2024	8	0	8	287
TOTAL		143	144	287	

Table 1 shows the chronological research productivity of Prof. K.S. James. In 33 years of his career he has total 287 publications out of which 143 are research articles published in reputed journals and 144 papers are presented in conferences. The maximum number of research papers was published in 2022 with 17 papers, followed by 2023 with 15 papers.

Degree of Collaboration

The degree of collaboration is given in Table 2. Total of 143 research papers were studied. Among the 143 research papers 26 were single authored and 117 were multi-authored papers. Degree of Collaboration was calculated using the formula

$$Dc = \frac{Ma}{Sa + Ma}$$

Table 2
Degree of Collaboration

NUMBER OF AUTHORS											
S. No	YEAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SINGLE AUTHORED PAPERS (SA)	MULTI AUTHORED PAPERS (MA)	DEGREE OF COLLABORA TION (DC)
1	1993	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
2	1994	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.66
3	1995	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
4	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	1998	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5



7	1999	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
8	2000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.66
9	2001	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
10	2002	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.66
11	2003	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
12	2004	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0.71
13	2005	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.0
14	2006	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
15	2007	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0.66
16	2008	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	0.4
17	2009	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5
18	2010	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5
19	2011	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.66
20	2012	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.0
21	2013	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5
22	2014	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	5	0.83
23	2015	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1.0
24	2016	0	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	7	1.0
25	2017	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
26	2018	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5
27	2019	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	0.8
28	2020	1	2	2	0	3	1	0	1	8	0.8
29	2021	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	13	0.92
30	2022	0	3	4	1	3	6	0	0	17	1.0
31	2023	0	3	2	6	1	3	0	0	15	1.0
32	2024	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	8	1.0
TOTAL		26	51	22	18	11	11	4	26	117	0.81

Over his 33 years of academic career, Prof. K.S. James exhibited a Degree of Collaboration of 1.0 for 10 years which shows full collaboration, Also the average degree of collaboration across all the years is 0.63 (63%) this implies that around 63% papers are multi authored.

Authorship Pattern

Table 3
Authorship Pattern

Authorship Pattern	No of Publications	Percentage %
Single Author	26	18.11
Double Author	51	35.66
Three Author	22	15.38
Four Author	18	12.58

Five Author	11	7.69
Six Author	11	7.69
Seven Author	4	2.79
Total	143	100

Authorship pattern is widely used as an indicator to assess the quality of research papers with an assumption that the more authors involved in producing a paper indicates its quality. The authorship pattern of Prof. K. S. James is shown in table 3. It reveals that the majority of articles published are double authored which is 35.66% of total articles published. Single Authored articles are 18.18 %. This implies strong inclination for collaborative research in his scholarly work.

Collaborated Authors

Table 4
Collaborated Authors

S.No	Authors Name	Co-Authored Documents	Affiliation	Country	h-index
1	Goli, Srinivas	18	International Institute for Population Sciences	India	37
2	SI, Rajan	15	The International Institute of Migration and Development	India	53
3	Bailey, Ajay	11	Utrecht University	Netherlands	29
4	Hossain, Babul	9	Luxembourg Institute of Health	Luxembourg	10
5	Subramanian, SV	8	Harvard University	USA	138
6	Balachandran, A	8	Columbia University	USA	10
7	Dwivedi, LK	7	International Institute for Population Sciences	India	24
8	Kumar, Kaushalendra	6	International Institute for Population Sciences	India	26
9	McDougal, L	6	University of California San Diego	USA	25
10	Syamala, TS	5	Institute for social and economic change	India	13

Table 4 provides the names and the contributions of the ten most collaborating authors. Prof. K.S. James has published maximum research papers (18) with Goli, Srinivas followed by SI, Rajan and Bailey, Ajay with 15 and 11 research papers. These Collaborations represent a mix of National and International affiliations, the h-index reflects the scholarly impact of the co-author. These patterns highlight that Prof. James has a strong network of academic partnership globally.

Top ten channels of communication

Table 5
Top ten channels of communication

S. No	Journal	No. of Publication	No. of Citation Received
1	Economic and Political Weekly	21	622
2	BMC Public Health	5	1318
3	Journal of biosocial science	4	14
4	Demography India	4	7
5	Social Science & Medicine	3	53
6	SSM-Population Health	4	35
7	Maternal and child health journal	3	12
8	Plos one	3	27
9	Journal of Family Welfare	2	11
10	Journal of Social and Economic Development	2	3

Table 5 shows top ten channels of communication preferred by Prof. K.S James. It reveals that he has published 21 publications with Economic Political Weekly (EPW) and received 622 citations, followed by BMC Public Health with 5 publications and received 1344 citations.

Top cited research publications

Table 6
Top cited research publications

S.No	Title	Author	Journal	Citation	Year
1	Marital status, widowhood duration, gender and health outcomes: a cross-sectional study among older adults in India	JM Perkins, H Lee, KS James, J Oh, A Krishna, J Heo, J Lee, ...	BMC public health 16, 1-12	1321	2016
2	India's demographic change: opportunities and challenges	KS James	Science 333 (6042), 576-580	222	2011
3	Abuse against elderly in India-The role of education	V Skirbekk, KS James	BMC public health 14, 1-8	167	2014
4	Fiscal decentralization and infant mortality: empirical	A Asfaw, K Frohberg, KS	The Journal of	142	2007

	evidence from rural India	James, J Jütting	Developing Areas 41 (1), 17-35		
5	Care needs and caregivers: Associations and effects of living arrangements on caregiving to older adults in India	AP Ugargol, I Hutter, KS James, A Bailey	Ageing international 41 (2), 193-213	101	2016
6	Remittances and household expenditure patterns in India and selected states	S Mahapatro, A Bailey, KS James, I Hutter	Migration and Development 6 (1), 83-101	93	2017
7	Glorifying Malthus: Current debate on 'demographic dividend' in India	KS James	Economic and political Weekly, 63-69	90	2008
8	Comparison of population aging in Europe and Asia using a time-consistent and comparative aging measure	A Balachandran, J de Beer, KS James, L van Wissen, F Janssen	Journal of Aging and Health 32 (5-6), 340-351	83	2020
9	Living arrangements of elderly in India: Policy and programmatic implications	KM Sathyanarayana, S Kumar, KS James	Population ageing in India 14 (74)	78	2014
10	The burden of maternal health care expenditure in India: multilevel analysis of national data	T Leone, KS James, SS Padmadas	Maternal and child health journal 17, 1622-1630	75	2013

Table 6 shows the top ten most cited research publications of Prof. K.S James. Total of 143 research papers were studied and ranked based on their citation received. The tables show that the paper titled “Marital status, widowhood duration, gender and health outcomes: a cross-sectional study among older adults in India” received the highest number of citations (1321), followed by the article “India’s demographic change: opportunities and challenges” single authored publication which received 222 citations.

Findings

Prof. K.S James has published 143 research articles in journals and 144 papers presented in conferences over the span of 33 years from 1992-2024, averaging 8.69 per year or nearly 9

papers per year. Out of the total 143 publications, 26 research articles are single-authored, and 117 papers are co-authored, indicating a strong preference for collaborative research. Thus, it can be concluded that he prefers to write with co-authors. His most productive year was 2022 with 17 research publications and followed by 2023 with 15 publications. The most preferred journal for publication is Economic and Political Weekly featuring 21 research papers followed by BMC Public Health with 5 research articles.

Conclusion

Conducting a Scientometric analysis of an author or researcher provides valuable insights into various facets of their academic journey and career, including trends in productivity over time. The study has demonstrated the research contributions of Prof. K.S James over the 33 years, highlighting his role as a highly influential author in the field of demography. His 287 publications reflect the quality and dedication of his work. Beyond his research output, his membership to professional and administrative bodies shows his zeal to work for the nation and profession. This paper may also serve as an inspiration for emerging demographers to consider Prof. K.S James as their role model in their own careers.

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