

Bibliometric Analysis of Book Reviews published in Indian Journal of Gender Studies (1994-2014)

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ABSTRACT

Indian Journal of Gender Studies (IJGS) is one of the peer-reviewed journal started in 1994 and published by Sage Publications. The journal is published by Centre for Women's Development Studies and has the impact factor of 0.100 and is ranked 40 out of 41 in Women's Studies. The journal with a frequency of three times a year focuses on holistic understanding of society. The objective of the journal is to encourage and publish research, analysis and informed discussion on issues relating to gender. In this paper, several types of collaborations have been identified, and earlier research on collaboration has been reviewed relating to the book reviews published in IJGS. Book reviews are the important resource for identification and evaluation of potential books, as well as an aid to determine the appropriateness of an item for a particular collection. Narrates various features and shortcomings of the book reviews published in the journal. It is felt that this study will help in decision making process while selecting books.

1 Introduction

Large number of studies and publications have focused on gender, feminism and its related issues. The literature world has seen a surge of scholarship related to women's and gender studies. The work on Gender Studies have significantly transformed many disciplines, including most subspecialties within history. (Rosenberg, 1990). In this direction the "Centre for Women's Development Studies" was established in 1980 with the aim of promotion, development and dissemination of knowledge about women's role in society and economic trends which affect women's lives and status and it launched "Samya Shakti: A journal of Women's Studies" in 1983, 'to encourage debate' and to improve communication, collaboration and consolidation of women's studies and the women's movement in the country and elsewhere. The Journal lived up to the expectations and brought out special issues on the women's movement, the family, political participation and so on. (CEDS, 2015) The journal literature also examines and determines where feminism and gender theory stand (Nusser, 2014). But due to some reasons the journal was ceased in 1992. To keep alive a basic commitment to gender equality, Samya Shakti, was started under the new title "Indian Journal of Gender Studies" published from Sage Publishers since 1994. In fact IJGS is the successor of Samya Shakti now.

1.1 About the Indian Journal of Gender Studies

IJGS is a peer reviewed journal with three sections including articles, personal narratives and book reviews as the regular features of all issues of the Journal. Besides these, other sections like Point of View, Reports, Comment, Review of Articles, Archives, Research Notes, Discussions and New Resources are included in the Journal from time to time. The journal was earlier published as half yearly (2 issues per year) but since 2003 onwards it is being published as 3 issues per year. Special features on topic of current concern are included in the journal from 1994-2014 like Elections in Pakistan; Beijing 1995; Indian Elections 1995; Personal Narratives; Gender and Community Rights in Natural Resource Management; Women's Studies in India: Crisis or Renewal; Reproductive Health; Women's Empowerment; The Violated Female Body; Marriage and Migration in Asia; Focus on Africa, Cairo and After; Rethinking Citizenship; Disability, Gender and Society; Violence, Law and Feminist Politics; Evaluating Gender and Equity; China; Gender Labour and Social Reproduction as the special topics of the journal.

1.2 Book Reviews in the IJGS

The word "review" is derived from the French. The meaning of it is 'to see again' and is used in different sense. It may describe a critical article published in periodicals and newspapers on current events, books and arts. According to World Book encyclopedia, Book Review is "An article published in a newspaper or periodicals, that announces the publication of books and tells "what is about and evaluate it". (World Book encyclopedia, 2015) The book reviews in different languages is known as "literary criticism" in English, "Alochana and Sameeksha" in Hindi, "Teeka" in Sanskrit and "Tabsera and Tanqeed" in Urdu, and "Granth Prikshan" in Marathi. The concept of Book Review was started in 17th Century and by the 19th Century it was firmly established. A book review is a form of literary criticism in which a book is analysed based on content, style, and merit. It can be reviewed for primary source opinion piece, summary review or scholarly review. Book Reviews are published in newspapers and periodicals along with the news items and other articles. There are so many periodicals which solely focus on Book Review e.g. "Biblio, The Book Review, Feminist Europe, Review of Books, Women Artists News Book Review, and The Women's Review of Books etc." Newspapers like "Hindu", "Telegraph", "Deccan Herald" etc. usually publish the Book Reviews.

The present bibliometric study look into the reviews published in the journal and uses bibliometric methods to study the scientific production and research trends. (Mesdaghinia and et.al, 2015). This Bibliometric and trend analysis on the Gender Studies focuses on the subject and determines to evaluate the core documents, forecast the trend of publications, and augment scientific information.

2 Scope and Objectives

IJGS is an important scholarly journal of women's studies. This study covers the period of 21 years from the year 1994 to 2014. The Total number of issues studied are 54. The present study focuses on the 317 book reviews published in these issues during the period. The main objectives of this paper are to :

- i. Study the pattern of authors, editors and reviewers
- ii. Analyse the ranking of reviewers, publishers and authors
- iii. Distribution of books according to Subject
- iv. Study the forms and language of Literature
- v. Analyse the Prices of Books
- vi. Study the chronology of the Book Reviews
- vii. View the gaps between Books Published and Reviewed
- viii. Analyse the books reviewed by Faculty Members
- ix. Analyse the affiliation of Reviewers

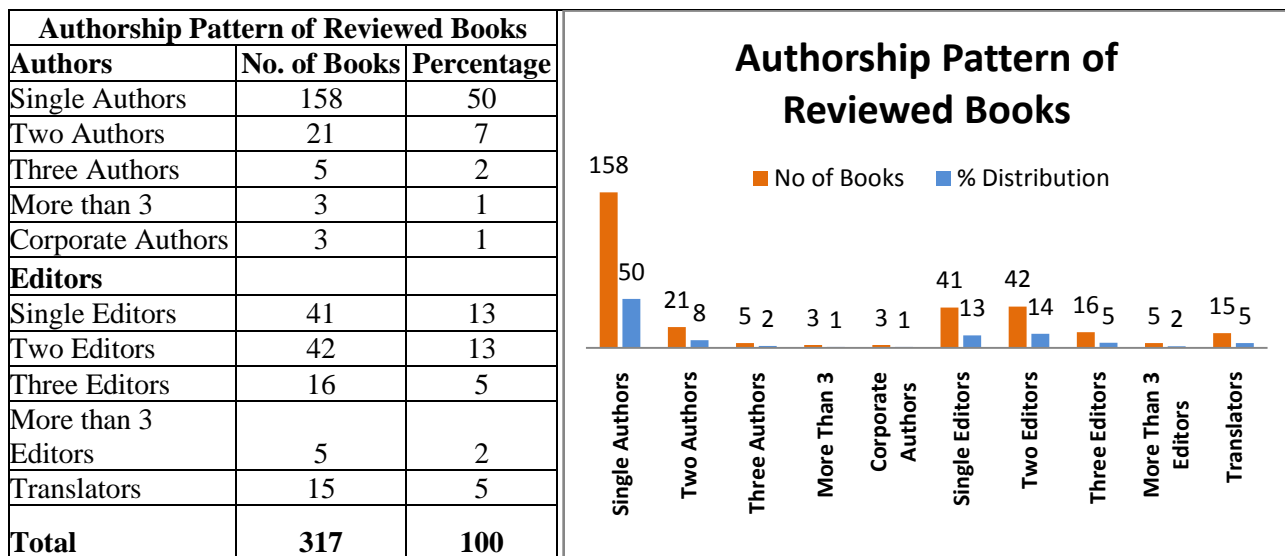
3 Data Collection and Analysis

The data required for present article was collected by referring to all issues of Indian Journal of Gender Studies. For this purpose, a data base was created and bibliographical details of reviewed books were entered. Evaluation was done on the basis of different aspects of the book reviews.

3.1 Authorship Pattern

The authorship pattern of the Book Reviews published in IJGS was analyzed and it was observed that large number of books by single authors and editors were reviewed. 158 (50%) and 41 (13%) of the total of the reviews were done by the single authors and book editors respectively. In addition to this two authors were 5(2%), three authors 3(1%), more than three authors 3(1%) and corporate authors (institutional publications) were 3(1%). Similarly the two editors were 42 (13%), more than three editors 16 (5%) and translators 15(5%), books reviewed. This shows that edited books in comparison to authored books have occupied small part of collection.

Table – 1
Authors (whose more than one books are reviewed)



The tables 2 & 3 provide the information and rank of Authors whose more than 1 books have been included in the review. Out of 428 authors, only 36 authors are such whose more than 1 books were reviewed. The authors are Mary E John 5, Bina Agarwal 4, Mahashweta Devi's 4, Prem Chaudhry, 4, Aparna Basu 3, Jasodhara Bagchi and A.M. Shah's 3 books, and 29 author's, 2 books got the chance in the collection of reviewed books.

Table – 2
Author's Book Reviewed

Author's Name	No. of Books reviewed
John, Mary E	5
Mahasweta Devi	4
Chowdhry, Prem	4
Agarwal, Bina	4
Shah, A.M.	3
Basu, Aparna	3
Bagchi, Jasodhara	3
Yuval-Davis, Neera; Thapan, Meenakshi; Sweetman, Caroline; Smyth, Ines; Sinha, Mrinalini; Sen, Abhijit ; Sathianadhan, Krupabai; Roy, Anupama; Ramaswamy, E.A.; Rai, Shirin M.; Palriwala, Rajni; Mukherjee, Neela; Menon, Ritu; Mehrotra, Deepti Priya; Krishnaraj, Maithreyi; Krishna, Sumi; Kosambi, Meera; Kabir, Naila; Jeffery, Roger; Jeffery, Patricia; Jain, Jasbir; Jain, Devaki; Forbes, Geraldine; Eisikovits, Zvi C; Dube, Leela; Deshmukh Randive, Joy; Chakravarti, Uma; Baviskar, B.S.; Agrawal, Anuja	2

Table – 3
Ranking of the Authors Whose Books Reviewed

No. of Authors	No. of Books Reviewed
1	5
3	4
3	3
29	2
392	1
428	15

Ranking of the Authors Whose Books Reviewed

■ No. of Authors

Rank	No. of Authors	No. of Books Reviewed
1	5	5
2	4	4
3	3	3
4	3	3
5	29	2
6	392	1

3.2 National and international personalities whose books reviewed:

The table 4 presents the data about national and international personalities whose books were included in the review i.e. national 224 (52%) and international 204 (48%). Being an Indian journal, international personalities took a quite good position in the review. National and international published books are covered in the review. Indian books have occupied large space 234 (74%) and foreign books 83 (26%) of the total collection of books reviews (Table-5).

**Table - 4
International and National Personalities
Whose Books Reviewed**

Area	No. of Authors	% Age
International	204	48
National	224	52
Total	428	100

National and International Personalities Whose Books Reviewed

■ International ■ National

Area	No. of Authors	% Age
International	204	48%
National	224	52%

**Table - 5
National and International Publications**

Status	No. of Publications	Percentage
National	234	74
International	83	26
Total	317	100

National and International Publications

A pie chart titled 'National and International Publications' showing the distribution of 317 total publications. The chart is divided into two segments: a large green segment representing National publications (234, 74%) and a smaller light green segment representing International publications (83, 26%). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: light green for International and green for National.

3.3 Subject Wise Distribution:

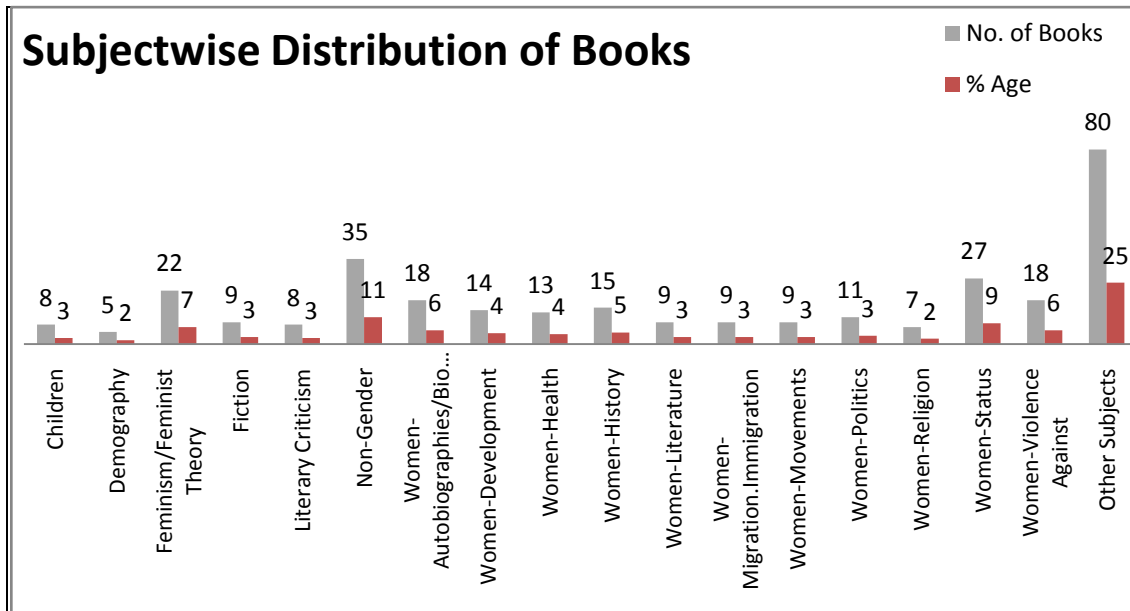
Table 6 contains the subject wise distribution of books covered in the Book Review into 18 subjects. 17 subjects covered at least 4 books. The number 18th under the heading other subjects which contains 80 (25%) books deals with different subjects such as: research methodology, law, scheduled castes, sexuality, education, folk songs, media and women’s studies etc. covered one, two or three books under the book review. The subject was based on the Women’s Thesaurus: an Index of Language used to describe and locate information by and about Women/by Mary Ellen S. Capek.

An analysis of data indicates that highest number of books focusing on women’s status was reviewed i.e. 27 (9% of total no. of books). In the decreasing order 27(9%) books of women status; 22 (7%); feminism/feminist theory; women autobiographies/biographies, 18 (6%); violence against women, 18 (6%); women history 15 (5%); women development, 14 (4%); women health, 13 (4%); women politics, 11 (3%); women literature, 9 (3%); women movements 9 (3%); children 8 (3%) and religion 7 (2%) were reviewed.

**Table – 6
Subject wise distribution of Books**

Subject	No. of Books	Percentage
Children	8	3
Demography	5	2
Feminism/Feminist Theory	22	7
Fiction	9	3
Literary Criticism	8	3
Non-Gender	35	11
Women-Autobiographies/Biographies	18	6
Women-Development	14	4
Women-Health	13	4
Women-History	15	5
Women-Immigration/Migration	9	3
Women-Literature	9	3
Women-Movements	9	3

Women-Politics	11	3
Women-Religion	7	2
Women-status	27	9
Women-Violence Against	18	6
Other Subjects	80	25
Total	317	100



3.4 Form wise Distribution:

It may be gathered from Table 7 that major space has been occupied by the Books 279 (88%) , autobiographies and biographies, 18 (6%), fiction 7 (2%), short stories 2 (1%), monographs 7 (2%) and bibliographical sources, journals, plays, statistical sources 1 (0%) in the Review. It is observed that tendency of reviewing the books are greater than other form of literature. The Indian Journal of Gender Studies should take care of other form of literature under review section.

Table - 7

Form wise Distribution

Forms	No. of Books	Percentage
Autobiographies/Biographies	18	6
Bibliographical Source	1	0

Form wise Distⁿ of Books

- Autobiographies/Biographies
- Bibliographical Source
- Books
- Fiction

Books	279	88
Fictions	7	2
Journals	1	0
Monographs	7	2
Play	1	0
Short Stories	2	1
Statistical Source	1	0
Total	317	100

3.5 Language wise Distribution:

It is observed from Table 8 that 301 (95%) books of English language were reviewed. The importance of books published in different regional languages and reader’s interest were considered. The IJGS has also published book reviews of the books which were published in Bangla 8 (3%); Malayalam 4 (1%); Marathi 2 (1%); and Hindi and Urdu 1 (1%) language also.

**Table – 8
Language wise Distribution**

Languages	No. of Books	Percentage
English	301	95
Bangla	8	3
Malayalam	4	1
Marathi	2	1
Hindi	1	0
Urdu	1	0
Total	317	100

Language wise Distribution

Legend: ■ No. of Books

Language	No. of Books
English	301
Bangla	8
Malayalam	4
Marathi	2
Hindi	1
Urdu	1

3.6 Ranking of the Publisher of Reviewed Books:

Tables-9 and 9.1 reveal that 95 books published by the Sage from India or abroad are included in the collection of book reviews i.e. the largest number of books. 22 published by the Kali for Women, 40 published by the Oxford University Press and 15 published by the Stree, Kolkata and 11 published by Zubaan were reviewed. Over 57 publishers were those with one book was reviewed. One document did not mention the place and publisher in the bibliographic detail.

Table – 9

Indian	Place	No. of Books	Foreign	Place	No. of Books
Concept	New Delhi	5	Altamira Press	USA	2
D.C. Books	New Delhi	2	Berg	UK	2
IIAS	Simla	2	Cambridge Univ.	UK	4
Kali for Women	New Delhi	22	Duke University	Durham	2
Manohar	New Delhi	4	Harper Collins	USA	2
North Eastern Network	Guwahati	2	Manchester Univ.	UK	2
Orient Longman	New Delhi	3	Oxfam	UK	4
Oxford Univ. Press	New Delhi	27	Oxford Univ. Press	UK	13
Penguin	New Delhi	3	Routledge	UK	5
Permanent Black	New Delhi	6	Sage	UK	30
Promilla	New Delhi	2	University of Minnesota	USA	2
Sage	New Delhi	65	Westview	USA	2
Samya	Kolkata	2	Zed Books	UK	2
Sangam	New Delhi	2			72
Seagull	Kolkata	5	Total		259
Stree	Kolkata	15			
Vistaar	New Delhi	5			
Women Unlimited	New Delhi	2			
Yoda Press	New Delhi	2			
Zubaan	New Delhi	11			
Total		187			

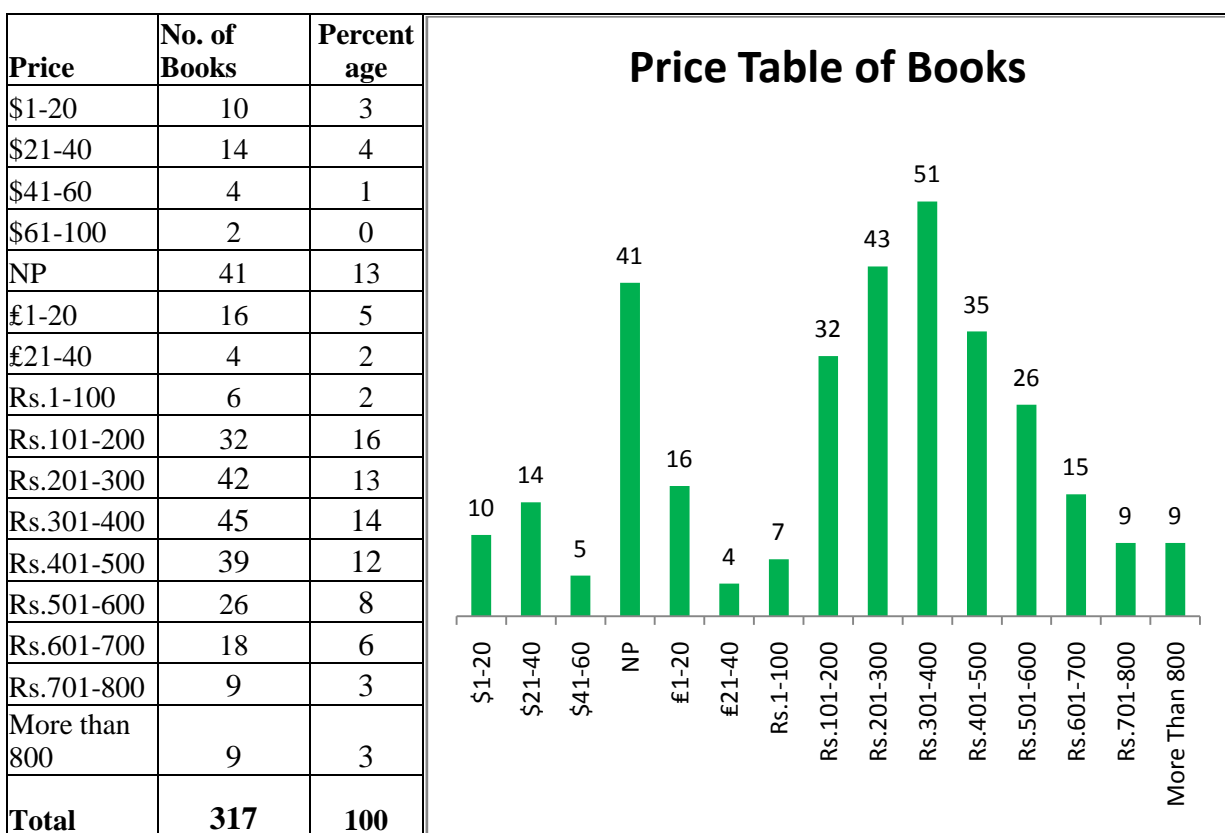
Table – 9.1

No. of Publisher	No. of books Published	No. of Publications
2	3	6
3	4	12
4	5	20
16	2	32
1	6	6
1	15	15
1	22	22
1	40	40
1	95	95
1	11	11
57	1	57
Total		316

3.7 Price wise Book Reviews:

It can be observed from Table 10 that books costing between Rs. 201-300 and 301-400 were more i.e. 42 and 45 (13% & 14%) which were reviewed. Prices of the books reviewed were in the range of minimum Rs. 25/- and maximum Rs. 2,000/-. Only two books of highest prices i.e. Rs. 1,775/- and Rs. 2,000/- were reviewed. The prices of the foreign publications were in the range of \$ 12 to \$ 59.95 and \$11.95 to \$40. 41 (13%) publications did not mention the prices in bibliographic details of the books reviewed.

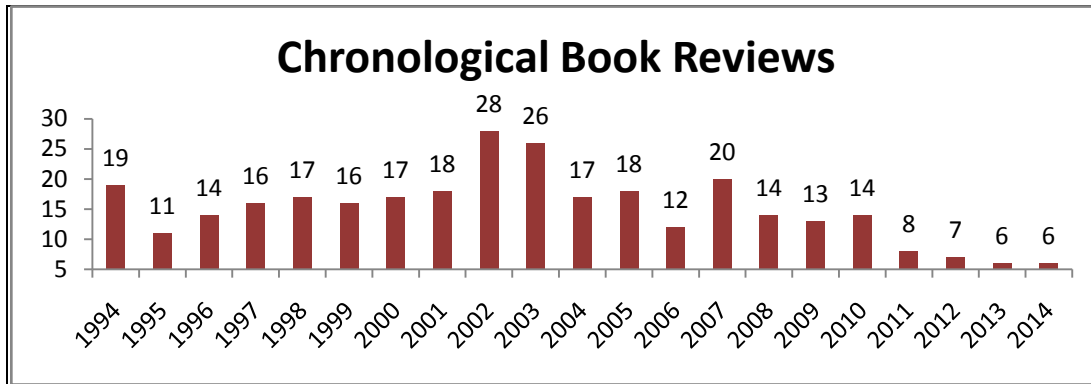
Table-10
Price Table



3.8 Chronological Book Reviews Published:

Table/Graph-11 analyzed the reviews in chronological order. It is observed that in the year 2002, 28(9%) book reviews published, which is the highest number of the total. In the year 1994, 19 (6%), 1995, the number of book reviews were decreased i.e. 11 (3%) and again from 1996-2010 the book reviews were increased from 14-28 (8% to 9%) and in 2003 the total number of published book reviews were 26 (14.3%)

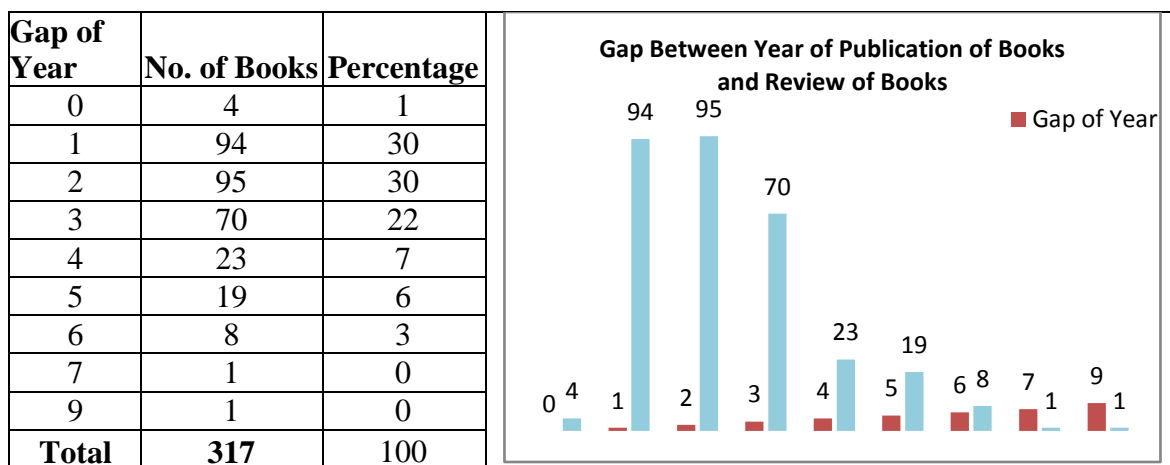
Table/Graph-11
Year wise Distribution of Books Reviewed



3.9 Gap between year of Publication of Books and Review of Books:

Mostly the books published within 3 years were reviewed, but in some cases there is a gap between the publication of books and reviews are from 4 years to 9 years. Four publications published in 2003 and got chance of review in same year. 94 (30%) review within 1 year. 95 (30%) in 2 years, 70 (22%) in 3 years, 23 (7%) in 4 years, 19 (6%) in 5 years, 8 (3%) in 6 years, 1 in 7 years and 9 years. This gap can be seen through the Table-12 and Bar chart also.

Table -12
Gap Between Book Published and Book Reviewed



3.10 Ranking of Reviewers:

It can be observed from the Table 13 that during the period of 21 years, 1 reviewer Malavika Karlekar reviewed 8 books, 3 reviewers, Mala Khullar, Sumi Krishna and Elizabeth Vatsyayan reviewed 5 books. 5 reviewers, Gargi Chakravarty, Sayantani Jafa, Malavika Karlekar, Mala Khullar and Maina Chawla Singh, Renu Addlakha and Sreelekha Nair reviewed 4 books. 13 reviewers, V. Gayathri, Smita Tewari Jassal, Bidyut Mohanty, Padma Ramachandra, Preet Rustagi and Reba Soma reviewed 3 books. 40 reviewers reviewed 2 and 155 reviewers reviewed 1 book. Table 13.1 shows the Rank of Reviewers

The objective of this table is to know the persons who reads recent books, study it and brings to the notice in the form of review for the use of the general users. It is also considered as a tool for publisher to give the publicity.

Table - 13
No. of Books Reviewed by Reviewers

Reviewer's Name	No. of Books
Karlekar, Malavika	8
Khullar, Mala	5
Krishna, Sumi	5
Vatsyayan, Elizabeth	5
Addlakha, Renu	4
Chakravartty, Gargi	4
Jafa, Sayantani	4
Nair, Sreelekha	4
Singh, Maina Chawla	4
Agnihotri, Indu; Basu, Aparna Basu, Sriparna; Chellani, Manju Gayathri, V; Jassal, Smita Tewari Mohanty, Bidyut; Nigam, Shalu Pandurang, Mala; Qadeer, Imrana Ramachandran, Padma; Rustagi, Preet; Som, Reba	3

Acharya, Gayatri D ;Agarwa Anuja Bagchi, Barnita; Bal, Gurpreet; Banerjee, N K; Barnabas, A P Bhargava, Meena; Bhatt, Wasudha; Chaudhry, Shruti; Chauhan, Vibha S; D Souza, Neela; Dhagamwar, Vasudha; Dube, Leela Gupta, Jayati; Guru, Gopal; Hasan, Anjum; Hussain, Sabiha; Jain, Jasbir; Johri, Rachna;Joseph, Sarah Kasturi, Leela;Kumar, Neelam; Lateef, Shahida; Malvankar, Alka; Mehrotra, Deepti Priya; Menon, Shailaja; Mohanty, Sachchidananda; Mukund, Kanakalatha; Narasimhan, Sakuntala; Niranjana, Seemanthini O'kane, Claire; Om Prakash; Phadke, Shilpa; Poonacha, Veena R; Rajagopalan, Swarna; Rao, Vasudeva ;Roy, Anupama; Sen, Indrani; Tiwari, J N; Visvanathan, Kalpana	2
Total No. of Books	162

**Table – 13.1
Rank of Reviewers**

No. of Reviewers	No. of books	Total No. of Books	Percentage
155	1	155	49
40	2	80	25
13	3	39	12
5	4	20	6
3	5	15	5
1	8	8	3
312		317	100

3.11 Books Reviewed by Faculty Members:

During the 21 years of period (1994 to 2014), 23 faculty members reviewed **52** books of the total No. of books 317. Dr. Malavika Karlekar reviewed 8 books, Renu Addlakha and Sreelekha Nair reviewed 4 books, Dr. Indu Agnihotri, Shalu Nigam, Dr. Smita Tewari Jassal and Dr. Preet Rustagi 3, Narayan K Banerji, Sabiha Hussain, Leela Kasturi, and Anupama Roy 2 books and rest of the faculty members reviewed 1 book (Table 14). Six faculty member’s and one CWDS’s publications are reviewed within the gap of 0-4 years of publication of the Book (Table 14.1)

Table – 14
Books Reviewed by Faculty Members

Author's Name	No. of Books Reviewed
Karlekar, Malavika	8
Khullar, Mala	5
Addlakha, Renu	4
Nair, Sreelekha	4
Agnihotri, Indu ;Jassal, Smita Tiwari; Nigam, Shalu; Rustagi, Preet	3
Banerji, Narayan K ;Hussain, Sabiha; Kasturi, Leela; Roy, Anupama	2
Arya, Sadhna; Gabriel, Karen; Mazumdar, Vina; Mehrotra, Nilika; Pillai, Neetha N; Raman, Vasanthi; Ranadive Deshmukh, Joy; Rao, Parimala, V; Ray, Savitri; Sarkar, Lotika; Sharma, Kumud	1
	52

Table – 14.1
Faculty Member's Books Reviewed

Author's Name	Year of Publication	Year of Review
Addlakaha, Renu	2008	2009
Arya, Sadhna	2006	2007
Bathla, Sonia	1998	1999
CWDS	2000	2000
Hussain, Sabiha	2008	2010
John, Mary E	1996	1998
	1998	2000
	2003	2004
	2008	2011
	2008	2013
Karlekar, Malavika	1999	2002
	2008	2010
Kasturi, Leela	2002	2004
Mazumdar, Vina	2001	2003
Randive, Deshmukh, Joy	1993	1996
	2005	2007
Rao, Parimala, V	2010	2011
Roy, Anupama	2005	2006
Sarkar, Lotika	2002	2004
Sharma, Kumud	2002	2004

Tiwari Jassal, Smita	2001	2003
Vyas, Anju	1992	1994

3.12 Affiliation of the Reviewers:

Table 15 presents the place of affiliation of Reviewers. 164 Reviewers (52%) affiliated to universities/colleges/departments which are the highest number. In the decreasing order, 94 (30%) affiliated to institutions like India Foundation for Arts, Centre for Women’s Development Studies and Institute for Social and Economic Change etc. 49 (15%) Independent, 8 (3%) Government and 2 (0%) to News Agencies.

**Table - 15
Affiliation of the Reviewers**

Working Place	No. of Books	Percentage
Government	8	3
Independent	49	15
Institution	94	30
News Agencies	2	0
Universities/Colleges/Depts.	164	52
Total	317	100

No. of Books

Working Place	No. of Books
Government	8
Independent	49
Institution	94
News Agencies	2
Universities/Colleges/Depts.	164

4 Conclusion

Gender and Women’s Studies emerged from a critique of existing disciplines, and as inter/trans-disciplinary. The essentialist notion of ‘woman’ as the subject of feminist politics and discourses of empowerment and development gender have been a synonym for ‘woman’, disengaged from structural and historical inequalities. (Sreenivas, 2015) The bibliometric study analyses the literature through the Indian Journal of Gender Studies and finds that mainly the books were reviewed and the other forms of literature were not taken in the literature of journal which may not serve the actual purpose as far as the scope of literature is concerned. Large number of books from Sage, OUP, Kali for Women, Stree and Zubaan were taken for review. Further analysis of the reviews find that the number of books published by Sage is very high besides other publishers and books published in India which were more as compared to foreign books. Besides the English language, Book Reviews of the books published in Bangla languages were more than other Indian Languages. One of the major constraints is that reviews do not form the major subject as Gender Studies rather more books have been written on non-gender issues. It is also seen that books were mainly reviewed by Faculty Members of the University/Colleges/Departments in India. Further, it is observed that there is a

considerable time gap in reviewing which should also be reduced to make it as a more effective evaluating tool.

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