

# Research Paradigms in Social Sciences: A Case Study of Shodhganga

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## Abstract

*This paper highlights the research paradigms in the field of Social Sciences based on the theses available in Shodhganga. The paper attempts to make a content analysis of Shodhganga online theses repository for exploring the coverage of Social Sciences as a subject to identify the research prospects in the field of Social Sciences. It reveals the Social Science content as being deposited by top contributing Universities in Shodhganga online theses repository in terms of theses content, topics covered, language wise theses and usage statics of the Social Science content.*

**Keywords:** Research Paradigms, Institutional Repository, Shodhganga, Social Sciences

## 1. Introduction

The technological advances today make it possible to think in terms of storing all the knowledge of the human race in digital form and several organizations worldwide are experimenting with less-expensive ways to archive and disseminate scholarly information and in-house knowledge as Institutional Repositories (Ahmed, Alreyaee and Rahman, 2014). The internet enables the principal functions of scholarly communication to be unbundled, giving rise to new ways of sharing knowledge and new opportunities for institutions to use their intellectual capital as a more effective indicator of academic quality. Institutional Repositories are the collective intellectual output of an institution recorded in the form of that can be preserved and exploited (Yeates, 2003).

## 2. A Perspective on Social Sciences

Economic and Social Research Council defines "Social Science the study of society and the manner

in which people behave and influence the world around us. Social science tells us about the world beyond our immediate experience, and can help explain how our own society works - from the causes of unemployment or what helps economic growth, to how and why people vote, or what makes people happy. It provides vital information for governments and policymakers, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and others". (Economic & Social Research Council, 2017)

As per Economic and Social Research Council, Social Science disciplines may be divided into 9 main Subjects as given below: (Economic & Social Research Council, 2017)

- ❖ Demography and social statistics
- ❖ Development studies, human geography and environmental planning
- ❖ Economics, management and business studies
- ❖ Education, social anthropology, and linguistics
- ❖ Law, economic and social history
- ❖ Politics and international relations



- ❖ Psychology and sociology
- ❖ History and culture of science
- ❖ Social policy and social work

### 3. What are Institutional Repositories?

According to Lynch (2003), a university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. The institutional repository of necessity represents a collaboration among librarians, information technologists, archives and records managers, faculty, and university administrators and policymakers.

According to Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (ODLIS)

It is a set of services offered by a university or group of universities to members of its community for the management and dissemination of scholarly materials in digital format created by the institution and its community members, such as e-prints, technical reports, theses and dissertations, data sets, and teaching materials. Further, it states that an institutional repository is distinguished from a subject-based repository by its institutionally defined scope. IRs are part of a growing effort to reform scholarly communication and break the monopoly of journal publishers by reasserting institutional control over the results of scholarship. An IR may also serve as an indicator of the scope and extent of the university's research activities. ([http://www.abc-clio.com/ODLIS/odlis\\_i.aspx](http://www.abc-clio.com/ODLIS/odlis_i.aspx))

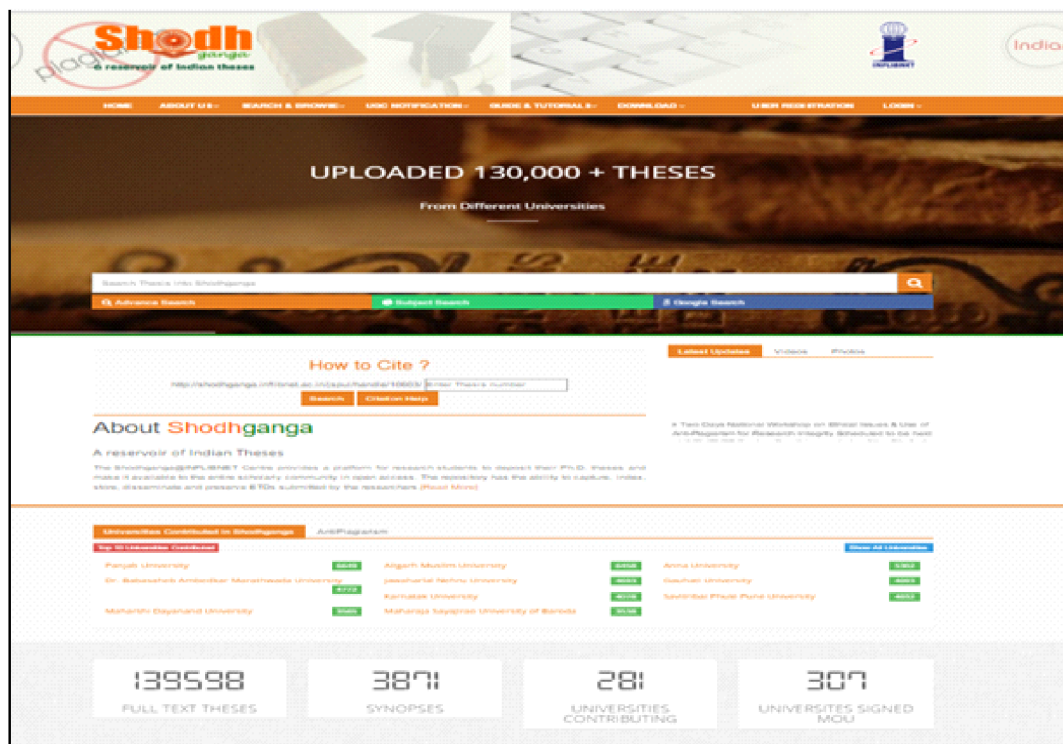
Crow (2002) in his paper for SPARC has clearly defined Institutional repositories as—digital

collections capturing and preserving the intellectual output of a single or multi-university community—provide a compelling response to two strategic issues facing academic institutions. In other words, the content of an institutional repository is:

- ❖ Institutionally defined;
- ❖ Scholarly;
- ❖ Cumulative and perpetual; and
- ❖ Open and interoperable

#### 3.1 Shodhganga: A National Repository

“Shodhganga” is the name coined to denote digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre, stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2016) dated 5th May 2016 mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide. Online availability of electronic theses through centrally-maintained digital repositories, not only ensure easy access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. This would overcome serious problem of duplication of research and poor quality resulting from the “poor visibility” and the “unseen” factor in research output. As per the Regulation, the responsibility of hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation (called “Shodhganga”), accessible to all institutions and universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre. (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>)



Shodhganga homepage [source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/> (on 8.5.2017)]

#### 4. Objectives of the Study

The study is intended to evaluate the availability of Social Sciences Content in Indian open access Institutional repository with special reference to Shodhganga. It tries to discover the content of ETD repository, especially in the field of Social Sciences based on the following parameters.

- ❖ To analyse the contribution of Electronic Thesis Dissertations (ETDs) by top ten Universities;
- ❖ To analyse the year wise growth of Shodhganga (2010-2016);
- ❖ To find out the Subjects/Topics covered in the uploaded theses;and

- ❖ To analyse Social Sciences theses available in different Languages

#### 5. Research Methodology

To achieve the above-stated objectives, database of Shodhganga repository is analysed using Content Analysis approach to identify the availability of theses with respect to Social Sciences as a subject. The data has been taken during May 2017.

#### 6. Analysis and Discussion

##### 6.1 Exponential Growth in Shodhganga

With the advent of the UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009/2016) dated 5th May 2016

that mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access online availability of electronic theses through centrally-maintained digital repositories, not only ensures easy access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/newmoredetails/about.html>)

Shodhganga has now set the exponential growth in terms of online theses submitted, as a single national repository with 1,39,500+ theses into its repository. Figure 1 shows the rate of growth in Shodhganga for a period from 2010-2016.

### 6.2 ETD Contributions by Top Universities in Shodhganga

Shodhganga is one of the largest repositories of theses at national level hosting almost 1,40,000 theses to the database and at the time of capturing the data there are almost 1,39,500+ theses submitted to the repository from almost 284 contributing Universities from all over India that are submitting the theses to Shodhganga and almost 307 Universities have already signed MoU with INFLIBNET Centre for contributing the theses to the repository. List of top 10 contributing Universities is shown in Table 1.

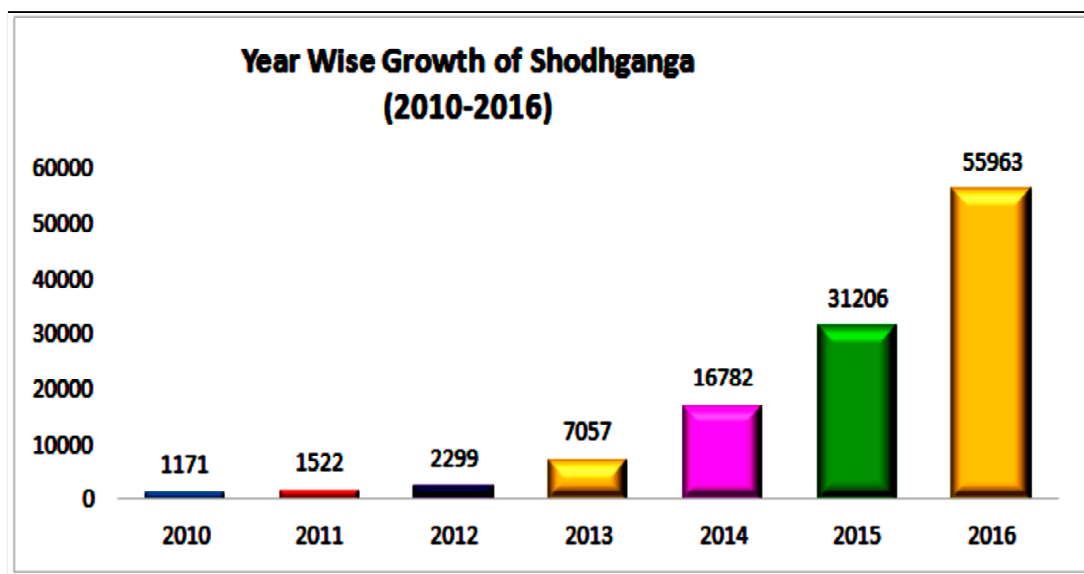


Figure 1: Year Wise Growth in Shodhganga (2010-2016)

**Table 1: Top 10 Universities submitting theses to Shodhganga**

Sl. No.	Universities	Theses submitted (As on 8.5.2017)	% Share	Rank
1	Panjab University	6649	4.76	Rank 1
2	Aligarh Muslim University	6458	4.62	Rank 2
3	Anna University	5302	3.80	Rank 3
4	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	4786	3.43	Rank 4
5	Jawaharlal Nehru University	4693	3.36	Rank 5
6	Gauhati University	4093	2.93	Rank 6
7	Karnatak University	4078	2.92	Rank 7
8	Savitribai Phule Pune University	4032	2.89	Rank 8
9	Maharshi Dayanand University	3565	2.55	Rank 9
10	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	3538	2.53	Rank10

**Table-1** shows the Top 10 Contributing Universities in Shodhganga. It is revealed from Table-1 that Punjab University ranked one with 6649 (4.76%) theses, followed by Aligarh Muslim University with 6458 (4.62%) theses ranked second and then Anna University at the third rank with 5302 (3.80%) theses into the repository and so on.

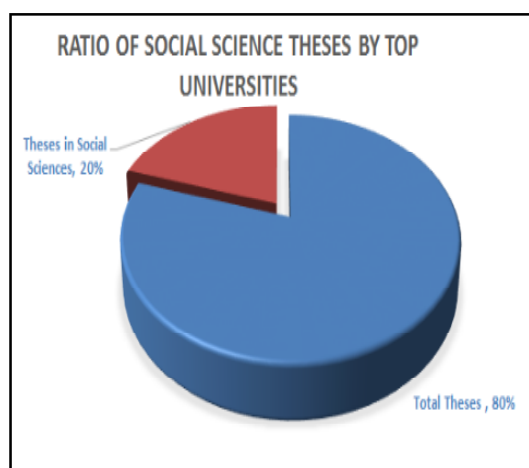
### 6.3 Coverage of Social Science Content in Shodhganga

On the basis of six core subjects (Economics, History, Education, Political Science, Sociology and Psychology) as defined by Economic and Social Research Council in Social Sciences, Department wise contribution is calculated in terms of theses uploaded into Shodhganga.

**Table-2** shows the coverage of Social Sciences content by the Top 10 contributing Universities in Shodhganga.

**Table-2 Social Science Theses uploaded into Shodhganga by top 10 Universities**

Sl No.	Universities	Total Theses	Theses in Social Sciences	Rank
1	Panjab University	6649	1883	Rank 1
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	4786	1521	Rank 2
3	Aligarh Muslim University	6458	1342	Rank 3
4	Jawaharlal Nehru University	4693	1172	Rank 4
5	Karnatak University	4078	1094	Rank 5
6	Gauhati University	4093	969	Rank 6
7	Savitribai Phule Pune University	4032	967	Rank 7
8	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	3538	870	Rank 8
9	Shivaji University	3436	835	Rank 9
10	Sri Venkateswara University Trupati	3185	695	Rank 10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44948</b>	<b>11348</b>	

**Figure 2 : Ratio of Social Sciences Theses in Shodhganga by top Universities**

It is clear from Table-2 that Panjab University is at rank 1 in terms of number of theses uploaded in the field of Social Sciences (core subjects) with 1883 (out of 6649), followed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University at rank 2 with 1521 theses in Social Sciences (core subjects) (out of 4786) theses uploaded to Shodhganga and then Aligarh Muslim University at rank 3 with 1342 theses in Social Sciences (out of 6458) uploaded to Shodhganga. The same has been displayed in Figure-1 showing the ratio of Social Sciences theses uploaded in Shodhganga by top universities.

#### 6.4 Topics Covered in Social Science Theses

As per the categories of subjects as described by the Economic and Social Research Council, topics covered under main subjects in 4 years (2014-2017)

are discussed in Table 3. It shows the variations and changes in the Topics chosen by the researchers as a topic of their study and also shows the various current titles that are being covered as part of Social Sciences syllabus.

It is cleared from Table 3 that most of the PhD theses covered Topics like Women Empowerment, Social Cultural aspects, Employment, Rural development, Female households, Women Employment etc. It shows a trend in more emphases on Women Empowerment and Employment, Taxation, Credit Systems etc.

**Table 3: Topics/Titles Covered in Social Sciences**

Subject	2014	Topics Covered 2015	2016	2017
<b>Economics</b>	Poverty Globalization, Rural indebtedness, Social Infrastructure, Role of khadi, Weaker sections, Indian taxation	Small Scale Industries, Production and Marketing, Empowerment of Women, Regulated Markets, impact of rental markets, rural and urban women entrepreneurs, food processing industry, Regulated Markets	Under employment, Agriculture, aarthik niti , Socio economic study, women managed micro enterprises, industrialization, environmental degradation, Women Employment, International Trade, Health Products	Women Entrepreneurship, economic conditions of farmers, monetary & fiscal policy
<b>History</b>	Movement of prices, Shaharacha Nagari Ethias, jamiatulama-i-hind, Farmers Suicides, Quit India Movement, Social Reformers	Forts and life, Divine Sabhas, Coal mining industry, Manipuri language movement, Music for mobilization evolution, women in sculptural, Feminine gaze	Freedom movement, Historical and cultural data, partition of the Punjab, Indian revolutionary movement, Social and economic History, Bhartatil panchvarshik yojana, Art Architecture Literature, Artisans and Craftsmen, Indo Persian Historiography	Literature During Deccan Sultanates, educational progress, Political Movements
<b>Education</b>	Rajiv Vidya mission, teaching aptitude, Manpower training, Primary Stage learners, role performance of teachers, Emotional Intelligence Locus	Tribal and nontribal Adolescents, Teachers of higher Education, learning style, teaching effectiveness, scheduled tribe women, Educational reformation, Access to school education,	Leadership roles in education, Socio psychological study, student activists, of school and college teachers, socially disadvantaged students, standardisation, Gifted Students, Gender Academic Achievement, Rural Urban Location, Personality Factors, General	Model of education, vocational education

Subject	2014	Topics Covered 2015	2016	2017
			Intelligence, Academic Backgrounds of Teacher Trainees, Distance Education Mode	
<b>Pol Science</b>	Defence and strategic relations, Gramin vikas, panchayti Raj, Bureaucracy and rural development, Dalit varg ki rajniti chetna, Loksabha ka sameekshatnak addhyan, Rajnitik Jagrukta per sanchar, urban local governments, Judicial activism, Oil diplomacy, dalit political parties	Domestic Violence, Panchayti raj, India Pakistan relations, Muslim Mahilayen, Indo Bangladesh relationship, human rights, Kashmir Samasya, Rajnitik Jagrukta	Rural development, bureaucracy , constitutional study, parliamentary democracy, Civil Society, Political Development, Nuclear Politics, Role of the UN, Post Cold War Era, India s Foreign Policy	Personality characterist Police administrationics, vetc in UN
<b>Sociology</b>	Women education, slum dwellers, social traditions, mass media Shahrukh Khan a sociological icon	Noukari karnarya mahlilachaMarathwada vidyapeeth, Muslim child labours, retired employees, dalit working women, youth in modern India, muslim youth,	Reproductive health, young females, slum areas, Female headed households, Socio economic exclusion, Muslim Womens Education, patidar caste, second marriage, dalit movement	Martyrs' Families, Urban Community, social reforms
<b>Psychology</b>	Spiritual intelligence, stress and job satisfaction, academic stress, adolescent disorders,	Subjective Well being, job performance, administrative & corporate services, career with and without choice	Personality motives of criminals , job alienation personality, Academic Stress, Spiritual Distress, control spirituality, adolescents, Hindu and Muslim religious devotees	Motivation, career decision making in adolescents, Aggression mood states mental health adjustment



### 6.5 Language Wise Theses in Shodhganga in the field of Social Sciences

Shodhganga has a Unicode based interface with a feature of multilingual content. Theses are available

in different Languages. Social Sciences content is also available in different Languages for Indian academic community.

**Table-4 Language wise Theses in Social Sciences available in Shodhganga**

S1 No.	Universities	Total Theses	Theses in Social Sciences	Social Science Subjects	Theses in Regional Languages
1	Panjab University	6649	1883	All	English
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	4786	1521	Economics History Political Sc. Sociology Psychology	Marathi 144 Marathi 75 Marathi 92 Hindi 01 Marathi 57 Marathi 01
3	Aligarh Muslim University	6458	1342	All	English
4	Jawaharlal Nehru University	4693	1172	All	English
5	Karnatak University	4078	1094	Economics History Political Sc. Sociology Education	Kannada 05 Kannada 11 Kannada 34 Kannada 08 Kannada 10
6	Gauhati University	4093	969	All	English
7	Savitribai Phule Pune University	4032	967	Economics History Education Political Sc. Sociology Psychology	Marathi 06 Marathi 31 Marathi 32 Marathi 6 Marathi 03 Marathi 02

S1 No.	Universities	Total Theses	Theses in Social Sciences	Social Science Subjects	Theses in Regional Languages
8	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	3538	870	All	English
9	Shivaji University	3436	835	Economics Education Political Sc. Sociology	Marathi 12 Marathi 92 Marathi 28 Marathi 08
10	Sh Venkateshwara University Tirupati	3185	695	All	English

**Table 4** shows language wise collection submitted by top Universities in the field of Social Sciences. It shows that 4 Universities out of 10 under study are having theses in regional languages in various subjects in Social Sciences viz. Economics, Political Science, Sociology, History, Psychology and Education. It is clear from that Table that in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Social Science content is available Marathi and Hindi Languages while in Karnatak University theses are available in Kannada Language, whereas in Savitribai Phule Pune University and Shivaji University theses are submitted in Marathi Language as far as Social Science is concerned.

#### 6.6 Usage Statistics of Social Science Content

Statistics of the usage of content is extremely important to assess the value of the content being uploaded as well as generated in the forms of theses and submitted to Universities. Usage Statistics as being generated from Shodhganga Portal is given in Table 5.

**Table-5 Top Most Viewed Theses in Social Sciences (9 Oct, 2015 to 2 May, 2016)**

Sl No.	Theses	Views
1	Women freedom fighters in Tamilnadu Researcher: B. Palammal Manonmaniam Sundaranar University <a href="#">handle/10603/14211</a>	17,648
2	Bhartiya samvidhan ke nirmaan me Dr Bhimrav Ambedkar ka yogdaan Researcher: Amita Bakshi Guru Ghasidas University <a href="#">handle /10603/18213</a>	14,772
3	Political and administrative ideas of Manu and Kautilya: a comparative study Researcher: Mohinder Kaur Punjabi University <a href="#">handle/10603/4285</a>	13,584
4	A study on job satisfaction of bank employees with special reference to State Bank of India, Kanyakumari district Researcher: A Thangaswamy Manonmaniam Sundaranar University <a href="#">handle/10603/13997</a>	12,000
5	Prathamik Siksha Mein Nai Rashtriya Siksha Niti 1986 Se Huye Parivartit Swaroop Shashakiya Nitiyo Evam Naye Ayamo Ka Etihasic Pariprekshya Me Vishleshanatmak Adhyayan Researcher: Ruchi Shrotriya Chaudhary Charan Singh University <a href="#">handle/10603/ 25705</a>	6,674

Table 5 shows Top most viewed theses in Social Sciences. It shows that the thesis entitled Women freedom fighters in Tamilnadu by B. Palammal submitted to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University [handle/10603/14211](#) is top most viewed theses in Social Sciences with 17,648 views followed by the thesis from Guru Ghasidas University entitled “Bhartiya samvidhan ke nirmaan me Dr Bhimrav Ambedkar ka yogdaan” by Amita Bakshi [handle /10603/18213](#) with 14,772 views and so on in a period of eight months.

## 7. Findings

- ❖ Total number of theses uploaded to the repository are **116000+** till December 2016. There is an exponential growth during the last three years, i.e. 2014 it was 16782 in 2015 it went up to 31206 and in 2016 it was the highest level at

55963, and in a total of 116000 theses till December 2016.

- ❖ Panjab University is at the top level in terms of theses uploaded to Shodhganga with 6649 (4.76%) theses, followed by Aligarh Muslim University with 6458 (4.62%) theses is at second rank and so on.
- ❖ As far as Social Sciences theses are concerned Panjab University is at top in terms of number of theses submitted in Social Science field in six core subjects with 1883 theses followed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University 1521 theses uploaded in Social Sciences and then Aligarh Muslim University with 1342 theses in Social Sciences.
- ❖ The Repository also constituted some Marathi, Kannada and Hindi Language theses as far as

Social Sciences theses are concerned and Topics covered are Entrepreneurship, Small Scale Industries, Women Empowerment and Employment Non-Governmental Organisations etc.

## 8. Conclusion

Shodhganga has now become the largest repository with 139000+ theses at national level. Through the study an attempt was made to analyse the core content of Social Sciences being uploaded into the repository. The analysis uncovered that paradigm shift in the research area of Social Sciences as a case study of Shodhganga. The paper shows that highest number of the research content uploaded by the top 10 universities into the repository as well as the usage of the content by the Social Sciences academic community.

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