

Doctoral dissertations in humanities in Indian universities during 2010-2014

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Based on the bibliographic data pertaining to 5229 doctoral dissertations produced in humanities by 127 institutions during 2010 to 2014, leading institutions, subject areas, states, etc., have been identified. The dissertations belonged to 45 different subject disciplines, at an average of 116.2 doctoral dissertations in each subject field. About 1046 doctoral dissertations were produced each year at an average of about 8 dissertations from each institution. Languages & literature is the leading subject field, in which 3611 dissertations were produced. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi produced the maximum number of doctoral dissertations.

Keywords: Doctoral research; Humanities; Bibliometrics; Dissertations

Introduction

The discipline of humanities involves studying human beings in relation to the self and the discipline has fascinated people all across the world during all ages. History, geography, languages & literature, philosophy, religion, performing art etc., are some of the traditional subjects in the humanities, but over a period of time newer and newer subject disciplines are being studied such as musicology, theatre, dance, visual arts (drawing, painting) etc. have come into being.

With the advancement of science and technology, with promising and more fulfilling job markets, a substantial decline has been reported in the enrolment and the research activities undertaken in humanities. A survey of 636 American universities¹ observed a steady decline in the enrolment of candidates pursuing doctoral programmes in arts & humanities from 2009 to 2014. The author found a maximum decline in the enrolment percentage in the history and English. Although there may be varied reasons for this decline in the enrolments for doctoral degree in humanities, Gravius² raised concerns about the time period involved in the completion of doctoral degree in humanities.

Doctoral research is said to have its own importance in creating new academic knowledge, be

it about disciplinary tradition, trends or research techniques³. Parry⁴ discussed about the different conventions and styles of writing a doctoral thesis and how actually epistemology and culture influences in shaping the research writing. The author was of the view that each discipline actually has its own unique conventions, which govern its conception, production and reporting in a very subtle way.

India has a vast higher education setup with over 35,500 colleges affiliated to over 759 universities⁵ with an enrollment capacity of over 20 million students, whereas, less than 1% students, who get enrolled at Master's degree level pursue research at doctoral level. The present study seeks to examine the amount of research conducted in the field of the humanities in India during 2010-2014 as reflected through the doctoral dissertations submitted in universities. This is likely to help in assessing the state of doctoral research in India in the field of humanities and the popularity of various subjects in different regions and institutions of the country.

Review of literature

A number of studies have been carried out on doctoral degrees awarded and doctoral dissertations produced in humanities and other related areas. Vyas⁶ undertook a bibliometric study of 909 doctoral dissertations awarded in English across the

12 Universities of Maharashtra during 1905-2012. The researcher found Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University as the leading university to award the maximum number of doctoral degrees, followed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Marathwada University. The Gazi and the Marmara were the two leading Universities to award doctoral degrees in the field of Music in Turkey from 1986 to 2009⁷. Meyer-Arendt⁸ undertook a study on the doctoral degrees awarded on Tourism Geography by the North American Universities during 1951-98. The author could identify 66 doctoral dissertations and found the degrees were mostly awarded by the Universities in Canada. The author found a considerable increase in the award of doctoral dissertation in Tourism Geography, which he found as quite encouraging. In a similar study, Bao⁹ discussed about the inception of tourism geography as a subject in the Chinese Universities around 1979 and research around 1986. The author studied the 20 doctoral degrees granted by the Chinese universities during 1989-2000, which the researcher found far less than the degrees awarded in the US and other countries in Tourism Geography. Pearson, Evans and Macauley¹⁰ studied the overall growth in the doctoral research in Australia.

Nyana¹¹ undertook a citation analysis of the 83 doctoral dissertations awarded by the Pennsylvania State University during 2000-2007 in African American Studies. The author analysed 14058 citations and found 12810 (91%) citations in these dissertations from the sources owned by the Pennsylvania State University Library. As a matter of routine Wiley on behalf of the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations published a bibliography of doctoral degrees granted in humanities (foreign languages, literature, culture and Linguistics) in the United States in 2005, published in *The Modern Language Journal*. Along similar lines Benseler^{12,13} compiled a bibliography of doctoral dissertations pertaining to the teaching of German and awarded in U.S universities during 2006. A bibliographical compilation of doctoral dissertations completed in Theology in the Nordic Countries in 2014 & 2015 was published in the *Nordic Journal of Theology*¹⁴.

Gravois² found that it takes 10 to 12 years for the scholars of humanities across the American Universities to complete their doctoral degrees, while scholars from engineering and sciences complete their

doctoral degree within six to seven years. The long time taken to complete doctoral degrees reportedly results in dropouts.

The ever and fast changing digital environment is being equally seen as the reason for this decline¹⁵. The author believes that lack of diversity in the humanities professorate, thereon to converse with digital environment, social networks, digital archives, information retrieval techniques to pursue doctoral degrees are possible reasons. Hodge¹⁶ showed concerns about the doctoral studies conducted in new or postmodern humanities.

Rules and regulations of individual institutions do play their part in promoting doctoral research and in encouraging scholars to be more proactive in pursuing research. O'Brien¹⁷ in his study on the reforms in postgraduate education, discussed about the doctoral dissertations awarded in the fields of humanities and social sciences. The researcher is of the view that universities should not have any ambiguity in the regulations, which should be clearly conveyed to the student community.

Zusman¹⁸ discussed about the 21st century challenges of American higher education, with emphasis on the changing job market for Ph.D's. The author finds a considerable difference between the avenues available to Ph.D's 20 to 30 years back and now. Zusman also expressed concerns about the privatization of public academic and research institution, which has more assumed the shape of the commercialization of education and research.

Huang and Chang¹⁹ in their study discussed about the characteristics of humanities and social science research, which are distinct from natural science. The authors are of the view that humanities and social science researchers give equal preference to publish their research articles in books, newspapers, magazines, etc., which is not the case with researchers from pure sciences and so do the researchers from the humanities and the social sciences cite more books and other sources in the work, apart from other journal articles. Besides, social science and humanities research is generally undertaken to address the local issues, while as science seeks the solution of the problems faced by the global community.

In India, no major study has so far been conducted, which may give an insight about the doctoral

dissertations produced or the research activities undertaken in the field of humanities. A very few studies of such nature have been conducted across the country and those conducted are generally limited to a specific subject area⁶.

Objectives of the study

- To present an overview of the doctoral dissertations produced in the humanities across India during 2010-2014;
- To assess the popularity of each individual subject field, both at state and the institutional level and to identify the leading states and institutions to produce doctoral dissertations; and
- To present the subject wise distribution of doctoral dissertations produced both at the state and the institutional level.

Methodology

Data for the present study has been compiled from the Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations in Humanities, Published by Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi. The association has published bibliography for each individual year viz., 2010-2014 and then the data was structured as per the objectives of the study²⁰.

However, the bibliography of doctoral dissertations compiled by the AIU is not comprehensive because there are about 750 universities in India, whereas the AIU's bibliography contains data pertaining to only 127 universities. It is slightly far-fetched to assume that only 127 universities have produced doctoral dissertations during 2010-2014. It is likely to a combination of factors such as many universities may

not be offering doctoral programmes in humanities, some universities may not have actually produced doctoral dissertations during that period and lastly, the data on the doctoral dissertations produced were not sent to AIU or collected by AIU from some of the universities.

Analysis

The retrieved and structured data has been tabulated keeping in view the objectives of the study. The percentage at most of the places has been drawn up to two decimal places and has not been rounded off.

In all, 5229 doctoral dissertations belonging to 45 subjects were produced during 2010-2014 in the field of humanities, with about 1045 theses each year (Table 1).

Doctoral theses by subject

In Table 2, subjects under Languages & Literature, Performing Arts and Religion have been clubbed together under one major subject field, whereas, research output has been reflected against each subject individually. Accordingly, further analysis has been carried out on these broad headings viz., Languages & Literature, History, Geography, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion and Linguistics. A total of 3611 (69.05%) doctoral dissertations was produced in languages & literature, 698 (13.34%) in history, 356 (6.80%) in geography, 290 (5.54%) in performing arts, 144 (2.75%) in philosophy, 90 (1.72%) in religion and the 61 (1.16%) in linguistics. Hindi (20.59%), English (15.12%) and history (13.34%) are the three leading doctoral dissertation subjects

Table 1—Doctoral research output by year

| Sl. no. | Year | Research output (Share %) | No. of institutions (Average) | No. of subject fields (Average) |
|---------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2010 | 1299 (24.84) | 77 (16.87) | 35 (37.11) |
| 2 | 2011 | 1240 (23.71) | 75 (16.53) | 33 (37.57) |
| 3 | 2012 | 1029 (19.67) | 68 (15.13) | 33 (31.18) |
| 4 | 2013 | 780 (14.91) | 60 (13.00) | 29 (26.89) |
| 5 | 2014 | 881 (16.84) | 59 (14.93) | 31 (28.41) |
| | Total | 5229 | 127* (41.17) | 45** (116.20) |

*Unique institutions **Unique subjects

Table 2—Doctoral theses by subject

| Sl. no. | Subject | 2010 (Share %) | 2011 (Share %) | 2012 (Share %) | 2013 (Share %) | 2014 (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | Languages & Literature | | | | | | | |
| | Hindi | 269 (20.70) | 258 (20.80) | 211 (20.50) | 183 (23.46) | 156 (17.70) | 1077 (20.59) | 215.4 |
| | English | 166 (12.77) | 155 (12.50) | 191 (18.56) | 141 (18.07) | 138 (15.66) | 791 (15.12) | 158.2 |
| | Sanskrit | 184 (14.16) | 133 (10.72) | 96 (9.32) | 77 (9.87) | 82 (9.30) | 572 (10.93) | 114.4 |
| | Urdu | 35 (2.69) | 53 (4.27) | 49 (4.76) | 28 (3.58) | 34 (3.85) | 199 (3.80) | 39.8 |
| | Kannada | 45 (3.46) | 56 (4.51) | 19 (1.84) | 23 (2.94) | 34 (3.85) | 177 (3.38) | 35.4 |
| | Marathi | 35 (2.69) | 39 (3.14) | 60 (5.83) | 19 (2.43) | 15 (1.70) | 168 (3.21) | 33.6 |
| | Gujarati | 27 (2.07) | 35 (2.82) | 20 (1.94) | 12 (1.53) | 10 (1.13) | 104 (1.98) | 20.8 |
| | Telugu | 22 (1.69) | 15 (1.20) | 12 (1.16) | 11 (1.41) | 24 (2.72) | 84 (1.60) | 16.8 |
| | Punjabi | 18 (1.38) | 14 (1.12) | 13 (1.26) | 18 (2.30) | 01 (0.11) | 64 (1.22) | 12.8 |
| | Arabic | 12 (0.92) | 13 (1.04) | 10 (0.97) | 12 (1.53) | 15 (1.70) | 62 (1.18) | 12.4 |
| | Oriya | 27 (2.07) | 11 (0.88) | 08 (0.77) | 09 (1.15) | 06 (0.68) | 61 (1.16) | 12.2 |
| | Bengali | 27 (2.07) | - | 16 (1.55) | 11 (1.41) | 04 (0.45) | 58 (1.10) | 11.6 |
| | Persian | 01 (0.07) | 12 (0.96) | 14 (1.36) | 09 (1.15) | 13 (1.47) | 49 (0.93) | 9.8 |
| | Manipuri | 09 (0.69) | 04 (0.32) | 07 (0.68) | 03 (0.38) | 15 (1.70) | 38 (0.72) | 7.6 |
| | Tamil | 09 (0.69) | 16 (1.29) | 01 (0.09) | 01 (0.12) | - | 27 (0.51) | 5.4 |
| | Assamese | 07 (0.53) | 10 (0.80) | 01 (0.09) | - | 06 (0.68) | 24 (0.45) | 4.8 |
| | Malayalam | - | 03 (0.24) | - | 02 (0.25) | 07 (0.79) | 12 (0.22) | 2.4 |
| | French | 01 (0.07) | 04 (0.32) | 01 (0.097) | 03 (0.38) | - | 09 (0.17) | 1.8 |
| | Pali | 05 (0.38) | 04 (0.32) | - | - | - | 09 (0.17) | 1.8 |
| | Khasi | 02 (0.15) | 01 (0.08) | 02 (0.19) | 02 (0.25) | 01 (0.11) | 08 (0.15) | 1.6 |
| | Maithili | - | - | 06 (0.58) | 02 (0.25) | - | 08 (0.15) | 1.6 |
| | Kashmiri | - | 05 (0.40) | - | - | - | 05 (0.09) | 1.0 |
| | Slavonic | 01 (0.07) | - | - | - | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | Garo | 01 (0.07) | - | - | - | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | Mizo | 01 (0.07) | - | - | - | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |

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Table 2—Doctoral theses by subject

| Sl. no. | Subject | | | | | | —Contd | |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | | 2010 (Share %) | 2011 (Share %) | 2012 (Share %) | 2013 (Share %) | 2014 (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. |
| | Naga | - | - | 01 (0.09) | - | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | African | - | - | - | 01 (0.12) | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | Total Languages & Literature | 904 | 841 | 738 | 567 | 561 | 3611 (69.05) | |
| 2 | History | 143 (11.00) | 190 (15.32) | 127 (12.34) | 101 (12.94) | 137 (15.55) | 698 (13.34) | 139.6 |
| 3 | Geography | 85 (6.54) | 82 (6.61) | 73 (7.09) | 45 (6.15) | 71 (8.05) | 356 (6.80) | 71.2 |
| 4 | Performing Arts | | | | | | | |
| | Music | 43 (3.31) | 28 (2.25) | 31 (3.01) | 35 (4.48) | 34 (3.85) | 171 (3.27) | 34.2 |
| | Folklore | 13 (1.00) | 13 (1.04) | 05 (0.48) | 07 (0.89) | 08 (0.90) | 46 (0.87) | 9.2 |
| | Draw & Painting | 04 (0.30) | 05 (0.40) | 02 (0.19) | 09 (1.15) | 02 (0.22) | 22 (0.42) | 4.4 |
| | Drama | 01 (0.07) | 03 (0.24) | 02 (0.19) | 02 (0.25) | 04 (0.45) | 12 (0.22) | 2.4 |
| | Visual Arts | 03 (0.23) | 04 (0.32) | 02 (0.19) | - | - | 09 (0.17) | 1.8 |
| | Dance | 04 (0.30) | - | 01 (0.09) | 01 (0.12) | 02 (0.22) | 08 (0.15) | 1.6 |
| | Fine Arts | - | - | - | - | 01 (0.11) | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | Total Performing Arts | 74 | 61 | 47 | 48 | 62 | 290 (5.54) | |
| 5 | Philosophy | 40 (3.07) | 49 (3.95) | 30 (2.91) | - | 25 (2.83) | 144 (2.75) | 28.8 |
| 6 | Religion | | | | | | | |
| | Jainism | 07 (0.53) | 10 (0.80) | 06 (0.58) | - | 07 (0.79) | 30 (0.57) | 6.0 |
| | Islamic Studies | 08 (0.61) | 04 (0.32) | 02 (0.19) | 04 (0.51) | 10 (1.13) | 28 (0.53) | 5.6 |
| | Religion | 27 (2.07) | - | - | - | - | 27 (0.51) | 5.4 |
| | Buddhism | - | - | 01 (0.09) | - | 01 (0.11) | 02 (0.03) | 0.4 |
| | Hinduism | - | 01 (0.08) | - | - | 01 (0.11) | 02 (0.03) | 0.4 |
| | Bahai | - | 01 (0.08) | - | - | - | 01 (0.01) | 0.2 |
| | Total Religions | 42 | 16 | 09 | 04 | 19 | 90 (1.72) | |
| 7 | Linguistics | 17 (1.30) | 09 (0.72) | 09 (0.87) | 09 (1.15) | 17 (1.92) | 61 (1.16) | 12.2 |
| | Total | 1299 | 1240 | 1029 | 780 | 881 | 5229 | 1045.8 |

About 215 doctoral dissertations were produced in Hindi in each year, 158 in English, 139 in history and about 114 doctoral dissertations in Sanskrit.

Doctoral dissertations by different states

Table 3 gives the dissertation output from the different states. Universities in New Delhi produced the maximum number of 623 (11.91%) doctoral dissertations. Maharashtra (11.79%), Gujarat (9.50%), Karnataka (8.58%), Madhya Pradesh (7.42%) Andhra Pradesh (6.31%) and Haryana (5.92%) are the other leading states to produce doctoral dissertations in humanities. In all 16 states produced 100 to 623 doctoral dissertations, 12 states produced 10 to 100 dissertations and only one state produced less than 10 doctoral dissertations. Universities in Chandigarh, Manipur and New Delhi recorded the maximum average research output.

Doctoral research output of leading universities

Of the total doctoral research output in humanities in India during 2010-14, 64.82% were from the listed twenty leading universities/institutes, whereas the remaining 35.18% doctoral dissertations were produced by rest of the 107 universities. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi produced the highest 323 (6.17%) doctoral dissertations during the period of study. The other leading universities are Dr. B.R Ambedkar Marathwada University, Maharashtra (6.15%), Saurashtra University (4.41%) and Karnataka University, Bangalore (4.11%). B.R Ambedkar Marathwada University, Hemchandra North Gujarat University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi are the three leading Universities which on average produced 80.50, 80 and 64.60 doctoral dissertations in each subject field at an average of 16.10, 16, and 12.92 doctoral dissertations each year, respectively. On average 747 doctoral dissertations were produced in each subject area with an average of 149.4 dissertations each year (Table 4).

Dissertation output for individual subjects

On average 106.71 doctoral dissertations were produced in each subject area at an average of 21.34 dissertations each year (Table 5). Language and literature is the only subject area, in which doctoral dissertations have been produced across all the 29 states. New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have produced doctoral dissertations in all the 7 identified subject areas. Maharashtra,

Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Manipur and Meghalaya have produced doctoral dissertations in 6 different subject fields. Maharashtra is the leading state to produce on average 102.83 doctoral dissertations in each subject at an average of 20.56 dissertations each year (Table 5). Maharashtra is followed by New Delhi and Gujarat with produced 89 and 82.83 dissertations in each subject area with an average of 17.8 and 16.56 dissertations each year, respectively. Ten states each have less than 1% share in total doctoral dissertations produced, 17 states have shared between 1 to 10%, while as New Delhi and Maharashtra are the only states having more than 10% share in producing doctoral dissertations (Table 5).

Leading doctoral dissertations producing institutions & states by subject

Table 6 gives the leading doctoral dissertations producing institutions and states by different subjects. In terms of popularity of the each individual subject, both at state and the institutional level, history, languages & literature and linguistics are more followed in Vinoba Bhave University, B.R Ambedkar Marathwada University and Manipur University respectively. Geography and Philosophy appear to be the most popular in the University of Calcutta. Kannada University leads in performing arts and University of Delhi in Religion. In language & literature, the maximum 7.78% doctoral dissertations were produced by B.R Ambedkar Marathwada University and 13.43% were from Maharashtra. Similarly, 8.88% of the total doctoral dissertations in history were produced by Vinoba Bhave University and 11.46% were from in Madhya Pradesh.

At the state level, Geography and Language & Literature are more pursued in Maharashtra, History in Madhya Pradesh, Linguistics in Manipur, Performing Arts in Karnataka, Philosophy in West Bengal and Religion in New Delhi. Interestingly, though Jawaharlal Nehru University emerged as the overall leading institution, it does not top in given individual subject area.

Conclusion

By and large, humanities as a subject field is being taught across all the major higher educational institutions in India. New Delhi, Maharashtra and Gujarat are the three leading states where the subject

Table 3—Doctoral dissertations by different states

| Sl. no. | State | 2010 (Share %) | 2011 (Share %) | 2012 (Share %) | 2013 (Share %) | 2014 (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. | No of Univ. | Avg. per Univ. |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | New Delhi | 163 (12.54) | 167 (13.46) | 112 (10.88) | 73 (9.35) | 108 (12.25) | 623 (11.91) | 124.6 | 22 | 28.31 |
| 2 | Maharashtra | 103 (7.92) | 191 (15.40) | 190 (18.46) | 94 (12.05) | 39 (4.42) | 617 (11.79) | 123.4 | 49 | 12.59 |
| 3 | Gujarat | 131 (10.08) | 128 (10.32) | 89 (8.64) | 87 (11.15) | 62 (7.03) | 497 (9.50) | 99.4 | 58 | 8.56 |
| 4 | Karnataka | 106 (8.16) | 102 (8.22) | 59 (5.73) | 83 (10.64) | 99 (11.23) | 449 (8.58) | 89.8 | 52 | 8.63 |
| 5 | Madhya Pradesh | 117 (9.00) | 92 (7.41) | 66 (6.41) | 57 (7.30) | 56 (6.35) | 388 (7.42) | 77.6 | 45 | 8.62 |
| 6 | Andhra Pradesh | 96 (7.39) | 61 (4.91) | 40 (3.88) | 33 (4.23) | 100 (11.35) | 330 (6.31) | 66.0 | 25 | 13.20 |
| 7 | Haryana | 58 (4.46) | 64 (5.16) | 104 (10.10) | 37 (4.74) | 47 (5.33) | 310 (5.92) | 62.0 | 40 | 7.75 |
| 8 | West Bengal | 95 (7.31) | 64 (5.16) | 56 (5.44) | 46 (5.89) | 34 (3.85) | 295 (5.64) | 59.0 | 35 | 8.42 |
| 9 | Orissa | 63 (4.84) | 60 (4.83) | 19 (1.84) | 23 (2.94) | 19 (2.15) | 184 (3.51) | 36.8 | 20 | 9.20 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 48 (3.69) | 29 (2.33) | 44 (4.27) | 31 (3.97) | 27 (3.06) | 179 (3.42) | 35.8 | 16 | 11.18 |
| 11 | Bihar | 29 (2.23) | 33 (2.66) | 45 (4.37) | 31 (3.97) | 31 (3.51) | 169 (3.23) | 33.8 | 19 | 8.89 |
| 12 | Chhattisgarh | 44 (3.38) | 22 (1.77) | 25 (2.42) | 30 (3.84) | 35 (3.97) | 156 (2.98) | 31.2 | 22 | 7.09 |
| 13 | Uttar Pradesh | 37 (2.84) | 23 (1.85) | 32 (3.10) | 10 (1.82) | 46 (5.22) | 148 (2.83) | 29.6 | 64 | 2.31 |
| 14 | Kerala | 19 (1.46) | 19 (1.53) | 34 (3.30) | 22 (2.82) | 48 (5.44) | 142 (2.71) | 28.4 | 16 | 8.87 |
| 15 | Manipur | 25 (1.92) | 16 (1.29) | 25 (2.42) | 08 (1.02) | 48 (5.44) | 122 (2.33) | 24.4 | 03 | 40.66 |
| 16 | Meghalaya | 20 (1.53) | 20 (1.61) | 15 (1.45) | 28 (3.58) | 27 (3.06) | 110 (2.10) | 22.0 | 09 | 12.22 |
| 17 | Chandigarh | 31 (2.38) | 16 (1.29) | 12 (1.16) | 29 (3.71) | - | 88 (1.68) | 17.6 | 02 | 44.00 |
| 18 | Himachal Pradesh | 33 (2.54) | 21 (1.69) | 16 (1.55) | 05 (0.64) | 08 (0.90) | 83 (1.58) | 16.6 | 22 | 3.77 |
| 19 | Assam | 32 (2.46) | 10 (0.80) | 05 (0.48) | 08 (1.02) | 06 (0.68) | 61 (1.16) | 12.2 | 18 | 3.38 |
| 20 | Pondicherry | 13 (1.00) | 24 (1.93) | 15 (1.45) | - | - | 52 (0.99) | 10.4 | 02 | 26.00 |
| 21 | J & K | 08 (0.61) | 20 (1.61) | - | 12 (1.53) | 12 (1.36) | 52 (0.99) | 10.4 | 10 | 5.20 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 10 (0.76) | 19 (1.53) | - | 06 (0.76) | 08 (0.90) | 43 (0.82) | 8.6 | 52 | 0.82 |
| 23 | Rajasthan | 07 (0.53) | 11 (0.88) | 05 (0.48) | 01 (0.12) | 10 (1.13) | 34 (0.65) | 6.8 | 73 | 0.46 |
| 24 | Punjab | - | 13 (1.04) | 04 (0.38) | 15 (1.92) | - | 32 (0.61) | 6.4 | 25 | 1.28 |
| 25 | Arunachal Pradesh | 04 (0.30) | 06 (0.48) | 01 (0.09) | 05 (0.64) | 04 (0.45) | 20 (0.38) | 4.0 | 09 | 2.22 |

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Table 3—Doctoral dissertations by different states

| Sl. no. | State | 2010 (Share %) | 2011 (Share %) | 2012 (Share %) | 2013 (Share %) | 2014 (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. | —Contd | |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | No of Univ. | Avg. per Univ. |
| 26 | Nagaland | 02 (0.15) | 05 (0.40) | 04 (0.38) | 03 (0.38) | 04 (0.45) | 18 (0.34) | 3.6 | 03 | 6.00 |
| 27 | Tripura | 03 (0.23) | 03 (0.24) | 07 (0.68) | - | - | 13 (0.24) | 2.6 | 03 | 4.33 |
| 28 | Mizoram | 02 (0.27) | 01 (0.08) | 05 (0.48) | 01 (0.12) | 03 (0.34) | 12 (0.22) | 2.4 | 02 | 6.00 |
| 29 | Uttarakhand | - | - | - | 02 (0.25) | - | 02 (0.03) | 0.4 | 25 | 0.08 |
| 30 | Others | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | - |
| | Total | 1299 | 1240 | 1029 | 780 | 881 | 5229 | 1045.8 | 759 | 6.88 |

is being pursued the most and so is humanities research in these states. The steady decline in doctoral dissertations on an annual basis is an area of concern, as more than 23% decline was observed in the doctoral dissertations from 2010 to 2014. This decline has also been observed in the number of institutions and the number of individual subjects pursued in humanities. Though there is a decline in the research conducted in the humanities, but it would be too premature to infer that there is any decline in the popularity of humanities subject discipline.

Also, as was observed in the introductory part, newer subject fields that are more job oriented can also be a reason for the decline.

More than 27 language & literature subjects were identified in which doctoral dissertations have been produced, but Hindi, English and Sanskrit are the three popular languages & literature subjects. There is a need to promote research in other languages & literature as well, especially in those subject areas, which are facing a dearth of takers and propagators.

Of the total doctoral dissertations produced, meager 1.72% degrees have been in the field of religion. There perhaps is a need for more research on religion studies for better and deeper understandings on religious issues. Humanities research is mostly concentrated in few universities in India and clearly, there is need to augment research in humanities in India.

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Table 4—Doctoral research output of twenty leading universities by subjects

| Sl. no. | University | Language & Literature (Share %) | History (Share %) | Geography (Share %) | Performing Arts (Share %) | Philosophy (Share %) | Religion (Share %) | Linguistics (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | Jawaharlal Nehru University | 258 (7.14) | 43 (6.16) | - | 04 (1.48) | 08 (5.55) | - | 10 (16.39) | 323 (6.17) | 64.60 |
| 2 | B.R Ambedkar Marathwada Univ. | 281 (7.78) | 15 (2.14) | 24 (6.74) | 02 (0.74) | - | - | - | 322 (6.15) | 80.50 |
| 3 | Saurashtra University | 195 (5.40) | 18 (2.57) | 01 (0.28) | 07 (2.60) | 10 (6.94) | - | - | 231 (4.41) | 46.20 |
| 4 | Karnataka University | 152 (4.20) | 20 (2.86) | 09 (2.52) | 19 (7.06) | 08 (5.55) | - | 07 (11.47) | 215 (4.11) | 35.83 |
| 5 | Kannada University | 114 (3.15) | 24 (3.43) | - | 41 (15.24) | - | - | 01 (1.63) | 180 (3.44) | 45.00 |
| 6 | University of Calcutta | 86 (2.38) | 30 (4.29) | 38 (10.67) | 04 (1.48) | 11 (7.63) | - | 03 (4.91) | 172 (3.28) | 28.66 |
| 7 | Vinoba Bhawe University | 84 (2.32) | 62 (8.88) | 15 (4.21) | 02 (0.74) | 09 (6.25) | - | - | 172 (3.28) | 34.40 |
| 8 | Vikram University | 115 (3.18) | 30 (4.29) | 07 (1.96) | 12 (4.46) | 07 (4.86) | - | - | 171 (3.27) | 34.20 |
| 9 | Osmania University | 126 (3.48) | 20 (2.86) | 11 (3.08) | - | 01 (0.69) | 02 (2.22) | 03 (4.91) | 163 (3.11) | 27.16 |
| 10 | Maharishi Dayanand University | 107 (2.96) | 18 (2.57) | 14 (3.93) | 23 (8.55) | - | - | - | 162 (3.09) | 40.50 |
| 11 | Hemch North Gujarat Univ. | 143 (3.96) | 17 (2.43) | - | - | - | - | - | 160 (3.05) | 80.00 |
| 12 | Shivaji University | 107 (2.96) | 27 (3.86) | 14 (3.93) | 04 (1.48) | 01 (0.69) | - | - | 153 (2.92) | 30.60 |
| 13 | Kurukshetra University | 85 (2.35) | 15 (2.14) | 02 (0.56) | 32 (11.89) | 08 (5.55) | - | - | 142 (2.71) | 28.40 |
| 14 | Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya | 65 (1.80) | 41 (5.87) | 18 (5.05) | 02 (0.74) | 10 (6.94) | - | - | 136 (2.60) | 27.20 |
| 15 | Jamia Millia Islamia | 75 (2.07) | 19 (2.72) | 19 (5.33) | 02 (0.74) | - | 17 (18.88) | - | 132 (2.52) | 26.40 |
| 16 | University of Delhi | 69 (1.91) | 04 (0.57) | 03 (0.84) | 21 (7.80) | 02 (1.38) | 27 (30.00) | 02 (3.27) | 128 (2.44) | 18.28 |
| 17 | Manipur University | 76 (2.10) | 25 (3.58) | 01 (0.28) | 01 (0.37) | 06 (4.16) | - | 13 (21.31) | 122 (2.33) | 20.33 |
| 18 | North East Hill University | 47 (1.30) | 13 (1.86) | 27 (7.58) | 05 (1.85) | 09 (6.25) | - | 09 (14.75) | 110 (2.10) | 18.33 |
| 19 | North Maharashtra University | 74 (2.04) | 08 (1.14) | 17 (4.77) | - | - | - | - | 99 (1.89) | 33.00 |
| 20 | Sh. Sankaracharya Univ. of Sanskrit | 83 (2.29) | 05 (0.71) | - | 05 (1.85) | 03 (2.08) | - | - | 96 (1.83) | 24.00 |
| 21 | Rest of the Universities | 1269 (35.14) | 244 (34.95) | 136 (38.20) | 83 (30.85) | 51 (35.41) | 44 (48.88) | 13 (21.31) | 1840 (35.18) | 262.85 |
| | Total | 3611 (69.05) | 698 (13.34) | 356 (6.80) | 269 (5.14) | 144 (2.75) | 90 (1.72) | 61 (1.16) | 5229 | 747.00 |

Table 5—Dissertation output of Indian states for individual subjects

| Sl. no. | State | Language & Literature (Share %) | History (Share %) | Geography (Share %) | Performing Arts (Share %) | Philosophy (Share %) | Religion (Share %) | Linguistics (Share %) | Total (Share %) | Avg. |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | New Delhi | 440 (12.18) | 67 (9.59) | 23 (6.46) | 27 (10.05) | 10 (6.94) | 44 (48.88) | 12 (19.67) | 623 (11.91) | 89.00 |
| 2 | Maharashtra | 485 (13.43) | 59 (8.45) | 63 (17.69) | 07 (2.60) | 02 (1.38) | 01 (1.11) | - | 617 (11.79) | 102.83 |
| 3 | Gujarat | 430 (11.90) | 40 (5.73) | 01 (0.28) | 12 (4.46) | 12 (8.33) | - | 02 (3.27) | 497 (9.50) | 82.83 |
| 4 | Karnataka | 302 (8.36) | 53 (7.59) | 12 (3.37) | 66 (24.53) | 08 (5.55) | - | 08 (13.11) | 449 (8.58) | 74.83 |
| 5 | Madhya Pradesh | 236 (6.53) | 80 (11.46) | 34 (9.55) | 19 (7.06) | 18 (12.50) | 01 (1.11) | - | 388 (7.42) | 64.66 |
| 6 | Andhra Pradesh | 259 (7.17) | 37 (5.30) | 15 (4.21) | 04 (1.48) | 10 (6.94) | 02 (2.22) | 03 (4.91) | 330 (6.31) | 47.14 |
| 7 | Hiaryana | 198 (5.48) | 33 (4.72) | 16 (4.49) | 55 (20.44) | 08 (5.55) | - | - | 310 (5.92) | 62.00 |
| 8 | West Bengal | 177 (4.90) | 35 (5.01) | 53 (14.88) | 07 (2.60) | 19 (13.19) | 01 (1.11) | 03 (4.91) | 295 (5.64) | 42.14 |
| 9 | Orissa | 122 (3.37) | 42 (6.01) | 10 (2.80) | 02 (0.74) | 07 (11.80) | 01 (1.11) | - | 184 (3.51) | 30.66 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 89 (2.46) | 62 (8.88) | 15 (4.21) | 03 (1.11) | 09 (6.25) | 01 (1.11) | - | 179 (3.42) | 29.83 |
| 11 | Bihar | 87 (2.40) | 51 (7.30) | 11 (3.08) | - | 09 (6.25) | 11 (12.22) | - | 169 (3.23) | 33.80 |
| 12 | Chhattisgarh | 89 (2.46) | 21 (3.00) | 38 (10.67) | 07 (2.60) | 01 (0.69) | - | - | 156 (2.98) | 31.20 |
| 13 | Uttar Pradesh | 99 (2.74) | 23 (3.29) | 04 (1.12) | 13 (4.83) | 02 (1.38) | 04 (4.44) | 03 (4.91) | 148 (2.83) | 21.14 |
| 14 | Kerala | 122 (3.37) | 10 (1.43) | - | 07 (2.60) | 03 (2.08) | - | - | 142 (2.71) | 35.50 |
| 15 | Manipur | 76 (2.10) | 25 (3.58) | 01 (0.28) | 01 (0.37) | 06 (4.16) | - | 13 (21.31) | 122 (2.33) | 20.33 |
| 16 | Meghalaya | 47 (1.30) | 13 (1.86) | 27 (7.58) | 05 (1.85) | 09 (6.25) | - | 09 (14.75) | 110 (2.10) | 18.33 |
| 17 | Chandigarh | 66 (1.82) | 08 (1.14) | - | 11 (4.08) | 03 (2.08) | - | - | 88 (1.68) | 22.00 |
| 18 | Himachal Pradesh | 66 (1.82) | 03 (0.42) | 03 (0.84) | 11 (4.08) | - | - | - | 83 (1.58) | 20.75 |
| 19 | Assam | 48 (1.32) | 06 (0.85) | 04 (1.12) | 03 (1.11) | - | - | - | 61 (1.16) | 15.25 |
| 20 | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 (0.69) | 09 (1.28) | 07 (1.96) | - | - | 03 (3.33) | 08 (13.11) | 52 (0.99) | 10.40 |
| 21 | Pondicherry | 42 (1.16) | 06 (0.85) | - | 01 (0.37) | 03 (2.08) | - | - | 52 (0.99) | 13.00 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 41 (1.13) | 01 (0.14) | - | 01 (0.37) | - | - | - | 43 (0.82) | 14.33 |
| 23 | Rajasthan | 12 (0.33) | - | - | - | 01 (0.69) | 21 (23.33) | - | 34 (0.62) | 11.33 |
| 24 | Punjab | 17 (0.47) | 07 (1.00) | 01 (0.28) | 07 (2.60) | - | - | - | 32 (0.61) | 8.00 |
| 25 | Arunachal Pradesh | 09 (0.24) | 02 (0.28) | 09 (2.52) | - | - | - | - | 20 (0.38) | 6.66 |
| 26 | Nagaland | 11 (0.30) | 03 (0.42) | 04 (1.12) | - | - | - | - | 18 (0.34) | 6.00 |
| 27 | Tripura | 08 (0.22) | - | 01 (0.28) | - | 04 (2.77) | - | - | 13 (0.24) | 4.33 |
| 28 | Mizoram | 06 (0.16) | 02 (0.28) | 04 (1.12) | - | - | - | - | 12 (0.22) | 4.00 |
| 29 | Uttarakhand | 02 (0.05) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 02 (0.03) | 2.00 |
| | Total | 3611 (69.05) | 698 (13.34) | 356 (6.80) | 269 (5.14) | 144 (2.75) | 90 (1.72) | 61 (1.16) | 5229 | 747.00 |

Table 6—Leading doctoral dissertations producing institutions & states by subject

| Sl. no. | Subject | Total dissertations | Leading doctoral dissertations producing institutions | | Leading doctoral dissertations producing states | |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| | | | Institution | Dissertations | State | Dissertations |
| 1 | Languages & Literature | 3611 | B. R. Ambedkar Marathwada University | 281 | Maharashtra | 485 |
| 2 | History | 698 | Vinoba Bhave University | 62 | Madhya Pradesh | 80 |
| 3 | Geography | 396 | University of Calcutta | 38 | Maharashtra | 63 |
| 4 | Performing Arts | 269 | Kannada University | 41 | Karnataka | 66 |
| 5 | Philosophy | 144 | University of Calcutta | 11 | West Bengal | 19 |
| 6 | Religion | 90 | University of Delhi | 27 | New Delhi | 44 |
| 7 | Linguistics | 61 | Manipur University | 13 | Manipur | 13 |

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