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## Bibliometric analysis of doctoral theses in physiotherapy: A study of the Gujarat university

**Rajesh N Makwana and Vipul P Banker**

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### Abstract

The present paper focuses on bibliometric investigation of the literature published in the Phd Theses Department of Physiotherapy to Gujarat University. for the bibliometric investigation data were collected from the website of Sodhganga and Gujarat University through an online observation method. Total 33 Theses were observed. Major data were present in two ways: 1) year and month wise distribution of the published Theses and 2) authorship pattern. This article shows that the 33 theses published in the physiotherapy department of Gujarat University were not published in the same number. There is a difference in that. It is also found that the number of theses published is increasing day by day. Most of the theses are published with theses like clinical research, physical activity, laser therapy, multiple injury etc.

**Keywords:** Bibliometric investigation, (Theses name), citation analysis, authorship pattern

### Introduction

Bibliometric is a set of methods used to analyze the impact and distribution of scientific publications within academic community. Bibliometrics offers a quantitative methods for research evaluation that must be considered always as support to qualitative methods, the so-called peer-review. Bibliometrics is the application of statistical methods to the study of bibliographic data, especially in scientific and library and information science contexts, and is closely associated with scientometrics (The analysis of scientific metrics and indicators) to the point that both fields largely overlap.

Bibliometric studies first appeared in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They have known a significant development after the Second World War in a context of "periodical crisis" and new technical opportunities offered by computing tools. In the early 1960s, the Science Citation Index of Eugene Garfield and the citation network analysis of Derek John de Solla Price laid the fundamental basis of a structured research program on bibliometric. Citation analysis is a commonly used bibliometric method based on constructing the citation graph, a network or graph representation of the citations shared by documents. Many research fields use bibliometric methods to explore the impact of their field, the impact of a set of researchers, the impact of a particular paper, or to identify particularly impactful papers within a specific field of research.

### Gujarat University

The Gujarat University was conceived in the nineteen twenties in the minds of public-spirited and learned men like Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Acharya Anandshankar B. Dhruva, Dada Saheb Mavlankar, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and many others. However, the University could come into existence only after the achievement of independence. In 1949, the University was incorporated under the Gujarat University Act of the State Government 'as a teaching and affiliating University.' This was done as a measure of decentralisation and reorganization of University education in the then Province of Bombay.

The Gujarat University is the largest university in the state catering to the needs of higher education of more than two lakh students scattered over 235 colleges, 15 recognised institutions and 24 approved institutions. There are 34 Post-Graduate University departments and 221 P.G. Centres.

## Literature Review

Research is a constant process. It is eternal in the sense that no research is an end in itself. With a purpose to get information about the research works already pursued in the particular area and on specified topic, review of literature is significantly necessary. It also paves ways to get some new perspectives after reviewing research already done.

Wang, T., Lund, B., & Dow, M. (2022) <sup>[1]</sup>. discuss about on bibliometric study of library and information science doctoral dissertations in China from 2011 to 2020. This study attempts to comprehend the intelligence structure of LIS doctoral dissertations in China, as well as the disciplines and topics that intersect with LIS, by reading the titles, abstracts, and keywords of LIS doctoral dissertations in China from 2011 to 2020 and performing cluster analysis and network analysis of keywords. Out of all the universities that were chosen to offer LIS doctoral education, Wuhan University has the most doctoral dissertations, according to the data. Information services and online information behavior are the primary areas of research. The concluded and results may reflect the evolution of information technology and computer science during the last ten years, suggesting that LIS research in China is following the trend of temporal development.

Haque, M. E., & Khan, M. M. (2020) <sup>[2]</sup> describe the concept a bibliometric analysis of the doctoral theses, for the period from 1974 to 2014, awarded in the Faculty of Agriculture at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, in the fields of agronomy, soil science, entomology, horticulture, plant pathology, crop botany, genetics & plant breeding, agricultural extension, agricultural chemistry and bio-chemistry, bio-tech, environmental science and seed science & technology. The distributions of Ph.D. theses have been analyzed and identified year-wise, subject-wise, gender-wise and guide-wise. The Findings of of concluded the present study show that 277 (91.10%) PhD holders are male and 27 (8.9%) female. A total of 86 Professors supervised 304 doctoral theses in Agriculture Faculty during 1974 to 2014. PhD scholars cited journals (37.9%) and text books (31.8%).

Aydın, H. (2021) <sup>[3]</sup>. have undertaken the bibliometric analysis of post-graduate dissertations in aquatic products area of Turkish universities (1979-2020). The aim of this study is to determine the structure of bibliometric post-graduate thesis in the field of Aquatic Products at universities in Turkey between the years 1979-2020. For this purpose, Examined were 3819 theses on "Aquatic Products" from the Higher Education Council (YÖK) Thesis Center, comprising 2861 master's and 958 doctorate theses. According to surveys, 52 universities provide post-graduate courses in aquatic goods, and 35 of those offer master's and doctoral degrees. The most researched subjects in master's and doctorate dissertations were found to be aquaculture, fish biology, fish illnesses, and fishing. They came to the conclusion that, although there are 30 international students enrolled in master's programs, there are only 19 in doctoral programs. Additionally, it was found that the top three nations from which international students originate are Iran (4), Iraq (7), and Libya (19).

Sharma, R., Sonkar, S. K., & Kushwaha, A. K. (2021) <sup>[4]</sup>. took a study of a bibliometric study of the Ph. D. theses in Library and Information science of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow The study includes 28 Ph.D. theses that were submitted between 1995 and 2018.

The report claims that 2016 was the most productive year and that more male research specialists than female researchers contributed. Professor K. L. Mahawar oversaw 14 theses in total, or 50% of the total. Most of the references are single-authored and from journals. The e-journal Library Philosophy and Practice receives the most citations. Development and Information Seeking Behavior is the LIS subdomain that has been studied the most. Researchers, academicians, and librarians may find the study useful in determining bibliographic traits.

Mondal, S., Bandyopadhyay, A. K., & Roy, B. K. (2017) <sup>[5]</sup>. describe the concept a bibliometric Analysis of Doctoral Dissertations in Political Science: a study of The University of Burdwan The current study is based on 7711 citations that were appended to 56 political science PhD theses that were submitted to the University of Burdwan between 1986 and 2015. Examining the distribution of the types of literature mentioned by decade, the ranking list of core journals, the authorship pattern, the authorship collaboration, and the degree of collaboration of the citations in political science are the goals of this study. According to the survey, the most number of theses (23) were turned in between 2006 and 2015. Additionally, it was discovered that books accounted for 51.91% of all citations, making them the most cited source. Journals came in second with 28.36% of citations. They came to the conclusion that, with 307 (14.031%) citations, the journal "EPW" had the highest ranking when considering the age of references, it has taken 16 years to cover the "half-life period" of political science literature. Additionally, it was discovered that single writers accounted for the bulk of citations (93.68%), followed by two authors (3.84%).

Aliyu, M., & Babayi, <sup>[6]</sup> have evaluate the B. U. Bibliometric Analysis of Theses and Dissertations of Faculties of Physical and Life Sciences, Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Nigeria The study focuses on the analysis of theses and dissertations of the faculties of physical and life sciences of Modibbo Adama University. The study covers 812 theses and dissertations (609 for physical sciences and 203 for life sciences) produced in the faculties within the period of the study. The study examined and analyzed the theses and dissertations such as types of postgraduate research output produced by each of the faculties, They concluded that the growth rate of the research output of each of the faculties, annual growth rate of the research output of each of the faculties, the top three ranked academics in each of the faculties in terms of postgraduate supervision and graduation.

## Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study can be summarized as:

1. To identify year-wise distribution of doctoral theses.
2. To explore Guide wise distribution of doctoral theses.
3. To know gender-wise distribution of doctoral theses.
4. To explore author-wise distribution of Citations.
5. To recognize the most cited journals on the basis of Citations.
6. To determine the major subject allocation of theses;
7. To calculate the number of citations used by researchers within the theses;

## Scope and Limitation of the Study

The present study is based on bibliometric investigation of the PH.D Theses in The Discipline of the Physiotherapy to

Gujarat University. Total 33 Theses were covered in the study. The study only observed 1) theses distribution according to year and gender wise, and 2) authorship pattern from the published theses. 3) number of citations used by researchers within the theses.

### Methodology

Thirty-Five Ph.D. theses of Physiotherapy submitted to the Gujarat University, Gujarat were selected as the primary data. All the references from the 33 theses were noted down on a data sheet to collect the relevant data and information accurately for different bibliometric features. The theses

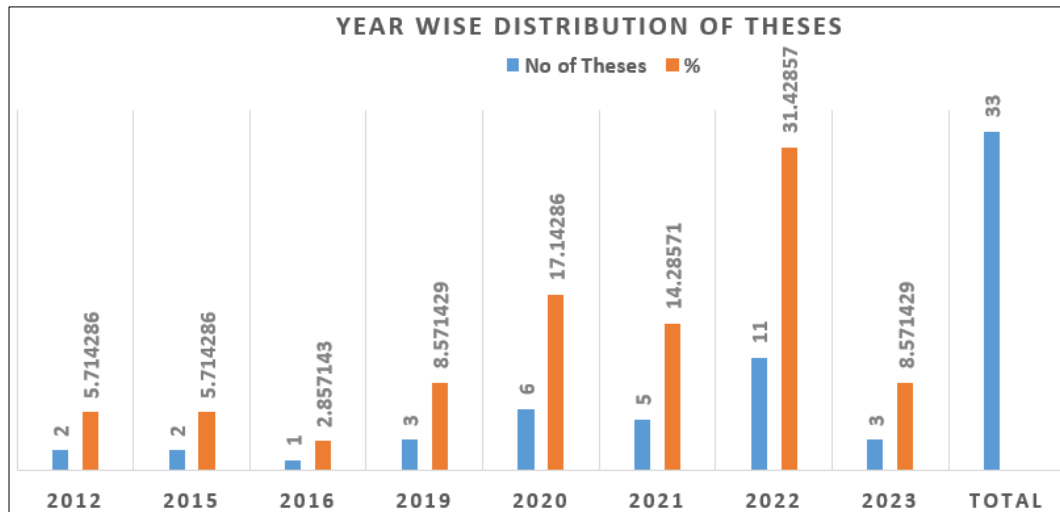
were categorized on the basis of Year of submission, Supervisor, gender of the Research Scholar and sub domain of Physiotherapy studied, and on the other hand references were categorized to identify the authorship pattern, most cited journals and most cited form of information sources i.e. books, journals articles etc. The data was analyzed and interpreted on MS Excel 2010.

### Data Analysis

This table shows the data of how many theses were submitted in which year. The data of how many theses were submitted from 2012 to 2023.

**Table 1:** Year wise Distribution of theses

Sr. No.	Year Awarded	No of Theses	Percentage of	Cumulative Distribution	Cumulative %
1.	2012	2	6.060606061	2	6.060606061
2.	2015	2	6.060606061	4	12.12121212
3.	2016	1	3.03030303	5	15.15151515
4.	2019	3	9.090909091	8	24.24242424
5.	2020	6	18.18181818	14	42.42424242
6.	2021	5	15.15151515	19	57.57575758
7.	2022	11	33.33333333	30	90.90909091
8.	2023	3	9.090909091	33	100
Total		33		100	



**Graph 1:** Year wise Distribution of theses

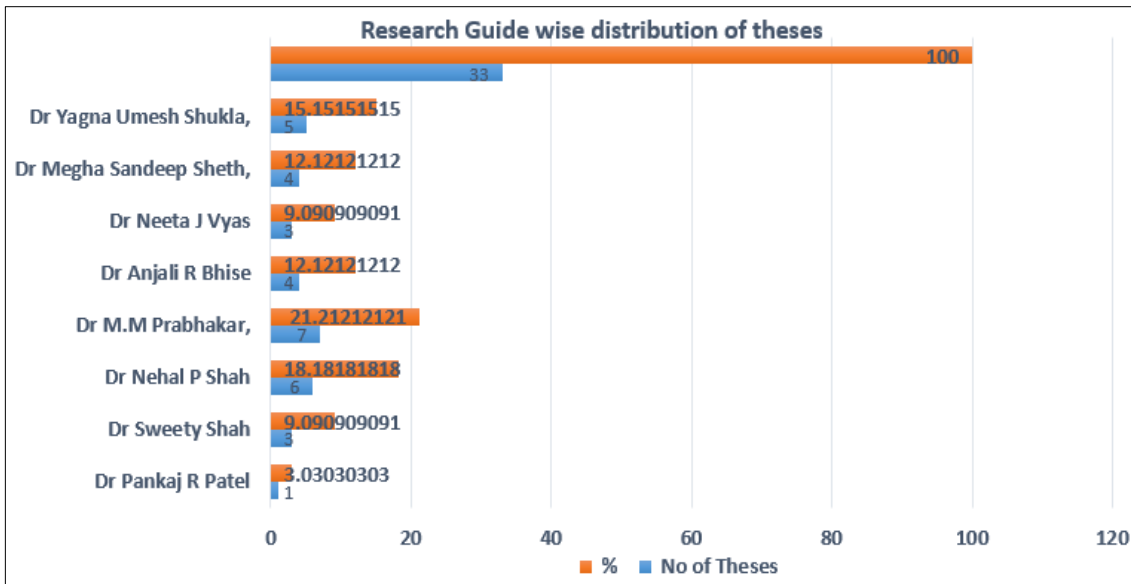
Table- 1 and Graph shows the year-wise distribution of theses awarded by researchers in physiotherapy subject from 2012 to 2023, according to research 11(33.33%) in 2022. 6(18.18%) in 2020. 5(15.15%) in 2021. There are 3 theses in 2019 and 2023 with 9.09%, 2 theses in 2012 and 2015 with 6.06%. Then 1 theses in 2016 with 3.03% is shown.

The table shows total 8 guides along with their No of Theses, percentage and rank.

Table- 2 and Graph shown the guides have been ranked with their theses, percentage, in the first 3 ranks, Dr M M Prabhakar have been given 1st rank with 7 theses and 21.21%.

**Table 2:** Research Guide wise distribution of theses

Sr No	Name of Guide	No of Theses	Percentage %	Cumulative	Cumulative %	Rank
1.	Dr Pankaj R Patel	1	3.03030303	1	3.03030303	VI
2.	Dr Sweety Shah	3	9.090909091	4	12.12121212	V
3.	Dr Nehal P Shah	6	18.18181818	10	30.3030303	II
4.	Dr M.M Prabhakar,	7	21.21212121	17	51.51515152	I
5.	Dr Anjali R Bhise	4	12.12121212	21	63.63636364	IV
6.	Dr Neeta J Vyas	3	9.090909091	24	84.84848485	V
7.	Dr Megha Sandeep Sheth,	4	12.12121212	28	100	IV
8.	Dr Yagna Umesh Shukla,	5	15.15151515	33	3.03030303	III
Total		33	100			



**Graph 2:** Research Guide wise distribution of theses

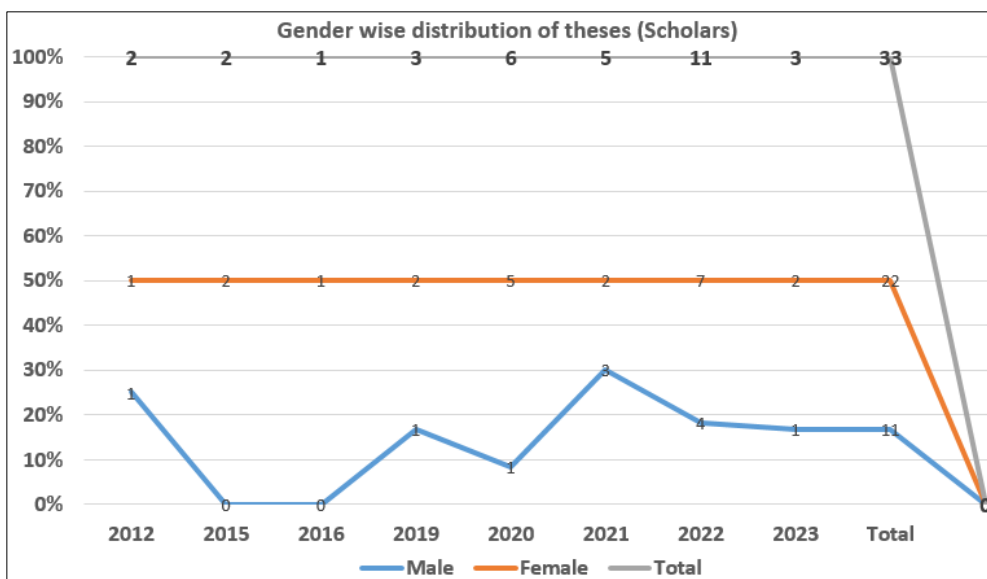
At 2<sup>nd</sup> number, Dr Neha P Shah has been given 2<sup>nd</sup> rank with 6 theses and 18.18%, at 3<sup>rd</sup> number, Dr Yagna Umesh Shukla has been 3<sup>rd</sup> rank with 5 theses and Dr Anjali R Bhise and Dr Megha S Sheth have been given 4<sup>th</sup> rank with 4 theses and 12.12%. Dr Sweety Shah has been given 5<sup>th</sup>

rank with 3 theses and 9.09% and last 6<sup>th</sup> rank is Dr Pankaj R Patel with 1 theses 3.03%.

This table shows the gender of theses scholars from 2012 to 2023. Gender shows the ratio of male to female.

**Table 3:** Gender wise distribution of theses (Scholars)

Sr. No.	Year	Male	Female	Total
1.	2012	1	1	2
2.	2015	0	2	2
3.	2016	0	1	1
4.	2019	1	2	3
5.	2020	1	5	6
6.	2021	3	2	5
7.	2022	4	7	11
8.	2023	1	2	3
	Total	11	22	33



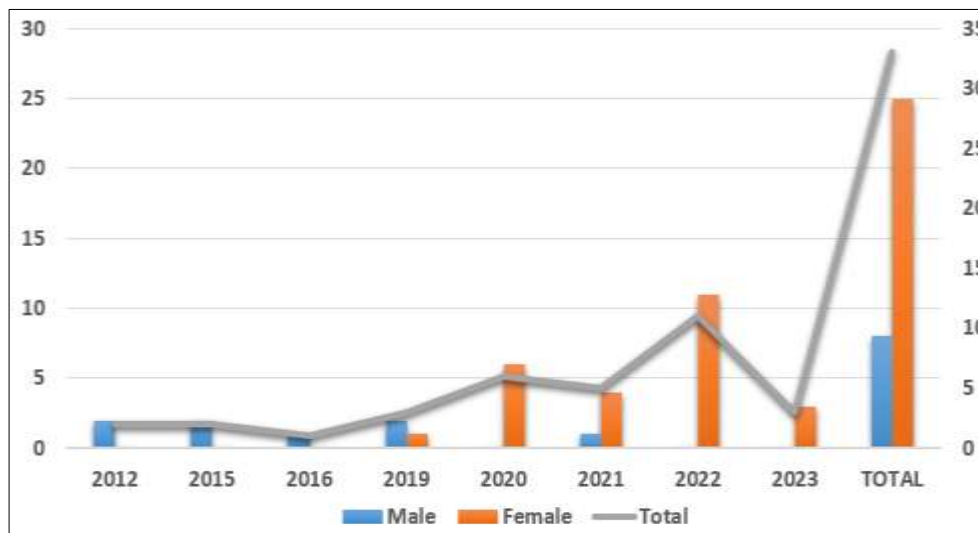
**Graph 3:** Gender wise distribution of theses (Scholars)

Table- 3 and Graph shows the gender wise distinction of research scholars, showing how many males and females were among the scholars from 2012 to 2023. Out of a total of 33 research scholars, the ratio of 11 males and 22 females

was shown from 2012 to 2023. This table shows the gender of theses Guide from 2012 to 2023. Gender shows the ratio of male to female.

**Table 4:** Gender wise Distribution of Research Guide

Sr. No.	Year	Male	Female	Total
1.	2012	2	0	2
2.	2015	2	0	2
3.	2016	1	0	1
4.	2019	2	1	3
5.	2020	0	6	6
6.	2021	1	4	5
7.	2022	0	11	11
8.	2023	0	3	3
	TOTAL	8	25	33



**Graph 4:** Gender wise Distribution of Research Guide

As per the Table- 4 and Graph shows the gender wise distinction of research Guide, showing how many males and females were among the Research Guide from 2012 to 2023.

Out of a total of 33 research Guide, the ratio of 8 males and 25 females was shown from 2012 to 2023. A total of 12 subjects are shown with their theses, percentage and rank.

**Table 5:** Subject with Rank wise Distribution of Theses

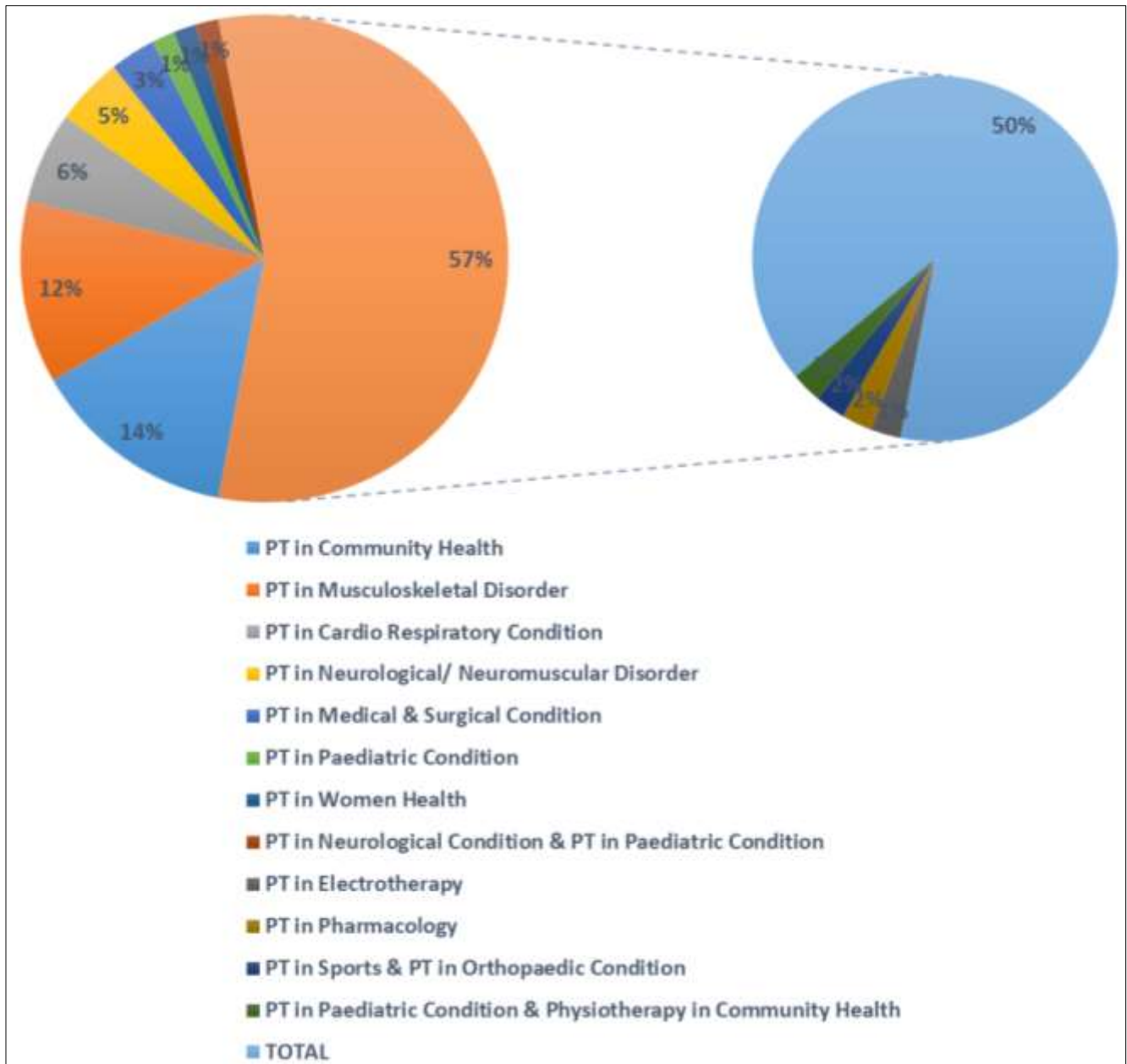
Sr. No	Name Of Subject of Theses	No of Theses	% Percentage	Cumulative	Cumulative %	Rank
1	Physiotherapy in Community Health	9	27.27272727	9	27.27272727	I
2	Physiotherapy in Musculoskeletal Disorder	8	24.24242424	17	51.51515152	II
3	Physiotherapy in Cardio Respiratory Condition	4	12.12121212	21	63.63636364	III
4	Physiotherapy in Neurological/ Neuromuscular Disorder	3	9.090909091	24	72.72727273	IV
5	Physiotherapy in Medical & Surgical Condition	2	6.060606061	26	78.78787879	V
6	Physiotherapy in Paediatric Condition	1	3.03030303	27	81.81818182	VI
7	Physiotherapy in Women Health	1	3.03030303	28	84.84848485	VI
8	Physiotherapy in Neurological Condition & PT in Paediatric Condition	1	3.03030303	29	87.87878788	VI
9	Physiotherapy in Electrotherapy	1	3.03030303	30	90.90909091	VI
10	Physiotherapy in Pharmacology	1	3.03030303	31	93.93939394	VI
11	Physiotherapy in Sports & PT in Orthopaedic Condition	1	3.03030303	32	96.96969697	VI
12	Physiotherapy in Paediatric Condition & Physiotherapy in Community Health	1	3.03030303	33	100	VI
	Total	33	100			

Table – 5 and Graph shown the Total 12 subjects have been shown with their theses, percentage and rank as well. If we look at the first 3 rank numbers, at the 1<sup>st</sup> number, physiotherapy in community health subject has been given 1<sup>st</sup> rank with 9 theses 27.27%, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> number, physiotherapy in musculoskeletal disorders subject has been given 2<sup>nd</sup> rank with 8 theses 24.24%, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> number,

physiotherapy in cardio respiratory condition subject has been given 3<sup>rd</sup> rank with 4 theses 12.12%.

**Citation Analyses**

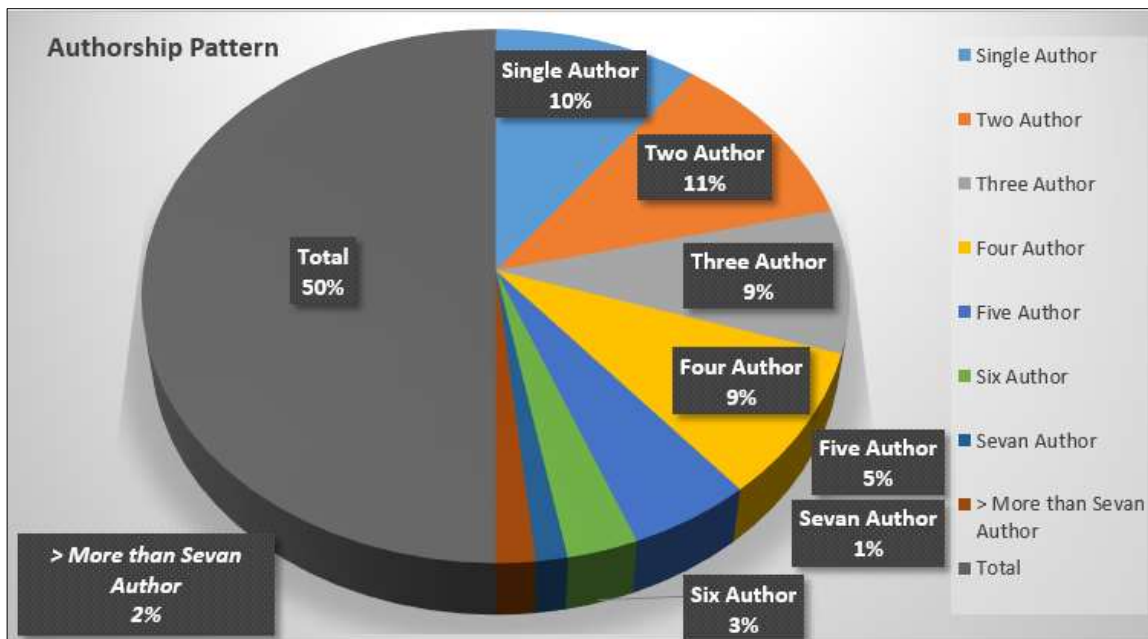
In the authorship pattern, total 5903 citations from single author to co-author are shown in this table along with citations and percentage.



**Graph 5:** Subject with Rank wise Distribution of Theses

**Table 6:** Authorship Pattern

Types of Author	Citation	Percentage %	Cumulative Citation	Percentage of Cumulative Citation
Single Author	1207	20.44723022	1207	20.44723022
Two Author	1305	22.10740302	2512	42.55463324
Three Author	1025	17.36405218	3537	59.91868541
Four Author	1056	17.88920888	4593	77.80789429
Five Author	609	10.31678807	5202	88.12468236
Six Author	351	5.946129087	5553	94.07081145
Sevan Author	156	2.642724039	5709	96.71353549
> More than Sevan Author	194	3.28646451	5903	100
Total	5903	100		



**Graph 6:** Authorship Pattern

Table-6 and Graph Citations and percentages shown by authorship Pattern. The first 4 most citations are shown by single author with 1207 citations with 20.44%. Then, in research done by more than one author together, double author has shown 1305 citations with 22.10%. Then, three

author has shown 1025 citations with 17.36%. Then, four author has shown 1056 citations with 17.88%. In theses wise distribution of citations, out of total 33 theses, individual citation of each theses and its percentage are shown in table wise.

**Table 7:** Theses wise distribution of Citations

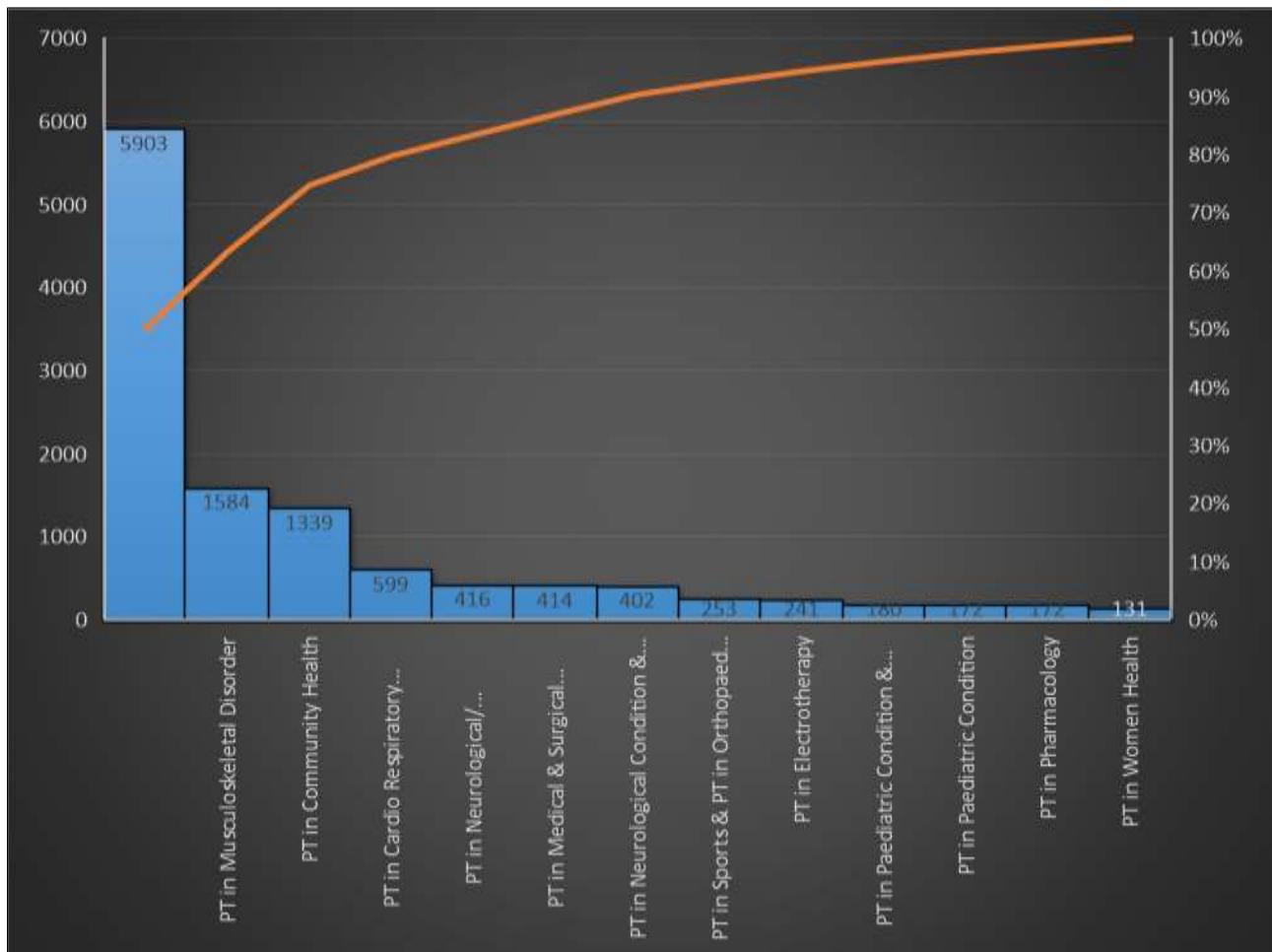
Theses No.	Citations	Percentage	Cumulative Citation	Percentage of Cumulative Citation
1	131	2.219210571	131	2.219210571
2	390	6.606810097	521	8.826020667
3	103	1.744875487	624	10.57089615
4	100	1.694053871	724	12.26495003
5	152	2.574961884	876	14.83991191
6	155	2.6257835	1031	17.46569541
7	156	2.642724039	1187	20.10841945
8	150	2.541080806	1337	22.64950025
9	114	1.931221413	1451	24.58072167
10	172	2.913772658	1623	27.49449432
11	172	2.913772658	1795	30.40826698
12	265	4.489242758	2060	34.89750974
13	241	4.082669829	2301	38.98017957
14	402	6.810096561	2703	45.79027613
15	311	5.268507539	3014	51.05878367
16	180	3.049296968	3194	54.10808064
17	251	4.252075216	3445	58.36015585
18	42	0.711502626	3487	59.07165848
19	172	2.913772658	3659	61.98543114
20	153	2.591902422	3812	64.57733356
21	125	2.117567339	3937	66.6949009
22	99	1.677113332	4036	68.37201423
23	109	1.846518719	4145	70.21853295
24	157	2.659664577	4302	72.87819753
25	172	2.913772658	4474	75.79197018
26	253	4.285956293	4727	80.07792648
27	192	3.252583432	4919	83.33050991
28	229	3.879383364	5148	87.20989327
29	172	2.913772658	5320	90.12366593
30	93	1.5754701	5413	91.69913603
31	106	1.795697103	5519	93.49483314
32	145	2.456378113	5664	95.95121125
33	239	4.048788751	5903	100
Total	5903	100		

Table -7 shows the individual citations of each of the total 33 theses of the total physiotherapy subject are shown with percentages. The first 3 have the highest number of citations in theses of 14 number, 402 theses with 6.81%. Followed by 390 citations with 6.60% in theses of 2 number, followed by

311 citations with 5.26% in theses of 15 number. Subject wise total number of citations and ranking of total 5903 citations in 12 subjects according to their subject is shown by this table.

**Table 8:** Subject Wise Total No of Citation and Ranking

Sr. No	Name of Subject	No of Citation	Rank
1	Physiotherapy in Musculoskeletal Disorder	1584	I
2	Physiotherapy in Community Health	1339	II
3	Physiotherapy in Cardio Respiratory Condition	599	III
4	Physiotherapy in Neurological/ Neuromuscular Disorder	416	IV
5	Physiotherapy in Medical & Surgical Condition	414	V
6	Physiotherapy in Neurological Condition & PT in Paediatric Condition	402	VI
7	Physiotherapy in Electrotherapy	241	VII
8	Physiotherapy in Sports & PT in Orthopaedic Condition	253	VIII
9	Physiotherapy in Paediatric Condition & Physiotherapy in Community Health	180	X
10	Physiotherapy in Paediatric Condition	172	XI
11	Physiotherapy in Pharmacology	172	XI
12	Physiotherapy in Women Health	131	XII
		5903	



**Graph 8:** Subject Wise Total No of Citation and Ranking

Table -8 shown the total of 12 subjects have been shown with their number of citations and rank as well. If we look at the first 3 rank numbers, the physiotherapy in musculoskeletal disorders subject at number 1 has been given 1st rank with 1584 citations, the physiotherapy in community health subject at number 2 has been given 2nd rank with 1339 citations, and the physiotherapy in cardio respiratory condition subject at number 3 has been given 3rd rank with 599 citations.

**Major Finding**

1. As per the figures shown in table-1 it is found that from 2012 to 2023, with the highest number of theses published in 2022 with 11 theses at 33.33%. And the lowest number of theses published in 2016 with 1 theses at 3.03%.
2. As per the data displayed in table-2 it is found that the guide wise distribution of theses. The highest number of



- theses are given by Dr. M M Prabhakar a with 7 theses with 21.21%.
- As per the numbers publicized in table-3 it is found the gender of scholars. Out of the total 33 theses from 2012 to 2024, the ratio of males is 11 while the ratio of females is 22, meaning that females are the most prevalent.
  - The Finding of the Table-4 shows the gender of the research guide. Out of the total 33 theses from 2012 to 2024, the ratio of male is 8 while the ratio of female is 25, so the figure of female is seen the most.
  - In place of per the facts exposed in table-5 it is found that the subject has been ranked by its theses wise distribution, with physiotherapy in community health being shown at the highest first position with 9 theses accounting for 27.27%.
  - Its finding that citations are shown in the authorship pattern in Table 6. The highest number of citations is shown by two authors in the first position with 1305 citations, accounting for 22.10%.
  - As per the statistics shown in Table 7 it is found that shows the citations of each thesis. The highest number of citations is given by thesis number 14 with 402 Citations (6.81%). The lowest number of citations is given by thesis number 18 with 42 Citations (0.65%).
  - As per the figures presented in Table 8 it is found that the subject wise citations and their rank, with physiotherapy in musculoskeletal disorders subject having the highest rank with 1584 citations, while physiotherapy in Women Health in subject having the lowest rank with 12th rank.

### Conclusion

The study identified bibliographic features for 33 theses submitted between 2012 and 2023. The Department of Physiotherapy of Gujarat University holds the top position with 11 theses submissions in the year 2022. The number of women researchers in theses submission has increased. There has also been an increase in women guides in Research Guidance. Dr. M M Prabhakar have published the most theses, about 40%. In the subject, physiotherapy in community health has published the most theses with 9. While in citations, physiotherapy in musculoskeletal disorders has published the most with 1584 citations. In the authorship pattern, articles published by two authors have published the most citations with 1305 citations. There is a need to increase the number of men in research scholar and guidance in Gujarat University. It is necessary to speed up the process of publications in research. If collaborative work increases, there is an opportunity to increase the collective quality and quantity of research.

### Conflict of Interest

Not available

### Financial Support

Not available

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