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Scientific Analysis of Recent Research in Philosophy in Top Rated Global Journals

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ABSTRACT: Philosophy used to be one of the most important area of study at one point of time. Current trend of research in philosophy are not properly analysed and documented. It is specifically true for high quality research. This study evaluates research trend in philosophy by aggregating information from top 10 journals of philosophy which are indexed in Scopus database. Findings are presented using regression trend equation with tabular and graphical analysis.

KEYWORDS: Philosophy Research, Scopus Indexed Journals, Literature Review of Philosophy Research, Philosophy Research Trends, Top 10 Philosophy Journals.

I. INTRODUCTION

When it comes to analysing recent research trend in philosophy, very little and specific work is done. Townly (2011) analysed research trends in global philosophy but they are related with issues in philosophy rather than number of research studies. Sanguineti (2015) also analysed methods used in research. Burbules (1989) published issues and trends in philosophy of education. Comparative studies on different aspects of philosophy are often compared however, quantum of research is not analysed so far. Moreover, linking quality research work and quantity of such research is so far not addressed. In this research an attempt is made to identify trends of high impact research in philosophy in two steps. First, top rated subject journals are identified from Scopus database and then, trends in number of articles in these journals are analysed.

II. RELATED WORK

Philpapers¹¹ maintains database of philosophy research works by topic from English speaking countries. However, it does not provide information whether these research works were published in top rated journals or not. Scopus database provides information on which journal received maximum citation and/or maximum citation per document. Article specific citations can also be explored from Google Scholar, however it does not directly provide information on top ranked journals and their trend over time from a specific subject.¹²

III. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The study is conducted by scouring Scopus database.⁴ Scopus is world's largest and most reputed database of abstracts and citations of academic works. Launched in 2004, it covers over 30,000 titles and over 10,000 publishers.⁵ For this study, top 10 journals of philosophy were chosen for each year during last five years period i.e. from 2010 to 2014. Total number of articles in these 10 top subject specific journals are included for counting and their trend is analysed. Similarly, the rank of top 10 journals in during these years is also analysed.

Analysis of research article trend is done using regression analysis and line of best fit. Change in top 10 journal rank is presented through tabular analysis.

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V. CONCLUSION

Table 1 and Figure 1 present many interesting insights. Table 1 shows that no single journal has retained supremacy during entire 5 years period. The top rank has gone to different journals during different years. However, two journals 'The Philosophical Review' and 'Ethics', managed to secure top rank in two years out of the 5 years period included in analysis.

It is also noteworthy that rank of most journals declined during the study period. One exception however, is journal 'Business Ethics Quarterly' which eventually became top rated journal in 2014. Two journals 'The Philosophical Review', and 'Mind' remained in top 10 list throughout the period.

The trend in total number of articles in top-10 journals show a declining trend however, as evident from Figure 1. The figure also shows regression trend line and regression coefficient r-square whose value is 0.74. It implies that regression model explains 74% variation in number of articles over the years. Therefore, the regression model is a good fit for presented analysis. Total number of high- quality articles reduced from 612 in 2010 to 532 in 2014. It signifies greater requirement of high- quality research in philosophy.

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