



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Study of Citation Pattern of Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)

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Abstract

This study conducts a comprehensive analysis of citation patterns within the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) from 1978 to 2024, examining over 16,527 records to identify trends in authorship, collaboration, and thematic focus in the fields of economics and political science. The findings reveal a robust co-occurrence network of key terms such as socio-economics, health care, and public policy, highlighting the journal's commitment to addressing pressing societal issues in India. Notable authors and their contributions are identified, alongside an exploration of collaboration networks that emphasize regional engagement, particularly among Indian scholars. The research also categorizes the types of documents published, noting a preference for original research and comprehensive analyses. Furthermore, the study observes an increasing trend in interdisciplinary references and discusses the implications of digital resource accessibility on citation practices. Overall, the analysis underscores the EPW's pivotal role in shaping academic discourse and influencing socio-economic and political discussions in India.

Keywords: Economic and Political Weekly (EPW), Citation Analysis, Scholarly Communication, Collaboration Network, Research Productivity, Scientometrics.

Introduction

Analysis of citation trends reveals notable differences across various fields and publication types. Morgan and David highlight a significant increase in self-citations within certain disciplines, suggesting a trend where authors preferentially cite their own work to enhance visibility and perceived impact. In contrast, Gaunt's research indicates that interdisciplinary studies tend to receive more citations, as they attract a broader audience and foster collaboration across fields. Thelwall's findings further emphasize the role

of social media in citation practices, noting that articles promoted through these platforms often experience a surge in citations shortly after publication, reflecting a shift in how research is disseminated and recognized. However, Hyland and Jiang caution that while citation metrics can indicate research impact, they may not fully capture the quality or significance of the work, highlighting the limitations of relying solely on quantitative measures. Overall, these studies illustrate a complex landscape of citation trends influenced by self-promotion, interdisciplinary collaboration, and digital engagement.

The study of citation patterns in the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) reveals significant insights into the publication's academic influence and the nature of its discourse. Feng's research highlights a diverse range of citation sources, indicating Economic and Political Weekly's role in bridging various academic fields, particularly in economics and social sciences. Tunga's analysis emphasizes the predominance of Indian authors, suggesting a strong regional focus in the citations, which may reflect the journal's commitment to local issues. Enduri et al. further elaborate on the temporal trends in citations, noting an increase in interdisciplinary references over the years, which points to an evolving academic landscape within the Economic and Political Weekly. Ahmad et al. discuss the implications of these citation patterns for understanding the journal's

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impact on policy discourse, while Mondal and Roy provide a critical view on the limitations of citation analysis, arguing that it may not fully capture the qualitative influence of articles published in Economic and Political Weekly. Overall, these studies collectively underscore the Economic and Political Weekly's significant role in shaping economic and political discussions in India.

The citation pattern in the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) has undergone notable changes over time, reflecting shifts in academic focus and the dynamics of scholarly communication. Recent analyses indicate an increase in the diversity of cited sources, with a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary references, particularly in the fields of economics and social sciences. This trend is supported by findings that highlight a rise in citations from non-traditional sources, including policy reports and grey literature, which suggests a broader engagement with practical implications of research. Moreover, the evolution of citation practices has been influenced by the increasing accessibility of digital resources, allowing for a more extensive range of citations. However, some studies point out that while the volume of citations has increased, the quality and relevance of cited works can vary significantly, raising concerns about the depth of engagement with foundational literature. Overall, the citation pattern in Economic and Political Weekly reflects a complex interplay between academic rigor and the need for practical relevance in research outputs.

Review of Literature

Citation analysis studies of various academic disciplines reveal interesting patterns in research preferences and publication trends. Books and journal articles are consistently the most cited sources across social sciences, with books dominating in most fields except economics (K. P. Singh *et al.*, 2014; D. Biradar Nirmala & P. G. Tadasad, 2015). Single authorship is prevalent, accounting for 86% of citations in social sciences and 56.59% in development studies (K. P. Singh *et al.*, 2014; S. Abhila I& K. G. Sudhier, 2011). The Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) emerges as a highly cited journal across multiple disciplines, ranking first in social sciences, second in economics, and first in development studies (K. P. Singh *et al.*, 2014; D. Biradar Nirmala & P. G. Tadasad, 2015; S. Abhila I& K. G. Sudhier, 2011). In law dissertations, Economic and Political Weekly was the most cited journal, accounting for 7.19% of citations (Joginder Singh Burman & M. Sheela, 2011). These findings highlight the significance of Economic and Political Weekly in academic research across various social science disciplines in India.

Need of the Study

Economic and Political Weekly is a prominent journal that chronicles the intellectual history of independent India, published by the Sameeksha Trust, Mumbai. It serves as a

platform for exchanging ideas across various social science disciplines, where scholars engage in debates on topics such as economics, politics, environmental issues, and sociology. This study aims to identify the contributions of the Economic and Political Weekly journal in the fields of economics, political science, sociology and the impact of the environment on society.

Scope of the study

The journal has a broad scope that encompasses the latest developments in the fields of economics and political science. It also addresses current burning issues related to global environmental, political, economic, and sociological challenges. The journal has been indexed by Scopus since 1978, despite its inception in 1965. Between 1965 and 2007, only a limited number of articles were indexed in the Scopus database. The indexed studies range from 1978 to 2024.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the citation patterns of the Economic and Political Weekly journal.
- To identify the most prolific authors in the fields of economics and political science.
- To examine the collaboration networks among authors from different countries.
- To investigate the cited references from the year 1973 to 2014.
- To explore the co-citation network among authors published in the Economic and Political Weekly journal.
- To determine the most frequently used words by contributing authors in the journal.
- To analyze the co-occurrence network of words within the journal's publications.
- To assess country-wise contributions to the Economic and Political Weekly journal.

Methodology of the Study

The study analyzes primary data from 1978 to 2024, indexed in the Scopus Database. The data was downloaded in the form of a text file, which includes the full citation details of the records along with their abstracts. The downloaded data was then uploaded to HistCite for analysis, and the results were presented in tabular form. Additionally, the data was analyzed using VOSViewer and the findings were illustrated in figures for citation mapping. This study focuses on the citation patterns of the journal Economic and Political Weekly, including the mapping of authors, publications, and co-citations.

Analysis and Findings of the Study

The study analyzes 16,527 records from the years 1978 to 2024 to examine the citation patterns of the Economic and Political Weekly. The analysis identifies various citation patterns, including authorship, collaboration, contributions

Table 1: Author wise distribution of records (8373)

S. No	Author	Records	Percent	TGCS	TGCS/t
1	Kumar A	144	0.9	397	46.61
2	Teltumbde A	118	0.7	198	17.00
3	Kumar AP	106	0.6	71	11.48
4	Sen AK	81	0.5	2	0.14
5	Singh P	77	0.5	81	8.41
6	Banerjee S	75	0.5	139	13.13
7	Singh S	73	0.4	293	29.45
8	Gupta A	68	0.4	400	43.12
9	Kumar S	61	0.4	244	24.41
10	Chandrasekhar CP	53	0.3	47	5.57
11	Ghosh S	51	0.3	333	35.58
12	Bhardwaj A	50	0.3	18	3.05
13	Roy A	50	0.3	36	5.35
14	Navlakha G	46	0.3	77	5.20
15	Gohain H	43	0.3	44	2.87
16	Patnaik P	40	0.2	201	14.45
17	Singh A	40	0.2	265	23.92
18	Palshikar S	39	0.2	277	23.18
19	Thapar R	39	0.2	18	1.20
20	Dogra B	38	0.2	2	0.22
21	Persaud A	37	0.2	3	0.26
22	Ranade CG	37	0.2	3	0.35
23	Srinivasan S	34	0.2	173	14.84
24	Kanagasabapathy K	33	0.2	8	0.69
25	Bhattacharya S	32	0.2	140	14.85
26	Sen S	32	0.2	123	10.75
27	Khera R	31	0.2	890	72.50
28	Rajan V	31	0.2	5	0.79
29	Sarkar S	31	0.2	165	13.07
30	[Anon]	2657	16.1	507	47.59

from different countries in the fields of Economics and Political Science, the role of institutions in this field, the co-citation network of authors, annual citation output, and the average number of citations per year.

Economic and Political Weekly is a prominent journal in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities, there are large number of authors are trying to contribute to this journal. For the period of 25 Years there 8373 authors are contributed research articles, reviews, conference proceedings etc.

A significant number of writers attempt to contribute to Economic and Political Weekly, a well-known publication in the field of social sciences and humanities. 8373 authors have contributed research articles, reviews, conference proceedings, etc. throughout a 25-year span.

The above table 1 and collaboration network figure 1 reveals that, Kumar A is the most prolific Indian author in Economics and Political Weekly journal, he had written 144 articles to this journal with 0.9%, his TGCS is 397 with TGCS/t 46.61. The next prolific author is Teltumbde A and he had contributed 118 articles to this journal with 0.7%. He had 198 TGCS and 17.00 TGCS/t. The third prolific is Kumar A P with 106 records with 0.6% contributed to Economic and Political Weekly journal. He had 71 TGCS and 11.48 TGCS/t to this journal.

The fourth prolific author is Sen AK contributed with 81 records of 0.5%. HE has 2 TGCS and 0.14 TGCS/t. The fifth prolific author is Singh P is contributed with 77 records and 0.5%. He had 81 TGCS and 8.41 TGCS/t.

There are 8373 authors who have contributed research articles, reviews, conference proceedings, etc. to the journal Economic and Political Weekly over a 25-year period. The data shows that Kumar A is the most prolific Indian author in the field of Economics and Political Weekly, having written 144 articles, accounting for 0.9% of the total contributions. His total global citation score (TGCS) is 397, with a TGCS per article of 46.61. The next most prolific author is Teltumbde A, who has contributed 118 articles, representing 0.7% of

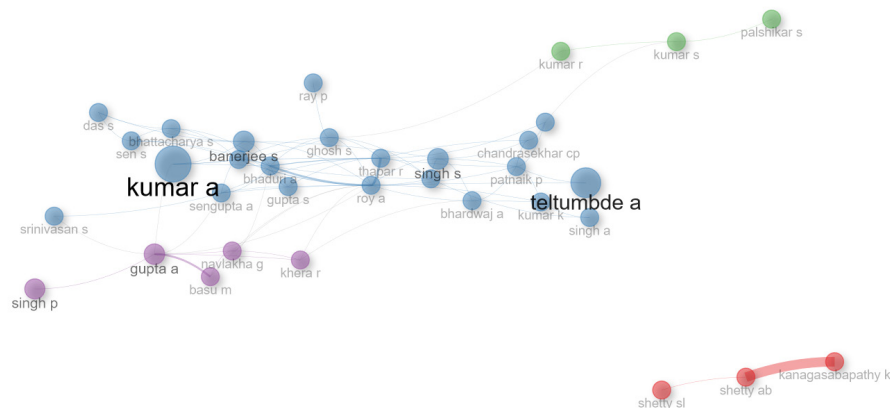










Figure 1: Collaboration Network

Table 2: Cited References (4999) Yearwise

S No.	Author/Year/Journal	Records	Percent
1	2011  WoS	6993	42.3
2	2009  WoS	6637	40.2
3	2010  WoS	6345	38.4
4	2008  WoS	6322	38.3
5	2007  WoS	6313	38.2
6	2012  WoS	6185	37.4
7	2013  WoS	6090	36.8
8	2006  WoS	5881	35.6
9	2014  WoS	5806	35.1
10	2015  WoS	5510	33.3
11	2005  WoS	5472	33.1
12	2016  WoS	5184	31.4
13	2020  WoS	4915	29.7
14	2017  WoS	4732	28.6
15	2004  WoS	4644	28.1
16	2003  WoS	4249	25.7
17	2018  WoS	4126	25.0
18	2002  WoS	3925	23.7
19	2019  WoS	3754	22.7
20	2001  WoS	3299	20.0
21	2000  WoS	3269	19.8
22	2021  WoS	2753	16.7
23	1999  WoS	2705	16.4
24	1997  WoS	2244	13.6
25	1998  WoS	2139	12.9
26	1996  WoS	2017	12.2
27	1995  WoS	1782	10.8
28	2022  WoS	1746	10.6
29	1994  WoS	1609	9.7
30	1993  WoS	1577	9.5

the total. Teltumbde A has a TGCS of 198 and a TGCS per article of 17.00. The third most prolific author is Kumar A P, with 106 records, making up 0.6% of the contributions. Kumar A P has a TGCS of 71 and a TGCS per article of 11.48. The fourth most prolific author is Sen AK, having contributed 81 records, accounting for 0.5% of the total. Sen AK has a TGCS of 2 and a TGCS per article of 0.14. The fifth most prolific author is Singh P, with 77 records, making up 0.5%

of the contributions. Singh P has a TGCS of 81 and a TGCS per article of 8.41.

Collaboration Network

The figure reveals the collaboration of authors with the other authors, the first group with a large number of authors are collaborated with each other for their research work shows in the blue colour. In this group, there are two main authors contributed to the EPW journal is Kumar A and Teltumbde A and they have collaborated with other authors in their field of interest. The second group which is in violet colour is collaborated with each other like Singh P, Gupta A, Basu M, Khara R etc. The third group is in green colour, the authors like Kumar R, Kumar S and Palshikar S is collaborated with each other and they have collaboration with the first and second group authors also. The fourth group Shetty SL, Shetty AB and Kanagasabapathy K is collaborated with each other but they don't have any collaboration with other group of authors.

The above table 2 reveals the cited references used by the author/year/journal, in the year 2011 there are 6993 (42.3%) are cited references in various journals. In the year 2009, there are 6637 (40.2%) of records are cited the references. In the year 2010, there are 6345 (38.4%) of records are cited the references. Again, in the years like 2008, 2007, 2012 and 2013, there are 6322 (38.3%), 6313 (38.2%), 6185 (37.4%) and 6090 (36.8%) of the records are cited references for their research work and for their contribution to the field of Economics and Political Science journal.

The above figure 2 reveals that, the co-citation network of authors with each other, majorly there are four co-citation networks can be seen. The red-coloured network has networked among them during the years 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013 with Patnaik U and Himanshu with Deaton A. Pradhan K C connected with Denis E connected with Kapur D connected with Himanshu. The blue-coloured connection is with authors Choithanic C (2015) with Khara R (2011) and Khara R (2011). The Green Coloured connection is with authors like Bhattacharya R (2011) with Kannan K P (2009), Chatterjee P (2008) and Sanyal K (2009). The violet-coloured connection is with Mahadevia D (2011) with Banerjee – Guha S (2009) is connected with each other.

The Economic and Political Weekly is a prominent journal in the field of Economics and Political Science. The research produced in this journal is in high quality and the usage of the grammar and words will enhances the degree of the journal.

The above table 3 will show that, the most used words in the journal, India (11.2%) and Indian (3.4%) with 1846 and 565 times used these words by various authors in the journal. The next used words are Politics (2.7%) and Political (2.5%) with 448 and 414 records respectively. The next most used words are Economic (2.1%) and Education (1.9%) with 341 and 313 records respectively. The next most used words are

Table 3: Occurrence of Words

Sl. No.	Word	Records	Percent	TLCS	TGCS
1	India	1846	11.2	0	15170
2	Indian	565	3.4	0	3147
3	Politics	448	2.7	0	2048
4	Political	414	2.5	0	1174
5	Policy	402	2.4	0	1675
6	New	355	2.1	0	2420
7	Economic	341	2.1	0	1987
8	Education	313	1.9	0	1133
9	State	312	1.9	0	1234
10	Social	310	1.9	0	1593
11	Women	302	1.8	0	2019
12	Public	299	1.8	0	1586
13	Development	271	1.6	0	1392
14	Caste	263	1.6	0	2256
15	Health	261	1.6	0	1869
16	Case	253	1.5	0	1071
17	Growth	242	1.5	0	2154
18	Rural	226	1.4	0	2929
19	Crisis	225	1.4	0	746
20	Covid	220	1.3	0	704
21	Democracy	211	1.3	0	1060
22	Economy	195	1.2	0	1317
23	National	195	1.2	0	1139
24	Sector	193	1.2	0	741
25	Urban	192	1.2	0	2097
26	Labour	189	1.1	0	1665
27	Violence	187	1.1	0	501
28	Pradesh	184	1.1	0	805
29	Global	179	1.1	0	513
30	Change	175	1.1	0	905

Social (1.9%) and Women (1.8%) with 310 and 302 records. There are some other interesting words are also used by the authors are Caste (263 records, 1.6%), Health (261 records, 1.6%), Crisis (225 records, 1.4%), Covid (220 records, 1.3%), Democracy (211 records, 1.3%), Labour (189 records, 1.1%), Violence (187 records, 1.1%), Justice (147 records, 0.9%), Food (140 records, 0.8%) and Workers (140 records, 0.8%).

The above analysis reveals that, the authors are focused on the issues which causes the for the development or degradation of the Economical and Political system of the country or world. Thereby they are using the words like economy, education, health, politics, caste, democracy, violence etc.

The above figure 3 reveals the Co-occurrence network of words in the journal EPW, there is a very good network between the words are used in the article in EPW by the authors contributed their papers. The words socio-economics, genetics and reproduction, international cooperation, policy family planning, human rights, women rights, public policy etc., is strongly connected with the words like India, humans, social control government regulations, health care and public health, poverty, legal approach etc., of words are have co-occurrence of words with each other to create connection between the words in the contributed articles in the EPW journal. The stronger words are created a meaningful formation of the sentence and there by building a strong connection between the societal problems with the words of contributions.

The table 4 and figure 4 shows the analysis of average citations per year provides critical insights into the scholarly impact and relevance of research articles over time. This study presents a comprehensive overview of citation trends from 1978 to 2024, highlighting variations in mean total citations per article (MeanTCperArt) and the corresponding mean citations per year (MeanTCperYear). The dataset encompasses a diverse range of years, each reflecting distinct academic contexts and citation behaviors. Notably,

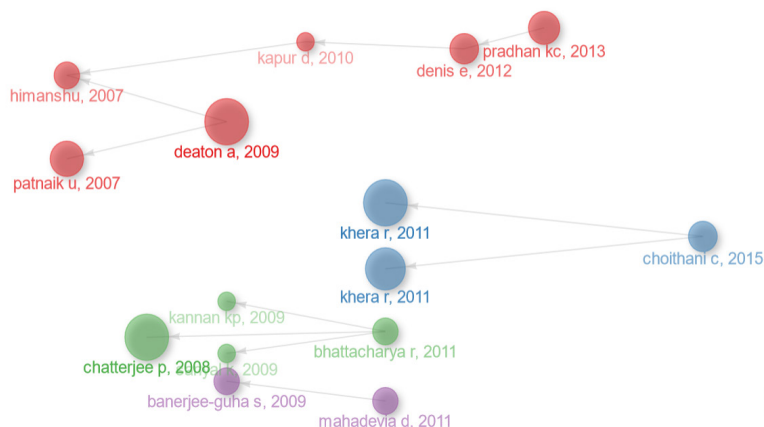


Figure 2: Co-Citation Network

Table 4: Average Citations per Year

Year	Mean TC per Art	N	Mean TC per Year	Citable Years
1978	30.00	1	0.64	47
1979	16.00	1	0.35	46
1980	8.00	3	0.18	45
1982	1.17	6	0.03	43
1983	3.00	2	0.07	42
1984	8.00	3	0.20	41
1985	4.00	1	0.10	40
1986	20.00	1	0.51	39
1993	6.00	3	0.19	32
1995	0.00	2	0.00	30
1996	1.00	1	0.03	29
1997	2.00	1	0.07	28
2007	8.10	630	0.45	18
2008	5.98	977	0.35	17
2009	6.84	992	0.43	16
2010	5.31	965	0.35	15
2011	6.18	1079	0.44	14
2012	5.14	1013	0.40	13
2013	4.16	1196	0.35	12
2014	3.03	1174	0.28	11
2015	2.95	1053	0.30	10
2016	2.14	1192	0.24	9
2017	2.29	1049	0.29	8
2018	1.74	913	0.25	7
2019	1.60	746	0.27	6
2020	1.89	839	0.38	5
2021	0.74	827	0.18	4
2022	0.32	866	0.11	3
2023	0.17	811	0.09	2
2024	0.02	352	0.02	1

- The analysis of 16,527 records from 1978 to 2024 identifies distinct citation patterns, including authorship, collaboration, and contributions from various countries in the fields of Economics and Political Science.
- The study highlights the most prolific authors in the EPW, with a focus on their citation counts and contributions to the journal. Notable authors include Kumar A, Teltumbde A, and Kumar AP, among others.
- The research examines the collaboration networks among authors from different countries, indicating a strong regional focus, particularly among Indian authors, which reflects the journal's commitment to local issues.
- The study explores the co-citation networks of authors, revealing how different scholars are interconnected

Table 5: Country wise Distribution of records

Sl. No.	Country	Records	Percent	TGCS
1	India	2939	17.8	13265
2	United States	371	2.2	3260
3	United Kingdom	126	0.8	804
4	Canada	49	0.3	278
5	Australia	39	0.2	237
6	France	18	0.1	179
7	Germany	18	0.1	78
8	Netherlands	18	0.1	215
9	China	15	0.1	136
10	Japan	11	0.1	34
11	South Africa	11	0.1	50
12	Pakistan	10	0.1	43
13	Singapore	10	0.1	77
14	Malaysia	7	0.0	9
15	Bangladesh	6	0.0	79
16	Norway	6	0.0	38
17	Brazil	5	0.0	38
18	Italy	5	0.0	6
19	Nepal	4	0.0	4
20	Sri Lanka	4	0.0	50
21	Switzerland	4	0.0	45
22	Thailand	4	0.0	24
23	Indonesia	3	0.0	2
24	Sweden	3	0.0	26
25	Turkey	3	0.0	3
26	Belgium	2	0.0	27
27	Denmark	2	0.0	1
28	Hong Kong	2	0.0	0
29	Ireland	2	0.0	0
30	Kenya	2	0.0	60
51	Viet Nam	1	0.0	0
52	Unknown	12917	78.2	38504

- through their citations, which enhances understanding of the academic discourse within the journal.
- There is an increasing trend in interdisciplinary references over the years, suggesting an evolving academic landscape and a broader engagement with practical implications of research.

Conclusion

- The study highlights the pivotal role of EPW (Economic and Political Weekly) in India's social science research.
- Economic and Political Weekly significantly influences research trends and citation practices, especially in economics and political science.
- There is a noticeable rise in self-citations and

interdisciplinary references, indicating greater academic collaboration.

- Digital resources and social media have enhanced the visibility and reach of research outputs.
- The study warns against relying solely on citation metrics, as they may not reflect the qualitative value of research.
- It advocates for a balanced approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative evaluation of research impact.
- Economic and Political Weekly plays a key role in promoting intellectual debate and addressing socio-economic issues.
- Further research on citation trends is needed to understand their impact on academic and policy discourse.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. The research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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