

Exploring the Landscape of Indirect Taxation in India: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract: The paper aims to analyse the existing literature on the topic of Indirect Taxation in India published in the last decade by applying bibliometric analysis. I have collected the data from the Dimensions database. The study explored various bibliometric indicators like most cited authors, word cloud, thematic evolution, and others. The study found that the publication trend is a little fluctuating but it has received more attention in recent years. This paper will be helpful for researchers and academicians in choosing the right direction for future research.

Keywords: Indirect tax, GST, Bibliometric analysis

JEL Codes: H21, H25, H26, H29

1. INTRODUCTION

The tax structure in India primarily consists of Direct and indirect taxes. On 1st July 2017 after introduction of GST, the tax structure has transformed drastically. Before the implementation of GST some indirect taxes are charged by states and some by centre which was based on multiple points of taxation (Surana,2024). Generally, taxes are charged again and again on the same goods which leads to increased selling price. Under central government custom duty for import and export of goods, central sales tax (CST) for inter state sale of goods and Excise Duty on manufacturing of goods are charged. On the other hand, service tax was also charged for rendering services under India. VAT (value added tax) on goods are charged by state government on Intra state sales of goods. Others taxes like Profession tax, Octroi, Stamp duty, Luxury tax, Entertainment tax are also charged. Except state and central government local body also charged Local body tax (Dhingra, 2021).

After the execution of GST, major refinements are in the case of indirect taxes, which get rid of multiple taxation and are recouped by only one tax system. GST is a consumption-based tax that provides benefits to intermediaries by charging taxes on the supply of goods or services at each stage of the supply chain, starting from the manufacturer or importer to the last retail shop. All the intermediaries, such as wholesalers, retailers, etc., involved in supply

are allowed to take credit benefit of the tax paid while purchasing goods or services (Dhingra, 2021).

In India, GST is the dual GST structure that is within the state, or UTs, and between the states, or UTs. CGST and SGST are charged on the intra-state supply of goods or services, and for intra-UT supply, CGST and UTGST shall be levied. For the purpose of interstate or inter-UT supply, IGST (integrated GST) is charged (Sehrawat and Dhanda, 2015).

The Indian economy has increased after the introduction of GST (Sankar, 2017). There has been a massive increase in India's GDP rate in the last few years. GST plays a major role in the robust growth in revenue and GDP of India. By eliminating multiple taxes and decreasing the effect of cascading, GST can improve competitiveness among businesses and industry which leads to reduction of price, and control of cost and inflation. GST leads to tax buoyancy for the government. Before GST, the states' revenue growth was 8.3% while GDP growth was 11.5%, which means a low tax buoyancy of 0.72. This means that states' tax revenue was growing slower than the GDP. After GST, tax growth was 12.3%, while GDP growth was 9.8%, resulting in a higher buoyancy of 1.22 (Study IQ IAS, 2023). Revenue increases without increasing the tax rate known as tax buoyancy. GST also gives importance to the "Make in India" initiative of the government so that goods and services produced in India help to increasing GDP by competing in National and International markets (Kour et al., 2016). With the abolition of CST (Central sales tax), GST integrates the whole market as a single common market (Shinde, 2019). The GDP growth rate in India is showing increasing order after the implementation of GST. In 2017, the GDP increased from 5.7% to 6.3% and 7% in these three quarters April- June, July- September, and October – December respectively. However, in 2018 due to global uncertainty, it decreased slightly. In 1st two quarters it has increased from 7.7% to 8.2% but in July – September it has decreased to 7.1% and 6.6% in October- December quarter. Due to COVID-19, in 2020 it also showed a negative GDP rate in April- June, 2020 quarter. But after the pandemic impact it boosts the GDP rate and continues to lie in increasing order. In 2022, the Jan- March it is 4.1% after that it has increased in April- June that is 13.5%. After that, it has decreased to 6.3%. But after that in 2023 GDP rate has been increased to 7.2% (Annapoorna, 2023). The goal of the research is to explore the intricate world of indirect taxation in India, motivated by the need to comprehend the various ways it affects consumers, enterprises, and the overall economy. It is possible to obtain important insights that can help guide policy decisions, improve compliance, and promote economic growth by carefully analysing the details of this tax structure.

This study focuses on various aspects of indirect taxation that as GST in India based on various previous studies on GST and indirect taxes. It also provides information about the most impactful authors, articles, themes, etc. In the first part of the study, I have included an

introduction and review of the literature, and second part methodology and results, conclusion in the last part. The last part also includes the suggestions for future study.

2. PRIOR LITERATURE

Dey (2021) viewed the introduction of GST. How the new taxation system removes the inevitable events such as cascading effect. He included the data during the period 2017 to March 2021 by studying the impact of Odisha GST taxes, IGST, and all other taxes that have subsumed in GST. He analysed the demand for compensation cess by the Odisha government during the last four years. The author forecasted the increasing trend of GST revenue in Odisha which is an indicator of rapid economic growth. Beri (2011) examined how the implementation of GST reduces taxes charged by state and central governments. The study justified how GST at the state level imposed various taxes and services and removed the burden of CST and included various taxes in GST which provides more advantages to industry, trade, and agriculture. Absorption of Centre and State taxes at one provides benefits to locally manufactured goods and services.

Dulloo & Namitha (2022) viewed the positive impact of GST by eliminating various types of Indirect taxes such as VAT and services tax charged by central and state governments. The study signified the uniformity of tax rates and the formation of GST in India. This article differentiates between old and new taxation in India with their working mechanism of GST. Khurana and Sharma (2016) examined various refinements in the Indirect taxation system in India that is GST and its impact on various sectors of the Indian economy. It also shows how the collection of revenue by central and state governments has a positive impact on the economy.

Sankar (2017) studied the requirements and essentiality of GST in the Indian economy with their influence on various sectors such as technology, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, automobiles financial services, etc. The author suggested that various awareness programmes should be conducted relating to GST. Shaik et al. (2015) have analysed the advantages and challenges of GST in India and the working structure in India. The authors clarified that the interlink between GST and VAT is not the same but there is a major improvement over VAT. GST is a single rate that provides a transparent taxation system which adds some economic development in India. It has also studied the impact of GST on fiscal policy. Aamir (2011) examined the revenue collection through direct and indirect taxes in India and Pakistan by following data from 1999- 2000 to 2008- 2009. They identified that Pakistan has a favourable fiscal policy by charging more indirect taxes whereas India is charging more direct taxes. Mishra (2018) studied the impact of GST on the Indian economy concerning various sectors relating to service and manufacturing. She also stated the elimination of various problems that are faced before GST. The author also examined the role of GST in increasing GDP in India and

decreasing the price of commodities from an individual viewpoint. Various new start-ups have increased. GST influenced more preferred investment in FDI by availing a high rate of return with low mid-way cost.

Ahmad and Stren (1984) examined the model of economy which contains some social welfare functions and checked the degree of possibility in tax reforms which may be in the marginal and non marginal reform. They studied the various pros and cons of both marginal and non-marginal tax reforms by adding a value judgment approach. They also examined the allocation of reforms that can benefit at least one person with the aim of social welfare. Kumar et al. (2019) investigated twelve hindrances to GST implementation through an interpretive structural modelling (ISM) approach. Various problems like political resistance, lack of awareness and skilled manpower, and improper division of taxes are the major factors for the proper implementation of GST. They grouped various barriers into four parts by using MICMAC analysis. Keen (2013) examined the rate of spending group of people and their impact on the economy. The author also explained the cascading effect of indirect taxes and their advantages by charging low tax rates at different stages of production. Dey and Sharma (2022) overviewed the effect of GST on economy. This paper showed that the demerits of existing Indirect tax and the importance of implementation of GST by abolishing various aspects like double taxation, cascading effect and non-appearance of credit system. Jindal (2019) examined efficient work of GST by implementing the one tax system and its importance it's on tax avoidance. This paper also analysed the increasing trend of GDP after implementation of GST. Kulkarni and Apsingekar analysed the impact of GST on Indian economy. The author also examined the differences of tax regime between before and after implementation of tax. The data also showed the various problems after implementing GST. Nayyar and Singh (2017) overviewed the entire GST system and it showed the different area of GST and its depth understanding, difficulties. Rupa (2017) analysed various aspects of GST which have a major contribution on our economic growth and increase productivity.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- (i) To replicate and explicate the previous research findings on GST.
- (ii) To examine the evolution of relevant themes on GST.

4. METHODOLOGY

The research data required for this study was collected from the dimension database for the period from 2014 to 2023. However, I have not included 2024 as it has not been completed yet. The study has applied bibliometric analysis tools with biblioshiny by observing the previous studies. The keywords used for the search are “indirect tax” OR GST AND India’.

I also filtered the documents based on language, document type, and year of publication. By applying all these criteria, I got 105 documents. These documents were analysed with the Biblioshiny software. I have described the document selection criteria in figure 1. Also we have provided the search criteria as appearing in the database.

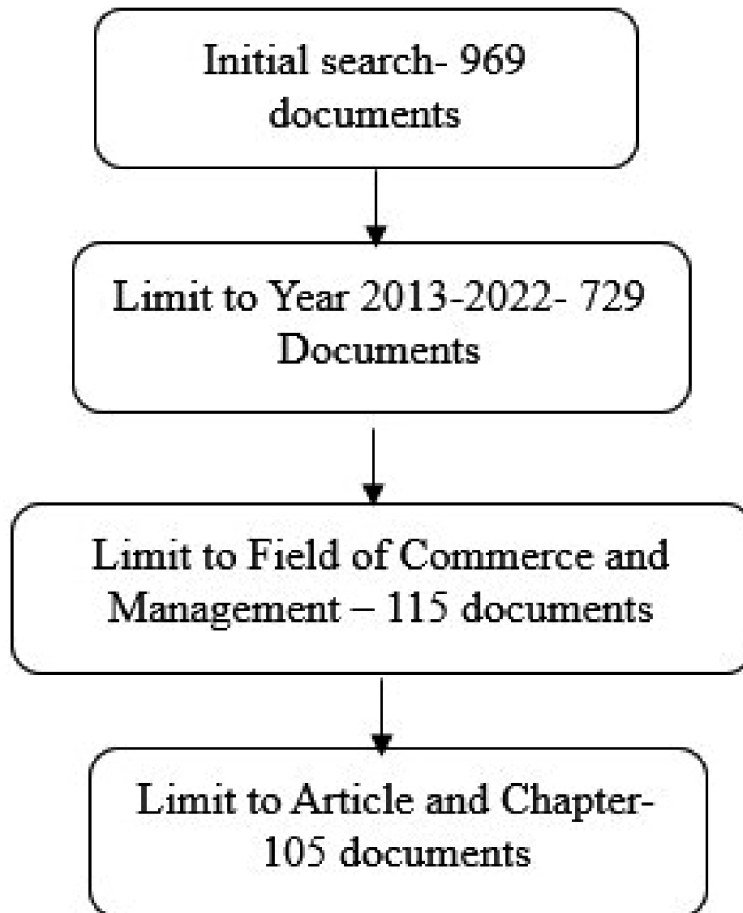


Figure 1: Document selection criteria

Source: Compiled by author

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Figure 2 shows the top articles relating to Indirect taxation in India. In 2014 and 2016 only one article has published. Gradually it has increased. In 2017 it is 12 and after that it decreases seven numbers of articles. In 2019 it is 15. 13 in both the year 2020,2021. It increases to 24 in 2022 and 19 in 2023. It indicates the increasing order of publications in GST and indirect taxes area.

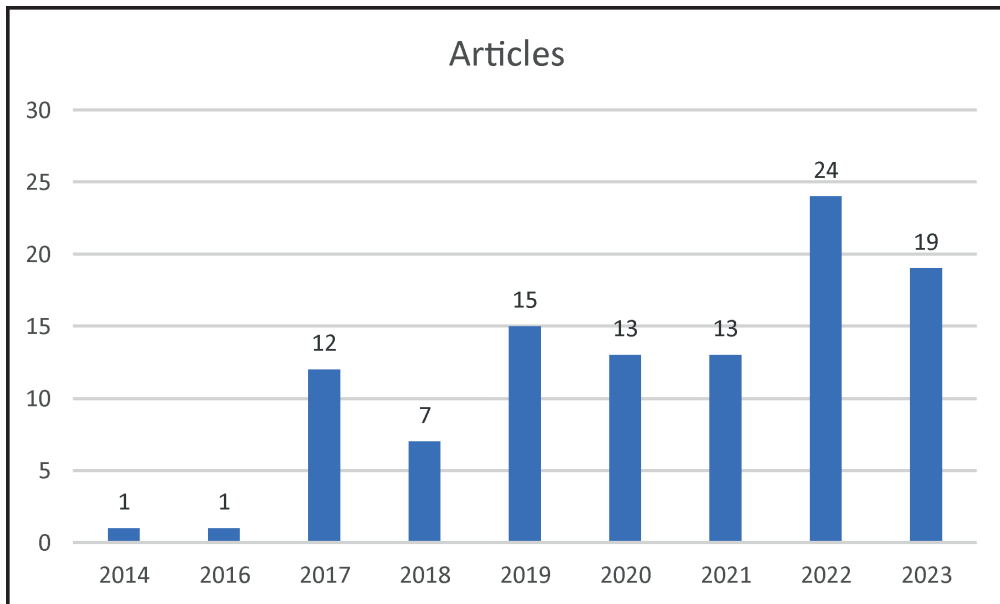


Figure 2: Year Wise Publication

Source: Compiled by author

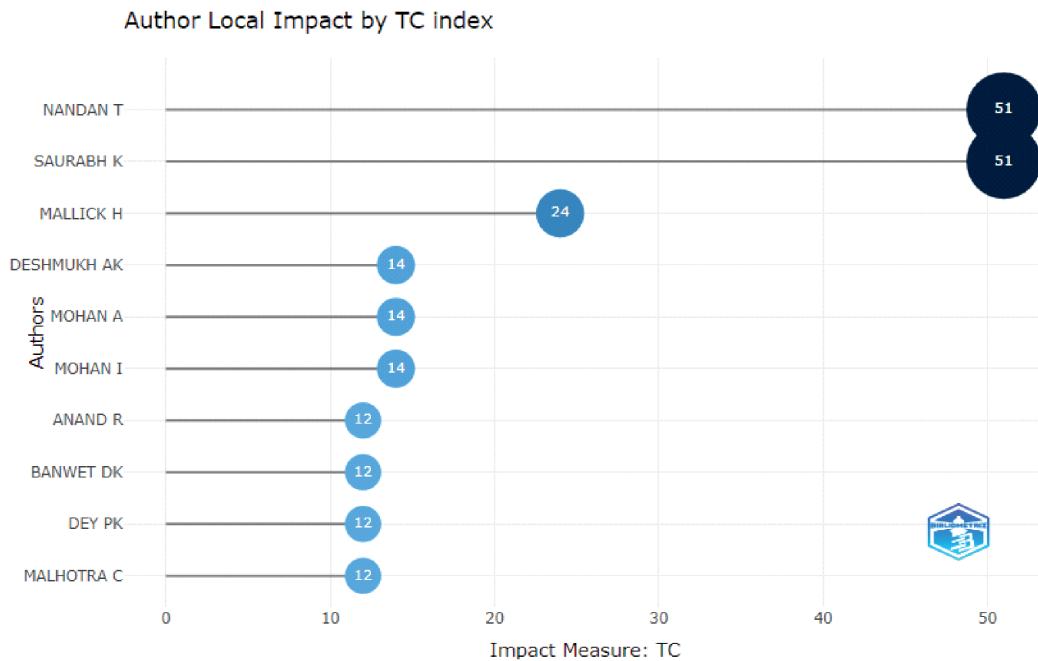


Figure 3: Top cited Authors

Source: Compiled from Biblioshiny.

Figure 3 shows the list of top impactful authors according to their TC index. By the TC index the researchers can easily know the most influential authors about their citation and publication. As per the above figure, Nandan T. has the highest number of citations which is 51. The paper focuses on the relationship between financial knowledge and financial behaviour with financial attitude. The author Saurabh K. also shares the first position with a similar citation. Mallick H. has the second TC index which is 24 and his papers are based on good governance in tax collection. Other authors Deshmukh AK, Mohan A, and Mohan I share the third position with 14 citations each. Other important authors are also listed in the figure.

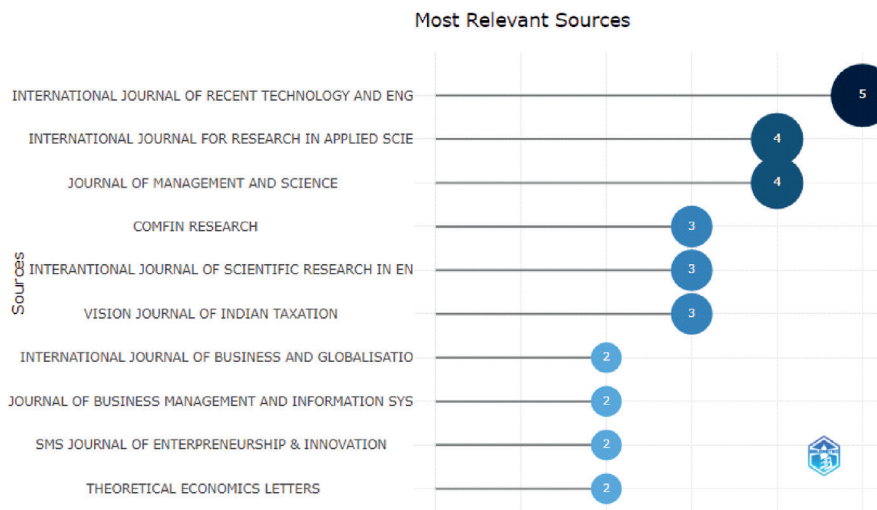


Figure 4: Most Relevant Sources

Source: Compiled from Biblioshiny.

The figure 4 shows the most relevant sources based on the number of publications. According to this data, the *International Journal of Recent Technology and Engineering* is the most relevant source. International journal for research in applied science is the second most relevant source. The third journal which is *Journal of Management and Science* is also relevant. Other journals such as Comfin Research, *International Journal of Scientific Research in En*, *Vision Journal of Indian Taxation*, and many other mentioned journals are also important.

The figure 5 shows the thematic evaluation. The study have divided the time period into three parts that is 2014-2017, 2018-2021 and 2022-2023 period. During 2014-2017, main themes were GST and tax which have evolved to themes like Indian, Analysis, Service, tax, Gst, India, behaviour, demonization, sector, business. After that, 2018-21 themes evolved themes like GST, effect, tax, analysis, Indian, economics. During 2022-2023, the theme of GST has more impact.

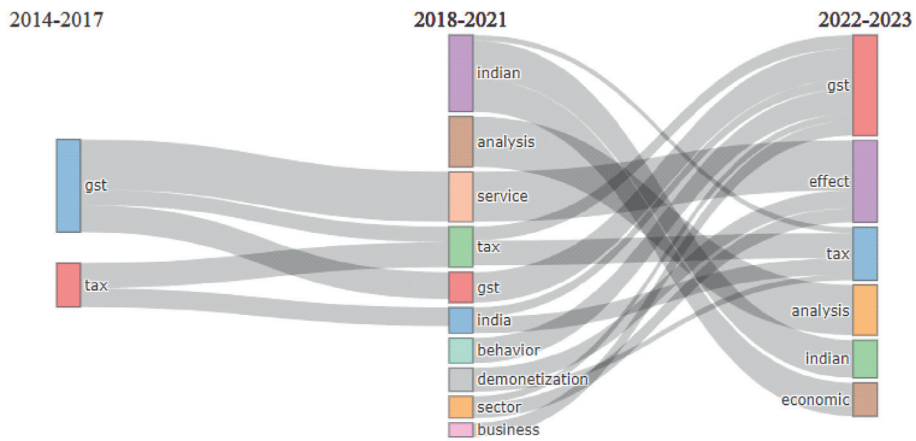


Figure 5: Thematic Evolution
 Source: Compiled from Biblioshiny.

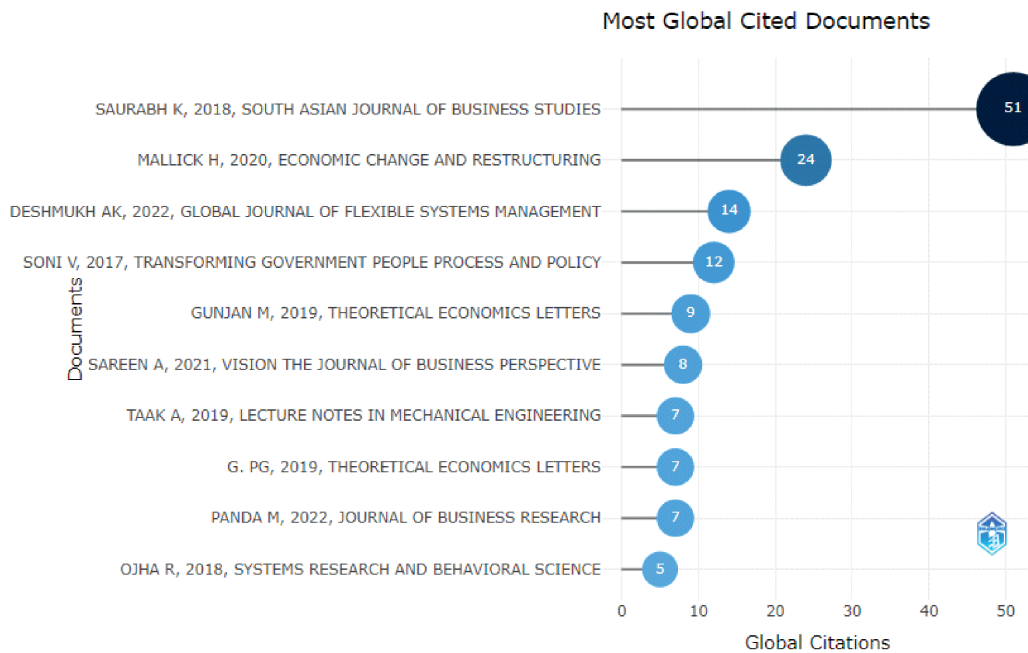


Figure 6: Most Global Cited Documents
 Source: Compiled from Biblioshiny

Figure 6 shows the most cited document of the authors. Saurabh K (2018) based on the financial behaviour of individuals after demonetisation and implementation of GST. The author studied the positive impact of risk-bearing attitude on financially literate people and

financial socialization. Mallick (2020) has the second cited article which is based on the impact of modern ICT and good governance on the collection of more revenues. After an in-depth study, it realised that there is no deep impact of ICT and quality governance on the collection of overall tax revenue. Deshmukh (2022) studied an SAP- LAP- Twitter analysis of the implementation of GST. The study shows the impact of GST on the political, and economical condition of India. Which also examined the impact of it on consumers and general citizens of India.



Figure 7: Word Cloud

Source: Compiled from Biblioshiny.

Figure 7 shows the keywords which have most frequently used. The word India has the highest frequency which lies in the centre and bigger size. 'India' is used 55 times followed by GST (51 times), tax (38 times), services (26 times), financial (10), and other important words are also used.

6. CONCLUSION

The indirect structure in India has been simplified after the adoption of GST which positively influenced the Indian economy. In this study, I have focused on the overview of GST by studying its abolition of cascading effect and subsumption of all indirect tax. It analyses the growth of GDP after implementing further research in this field should focus on themes like analysis, India and economics. Less number of research is related to cross-country comparison at the micro level and the contribution of indirect taxes on economic development related to zone-wise and country-wise comparison. I found that Nandan T. and Saurabh K. are the

most impactful authors. The number of articles relating to these topic has shown an increasing trend. Dey and Sharma (2022) has also made the similar observation. Highest number of article published in 2022. In 2023 it is 19. I found that GST and tax are the main themes in 2014-2017 which evolved to other themes like Indian, Analysis, Service, tax etc. during the 2018-2021 period. Again 'GST', 'effect', 'tax' and many other words are evolved 2022-2023.

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