



A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR'S THOUGHTS IN SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS (1993–2024)

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Abstract:

This study presents a bibliometric analysis of publications exploring Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's socio-economic and educational thoughts from 1993 to 2024. Based on OpenAlex data, a total of 62 scholarly works were identified, with all being open access, facilitating broader academic engagement. The dominant research themes include Indian history and philosophy (17 publications), agricultural economics and practices (12 publications), and South Asian studies (7 publications). Regarding institutional contributions, O. P. Jindal Global University and The University of Texas at Austin emerged as leading contributors. The predominant publication types are journal articles (40), book chapters (11), and books (7), indicating diverse academic discourse formats. The findings reveal a sustained scholarly interest in Ambedkar's impact on caste, economic justice, and education. The study underscores the need for further interdisciplinary research to contextualize Ambedkarite thought in contemporary policy frameworks.

Key Words: *Ambedkar, Open sources, database, Bibliometric analysis.*

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Introduction:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a pivotal figure in Indian socio-political thought, has been widely studied for his contributions to social justice, economic policies, and education. His ideas continue to influence modern discourse on caste abolition, labor rights, and state intervention in economic affairs. This paper aims to provide a bibliometric analysis of scholarly publications from 1993 to 2024 that engage with Ambedkar's thoughts, mapping the evolution of academic interest and thematic focus areas.

Methodology:

This study utilizes data sourced from OpenAlex, a comprehensive academic database. The dataset includes publications categorized under topics related to Ambedkar's work, such as Indian history, economic policies, and social justice. The analysis focuses on:

Publication trends over time

Thematic classification of research

Types of publications (e.g., journal articles, books, book chapters)

The collected data was analyzed quantitatively to identify publication patterns.

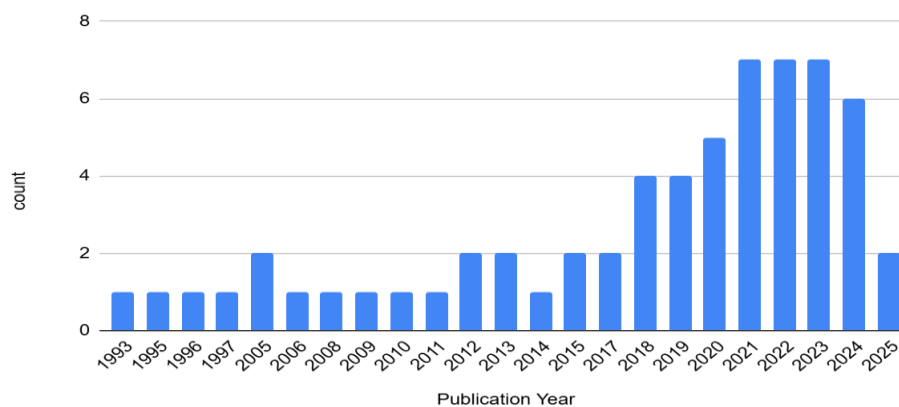


Results and Discussion:

1. Publication Trends

Since 1993, a steady increase in scholarly publications on Ambedkar's ideas has been observed. The highest number of contributions emerged between 2015 and 2024, reflecting a growing academic engagement with Ambedkarite thought in contemporary discussions.

count vs. Publication Year



Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar

2. Open Access (OA) Status & Count

Open Access (OA) Status	Number of Publications
False	49
True	13

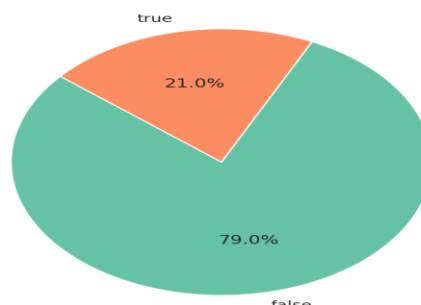
Total publications considered: 62

Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar

Open Access (OA): ~21%

Non-OA (closed access): ~79%

Publications by Open Access Status



Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar

A large majority of the publications are not open access, meaning they are behind paywalls. This limits public visibility, citation potential, and knowledge accessibility, especially in resource-constrained contexts.

Why Open Access Matters?



Benefit	Impact
Increased Reach	Freely accessible to students and scholars globally
Higher Citations	OA articles are more likely to be cited
Public Impact	Research can be used by policymakers, NGOs, and the public
Collaboration Boost	Global researchers are more likely to connect and collaborate

Barriers to OA Publishing:

Article Processing Charges (APCs) by OA journals

Lack of awareness about OA repositories (like arXiv, SSRN, institutional archives)

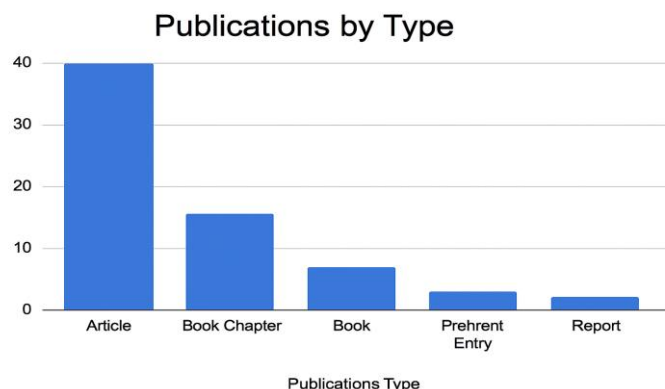
Institutional pressure to publish in indexed journals, many of which are not OA

Strategy	Action
Institutional Repository	Encourage faculty to upload accepted versions of their papers in your university repository
Use Free OA Repositories	Preprint platforms (like SSRN, arXiv, ResearchGate) can be used without cost
Apply for APC Waivers	Many journals offer waivers for researchers from developing countries
Promote OA Journals	Identify quality UGC-CARE / DOAJ-listed OA journals in your discipline
Train Faculty & Students	Hold workshops on benefits and how to publish OA

3. Publication Types

Type	Number of Publications
Article	40
Book Chapter	11
Book	7
Preprint	2
Reference Entry	1
Report	1

Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar



Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar



Key Insight

1. Articles (40 publications) – 65% Most dominant form of publishing. Reflects focus on journal-based academic output.
These are often peer-reviewed and carry high weight in performance evaluation systems (CAS, API, etc.).
2. Book Chapters (11 publications) – 18% Indicates good involvement in edited volumes. Useful for thematic or interdisciplinary research contributions. May reflect participation in conferences leading to book chapter publications.
3. Books (7 publications) – 11% Books show deep, long-form scholarship. This is especially valued in social sciences, humanities, and regional studies. Potentially useful for curriculum development and citations in higher education.
4. Preprints (2 publications) – 3% Very limited usage, even though preprints offer: Fast dissemination, Visibility before peer review, Open access by default
5. Other (Reference Entry, Report) – 2 combined, Niche or institutional outputs.

Interpretation:

The high volume of articles suggests a traditional academic output approach. There is room to grow in Preprint publication, Policy reports, Creative formats like case studies or working papers.

Goal	Strategy
Broader Outreach	Write short policy reports, working papers, or commentaries alongside journal articles.
Experiment with Preprints	Use SSRN, arXiv, or OSF Preprints to boost visibility.
Leverage Books for Branding	Promote books or edited volumes on department/institution websites and social media.
Global Engagement	Consider publishing in international edited books or multilingual editions.

4. Top 10 Contributing Institutions (Based on Publication Count)

Institution	Number of Publications
O. P. Jindal Global University	2
The University of Texas at Austin	2
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	1
Australian National University	1
Jawaharlal Nehru University	1
University of California, Santa Barbara	1
University of Michigan	1
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	1
University of Hyderabad	1
University of Oxford	1

Source: OpenAlex Dataset on Ambedkar



Conclusion:

This bibliometric analysis highlights the growing academic interest in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's socio-economic and educational thoughts. While significant contributions have been made in history, philosophy, and economic studies, further interdisciplinary research is required to explore contemporary applications of Ambedkarite ideology in policy-making and governance. The findings suggest that academic institutions and researchers must continue fostering discussions around Ambedkar's vision to address ongoing social inequalities and economic disparities.

Future Research Directions:

Based on the findings, future research can explore:

- The impact of Ambedkar's economic ideas on modern welfare policies.
- Comparative studies between Ambedkarite and global social justice movements.
- Expanding bibliometric analyses using multiple databases for a more comprehensive assessment of scholarly trends.

This study serves as a foundation for further exploration of Ambedkar's legacy in academia, reinforcing the relevance of his thoughts in addressing contemporary challenges and promoting equitable solutions. By investigating these areas, researchers can

deepen our understanding of how Ambedkar's principles can inform current debates on social equity and economic justice, ultimately contributing to more inclusive policy-making processes. Furthermore, interdisciplinary approaches that integrate perspectives from sociology, economics, and political science may yield novel insights into the applicability of Ambedkar's theories in diverse cultural contexts, thereby enriching the discourse surrounding systemic reform and the pursuit of social justice.

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