

A SCIENTOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY IN WINE FLU DISEASE

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ABSTRACT

Swine Flu is that, unlike seasonal flu, which is typically most dangerous to the very young, elderly and those with a weakened immune system. Swine flu can also be threatening to young and healthy people. By keeping this in mind the researcher intends to study the research productivity of Swine Flu. This study attempts to analyze the performance of researcher working in the field of swine flu in terms of relative growth rate, authorship pattern, scattering of articles in different sources and country wise distribution. The period of study was 2001 to 2012. A total of 50627 records were obtained from MEDLINE databases have been taken for this study. The MEDLINE is freely available on the Internet and searchable via PubMed and NLM's National Center, compiled by NLM (National Library of Medicine). All kinds of resources are fallen in highest in the year 2010 & 2011. Collaborative authors' productivity is more than a single contribution. The degree of collaboration $C=0.884$ represents 88 percent of collaborative authors article that were published during the study periods. Bradford's law fits well on sample.

Key Words: MEDLINE, Swine Flu, Relative Growth Rate, Doubling time, Authorship pattern, Degree of Collaboration, Bradford's Law.

INTRODUCTION

Research activities have resulted in considerable output of scientific literature and the number of periodicals has grown in every branch of science. The study scrutinizes research performance of global scientists in the field of Swine Flu (Influenza A H1N1). On April 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified two cases of human infection with influenza A (H1N1) v characterized by a unique combination of gene segments that had not been identified among human influenza a virus. Additional cases were rapidly reported leading the WHO to declare a pandemic phase level, indicating widespread human infection.

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young and healthy people. By keeping this in mind the researcher intends to study the research productivity of Swine Flu. This study attempts to analyze the performance of researcher working in the field of swine flu in terms of Relative growth rate, authorship pattern, scattering of articles in different sources and country wise distribution.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Few quantitative studies have been carried in the past analyzing overall medical or biomedical research.

Satyanarayana¹ examined Indian contribution in biomedical research (3605 papers in 1990 and 3241 papers in 1994) as indexed in three databases, such as Index Medicus, Excerpta Medica and Tropical Disease Bulletin. Srivastava and Diwakar² provided a comparative analysis of Indian biomedical papers (4732 in 1999 and 6088 in 2007), using SCI database. Kundra³ analyzed the research collaboration (as reflected in co-authored papers) in Indian medical research from 1900 to 1945, by focusing on the pattern of collaboration in basic and applied research, multiplicity of authors and types of collaboration. Dutt *et al*⁴ analyzed 2183 papers by Chinese researchers and 1034 papers by Indian researchers in the field of plant-based medicine during 1990-2004 as indexed by PubMed. Arunachalam⁵ examined the relevance of Indian medical research during 1981-1985 using Science Citation Index database and concluded that Indian global share of research in medical sciences is very small compared to our contribution in other S&T fields. Arunachalam⁶ re-examined the relevance of Indian medical research by repeating the above study by using MEDLINE database from 1987 to 2004. He examined 19,916 Indian medical papers in 1440 journals, of which 14,822 were published in journals with impact factor less than 1.0 in contrast to only 58 papers in journals with impact factor more than 8.0. Dandona *et al.*⁷ assessed the health research output and concluded that both the magnitude and distribution of research output are not commensurate with the disease profile and burden. In the later much broader study, Dandona *et al.*⁸ examined Indian medical publications in PubMed database and unpublished research reports available in the public domain from 2001 to 2008. According to this study, public health research in India has grown in the past decade, but continues to be inadequate in scope and quality, considering the country's daunting disease burden. Jain⁹ examined the visibility and extent of coverage of Indian biomedical and life sciences journals in global alerting services. Pandya¹⁰ examined the Indian medical research output and discussed the factors for low output of Indian authors and institutions and also indicates that although the number of Indian medical journals is rising rapid. Park and Choi¹¹ introduced a methodological approach to extract distinctive features of Swine (H1N1) Flu through data mining clinical documents by randomly selecting 20 clinical documents from first visit records of patients who had visited emergency room in Seoul National University Hospital. The symptoms are mostly about upper respiratory infection. They suggested this methodological approach could be used in novel infectious disease management and research to prevent spreading of the pandemic at the beginning stage. Amit *et al*¹² had reported in their paper Swine flu has been confirmed in a number of countries and it is spreading from human to human, which could lead to what is referred to as a pandemic flu outbreak. Luchs¹³ conducted a research to analyze the profile of the Brazilian scientific production in the A(H1N1) influenza field between 2009 and 2011 in MEDLINE, SciELO and LILACS databases, selecting papers in which the term "H1N1" and Brazil. The research revealed that the impact factor ranged from 0.0977 to 8.1230. Amsaveni *et al*¹⁴ conducted scientometric measures of swine research performance in India during 1971 to 2010 with Science Citation Index. In that study they had found the highest number of papers were published in 2010 that is after the 2009 outbreak was detected in Mexico

METHODOLOGY

PubMed being the most widely search system provides free access to the database of bibliographic information, which consists primarily of MEDLINE. MEDLINE is an important and large bibliographic database on **biomedicine, health and life sciences** made by the US National Library of Medicine. MEDLINE covers every aspect of medicine, including nutrition and health, veterinary science, environmental health, occupational health, biology, microbiology, biotechnology and toxicology. MEDLINE describes publications from more than 70 countries from 1966 to the present. A search was made in PubMed for 'swine flu' with all the terms in MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) with limits as 'humans', '12 years (01/01/2001 to 31/12/2012)' and 'English language' on 9/5/213. . A total of 50627 records were obtained from MEDLINE databases have been taken for this study. The MEDLINE is freely available on the [Internet](#) and searchable via [PubMed](#) and NLM's National Center, compiled by NLM (National Library of Medicine). The records were downloaded in MEDLINE format and converted to access tables and analyzed. This study covers the measure of the relative growth rate, authorship pattern, scattering of articles in different sources and country wise distribution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relative Growth Rate and Doubling Time

The analysis of growth rate of Swine Flu research output aims to identify the trends and growth of prospects in the present study. The published literature is taken as a target to measure the knowledge in a discipline, and the growth rate study of publications would provide some useful results. The rate of growth of Swine Flu literature is determined by calculating relative growth rates and doubling time for publications.

The relative growth rate is the increase in the number of publications per unit of time. Hence, one year is taken as the unit of time. The mean relative growth rate R (1-2) over a specified period of interval can be calculated from the following equation suggested by Mahapatra¹⁵.

$$R(1-2) = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{T_2 - T_1}$$

Where,

R = Mean relative growth rate the specific period of interval;

W_2 = $\log W_2$ (Natural log of initial number of publications);

W_1 = $\log W_1$ (Natural log of initial number of publications);

$T_2 - T_1$ = Unit difference between the initial time and final time

Therefore,

$R(a)$ = Relative growth rate per unit of publications per unit of time (Year)

A direct equivalence exists between the relative growth rate and doubling time. If the number publications of a subject doubles during a given period then the difference between the logarithms of the numbers at the beginning and at the end of the period must be the logarithms of the number 2. This difference has a value of 0.693. Thus, the corresponding doubling time for publication can be calculated by the following formula: Doubling time (Dt) = 0.693/R (a)

Table 1 – Relative Growth Rate and Doubling Time of Swine Flu

Sl.No.	Year	Number of Articles	Cumulative Number of Articles	W_1	W_2	$R(a) = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{T_2 - T_1}$	$Dt. = \frac{0.693}{R(a)}$
1	2001	2475			7.814		
2	2002	2558	5033	7.814	8.524	0.710	0.976
3	2003	2638	7671	8.524	8.945	0.421	1.646
4	2004	2921	10592	8.945	9.268	0.323	2.146
5	2005	3266	13858	9.268	9.537	0.269	2.576
6	2006	3962	17820	9.537	9.788	0.251	2.761
7	2007	3822	21642	9.788	9.982	0.194	3.572
8	2008	4024	25666	9.982	10.153	0.171	4.053
9	2009	5712	31378	10.153	10.354	0.201	3.448
10	2010	6729	38107	10.354	10.548	0.194	3.572
11	2011	6905	45012	10.548	10.715	0.167	4.150
12	2012	5615	50627	10.715	10.832	0.117	5.923
	Total	50627				3.018 (0.25)	34.822(2.9)

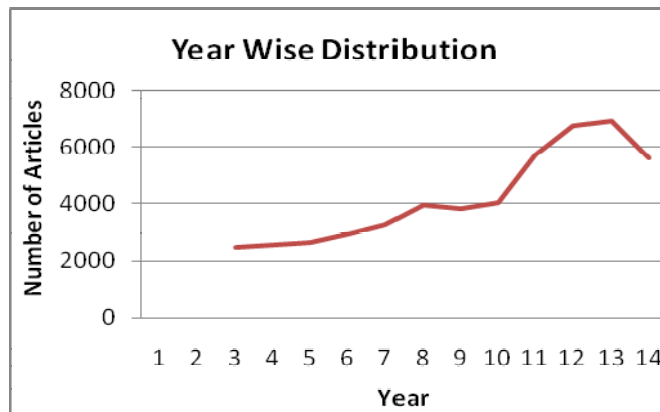


Fig. 1- Year Wise Distribution

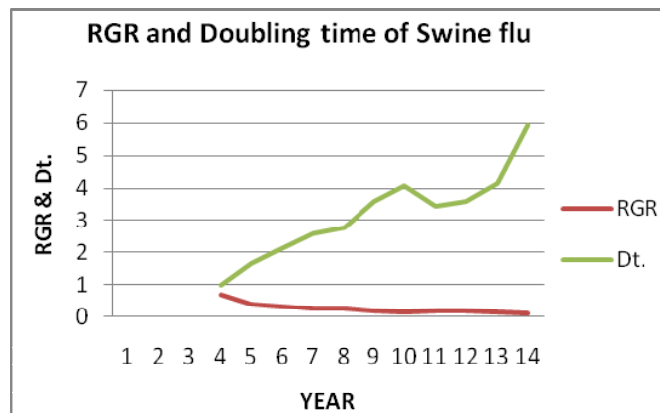


Fig. 2- RGR and doubling time of Swine flu

The Relative Growth Rate R (a) and Doubling Time Dt. of publication derived and The relative growth rate declined from 0.71 at 2001 to 0.12 in the year 2012. The whole study period records the mean relative growth rate of 0.25. The doubling time for publication of all sources of Swine Flu research output increased from 0.97 in 2001 to 5.29 in 2012. The doubling time of publications at the aggregate level has been computed as 2.9 years is presented in table 1.

It could be deduced from the discussion above that generally there is progressive increase in the number of publications of research output on Swine Flu literature. However its relative growth rate has shown a decline trend which means the rate of increase is low in terms of proportion, and this has been highlighted by doubling time for publications, which is more than the relative growth rate.

Authorship Pattern

A significant note of the study is that the majority of the articles are contributed by multiple authors. Especially triple author contribution is highest among the author collaborative productivity. It indicates that the single authored work is less than that of the multiple authored contributions. Among the authorship pattern three authored collaboration output has been leading followed by four authored collaboration and five authored collaboration output is high level. Nine, ten authored collaboration output is very low. The study has identified the factor; the three or four or five authored team is leading their research work and is very successful at every year output in the subject of Swine Flu.

Table 2- Authorship Pattern of publications on Swine Flu

Sl. No.	Authorship Pattern	Publications	%	Number of Authors
1	Single	5617	11.09	5617
2	Double	5430	10.73	10860
3	Three	5906	11.67	17718
4	Four	5848	11.55	23392
5	Five	5745	11.35	28725
6	Six	5208	10.29	31248
7	Seven	4009	7.92	28063
8	Eight	3274	6.47	26192
9	Nine	2332	4.61	20988
10	Ten	1775	3.51	17750
11	More than ten	4421	8.73	-
12	Without author	1053	2.08	0
	Total	50627	100.00	

Degree of Collaboration

To determine degree of collaboration in quantitative terms, the formula given by Subramanyam, K. (1983)¹⁶ was used.

$$C = NM / NM+NS$$

Where

- C = Degree of collaboration
 NM = Number of multi authored papers
 NS = Number of single authored papers

$$C = 5617/45010+5617 = 0.884$$

In the present the study the value of the C is

$$C = 0.884$$

Table 3 – Degree of collaboration of Swine Flu Research output

Year	Single Author	Multiple Authors	Total	Degrees of Collaboration
2001	293	2182	2475	0.882
2002	330	2228	2558	0.871
2003	335	2303	2638	0.873
2004	378	2543	2921	0.871
2005	481	2785	3266	0.853
2006	622	3340	3962	0.843
2007	405	3417	3822	0.894
2008	395	3629	4024	0.902
2009	875	4837	5712	0.847
2010	683	6046	6729	0.898
2011	438	6467	6905	0.937
2012	382	5233	5615	0.932
Total	5617(11.09)	45010 (88.91)	50627	10.602 (0.884)

The degree of collaboration in the swine flu study is 0.884 which clearly indicates its dominance upon multiple authors' contribution. Out of the total 50627 literature published 88.9% of them are published under joint venture of publication in Swine Flu research. In the study period of 12 years from 2001 to 2012, the degree of collaboration lies between 0.84 and 0.93. Among the entire study period the year of 2011 and 2012 has the highest collaboration (0.937 and 0.932). Overall the average degree of collaboration of the whole sample year is 0.884. Based on this study, the result of the degree of collaboration $C = 0.884$, i.e. 88 percent of collaborative authors' articles published during the study period.

Country wise distribution of Swine Flu research output

Totally 69 countries were contributing 50627 articles that were published in Swine Flu research in the world wide. Among this 69 countries United State of America produced 24376 (48.15%) of articles and occupied first place. England 11016 (21.76%) and Netherland 5301 (10.47%) occupied second and third place respectively. India places a 16th position with 266 articles (0.53%). The countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cuba, Georgia (Republic), Venezuela stand in the lost position with one article each, which shows the reason be the lack of facilities and application in Swine Flu as shows in table 4.

Table 4 - Country wise distribution of Swine Flu research output

Sl. No.	Place	No. of Articles	%	Cumulative %
1	United States	24376	48.15	48.15
2	England	11016	21.76	69.91
3	Netherlands	5301	10.47	80.38
4	Germany	1890	3.73	84.11
5	Switzerland	719	1.42	85.53
6	Japan	710	1.40	86.93
7	Denmark	698	1.38	88.31
8	Australia	685	1.35	89.67
9	France	659	1.30	90.97
10	Canada	539	1.06	92.03
11	Ireland	423	0.84	92.87
12	Sweden	407	0.80	93.67
13	China	358	0.71	94.38
14	Italy	358	0.71	95.09
15	New Zealand	283	0.56	95.64
16	India	266	0.53	96.17
17	Austria	232	0.46	96.63
18	Scotland	179	0.35	96.98
19	Poland	166	0.33	97.31
20	Brazil	158	0.31	97.62
21	Korea (South)	134	0.26	97.89
22	Thailand	100	0.20	98.08
23	Norway	91	0.18	98.26
24	Singapore	90	0.18	98.44
25	Spain	77	0.15	98.59
26	Slovakia	56	0.11	98.70
27	United Arab Emirates	52	0.10	98.81
28	Greece	49	0.10	98.90
29	South Africa	49	0.10	99.00
30	Israel	48	0.09	99.10
31	Belgium	46	0.09	99.19
32	Czech Republic	43	0.08	99.27
33	Saudi Arabia	39	0.08	99.35
34	Egypt	29	0.06	99.41
35	Turkey	27	0.05	99.46
36	Pakistan	26	0.05	99.51
37	Croatia	24	0.05	99.56
38	Iran	21	0.04	99.60
39	Malaysia	19	0.04	99.64
40	Hungary	15	0.03	99.67
41	Mexico	14	0.03	99.69
42	Bangladesh	13	0.03	99.72
43	Romania	12	0.02	99.74

44	Papua New Guinea	11	0.02	99.76
45	Nepal	10	0.02	99.78
46	Finland	9	0.02	99.80
47	Nigeria	9	0.02	99.82
48	Portugal	9	0.02	99.84
49	Uganda	9	0.02	99.86
50	Argentina	7	0.01	99.87
51	Jamaica	7	0.01	99.88
52	Serbia	7	0.01	99.90
53	Kenya	6	0.01	99.91
54	Puerto Rico	5	0.01	99.92
55	Russia (Federation)	5	0.01	99.93
56	Unknown	5	0.01	99.94
57	Ethiopia	4	0.01	99.95
58	Sri Lanka	4	0.01	99.95
59	Colombia	3	0.01	99.96
60	Indonesia	3	0.01	99.97
61	Lebanon	3	0.01	99.97
62	Lithuania	3	0.01	99.98
63	Northern Ireland	3	0.01	99.98
64	Ukraine	3	0.01	99.99
65	Bosnia And Herzegovina	1	0.00	99.99
66	Bulgaria	1	0.00	99.99
67	Cuba	1	0.00	100.00
68	Georgia (Republic)	1	0.00	100.00
69	Venezuela	1	0.00	100.00

Analysis of document type of publication in Swine Flu

The productivity of scientists on Swine Flu spreads over variety of publication media, like that journal articles, reviews, letters, news, editorial, etc. It is clear from the analysis that the share of journal articles is the most prominent bibliographic form of publication and it occupies 77.6% (39265) of total publications. Review articles with 6102 (12%), Letter with 1910 (3.8%), news with 991 (1.96%), editorial with 904 (1.79%) contributions. Remaining document types scored the low numbers of output below one percentage for communication among the Swine flu researchers.

Table 5 - Document type of publication in Swine Flu

Sl.No.	Pub. Type	No. of Articles	%
1	Journal Article	39265	77.56
2	Review	6102	12.05
3	Letter	1910	3.77
4	News	991	1.96
5	Editorial	904	1.79
6	Randomized Controlled Trial	371	0.73
7	Validation Studies	311	0.61

8	Multicenter Study	203	0.40
9	Congresses	102	0.20
10	Introductory Journal Article	93	0.18
11	Practice Guideline	77	0.15
12	Patient Education Handout	44	0.09
13	Portraits	36	0.07
14	Interview	34	0.07
15	Meta-Analysis	33	0.07
16	News Paper Articles	27	0.05
17	Video-Audio Media	25	0.05
18	Overall	20	0.04
19	Historic Articles	16	0.03
20	Retracted Publication	15	0.03
21	Bibliography	11	0.02
22	Lectures	8	0.02
23	Legal Cases	7	0.01
24	Addresses	6	0.01
25	Technical Report	6	0.01
26	Twin Study	5	0.01
27	Case Reports	1	0.00
28	Evaluation Studies	1	0.00
29	Guideline	1	0.00
30	Interactive Tutorial	1	0.00
31	Published Erratum	1	0.00
		50627	100.00

Bradford's Law of Scattering

Samuel Clement Bradford in 1934 points out that if scientific journals are arranged in order of decreasing productivity of articles on a given subject, they may be divided into a nucleus of periodicals more particularly devoted to the subject and several groups and zones containing the same number of articles as the nucleus when the number of periodicals in the nucleus and succeeding zones will be 1: n: n².

Bradford's Law states that journals in a single field can be divided into three parts, each containing the same number of articles:

- * A core of journals on the subject, relatively few in number, that produces approximately one-third of all the articles;
- * A second zone, containing the same number of articles as the first, but a greater number of journals, and
- * A third zone, containing the same number of articles as the second, but a still greater number of journals.

The mathematical relationship of the number of journals in the core to the first zone is a constant n and to the second zone the relationship is n^2 . Bradford expressed this relationship as $1 : n : n^2$

Table 6 Bradford's Distribution of Journals

Zone	Journals	Articles	Bradford Multiplier
Zone 1	60 (1.68)	16978 (33.54)	-
Zone 2	379 (10.62)	16928 (33.44)	6.31
Zone 3	3129 (87.69)	16721 (33.02)	8.26
TOTAL	3568	50627	14.56 (7.28)

Table 6 Shows that a small group of 60 journals identified as the nuclear or core zone representing 1.68% of journals covered 16978 (33.54%) of articles. The second large group of 379 (10.62%) journals covered 16928 (33.44%) of articles and the third largest group of 3129 (87.69%) journals covered 16721 (33.02%) of articles. The Bradford multiplier between the Zone 1 and 2 is 6.31, it is 8.26 between zone 2 and 3. The average multiplier is 7.28. It can be thus concluded that Bradford's law fits well in the sample of Swine Flu.

CONCLUSION

The highest publications are in the years 2010 and 2011. The whole study period records the mean relative growth rate of 0.25 and the doubling time for publication at the aggregate level has been calculated as 2.9 years. Single authored work is less than that of the multiple authored contributions. It means that the collaborative authors' contribution is very high. The efficiency of the author could be recognized. Therefore, the individual scientists may be stimulated to distribute more number of contributions. A comparison of USA output in relation to the world output may help in understanding the contribution in a better angle. The atmosphere and infrastructure are also very effective for the entire development of Swine Flu research area. Bradford's law fits well in the sample of Swine Flu.

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