

VISHWA GURU SRILA PRABHUPAD : A SCIENTOMETRIC PORTRAIT
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Abstract:

Purpose: To project contributions of Vishwa Guru Krishna Kripamoorthy Shri Shri Shrimad A. C. Bhaktivedant Swami Prabhupad - the Spiritual Ambassador of Bharat (India) in the field of spirituality, so as to attract talented younger generation to the spirituality, which is badly needed for the youth to handle their stressful life in technological age.

Scope: Srila Prabhupad had published 6852 publications including letters, however, for the detailed analysis the scope of present study is limited to only 107 books written by him.

Objective: To develop scientometric portrait of the Vishwa Guru, Spiritual Ambassador of Bharat (India) - Srila Prabhupad.

Methodology & Approach : Methodology given by Sen and Gan (1990), Lancaster (1991), Lydesdraff (1995), Dodse (2000) and Sangam (2010) was used, calculated collaboration co-efficient, productivity co-efficient, fifty percentile age, productivity life, etc.

Findings: Productivity age of Prabhupad was 43 years, on an average he wrote 2.48 books per year, his productivity life began at the chronological age of 39 years, was highly productive at the productivity age of 41 & chronological age of 79 years. His productivity co-efficient was 1: 1.1, at the productivity age of 39 years and chronological age of 77 years he attained fifty percentile age.

Practical Applications & Significance : Scientometric portrait is useful to distinguish leading intellectuals in the particular field, inspire others and mentor those who are committed for scientific advancement, hence such studies work as model for developing scientometric portrait of scholars from any discipline.

knowledge of spirituality is concerned about our values in society & organizations & how these values influence managerial decision making. As spiritual people like Prabhupad have positive relationships, self-esteem, more optimistic. They teach us how to deal with stress, be patient, sense of peace, forgiveness, etc., which is badly needed for the youth to handle their stressful life in technological age.

Keywords: Scientometrics; Scientometric portrait; Spirituality; ISKCON; Vishwa Guru Srila Prabhupad; Hare Krishna Movement

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Introduction:

The field of scientometric study deals with computing and analyzing scientific literature. It is a subfield of bibliometrics (Aswathy & Pal, 2015). The objective of

scientometric portrait is to identify leading scholars, motivate others and mentor those who are committed for scientific advancement. If contributions of such scientists in the field of spirituality are properly

projected, it may be possible to attract talented younger generation to the spirituality.

Vishwa Guru Krishna Kripamoorthy Shri Shri Shrimad A. C. Bhaktivedant Swami Prabhupad is considered as Spiritual Ambassador of Bharat (India). Kolkata in the state of West Bengal, India is the birth place of Srila Prabhupad. His date of birth is 1st September 1896 - the day after Janmashtami. His parents on the day of namkarana samskara kept his name Abhay Charan (who is fearless - have taken protection at the feet of Lord Krishna). He had spark of Krishna consciousness from childhood.

He studied in British school under colonial rule and graduated with the subjects English, Sanskrit, Philosophy and Economics. While he was studying in college, he became supporter of Gandhiji's independence movement and started wearing white handloom cloth (weaved in India) and declined to accept his degree from university (Satsvarupa Das Goswami, 2022).

In 1918, he started working in pharmaceutical company to assist his family and then moved to his own business - The Proyag Pharmacy in Allahabad. In 1922, he met his spiritual guru Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati in Kolkata and got initiated in 1932. Being devotee of Krishna, his spiritual guru asked him for spreading Krishna consciousness movement in the English speaking world. This instruction made a great impact on Srila Prabhupad and formed the focus for the rest of his life (His mission roots, 2023).

While assisting Bhaktisiddhanta's mission (the Goudiya Matha) in its work, he wrote English commentary on Bhagavad- Gita. During second world war, in 1944 he started a magazine entitled "Back to Godhead".

To devote fulltime to his work and writing, Srila Prabhupad withdrew himself from business in 1950 and in 1959, he got initiated as sanyasi and began

writing of an English translation and commentary on Shrimad Bhagvatam - the master piece of his writings . Srila Prabhupad navigated by cargo ship to America. In America he started teaching people Vaishnava tradition in 1965, when his age was 69 years. During 1966 and 1968 he established temples in several American cities. In 1967, at San Francisco, he started Ratha-Yatra for the first time in America.

The foundation of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) also known as Hare Krishna Movement took place in New York city, on 13th July 1966. Srila Prabhupad and his disciples developed ISKCON into a worldwide organization, not only this but temples, restaurants and farm communities were established along with the Bhaktivedant Institute and food for life.

During 1966 and 1977 Srila Prabhupad circled the world fourteen times for delivering lectures. Simultaneously he was writing books. His books on the subjects Vedic Philosophy, religion and culture, formed veritable library. In more than 102 languages his books have been translated by his decuples. The Bhakti Vedanta Book trust - his publishing company - was established in 1972 became the world's biggest publisher in the field of Indian religion and philosophy. In 1973 he created Bhaktivedant Institute to support Vedic teachings (Hare Krishna Mandir, 2024). His life is an inspirational story of unwavering faith, dedication, compassion, and commitment to Sanatana Dharama and especially Sri Krishna Bhakti.

His Devine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedant Swami Prabhupad, the founding father of ISKCON, kept his body on 14th November, 1977, in his quarter at Krishna-Balarama temple in Vrindavana, India when he was girdled by his shishyas chanting Hare Krishna Mahamantra. (BTG Editors, 2024, May 8)

During Maha Kumbh - 2025 at Prayagraj, India the most esteemed Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad

recognised Sri Srimad Om Vishnupada 108 A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupad, the Acharya of Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Vaishnava Parampara as 'Vishwa Guru' for his outstanding contribution to spread Sanatana Dharma, distribute the message of Bhagavad -Gita all over the world and propagate globally Hari nam sankirtan, in the august presence of Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Kailashananand Giri Ji Maharaj of Niranjani Akhara, Shri Mahant Ravindra Puriji Maharaj, President of Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad and other respected saints of various Akharas on 10th February, 2025. The function was presided over by H.G. Madhu Pandit Das, President ISKCON, Bangalore. H. G. Madhu Pandit Das and H. G. Chanchalapati Das of ISKCON, Bangalore, India received the citation on behalf of Late Srila Prabhupada from Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Kailashananand Giri Ji Maharaj (Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad, 2025, February 16, P.9).

Methodology:

The information about documents Published by Vishwa Guru A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupad was gathered from different websites viz. Prabhupad Books (n. d.), Prabhupada.de. (n. d.), Srila Prabhupada's original pre 1978 books. (n. d.), Satsvarupa Das Goswami (1987) as well as books available with the library of ISKCON, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), Maharashtra, India. From the analysis of these sources it was found that Prabhupad on his own had published 62 books, while based on his lectures his disciples during his life time had published 45 books and disciples posthumously published 45 books. Apart from this Prabhupad had written 36 articles, 130 editorials and 6579 letters. As

publications of his disciples are compilations based on his lectures and published during Prabhupada's life time, hence they are considered as publications of Prabhupad. Present analysis covered publications of Srila Prabhupad. For data analysis, methodology given by Sen and Gan (1990), Lancaster (1991), Kalyane and Kalyane (1994), Kalyane and Vidyasagar Rao (1995), Lydesdraff (1995), Dodse (2000) and Sangam (2010) was used viz.

- ❖ *Collaboration Co-efficient* – The ratio of number of collaborative papers to the total number of papers published.
- ❖ *Fifty Percentile Age* – The number of years during which 50% of the papers were published starting from the year of publication of first paper.
- ❖ *Productivity Co-efficient* – The ratio of 50 percentile age to total productivity age.
- ❖ *Productivity Life* – the count from the year in which first paper by an author was published till the latest year of publication.
- ❖ *Publication Outlets* – The sources preferentially chosen by the author to communicate results of research.

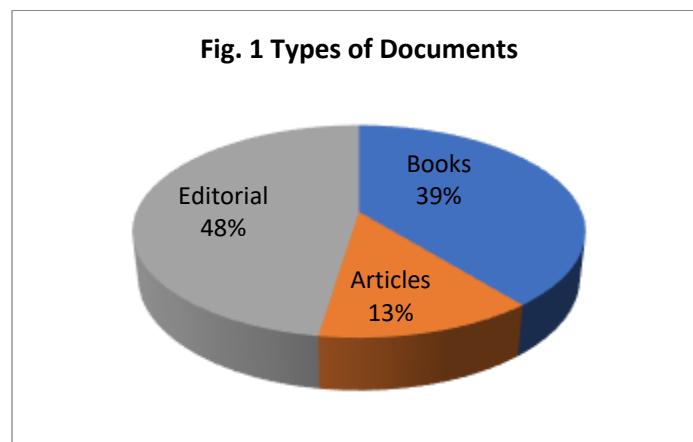
Scientometric Portrait of Vishwa Guru Srila Prabhupad:

Attempts have been made to analyze publications of Srila Prabhupad by

- ❖ Types of documents,
- ❖ Year wise frequency of publications,
- ❖ Authorship pattern,
- ❖ Domain wise publications ,
- ❖ Publication outlets,
- ❖ Language of publication.

1. Types of documents

From the year 1935 to 1977 Prabhupad published 6852 publications including letters. Excluding 6579 letters, the 273 publications were grouped under various types of documents and are presented in figure 1. It can be noted from figure 1 that he had published 107(39%) books, 36 (13%) articles and 130 (48%) editorials of Back to Godhead magazine. However for further analysis only 107 books written by him were considered.



2. Year wise frequency of publications

Srila Prabhupad had published 107 books during 43 years of his productivity life. (Table 1). His productivity age began in the year 1935 at his chronological age of 39 years. He had published highest number of 23 books during 1975 at the productivity age of 41 and chronological age of 79 years. At the productivity age of 39 years and chronological age of 77 years he attained fifty percentile age. His productivity co-efficient is 1:1.1.

Table 1 : Frequency of Publications: Year wise distribution

Year	No. of Publications	Cumulative Publications	Productivity age of Prabhupada	Chronological age of Prabhupada
1935	02	02	1	39
1936	00	02	2	40
1937	00	02	3	41
1938	00	02	4	42
1939	00	02	5	43
1940	01	03	6	44
1941	00	03	7	45
1942	00	03	8	46
1943	00	03	9	47
1944	00	03	10	48
1945	00	03	11	49
1946	00	03	12	50
1947	01	04	13	51
1948	00	04	14	52

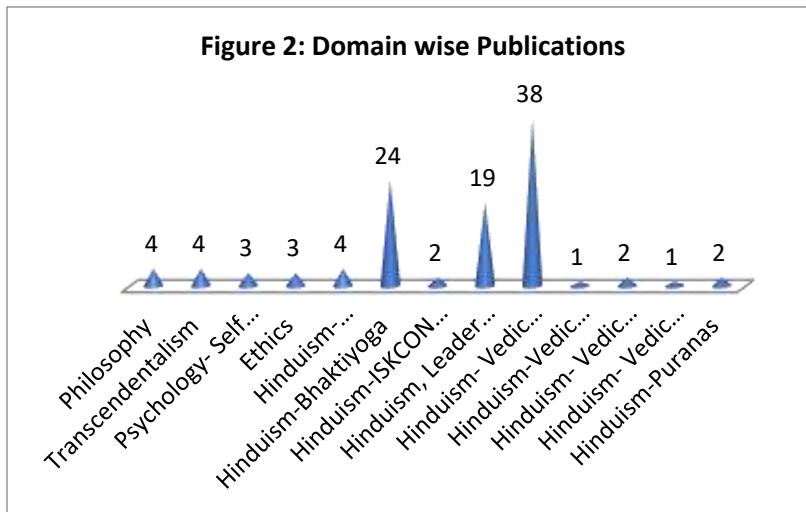
Year	No. of Publications	Cumulative Publications	Productivity age of Prabhupada	Chronological age of Prabhupada
1949	00	04	15	53
1950	02	06	16	54
1951	00	06	17	55
1952	01	07	18	56
1953	01	08	19	57
1954	00	08	20	58
1955	00	08	21	59
1956	00	08	22	60
1957	00	08	23	61
1958	00	08	24	62
1959	01	09	25	63
1960	00	09	26	64
1961	01	10	27	65
1962	00	10	28	66
1963	00	10	29	67
1964	00	10	30	68
1965	02	12	31	69
1966	00	12	32	70
1967	01	13	33	71
1968	03	16	34	72
1969	03	19	35	73
1970	19	38	36	74
1971	02	40	37	75
1972	07	47	38	76
1973	09	56	39	77
1974	10	66	40	78
1975	23	89	41	79
1976	08	97	42	80
1977	10	107	43	81

3. Authorship Pattern

Multi authorship is widely known as an indicator to measure research collaboration. Even though based on Prabhupad's lectures his disciples during his life time had published 45 books but they have been published in the name of Prabhupad only, hence it can be said that Srila Prabhupad had published all 107 single authored documents, therefore his collaboration co-efficient comes to zero.

4. Domain wise Publications
Table 2: Domain wise Publications

Domain	Total Publications	Percentage	FPY	LPY
Philosophy	04	03.74	1950	1975
Transcendentalism	04	03.74	1965	1973
Psychology- Self realization	03	02.8	1959	1973
Ethics	03	02.8	1940	1977
Hinduism-Spirituality-Meditation	04	03.74	1965	1976
Hinduism-Bhaktiyoga	24	22.44	1935	1977
Hinduism-ISKCON (Vaishnavism)	2	01.87	1947	1973
Hinduism, Leader and Education	19	17.76	1968	1975
Hinduism- Vedic scriptures	38	35.51	1961	1976
Hinduism-Vedic scriptures-Upanishad	01	0.93	1969	1969
Hinduism- Vedic scriptures-Mahabharata	02	01.87	1973	1977
Hinduism- Vedic literature	01	0.93	1966	1966
Hinduism-Puranas	02	01.87	1973	1977
Total	107	100.00	1935	1977



The 107 books were classified domain wise by using Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme, 18th edition and presented in table 2 and figure 2. It must be noted here that FPY is First Year of Publication and LPY is Last Year of Publication. It can be observed from table 2 and figure 2 that Srila Prabhupad was a versatile person. From his publications it shows that he was specialized in Vedic Scriptures as well as Bhaktiyoga as 57.95% publications belong to these areas and throughout his productivity life i.e. from 1935 to 1977 he continued to publish on Bhaktiyoga, while within 16 years of his productivity life i.e. from 1961 to 1976 he had published maximum 39.25% books on Vedic Scriptures. His other areas of specialization are Hinduism, Leader and Education as 17.76% publications are to his credit in these area.

5. Publication Outlets

All 107 are printed books. However his publication concentration is in the magazine "Back to Godhead", followed by printed books (Figure 1).

6. Language of Publication

Of the 107 books 96.26% books are in English, while 3.74% are in Bengali. His disciples have translated his books in nearly 102 Indian as well as foreign languages (Table 3) viz. Arabic, African, Chinese, Dutch, English,

Table 3 : Language of Publication

Country	Number of Languages
African	18
Asian	24
European	37
Indian	20

French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Persian, Polska, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnam, Yoruba, Zulu, etc. The Indian languages include Assamee, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Gujrathi, Hindi, Kannada, Magar, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Marwari, Nepali, Newari, Oriya, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Gujrathi, Hindi, Kannada, Magar, , Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Marwari, Nepali, Newari, Oriya, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu. (Vaniquotes, 2022).

Conclusions:

The results of study show that productivity age of Prabhupad was 43 years, had 6852 publications including letters to his credit. Regarding books, he had written on an average 2.48 books per year. His productivity life began in the year 1935 at the chronological age of 39 years. He was highly productive at the productivity age of 41 years and chronological age of 79 years. His productivity co-efficient was 1:1.1, while collaborative co-efficient is zero. Even though he had written books in English and Bengali, his disciples have translated them in nearly 102 Indian as well as foreign languages. Bhaktivedant archives collection includes Prabhupadji's audio tapes, documents, photographs, films and videos, microfiche, CDs as well as his books are being made available online.

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