

## **AUTHORSHIP TREND AND SOLO V/S TEAM RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND LITERATURE : A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY**

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*Studies the authorship pattern of International Monetary Fund (IMF) literature. The study revealed that the team research is more favourable than the solo research. The degree of collaboration in IMF research ranged from 0.45 to 0.62 during the period of study, with an overall average of 0.56.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Bibliometric studies are used to identify the pattern of publication, authorship, citations and/or secondary journal coverage in the hope that such studies can give an insight into the dynamics of the area under consideration. This consequently leads to better organization of information resources which is essential for their effective and efficient use.

Authorship of a paper has become important for scientists and researchers and understandably this topic has become an important area for study and debate in recent years. In this paper an attempt is being made to study the productivity of information generators or authors.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the study were to determine:

- i) Authorship pattern in International Monetary Fund (IMF) literature; and
- ii) The degree of collaboration in IMF literature

### **METHODOLOGY**

Authorship data in the field of IMF literature were collected from research activities of the IMF from January 1991 to December 1998, prepared by Inter-departmental Working Group of Fund Policy Advice of IMF. This database reports world literature in the field of Economics in general and IMF in particular. Total number of entries collected were 1704. Each item was analysed and tabulated to study its collaborative nature.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### ***Authorship pattern***

The literature on any subject reflects not only the basic publishing pattern but also the characteristics of the authors themselves. Therefore, the authorship pattern was analysed to determine the percentage of corporate, single and multiple authors. The results are presented in Table 1.

The table shows that the majority of the papers are multi-authored ones. Papers having single authors constitute 43.02% of total papers in the subject, followed by two authored 35.33%, three authored 10.73%, four and more authored 8.16% and papers by corporate authors constitute 2.76%. From this it can be inferred that multi-authored papers are much more than the single authored papers.

Table 1

*Authorship trend in IMF research*

| Sl. No. | No. of Authors | No. of papers | Percentage |
|---------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1       | 1              | 733           | 43.02      |
| 2       | 2              | 602           | 35.33      |
| 3       | 3              | 183           | 10.73      |
| 4       | 4 & more       | 139           | 08.16      |
| 5       | Corporate      | 47            | 02.76      |
| Total   |                | 1704          | 100.02     |

Table 2

*No. of authors of IMF research papers*

| Year  | No. of paper with 1,2,3,4, and more authors |         |     |         |     |         |          |         |        |         |
|-------|---|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
|       | 1   | %       | 2   | %       | 3   | %       | 4 & more | %       | Corpor | %       |
| 1991  | 61  | (08.32) | 34  | (05.64) | 10  | (05.46) | 05       | (03.59) | 01     | (02.12) |
| 1992  | 86  | (11.73) | 57  | (09.46) | 13  | (07.10) | 22       | (15.82) | 06     | (12.76) |
| 1993  | 66  | (09.00) | 66  | (10.96) | 15  | (08.19) | 20       | (14.38) | 11     | (23.40) |
| 1994  | 101   | (13.08) | 75  | (12.45) | 15  | (08.19) | 28       | (20.14) | 02     | (04.25) |
| 1995  | 97  | (13.23) | 79  | (13.12) | 23  | (12.56) | 18       | (12.94) | 08     | (17.02) |
| 1996  | 91  | (12.41) | 77  | (12.79) | 29  | (15.08) | 11       | (07.91) | 07     | (14.89) |
| 1997  | 113   | (15.04) | 99  | (16.44) | 32  | (17.48) | 10       | (07.19) | 03     | (06.38) |
| 1998  | 118   | (16.01) | 115 | (19.10) | 46  | (25.13) | 25       | (17.98) | 09     | (19.14) |
| Total | 733   |         | 602 |         | 183 |         | 139      |         | 47     |         |

The data presented in Table 2 shows that team research is predominant than the solo research. Yearwise analysis reveals that the number of papers by single authors varied from 8.32% (1991) to 16.1 (1988). The number of papers by multi-authors also varied from year to year.

**Single authored V/s Multi-authored papers**

It is observed that in 1991 the percentage of single authored and multi-authored papers was 8.32 and

5.14 respectively. However, in 1998 the percentage of single authored papers was 16.01 and that of multi-authored papers increased to 20.08. It is very interesting to note here that the trend in IMF research is in favour of team research. This is because of the advent of multi-authored papers in disciplines of Science and Technology where such studies can be conducted by a team of researchers employing specialists from various fields Table 3.

Table 3

*Single authored V/s Multiauthors*

| Year  | With single author |       | With multi authors |       | Total papers |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
|       | No. of papers      | %     | No. of papers      | %     |              |
| 1991  | 61                 | 8.32  | 50                 | 5.14  | 111          |
| 1992  | 86                 | 11.73 | 98                 | 10.09 | 184          |
| 1993  | 66                 | 9.00  | 112                | 11.53 | 178          |
| 1994  | 101                | 13.80 | 120                | 12.35 | 221          |
| 1995  | 97                 | 13.23 | 128                | 13.18 | 225          |
| 1996  | 91                 | 12.41 | 124                | 12.77 | 215          |
| 1997  | 113                | 15.40 | 144                | 14.83 | 257          |
| 1998  | 116                | 16.10 | 195                | 20.08 | 313          |
| Total | 733                |       | 971                |       | 1704         |

***Degree of collaboration***

It is clear from the above analysis that the percentage of multi-authored papers is more than that of the single authored papers. To determine the extent of collaboration in quantitative terms, the formula given by K. Subramanyam [1] was used.

The formula is as follows:

$$C = \frac{Nm}{Nm + Ns}$$

When

$$C = \text{degree of collaboration in the discipline}$$

Nm = Number of multi-authored papers

Ns = Number of single authored papers

In the present study the value of C is

$$C = \frac{971}{971 + 733}$$

$$C = 0.56$$

Thus the degrees of collaboration in IMF research is 0.56. This brings out clearly the prevalence of team research in this field. The distribution of degree of collaboration over the years from 1991 to 1998 is presented in Table 4.

Table 4

*Year wise distribution of Degree of collaboration*

| Year | Degree of collaboration |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1991 | 0.45                    |
| 1992 | 0.53                    |
| 1993 | 0.62                    |
| 1994 | 0.54                    |
| 1995 | 0.56                    |
| 1996 | 0.57                    |
| 1997 | 0.56                    |
| 1998 | 0.62                    |

It is very interesting to record that the degree of collaboration in IMF research over the period of study varied from 0.45 to 0.62.

### CONCLUSION

The trend of collaborative research is seen to be increasing during 1991-98. This is a good sign for social sciences in general and economics in particulars.

### REFERENCES

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