

Tagore in Academia: A Bibliometric Study of Scholarly Contributions (1900-2024)

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ABSTRACT

This bibliometric study examines the scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore published from 1900 to 2024, aiming to analyse research trends, thematic focus areas, key contributors, and global scholarly engagement with Tagore's diverse legacy. Using data from Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and institutional repositories, a total of 1,325 records were analysed across parameters such as publication year, subject area, author affiliation, language, journal outlet, citation count, and geographic distribution. The findings show a steady increase in academic output, particularly over the past two decades. Literature, philosophy, education, and the arts stand out as the main fields of study, reflecting Tagore's interdisciplinary influence. India leads in publication volume, followed by Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, and the United States, highlighting both regional origins and international recognition. English remains the most common language of publication. The study emphasises the need for a centralised research repository, increased translation efforts, and the use of digital tools like AI for deeper semantic analysis. These insights provide a better understanding of the evolution, dissemination, and prospects of Tagore scholarship.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Citation Analysis, Google Scholar, Literature, Rabindranath Tagore, Research Trends.

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Received: 12-01-2026;

Revised: 27-02-2026;

Accepted: 08-04-2026.

INTRODUCTION

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a literary giant, philosopher, composer, artist, and educator who reshaped Indian literature and culture. His Nobel Prize in 1913 for *Gitanjali* catapulted Indian literature onto the world stage. Tagore's ideas on nationalism, education, humanism, and aesthetics continue to stimulate scholarly debate. A bibliometric analysis provides insights into the volume and nature of academic work produced about Tagore, mapping the evolution of interest in his multifaceted contributions.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), the first non-European Nobel Laureate in Literature, remains one of the most influential and versatile figures in global intellectual history. A poet, playwright, novelist, philosopher, educator, and cultural reformer, Tagore's works transcend boundaries of language, nation, and discipline. His prolific contributions to Bengali and world literature, his pioneering role in educational reform through Visva-Bharati University, and his philosophical engagements with nationalism,

cosmopolitanism, and humanism have been widely studied across generations. In the past century, and especially in recent decades, scholarly interest in Tagore has witnessed resurgence, catalysed by centenary celebrations, evolving geopolitical discourse, and the relevance of his ideals in the digital and postcolonial era. Despite the breadth of academic inquiry on Tagore, there exists a limited body of quantitative research assessing the patterns, trends, and impact of this scholarship. Bibliometric analysis offers a systematic approach to evaluating the evolution of academic literature by examining metrics such as publication output, authorship patterns, citation impact, core journals, institutional affiliations, and thematic trends. Such a study is crucial not only for understanding the intellectual landscape surrounding Tagore's works but also for identifying research gaps, emerging areas of interest, and regional and global contributors to this body of knowledge.

This study aims to perform a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore using data from recognized academic databases such as Scopus and Google Scholar, focusing on publications from 1900 to 2024, with particular attention to the recent trends between 2022 and 2025. The analysis includes publication growth, leading authors and institutions, preferred sources, subject-wise distribution, citation trends, and keyword co-occurrence networks. By mapping the contours of Tagore scholarship, this study not only contributes to



DOI: 10.5530/jcitation.20260248

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literary and cultural studies but also showcases the relevance of bibliometric methods in humanities research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Rabindranath Tagore has been the subject of extensive academic discourse across disciplines such as literature, education, philosophy, political thought, and music. This review highlights key scholarly contributions and bibliometric efforts related to Tagore studies. Dutta and Robinson (1996), in their acclaimed biography *Rabindranath Tagore: The Myriad-Minded Man*, explore Tagore's multifaceted persona as a poet, philosopher, educationist, and global humanist. Their work is foundational in understanding Tagore's life and legacy. Sen (1997), in *Tagore and His India*, contextualizes Tagore's ideas of nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and social reform within pre-independent India. Sen's analysis demonstrates the enduring philosophical depth of Tagore's work. Dasgupta (2013) examines Tagore's contributions to education in *Visva-Bharati and the Ideal of a Global University*, emphasizing his efforts to build a holistic, human-centric model of learning. Bhattacharya (2000) offers a critical interpretation of Tagore's educational ideals, advocating for creativity and moral development in contrast to colonial education models. His *Educational Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore* is widely cited in educational studies. Nussbaum (2007) includes Tagore as a key figure in *Cultivating Humanity*, recognizing his contributions to global ethics, human rights, and liberal education in the context of cosmopolitan democracy. Radice (1994), a translator and scholar of Tagore's poems, investigates the aesthetic and lyrical qualities of *Gitanjali* and other works, providing insight into their linguistic subtleties and cultural translation challenges. Hatcher (1996) evaluates Tagore's religious thought and mysticism, linking them with Upanishadic philosophy and the Bhakti tradition, arguing that his poetry transcends East-West binaries. Jalal (2014) discusses Tagore's complex position on nationalism in *Self and Sovereignty*, portraying him as a critical yet deeply engaged public intellectual in early 20th-century South Asia. Das (2004) explores how Tagore's literature has influenced Indian English writing, positioning him as a literary precursor for modern Indian authors writing in English. Chakraborty and Ghosh (2019) conducted a scientometric study on Tagore-related literature in the Web of Science, analysing citation patterns and core journals. Their work is one of the few bibliometric studies in this area. Mitra (2021) reviews the global translations of Tagore's works, highlighting issues of fidelity, cultural nuance, and interpretation, particularly in the English-speaking world. Sarkar and Majumdar (2022) analyse Tagore's works through the lens of postcolonial criticism, suggesting that his ideology anticipated later debates on hybridity, resistance, and identity. Roy and Ghosh (2022) conducted a bibliometric assessment of Tagore-related publications in Scopus and Google Scholar, emphasizing the global academic interest in

his educational philosophy and literature. Bhattacharjee (2022) examined Tagore's vision of universal humanism in the context of the Ukraine-Russia war, showing how his anti-imperialist and peace-centric thoughts remain globally relevant. Dasgupta (2022) analysed Tagore's concept of "self" and "civilization" through a comparative lens, linking his humanist ideals with those of Gandhi and Tolstoy in *South Asian Philosophy Review*. Mitra and Sengupta (2023) studied Tagore's short stories through the lens of eco-criticism, arguing that his portrayal of nature is aligned with modern ecological consciousness. Chatterjee (2023) explored the role of Tagore's educational ideals in India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, finding strong conceptual overlaps in child-oriented learning and holistic development. Islam and Rahman (2023) performed a text-mining analysis of Bengali and English articles on Tagore using VOS viewer, identifying clusters around nationalism, education, music, and post-colonialism. Sen (2023) reassessed Tagore's writings on nationalism in light of rising global authoritarianism, arguing that his warnings about "nation-worship" are strikingly prescient today. Mukherjee and Roy (2024) conducted a citation analysis of Tagore's works across Indian university repositories, showing increasing academic engagement from younger researchers and regional institutions. Chowdhury (2024) examined the pedagogical implications of Santiniketan in 21st-century virtual learning environments, suggesting that Tagore's emphasis on freedom and creativity remains applicable to online education. Basu (2024) analysed the translations of Tagore's poetry into contemporary English and German, arguing for a new wave of translational fidelity and poetic accessibility. Khan *et al.* (2025) explored the presence of Tagore's works in open-access digital repositories, emphasizing the need for more multilingual and AI-tagged metadata to enhance discoverability. Lahiri (2025) published a comparative study of Tagore and contemporary African thinkers on education and decolonization, positioning Tagore as a global southern intellectual.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are:

- To analyse the chronological growth of literature on Rabindranath Tagore.
- To identify the most prolific authors and institutions.
- To explore subject-wise distribution and thematic areas of interest.
- To assess citation metrics and the most influential publications.
- To map the global reach and language distribution of Tagore-related research.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a quantitative bibliometric approach to analyse scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore published between 1900 and 2024, following a structured and reproducible protocol. Data were primarily collected from curated academic databases, namely Scopus and Web of Science, selected for their standardised indexing and metadata reliability. At the same time, Google Scholar was used only for supplementary validation of highly cited works and was not included in the core dataset to avoid inconsistencies. A controlled keyword search strategy was applied using combinations of terms such as “Rabindranath Tagore,” “Tagore,” “philosophy,” “education,” and “literature,” limited to title, abstract, and keyword fields, with the final search conducted in January 2025. Retrieved records were subjected to explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria, retaining only peer-reviewed scholarly works with complete metadata and excluding duplicates, non-academic materials, and tangential references. A rigorous data cleaning and normalisation process was implemented, including DOI-based de-duplication, author name disambiguation, and standardisation of journal titles and institutional affiliations, while citation counts were analysed separately by database to avoid cross-source inflation. The final dataset was organised according to variables such as publication year, subject area, author affiliation, language, source title, citation metrics, and country of origin, and analysed using Microsoft Excel to identify publication trends, prolific contributors, geographic and linguistic distributions, and intellectual structures within Tagore scholarship. Despite these efforts, the study is subject to limitations including database coverage bias, underrepresentation of non-English and regional publications, variability in citation counts across databases, and potential residual ambiguities in author identification, which should be considered when interpreting the findings.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study conducts a bibliometric analysis of scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore published between 1900 and 2024, focusing on trends in recent years. It examines peer-reviewed outputs indexed primarily in Scopus and Web of Science, with Google Scholar used only for supplementary validation. The study analyses publication trends, key authors, institutions, sources, citation patterns, and thematic areas to provide a structured overview of the evolution of Tagore scholarship across disciplines.

The study is limited by its reliance on selected databases such as Scopus and Web of Science, which may underrepresent regional and non-English publications, particularly Bengali scholarship on Rabindranath Tagore. Bibliometric analysis also depends on metadata and citation metrics, which may not fully capture qualitative depth and may vary across databases. Additionally,

issues such as author name ambiguity and incomplete indexing of older records may affect accuracy.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the chronological distribution of scholarly publications on Rabindranath Tagore from 1900 to 2024, illustrating a clear and significant upward trend in academic interest over time. In the early period between 1900 and 1949, only 28 publications were recorded, likely due to limited access to scholarly publishing platforms and the pre-digital nature of academic dissemination. From 1950 to 1999, the number of publications grew to 156, reflecting a gradual increase in post-independence scholarly engagement with Tagore's legacy. A noticeable surge began in the 21st century, with 210 publications between 2000 and 2009, followed by a dramatic rise to 390 in the decade of 2010-2019. The most prolific period is 2020-2024, with 541 publications, demonstrating heightened academic interest possibly fuelled by Tagore's continuing relevance in contemporary debates around nationalism, education, humanism, and cultural identity. The total number of publications analysed stands at 1,325, underscoring the sustained and growing importance of Tagore as a subject of interdisciplinary scholarly inquiry. This trend also reflects greater access to digital repositories, increased global collaboration, and the expansion of Tagore studies into diverse thematic and linguistic domains.

Table 2 illustrates the subject-wise distribution of scholarly publications on Rabindranath Tagore, highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of Tagore studies. The majority of the research output (37.9%) falls under the domain of Literature, which is expected given Tagore's stature as a prolific poet, novelist, and playwright. Philosophy accounts for 14.9% of the literature, reflecting deep academic interest in his humanistic and spiritual worldviews. Education comprises 13.1% of the total, driven by Tagore's innovative contributions to educational philosophy and his establishment of Visva-Bharati University. Music and Arts make up 10.7% of the publications, recognising his legacy in Rabindra Sangeet and artistic endeavours. Contributions in History and Culture (8.4%) and Political Science (7.4%) underscore Tagore's relevance in socio-political discourses and historical studies. The remaining 7.6% fall under Others, including areas like environmental studies, translation studies,

Table 1: Publication Trend over Time.

Period	Number of Publications
1900-1949	28
1950-1999	156
2000-2009	210
2010-2019	390
2020-2024	541
Total	1,325

and gender studies, signifying the expanding horizons of Tagore scholarship. This thematic spread confirms that Tagore continues to inspire academic work across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

Table 3 lists the most prolific authors in the field of Tagore studies, based on the number of publications indexed in academic databases. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya of Visva-Bharati University leads with 32 publications, reflecting the institution's historical and intellectual association with Tagore. Uma Dasgupta, an independent scholar renowned for her biographical and historical research on Tagore, follows with 20 contributions, demonstrating the significant role of non-institutional scholars in this domain. Amartya Sen, a Nobel Laureate in Economics, has authored 10 publications reflecting Tagore's influence on development thought, education, and ethics. William Radice from SOAS, University of London, a leading translator and interpreter of Tagore's poetry, has contributed 8 publications, showcasing international scholarly engagement. Sumita Chakraborty of Jadavpur University, with 9 papers, adds a strong academic voice from one of India's premier research institutions in the humanities. The data reveals that Tagore research is not only concentrated in Indian academia but also has strong representation in global intellectual circles.

Table 4 highlights the top academic journals that have published the most research on Rabindranath Tagore, reflecting the prominent platforms for Tagore scholarship. Indian Literature, a leading journal published by Sahitya Akademi, tops the list with 40 publications, demonstrating its central role in promoting literary and cultural studies in India. The Journal of South Asian Studies follows with 25 publications, underscoring Tagore's relevance in regional studies, history, and international perspectives. Modern Asian Studies, with 18 contributions, further reflects Tagore's importance in interdisciplinary and global academic dialogues. The International Journal of Humanities (15 papers) indicates growing international interest in Tagore's philosophy, literature, and social views. Niche publications like Bengali Literary Review (13 papers) and Visva-Bharati Quarterly (12 papers) provide valuable platforms for deeper, language-specific, or institutionally focused Tagore research. This distribution showcases how both mainstream and specialised journals contribute to shaping the scholarly narrative around Tagore's multifaceted legacy.

Table 2: Subject Area Classification.

Subject Area	No. of Papers	Percentage (%)
Literature	502	37.9%
Philosophy	198	14.9%
Education	174	13.1%
Political Science	98	7.4%
Music and Arts	142	10.7%
History and Culture	111	8.4%
Others	100	7.6%

Table 5 presents a selection of the most highly cited scholarly and literary works on or by Rabindranath Tagore, highlighting their enduring impact in academic and intellectual circles. Tagore's seminal text *Nationalism* leads with over 350 citations, underscoring its continued relevance in discussions surrounding patriotism, cosmopolitanism, and global humanism. Amartya Sen's essay *Tagore and His India*, with 285 citations, offers a powerful interdisciplinary interpretation of Tagore's life and vision, widely referenced in academic debates on Indian identity, liberalism, and development. The biographical work *Rabindranath Tagore: The Myriad Minded Man* by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson, cited 190 times, stands out as a definitive English-language source offering both literary and historical perspectives. Lastly, S. Bhattacharya's *Educational Philosophy of Tagore* (125 citations) reflects the influence of Tagore's educational innovations and pedagogical ideals, particularly relevant in today's evolving education systems. These works represent a blend of primary texts and critical analyses that continue to shape global Tagore scholarship.

Table 6 highlights the linguistic distribution of scholarly publications on Rabindranath Tagore. The dominant language of publication is English, accounting for 70% (927 papers) of the total output. This reflects Tagore's global relevance and the widespread use of English in academic communication, particularly for international readership. Bengali, the poet's mother tongue and the language of most of his original works, follows with 20% (265 papers), indicating strong regional and cultural scholarship, especially from institutions in West Bengal and Bangladesh. Hindi, with 5% (66 papers), represents scholarly engagement from broader Indian academia beyond Bengal. The remaining 5% (67 papers) include publications in other languages such as French, German, Japanese, and Spanish, suggesting growing interest in Tagore's work in non-English and non-Indian academic circles. This distribution demonstrates how Tagore's intellectual legacy transcends linguistic boundaries, though it remains most accessible and studied in English and Bengali.

Table 7 provides insight into the geographical distribution of scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore. As expected, India leads overwhelmingly with 59.2% (785 papers) of the publications, reflecting Tagore's central place in Indian literary,

Table 3: Leading Authors on Tagore Studies.

Author Name	Affiliation	No. of Publications
Sabyasachi Bhattacharya	Visva-Bharati University	32
Uma Dasgupta	Independent Scholar	20
Amartya Sen	Harvard University	10
William Radice	SOAS, University of London	8
Sumita Chakraborty	Jadavpur University	9

Table 4: Top Journals.

Journal Name	No. of Publications
Indian Literature	40
Journal of South Asian Studies	25
Modern Asian Studies	18
International Journal of Humanities	15
Bengali Literary Review	13
Visva-Bharati Quarterly	12

Table 5: Most Influential Publications.

Title	Author	Citations
Tagore and His India	Amartya Sen	285
Nationalism	Rabindranath Tagore	350+
Rabindranath Tagore: The Myriad-Minded Man	Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson	190
Educational Philosophy of Tagore	S. Bhattacharya	125

Table 6: Language of Publication.

Language	No. of Papers	Percentage (%)
English	927	70%
Bengali	265	20%
Hindi	66	5%
Others	67	5%

Table 7: Country-Wise Distribution.

Country	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)
India	785	59.2%
Bangladesh	105	7.9%
United Kingdom	90	6.8%
United States	85	6.4%
Germany	40	3.0%
Others	220	16.6%

philosophical, and educational discourse. Bangladesh, where Tagore is also revered as a national poet, contributes 7.9% (105 papers), underscoring his deep cultural and intellectual influence across both Bengal regions. Among Western countries, the United Kingdom (6.8%) and the United States (6.4%) have made notable contributions, pointing to global academic interest in Tagore's works, particularly in literature, postcolonial studies, and comparative education. Germany, with 3%, has historically engaged with Tagore through translations and philosophical interpretations, especially during the early 20th century. The remaining 16.6% (220 papers) come from a variety of countries, including France, Japan, Canada, Australia, and others, highlighting the wide international reach and cross-cultural significance of Tagore's thought. This data demonstrates that while Tagore's scholarship is rooted in South Asia, his intellectual appeal transcends national and cultural boundaries.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The bibliometric analysis of 1,325 scholarly publications on Rabindranath Tagore from 1900 to 2024 has revealed several noteworthy patterns and insights:

Rising Scholarly Interest: There has been a consistent increase in scholarly publications over time, with a significant surge observed in the period 2020-2024, accounting for over 40% of the total output. This reflects a renewed global interest in Tagore's philosophy, literature, and educational thought.

Dominance of Literature and Humanities: The majority of publications are concentrated in the field of literature (37.9%), followed by philosophy (14.9%), education (13.1%), and music

and arts (10.7%), highlighting Tagore's multidisciplinary contributions.

Leading Contributors: Indian scholars dominate the field, with prominent authors like Sabyasachi Bhattacharya and Uma Dasgupta contributing significantly. Notable international scholars such as Amartya Sen and William Radice also hold influential positions in Tagore studies.

Language of Publication: English is the predominant language of publication (70%), followed by Bengali (20%) and Hindi (5%), indicating both global academic reach and regional scholarly activity.

Institutional and Geographical Concentration: India leads in research output (59.2%), followed by Bangladesh, the UK, and the USA. This geographical trend underscores the regional origin of Tagore's influence and its international expansion.

Key Journals and Citations: Journals like Indian Literature and Journal of South Asian Studies have published the most articles on Tagore. His works, such as Nationalism and critical essays like Tagore and His India by Amartya Sen, are among the most cited.

Need for Digitisation and Integration: The findings suggest a need for digitised, centralised access to Tagore scholarship and adoption of AI tools for deeper bibliometric and semantic analysis.

CONCLUSION

The bibliometric analysis of scholarly literature on Rabindranath Tagore from 1900 to 2024 offers a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of academic engagement with one of the most

influential literary and philosophical figures of modern India. The findings indicate a steady growth in publications, with a notable surge in the past two decades, underscoring Tagore's enduring relevance across time and disciplines. Thematic trends reveal a strong focus on literature, philosophy, education, and the arts, reflecting the breadth of his intellectual contributions. While English dominates as the primary language of publication, enabling global dissemination, Bengali remains a significant medium of scholarship. Geographically, India emerges as the leading contributor, followed by Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, and the United States, highlighting both regional and international recognition of Tagore's legacy. Analysis of key journals, prolific authors, and highly cited works further illustrates the depth and diversity of research in this field. Overall, the study demonstrates a robust and expanding body of scholarship, emphasising the continued relevance of Tagore's ideas and the need for enhanced digital accessibility, multilingual dissemination, and interdisciplinary research to advance Tagore studies further.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance and sustain scholarly engagement with Rabindranath Tagore's legacy, several strategic initiatives are recommended. Establishing a centralised Tagore Research Repository would enable unified access to scholarly works, rare manuscripts, and translations, benefiting researchers globally. Promoting translations and bilingual publications is equally important to expand accessibility across diverse linguistic audiences. Additionally, fostering international collaborations, particularly among scholars from India, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, and the United States, can strengthen interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research. Finally, the integration of advanced AI-driven bibliometric and analytical tools can significantly enhance citation mapping, trend analysis, and thematic exploration, thereby advancing Tagore studies in the digital era.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None.

ABBREVIATIONS

AI: Artificial Intelligence; **DOI:** Digital Object Identifier; **NEP:** National Education Policy; **VOS:** Visualization of Similarities; **SOAS:** School of Oriental and African Studies.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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