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Evaluative Study of Doctoral Thesis Award in Department of Economics at Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune: 2003-2022

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Abstract:

The main aim of this study is to evaluate the doctoral thesis award in the Department of Economics at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (TMV), Pune. It is a private university and the oldest research and training institute in Economics in the country located in Pune, Maharashtra, India. This study evaluated 78 doctoral theses in Economics from Tilak Maharashtra University during the period of 2003-2022. In this study, the evaluation of various aspects of the Ph.D. awarded thesis in the last 20 years of Tilak Maharashtra University Department of Economics has been clearly presented through statistical tables. The study evaluated decade-wise growth of Ph.D. theses in Economics, Ranking of Supervisors of Ph.D. theses, gender-wise distribution of research supervisor(s), gender-wise distribution of researchers, and subject-wise analysis of Ph.D. theses. According to the findings, analyzed research trends in economics, the second decade the most Ph.D. degrees awarded, most 08 doctoral degrees were supervised by a supervisor, most Ph.D. supervisors and researchers in economics were male. In the recommendation, university administration should try to increase the number of researchers in economics in future.

Keywords: Doctoral Thesis, Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune, Economics, Ph.D. Theses

1. Introduction:

The third-largest state in India, Maharashtra is renowned for its exceptional educational quality and facilities at all levels in almost all the main academic fields. The best colleges and universities are located in 36 districts around the state. Moving forward in all these areas of development, education is investing heavily in resources across all disciplines to transform the global youth population into competent human resources. In Maharashtra, out of a total of 20 universities, 53 colleges are offering regular economics education including two distance learning universities. Tilak Maharashtra University (TMU) is a private distance learning university located in Pune, Maharashtra. The famous great freedom fighter, social reformer, and philosopher Lokmanya Tilak founded it in 1921. The

university, formerly known as the Maharashtra Education Society (MES), was renamed Tilak Maharashtra University in 1985 and then Tilak Maharashtra University in 2018. In the last 32 years, the University has received the status of 'Deemed to be University' from the Government of India. The university was given national recognition in 1987 in honour of his contributions to India's educational system.

Research and innovation are prioritised heavily at Tilak Maharashtra University (TMU) in a number of disciplines, including economics. Research in a variety of topics, including macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economics, development economics, finance economics, and environmental economics, is carried out by the university's Department of Economics.

The study covers a total of 78 doctoral theses submitted in Economics from Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune during 2003-2022. Research programs were analyzed on Ph.D. theses submitted in Economics. In this research paper the production of last 20 years at Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune is projected with clearly related statistical tables. Data were collected from 78 doctoral degrees awarded so far in economics.

2. Review of Literature

Agosto, Ma&Bui, (2007) conducted a study on "Qualitative Trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) Research". The study was based on the use of qualitative data collection and analysis methods in the LIS studies, as well as some recurring themes and patterns of LIS studies. Data from four LIS research journals in the Web of Science database from 2001-2006 were collected and data analyzed. **Garg& Duggle, (2018)** the study analyzed 511 theses accepted in Zoology, Botany and Physics from Bangalore University, Bangalore during the period 1969-2015. According to the analysis, the number of theses accepted during the study period is inconsistent. The subject of Zoology and Botany had the highest number of theses accepted during the five-year period 1991–1995, while the subject of Physics had the highest number of theses accepted during the five-year period 1996–2000. Among the 511 theses accepted by the university, the proportion of female scholars presenting theses was less than that of male scholars. They were 203 female scholars and 308 male scholars respectively. The number of theses submitted by women scholars in the subject of botany was equal to the number of theses submitted by male scholars. The subject of Zoology had the highest number of theses supervised by female supervisors. There was no female supervisor in the subject of Physics. **Kumbhar, (2019)** in this paper conducted a bibliometric study of Ph.D. theses awarded in the subject of Library and Information Science (LIS) at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), Aurangabad. The increasing number of LIS researchers is examined in this study. The main objective of the study was to verify the bibliometric characteristics of theses presented in LIS. The analysis included 41 theses submitted for the degree for doctorate at

BAMU, Aurangabad. The study period was from 1990 to 2016. In the analysis of the data, most researchers, supervisors (mentors), gender, research productivity by year and other factors were done.

Garg & Pal, (2019) examined 476 Ph.D. theses in various branches of agricultural science and technology that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) had accepted. The study spans the years 2011 to 2016. The analysis show that demonstrates the irregularity of the number of theses accepted over the study period. In 2015 saw the highest number of theses accepted. 353 male scholars and 123 female scholars submitted Ph.D. theses in which the proportion of female scholars is less than that of male scholars. Out of the 206 supervisors in total, 49 were female and 157 were male. On average, male supervisor's outnumbered female supervisors. The highest numbers of theses were accepted in the subject of agronomy. Agronomy Department Professor D. S. Rana guided the most students. Then Professor A. K. Singh guided the subject of Genetics and Plant Breeding.

3. Aims and Objective of the Study :

Understanding the growth and development of Economics Ph.D. degree research at Tilak Maharashtra University in Pune is one of the study's main aims and objectives. The specific objectives are:

1. To track the research activities conducted in Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune in Economics subject.
2. To find out decade-wise growth of awarded Ph. D. theses in Economics.
3. To understand the contribution in research by research supervisors.
4. To find out gender-wise distribution of researchers contribution.
5. To study subject-wise analysis of Ph.D. theses
6. To study research growth and development in Economics.

4. Research Methodology:

The study was evaluated Economics Thesis from 2003 to 2022. Descriptive research method was used to conduct the study. Present study data was collected from two official sources namely, university records and Ph.D. thesis published on website 'Shodhganga' INFLIBNET (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>). A list of doctoral theses in the subject of economics has been compiled and analyzed. All Ph.D. theses in the subject of economics submitted at Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune in the last 16 years are included in the study. During the study period, the categories were also distributed year wise. The theses were divided into broad and specific subject divisions. During the study period, the categories were also distributed year wise. The number of theses awarded by the universities was also distributed in the study.

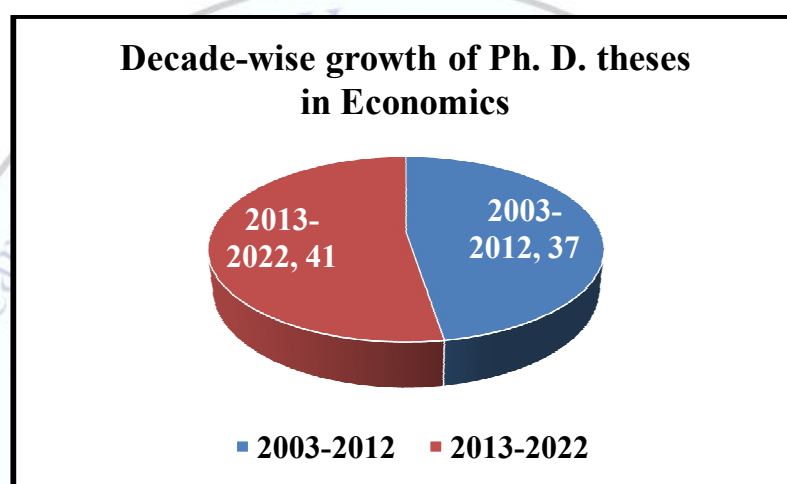
5. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune have been awarded till now 78 Ph.D. Degrees in the

subject of Economics. An attempt has been made to consolidate all doctoral degrees awarded in the subject of Economics during the period 2003-2022. Data were analyzed using 5 heads viz. decade-wise growth, ranking of supervisors, gender wise distribution of research supervisor(s), gender wise distribution of researchers, and subject wise distribution. The following tables give distribution of Doctoral awards to the subject of Economics.

Table 5.1: Decade-wise growth of Ph. D. theses in Economics.

Sr.No	Year	Degree Awarded	Percentage (%)
1	2003-2012	37	47.44
2	2013-2022	41	52.56
	Total	78	100

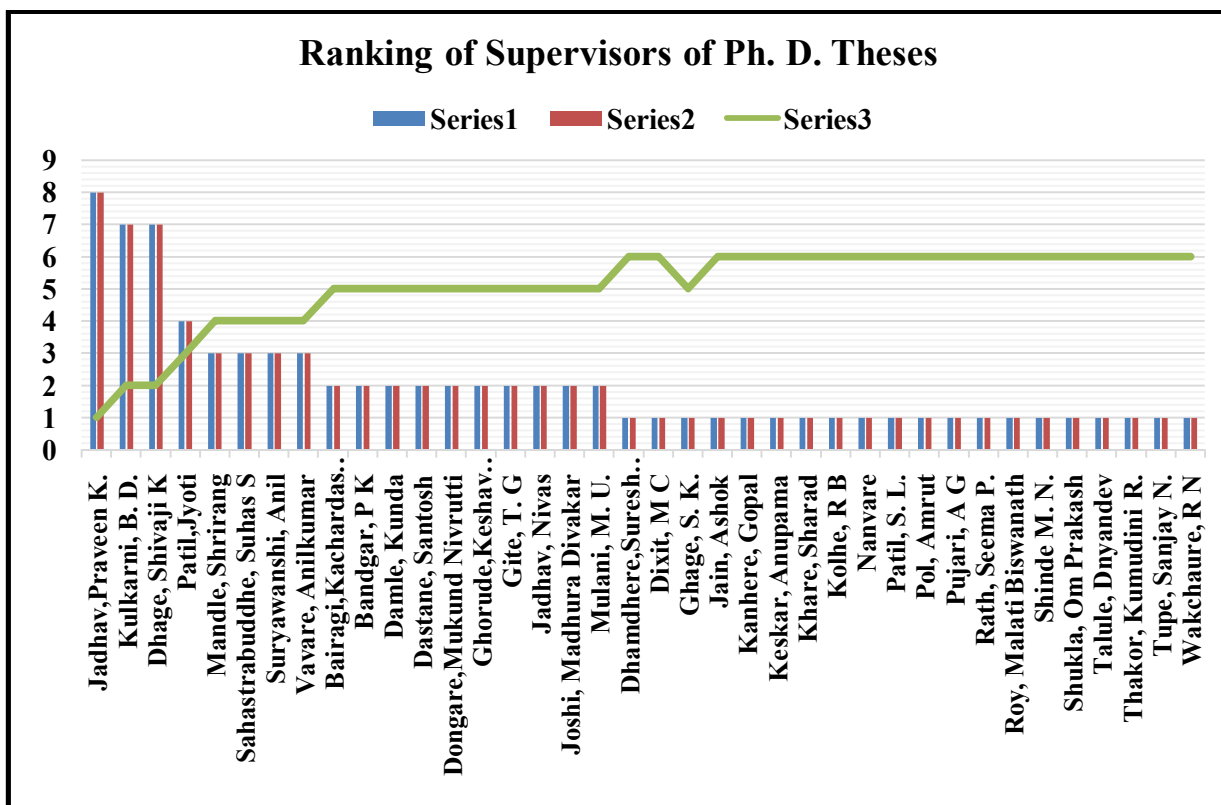


Observation: Table 5.1 shows that Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune, Ph.D. Decade wise distribution of theses is shown. After 2003 many Ph. D. Theses have been submitted. According to the table, 47.44% of the research theses were submitted in the subject of Economics during the period 2003-2012. Whereas 52.56% research theses were submitted in the last decade i.e. 2013-2022. According to this distribution, it was concluded that the last decades produced a large amount of qualitative research output in the subject of Economics.

Table 5.2: Ranking of Supervisors of Ph. D. Theses.

Sr.No	Name of Supervisor	Ph.D.Awarded Under Supervision	Total Awarded Ph.D.	Rank
1	Jadhav, Praveen K.	8	8	1
2	Kulkarni, B. D.	7	7	2
3	Dhage, Shivaji K	7	7	2
4	Patil, Jyoti	4	4	3
5	Mandle, Shrirang	3	3	4
6	Sahastrabuddhe, Suhas S	3	3	4

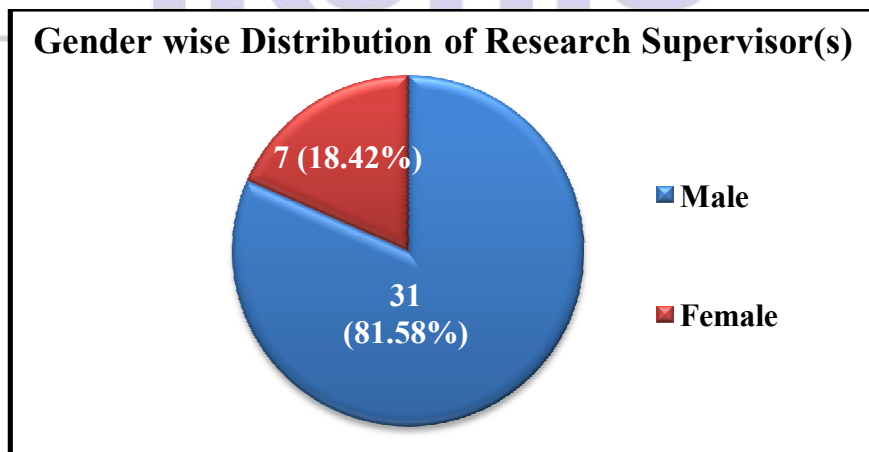
7	Suryawanshi, Anil	3	3	4
8	Vavare, Anilkumar	3	3	4
9	Bairagi, Kachardas Pitambar	2	2	5
10	Bandgar, P K	2	2	5
11	Damle, Kunda	2	2	5
12	Dastane, Santosh	2	2	5
13	Dongare, Mukund Nivrutti	2	2	5
14	Ghorude, Keshav Namdevrao	2	2	5
15	Gite, T. G	2	2	5
16	Jadhav, Nivas	2	2	5
17	Joshi, Madhura Divakar	2	2	5
18	Mulani, M. U.	2	2	5
19	Dhamdhere, Suresh Vyankatrao	1	1	6
20	Dixit, M C	1	1	6
21	Ghage, S. K.	1	1	5
22	Jain, Ashok	1	1	6
23	Kanhere, Gopal	1	1	6
24	Keskar, Anupama	1	1	6
25	Khare, Sharad	1	1	6
26	Kolhe, R B	1	1	6
27	Nanvare	1	1	6
28	Patil, S. L.	1	1	6
29	Pol, Amrut	1	1	6
30	Pujari, A G	1	1	6
31	Rath, Seema P.	1	1	6
32	Roy, Malati Biswanath	1	1	6
33	Shinde M. N.	1	1	6
34	Shukla, Om Prakash	1	1	6
35	Talule, Dnyandev	1	1	6
36	Thakor, Kumudini R.	1	1	6
37	Tupe, Sanjay N.	1	1	6
38	Wakchaure, R N	1	1	6



Observation: Table 5.2 shows the data analysis of the ranking of supervisors. Jadhav Praveen K. has successfully acted as supervisor for 08 doctoral degrees for the first rank. Kulkarni B. D. and Dhage Shivaji K. got second rank with supervisor for 07 doctoral theses. Patil Jyoti is in the third rank with 04 doctoral theses. Mandle Shrirang, Sahastrabudhe Suhas, Suryawanshi Anil and Vavare Anilkumar are in the fourth rank with 03 doctoral theses. From the conclusion of the above table it is clear that the output of the research supervisors is very high.

Table 5.3 : Gender wise Distribution of Research Supervisor(s)

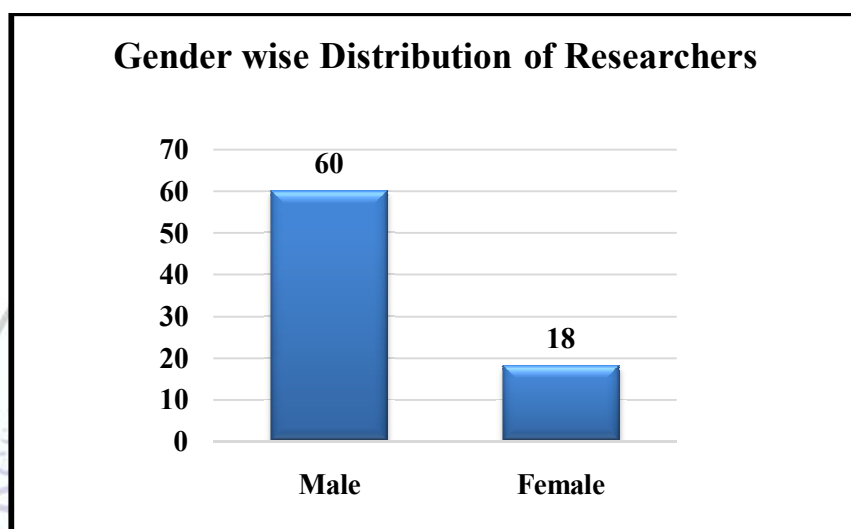
Sr.No	Gender	No of Research Supervisions	Percentage(%)
1	Male	31	81.58
2	Female	07	18.42
Total		38	100



Observation: Table 5.3 shows the gender wise distribution of research supervisor. The analysis revealed that majority of supervisors 31 (81.58%) were male while 07 (18.42%) were female. According to the conclusion, the ratio of male supervisors is higher than that of female supervisors.

Table 5.4: Gender wise Distribution of Researchers

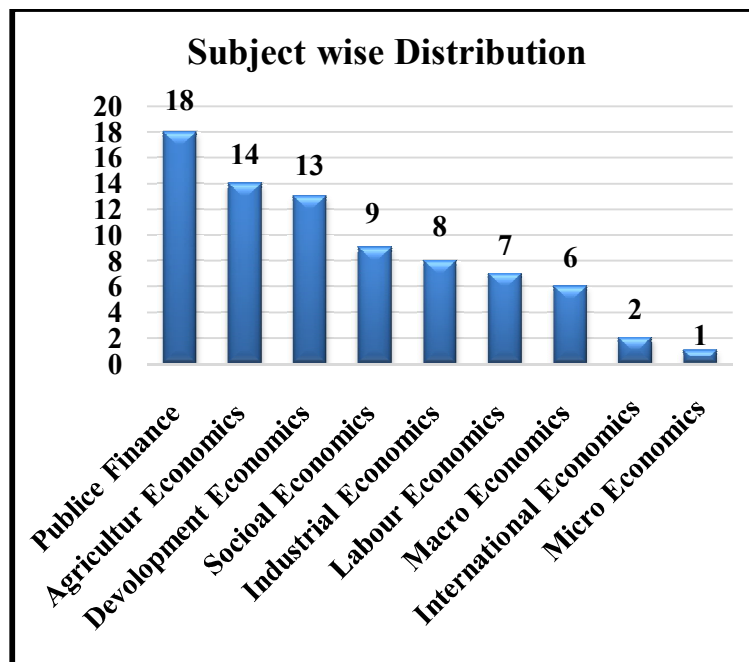
Sr.No.	Gender	No of Researchers	Percentage (%)
1	Male	60	76.92
2	Female	18	23.08
Total		78	100



Observation: Observation: Table 5.4 shows the gender wise distribution of researchers. A gender wise analysis of the researcher submitted the Ph.D. thesis revealed that majority 60 (76.92%) were male while 18 (23.08%) were female. According to the conclusion, the ratio of male researchers is higher than that of female researchers.

Table 5.5: Subject Wise Analysis of Ph. D. Theses

Sr.No	Subject	No of Theses	Percentage(%)
1	Public Finance	18	23.08
2	Agriculture Economics	14	17.95
3	Development Economics	13	16.66
4	Social Economics	9	11.54
5	Industrial Economics	8	10.26
6	Labour Economics	7	8.97
7	Macro Economics	6	7.69
8	International Economics	2	2.56
9	Micro Economics	1	1.28
Total		78	100



Observation: Table 5.5 shows that, the sub-subject wise analysis of submitted Ph.D. theses in the subject of Economics. A total of 78 Ph.D. Theses have been submitted in the subject of Economics. Accordingly, in sub-discipline wise data analysis, public finance sector research has the highest number of 18 (23.08%) doctoral degrees awarded. Below that, a total of 14 (17.95 %) doctoral degrees were awarded in Agricultural Economics and 09 (11.54 %) doctoral degrees were awarded in Social Economics. Also offered in Labor Economics, International Economics and Micro Economics are Ph.D. The number of theses is good.

Finding and Conclusion:

- Analyzed research trends in Economics at Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune.
- According to the decade-wise analysis, the second decade (2013-22) is the highest total of 41(52.56%) Ph.D. Degrees were awarded.
- Jadhav Praveen K. has been most successfully guided maximum of 08 doctoral degrees.
- The distribution of theses by gender-wise showed that the majority of the research supervisors guiding the theses was male with 31(81.58%) being the highest.
- Gender-wise distribution of Ph.D. theses, the majority of researchers presenting the theses was male with 60(76.92%) being the highest.
- Subject-wise distribution of Ph.D. theses, Public finance had the highest number of research theses with 18 (23.08%) theses.
- In order to maintain the quality of research at Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune, the university administration should seriously consider and implement some changes to increase the research output in the Ph.D. course so that the number of researchers in economics can increase.

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