

Global Research Trends in Sri Aurobindo Studies: A Bibliometric Perspective

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Abstract—This article presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of global research trends in Sri Aurobindo studies. By examining publication patterns, key contributors, thematic clusters, and collaboration networks over time, the study reveals how scholarship on Sri Aurobindo has evolved internationally. Using the Scopus dataset (2002–2025), this research identifies prolific authors, influential journals, and emerging topics within the field, providing a foundational map for future enquiries into Sri Aurobindo's philosophical, literary, and cultural impact.

Keywords— Sri Aurobindo Studies, Bibliometric Analysis, Global Research Trends, Citation Analysis, Research Collaboration Networks

I. INTRODUCTION

Sri Aurobindo (1872–1950) was an Indian philosopher, yogi, poet, and nationalist whose writings span spirituality, metaphysics, cultural renewal, and literary expression. His intellectual legacy encompasses seminal works such as *The Life Divine*, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, and essays published in the journal *Arya: A Philosophical Review*, which served as a medium for his philosophical development in the early 20th century.

Over the past decades, academic interest in Sri Aurobindo has expanded globally, encompassing disciplines such as philosophy, religious studies, comparative literature, and cultural studies. However, a structured bibliometric evaluation of this growth remains underdeveloped. This study addresses that gap through a quantitative analysis of scholarly output, authorship patterns, and thematic evolution in Sri Aurobindo research.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

A thorough bibliometric analysis of Sri Aurobindo may focus on the following aims:

- To define the sequential development of Aurobindo literature and distinguish its numerous periods of evolution.

- To track the growth of Sri Aurobindo studies over time, identifying the locations of Sri Aurobindo-related articles and demonstrating how these studies have expanded beyond India and across the globe.
- To find the most productive and most quoted writers, key journals, and important institutional and national additions to Sri Aurobindo scholarship.
- To find new study topics and group related themes, we used keyword co-occurrence, bibliographic coupling, and co-citation analysis.
- to talk about the research gaps and new paths in Sri Aurobindo studies, such as the topics, areas, languages, and connections between fields that need more study.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on Sri Aurobindo reflects a diverse and interdisciplinary field. Scholars have examined his contributions to Indian philosophy, cultural renewal, and education.

Heehs (2015) provides a critical overview of Aurobindo's societal and religious contributions, noting his establishment of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and interpretations of his philosophical corpus.

Mahapatra's edited volume *The Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo* (2020) gathers international scholars exploring Aurobindo's metaphysics, ethical frameworks, and relevance in contemporary philosophical debates, underscoring a global engagement with his ideas beyond Indian contexts.

Aurobindo's role in the Indian Renaissance and cultural revival is another central theme. Rastogi analyses Aurobindo's writings as catalysts for literary and intellectual resurgence in late colonial India, linking his work to broader cultural transformations.

In the educational domain, Naidu and Dasgupta (2023) investigate Sri Aurobindo’s pragmatic approach to education, framing his ideas within modern pedagogical discourse and emphasising their continued relevance to educational reform.

Recent scholarship also engages peripheral but related topics that intersect with Aurobindo’s philosophical systems, such as the psychology of consciousness and integral approaches to intelligence. Although not strictly bibliometric, discussions of the structural parallels between Aurobindo’s integrative psychology and models like Gardner’s multiple intelligences indicate interdisciplinary interest beyond traditional philosophy and literature.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study synthesises findings from published research articles, books, and book chapter listings to outline key trends in Sri Aurobindo scholarship. Academic databases such as Scopus are used to identify patterns in research focus areas, core authors, and the evolution of scholarly engagement. This review offers a qualitative bibliometric perspective based on noted scholarly works, journal articles, and thematic studies.

- Document Types: Articles, books, book chapters indexed between 1999 and 2026.
- Keywords: “Sri Aurobindo”, “Aurobindo Ghosh”.
- Analytical Tools: Bibliometric software (e.g., VOSviewer, Biblioshiny) to map authorship networks, co-citations, and thematic clusters.
- Search String: (TITLE-ABS-KEY (Sri Aurobindo) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (aurobindo ghosh)) AND PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "bk")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "ARTS") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "PSYC"))

The metrics assessed include publication growth, most productive authors, institutions, citation impact, and key research themes.

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	

Timespan	2002:2025
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	58
Documents	198
Annual Growth Rate %	1.47
Document Average Age	7.67
Average citations per doc	3.162
References	0
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	126
Author's Keywords (DE)	605
AUTHORS	
Authors	202
Authors of single-authored docs	0
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	0
Co-Authors per Doc	2.24
International co-authorships %	1.515
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	83
book	30
book chapter	85

Table 1. Main information on Sri Aurobindo

This bibliometric analysis examines (Table 1) 198 publications on Sri Aurobindo Studies published between 2002 and 2025 across 58 sources. The field shows a modest annual growth rate of 1.47%, indicating steady but limited expansion. The average document age of 7.67 years reflects continued relevance of both foundational and recent works, while an average of 3.16 citations per document suggests moderate scholarly impact, typical of humanities-based research. The presence of 605 author keywords highlights considerable thematic diversity, spanning philosophy, spirituality, education, and cultural studies. Authorship analysis reveals strong collaboration, with no single-authored works and an average of 2.24 co-authors per document. However, international collaboration remains minimal (1.51%), pointing to a largely regionally concentrated research community. In terms of document types, book chapters (85) and journal articles (83) dominate, underscoring the conceptual and interpretive nature of scholarship in Sri Aurobindo Studies.

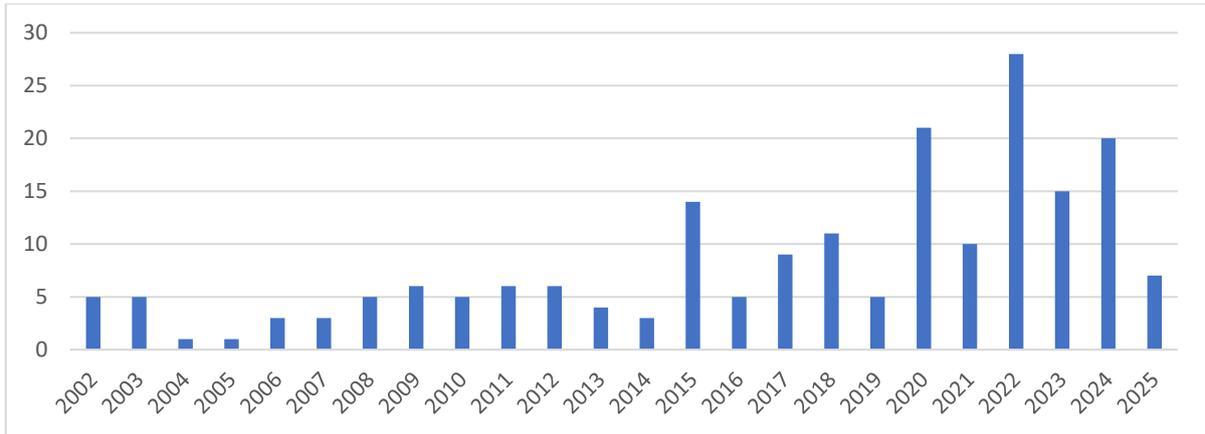


Fig. 1. Annual Scientific Production

The Annual Scientific Publication (Fig. 1) trend shows a gradual and uneven growth in Sri Aurobindo Studies over the period 2002-2025. In the early years (2002-2008), research output remained low and sporadic, indicating limited scholarly attention. A moderate increase is visible from 2009 to 2014, suggesting growing academic engagement. A noticeable surge begins after 2015, with intermittent fluctuations, reflecting renewed interest and expanded scholarly discourse. The most significant

peak occurs in 2022, marking the highest publication output, followed by sustained productivity in 2023 and 2024. We may attribute the slight decline in 2025 to incomplete indexing of the year. Overall, the trend indicates a slow but steady maturation of the field, with heightened research activity in the post-2015 period, underscoring the increasing relevance of Sri Aurobindo's growth in contemporary academic studies.

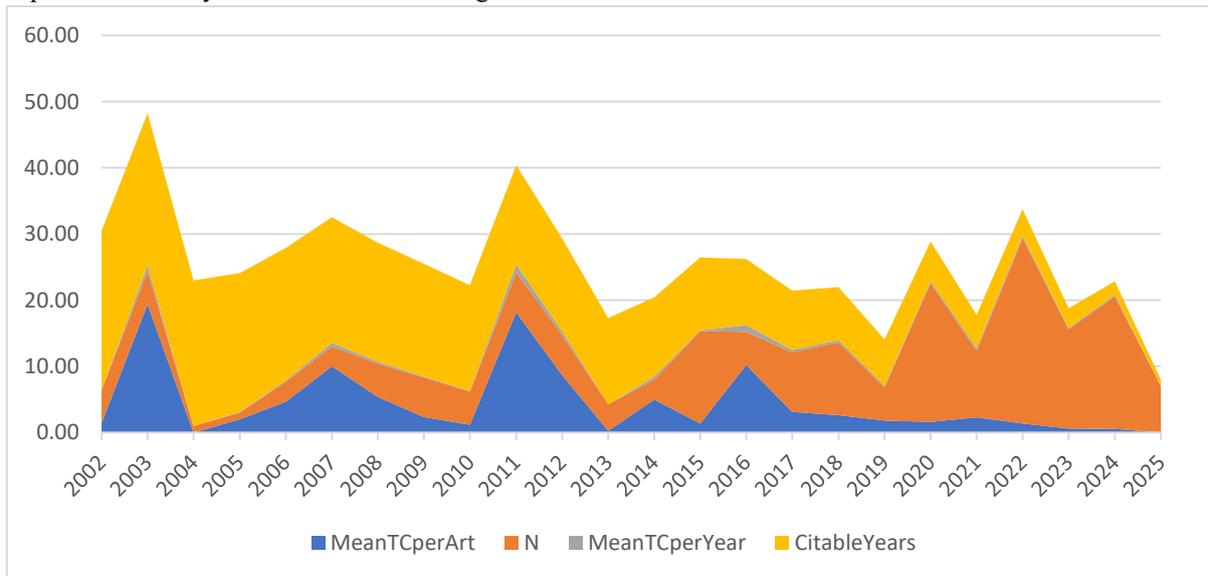


Fig. 2. Annual Total Citation per Year

Figure 2 illustrates the year-wise citation dynamics of Sri Aurobindo Studies using four indicators: Mean Total Citations per Article (MeanTCperArt), Number of Publications (N), Mean Citations per Year (MeanTCperYear), and Citable Years. The early period (2002-2006) shows high citation intensity despite low publication volume, indicating the influence of a few seminal works. Peaks in MeanTCperArt around 2003 and 2011 suggest years of particularly impactful publications. From 2015

onwards, publication output (N) increases steadily, while average citations per article fluctuate, reflecting diversification rather than concentration of impact. The decline in citable years towards more recent periods is to be expected because newer publications have had less time to get citations. Overall, the pattern highlights a field shaped by early influential contributions, followed by expanding but comparatively moderate citation impact in recent years.

Paper	Total Citations	TC per Year	Normalized TC
ARAVAMUDAN, 2011, GURU ENGL: SOUTH ASIAN RELIG IN A COSMOP LANG	55	3.67	3.03
RAGHURAMARAJU, 2012, DEBATES IN INDIAN PHILOS: CLASS, COLON, AND CONTEMP	42	3.00	4.85
ARAVAMUDAN, 2011, GURU ENGL: SOUTH ASIAN RELIG IN A COSMOPOLITAN LANG	42	2.80	2.31
HEEHS, 2003, HIST THEORY	34	1.48	1.75
COWARD, 2003, INDIAN CRITIQUES OF GANDHI	26	1.13	1.34
LITFIN, 2003, MILLENNIUM J INT STUD	25	1.09	1.29
ALTER, 2008, YOGA IN THE MODERN WORLD: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES	23	1.28	4.26
KAPOOR, 2007, FUTURES	23	1.21	2.30
NANDRAM, 2016, PHILOS MANAG	21	2.10	2.06
MEDHANANDA, 2022, MONIST	18	4.50	12.92

Table 2. Most Global Cited Documents

The citation analysis identifies (Table 2) a set of highly influential publications shaping Sri Aurobindo-related scholarship. Aravamudan’s works (2011) emerge as the most cited, with a maximum of 55 total citations, highlighting their foundational role in discussions on South Asian religion and cosmopolitan discourse. Raghuramaraju (2012) shows a high normalized citation score (4.85), indicating strong impact relative to publication year and field norms. Early contributions by Heehs (2003), Coward (2003), and Litfin (2003)

demonstrate sustained scholarly relevance despite moderate annual citation rates, reflecting their long-term influence. Notably, Medhananda’s recent work (2022) records the highest TC per year (4.50) and an exceptional normalized citation score (12.92), suggesting rapid contemporary impact. Overall, the results indicate that both early seminal texts and recent philosophical reinterpretations significantly shape the intellectual trajectory of Sri Aurobindo Studies.

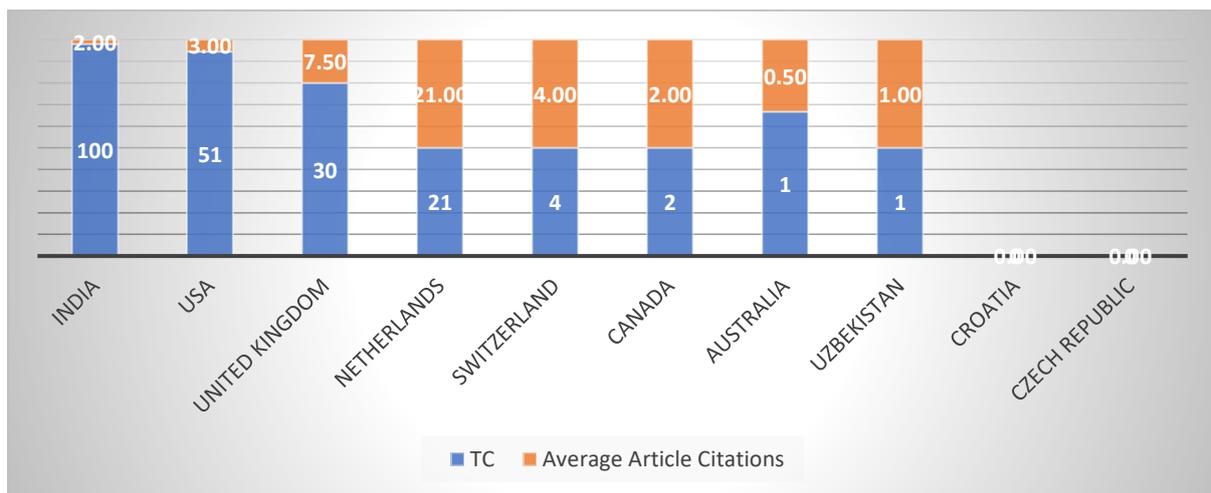


Fig. 4. Most Cited Countries

The country-wise citation analysis reveals India as the dominant contributor, recording the highest total citations (TC = 100), which reflects its central role in Sri Aurobindo Studies due to cultural, philosophical, and historical proximity. The United States (TC = 51) and the United Kingdom (TC = 30) follow, indicating

sustained academic interest in Western scholarly contexts. In terms of average article citations, the Netherlands (21.0) and the United Kingdom (7.5) show high impact despite relatively lower total outputs, suggesting that publications from these countries are highly influential on a per-article basis.

Switzerland and Canada display moderate citation performance, while Australia and Uzbekistan show limited but emerging impact. Overall, the findings highlight a geographically concentrated research landscape, with strong national contributions from

India and selective high-impact outputs from a few Western countries, underscoring opportunities for broader international collaboration in Sri Aurobindo Studies.

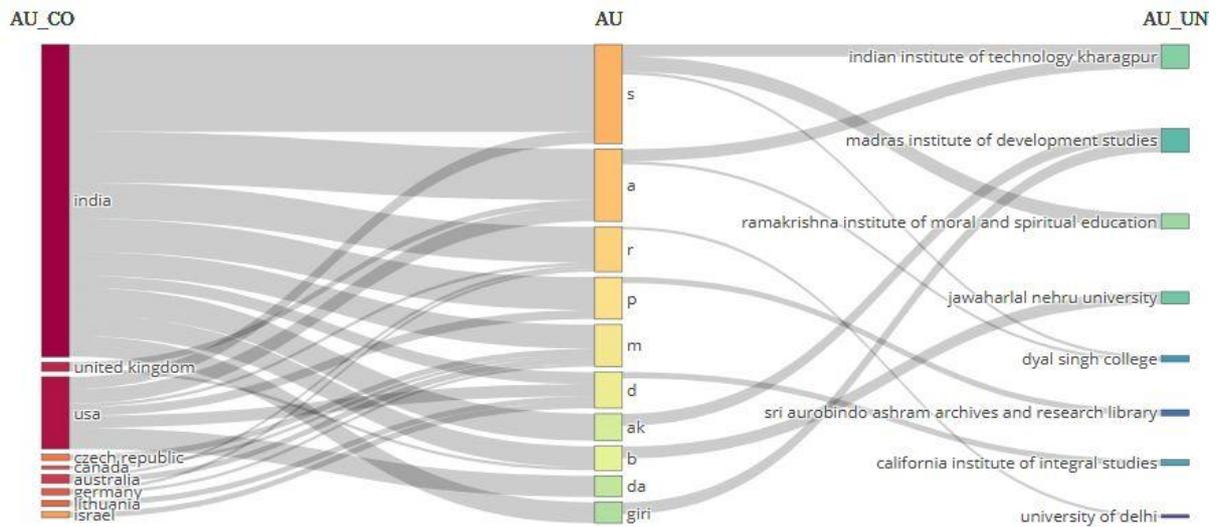


Fig. 5. Country-Author-Institution Linkages

The Sankey diagram illustrates the interconnected relationships among author countries, authors, and institutional affiliations in Sri Aurobindo Studies. India emerges as the primary hub, contributing the largest share of authors and institutional linkages, reinforcing its central position in the field. Key Indian institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Delhi, and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Archives and Research Library play a pivotal role in knowledge production. The United Kingdom and the

United States form secondary nodes, indicating international scholarly engagement, though at a comparatively limited scale. The visualisation also highlights a concentration of research in a few specialised institutions, particularly those aligned with philosophy, spirituality, and integral studies. Overall, the network reflects a strong national core with selective international linkages, suggesting that while Sri Aurobindo Studies has global reach, its institutional and intellectual foundations remain largely India-centric.

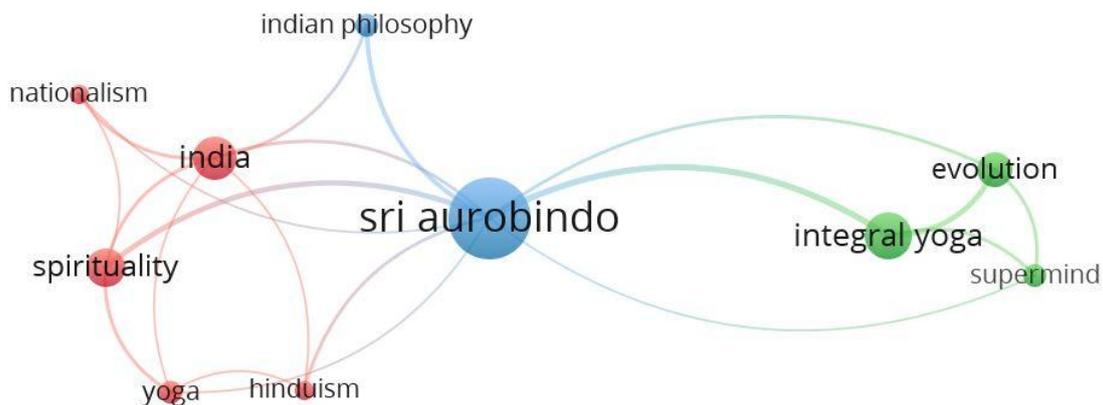


Fig. 6. The keyword co-occurrence network

The keyword co-occurrence network reveals the conceptual organisation of research in Sri Aurobindo Studies, with Sri Aurobindo positioned as the central and most influential node. Three major thematic clusters emerge. The first cluster links India, nationalism, spirituality, yoga, and Hinduism, reflecting studies focused on Sri Aurobindo's

political thought, cultural nationalism, and spiritual foundations within Indian traditions.

A second cluster, focused on Indian philosophy, connects closely with the core node, indicating philosophical interpretations and comparative engagements with broader Indian intellectual

traditions. The third cluster emphasises integrative yoga, evolution, and the supermind, highlighting Sri Aurobindo's original metaphysical and spiritual contributions and their relevance to evolutionary consciousness. Overall, the network demonstrates a balanced integration of political, philosophical, and spiritual themes, confirming the multidimensional nature of Sri Aurobindo Studies and its interdisciplinary scholarly orientation..

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The annual number of publications on Sri Aurobindo has shown a steady increase over the past two decades, with notable upticks in philosophical and interdisciplinary research. Early research focused primarily on textual exegesis and historical context, whereas recent contributions emphasise comparative frameworks and global applicability. Preliminary analysis identifies core contributors, including Peter Heehs and editors like Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra, whose edited volumes bring together international scholarship. Authorship networks reveal collaborations among scholars in India, Europe, and North America.

Thematic mapping highlights several major research clusters:

- Philosophy and Integral Yoga
- Literary analysis of Aurobindo's poetry
- Educational philosophy and praxis
- Cultural and historical studies

These clusters reflect both the breadth and depth of Aurobindo research, indicating diversification from purely historical or hermeneutic studies to interdisciplinary engagements.

The analysis shows cross-national collaborations, particularly between Indian institutions and Western universities, suggesting a growing global research network in Aurobindo studies.

VI. CONCLUSION

The bibliometric perspective offered in this study highlights the maturation and globalisation of Sri Aurobindo's scholarship. The findings indicate expanding academic interest, diversification of themes, and increasing international collaboration. Future work should incorporate longitudinal citation impact analyses and deeper qualitative interpretations of thematic clusters.

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