

## A Bibliometric Portraits of Sree Narayana Guru

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### Abstract

*The social reformer, who has been credited with transforming Kerala by rejecting casteism and adding spiritual and moral values of freedom and social equality. Sree Narayana Guru evokes respect not only in Kerala, but all across India. He emphasized the need for spiritual and social upliftment of the oppressed by establishments of educational institutions and temples. He preached the oneness of humanity, crossing the boundaries of caste and creed. He was a man well-versed in the knowledge of religion and spirituality and used that knowledge to bind society's various strata together in a cohesive whole. The works of Sree Narayana guru can be categorized as philosophical, Hymns, works of moral value, translation and prose. This is a maiden attempt of Bibliometrically analyzing an individual author in the field of literature. By gathering together all contributions, and honors this study will be an inventory to all those who are interested in knowing Sree Narayana Guru. Insights into the analysis of his literary establishments during 1881-1935 revealed 58 publications in various lingo viz, Malayalam, Sanskrit, Tamil (37, 18, 4) which include Atmopadesa Satakam, and daiva Dasakam, a universal prayer in ten verses. Some of the works have been translated to English. In accordance with the analysis, the most prolific tenure of Sree Narayana Guru's literary career was in 1892-1902 with 43 percent. Philosophical work is 2<sup>nd</sup> most preferred with 18%. The major publishing firm of Sree Narayana*

*Guru's works is Sree Narayana Gurukulam publishers. Majority of the publishers are from Trivandrum, Kottayam and Ernakulam. The core principles of his philosophy included love, compassion, empathy and universal brotherhood and propagated education as a means of achieving economic, social and cultural advancement. Hence, he could be honored as architect of Kerala renaissance. The bibliometric analysis of this study attempts to draw the outline of Sree Narayana Guru's insights of knowledge and vision in his literary works.*

**Keywords:** Sree Narayana Guru, Bibliometric Portraits.

### 1. Introduction

Religious reformers have always influenced society by their forceful advocacy of their own interpretations of sacred texts resulting in the transformation of society weeding out undesirable practices and replacing them with more appropriate ones. Such that there is harmony and peace in the society, prerequisites for progress. Social reformers too follow this same goal but not based on adherence to the religious discourses or practices, but their operational plan is more mundane. Either group makes effective use of language, the vehicle of their thoughts and missions. When these two roles combine in some rare prophetic personalities, their impact gets not limited only to the society around them; but on the whole mankind. Sreenarayana Gurudevan (1855-1928) was one such seer-saint. With his versifications,

exhortations, writings and advice assiduously reordered for posterity by his ardent disciples, it was in many languages which had the fortune to get eminently enriched in a very unique way. Sree Narayana Guru, one of the greatest philosopher, poet-saint and social reformer of Kerala. He was proficient in Grammar, Logic, Vedanta and all relevant Sanskrit texts. *Gurudevan* was convinced that all human beings belong to one single community. There are no different religions or castes or creeds.

### 1.2. Sree Narayana Guru: Unmatched poet

Sree Narayana Guru was a scholar of the highest order, well-versed in all three languages viz. Malayalam, Sanskrit, and Tamil. He was proficient in all the ancient sacred books in all these languages. No wonder therefore that his literary output reflected this aspect in abundant measure. He wrote many hymns and prayers in honour of different deities. Sometimes he composed small poems for the benefit of children in very simple language. There were smaller works which were in the nature of advice to the general public. But despite the apparent simplicity, his works invariably contained the gems of Indian philosophical thoughts. Guru exhorts people to live in peace and harmony recognizing each other's rights. There is a perfect balance between the temporal and the spiritual strands in his works. He ranks amongst the very best poets in Malayalam language.

### 1.3 Bibliometrics

Bibliometrics is relatively a subject of recent origin. It is that branch of information science which lives between the border areas of the social and physical sciences. It is a quantitative study of various aspects of

literature on a topic and is used to identify the pattern of publication, authorship, citations and secondary journal coverage with the objective of getting an insight into the dynamics of the growth of knowledge in the areas under consideration. This all consequently leads to the better organization of information resources which is essential for its most effective and efficient use. Bibliometrics today has attained sophistication and complexity having national, international, and interdisciplinary character.

Though the term "Bibliometrics" was first coined by Alan Pritchard in 1969, in his article entitled "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics". The words Bibliometrics is coined by two words. (1) biblio and (2) metrics. The word biblio is derived from the combination of a Latin and Greek word biblion, meaning book, paper. Alan Pritchard defines Bibliometrics as "the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication." Ronald Stevens has considered Bibliometrics as a quantitative science and divided its scope into two basic categories.

(1) Descriptive Bibliometrics or productivity count which includes (a) Geographic (b) Time period (c) Disciplines

(2) Evaluative Bibliometrics or literature use count which includes (a) Reference count (b) Citation count

As Lawani says, "Bibliometrics has clearly become established as a sub-discipline with application in the history and sociology of knowledge in communication and information science".

## 2. Methodology

This is a maiden attempt of Bibliometrically analyzing an individual author in the field of

literature. By gathering together all contributions, and honors this study will be an inventory to all those who are interested in knowing Sree Narayana Guru. Document survey was the main tool used for collecting data for the present study. The investigator used the Literature survey through various documentary sources and a Personal interview was undertaken with Sree. Saradananda Swamikal, Sivagiri Madam for acceptable reliability and validity for the study. The period coming under the purview of this study is 1881-1935(54 years).The analysis has been done according to the year of publication, forms of literature and publishers.

The following are the main objectives of the study: i. quantify the literary output of Sree Narayana Guru. ii. analyse the most preferred literary form written by Sree Narayana Guru., iii. find out the most productive period of his literary career, iv. publication pattern of Sree Narayana Guru's literary works.

### **Hypothesis, Scope and Limitations**

The study starts with the following hypothesis: Hymn is the most preferred literary form of Sree Narayana Guru., 1892-1902, 1881-1891, 1914-1924 was the most productive period of Sree Narayana Guru's literary career and Most of his works are written in Malayalam.

This study attempts to measure quantitatively the literary productivity of a world famous writer, philosopher, social reformer Sree Narayana Guru during the period 1881-1925. This study purely depended on primary data. Data was collected for the study by searching many recorded and oral sources. Time restriction is the major cause of limitation.

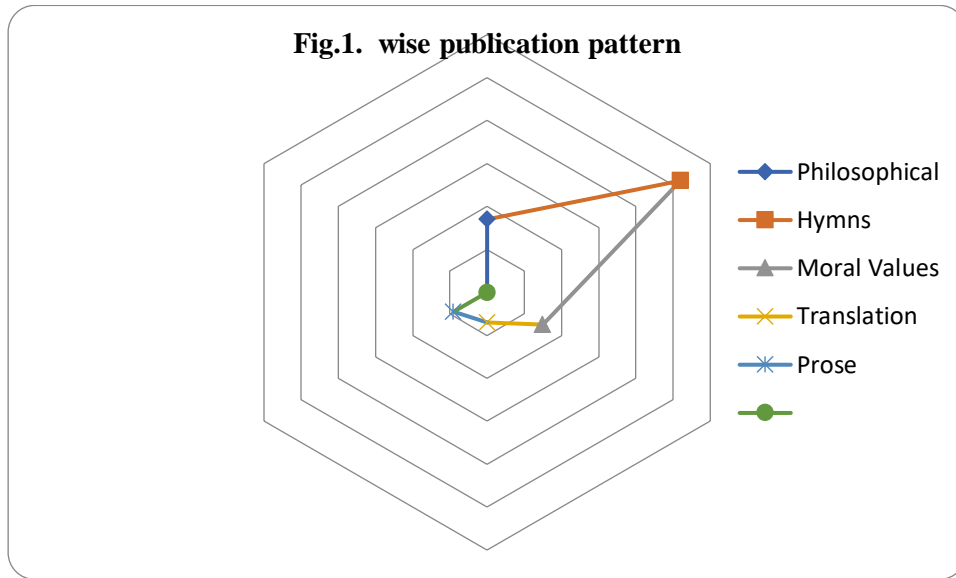
## **3. RESULTS**

### **3.1. Form-Wise Publication Pattern of Books**

It is necessary to analyze the form-wise distribution of Sree Narayana Guru's works to prove the writer's handling capacity of various forms. He is a philosopher, poet, and translator. Table 1 shows the form-wise publication pattern of Guru's work.

**Table 1 Form-wise publication pattern of books**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Literary form</b>	<b>No. of Books</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Philosophical	10	17
2	Hymns	30	52
3	Moral Values	9	15
4	Translation	4	7
5	Prose	5	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 2 Year-wise Distribution of books**

Sl. No	Year	Books Published	Percentage
1	1881-1891	10	17
2	1892-1902	25	43
3	1903-1913	5	9
4	1914-1924	10	17
5	1925-1935	8	14
Total		58	100

**Table 3 Publishers of the books**

Sl. No	Publishers	No. of Books	Percentage
1	Sree Narayana Gurukulam Publishers.	40	58
2	DC Books	3	4
3	Current Books	4	6
4	Vivekodayam	14	20
5	NBS	7	10
6	Harisree Books	1	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>

From table 1, it is clear that most of Guru's original works were published in the form of hymns. 30 books, i.e. 52% of his published works were hymns. Philosophical with 10 books, i.e. 17%. Moral values with 9 books, i.e. 15%. Translation and prose with 4 and 5 books i.e. 7 and 9 percentages. From the analysis it is clear that hymns are the preferred form of Sree Narayana Guru. Therefore Hypothesis (1) is found to be valid. And In the light of table 1, it is clear that most of his works are written in Malayalam. Therefore hypothesis (3) is found to be valid. Detailed list of form wise distribution are attached in the appendix -1

### 3.2. Year-Wise Distribution of Books

It is very important to analyze the year-wise distribution of books published to find out the author's productivity. Table 2 shows the chronological distribution of books published during 1881-1935 (54 years). It is divided into 5 divisions for a 10 year period for convenience.

Table 2 highlights the total number of books published from 1881-1935 (54 years). It is evident from the table that the most productive period was 1892-1902 with 25 books (43%). This period is considered the beginning of the guru's literary career. 1925-1935 was his least contribution period. The second most productive periods were 1881-1891 and 1914-1924 with 20 books. In the light of 3, it is clear that the most productive period of Sree Narayana Guru's literary career was 1892-1902, 1881-1891, and 1914-1924. He wrote 45 works (78%) in this period. Therefore Hypothesis (2) is found to be valid.

### 3.3. Publishers of the Books

Sree Narayana Guru's books were published by many major and minor publishers of Kerala. This analysis enables us to find out the major publishers of Guru's works and table 3 shows the publishers of Sree Narayana Guru's books and number of books published by each of them and its percentage. All the minor publishers are taken together. Table 3 shows that most of Guru's books were published from Sree Narayana Gurukulam Publishers, Trivandrum (58%). Vivekodayam published 14 books (20%), DC books published 3 books (4%), and NBS published 7 books (10%). Current books published 4 books (6%), and Harisree books published 1 book (2%) each. Figure three shows the distribution of publishers of Guru's books.

### 3.4. Geographical Location of Publishers

To analyze the geographical location of Guru's books published from table 4 it is clear that most of Guru's books were published from Trivandrum- 70 books (32%). Kottayam occupies the second place with 50 books (23%). Ernakulam occupies the third place with 20 books (10%).

### 3.5. Form Wise Distribution of Works on Sree Narayana Guru

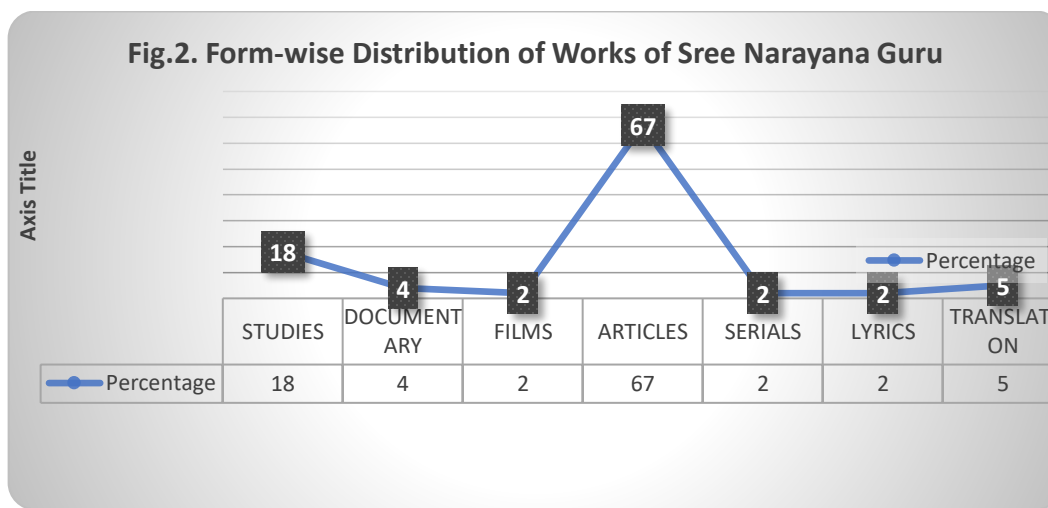
The form wise distribution of Guru's published works were analyzed, it is clear that the highest number of works written about Sree Narayana Guru appeared as articles 130 (67%) is followed by studies 35 (18%) and third place goes to documentary 7 (4%).

**Table 4 Geographical location of publishers**

Sl. No	Geographical location	No. of Books	Percentage
1	TRIVANDRUM	70	32
2	KOTTAYAM	50	23
3	TRICHURE	15	6
4	ERNAKULAM	20	10
5	ALAPPUZHA	15	6
6	KOLLAM	16	7
7	PATHANAM THITTA	10	5
8	CALICUT	13	6
9	KANNUR	9	4
10	PALAKKAD	2	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>220</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 5 Form wise distribution of works on Sree Narayana Guru**

Sl. No	Literary form	No. of Forms	Percentage
1	STUDIES	35	18
2	DOCUMENTARY	7	4
3	FILMS	4	2
4	ARTICLES	130	67
5	SERIALS	3	2
6	LYRICS	4	2
7	WORKS TRANSLATION BY OTHERS	10	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>193</b>	<b>100</b>

**Fig.2. Form-wise Distribution of Works of Sree Narayana Guru**



### 3.6. Major Findings

Sree Narayana Guru contributed to the literary world during the period 1881-1935 with 58 books in various literary forms. He wrote 37 works in Malayalam, 18 works in Sanskrit and 4 works in Tamil and 14 works translated in English languages by others and who has handled five forms of literature with the same expertise. Hymns have been ranked first among the forms of books published with 54 percent. Philosophical is ranked as the second favorite form of Sree Narayana Guru with 18 percent. The most productive periods of Sree Narayana Guru's literary career was 1892-1902 with 43 %. The major publisher of Sree Narayana Guru's works is Sree Narayana Gurukulam publishers with 58%. Trivandrum is ranked first with 32% (70 books), Kottayam is ranked second with 23% (50 books) Ernakulam is ranked third with 10% (20 books) as the geographical location of publication of Sree Narayana Guru's books.

### 4. Conclusion

Sree Narayana Guru, one of the greatest philosopher, poet-saint and social reformer of Kerala. He was proficient in Grammar, Logic, Vedanta and all relevant Sanskrit texts. The emergence of Narayana Guru on spiritual and social front in the erstwhile Travancore State electrified the entire society and the down-trodden sections of the people who never enjoyed civilized life in any form till then started to fight for their rightful existence in the society through non violence movement. In fact, within a span of 40 years, the societal setup has undergone a sea change and the Keralites now stood first in all walks of human life, in particular in the field of education. Gurudevan was convinced that all human beings belong to one single community. There are no different religions or castes or creeds. We have to

conclude that Sree Narayana Guru is the most popular writer in Malayalam literature. He is well-versed in all three languages viz. Malayalam, Tamil, and Sanskrit. He wrote many hymns and prayers in honour of different deities.

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