

INDIA RANKINGS 2025



TEACHING, LEARNING
&
RESOURCES

RESEARCH AND
PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE

GRADUATION
OUTCOME

OUTREACH AND
INCLUSIVITY

PERCEPTION

RANKING
PARAMETERS



Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Government of India



National Institutional Ranking Framework

India Rankings 2025



Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Government of India

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Preamble, Acknowledgements and Credits

The Ministry of Education is privileged to present the tenth edition of the India Rankings for the year 2025, meticulously compiled using the parameters established by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This iteration significantly expands upon the foundational work of the preceding nine annual exercises, conducted from 2016 to 2024, through the integration of substantial enhancements, expansions, and refinements. The scope of the India Rankings 2025 has been broadened to include additional categories and subject domains, underscoring a consistent increase in both the number of participating institutions and those successfully ranked across diverse categories and disciplines. The engagement of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in these rankings has witnessed remarkable growth, escalating from 3,565 in 2016 to an impressive 14,163 in 2025. Concurrently, the number of categories and subject domains has expanded from four in 2016 to seventeen in 2025, reflecting the evolving landscape of Indian higher education.

The established practice of providing a comprehensive "Overall" rank is maintained for the 2025 India Rankings cycle. This is complemented by distinct rankings within key categories and subject domains, including:

	Categories		Subject domains
1	Overall	1	Engineering
2	Universities	2	Management
3	Colleges	3	Pharmacy
4	Research Institutions	4	Architecture & Planning
5	Innovation	5	Law
6	State Public Universities	6	Medical
7	Open Universities	7	Dental
8	Skill Universities	8	Agriculture & Allied Sectors
9	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)		

Notably, the 2025 India Rankings introduce a significant new vertical to rank HEIs based on their contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This addition highlights a growing commitment to evaluating institutions not only on traditional academic metrics but also on their broader societal impact. The India Rankings endeavour remains a monumental and a rigorous undertaking, involving experts with profound knowledge of higher education system of India, the intricacies of bibliometric and citation analysis, and emerging trends in data science and analytics. The Ministry acknowledges with gratitude the contributions made by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and for its unwavering commitment and dedication to executing this formidable task annually. The NIRF Team at NBA, in collaboration with the INFLIBNET Centre in Gandhinagar, has been instrumental in the successful execution of this scheme.

Preface

Towards Consolidation, Improvement, and Expansion

The Ministry of Education is delighted to announce the release of India Rankings 2025 signifying a decade of dedicated effort in evaluating and ranking higher education institutions nationwide, a truly significant milestone for our educational landscape. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, for sparing his precious time and graciously releasing the India Rankings 2025 on 4th September, 2025.

Building upon the initial ranking framework, released under the banner “National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)”, on September 29, 2015, the India Rankings have matured into a comprehensive and data-driven evaluation and ranking system. The tenth edition of India Rankings, ranks institutions of higher education in nine categories, namely, Overall, Universities, Colleges, Research Institutions, Innovation, Open Universities, State Public Universities, Skill Universities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Concurrently, institutions of higher education are also ranked in eight subject domains, namely Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Law, Medical, Architecture & Planning, Dental, and Agriculture & Allied Sectors. Notably, the introduction of a new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) category this year underscores global priorities and broadens the thematic reach of the ranking framework.

Unlike media-based rankings that often rely on perception or reputation, the India Rankings are grounded in objective, verifiable metrics, utilizing data submitted by institutions and third-party sources such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Derwent Innovation to source data on publications, citations, highly-cited publications, and patents. Over the past decade, the ranking framework has undergone iterative refinements, drawing on stakeholder feedback, benchmarking practices from global ranking systems, and advancements in data analytics. However, fidelity of five generic group of parameters proposed in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is maintained. These broad categories of parameters are: i) Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR); ii) Research and Professional Practice (RP); iii) Graduation Outcome (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); and v) Perception (PR)

Despite periodic adjustments to indicators, metrics, and normalization methods, the fundamental structure of the framework has remained unchanged. As a result, rankings have remained relatively consistent among top-ranked institutions over the years, underscoring consistency of ranking methodology, coherence and interdependency of parameters deployed to measure of performance of institutions of higher education.

The India Rankings 2025 builds on the strong foundation of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), unveiled in 2015. This year's rankings continue to consolidate, improve, and expand with integration of valuable insights from years of experience, stakeholder's feedback, and global best practices in the ranking system. This rigorous process has successfully identified and implemented effective benchmarks to assess the performance of Indian academic institutions.

The practice of pre-registration of institutions that participated in the previous year was complemented with an open call for new applicants through advertisement in newspapers and through the NIRF website. A record number of 7,692 unique institutions responded and submitted 14,163 applications across various categories and subject domains, offering themselves for ranking in "Overall," category-specific, or domain-specific rankings.

A cornerstone of the India Rankings has been its success in cultivating a culture of data governance within higher education institutions. Institutions now maintain comprehensive datasets on faculty strength, student enrolment, placement outcomes, infrastructure, research productivity, library and lab resources, and operational spending enabling internal bench marking and long-term strategic planning. At a macro level, this data serves as a valuable resource for national policy formulation and sectoral analysis.

A multi-layered data validation is undertaken to ensure integrity of the rankings. Data submitted by the HEIs are scrutinized for inconsistencies, anomalies, and potential inflation. Outliers are reviewed in consultation with institutions, often requiring a combination of tact, technical guidance, and iterative communication. Triangulation methods are used to cross-check internal data with external sources, leading to measurable improvements in data quality and institutional accountability over the time.

In line with past practices, 100 institutions each are ranked in the Overall, Universities, Colleges, Engineering, Pharmacy and Management categories. Additional rankings are published in structured rank bands as mentioned below:

- ▶▶ Overall and Universities: Two rank bands (101 – 150 and 151 - 200)
- ▶▶ Engineering and College: Three rank bands (101–150, 151–200, 201–300)
- ▶▶ Management and Pharmacy: One rank band (101–125)
- ▶▶ State Public Universities: Top 50 institutions ranked + one rank band (51–100)
- ▶▶ Innovation and SDGs: Top 10 institutions ranked + one rank band (11–50)

In subject domains such as Architecture & Planning, Law, Medical, Dental, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, and Research Institutions, between 40 to 50 institutions are ranked. For emerging and specialized categories namely, Open Universities and Skill Universities, three institutions each are ranked due to the relatively smaller pool of eligible participants.

Besides data from applicant institutions, third-party sources are also used, wherever possible. Scopus (Elsevier Science) and Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) provide data on publications, citations, and highly cited publications, whereas Derwent Innovation provides data on patents. This data is shared with institutions for transparency, allowing them to provide input if they disagree with the third-party data.

The ranking framework evaluates institutions based on five broad groups of parameters, namely, Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcome (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), and Perception (PR). Ranks are assigned based on the total scores across these parameters. A five-dimensional view of institutions across these parameters reveals their relative strengths. Among the five NIRF parameters, Research and Professional Practice (RP) demonstrates the strongest correlation with overall rankings, highlighting the centrality of research output and innovation in institutional excellence.

Publicly funded institutions, including CFTIs and centrally funded universities, dominate the top ranks across most categories. However, a significant number of state and privately funded universities and institutions also appear in the top 100 ranks in various categories and subject domains.

Over ten years, India Rankings have significantly influenced institutional practices in India by fostering competitive benchmarking, promoting transparency, and catalysing data-driven decision-making. The rankings have empowered institutions—particularly public universities and centrally funded technical institutions—to engage in systematic self-assessment, while also recognizing the growing prominence of state and private institutions in national performance metrics. In addition, it is observed that the number of Indian HEIs ranked in various global ranking systems have also increased incrementally. Number of Indian HEIs ranked in ARWU, QS and THE ranking systems have increased from 1 in ARWU, 14 in QS and 17 in THE to 15, 46 and 107 institutions in 2025 respectively. Moreover, number of Indian institutions ranked in QS have increased from 46 in 2025 to 54 in 2026.

As the rankings continue to expand in scope and sophistication, they remain an important instrument in India's pursuit of academic excellence, institutional accountability, and global recognition, and thus leading to fulfil the Viksit Bharat Sankalp.

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Terminology, Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation Used	Full Form
A&HCI	Arts & Humanities Citation Index
AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
AISHE	All India Survey of Higher Education
BKCI-S	Book Citation Index– Science
BKCI-SSH	Book Citation Index– Social Sciences & Humanities
CCR-Expanded	Current Chemical Reactions- Expanded
CFTIs	Centrally Funded Technical Institutes
CPCI-S	Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Science
CPCI-SSH	Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Sciences & Humanities
CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
DAE	Department of Atomic Energy
DCS	Data Capturing System
ESCI	Emerging Resources Citation Index
FRU	Financial Resources and their Utilisation

Abbreviation Used	Full Form
FSR	Faculty-Student Ratio
GO	Graduation Outcome
HCP	Highly Cited Publications
HE	Higher Education
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
INFLIBNET	Information and Library Network
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation
NBA	National Board of Accreditation
NIRF	National Institutional Ranking Framework
OI	Outreach and Inclusivity
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
PR	Perception
RPP	Research and Professional Practice
SCI-Expanded	Science Citation Index Expanded
SSCI	Social Sciences Citation Index
TLR	Teaching, Learning & Resources
UGC	University Grants Commission

1. Background

The Ministry of Education organized a one-day workshop on August 21, 2014 to develop methodologies for ranking higher education institutions in India. Subsequently, a 16-member Core Committee was appointed on October 29, 2014, under the chairmanship of the Secretary (HE) to create and refine the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This involved extensive discussions among committee members and consultations with peers and stakeholders through several online meetings. The Committee proposed a robust framework for assessing and ranking higher education institutions and recommended processes and timelines for its implementation. Given the diverse landscape of higher education in India, NIRF envisioned separate rankings for different categories of institutions within their respective peer groups. Domain and category-specific frameworks were introduced in the years corresponding to their inclusion in the ranking exercise in India Rankings. India Rankings was released in eight categories and eight subject domains in the year 2024. In 2025, a new category, namely Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being introduced, thereby expanding the portfolio of Indian Rankings from 16 in 2024 to 17 in 2025. It may be noted that SDGs are a set of 17 global objectives adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to address pressing challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental sustainability by 2030. The SDGs aim to promote peace, prosperity, and well-being for all while protecting the planet.

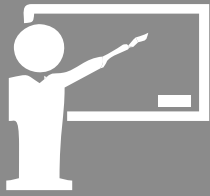
A common Overall ranking was introduced in 2017 for institutions with at least 1,000 students, supplementing the category-specific and domain-specific rankings to provide a unified comparison across institutions. This practice has continued for the past nine years and is included in the current year as well. In 2016, rankings were released for Universities and three subject domains, namely Engineering, Management, and Pharmacy. In 2017, the Overall ranking and the ranking of General Degree Colleges were introduced. In 2018, domain-specific rankings for Law, Medicine, and Architecture were added. By 2019, rankings included three category-specific and six domain-specific rankings. Ranking for Dental and Research Institutions were added in 2020 and 2021 respectively. In 2022, the India Rankings continued rankings of HEIs in four categories and seven subject domains. In 2023, ranking in the Agriculture & Allied Sectors and Innovation were introduced, and the Architecture was expanded to include Planning. In 2024, ranking of Open Universities, Skill Universities and State Public Universities were added. With inclusion of ranking of HEIs on Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), the portfolio of India Rankings has been expanded from 16 to 17 comprising 9 categories and 8 subject domains.

The final ranking framework comprises of 19 parameters organized into five broad generic group of parameters. Many of these parameters align with global standards, focusing on teaching, learning, and research environments, while some are specific to India, reflecting the aspirations of its growing higher education population. India-specific parameters include regional diversity, outreach, gender equity, and inclusion of disadvantaged groups of society.

The core spirit and parameters of the Ranking Framework, as initially identified by the Core Committee and used in the past nine years, are retained for 2025.

2. NIRF Parameters for Ranking of Institutions of Higher Education

The NIRF provides for ranking of institutions in five broad generic groups of parameters, namely: i) Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR); ii) Research and Professional Practice (RP); iii) Graduation Outcome (GO); iv) Outreach and Inclusivity (O&I); and v) Perception (PR). Fig. 1 provides an outline of the various sub-parameters for each of the five generic groups.



Teaching, Learning & Resources (0.30)

- Student Strength (20)
- Faculty Student Ratio (25)
- Faculty with Ph.D (20)
- Financial Resources & Utilisation (20)
- Online Education (10)
- Multiple Entry/Exit, Indian Knowledge System and Regional languages (5)

- Publications (35) •
 - Citations (35) •
 - Patents (15) •
 - Research Projects (15) •
- Research and Professional Practice (0.30)



Graduation Outcome (0.20)

- Placement & Higher Studies (40)
- University Examinations (15)
- Median Salary (25)
- Ph.D Students (20)

- Region Diversity (30) •
 - Women Diversity (30) •
 - Economically and Socially Challenged Students (20) •
 - Physically Challenged Students (20) •
- Outreach and Inclusivity (0.10)



Perception (0.10)

- Peer Perception: Academic Peers and Employers (100)

Fig. 1: NIRF Parameters for Ranking of Institutions

India Rankings continues to emphasize on the collection, verification, and use of reliable data, in contrast to global rankings that often give disproportionate weightage to perception and internationalization (measured by international students and faculty). The NIRF framework bases its rankings on objective data, which is crucial in a large and diverse higher education system like India, where reliance solely on perception data can be misleading and subject to manipulation. Despite the challenges involved in gathering, verifying, and authenticating data from numerous institutions, this approach ensures a more accurate and trustworthy assessment.

3. Metrics to Compute Ranking Scores

The framework for ranking of institutions is available on the NIRF Web site (<https://www.nirfindia.org/>) in the Ranking Documents for various categories and subject domains. These documents identify the relevant data required to suitably measure the performance score under each sub-parameter mentioned above and enunciate a suitable metric that is used to compute a score for the sub-parameter. The sub-parameter scores are then added to obtain scores for each individual parameter. The overall score is computed based on the weights allotted to each of the five-broad group of parameters.

4. Major Changes Introduced in India Rankings 2025

New sets of parameters and methodologies for ranking institutions on “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” introduced from this year onwards have been developed under the NIRF and are available on the NIRF website. A negative marking system based on number of retracted publications was developed and introduced for ranking in Overall, Engineering, Universities, and Research Institutions categories. Elimination of self-citations at institution level introduced in 2024 for all categories and subject domains was continued for India Rankings 2025.

5. Participation: Pre-registration and New Registration

All institutions that applied in previous year of India Rankings were pre-registered for this year’s India Rankings and were invited to participate again. Additionally, other institutions interested in participating were invited to register on the NIRF web portal through a public advertisement. All institutions were requested to submit their applications online for ranking under the Overall category as well as in one or more disciplines or categories along with the relevant data in a prescribed format by January 31, 2025. Table 1 shows the number of pre-registered institutions and those that voluntarily registered. Tables 2 and 3 provide the number of participating institutions in different categories and subject domains and their geographical distribution respectively.

Description	Registered	Submitted
Pre-registration	6927	6398
New Registration	1936	1294
Total	8863	7692

Table 1: Participation Numbers for Pre-registration and New Registration

Category / Discipline	Total Number of Institutions
Overall	4045
Engineering	1584
Management	1026
Pharmacy	594
Architecture & Planning	131
Colleges	4030
Medical	223
Law	267
Research Institutions	273
Dental	223
Agriculture & Allied Sectors	173
Innovation	777
Open Universities	15
Skill Universities	11
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	791
Total	14,163

Table 2: Participation Numbers for Different Categories and Domain-specific Ranking

Category / Discipline	North	South	East	West	Total
Overall	602	1452	574	1417	4045
Engineering	219	769	152	444	1584
Management	209	367	95	355	1026
Pharmacy	118	184	44	248	594
Architecture & Planning	26	47	9	49	131
Colleges	554	1230	759	1487	4030
Medical	51	93	16	63	223
Law	85	37	38	107	267
Research Institutions	71	119	28	55	273
Dental	47	102	14	60	223
Agriculture & Allied Sectors	48	47	23	55	173
Innovation	125	416	58	178	777
Open Universities	4	3	3	5	15
Skill Universities	1	3	2	5	11
SDGs Institutions	144	399	74	174	791
Total	2304	5268	1889	4702	14163

Table 3: Region-wise Participation of Institutions in India Rankings 2025

6. Methodology

6.1 India Rankings 2025: Activity Calendar

Activity Calendar for India Rankings 2025 is given in Fig. 2.

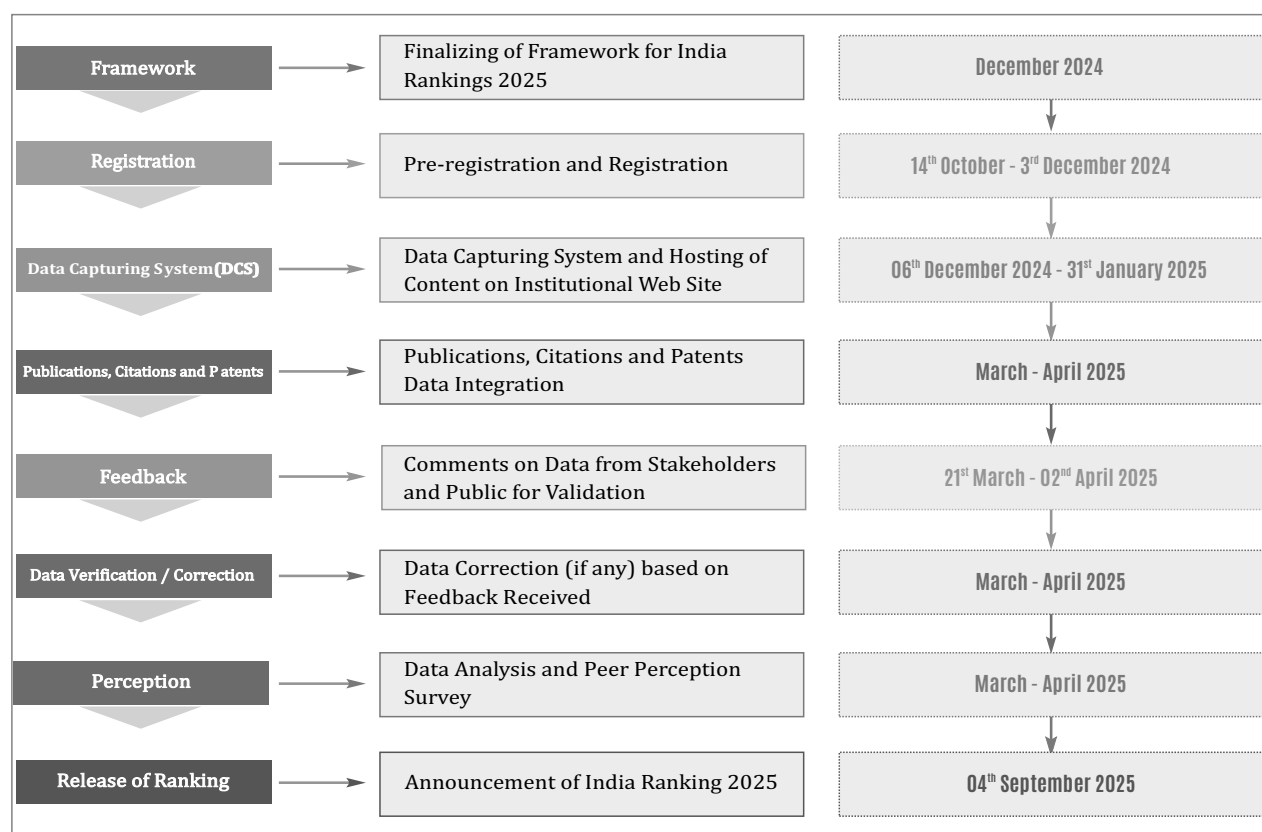


Fig. 2. India Rankings 2025: Activity Calendar

6.2. Source of Data: Institutions and Third-Party Sources

In the absence of a reliable and comprehensive database that could supply all relevant data required for computing the scores for ranking of HEIs, registered institutions were invited to submit the required data through an Online Data Capturing System (DCS). Publications, citations and HCP pertaining to research output of applicant institutions were retrieved from Scopus (Elsevier Science) and Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics). Data on patents published and granted was taken from Derwent Innovation.

For ranking of Research Institutions, Data on 1st quartile is taken from the Journal Citation Report (JCR) and data on publications from Top 25 highly cited publications is taken from Web of Science (Science Citation Index) published by the Clarivate Analytics.

6.3. Data Collection and Data Capturing

Data Capturing System (DCS), Feedback System and the Perception Capturing System were developed for online capturing of data from applicant institutions, feedback from public and institutional perception (from Peers and Employers respectively). As mentioned earlier, the data on publications, citations and highly cited publications were retrieved directly from third-party sources. A brief description on data collection and data capturing is given below.

6.3.1. Online Data Capturing System (DCS)

Data capturing system sought the detailed data in a format that facilitated computing the ranking metrics for each parameter as well as for checking consistency of data. Detailed notes were provided to explain every data element to help institutions to comprehend each data element and provide correct data. Attempts were made to keep the data entry to a minimum. Data of the previous year in respect of the faculty, was pre-populated in the DCS, with provision for changes with suitable remarks/reasons for the changes.

Help desks were deployed to resolve general and technical issues faced by the applicant institutions during the entire execution process of India Rankings 2025.

6.3.2. Publications, Citations and Highly Cited Publications (HCP): Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus

Two sets of citation databases were used as sources for retrieving data on the number of publications, citations, and highly cited publications for the applicant institutions. These citation databases comprise of: i) Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI), Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Science (CPCI-S), Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Sciences & Humanities (CPCI-SSH), Book Citation Index- Science (BKCI-S), Book Citation Index- Social Sciences & Humanities (BKCI-SSH), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Current Chemical Reactions (CCR-Expanded) hosted on the Web of Science platform; and ii) Scopus. These sources of publications and citations cover all disciplines comprehensively.

These databases were searched to determine the quantitative productivity of all eligible applicant institutions that registered themselves for ranking. The search included number of research articles published and citations received by them in a span of three calendar years, i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023. A common time window was used to obtain this data covering a short span of two weeks for all institutions to ensure fairness, i.e. between February 21, 2025 to March 10, 2025 from Web of Science and Scopus. The data on highly cited publications (HCP) was retrieved between 15th to 31st March 2025 from Web of Science and Scopus.

6.3.2.1 Search Strategy for Retrieving Research Publications, Citations and Highly Cited Publications from Web of Science and Scopus

All permutations, combinations, and changes in the names of institutions were used while searching for articles published by faculty and researchers in the databases mentioned above. Since searches were conducted using names of institutions, articles that did not have institutional affiliations of their faculty and researchers were not retrieved.

Several universities host other research institutions within their physical premises. Care was taken to ensure that credit for publications and citations are given to the concerned institutions. Manual checking of retrieved data was done in cases i) where two institutions with same (or similar) names, ii) institutes that share the same physical premises; and iii) multiple institutes having the same name in the same city, for example Government Colleges, DAV Colleges, etc.

Some private universities have several constituent colleges and institutions (either in the same city or in different cities) that are their integral part. Information was sought from the applicant institutes and universities about such constituent entities. Publications and citations received by such constituent entities were credited to the applicant institution after due verification.

A number of variations in the names of universities and institutions, their physical locations and their spellings were discovered during the searches in the databases. Every care was taken to be accurate on this count. Moreover, the data on highly cited publications was retrieved from Web of Science and data on Field-weighted Citations was obtained from Scopus (Elsevier Science). Data on patents granted and published for each institutions for last three years, i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023, was retrieved from Derwent Innovation.

6.3.2.2 Restricting Retrieval of Publications to a Given Discipline

Searches for publications and citations were done in the two databases, namely Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) and Scopus (Elsevier), for applicant institutions without any subject-wise and discipline-wise restrictions for the Overall ranking of institutions. However, subject/discipline-specific searches were made for all other discipline-wise rankings in the interest of uniformity and fairness. Care was taken to design the restriction to get the widest possible coverage of sub-disciplines within each broad discipline.

6.3.2.3 Online Perception Capturing System

An online platform was developed to capture the perception inputs from peers and employers. A large number of peers (subject experts) and Employers were invited to submit their perception feedback on applicant institutions in a prescribed format.

6.4 Online Feedback System

Stakeholders (that included public or other individuals or entities having an interest in one or more institutions) were invited to give their feedback through “Online Feedback System” from 21st March to 2nd April, 2025 on the data submitted by the institutions, through a public advertisement in the newspapers and other media. The comments / feedback so received were auto-transmitted through an email without disclosing the identity of the stakeholder to the concerned institution(s) for taking necessary action at their end.

6.5 Data Verification

6.5.1. Scouting for Outliers: Committees of Domain Experts

Committees consisting of academic experts examined the data submitted by institutions under each of the five broad generic groups of parameters, for every category / subject domain. These Committees examined the data on various parameters minutely and identified outliers, aberrations, and anomalies for further scrutiny. Institutions whose data seemed exaggerated or had anomalies were contacted telephonically and via e-mail to confirm or correct the data. Where it was felt necessary, institutions were asked to support their data with documentary evidence. Verification of data on different parameters and sub-parameters were also carried out through e-mails and telephonic calls to the nodal officers of respective institutions.

6.5.2. Communication with Nodal Officers

Each institution was asked to nominate one of their senior functionaries as a nodal officer for dealing with NIRF matters. These nodal officers were contacted to clear doubts or to attend to the feedback and anomalies pointed out by the expert committees. For increased transparency, an advisory was sent to each institution to upload this data on their own website for dissemination to the public. For all the top-ranked institutions, the latest version of the corrected data based on further inputs from the institutions was made visible on the NIRF portal.

While significant efforts were made to authenticate the data, the final responsibility for the accuracy of the submitted data lies with the concerned institutions.

6.5.3. Verification of Data on Publications, Citations and Highly Cited Publications

The data on publications, citations and highly cited publications was shared with each applicant institution between 22nd May and 31st May 2025. Institutions were informed that the data was captured between 21st February 2025 and 10th March 2025 from Web of Science and Scopus. The data on highly cited publications (HCP) was retrieved between 15th and 31st March 2025 from Web of Science and Scopus.

6.6 Inclusions and Exclusions

The NIRF website and NIRF guidelines provides basic qualifiers for an institution to participate in India Rankings 2025 for Overall ranking as well as for domain-specific and category-specific ranking. For example, an institution should have at least 1,000 students enrolled for various courses at undergraduate and post graduate level to participate in Overall ranking. Institutions are also required to have graduated a minimum of three batches and qualify for minimum Faculty Student Ratio (FSR) as mentioned in the NIRF Methodology document for respective category and discipline.

All applicant HEIs who have published more than 500 research papers in peer reviews journals or have at least 1,000 students pursuing Ph.D., were considered for ranking in Research Institutions category.

7. Visualizing Data Beyond Rankings: Additional Insights

Data for India Rankings 2025 under category-specific and domain-specific ranking was taken from applicant institutions under five broad generic parameters and around 19 sub-parameters, depending upon a given category or a subject domain. Moreover, data on publications and citations was taken from Scopus (Elsevier Science) and Web of Science and data on patents granted and published was sourced from Derwent Innovation (Clarivate Analytics). Besides using this data for ranking of institutions, the combined collection of data for all eligible institutions offers a unique opportunity for analysis and to get interesting and useful insights. Some of the important observations based on a simple data analysis are given below. India Rankings considers data for three-year period, i.e. from 2021 to 2023.

7.1 Teaching, Learning and Resources

Education in India has experienced phenomenal growth over the past two decades, with thousands of new institutions emerging in both the private and government sectors across the country. Introduced in 2017, the Overall category is one of the core categories of the India Rankings and is being selected this year for an in-depth analysis of faculty data to provide a comprehensive overview of higher education institutions in India. However, the higher education sector in India is currently facing significant challenges related to the quality of education and the employability of its graduates.

Table 4 and Fig. 3 depict the number and percentage of faculty holding a Ph.D. or a Master's degree. 2.03 lakhs faculty with a Ph.D., representing 58.56%, whereas 1.44 lakhs faculty with Master's degree representing 41.44% of the total 3.47 lakhs faculty. This distribution indicates that nearly 60% of the faculty members have achieved the highest level of academic qualification which is a positive indicator of the academic strength and research capability within the institution.

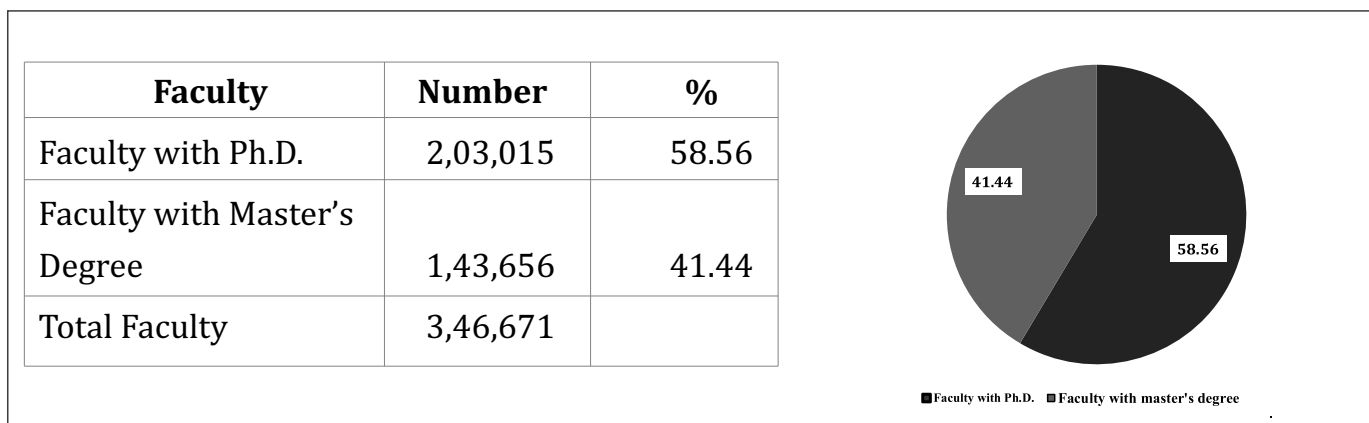


Table 4 and Fig. 3: Faculty with Ph.D vs Faculty with Master's Degree in Overall Category

It was observed that faculty with doctoral qualification is concentrated in top 100 institutions, remaining institutions have fewer faculty with doctoral degree. This is a serious handicap since mentorship received during the doctoral training as Teaching Assistant can play a vital role in preparing the faculty for a teaching career in higher education. Table 5 and Fig. 4 depict distribution of faculty with Ph.D. in the 100 top-ranked institutions in various categories and subject domains as compared to faculty with Ph.D. in remaining eligible institutions. It can be observed that faculty with Ph.D. in 100 top-ranked institutions vary from minimum of 64.24% in case of Colleges to the maximum of 94.37% in case of Management institutions. Whereas faculty with Ph.D. in remaining institutions vary from minimum of 30.74% in case of Pharmacy Institutions to the maximum of 69.31% in case of Universities. Moreover, average number of faculty in the 100 top-ranked institutions vary from minimum of 37 and 53 in case of Pharmacy and Management to the maximum of 718 and 496 in case of Institutions participated in Overall Category and Universities respectively as opposed to the minimum of 16 and 28 in case of Management and Pharmacy to the maximum of 557 and 329 in case of Research Institutions and Universities respectively in case of remaining institutions. .

Category	Top 100 Institutions				Remaining Institutes				
	No. of Institutes	Total Faculty	Faculty with Ph.D.	%	Average No. of Faculty	Total Faculty	Faculty with Ph.D.	%	Average No. of Faculty
Overall (100)	1757	71755	59022	82.25	718	274916	143993	52.38	166
Universities (100)	506	49572	39385	79.45	496	133542	92553	69.31	329
Research (50)	229	46528	33805	72.66	465	71876	42620	59.30	557
Engineering (100)	1489	38436	33014	85.89	384	156046	60035	38.47	112
Management (100)	909	5276	4979	94.37	53	13147	7411	56.37	16
Pharmacy (101)*	538	3781	2769	73.23	37	12254	3767	30.74	28
Colleges (100)	1821	19911	12790	64.24	199	114044	49830	43.69	66

Table 5: Distribution of Faculty with Ph.D. in the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to Faculty with Ph.D. in Remaining Eligible institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains

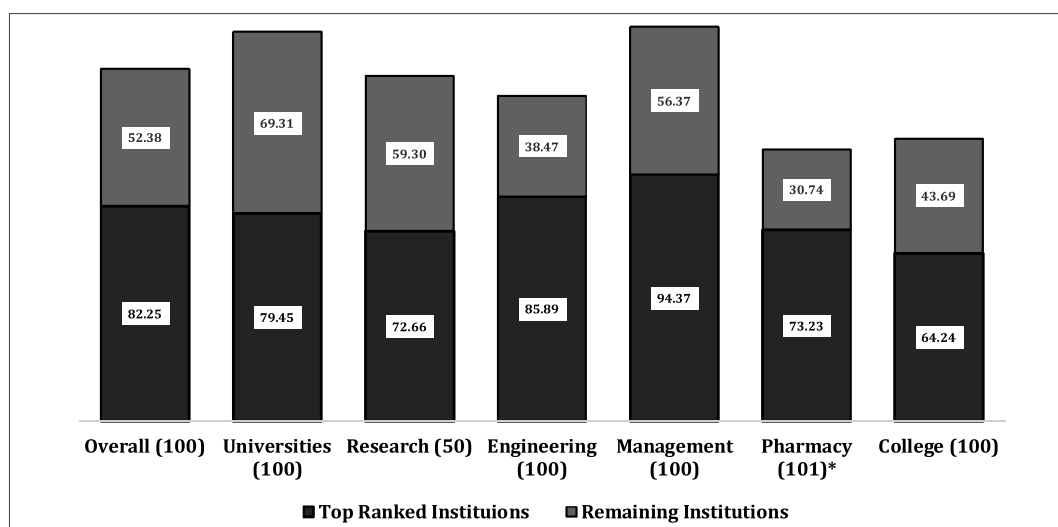


Fig. 4: Distribution of Faculty with Ph.D. in the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to Faculty with Ph.D. in Remaining Eligible Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains

Table 6 and Fig. 5 depict teaching experience of faculty in eligible institutions in Overall category, which indicate that while existing faculty have gained experience, new faculty members have been inducted over the year. As a result, faculty with up to 8 years of experience have slightly increased to 34.17% and faculty with > 8 to 15 years of experience has dipped to 29.59% whereas faculty with more than 15 years of experience have increased to around 36.24% over the years in comparison to the faculty experience in the previous year which was nearly 33% in all the three tiers.

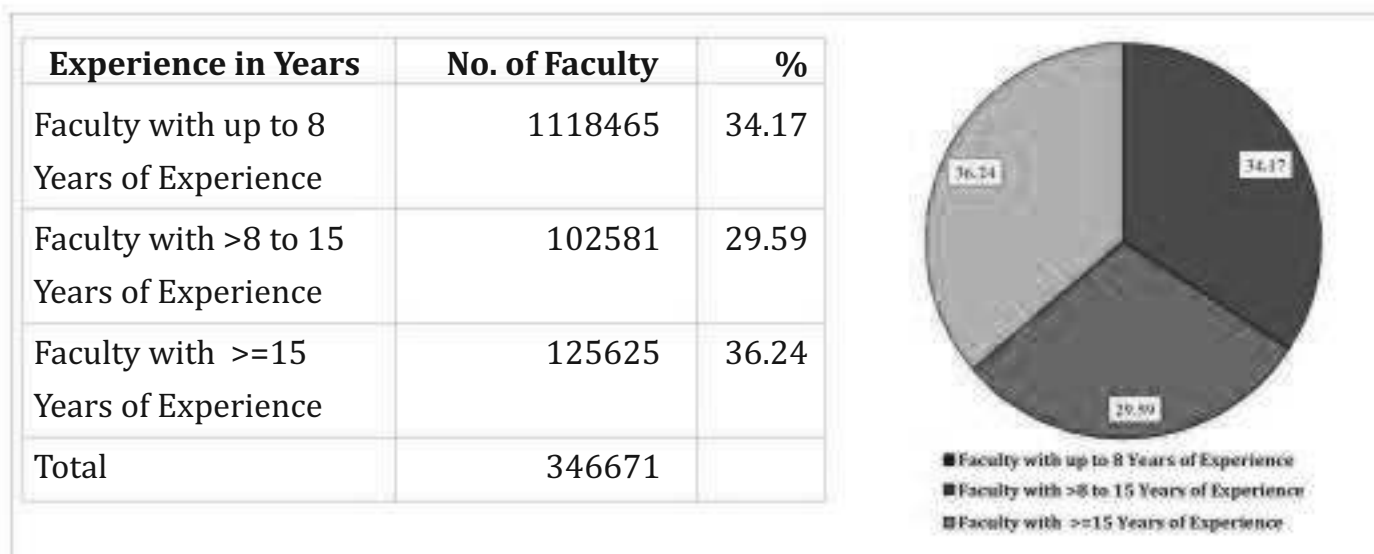


Table 6 and Fig. 5: Experience Profiles of Faculty in Eligible Institutions in Overall Category

Table 7 and Fig. 6 below depict distribution of faculty with experience in Overall category. It shows that out of 1757 institutions, 413 institutions (23.51%) have 50% faculty with up to 8 years of experience whereas 293 and 76 institutions (16.68% and 4.33%) have 50% faculty with more than 15 years and between 8 to 15 years' experience respectively. Remaining 975 institutions (55.49%) have faculty with good blend of experience.

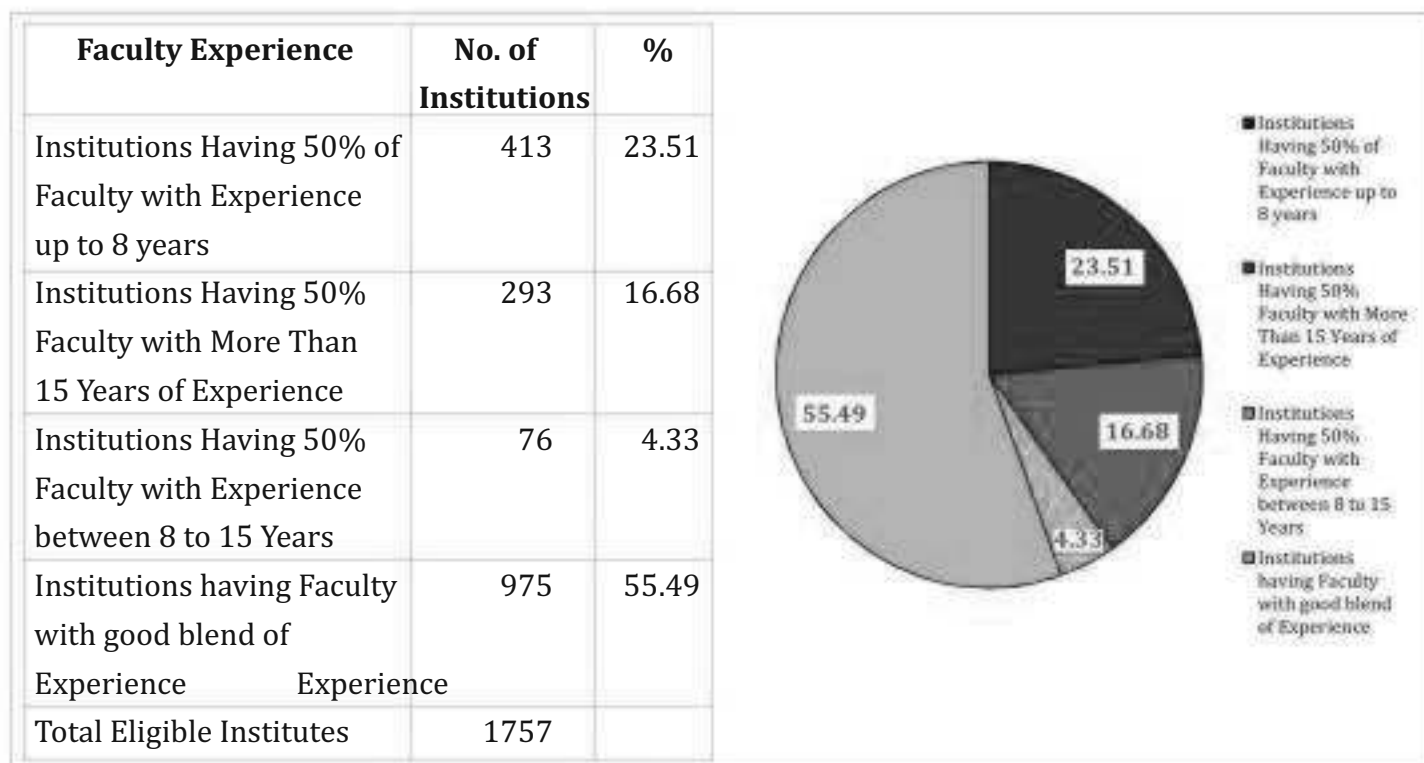


Table 7 and Fig. 6: Young vs Experienced Faculty in Overall Category

As shown in Table 8 and Fig. 7, there are 685 institutions (38.99%) having FSR of 1 to 20 students per faculty and qualify for full-marks as per NIRF guidelines in Overall category, whereas remaining 1072 institutions do not qualify for full-marks.

Faculty Range	No. of Institutions	%
1 - 10	68	3.87
11-20	617	35.12
21-30	579	32.95
31-40	300	17.07
41-50	193	10.98
Total	1757	100

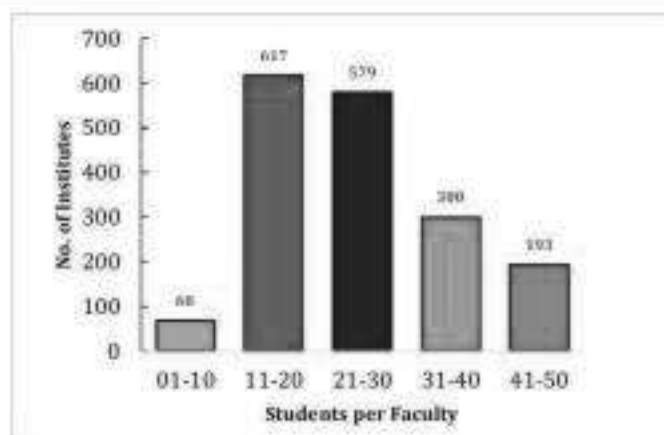


Table 8 and Fig. 7: Faculty Student Ratio in Eligible Institutions in Overall Category

Table 9 and Fig. 8 provides data on Median Financial Resource Utilization (FRU) per student in various categories and subject domains. The FRU is maximum (Rs. 89,409) in case of Management that has registered decrease of 1.44% over the FRU of Rs. 90,713 in 2023. Presumably, decreased in FRU from 2023 to 2025 could possibly be because decrease in number of students seeking admission in management programs. It may be noted that the data considered for India Rankings 2025 is for the Academic Years 2023 to 2024.

Category / Domain	India Rankings			% Increase
	2023	2024	2025	
	Amount in Rs.			% Decrease
Overall	65380	64788	66439	1.62
Engineering	67165	65933	73160	8.93
Management	90713	85866	89409	-1.44
Pharmacy	74649	76259	79472	6.46
Colleges	30213	30862	32612	7.94

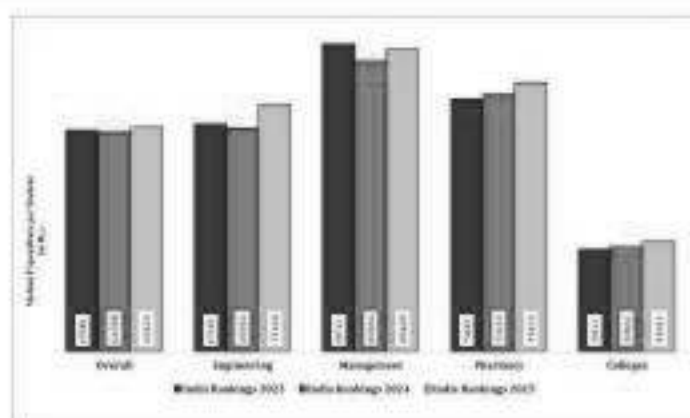


Table 9 and Fig.8: Median Financial Resource Utilization (FRU) per Student in Various Categories and Subject Domains

7.2 Research and Professional Practice

As mentioned earlier, NIRF has used third party sources to extract information on scholarly output (including research publications, citations, HCP and patents) by applicant institutions. For the brief analysis presented here, we have restricted use of data from only one source, i.e., Web of Science, in the interest of simplicity. Data quoted here refer to the three-year period, i.e. 2021 to 2023 considered for ranking of HEIs under India Rankings 2025 as far as publications, citations, HCPs and patents are concerned.

7.2.1. Comparing Research Publications of 100 Top-Ranked Institutions vs Rest of the Eligible Institutions in Various Domains / Categories

Table 10 and Fig. 9 presents comparative overview of publication output across different categories of higher education institutions in India Rankings 2025. It highlights the distribution of total publications between the top 100

ranked institutions and the remaining institutions, alongside the average publication output per institution. Research institutions, though fewer in number (229) with only 50 top institutions ranked, show the highest average publications per institute at 5275, with nearly 58% of total publications coming from the 50 top-ranked Research Institutions, indicating a strong research concentration among top-ranked institutions. 100 top-ranked institutions in Overall category and Universities also have a high average of 3459 and 2506 publications in three years i.e. from 2021 to 2023 with 56.56% and 65.48% of research output attributed to the 100 top-ranked institutions in Overall category and Universities respectively. In contrast, the share of research publications in Management, Pharmacy and general degree Colleges is at a much smaller scale in comparison to publications in categories and subject domains mentioned above. Moreover, top 100 institutions in Management, Colleges and Pharmacy have much lower average publications per institution, i.e. 66, 99 and 127 respectively over a period of three years, i.e. from 2021 to 2023. While Management and Pharmacy show a similar trend of research concentration in the 100 top-ranked institutions, i.e. around 74 to 80% colleges shows a diversion to this trend with 36% publications coming from 100 top-ranked colleges and 64% coming from remaining 1721 colleges. It may further be noted that since the top 100 institutions in Management category publish nearly 80% of publications, the average count for the top 100 is around 66 publications for three years and 22 publications per year, which is fairly good. As a further caution, it may be noted that this data pertains to publications belonging to the Management discipline as categorized by the Web of Science. Clearly, many of the best management schools also publish in allied areas such as Economics, Social Sciences, Information Technology and Psychology, which may not belong to mainstream Management discipline as per classification of Web of Science subject category, and therefore, excluded from consideration here.

No. of Eligible Inst.	Discipline / & (No. of Top -Ranked Inst.)	Publications			% of Publications		Average No. of Publications		
		Total	100 / 50 Top Ranked	Remaining	100 / 50 Top Ranked	Remaining	Top 100 / 50	Remaining	All Eligible
1757	Overall (100)	611693	345990	265703	56.56	43.44	3459.90	160.35	348.15
506	Universities (100)	382638	250565	132073	65.48	34.52	2505.65	325.30	756.20
229	Research (50)	454698	263767	190931	58.01	41.99	5275.34	1066.65	1985.58
1489	Engineering (100)	275820	165989	109831	60.18	39.82	1659.89	79.07	185.24
909	Management (100)	8304	6610	1694	79.60	20.40	66.10	2.09	9.14
538	Pharmacy (101)	13410	9966	3444	74.32	25.68	98.67	7.88	24.93
1821	Colleges (100)	34940	12741	22199	36.47	63.53	127.41	12.90	19.19

Table 10: Research Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the Rest of the Eligible Institutions in Various Categories / Subject Domains

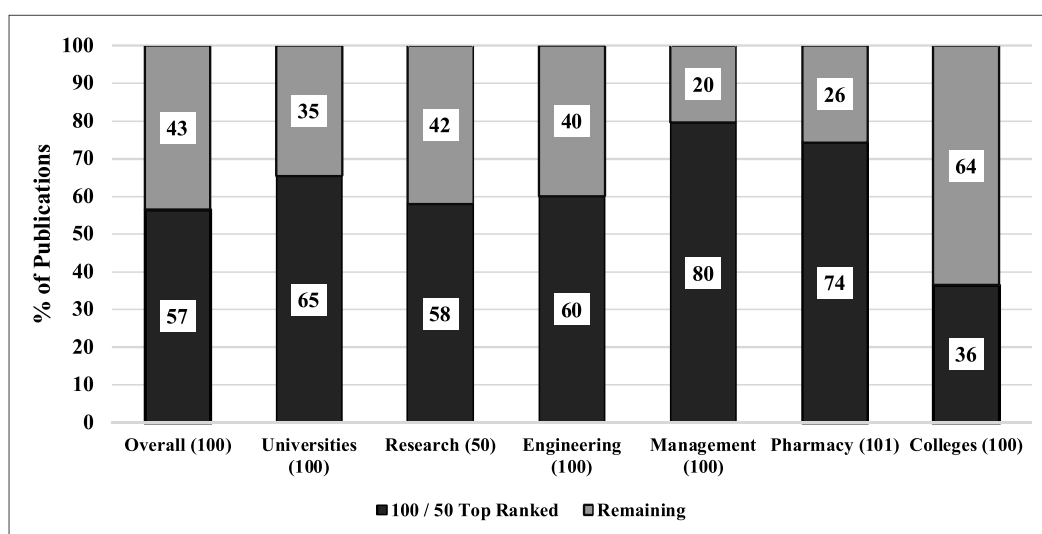


Fig. 9: Research Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the Rest of the Eligible Institutions in Various Categories / Subject Domains (in %)

7.2.2. Bradford's Empirical Law as Applied to the Concentration of Publications in the Most Productive Institutions

It is observed that the Bradford's empirical law of concentration of journal articles in scientific periodicals is also applicable to the research productivity of ranked HEIs. The Bradford's Law states that articles in a given subject concentrate heavily in a relatively small number of highly productive journals. As per the Bradford's Law "if scientific journals are arranged in order of decreasing productivity of articles in a given subject, they may be divided into a nucleus of periodicals more particularly devoted to the subject, and several groups of zones containing the same number of articles as the nucleus, when the number of periodicals in the nucleus and succeeding zones will be as 1:n:n2..." (Bradford, 1944)

By applying Bradford's law to the research productivity of eligible institutions, institutions in various categories / domains can be categorised into the four groups, namely Most Productive, Medium Productive, Low Productive and Least Productive as shown below in Table 11, which reveals that the top 20 HEIs in Overall category (row 1) are most productive that contributed 1,57,757 articles followed by increasing number of HEIs in the remaining three categories contributing matching number of articles (approximately).

It may be noted that the Least Productive 1420 HEIs in Overall category contributed 1,46,742 articles, i.e. more or less equivalent to contributions of 20, 53 and 128 HEIs in the previous three categories, namely, most-, medium- and low-productive groups respectively. Similar observations can be made in all other categories and subject domains. Fig. 10 is pictorial representation of number of research publications in Overall category that are categorised in four groups, i.e. Most Productive, Medium Productive, Low Productive and Least Productive.

Categories / Domains	Institutes/ Publications	Most Productive	Medium Productive	Low Productive	Least Productive	"0" Publications	Total
Overall	HEIs	20	53	128	1420	136	1757
	Publications	157757	154133	153061	146742	0	611693
Universities	HEIs	14	35	82	375	0	506
	Publications	99566	97526	96188	89358	0	382638
Research Institutions	HEIs	12	24	52	140	0	229
	Publications	117840	114042	114934	107882	0	454698
Engineering	HEIs	16	42	122	1220	89	1489
	Publications	70742	69161	68955	66962	0	275820
Management	HEIs	12	22	42	303	530	909
	Publications	2157	2099	2100	1948	0	8304
Pharmacy	HEIs	12	23	55	360	88	538
	Publications	3409	3462	3359	3180	0	13410
Architecture & Planning	HEIs	1	3	5	14	100	123
	Publications	14	15	14	14	0	57
Medical	HEIs	4	12	25	140	1	182
	Publications	25241	24779	23516	19906	0	93442
Dental	HEIs	4	19	45	142	8	218
	Publications	1054	1055	1032	958	0	4099
Agriculture & Allied Sec.	HEIs	4	10	20	82	10	126
	Publications	4770	4555	4594	4042	0	17961
Law	HEIs	3	5	13	23	106	150
	Publications	86	66	64	37	0	253
Colleges	HEIs	40	187	187	934	573	1821
	Publications	8860	8827	8751	8555	0	34940

Table 11. Comparative Research Output of Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains: The Least Productive to the Most Productive Institutions

Bradford, S.C. Sources of information on specific subjects. Engineering, 137, 1944, 85-86

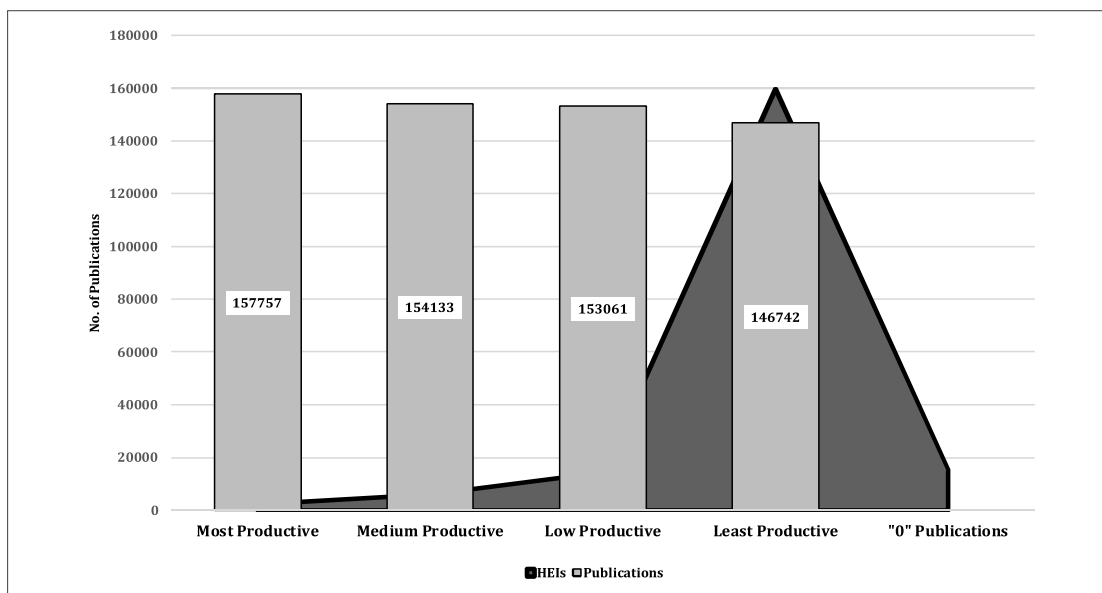


Fig. 10. Comparative Research Output of Institutions in Overall Category: The Least Productive to the Most Productive Institutions

Table 12 and Fig. 11 summarise total number of citations to publications by the 100 / 50 top-ranked vs remaining institutions in various categories and subject domains of India Rankings 2025. As in case of publications, the 100 top-ranked institutions in Management and Pharmacy received 82% and 83% of total citations as compared to remaining 809 Management and 438 Pharmacy institutions that contributed remaining 18% and 17% of total citations respectively. The ratio of contribution in terms of number of citations to publications between the 100 top-ranked institutions v/s remaining institutions in case of Universities, Engineering, Research and Overall is 67:33; 62:38, 59:41, and 58:42 respectively.

Revised Table 12 also depicts that while average citations per publication is around 9 in most of the cases, citations per publications in Management is maximum, i.e. 10.93. In contrast, Colleges and Overall categories have the largest numbers of eligible institutions but lower average citations, i.e. 8.21 and 8.71 respectively suggesting broader participation but diluted impact. Moreover, 50 top-ranked Research Institutions stand out with an exceptionally high average of 49,020 citations per institution with remaining 179 Research Institutions accounts for 9331 citations per institution which is highest amongst remaining institutions amongst six categories / subject domains given here.

No. of Eligible Inst.	Disciplines / & (No. of Top-Ranked Inst.)	Total No. of Publication	Number of Citations			% of Citations		Average No. of Citations		
			Total	100/50	Remain-ing	100/50 Top Ranked	Remain-ing	Top 100/50	Remain-ing	Publications
1757	Overall (100)	611693	5329034	3081761	2247273	57.83	42.17	30817.61	1356.23	8.71
506	Universities (100)	382638	3429638	2281793	1147845	66.53	33.47	22817.93	2827.2	8.96
229	Research (50)	454698	4121218	2450997	1670221	59.47	40.53	49019.94	9330.84	9.06
1489	Engineering (100)	275820	2412242	1507479	904763	62.49	37.51	15074.79	651.38	8.75
909	Management (100)	8304	90746	74658	16088	82.27	17.73	746.58	19.89	10.93
538	Pharmacy (101)	13410	124247	103308	20939	83.15	16.85	1022.85	47.92	9.27
1821	Colleges (100)	34940	286913	104064	182849	36.27	63.73	1040.64	106.25	8.21

Table 12: Citations to Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the Citations to Publications of the Remaining Eligible Institutions in Various Categories/ Subject Domains

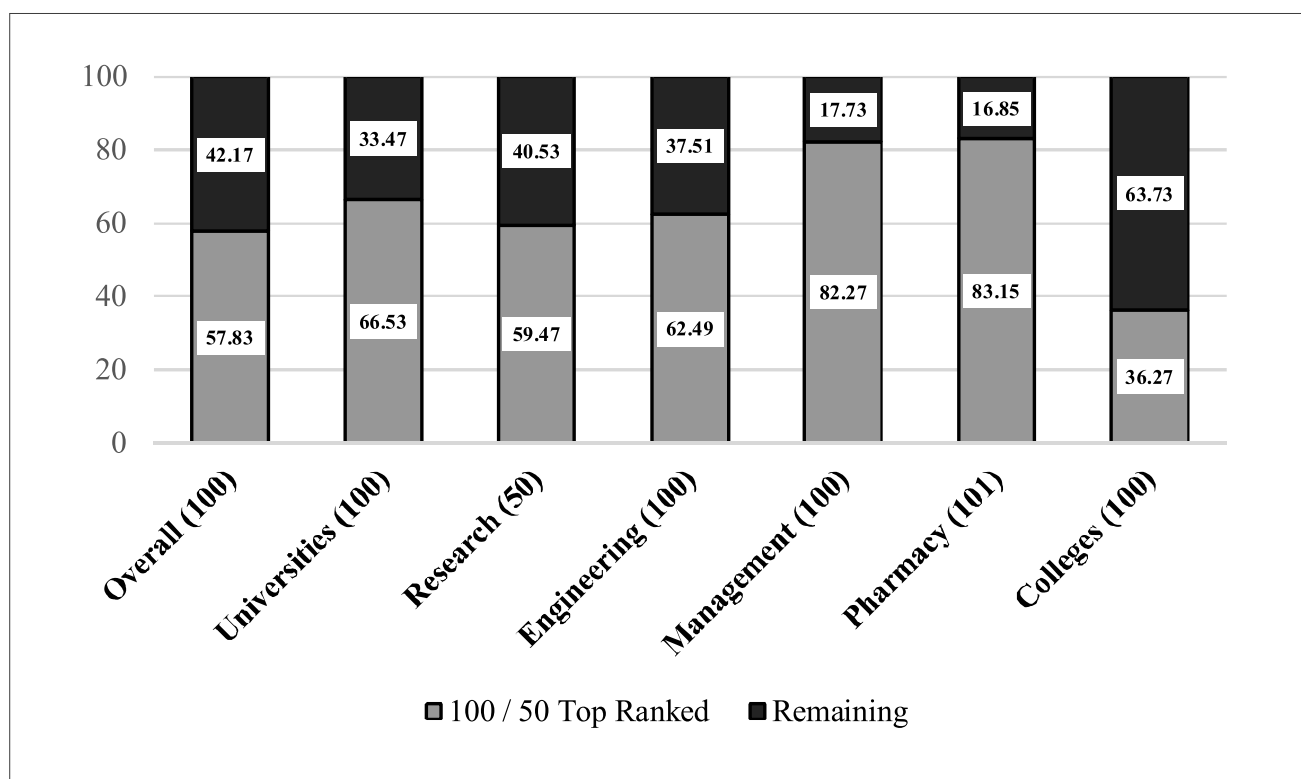


Fig. 11. Citations to Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the Citations to Publications of the Remaining Eligible Institutions in Various Categories / Subject Domains

7.2.3. Comparing Highly Cited Publications (HCP) of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions vs the HCP of the Rest of the Eligible Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains

Table 13 and Fig. 12 highlight concentrated distribution of Highly-Cited Publications (HCPs) across different categories of institutions ranked under India Rankings 2025. Institutions in Overall categories stand out with the highest number of HCPs (1,55,328), followed by Research Institutions (1,16,969) with 58% and 60% of HCPs contributed by the 100 top-ranked institutions in Overall category and 50-top-ranked Research institutions, underscoring their dominance in producing globally recognized research. A similar trend is observed in Pharmacy and Management, where around 81% of HCPs are contributed by the 100 top-ranked institutions in these two disciplines and remaining 809 Management and 438 Pharmacy institutions contribute remaining 19% of HCPs, indicating a marked disparity in research excellence. Universities and Engineering also reflect this pattern, with 66% and 63.39% of HCPs respectively attributed to the 100 top-ranked institutions in the respective categories and remaining 406 universities and 1389 Engineering institutions accounts for remaining 34% and 37% HCPs.

The data seems to follow the famous Pareto's principle, in the sense that nearly 60% to 80% of the highly cited research is being conducted within the 100 or 50 top-ranked institutions in most of the categories or subject domains. Across all categories, the data reinforces the central role of top-ranked institutions in driving the nation's high-impact research output, while the remaining institutions, though large in number, contribute a significantly smaller share of highly cited work.

No. of Eligible Inst.	Discipline / Categories	Top 100 Institutions	Number of Highly Cited Publications (HCP)		% of HCP	
			100 Top Ranked Institutions	Remaining	100 Top Ranked Institutes	Remaining Institutes
1757	Overall (100)	155328	89506	65822	57.62	42.38
506	Universities (100)	97108	64091	33017	66.00	34.00
229	Research Inst. (50)	116969	69653	47316	59.55	40.45
1489	Engineering (100)	71054	45044	26010	63.39	36.61
909	Management (100)	2143	1737	406	81.05	18.95
538	Pharmacy (50)	2129	1738	391	81.63	18.37

Table 13: Highly Cited Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the Remaining Eligible Institutions in Various Categories / Subject Domains

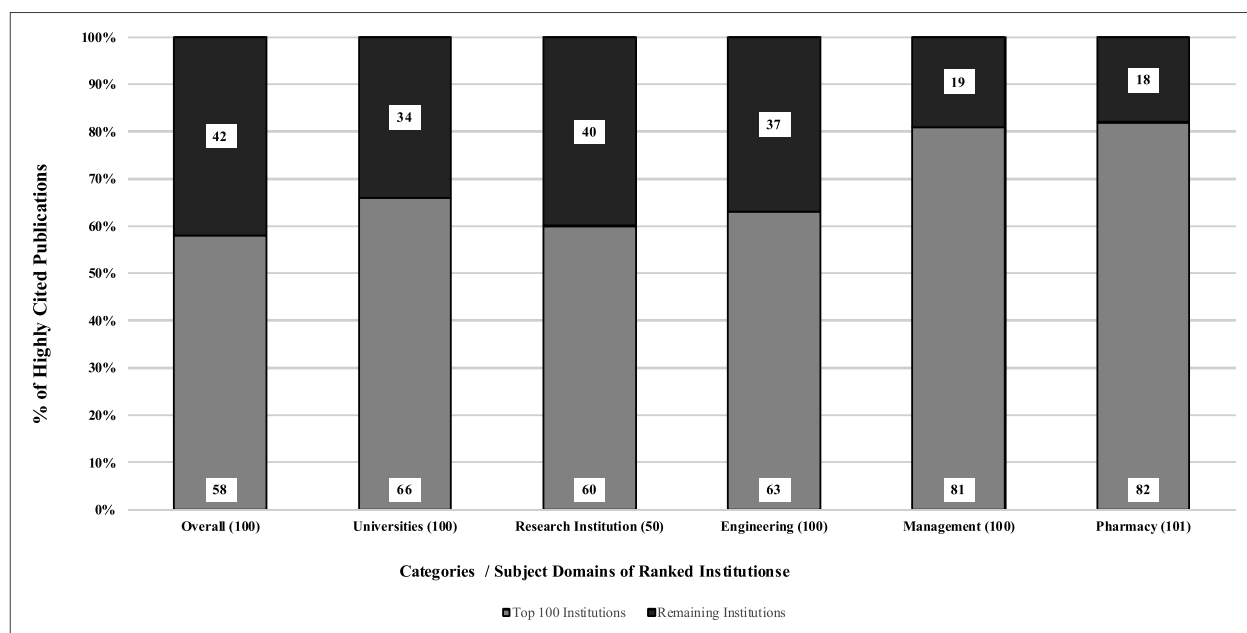


Fig. 12: Highly Cited Publications of the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions as Compared to the HCP of the Remaining Eligible Institutions in Various Categories / Subject Domains

7.2.4. Comparing Research Publications of India, the World and Eligible Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains

As a useful point of reference, Table 14 and Fig. 13 show the relative numbers of publications that emanated from India as compared to that of the World and eligible institutions in the respective categories. The following facts are obvious:

- Indian share of the world publications in the overall category is about 5.39%. In the Management discipline, the publications share of India is 6.75%.
- Almost all of the scholarly output from India in Overall category (103.8%) and Engineering discipline (111.16%) come from eligible institutions. Publications beyond 100% should be considered in the light of the methodological flaw caused by the procedure used for cumulating data at institutional level for calculating data on publications in India Rankings. However, it can safely be concluded that this would be close to (if not equal to) the total scholarly output from the academic world from India.
- In case of Pharmacy, India's contribution to the World publications is 7.51% (higher by 2.12% than the Overall category). However, only 63.50% of publications in Pharmacy came from eligible institutions in India Rankings

which indicate towards existence of a sizable pharmaceutical industry in the country that is active in research as well as in publications of their research output in peer reviewed journals.

Discipline / Category	No. of Research Publications		
	World	India	Eligible Institutions
	(1)	(2)	
Overall	10930980	589278 5.39 % of (1)	611693 103.8 % of (2)
Engineering	3323292	248136 7.47 % of (1)	275820 111.16 % of (2)
Management	137864	9303 6.75 % of (1)	8304 89.26 % of (2)
Pharmacy	281396	21119 7.51 % of (1)	13410 63.50 % of (2)

Table 14: Research Publications of Eligible Institutions in Comparison to the Total Research Publications of the World and India

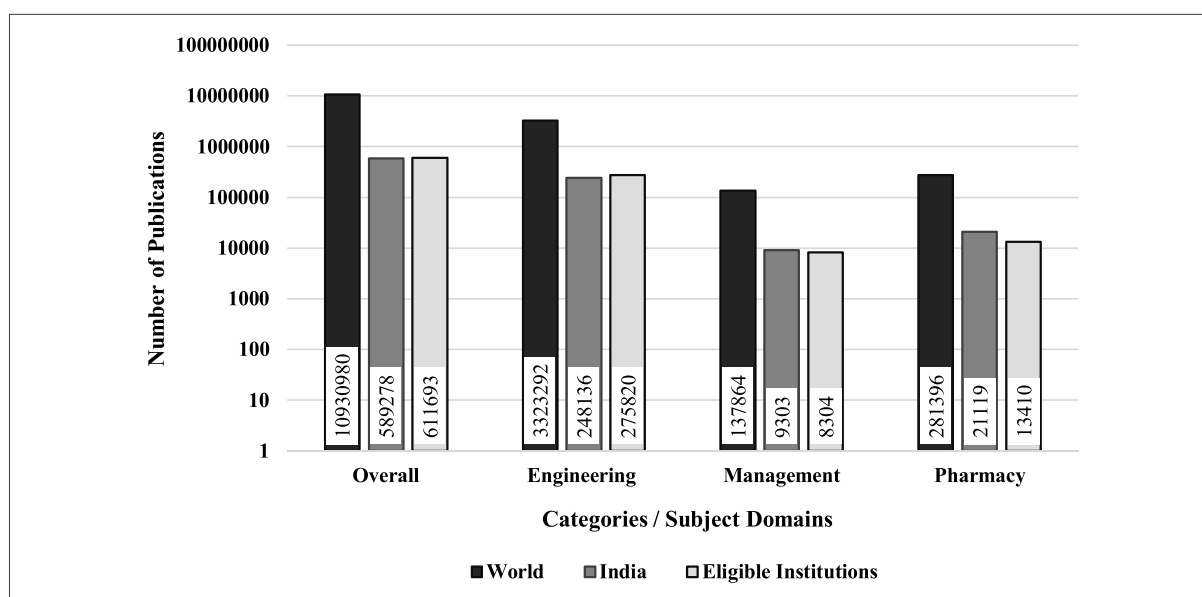


Fig. 13: Research Publications of Eligible Institutions in Comparison to the Total Research Publications of the World and India (On a Logarithmic Scale)

Table 15 and Fig. 14 compare number of research publications in the World, India and Eligible Institutions for the years applicable for India Rankings 2022 to 2025. The total number of publications in the World registered an increase of 4.42%, 1.71% and 0.62% in the years corresponding to India Rankings 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 respectively. In comparison, number of research publications of India for the corresponding period registered an increase of 10.39%, 10.01% and 4.18% respectively in the Overall category, whereas number of research publications of eligible applicant institutions for the corresponding period registered an increase of 18.98%, 18.27% and 14.68% respectively in the Overall category. The recent decline in the number of publications from India may be attributed to proactive measures taken as part of the India Rankings framework, coupled with growing concerns raised by credible academic and ethical platforms regarding the rising rate of retractions and the proliferation of publications in predatory journals.

Ranking Year	World	India	Eligible Institutions
India Ranking 2022	1,02,28,183	4,65,804	3,79,032
India Ranking 2023	1,06,80,401	5,14,196	4,50,987
India Ranking 2024	1,08,63,252	5,65,651	5,33,374
India Rankings 2025	1,09,30,980	5,89,278	6,11,693
% Increase 2022 to 2023	4.42	10.39	18.98
% Increase 2023 to 2024	1.71	10.01	18.27
% Increase 2024 to 2025	0.62	4.18	14.68

Table 15: Comparative Research Publications of the World, India and Eligible Institutions in Overall Category corresponding to India Rankings 2022 to 2025: % Increase / Decrease

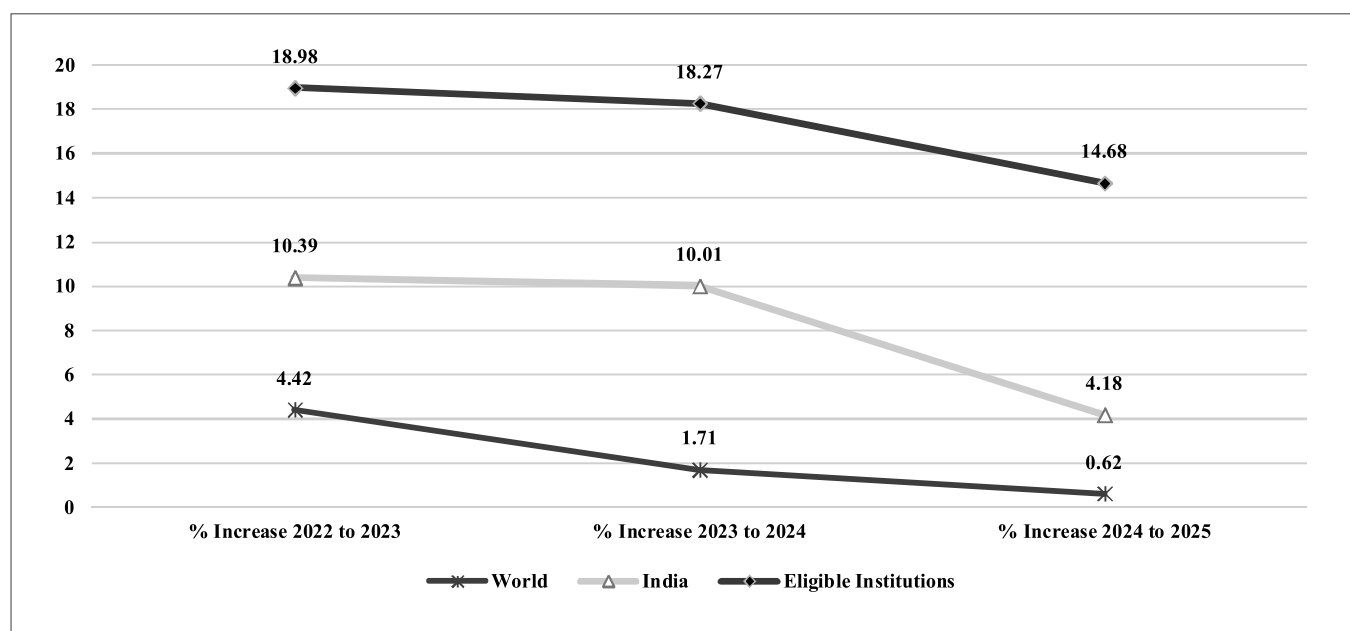


Fig. 14: Comparative Research Publications of the World, India and Eligible Institutions in Overall Category corresponding to India Rankings 2022 to 2025: % Increase / Decrease

7.2.5. Total Publications from India, Contribution of NIRF Eligible Institutions and Other Institutions

The share of publications from NIRF eligible institutions to the total research publications emanating from India is increasing gradually year after year whereas noticeable gradual decrease in number of publications from other institutions that are not part of India Rankings is evident from the Table 16 and Figure 15. It can be observed from Table 16 and Fig. 15 that total research publications of eligible institutions for the years applicable for India Rankings 2023, 2024 and 2025 constitute 87.71%, 94.29% and 103.8% of total India's research publications respectively in the Overall Category. Remaining 12.29%, 5.71% and (-) 3.8% publications are originated from individuals and organizations that are not part of the India Rankings from 2022 to 2025 respectively in the Overall Category. Almost all of the scholarly output from India in overall category (103.8%) and Engineering (111.16%) come from eligible institutions. Increase in publications beyond 100% in 2025 should be considered in the light of the methodological flaw caused due to the procedure used for cumulating publications data at institutional level. However, it can be safely concluded that this would be close to (if not equal to) the total scholarly output from the academic world from India.

Ranking Year	Total No. of Publications			%	
	India	NIRF Applicants	Other Institutions	NIRF Applicants	Other Institutions
2023	514196	450987	63209	87.71	12.29
2024	565651	533374	32277	94.29	5.71
2025	589278	611693	-22415	103.80	-3.80

Table 16: Total Publications of India: Eligible Institutions and Other Institutions in the Overall Category

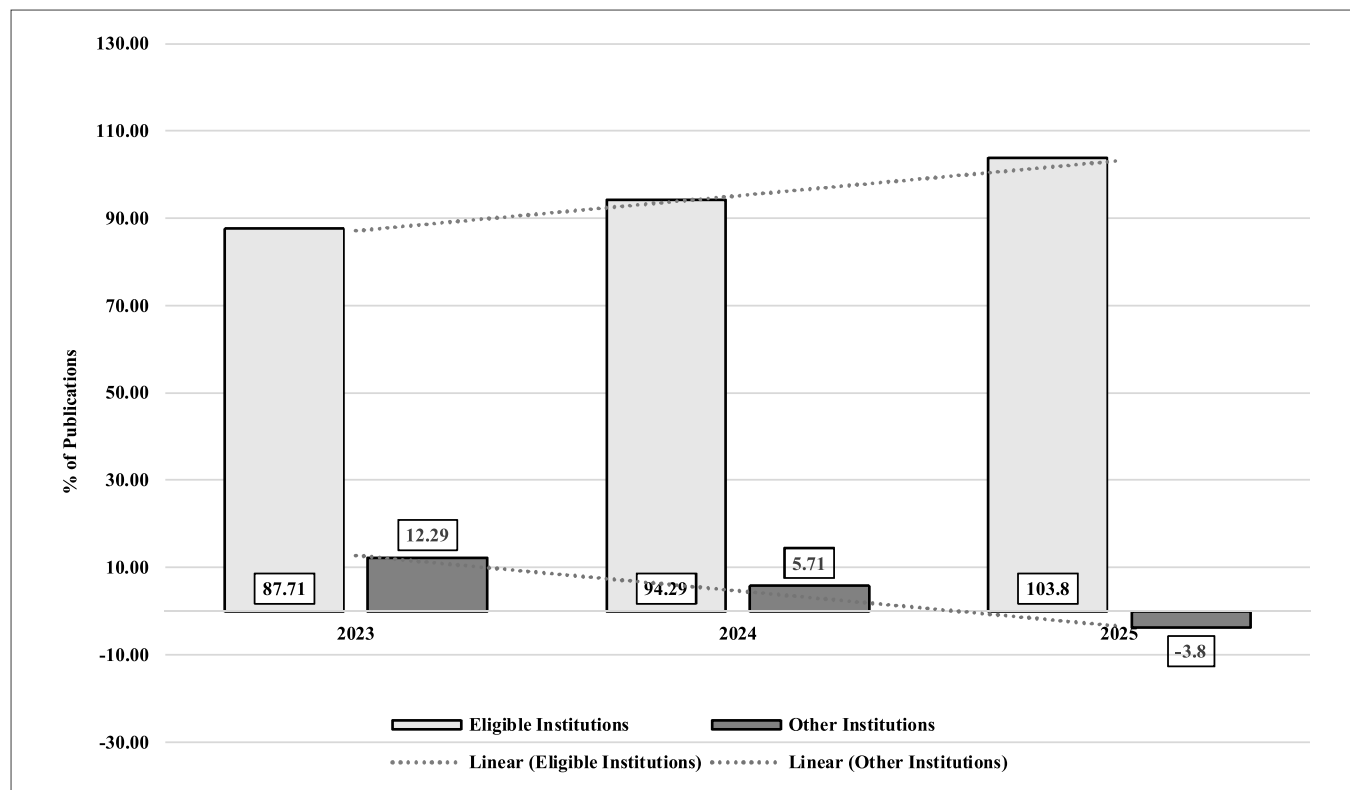


Fig. 15: Total Publications of India: Eligible Institutions and Other Institutions in the Overall Category

Table 17 and 18 and Fig. 16 and 17 illustrate that the trend of increase in publications of eligible institutions participating in Overall category with corresponding decrease of publications by non-participating institutions is also evident in other categories and subject domains. Table 17 and 18 and Fig. 16 and 17 depict the number of research publications emanating from two categories, namely Pharmacy and Management. While in the case of Pharmacy, number of publications emanated from eligible institutions have increased from 53% in 2023 to 64% in 2025 with corresponding decrease in number of publications by other non-participating institutions from 47% in 2023 to 37% in 2025. Whereas, in the case of Management, number of publications emanated from eligible institutions have increased from 77% in 2023 to 89% in 2025 with corresponding decrease in number of publications by other non-participating institutions from 23% in 2023 to 11% in 2025.

India Rankings Year (1)	India (2)	NIRF Applicants (3)	Other Institutions (4)
2023	18251	9698 (53% of 2)	8553 (47% of 2)
2024	20667	11706 (57% of 2)	8961 (43% of 2)
2025	21119	13410 (64% of 2)	7709 (37% of 2)

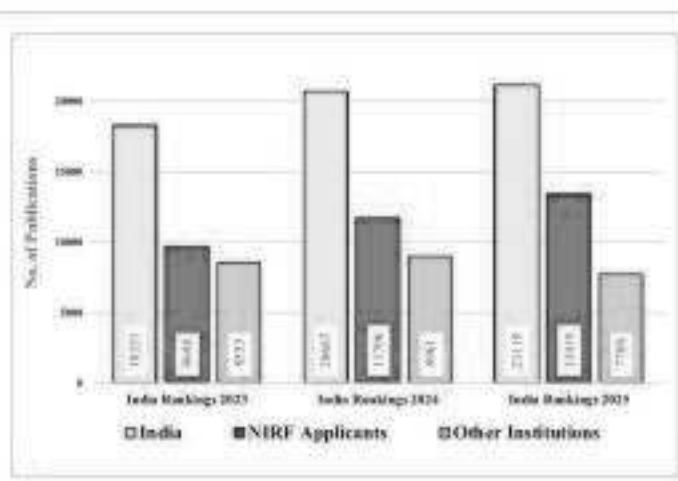


Table 17 and Fig. 16: Total Publications from India and Contribution of Eligible Institutions and Other Institutions in Pharmacy

India Rankings Year (1)	India (2)	NIRF Applicants (3)	Other Institutions (4)
2023	7518	5788 (77% of 2)	1730 (23% of 2)
2024	8768	7315 (83% of 2)	1453 (17% of 2)
2025	9303	8304 (89% of 2)	999 (11% of 2)

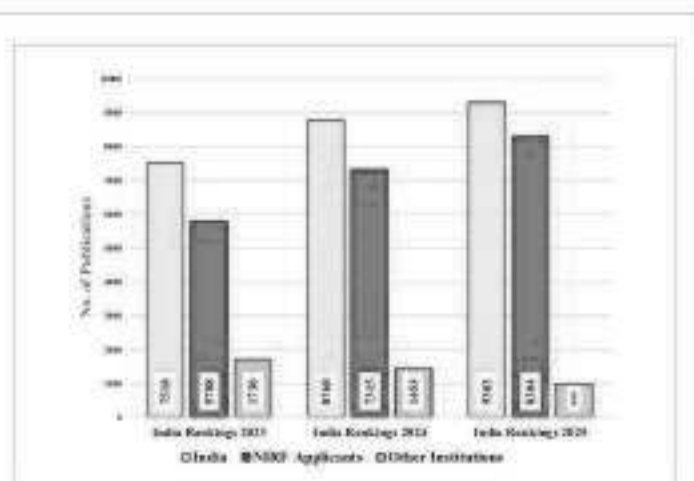


Table 18 and Fig. 17: Total Publications from India and Contribution of Eligible Institutions and Other Institutions in Management

7.2.6. Comparing Patents Granted and Published for the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions vs Patents Granted or Published for the Rest of the Eligible Institutions in Various Domains / Categories

Table 19 and Fig. 18 present comparative data on patents granted to the 100 top-ranked institutions as compared to remaining eligible institutions across four major domains or categories ranked by India Rankings. The data reveals a noticeable pattern similar to that observed in case of distribution of publications, citations, and highly-cited publications amongst the 100 top-ranked vs remaining institutions.

In Pharmacy, the 100 top-ranked institutions held 82%, of the patents granted as compared to 18% held by the remaining 438 Pharmacy institutions. However, the 100 top-ranked Universities and Engineering institutions accounts for 65% of patents granted as compared to 35% by the remaining 406 universities and 1389 Engineering institutions. In case of Overall category, the ratio of patent held by the 100 top-ranked institutions and remaining 1657 institutions is 60:40.

A stark contrast can be observed on the average number of patents granted between the 100 top-ranked ranked institutions and the remaining institutions across all categories. In the Overall category, the 100 top-ranked institutions secured an average of 51 patents each, compared to just 2.07 for the remaining institutions, a ratio of about 1:25. Among Universities, the gap narrows slightly, with the 100 top-ranked averaging 28 patents against 3.76, a ratio of about 1:9. In Engineering, the 100 top-ranked averaged 46 patents compared to 1.82 for the remaining, a ratio of around 1:23. The disparity is most pronounced in Pharmacy, where the 100 top-ranked averaged 6 patents each, while the remaining institutions managed only 0.31 on average, a ratio of roughly 1:20.

No. of Eligible Inst.	Discipline / Categories	Number of Patents Granted			% of Patents Granted		Average No. of Patents Granted		
		Total	Top 100	Remaining Institution	% (100 Top Ranked)	% (Remaining Institutions)	100 Top Ranked	Remaining	All Eligible Insts.
1757	Overall (100)	8557	5133	3424	59.99	40.01	51.33	2.07	4.87
506	Universities (100)	4370	2844	1526	65.08	34.92	28.44	3.76	8.64
1489	Engineering (100)	7150	4624	2526	64.67	35.33	46.24	1.82	4.80
538	Pharmacy (101*)	757	622	135	82.17	17.83	6.16	0.31	1.41

Table 19: Patents Granted to the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions in Comparison to the Remaining Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains

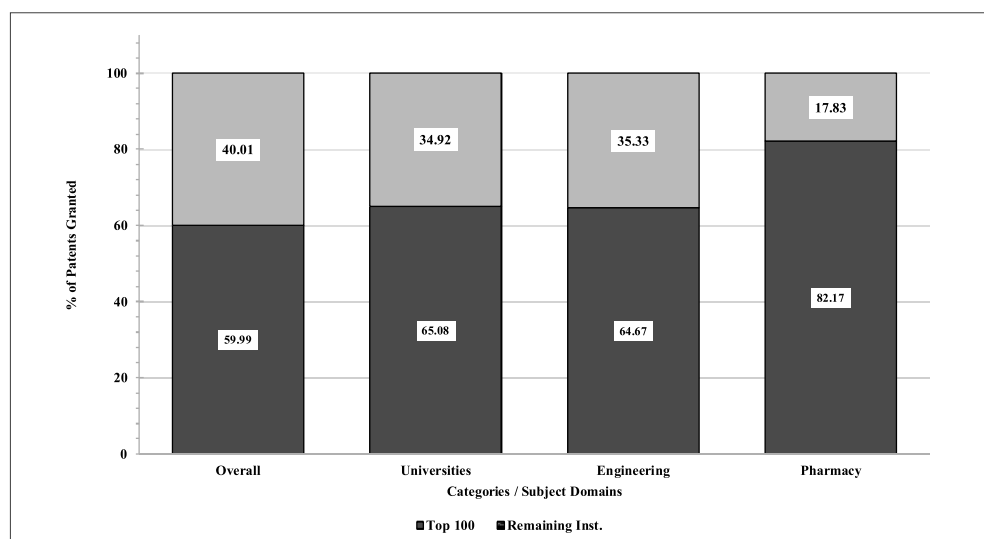


Fig. 18: Patents Granted to the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions in Comparison to the Remaining Institutions Various Categories and Subject Domains

Table 20 and Fig. 19 on patents published shows a marked concentration of output within the 100 top- ranked institutions across all disciplines and category. In the Overall and Engineering, the 100 top-ranked institutions account for 16,351 and 17,330 patents with an average of 164 and 173 patents per institution, whereas the remaining institutions collectively published 37,717 and 32,453 patents in the respective category, but with a much lower average of 23 patents each per institution despite contributing the 70% and 65% of total patents respectively. Among Universities, the 100 top-ranked universities dominate with 60% of total patents published with an average of 195 patents per institution compared to 33 patents for the remaining institutions. In Pharmacy, the 100 top-ranked institutions again outperform significantly with 60% of all patents published with an average of 28 patents per institution as compared to just 4 patents published for the remaining institutions. Overall, these figures highlight a consistent pattern where the top-ranked institutions not only produce more patents per institution but, in several categories, also command a disproportionately large share of total patent output.

No. of Eligible Inst.	Discipline / Categories	Number of Patents Published			% of Patents Published		Average No. of Patents Published		
		Total	Top 100	Remaining Institution	% (100 Top Ranked)	% (Remaining Institutions)	100 Top Ranked	Remaining	All Eligible Insts.
1757	Overall	54068	16351	37717	30.24	69.76	164	23	31
506	Universities	32738	19487	13251	59.52	40.48	195	33	65
1489	Engineering	49783	17330	32453	34.81	65.19	173	23	33
538	Pharmacy	4624	2777	1847	60.06	39.94	28	4	9

Table 20: Patents Published and held by the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions in Comparison to the Patents Published and held by the Remaining Institutions

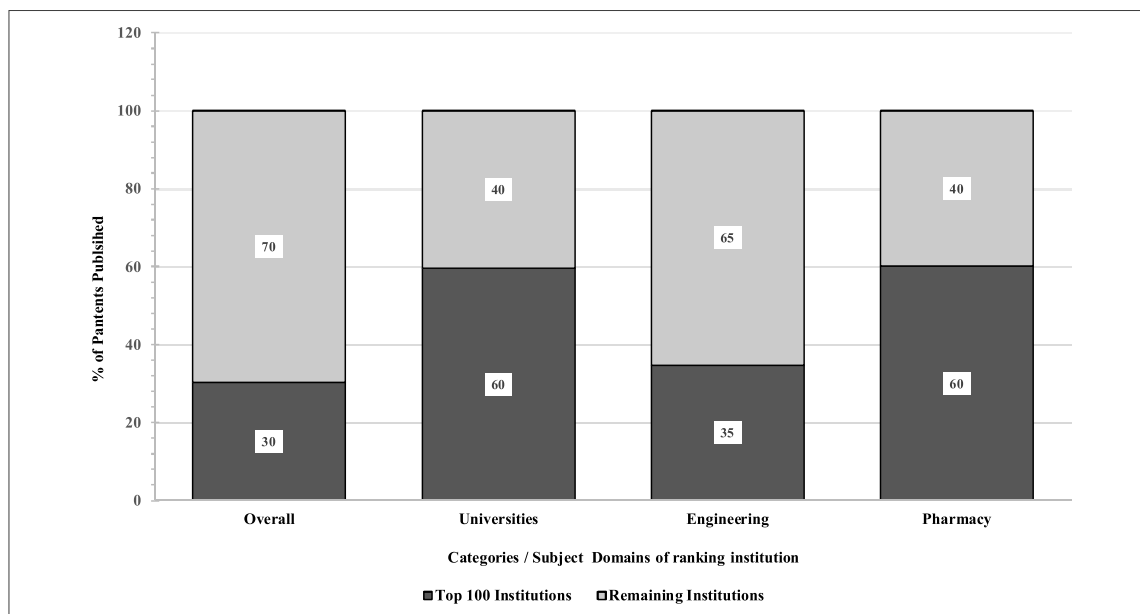


Fig. 19: Patents Published and Held by the 100 Top-Ranked Institutions in Comparison to the Remaining Institutions

7.2.7. Eligible Institutions with “0” Publications in Various Categories and Subject Domains

Table 21 highlights number and percentage of institutions with zero publications. The Management category shows the most concerning trend, with 58.31% of its institutions (530 out of 909) reporting no research publications at all, indicating a widespread lack of research engagement in the discipline. Colleges also show a high level of research inactivity, with 573 out of 1821 colleges (31.47%) having no publications, reflecting teaching-focused orientation of undergraduate colleges. Pharmacy reports 88 institutions with “0” publications, accounting for 16.36%. Engineering, on the other hand, demonstrates comparatively better research activity, with only 5.98% (89 out of 1489) institutions having zero publications. The Overall category, which includes all disciplines, shows that 136 out of 1757 institutions (7.74%) did not contribute any research publications. These figures highlight the uneven research culture across disciplines and point to the urgent need for capacity building and research incentives, especially in management institutions and colleges, to foster a more balanced and inclusive research ecosystem in the country.

No. of Eligible Institution	Discipline / Category	No. of Institutions having “0” Publications	%
1757	Overall	136	7.74
1489	Engineering	89	5.98
909	Management	530	58.31
538	Pharmacy	88	16.36
1821	Colleges	573	31.47

Table 21: Number and % of Eligible Institutions having “0” Publications

7.2.8. Share of Publications, Citations and HCP of the Top 100 Highly Productive Institutions in Overall Category

The Table 22 and Fig. 20 presents the distribution of publications, citations and HCPs from the 100 top highly productive institutions in Overall category of the India Rankings 2025. The institutions are categorized into 8 categories namely, IITs & IISc, NITs, Other CFTIs, Central Universities, Colleges, Deemed to be Universities, State Private Universities and State Public Universities. Each category shows the number of institutions including their total publications, total citations and HCPs, percentage of total publications contributed by these institutions, and percentage of total citations. It may be observed that IITs & IISc lead with 19 institutions contributing 28.70% of total publications and receiving 30.84% of total citations, emphasizing their significant impact in research output and influence in academia, followed by the Deemed to be Universities with 22 institutions contributing 23.10% of total publications and receiving 20.62% of total citations.

Institutions	No. of Institutes	Total No. of Publications	Total No. of Citations Received	Highly-Cited Publications	% of Publications	% of Citations
IITs & IISc	19	99283	869237	27325	28.70	30.84
Deemed to be Universities	22	79914	678560	19150	23.10	20.62
State Public Universities	24	51231	456352	13349	14.81	16.86
Private Universities	9	36188	378267	10569	10.46	16.74
Central Universities	7	32156	300973	8329	9.29	9.13
Other CFTIs	10	25349	186459	4975	7.33	2.88
NITs	8	19810	183745	5256	5.73	1.95
Colleges	1	2059	28168	553	0.60	0.99
Grand Total	100	345990	3081761	89506	100	100

Table 22: Share of Publications, Citations and HCPs of the Top 100 Highly Productive Institutions in Overall Category

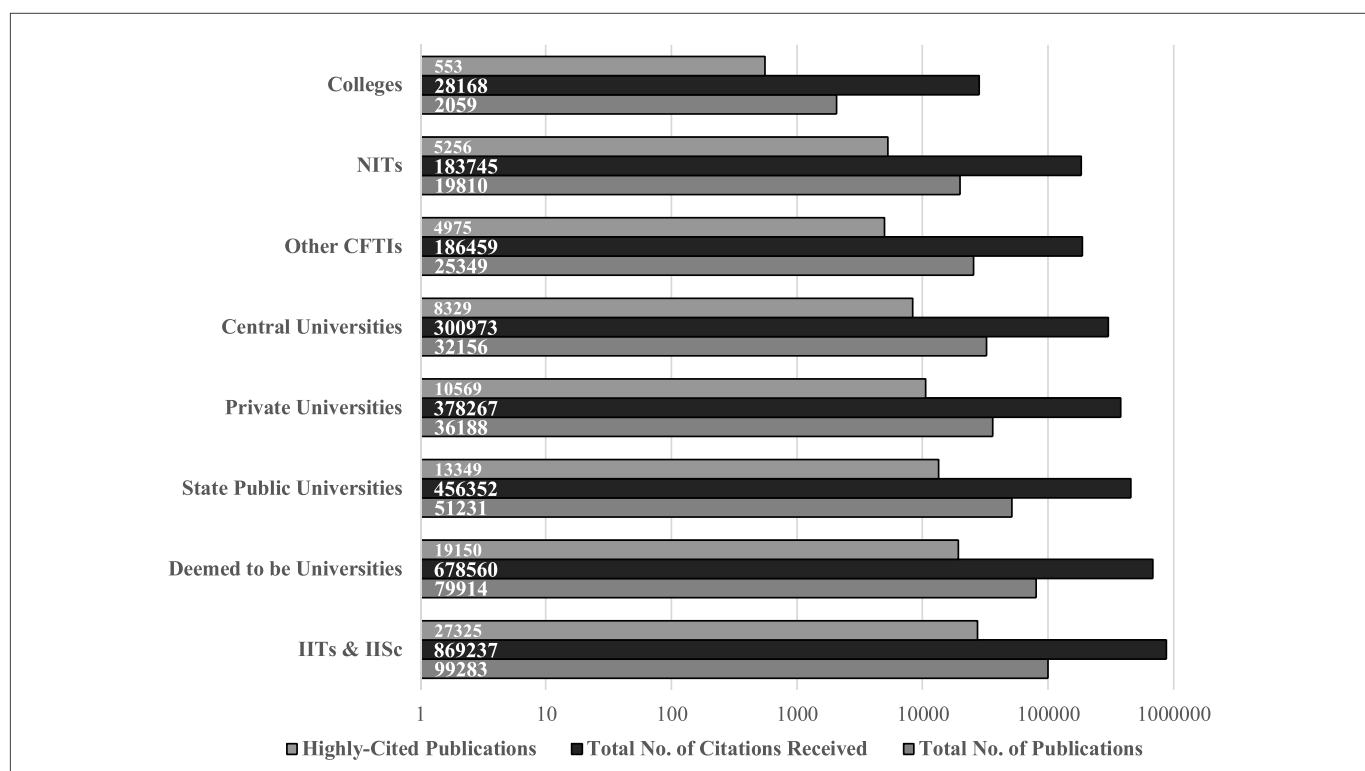


Fig. 20: Share of Publications, Citations and HCPs of the Top 100 Highly Productive Institutions in Overall Category

7.2.9. Comparison of Sponsored Research Funds for Eligible Institutions: India Rankings from 2023 to 2025

Table 23 and Fig. 21 depict median sponsored research funding availed by the eligible institutions in three categories, i.e. Overall, Engineering and Pharmacy of the India Rankings years 2023 to 2025. Decrease in funding can be observed in all the three ranging from 25% in Overall category, 34% in Engineering and as high as 54% in case of Pharmacy from 2023 to 2025.

Median SP	India Rankings 2023	India Rankings 2024	India Rankings 2025	% Increase / Decrease
Overall	1278900	1234445	960000	-24.94
Engineering	1131207	800000	750000	-33.7
Pharmacy	221334	174484	102689	-53.6

Table 23: Comparative Sponsored Research Funding: India Rankings from 2023 to 2025

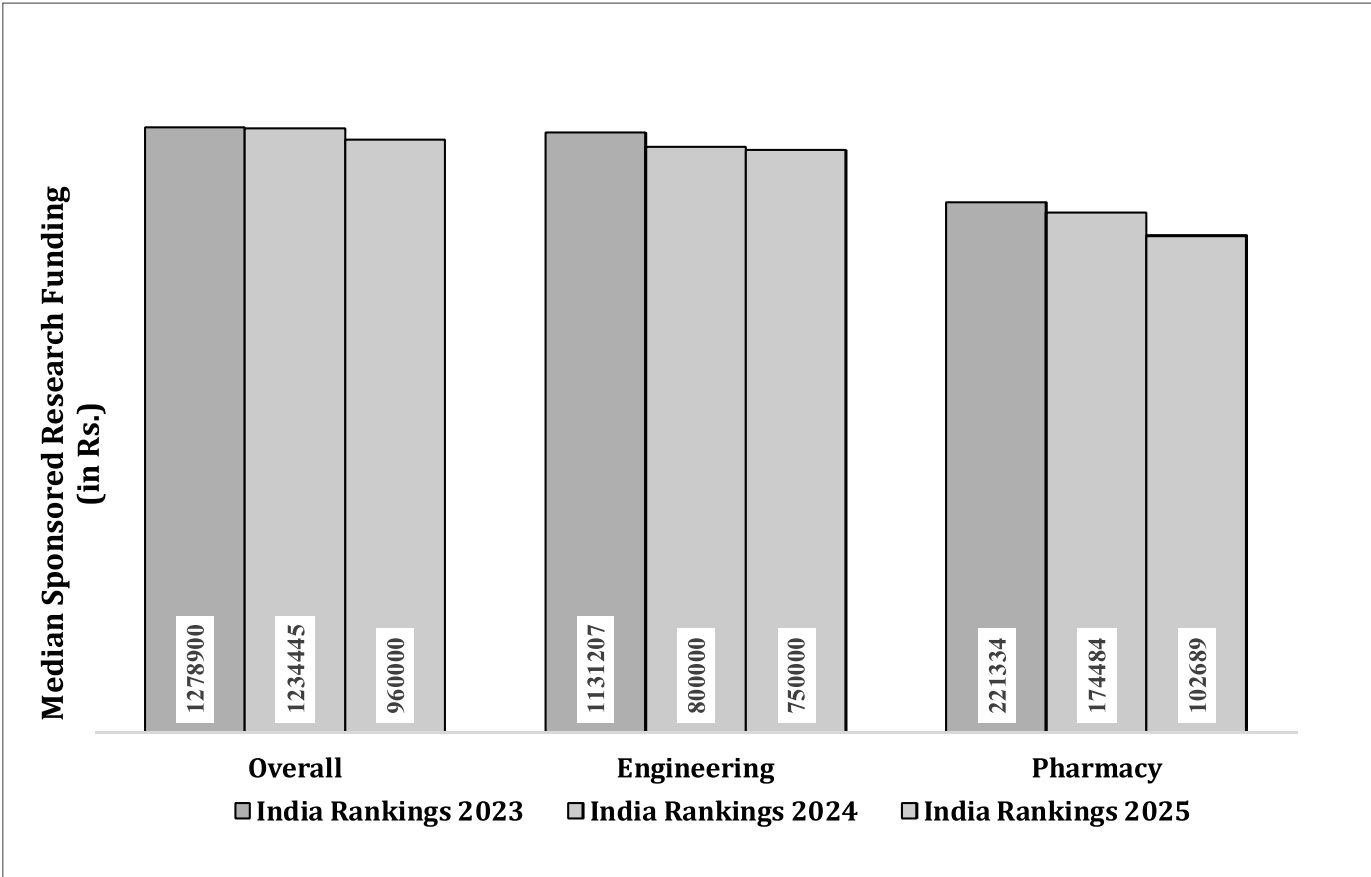


Fig 21: Comparative Sponsored Research Funding: India Rankings from 2023 to 2025

7.3. Graduation Outcome

Table 24 and Fig. 22 provide number of full-time Ph.D. students who graduated from 1757 eligible institutions in Overall category during the academic years 2021-22, 2022 -23 and 2023-24. It can be observed that percentage of increase in Ph.D. awarded was 8.93% and 16.49% in the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively.

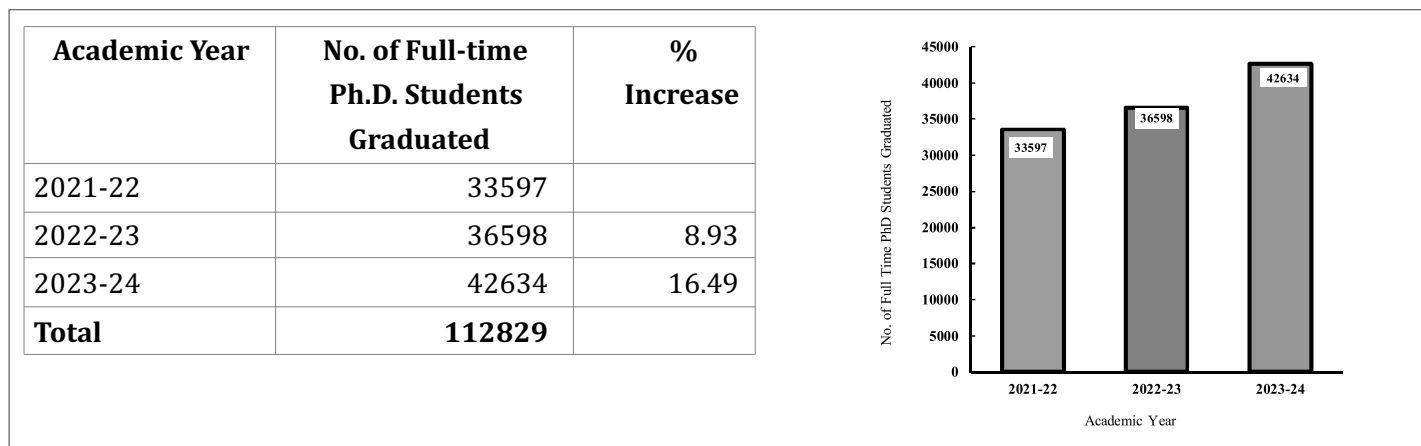


Table 24 and Fig. 22: Increase in Number of Ph.D. Graduated during Academic Years 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 in Overall Category

7.4. Outreach and Inclusivity

Table 25 and Fig. 23 reveal regional diversity in enrolment in eligible institutions in Overall category. It may be noted that while 73.87% of students were enrolled from within the state, 25.16% of students came from other states and less than 1% students were from outside the country. These 55,521 students (<1%) from outside the country were studying in 548 institutions of Higher Education in India.

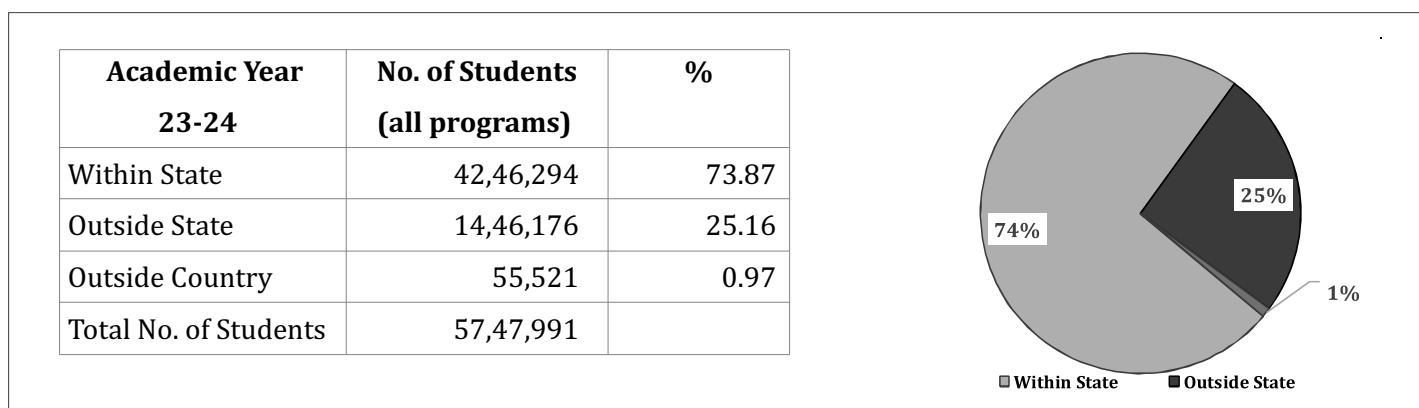


Table 25 and Fig. 23: Regional Diversity: No. and Percentage of Students from the Outside States and Countries in Overall Category during Academic Year 2023 - 24

Table 26 and Fig. 24 provide data on gender diversity among students enrolled in different programs in Overall categories during the academic year 2023 - 2024. Of total 57,47,991 students, 31,73,087 (55.20%) were male and 25,74,904 (44.80%) were females.

Gender	No. of Students	%
Male	31,73,087	55.20
Female	25,74,904	44.80
Total	57,47,991	

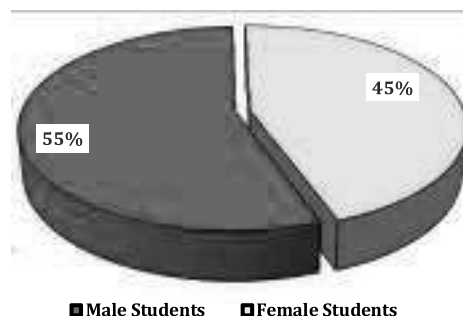


Table 26 and Fig. 24: Gender Diversity amongst Students: Male vs Female Enrolment in Overall Category in Academic Year 2023 – 24

Table 27 and Fig. 25 plot data on gender diversity among faculty in Overall category. Of total 3,46,671 faculty, 1,97,143 (57%) were males and 1,49,528 (43%) were females.

Gender of Faculty	Number of Faculty	%
Male	1,97,143	56.87
Female	1,49,528	43.13
Total No. of Faculty	3,46,671	

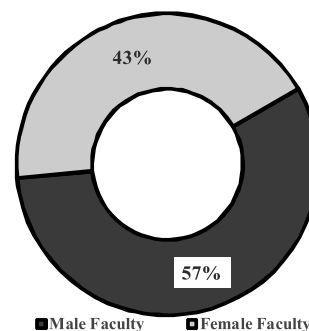


Table 27 and Fig. 25: Gender Diversity amongst Faculty: Male vs Female Faculty in Overall Category in the Academic Year 2023 – 24

7.5. Perception

Table 28, Fig. 26 and Fig. 27 given below illustrate the vote shares of peer and employer perceptions across various categories of institutions. The data highlights that the highest vote shares from both peers and employers are concentrated towards the Overall category (20.52% and 22.66%), Engineering (16.35% and 18.49%), Research Institutions (16.16% and 13.37%), College (14.18% and 12.62%), Management (9.17% and 14.08%) and Medical (8.58% and 3.39%) categories. These categories significantly outpace others in terms of perceived importance and value.

In contrast, categories such as Law, Architecture and Planning, Pharmacy, Dental, Agriculture and Allied Sectors and Innovation receive notably lower vote shares from both peers and employers. Specifically, vote share of these categories / subject domains range from 0.31 and 0.24 (Academic and Employer) in case of Skill Universities to 3.16% and 3.03% (Academic and Employer) in case of Pharmacy. The low percentages in these categories indicate a lesser emphasis or recognition in comparison to the more dominant fields.

Academic and Employer's Perception		
Category / Subject	Academic (%)	Employer (%)
Overall	20.52	22.66
Engineering	16.35	18.49
Architecture and Planning	1.51	0.87
College	14.18	12.62
Law	1.36	2.40
Management	9.17	14.08
Medical	8.58	3.39
Pharmacy	3.16	3.03
Research Institutions	16.16	13.37
Dental	2.13	1.46
Agriculture and Allied Sectors	1.51	0.44
Innovation	3.03	4.45
Open Universities	0.43	0.46
Skill Universities	0.31	0.24
SDGs Institutions	1.58	2.04
Total	100	100

Table 28: Peer and Employer's Perception

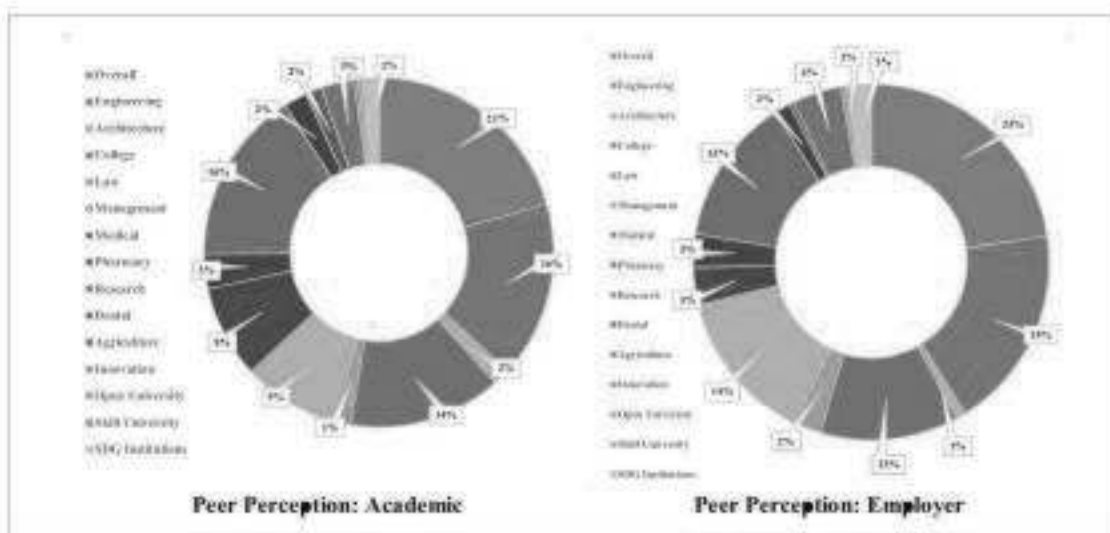


Fig. 26 and 27: Peer and Employer's Perception

7.6. Rank Order Correlations across Parameters

Table 29 given below provides value of Spearman's Rank Order Correlation Coefficient between ranks of institutions based on its total score with that of its rank based on research performance in various categories and subject domains. As mentioned before, data for research performance is taken from third-party independent sources, namely Web of Science. Fig. 28 to Fig. 33 depict the mean of the scatter plots of corresponding scores along the two axes for various categories and subject domains. A very strong and positive correlation can be noticed for each discipline except for colleges. The strong correlation between ranking by research performance based on data from third-party independent sources and overall ranking vouch for authenticity of data collected from institutions.

Category / Subject Domain	Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient (r)	Coefficient of Determination (R^2)
Overall	0.81	0.66
Universities	0.79	0.62
Engineering	0.81	0.66
Management	0.79	0.62
Pharmacy	0.83	0.69
College	0.55	0.30

Table 29: Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient (r) for Various Categories and Subject Domains

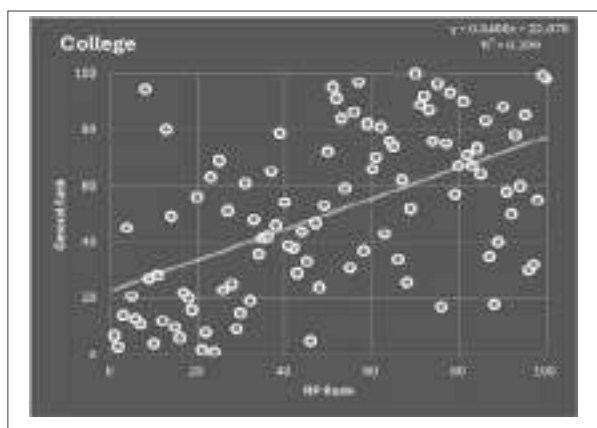
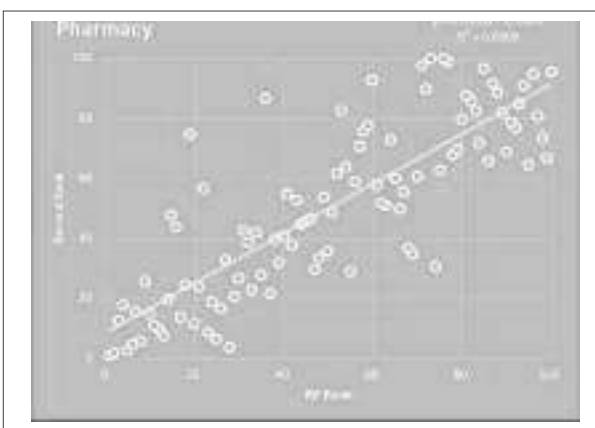
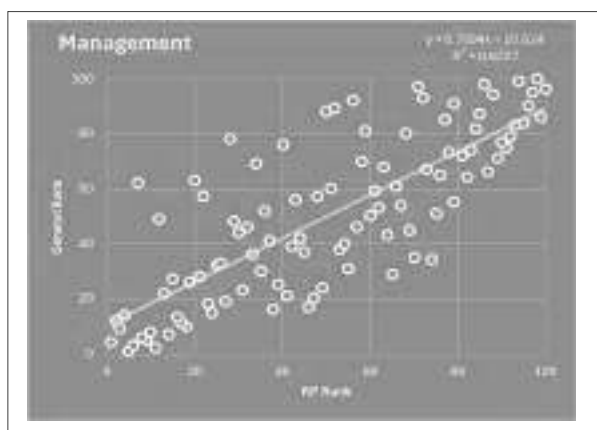
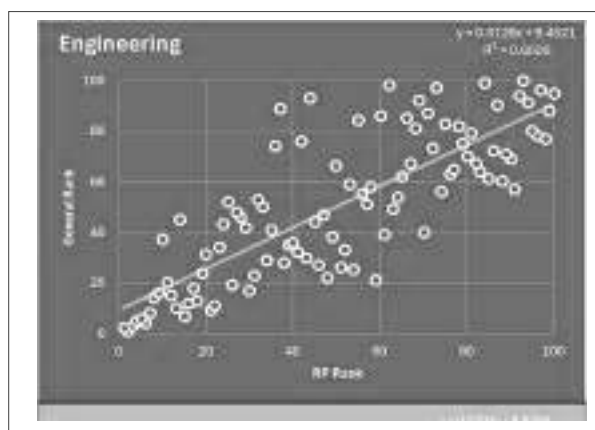
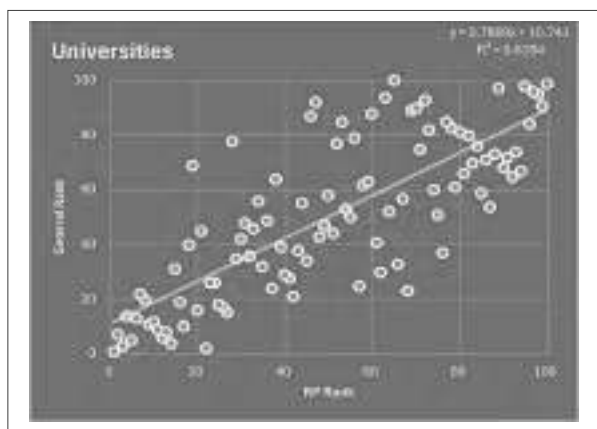
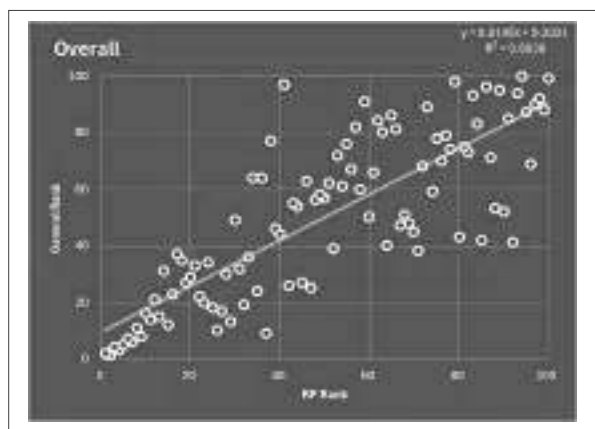


Fig. 28 to Fig. 33: Correlation between Ranks by Research Performance and All Other Parameters for Different Categories and Subject Domains

7.7. Regional Outlook

Fig. 34 depicts that there is a good regional distribution of institutes that are ranked amongst the 100 top -ranked institutions in Overall category. The maximum representation comes from Southern and Northern part of India with 35% institutions each. Western and Eastern region of India account for 19% and 11% of HEIs respectively.

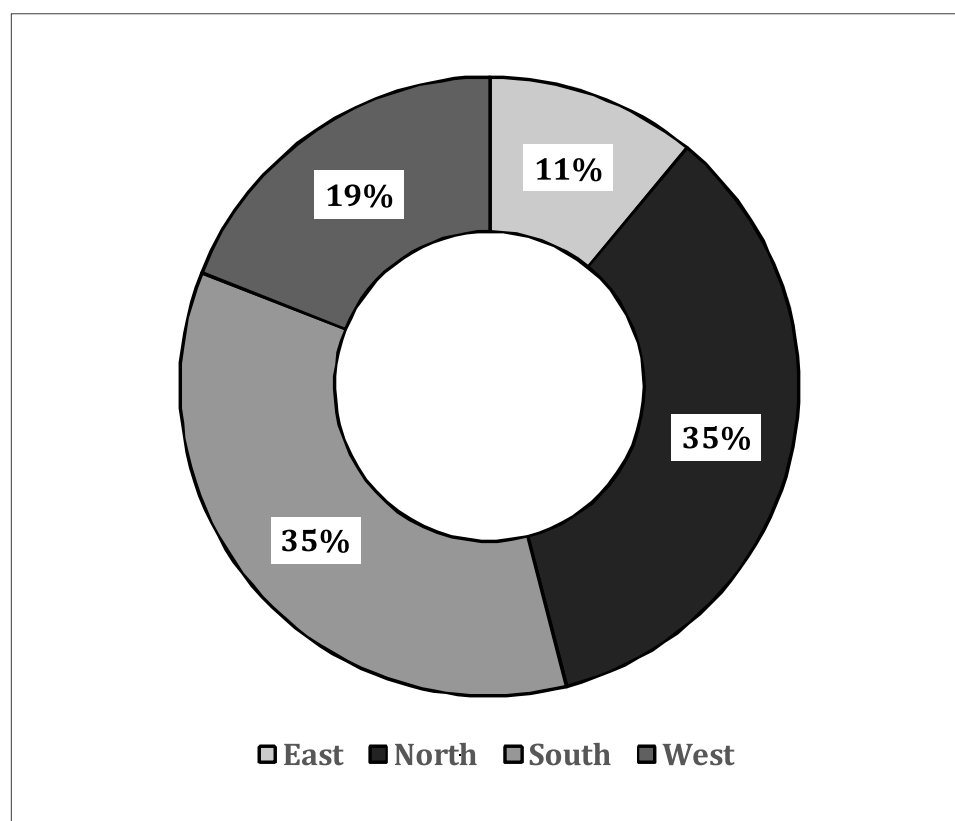


Fig. 34: Region-wise Distribution of Ranked Institutions in Overall Category

8. Computation of Scores and Rankings

Rankings are based on the information and data provided by the institutions. Data on publications and citations have been taken from standard indexing and citation sources, viz., Scopus (Elsevier Science) and Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics). Perception data has been compiled from inputs from employers and peers. NIRF Team has done limited validation of data. NIRF also provided an opportunity to the general public through press advertisement and through web-portal, to give feedback on the quality and accuracy of data submitted by different institutions. Queries and comments received from the public were passed on to the concerned institutions for suitable action. However, responsibility for the accuracy and authenticity of the data lies with the institutions supplying it. Final data are available on the NIRF portal.

Overall weighted scores and ranks of institutions in different subjects / categories as well as their weighted scores on five broad generic parameters are given on the NIRF Website at the URL mentioned in the Table entitled “URL of Ranked Institutions in Various Categories and Subject Domains” given at the end of this booklet.