

Measuring the Research output of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), 2000-2024: A Bibliometric approach using Web of Science (WoS)

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a bibliometric analysis of the research output of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) from 2000 to 2024 using the Web of Science (WoS) database. The objectives were to examine publication growth, authorship and collaboration patterns, identify prolific authors and citation impact, map collaborative networks, and analyze subject-wise research distribution. Addressing a notable research gap, this is the first institution-specific bibliometric study on KDU. Data extracted on 27 March 2025 were analyzed using Biblioshiny, VOSviewer, and MS Excel. A total of 367 WoS indexed articles were published during the study period, with the first appearing in 2011. Research productivity increased significantly after 2011, accompanied by strong collaborative trends, as reflected in the rising collaboration coefficient from 0.50 in 2011 to 0.77 in 2024. Overall, 2,471 authors contributed to KDU's research output. De Silva, A.D. was identified as the most prolific author, with 35 publications, an h-index of 14, and 921 citations.

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Subject analysis revealed a focus on public, environmental, and occupational health; tropical medicine; science and technology; and immunology fields with the highest citation impact. Among the top ten cited papers, Science and Immunology ranked first. Funding support was primarily from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (31 publications), the National Research Council, Sri Lanka (21), and internationally by the National Institutes of Health, United States of America (22). The study highlights KDU's growing research productivity, expanding collaborations, and increasing global visibility. Recommendations include promoting publications in high-impact journals, improving access to scholarly databases, and fostering a research-oriented environment to enhance institutional ranking and policy development.

Keywords: *Research productivity, Bibliometrics, Web of Science (WoS), General Sir John Kotelwalada Defence University (KDU), Biblioshiny, VoSviewer*

Introduction

Research has long been recognized as a foundation of scholarly activity, providing a systematic approach to generating new knowledge and addressing critical challenges. As a foundation of higher education, the primary goal of any academic institution is to disseminate knowledge through teaching, learning, and research in different fields (Hase & Gaikwad, 2024). Hence, an institution's reputation is largely influenced by the research output of its academics. "Research productivity" refers to the quantity and quality of research output generated by individuals, research groups, departments, institutions, or entire fields or countries within a given period (Hase & Gaikwad, 2024). As higher education institutions attempt for

excellence, assessing research output through bibliometric analysis provides valuable insights into publication trends, citation impact, collaboration impact, and emerging research areas. It covers a wide range of scholarly contributions, including journal articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, research papers, and posters, whether published or unpublished. These scholarly contributions act as a valuable source of information, potentially influencing policy decisions, guiding decision-making processes, and stimulating further research (Jiang et al., 2014). In addition, they can be used to monitor advancements in specific fields of study.

The General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), founded in 1981 as an academy and elevated to university status in 1988, is situated in Ratmalana. Moreover, the KDU operates a Southern Campus in Sooriyawewa, which houses the Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Sciences. At present, the university has produced over 3,500 graduates for Sri Lanka's tri-services while expanding its contributions to include fee-levying degree programs for day scholars since 2010. Furthermore, KDU attracts foreign students, especially from SAARC nations, which contributes to its international reputation (Discover KDU | CSA - KDU, 2025). The KDU now has nine faculties in the fields of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Computing, Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, Law, Criminal Justice, Police Science, Defense and Strategic Studies, and International Relations. In addition to these faculties, the Faculty of Graduate Studies was established to enhance the university's contributions to national research and development, fostering advanced scholarly inquiry and innovation. Furthermore, KDU has been established as a separate institute, the Institute for Combinatorial Advanced Research and Education (CARE), with the intention of developing knowledge and innovations in

areas such as health, biomedicine, biotechnology, chemistry, engineering and technology, computing, social sciences, and international relations. Also, KDU organizes annual research conferences, international conferences, and research symposiums. Additionally, most faculties in the university publish their own academic journals. Notably, the Faculty of Law publishes a journal indexed in a reputed database such as HeinOnline, while three other faculty journals are indexed in Sri Lanka Journals Online.

Different studies have employed scientometric methods to analyze the productivity of research in educational institutions and individuals (Janen, 2022). Furthermore, bibliometric studies help examine the quantitative aspects of research output among researchers and institutions revealing valuable insights into the overall research landscape of the institutions (Hase & Gaikwad, 2024). The Web of Science (WoS) is among the most widely used sources for assessing institutional research output and has been extensively used by researchers as a bibliometric data source (Kumar Roy & Mandal, 2021.; Stock et al., 2025). However, according to existing literature no studies have examined the research productivity of KDU. Hence, this study aims to fill this gap by mapping and analyzing the research publications authored by KDU academics indexed in WoS using a scientometric approach to provide institution-specific insights that have not been previously explored. The study also systematically evaluates KDU's publication trends that may help universities refining their research policies, address shortcomings, and enhance their national and international rankings. Additionally, it provides insights for university librarians to select relevant information resources to support academic research.

Bibliometric studies fall into four categories: a) bibliometric analysis in different subject areas, b) bibliometric analysis of scientific publications of

different countries/regions) c) bibliometric analysis of scientific journals, and d) bibliometric analysis of universities and research institutes (Rostami et al., 2024). As the present research aligns with the fourth category, the most relevant and recent studies on the topic are comprehensively reviewed in the following section.

Literature Review

Measuring research productivity of an academic institution is very crucial for its quality of education. Various studies have been conducted to determine the research productivity of different types of institutions at both national and international levels using widely recognized indexing services such as Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus. In this section, the study discusses recent and relevant selected literature pertaining to research productivity of universities both nationally and internationally.

Sri Lankan Context

Bibliometric studies, including those conducted in the Sri Lankan context, provide insights into research publication trends. To map the research productivity of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Ravikumar (2025) conducted a study based on the Scopus database. Most of the research was published in journal articles. The study encouraged academics to publish their research in international journals and conferences rather than focusing on local journals or conferences. Additionally, the study suggested organizing additional workshops and cultivating a research-based environment to enhance research productivity. Further, it is recommended that scholars maintain their profiles on research networks to improve visibility and university standing.

Latha and Lakshman (2020) researched publications from the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna between 2003 and 2018. When the overall output increased, the growth rate became unstable, and the output fluctuated accordingly. The Department of Zoology led in publication counts, and collaborative publications were dominant than single-author ones. Abstracts were the most common publication type, followed by journal articles. Findings revealed a fluctuating mean relative growth rate and recommended focusing on journal articles and interdisciplinary research to enhance the university's research impact.

Pratheepan and Weerasooriya (2015) conducted a scientometric analysis that investigated publication output, citations, and the h-index. The findings of the study showed that the faculties of Science and Medicine performed in terms of research productivity with h-indices of 5.55 and 5.25, respectively. The University of Peradeniya excelled in these disciplines, while the University of Kelaniya ranked highest in Medicine, and the University of Jaffna recorded the highest h-index in Management. Conversely, faculties in Arts and Social Sciences encountered challenges due to local publication practices and showed a preference for book chapters over journal articles, which limited their visibility in global databases such as Google Scholar. To address these issues, the authors recommended strengthening research support systems, improving citation practices, and assisting with high quality publications through targeted initiatives aimed at high-impact journals.

Similarly, Pratheepan (1999) emphasized the importance of developing a scientometric profile for the research and development of a country, institution, and scientists. His study revealed that, the University of Peradeniya was predominant in terms of research productivity and citation patterns in Sri Lanka during the period 1999-2010. Similar findings were

reported by Wijetunge et al., (2020), who also highlighted the predominance of research productivity and citation impact within the same context.

Although bibliometric studies have been widely conducted across various academic institutions, there remains a notable gap in research focused on scholarly output of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). However, several Sri Lankan universities have conducted bibliometric analyses, providing insights into publication trends, collaboration patterns, and citation impact as outlined above.

An International Context

Globally, bibliometric studies have been widely utilized to assess institutional research productivity. These comparative analyses highlight the significance of bibliometric approaches in evaluating institutional research landscapes (Daimary, 2024; Hasan & Singh, 2015; Hase & Gaikwad, 2024; Kumar et al., 2018; Kumar Roy & Mandal, n.d.; Rostami et al., 2024; Stock et al., 2025).

In the international context, Daimary (2024) examined the research output of Tezpur University from 1995 to 2023 using the Web of Science database, covering four academic disciplines: Management Science, Humanities and Social Science, Engineering, and Science. The analysis revealed considerable variation in research output over the past 29-year period, with science recording the highest number of publications (1,780), followed by Engineering (1,354), and Management Science with the lowest (102). Generally, the distribution supports patterns observed in both national and international studies.

Rostami et al. (2024) investigated the scientific publications of the Iran University of Medical Sciences from 1980-2020, using advanced visualization techniques to examine publication trends and research impact across disciplines. This study revealed that IUMS researchers mostly collaborated with the Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Researchers have primarily focused on pharmaceuticals, epidemiology, general/internal medicine, immunology, and meta-analysis/systematic reviews. “PLOS One” and “The Lancet” were the journals most cited by IUMS researchers. According to the co-occurrence map, highly frequent keywords, such as prevalence, expression, oxidative stress, diagnosis, risk factors, and therapy, were leading from mid-2016 to mid-2017, revealing growing trends over time.

Kumar et al., (2018) examined 136,156 publications from the Indian Institute of Technology indexed in the Web of Science database from 1989-2018. The most productive year was 2017, when articles were the dominant publication type. The most productive authors were Sharma, A. K., Kumar, A., and Gupta, A. Engineering, Chemistry, and Physics were among the leading subjects. The citation counts for leading articles ranged from 1486 to 12676. In summary, this study revealed remarkable research output during the specified period.

Hasan and Singh (2015) evaluated the research output of five top-ranked Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) based on research papers indexed in the Web of Science database for the period of 2009-2013. This study presented a scientometric assessment of the trend of research papers, including the year-wise distribution of publications among IITs versus total Indian research output, institutional distribution, and degree of collaboration with other countries and institutions from India. This study retrieved 215,019

records for India, which accounted for 2.72% of the global records for the same period. Among these records, 9.32% were attributed to the top five IITs in the field. The maximum number of articles (22.27%) were indexed in 2013. India collaborated with 177 countries, with the USA and Germany topping the list.

Regardless of the growing body of literature, no comprehensive bibliometric study has examined KDU's research output using the Web of Science (WoS) database. This gap represents a significant limitation in understanding the university research output. The present study addresses this gap by systematically analyzing KDU's publications indexed in WoS from 2000 to 2024, thereby providing institution-specific insights previously unexplored in existing literature.

Objectives

- To determine the publication growth rate of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) from 2000 to 2024, as indexed in the Web of Science database.
- To analyze authorship patterns and collaboration quantity of KDU research output.
- To recognize the most productive authors and their citation impact within the KDU research community.
- To study the subject distribution of KDU publications.
- To Identify the university's international collaborative strengths and funding agencies.

Research Design & Method

Study Design

This study adopted a scientometric approach, a widely recognized methodology for quantitatively assessing research activities. Scientometrics, as a specialized branch of bibliometrics, focuses on measuring and analyzing scholarly literature to evaluate research impact, monitor emerging trends, and support policy formulation and strategic planning for future research directions (Ningayya & Kumar, 2025).

Data Source

Data for the study was retrieved from the Web of Science (WoS) database. WoS database is one of the most reputed indexing databases used by many scholars to measure the research productivity of their institutions (Birkle et al., 2020; Liu & He, 2023; Michael, 2025; Ravi et al., 2024). Data records were downloaded in plain text format in March 2025.

Data Extraction

Bibliographic data were obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) using the search terms “General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,” “KDU,” and “Kotelawala Defence University”. Although records were retrieved for 2000–2024, the earliest indexed publication appeared in 2011. As the dataset was compiled in March 2025, the analysis was restricted to publications indexed between 2011 and 2024.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using MS-Excel, Biblioshiny (a bibliometric analysis tool), and VOSviewer for network visualization. Data was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative indicators including total publication

trends, citation analysis, research areas, authorship patterns, institutional collaborations, and geographic distribution.

The number of authors per paper was counted using MS-Excel. Authorship was categorized into four categories: single-authored, two-authored, multi-authored (three and four authors), and mega-authored (five or more) (Janen, 2022). Also, authorship analysis was performed using the complete counted method, in which each author listed on a publication is assigned full credit for that publication. The collaborative coefficient was determined using the formula proposed by Ajiferuke et al., (1988).

$$CC = 1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^A \frac{1}{j} (f_j)}{N}$$

where j = Authorship, f_j = Number of j – authored research papers, N =the total number of research papers, and A = the total number of authors per paper.

The data was systematically organized and presented through tables, graphs, and charts to facilitate clear visualization and interpretation of publication trends, authorship patterns, and collaborative networks.

Results and Discussion

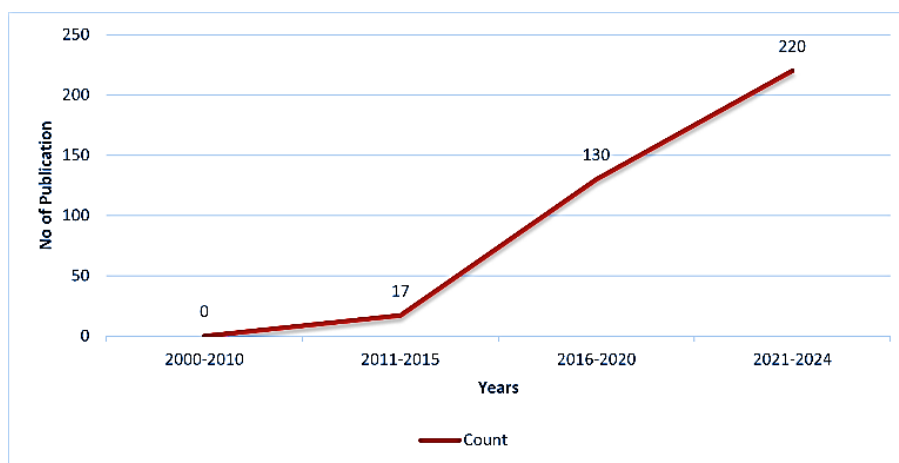
Figure 01 shows the publication growth rate of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University during the study period.

A ten-year period was considered for analysis, aligning with the approach adopted in similar bibliometric studies found in the literature. Furthermore, the research publications of KDU began to be indexed in the Web of Science

(WoS) database only from 2011 onwards. The study period was divided into intervals of five years to ensure consistency and comparability across time spans. However, the final period (2021–2024) covers only four years, as the data collection was conducted prior to the commencement of the year 2025, necessitating a shorter final interval.

Figure 01

Publication growth rate



The time frame of 2000–2024 was initially considered to capture a comprehensive view of publication trends. However, as the Web of Science database does not include indexed publications affiliated with KDU prior to 2011, the analysis effectively covers the period from 2011 to 2024. This ensures consistency and accuracy in the data presented.

The total publication output for each period was as follows: 2011-2015 (34), 2016-2020 (260), and 2021-2024 (440).

The first publication indexed from KDU in WoS appeared in 2011. From 2011 to 2023, the research output of the KDU represents a consistent upward, beginning with a single publication in 2011 and reaching a peak of 60 publications in both 2022 and 2023. This trend reflects a substantial

development in research output over the years. Nevertheless, a decline was observed in 2024, with the number of publications decreasing to 44. This reduction may suggest a shift in research priorities, resource allocation, other institutional or external factors influencing publication activity.

Authorship Analysis

Authorship pattern analysis is a crucial step in scientometric studies, as it is considered as a significant factor in an institution's information dissemination and communication. Collaborative research allows scientists from diverse disciplines to address present challenges more effectively and efficiently. Such collaborations extend beyond individual authors, encouraging partnerships across institutions and countries. The total number of authors who contributed to research publications during the study period was 2471 of which single authored articles were 7. According to the authorship analysis, average co-authors per article was 8.48, while the collaboration index which also represents the average number of authors per article was calculated as 5.14.

Most Productive Author

The most productive author is identified based on the number of publications published in the study period in WOS-indexed journals. The h-index is an author-level metric that counts the number of publications and citations (Porcel & Liesa, 2023). It also correlates with the number of citations and publications (Table 01). Among the top 10 publications, seven were from the Faculty of Medicine. Two were from the Faculty of Engineering. De Silva, A.D., attached to the faculty of Medicine, led the top 10 author list with 35 publications and 14 h-index followed by De Silva, N.L., with 24 publications

and Dampage, U. with 15 publications. Considering the number of citations, De Silva, A.D., attached to the Faculty of Medicine, led with 921 citations for his 35 publications.

Table 01

Top 10 authors based on number of publications

Author	Articles	Total Citations	Average Citation per item	h-index
De Silva A.D	35	921	26.31	14
De Silva N.L	24	350	14.58	8
Dampage U.	15	229	15.27	8
Balasuriya A.	13	61	4.69	5
Fernandopulle R.	11	93	8.45	5
Gamage A.U	17	27	1.59	3
Goonasekara C.L	10	101	10.10	3
Marikar F.M.M.T	6	101	16.83	3
Premaratne P.H	6	29	4.83	3
Pushpakumara B.H.J	6	21	3.50	2

Author Collaboration

Table 02 depicts the single, two, multi, and mega-authored articles and collaboration measurements during the study period.

According to Table 02, the Collaboration Coefficient (CC) shows a clear upward trend over the years. It began at 0.5 in 2011-2012 and gradually increased, reaching 0.77 by 2024, showing a very high level of collaboration. In the early years (2011-2015), publications were more commonly co-authored by two or three authors, while later years (2016-2024), except for 2018, there was a noticeable increase in papers authored by five or more authors. A significantly strong collaboration was observed in 2019, with a CC of 0.79. Overall, the constant increase in CC values from 0.5 to above 0.77 depicts the growing author collaboration at KDU over the study period.

Table 02

Author collaboration of KDU

Year	Single	Two	Multi-authored	Mega authored	Total	CC
2011	0	1	0	0	1	0.50
2012	0	0	0	2	2	0.50
2013	0	0	1	3	4	0.68
2014	0	0	2	1	3	0.71
2015	0	0	3	4	7	0.76
2016	0	0	5	4	9	0.69
2017	1	0	9	16	26	0.79
2018	0	0	1	20	21	0.78
2019	0	0	7	26	33	0.79
2020	1	0	7	23	31	0.77
2021	2	0	12	37	51	0.78
2022	2	0	25	26	53	0.70
2023	0	0	16	40	56	0.76
2024	1	0	13	29	43	0.77

Authorship Collaboration Pattern with Countries

Figure 02

Authorship collaboration pattern with countries

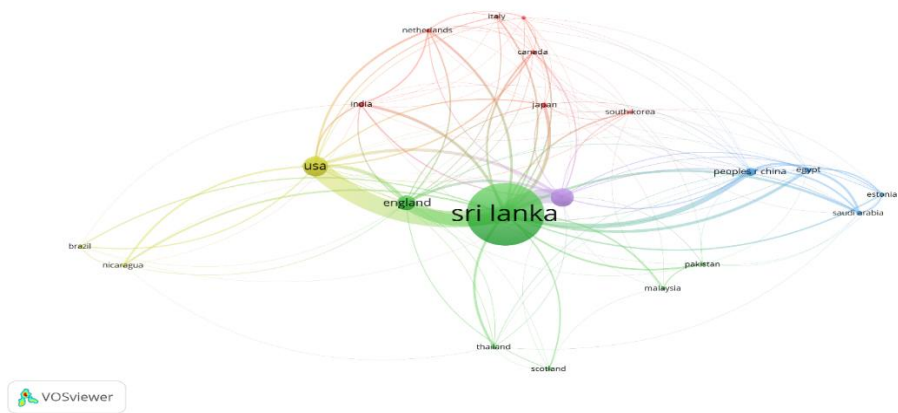


Figure 02 visualizes the collaboration between authors and countries. A total of n=68 countries contributed to n=2471 publications in this study. Sri Lanka

was the central hub in the collaboration network with 67 links and 363 (15%) documents. The major international collaborators of Sri Lankan authors were the USA with 73 (3%) documents, Australia with 65 (3%) documents, the UK with 49 (2%) documents, and China with 21 (1%) documents.

Author Collaboration with other Institutions

Figure 03

Author collaboration with other institutions

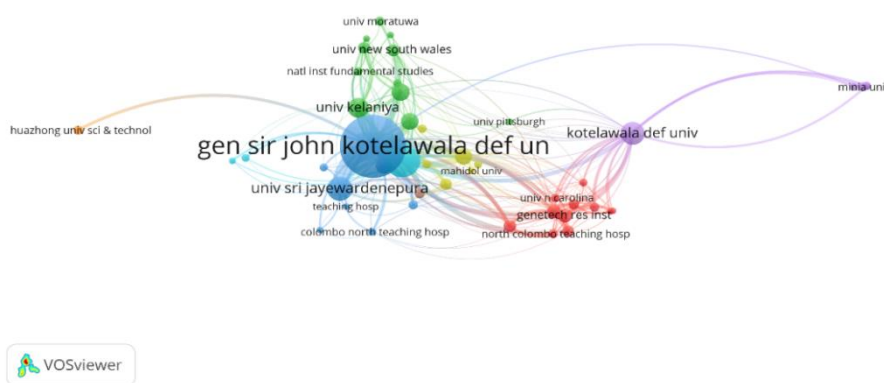


Figure 03 illustrates the collaboration of authors with other institutions. During the study period, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University collaborated with 46 institutions locally and internationally.

Most Highlighted Research Areas

Table 03 shows the most highlighted research areas in which researchers published their studies in WOS during the study period. According to the above data, the highest number of articles was published in Public, Environmental & Occupational Health; Tropical Medicine with 42 articles, followed by Science & Technology 38, and Internal Medicine 15. Table 03 indicates the citations received for the respective subjects; Immunology

received the highest number of citations (787) among the total citations (4873), followed by Science & Technology (566), Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (396), and Environmental Sciences & Ecology (394). Environmental Sciences & Ecology has the highest average citation per item, at 65.7. The subject h-index explains the number of publications that are equal to the number of citations (Janen, 2022). In this study, Science & Technology and Endocrinology & Metabolism obtained the highest number of h-index, which was 14 and 12, respectively. The h-index indicates that 14 out of 38 publications received either equal or more than 14 citations in Science & Technology.

Table 03

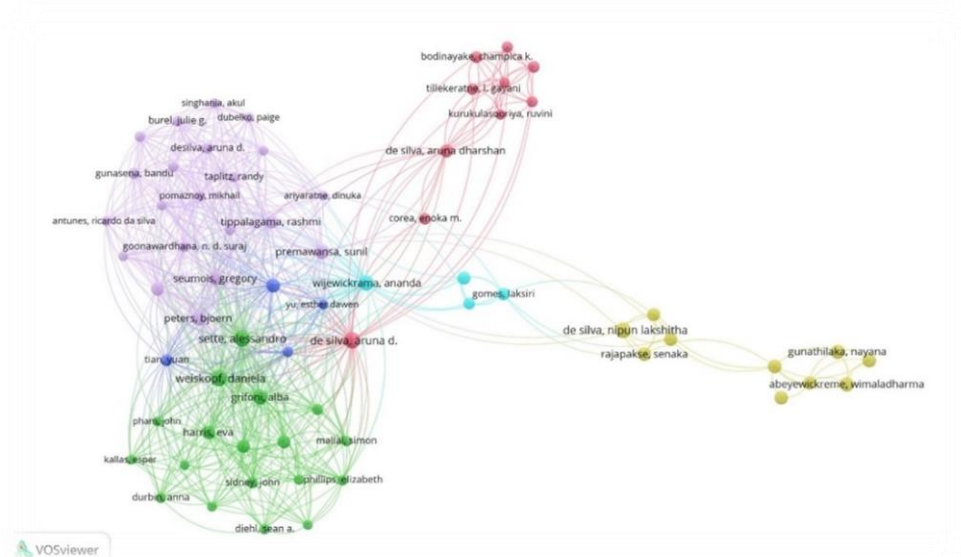
Most highlighted research areas

Most highlighted research areas	No of Articles	Citation	Average Citation per item	h-index
Public, Environmental & Occupational Health; Tropical Medicine	42	396	9.4	9
Science & Technology - Other Topics	38	566	14.9	14
General & Internal Medicine	15	79	5.3	5
Endocrinology & Metabolism	14	253	18.1	14
Immunology	12	787	65.6	12
Cardiovascular System & Cardiology	10	12	1.2	1
Infectious Diseases/Nursing	9	174	19.3	9
Parasitology/Pharmacology & Pharmacy	7	125	17.9	7
Veterinary Sciences	6	54	9.0	6
Environmental Sciences & Ecology	6	394	65.7	6

Co-authorship Network Map

Figure 04

Co-authorship Network Map



Co-authorship maps were developed through the analysis of data from academics who contributed a minimum of two publications with at least one citation in the WOS database using VOSviewer (Oyewola & Dada, 2022). Among the authors in the dataset, 357 met the threshold, with the largest set of connected items comprising 67 authors organized into six clusters. Figure 04 shows the results. The considerable number of citations and link strength illustrated by De Silva, Aruna D. who is representing a KDU academic staff is noteworthy. This author appears to be a key collaborator across multiple research groups, indicating interdisciplinary or cross-institutional work.

Highly Cited Top Ten Publications

Table 04 shows the highly cited top 10 publications contributed by KDU authors. It has been found that the research paper titled “Precursors of human CD4 cytotoxic T lymphocytes identified by single-cell transcriptome analysis” co-authored by De Silva Anura D., is ranked first with a total citation of 176 in ‘Science Immunology’ in 2018. Among the top ten publications, the manuscript co-authored by De Silva Anura D. placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks. The next highest citation rate marked by De Silva Nipun L. in ‘Diabetologia’ in 2022 with 105 citations.

Table 04

Top ten ranked publications based on citation

Author	Source Title	Year	TC	Average Citation per year
De Silva, Aruna D	Science immunology	2018	176	25.14
De Silva, Aruna D	Science immunology	2019	148	24.67
De Silva, Aruna D	Journal of infectious diseases	2018	108	15.43
De Silva, Nipun L.	Diabetologia	2020	105	21
De Silva, Nipun L.	Journal of clinical endocrinology & metabolism	2022	85	28.33
Goonasekara, Charitha L.	Saudi pharmaceutical journal	2019	78	13
Dampage, Udaya	Scientific reports	2022	66	22
Faiz M. M. T.	Toxics	2021	65	16.25
Fernando, W. C. D. K	Atmospheric research	2019	64	10.67
Kumarasinghe, Nishantha	Schizophrenia research	2016	64	7.11

Funding Agencies Supported KDU Research

Table 05

Funding agencies supported KDU research

Funding agencies	Number of publications	% of total
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	31	20.53
National Institutes of Health (NIH), United States of America	22	14.57
National Research Council, Sri Lanka (NRC)	21	13.91
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka	14	9.27
National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka	13	8.61
National Natural Science Foundation of China	8	5.30
University of Colombo	7	4.64
WHO	6	3.97
University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka	6	3.97
Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka	3	1.99
Griffith University Postgraduate Research Scholarship	3	1.99
King Saud University	3	1.99
Muscular Dystrophy Association, USA	3	1.99
National Institute for Health and Care Research, UK	3	1.99

Funding sources for every research are a crucial factor in the quality of research output. The quality of research depends on the accuracy of the research methodology, results, and equipment used (Janen, 2022). Researchers from the natural and applied sciences need more funds to purchase chemicals and other lab equipment. Therefore, they mostly depend on research grants and funds. As shown in Table 05, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) is the most prominent local contributor to KDU publications (20.53%). Furthermore, the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA leads among international agencies, supporting 14.57% of the research. In addition, other prominent international institutions and agencies, including

the WHO, NSF, and NRC, also contributed to KDU research, indicating a wide range of collaborations.

Conclusion and Discussion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the research publications of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) database during the period of 2000-2024. It was found that there was a clear upward trend in KDU research productivity during the study period with a notable peak in 2022 and 2023. This publication trend shows the university's increasing contribution to scholarly research and growing contribution to national and local academic communities.

It is evident that there was a strong culture of collaboration among KDU researchers. This was indicated by the authorship analysis with gradual increase in the collaboration coefficient from 0.5 to 0.77 indicating that multi- and mega-authored publications have become predominant.

In maintaining international collaborations, KDU researchers have engaged with 46 local and international institutions, mainly with the USA, Australia, the UK, and China. It is suggested that international collaborations with more countries would enhance research visibility and productivity of the KDU. Such collaborations can foster innovation, share knowledge and resources among institutions.

KDU researchers show dominance in key research areas, including public, environmental & occupational health, tropical medicine, and science & technology. The most prolific researcher is De Silva, A.D., in terms of the quality and visibility of the research output of KDU. Moreover, there were

several funding agencies assisting with KDU research, which include both local and international agencies such as University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the National Institute of Health, the World Health Organization, the National Science Foundation, and the National Research Council which have significantly contributed to the research enhancement of KDU.

In general, this study reveals that KDU has developed a strong research environment by cultivating productivity, multidisciplinary collaboration, and international partnership. The output of the study could assist policy makers of the university to strengthen the research support, encourage high-impact publications, and enhance the university's position in national and international academic rankings.

This study provides valuable input into KDU's research productivity; however, it is not without limitations. It depends mainly on data indexed in the WoS database, which may not fully cover KDU's research output, especially publications in local journals or other databases such as Scopus or Google Scholar. The main limitation is that it is focused on a single institution and a single country, which restricts the generalization of the findings. Additionally, the analysis did not include qualitative assessments of research quality or impact beyond citation metrics. Thus, future studies could expand the range by incorporating multiple databases to provide a more comprehensive overview of KDU's research productivity. Comparative studies with other Sri Lankan universities or regional institutions could also provide significant understandings. Moreover, exploring institutional policies, funding structures, and academic incentives would enhance the understanding of factors leading to scholarly productivity.

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