

Exploring the Evolution of Aspiration of Life in Scientific Literature: A Bibliometric Analysis (2015-2024)

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Health

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Study

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This bibliometric analysis explores the scholarly landscape of "Aspirations of Life" publications from 2015 to 2024, shedding light on trends, gaps, and key insights in this evolving field. The primary objective of this study is to identify the trajectory of research on aspirations, particularly focusing on the Nepalese context.

Methodology: Utilizing bibliometric analysis, this study examined online scholarly articles published in Dimension.ai, employing statistical techniques to analyze publication trends, citations, and research patterns. This method provided a comprehensive overview of the research landscape by scrutinizing authors, keywords, citations, and publication years.

Key Findings: The analysis revealed a significant increase in publications on "Aspirations of Life" over the past decade, peaking in 2023 with 532 publications. This surge underscores the growing scholarly interest in aspirations, with a notable rise in citations between 2020 and 2023, indicating increasing recognition and relevance in academic circles. However, a decline in the percentage of cited publications and fluctuating citation ratios suggest a need for more consistent impact and recognition of individual research contributions.

Conclusion & Recommendation: The study highlights the escalating importance and relevance of research on "Aspirations of Life," emphasizing the need for enhanced impact and quality in scholarly articles. To bolster research influence, increasing the publication of high-quality articles in international peer-reviewed journals is crucial. Furthermore, addressing research gaps, such as longitudinal studies on aspiration changes over time and exploring cultural variations, can enrich our understanding and inform more effective interventions in this critical area of study.

1. INTRODUCTION

Aspirations are goals that can only be fulfilled in the future, or in other words, they are future-oriented. The goal of aspirations is not to achieve instant satisfaction. Aspirations are drivers that are seen as a desire to accomplish a multifaceted life goal (Bernard & Taffesse, 2014). One way to interpret ambitions is as a cultural tool that students use to draw borders around their group membership (Baker, 2017). An individual's aspirations are positively connected with subjective well-being and self-efficacy, two personality factors that contribute to his/her persistence. High levels of resilience were a component of high educational aspirations, and these individuals were also more inclined to invest in their education and abstain from dangerous conduct (Graham & Pozuelo, 2023).

There are two types of aspiration: intrinsic and extrinsic. A set of ambitions was provided by (Kasser & Ryan, 1996), that included extrinsic aspirations (popularity, financial success, and image) and intrinsic aspirations (personal growth, close interactions, community involvement, and physical health). Moreover, grouping other ambitions like self-expression and mastery with the intrinsic aspirations and power and social adherence with the extrinsic aspirations, (Martela et al., 2019) produced satisfying results. Positive relationships between wellness and the candidate's intrinsic aspirations and negative or neutral relationships with the candidate's extrinsic aspirations were also found to be highly conforming.

Engaging in a task for its intrinsic rewards rather than a tangential benefit is known as intrinsic motivation. Thus, intrinsic motivation stands in contrast to extrinsic motivation and refers to engaging in an activity just for its own sake, independent of any potential benefits (Ryan & Deci, 2000). According to CET (Cognitive Evaluation Theory), the basic psychological demands for competence and self-determination are what underlie intrinsic motivation (Deci, 2001). The extrinsic motivation applies whenever an action is taken with the

intention of achieving a distinct goal (Ryan & Deci, 2000). Extrinsic goals may occasionally serve as the cornerstone for obtaining intrinsic goals. People can develop and pursue intrinsic aspirations when some or all of their extrinsic desires are fulfilled (Nishimura & Suzuki, 2016).

Self-transcendent aspirations are focused on helping others and improving society and, consequently, are considered aspirations whose purpose transcends oneself. Life pleasure is positively correlated with aspirations for a self-transcendent life (Oriol et al., 2020). Moreover, Graham & Pozuelo demonstrated that the combination of social and contextual factors that influence aspirations tends to impede the aspirations of those who are disadvantaged, including women, immigrants, and the impoverished. This can lead to vicious cycles of low growth, high inequality, low social mobility, and poverty (Graham & Pozuelo, 2023). Baker concentrated on the moral interpretations that young people make of their plans and goals for the future, and how they facilitate a clearer understanding of why high goals might persist in the face of limited resources, opportunities, or capital. The knowledge of status and rank hierarchies also explained the students' commitments to higher educational aspirations. Religion also seemed to be a determinant of aspirations; as religious people made an effort to base their attitudes and aspirations on their beliefs (Baker, 2017). Over time, aspirations change as a result of a person's unique traits, experiences, relationships with family, and interactions with the community. Aspirations can also interact with objective elements like aptitude and ability, creating positive or negative feedback loops. Consequently, many putative aspiration-determining factors have been found, along with potential interactions between these parameters (Graham & Pozuelo, 2023).

The research gaps identified include the need for longitudinal studies on how aspirations change over time, exploration of cultural and regional variations in

aspirations, and understanding the mechanisms linking aspirations to well-being. There is a lack of studies on the impact of digital and social media on aspirations, effective interventions to foster positive aspirations, and the specific roles of family and community influences. Further research is needed on how intrinsic and extrinsic aspirations affect diverse populations, the influence of religious and moral beliefs, the transition from extrinsic to intrinsic goals, and the aspirations of marginalized groups. Addressing these gaps could enhance our understanding and inform more effective interventions.

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY

The main objective of this study is to explore the scholarly study on aspiration of life published in Dimension.ai from 2015 to 2024. This study aims to identify the trend and gap of study especially in the Nepalese context.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study was based on a review of previous studies. It adopted the bibliometric analysis method for online published scholarly articles in Dimension.ai.

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method used to study and analyze research publications and citations to gain insights into the structure, trends, and impact of a particular field of study (Maulana, 2022; Santos et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2023). It involves the statistical analysis of bibliographic data such as authors, keywords, citations, and publication years to identify patterns, trends, and relationships within the research landscape (Maulana, 2022; Santos et al., 2023). The insights gained from bibliometric analysis can inform research policy, funding decisions, and strategic planning by providing an objective assessment of research strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities (Zhang et al., 2023). By leveraging bibliometric techniques, researchers can identify research gaps, emerging topics, influential works, and potential collaborators to advance knowledge and drive innovation in their respective domains.

The study followed the following condition and filtration process to collect, review, and analyze the previous studies:

DATA SOURCE	DIMENSIONS.AI
KEYWORDS	Aspiration of life
KEYWORDS SEARCH IN	Title and abstract
TOTAL ARTICLES	20138
PUBLICATION YEAR	2015 to 2024 (10 years)
TOTAL ARTICLES	12099
RESEARCH CATEGORIES	44 – Human Society 39 – Education 50-philosophy and religion 4410-sociology 4702-cultural studies
TOTAL ARTICLES	5253
PUBLICATION TYPES	Article
TOTAL ARTICLES	3430
DATA COLLECTION DATE	10 May 2024

Research design: the study followed the quantitative design. It was a descriptive study that described the publication trend and its citation of aspiration of life-related articles.

Data analysis: The collected data was analyzed using VOS viewer and Excel. The data were presented in the table and graphs/figures.

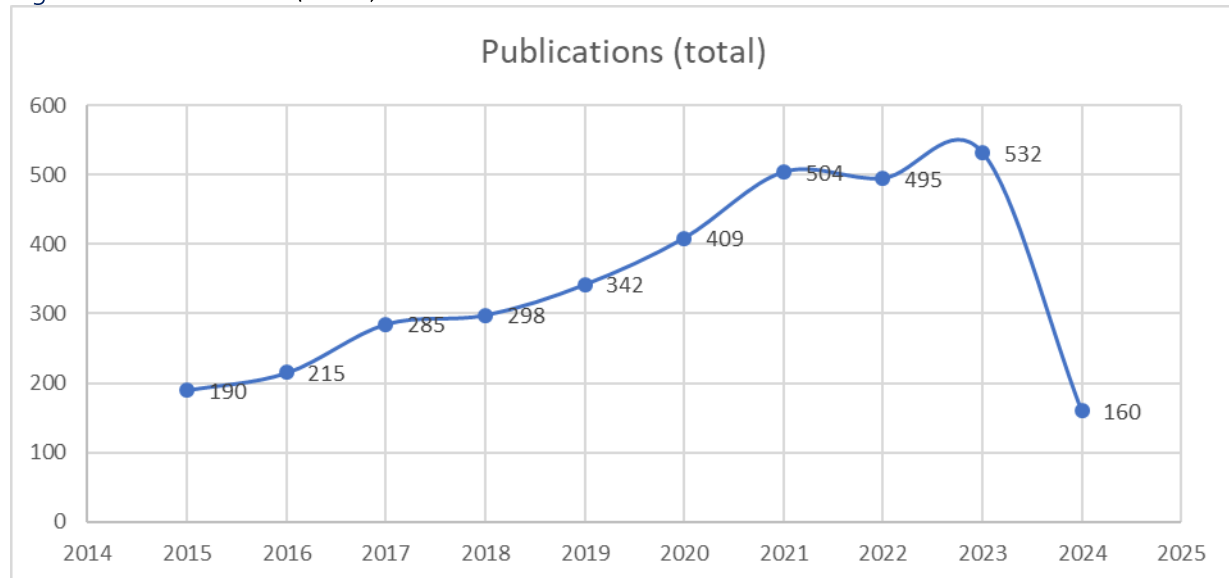
3. RESULT AND INTERPRETATION

The study did interpretation of selected articles based on the years of publication, number, of documents, and

citations. It did a trend analysis of published articles.

3.1 TOTAL PUBLICATION

Figure 1: *Publications (Total)*



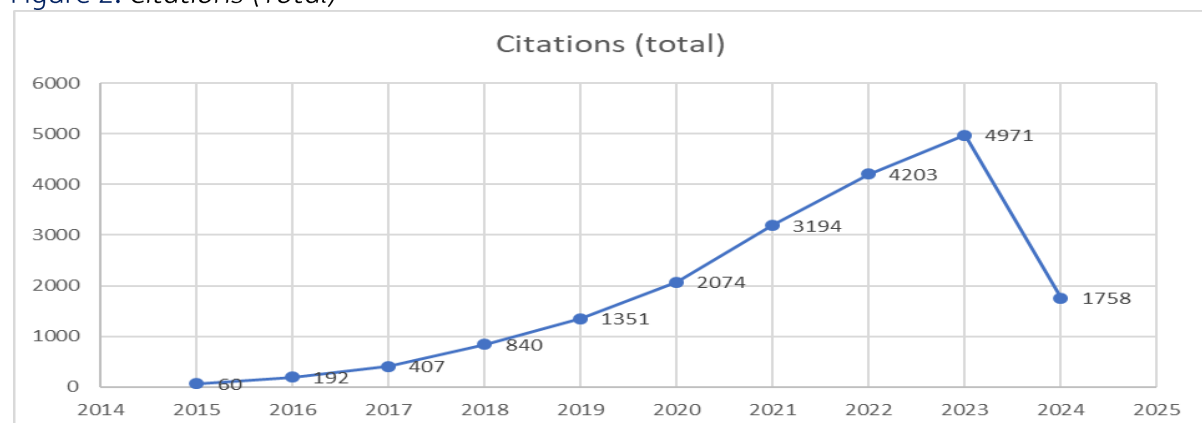
Source: *Dimension.ai 2024*

The above graph shows the number of total publications related to “Aspirations of Life” over the last 10 years. The total number of publications in 2015 is 190, which continually increases every year till 2021 when the total number of publications reaches 504. The total number of publications decreases slightly in 2022 with the total number of publications being 495.

This may lead to falsely believing that saturation has been reached in research relating to “Aspirations of life”. However, an abrupt rise can be observed in 2023 where it reaches an all-time peak with 532 publications on the topic of “Aspirations of life”. This signifies that the topic of “Aspirations of life” is still relevant and of importance among scholars globally.

3.2 TOTAL CITATION

Figure 2: *Citations (Total)*



Source: *Dimension.ai 2024*

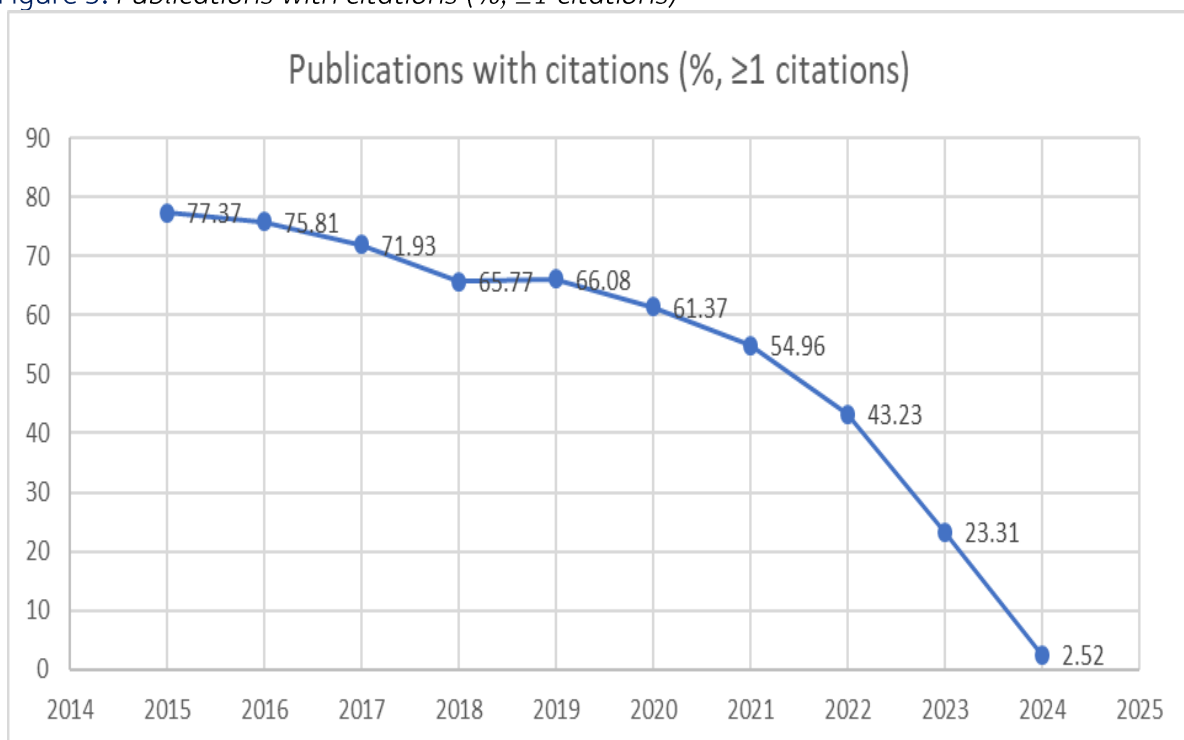
Publication citations are the number of times that publications have been cited by other publications in the database. The visualization shows the number of citations received each year.

It can be observed from the above graph that the total number of publications as well as the publication citations related to 'Aspiration of Life' have been in increasing order. The total number of citations was only 60 in 2015. It rises gradually till 2019

with total citations of 1351 in that year. A steep increase can be observed in the number of citations in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 where the total citations are 2074, 3194, 4203, and 4971 respectively. This shows that increasingly more researchers, students, and professors are interested in the topic of 'Aspirations of life' every year, highlighting the topic's importance and relevance in recent years.

3.3 PUBLICATIONS WITH CITATIONS

Figure 3: Publications with citations (% , ≥ 1 citations)



Source: *Dimension.ai* 2024

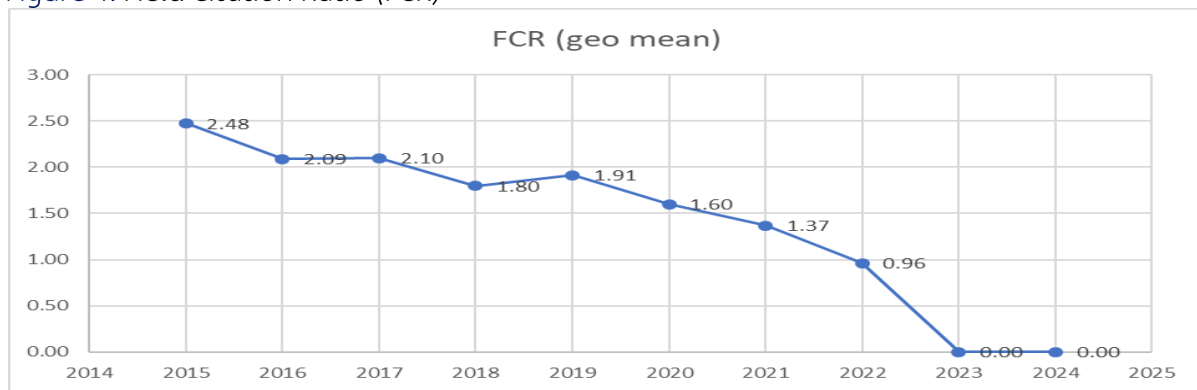
Publication citations are the number of times publications have been cited by other publications in the database. The visualization shows the percentage of publications with ≥ 1 citation published each year.

The number of publications dealing with "Aspirations of Life" getting at least 1 citation is shown. The trend of the graph is shown over the last 10 years, and a general decline can be observed over the years, suggesting a gradual decline in relevance.

The percentage of publications with citations decreases gradually from 2015 to 2021. From 2021 to 2023, the decline has been rather abrupt, with the percentage of publication citations decreasing by as much as 20%. The drawn conclusion is that though the number of publications has been fairly increasing over the years, the percentage of the total publications cited by other scholars has been on a decreasing trend.

3.4 FIELD CITATION RATIO (FCR)

Figure 4: Field Citation Ratio (FCR)



Source: Dimension.ai 2024

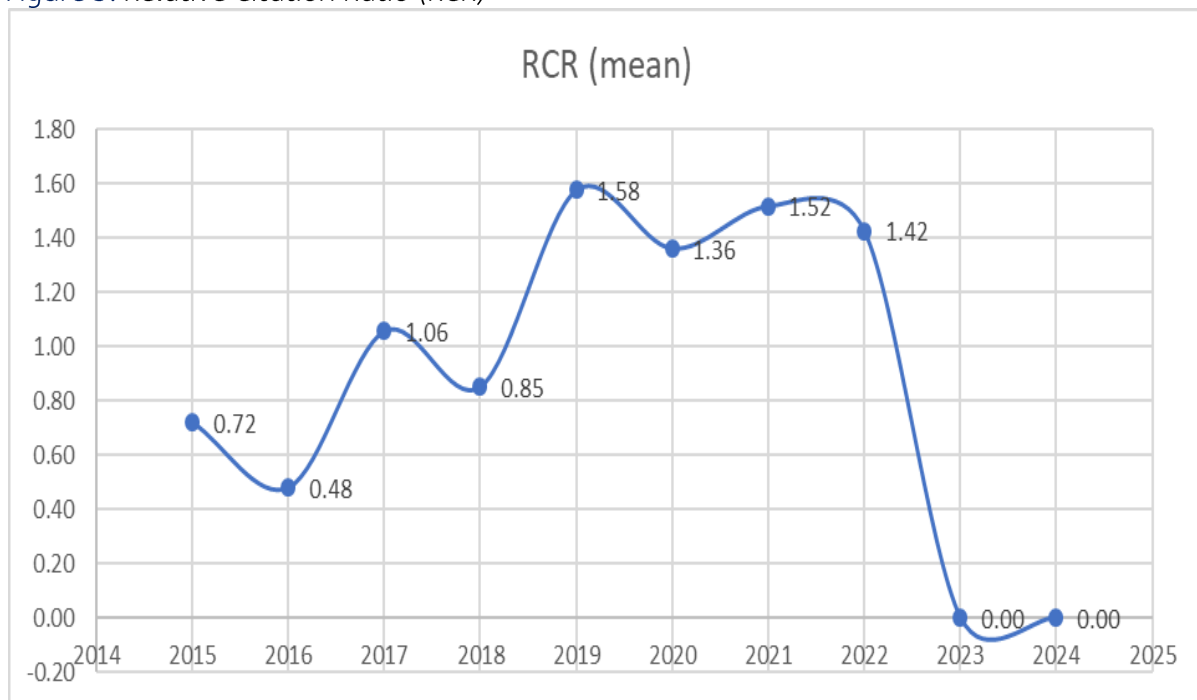
The Field Citation Ratio describes the relative citation performance of a publication; the higher the ratio, the better it is performing. The graph shows the mean FCR per publication, per year published.

The FCR was highest in 2015 and shows a general decline over the years with slight fluctuations. Since FCR is the comparison of received citations among articles of a similar field, the declining trend of FCR is an indication of a decline in the level of interest

or impact of the research on 'Aspirations of life' as compared to other research topics under the same field of human society, education, philosophy and religion, sociology or cultural studies. It may further be a shift in the focus of research, which could be because of the increasing popularity of other topics or the reduction in popularity or saturation of research on the topic "Aspirations of life".

3.5 RELATIVE CITATION RATIO (RCR)

Figure 5: Relative Citation Ratio (RCR)



Source: Dimension.ai 2024

The Relative Citation Ratio (RCR) indicates the relative citation performance of a publication when comparing its citation rate to that of other publications in its area of research. The visualization shows the average RCR per publication published each year.

The RCR values fluctuate over the years, with some years exhibiting higher citation impact (e.g., 1.58, 1.52, 1.42) and others showing lower impact (e.g., 0, 0.48). This suggests that the citation impact of articles on aspirations of life has not been consistently increasing or decreasing over the entire period.

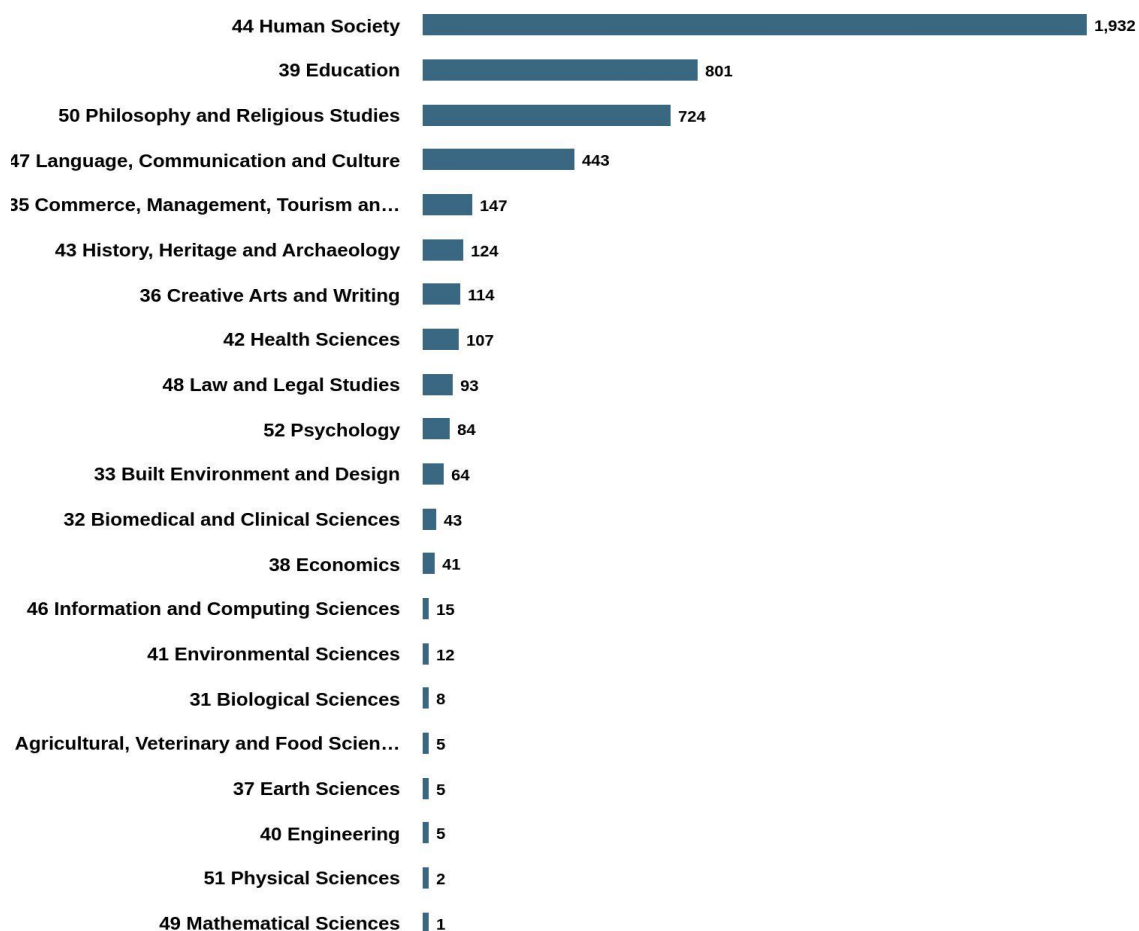
Years with RCR values above 1 (e.g., 1.06, 1.58, 1.36, 1.52, 1.42) indicate periods when articles in this field received citation impact higher than the average for their respective fields. These years may represent periods of significant research activity, breakthroughs, or increased attention to the topic.

While there is no clear linear trend in the RCR values over the last ten years, the average RCR for the period (approximately 0.95) suggests that, on average, articles on aspirations of life have received slightly below-average citation impact compared to other articles in their respective fields during this timeframe.

3.6 NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS IN EACH RESEARCH CATEGORY

Figure 6: Number of publications in each research category

number of publications in each research category. (Criteria: see below)



Source: <https://app.dimensions.ai>
Exported: May 10, 2024

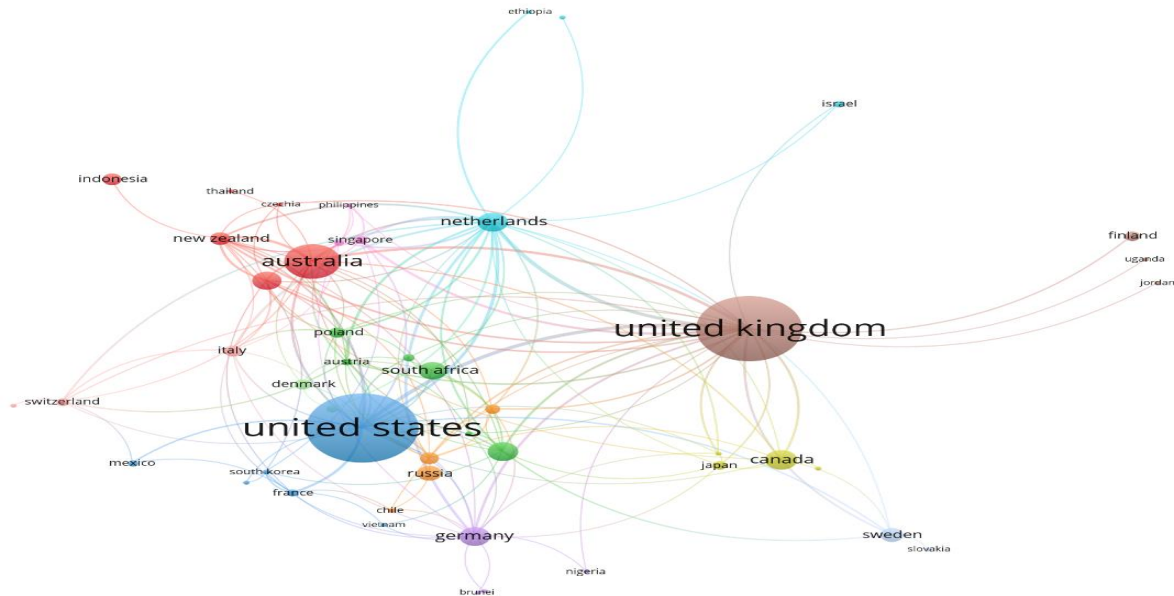
Criteria: 'aspiration of life' in title and abstract; Publication Year is 2015 or 2016 or 2017 or 2018 or 2019 or 2020 or 2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024; Fields of Research (ANZSRC 2020) is 39 Education or 4410 Sociology or 50 Philosophy and Religious Studies or 4702 Cultural Studies or 44 Human Society; Publication Type is Article.

Highest number of publications relating to “Aspirations of life” has been published under the research category of ‘Human Society’ (1932), followed by ‘Education’ (801), ‘Philosophy and Religious Studies’ (724), ‘Language, Communication and

Culture’ (443) with the number publications being below 150 in rest of the category. It can be concluded that the relation between Aspiration of life and human society has been focused in a great deal by the scholars.

3.7 COUNTRY-WISE CITATION

Figure 7: Country-wise citation



Source: Dimension.ai 2024

Table 1: Country-wise citation

Ranking	Countries	Documents	Citations
1	United States	312	3431
2	United Kingdom	292	3377
3	Australia	131	1708
4	Netherlands	61	1118
5	New Zealand	36	682
6	China	59	623
7	Canada	65	575
8	Germany	63	433
9	South Africa	56	405
10	Sweden	43	389

Source: Dimension.ai 2024

The above figure 7 and Table 1 shows the countries with the greatest number of citations received. The chart is led by the United States receiving the maximum citation of 3431 in 312 documents followed by the United Kingdom at second place with

3377 citations in 292 documents. Meanwhile, Sweden, South Africa, and Germany are the bottom three countries in the list of top 10 countries receiving the most citations receiving 389, 405, and 433 citations respectively.

3.8 ORGANIZATION-WISE CITATION

Figure 8: Organization-wise citation



Source: Dimension.ai 2024

Table 2: Organization wise citation

Id	Organization	Documents	Citations	Total Link Strength
427	Harvard University	12	206	0
810	National University of Singapore	16	292	3
1253	University of Amsterdam	22	618	4
1259	University of Auckland	12	257	2
1286	"University of California, San Diego"	4	205	0
1317	University of Edinburgh	14	232	0
1392	University of Massachusetts Amherst	2	304	0
1395	University of Melbourne	18	299	2
1432	University of Oxford	18	212	2
1443	University of Queensland	16	254	1

Source: Dimension.ai 2024

After thoroughly examining the document-wise citations across various academic organizations, it is clear that there are large differences in citation numbers. The University of Amsterdam stands out with a notably high citation count of 618 in a total of 22 documents, while the University of California, San Diego, has a smaller citation count of 205 in a total

of 2 documents. Many factors are likely to affect the variations such as research focus, collaboration networks, and institutional reputation. Further research can be carried out to explain the specific factors causing varying citation rates as well as to explore various strategies to enhance the scholarly impact across institutions.

3.9 BIBLIOGRAPHIC COUPLING WITH ASPIRATION OF LIFE-RELATED DOCUMENTS

Figure 9: Bibliographic coupling with aspiration of life-related documents



Source: Dimension.ai 2024

3.11 WORD NET VISUALIZATION

Figure 11: Word net visualization



Source: *Dimension.ai 2024*

This figure shows synonym words relating to aspiration such as ambitiousness, ambition, aspirate, dream, inspiration, etc. that were used in the previous studies.

4. DISCUSSION

The analysis of selected articles on "Aspirations of Life" reveals several noteworthy trends and insights. Over the past decade, there has been a substantial increase in the number of publications on this topic, peaking in 2023 with 532 publications. This suggests a growing scholarly interest in aspirations of life, which has not reached saturation despite a slight dip in 2022. The trend in citations supports this observation, showing a significant rise in the number of citations, especially between 2020 and 2023, indicating an increasing recognition and relevance of the topic in academic circles.

However, the percentage of publications with at least one citation has been declining, indicating that while more papers are being published, a smaller proportion are being cited. This could point to a growing volume of research where the impact and quality may vary. The Field Citation Ratio (FCR) and Relative Citation Ratio (RCR) further illustrate this mixed trend. The FCR has generally declined, suggesting a decrease in the relative impact of these publications compared to others in the same field. Meanwhile, the RCR has

shown fluctuations, with some years indicating high citation impact and others lower, reflecting variability in the influence of research on aspirations of life.

The distribution of research across different categories and countries highlights where the focus and impact are most significant. The "Human Society" category has the highest number of publications, emphasizing the societal relevance of the topic. The United States and the United Kingdom lead in citations, demonstrating a strong presence and influence in this research area. Organizational data shows significant variation, with institutions like the University of Amsterdam and the University of California, San Diego, standing out in terms of citation impact, potentially due to their research focus and academic networks.

5. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

The study indicates that research on "Aspirations of Life" has gained substantial traction over the past decade, with a notable increase in publications and citations. This underscores the topic's growing importance and relevance in various academic fields. However, the decline in the percentage of cited publications and the fluctuating citation ratios suggest a need for a more consistent impact and recognition of individual research contributions. The concentration of high-impact research in certain institutions

and countries points to the importance of academic networks and institutional focus in driving research influence.

To enhance the impact and quality of research on "Aspirations of Life," it is essential to increase the number of scholarly articles in international peer-reviewed journals. Nepal is back in the publication of academic articles on 'Aspiration of Life' by using the standard scales so Nepalese researchers should study it and need to publish from international journals.

Conflict of Interest: Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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