

## **Indian Doctoral Research in the Field of Law: An Analytical Study**

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### **Abstract:**

Research is considered to be the foundation for future investigation in any field of study. Every discipline feeds on research and it increases the breadth and depth of the discipline. Universities and research laboratories contribute a major role in shaping the research and developmental activities. In this context the present paper provides a comprehensive overview of Doctoral Research carried out in the Universities of India in the subject Law. By examining the collected data, the study identifies the growth pattern of research, the most productive Universities and States, productive supervisors along with the broad areas of research in the field of Law.

**Key Words:** Doctoral dissertations, Law, Indian Universities, Analytical Study.

### **1. Introduction:**

Research and development are the index of prosperity of the nation. Research is a means of continuously developing a discipline. Doctoral research is known to be the rich and unique source of information on any field of investigation. Indian

Universities play an important role in the generation and application of new knowledge. The contributions of the universities belong to four major areas such as teaching, research, conservation and extension. Research is the pursuit of new frontiers of knowledge. The success or failure of a university is measured by the contributions it has made in each of the above areas out of which research is an important aspect. Doctoral research comprises one subset of research for which India annually invests substantial amount of money. The result of the doctoral research is presented in the form of a dissertation. A doctoral dissertation or thesis is a document submitted in support of candidature for an academic degree or professional qualification presenting the scholar's research and findings ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)). It embodies results of original research especially substantiating a specific view, written by a candidate for the academic degree. **Law** is a system of rules and guidelines which are enforced through social institutions to govern the behaviour of the human beings in the society. Law as a discipline of study has a long standing history in Indian sub-continent that has been institutionalised through academic system of education and taught at different levels. Considering the importance of Doctoral Research in the field of Law the present research work has been conceived to deal with various issues and trends of law research in India.

## **2. Scope and Limitation of the Study:**

The scope of any investigation identifies the boundaries of the study in terms of the Subject, objectives, area, time frame and the core issues on which the research is focused. The scope of the present study is confined to the Doctoral dissertations submitted by different universities of India in the field of Law from 2009 to 2013. The study moves ahead with the following limitations:

- Limitations by period of time that is from **2009-2013**.
- Limitations by coverage of subjects that is **Law** for the present work.

## **3. Aims and Objectives:**

The study is basically designed to analyse the various characteristics doctoral dissertations in the subject of **Law** submitted under different Indian Universities during a time span of five years. Hence, this study focused on the following basic objectives:

- To trace the chronological growth of research in the field of Law in India during the five years that is from 2009 to 2013.
- To find out the contribution from different universities of India
- To prepare a rank list of the Universities of India in terms of research productivity
- To prepare a rank list of the most productive supervisors in the field.
- To make thorough study of the subjects of research in law.

**4. Methodology of the Study:**

To achieve the objectives of the study the bibliographic details of Ph.D. works in Law awarded by various Indian universities were examined and the relevant data collected from back volumes of **University News** which is a weekly publication of Association of Indian University. This University News publishes every week a list of doctoral dissertations in the fields of Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities under the heading **Theses of the Month**. For the present work the investigators have chosen the subject of Law which is coming under the major discipline Social Science. A database was created in Ms-Excel spreadsheet incorporating various bibliographic data of the theses and the data was tabulated and presented. In order to analyse the subject trend and to show the key areas of research the investigator has taken help of a subject expert from the discipline of Law.

**5. Review of Literature:**

Literature Review is the most important tool for any social research as it provides background knowledge on the work already carried out in the concerned field of investigation. Thus it indicates the research that has been made previously related to the research along with their findings and constraints and the area to be studied further. A survey of literature related to the trends of research in Law revealed very little literature. However, Leenars et al (2012) made an analysis of the trends of research on suicide from global perspective and found out that India shows an increasing trend as regards to the suicidal cases and every year 1000 people die by suicide. Shukla (2002) has made a study on the juvenile delinquents and have found out the background reasons for which the juveniles commit such crimes.

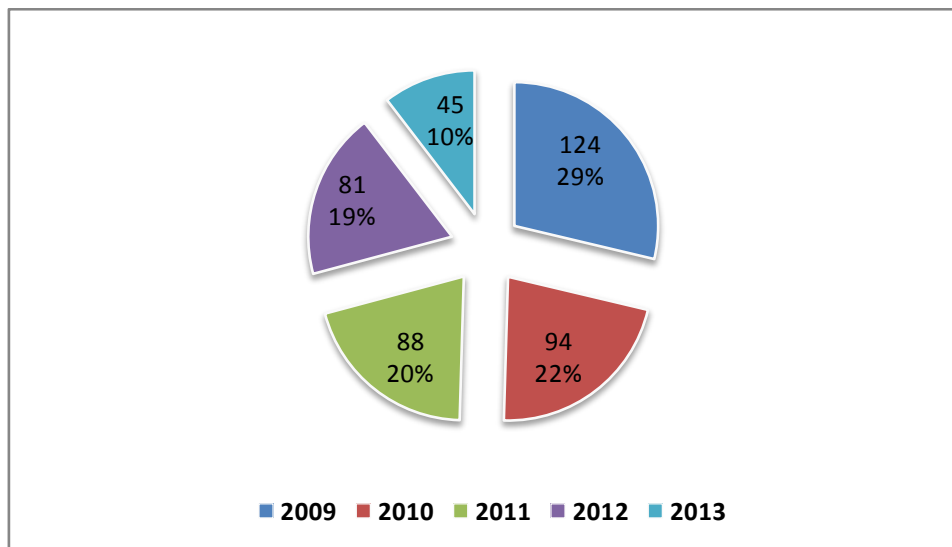
**6. Observation and Analysis:**

Data analysis is the major part of every research work. For the present work data has been collected on the subject of Law keeping in view the objectives of the study. For each dissertation work the title of the work, the name of the scholar as well as the guide, the university from which it has been deposited etc. has been taken and a database has been developed to make requisite interpretations and presented in the form of tables and figures with the help of MS-Excel.

**Table 1: Year-wise Distribution Theses:**

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>No. of Theses</b> | <b>Percentage of Theses</b> | <b>Cumulative No.</b> |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2009         | 124                  | 29                          | 124                   |
| 2010         | 94                   | 22                          | 218                   |
| 2011         | 88                   | 20                          | 306                   |
| 2012         | 81                   | 19                          | 387                   |
| 2013         | 45                   | 10                          | 432                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>432</b>           | <b>100</b>                  | <b>...</b>            |

Table-1 and the resultant figure present the data relating to year-wise distribution of doctoral dissertations submitted under various Indian Universities within a time period of 5 years i.e. from 2009 to 2013. From the above table it is observed that maximum number of theses has been deposited in the year 2009 that is 124 that covers (29%), of the total theses followed by the year 2010 in which 94 (22%) numbers of theses have been deposited. The lowest numbers of theses have been deposited in the 2013 that is 45(10%). From the year-wise distribution of theses a decreasing trend is found as regards to Law research in India.



**Figure 1: Year & Percentage wise distribution of Theses**

Table-2 presents the data relating to university wise distribution of theses deposited over a period 5 years i.e. during 2009 to 2013 and the figure-2 depicts the percentage wise distribution of theses. During the above period all total 432 numbers of theses have been deposited from 52 Universities of India. The maximum numbers of theses are from Maharishi Dayanand University from the state of Haryana which is 52 in number and it account for (12.04%) of the total work followed by Saurashtra University with 33 (7.64%) theses, 31 (7.18%) theses from Osmania University, 29 (6.71%) numbers of theses from Hemachandracharya North Gujarat University respectively. The above table depicts the entire list of the universities with their percentage of contributions as regards to the doctoral studies in Law for the period of study.

**Table 2: University –Wise Distribution of Theses:**

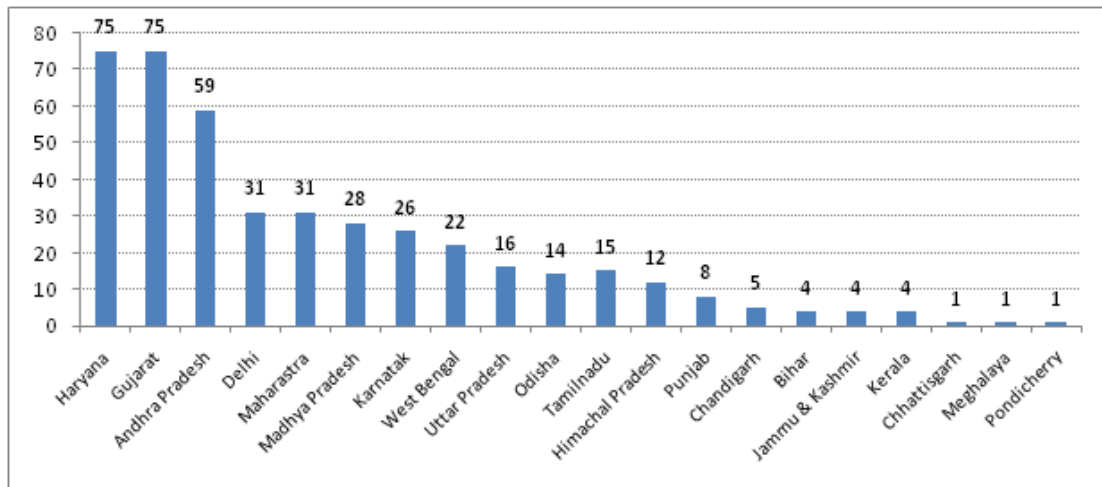
| Sl. | University                                     | State            | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | Total | %     |
|-----|--|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1   | Maharshi Dayanand University                   | Haryana          | 10   | 11   | 16   | 11   | 4    | 52    | 12.04 |
| 2   | Saurashtra University                          | Gujarat          | 12   | 6    | 5    | 9    | 1    | 33    | 7.64  |
| 3   | Osmania University                             | Andhra Pradesh   | 7    | 11   | 7    | 2    | 4    | 31    | 7.18  |
| 4   | Hemachandracharya North Gujarat University     | Gujarat          | 4    | 4    | 15   | 5    | 1    | 29    | 6.71  |
| 5   | Jawaharlal Nehru University                    | Delhi            | 6    |      | 5    | 11   |      | 22    | 5.09  |
| 6   | Kurukshetra University                         | Haryana          | 14   | 2    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 21    | 4.86  |
| 7   | Andhra University                              | Andhra Pradesh   | 5    | 7    | 4    |      |      | 16    | 3.70  |
| 8   | University of Kolkata                          | West Bengal      | 3    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 1    | 16    | 3.70  |
| 9   | Dr Ambedkar Law University                     | Tamilnadu        | 6    | 4    | 1    | 4    |      | 15    | 3.47  |
| 10  | Himachal Pradesh University                    | Himachal Pradesh | 5    | 5    |      | 2    |      | 12    | 2.78  |
| 11  | Karnatak University                            | Karnataka        | 3    | 4    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 12    | 2.78  |
| 12  | Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya                    | Madhya Pradesh   | 4    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 10    | 2.31  |
| 13  | Rashtrosant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University | Maharashtra      | 10   |      |      |      |      | 10    | 2.31  |
| 14  | Acharya Nagarjuna University                   | Andhra Pradesh   | 0    |      | 2    | 5    | 2    | 9     | 2.08  |
| 15  | Punjabi University                             | Punjab           |      |      | 4    | 2    | 3    | 9     | 2.08  |
| 16  | Vikram University                              | Madhya Pradesh   | 3    |      |      | 3    | 3    | 9     | 2.08  |
| 17  | Bangalore University                           | Karnataka        | 1    |      |      |      | 7    | 8     | 1.85  |
| 18  | North Maharashtra University                   | Maharashtra      | 1    | 5    |      | 2    |      | 8     | 1.85  |
| 19  | Utkal University                               | Odisha           | 3    | 2    | 2    | 1    |      | 8     | 1.85  |
| 20  | Bhavnagar University                           | Gujarat          |      | 1    | 4    | 2    | 0    | 7     | 1.62  |
| 21  | University Of Delhi                            | Delhi            |      | 7    |      |      |      | 7     | 1.62  |
| 22  | Banaras Hindu University                       | Uttar Pradesh    | 6    |      |      |      |      | 6     | 1.39  |
| 23  | Bharati Vidyapeeth                             | Maharashtra      | 2    | 2    | 2    |      |      | 6     | 1.39  |
| 24  | Dr Harisingh Gaur Vishwavidyalaya              | Madhya Pradesh   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3    |      | 6     | 1.39  |
| 25  | Sambalpur University                           | Odisha           | 1    | 2    |      | 2    | 1    | 6     | 1.39  |
| 26  | Punjab University                              | Chandigarh       | 2    | 2    | 1    |      |      | 5     | 1.16  |
| 27  | Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University          | Uttar Pradesh    | 1    | 2    |      | 1    |      | 4     | 0.93  |
| 28  | Cochin University                              | Kerala           |      | 2    | 2    |      |      | 4     | 0.93  |

|              |  |                 |            |           |           |           |           |            |            |
|--------------|--|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 29           | Chankya Law University                             | Bihar           |            |           | 1         |           | 3         | 4          | 0.93       |
| 30           | Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar<br>Marathawada University    | Maharashtra     | 1          |           | 1         |           | 2         | 4          | 0.93       |
| 31           | Jamia Millia Islamia<br>University                 | Delhi           |            |           | 1         | 1         | 2         | 4          | 0.93       |
| 32           | Kuvempu University                                 | Karnatak        | 2          |           |           |           | 2         | 4          | 0.93       |
| 33           | University Of Kashmir                              | Jammu & Kashmir |            | 2         |           |           | 2         | 4          | 0.93       |
| 34           | University Of Lucknow                              | Uttar Pradesh   |            |           |           | 4         |           | 4          | 0.93       |
| 35           | University of North<br>Bengal                      | West Bengal     | 4          |           |           |           |           | 4          | 0.93       |
| 36           | Gujarat University                                 | Gujarat         |            |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 3          | 0.69       |
| 37           | Chaudhury Devilal<br>University                    | Haryana         |            | 2         |           |           |           | 2          | 0.46       |
| 38           | National Law Institute<br>University               | Maharashtra     | 1          |           |           | 1         |           | 2          | 0.46       |
| 39           | University of Burdwan                              | West Bengal     | 2          |           |           |           |           | 2          | 0.46       |
| 40           | Veer Narmad South<br>Gujarat University            | Gujarat         |            |           | 1         |           | 1         | 2          | 0.46       |
| 41           | Aligarh Muslim<br>University                       | Uttar Pradesh   | 1          |           |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 42           | Barkatullah<br>Vishwavidyalaya                     | Madhya Pradesh  | 1          |           |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 43           | Berhampur University                               | Odisha          | 1          |           |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 44           | Dayalbagh Educational<br>Institute                 | Uttar Pradesh   |            | 1         |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 45           | Jiwaji University                                  | Madhya Pradesh  | 1          |           |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 46           | Mahatma Gandhi<br>Antrashtriya Hindi<br>University | Maharashtra     |            |           | 1         |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 47           | North Eastern Hill<br>University                   | Meghalaya       |            |           |           | 1         |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 48           | Pondicherry University                             | Pondicherry     |            | 1         |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 49           | Pt Ravishankar Shukla<br>University                | Chhattisgarh    |            |           |           |           | 1         | 1          | 0.23       |
| 50           | Sant Gadge Baba<br>Amravati University             | Maharashtra     |            | 1         |           |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 51           | Sivaji University                                  | Maharashtra     |            |           | 1         |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| 52           | University Of Mysore                               | Karnataka       |            |           | 1         |           |           | 1          | 0.23       |
| <b>Total</b> |  |                 | <b>124</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>88</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>432</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Table 3: State-wise Distribution of Theses**

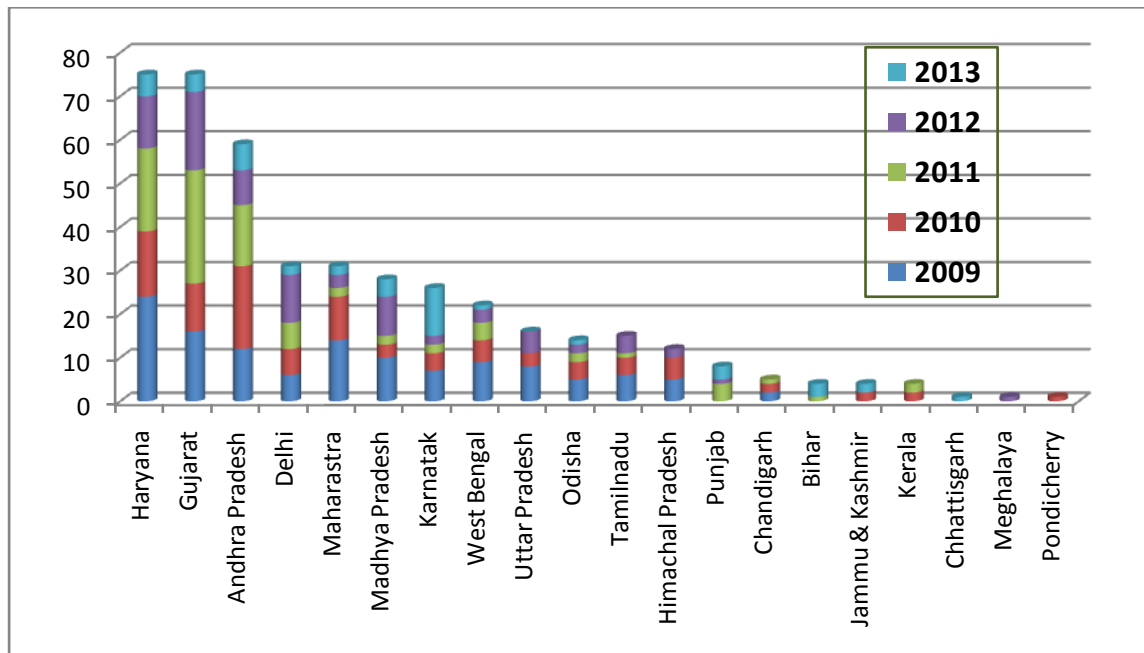
| Sl.          | State            | 2009       | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | Total      | %            |
|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 1            | Haryana          | 24         | 15        | 19        | 12        | 5         | <b>75</b>  | 17.4         |
| 2            | Gujarat          | 16         | 11        | 26        | 18        | 4         | <b>75</b>  | 17.4         |
| 3            | Andhra Pradesh   | 12         | 19        | 14        | 8         | 6         | <b>59</b>  | 13.7         |
| 4            | Delhi (NCT)      | 6          | 6         | 6         | 11        | 2         | <b>31</b>  | 7.2          |
| 5            | Maharashtra      | 14         | 10        | 2         | 3         | 2         | <b>31</b>  | 7.2          |
| 6            | Madhya Pradesh   | 10         | 3         | 2         | 9         | 4         | <b>28</b>  | 6.5          |
| 7            | Karnataka        | 7          | 4         | 2         | 2         | 11        | <b>26</b>  | 6.0          |
| 8            | West Bengal      | 9          | 5         | 4         | 3         | 1         | <b>22</b>  | 5.1          |
| 9            | Uttar Pradesh    | 8          | 3         | 0         | 5         | 0         | <b>16</b>  | 3.7          |
| 10           | Tamil Nadu       | 6          | 4         | 1         | 4         |           | <b>15</b>  | 3.5          |
| 11           | Odisha           | 5          | 4         | 2         | 2         | 1         | <b>14</b>  | 3.2          |
| 12           | Himachal Pradesh | 5          | 5         |           | 2         |           | <b>12</b>  | 2.8          |
| 13           | Punjab           |            |           | 4         | 1         | 3         | <b>8</b>   | 1.9          |
| 14           | Chandigarh       | 2          | 2         | 1         |           |           | <b>5</b>   | 1.2          |
| 15           | Bihar            |            |           | 1         |           | 3         | <b>4</b>   | 0.9          |
| 16           | Jammu & Kashmir  |            | 2         |           |           | 2         | <b>4</b>   | 0.9          |
| 17           | Kerala           |            | 2         | 2         |           |           | <b>4</b>   | 0.9          |
| 18           | Chhattisgarh     |            |           |           |           | 1         | <b>1</b>   | 0.2          |
| 19           | Meghalaya        |            |           |           | 1         |           | <b>1</b>   | 0.2          |
| 20           | Pondicherry      |            | 1         |           |           |           | <b>1</b>   | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b> |                  | <b>124</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>432</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

\Table-3 explores the data relating to the state wise distribution of theses that has been deposited over 5 years i.e. during 2009 to 2013. It is observed from the above table that highest number of theses are from two states namely Haryana and Gujarat that is 75 in number and it contributes to (17.4%) each to the total contribution, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 59(13.7%) number of theses, equal numbers of theses that is 31 are from the states of Delhi & Maharashtra, 28(6.5%) from Madhya Pradesh, 26(6.0%) from Karnataka, 22(5.1%) from West Bengal, 16 (3.7%) from Uttar Pradesh, 15 from Tamil Nadu ,14(3.2%) from Odisha and rest 40 number of theses are from nine states. Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Odisha are the states from which there are contributions in each of the study period.



**Figure 2: State-wise Distribution of Theses**

The above figure represents the number as well as the state wise distribution of theses. It reflects that all the 432 doctoral dissertations have been deposited from 19 states and one Union Territory that is Delhi. The two states that top the list with 75 numbers of theses each are Haryana and Gujrat. Andhra Pradesh occupies the second rank with 59 numbers of theses while Delhi and Maharashtra stand at the third rank. Figure-3 depicts the percentage wise distribution of theses. It is observed that from the states of Haryana and Gujrat highest percentages (17.4% each) of theses have been contributed while the states of Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya and Pondicherry are at the lowest rank.



**Figure 3: Yea-wise Distribution of Theses among States**

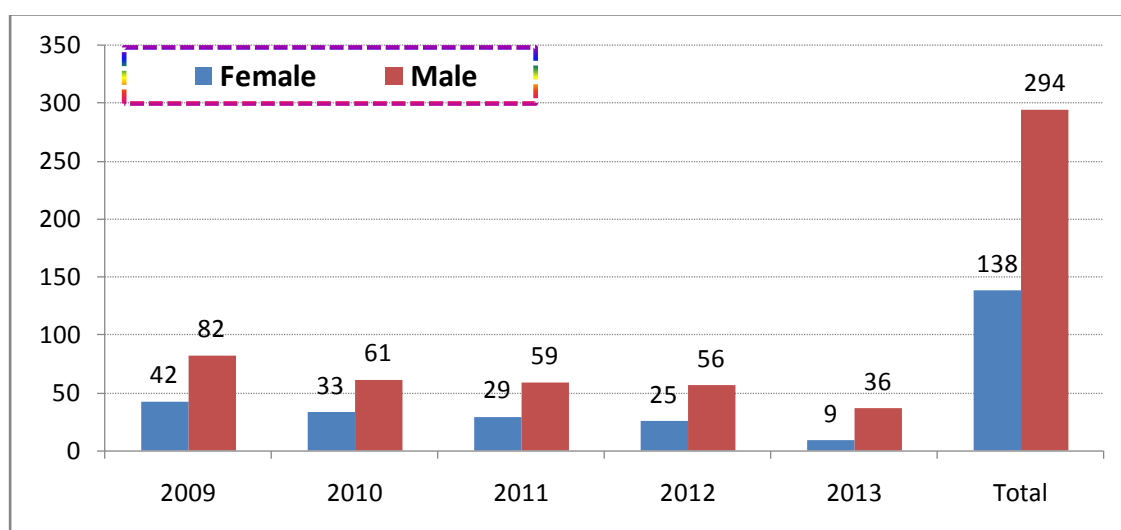


The figure-3 depicts distribution of theses among the states in each of the years taken for the study. It reflects that eight states namely, Haryana, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha & National Capital Territory Delhi have contribution from their respective Universities in each year from 2009 to 2013.

**Table 4: Gender-Wise Distribution of Theses**

| Year         | Female           |            | Male             |            |
|--------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
|              | No.              | %          | No.              | %          |
| 2009         | 42               | 30.4       | 82               | 27.8       |
| 2010         | 33               | 23.9       | 61               | 20.7       |
| 2011         | 29               | 21         | 59               | 20         |
| 2012         | 25               | 18.1       | 56               | 19         |
| 2013         | 9                | 6.5        | 36               | 12.2       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>138 (32%)</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>294 (68%)</b> | <b>100</b> |

Table-4 and figure-6 respectively present the data relating to gender wise distribution of theses. Table-4 represents the gender analysis per year, while Fig-4 represents the number of male and female researchers in each year. Thus, it is indicated that the male researchers outnumber the female researchers in each of the years during the study period. In the year 2009 there were 82 male and 42 female candidates, followed by the year 2010 where there were 61 male and 33 female candidates, in the year 2011 there were 59 male and 29 female researchers, then in the year 2012 there were 56 male and 25 female candidates and lastly in the year 2013 there were 36 male and 9 female researchers. So it can be concluded that in the field of Law research male researchers are more than the female researchers.

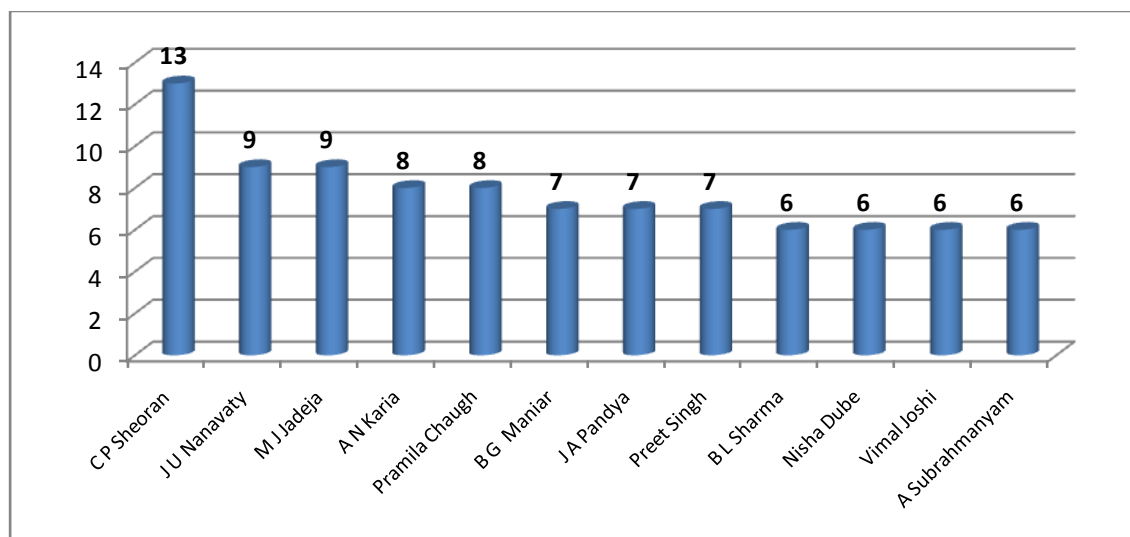


**Figure 4: Chronological Gender-wise distribution of Theses**

Table-5 shows the data relating to top ranked Supervisors in the field of Law. It is observed that, Prof. C.P. Sheoran from Maharshi Dayanand University from the state of Haryana occupies the first rank among all the supervisors in the field of Law. All together he has guided thirteen (13) numbers of theses during the study period. The second rank is occupied by two guides who have guided equal numbers of theses that are nine (9) in number and the guides are Prof. J. U. Nanavaty from Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University & Prof. M. J. Jadeja from Saurashtra University. The third rank is occupied by A. N. Karia and Pramila Chaugh jointly, who have guided eight numbers of theses each. B. G. Maniar, J. A. Pandya and Preet Singh have occupied the fourth rank who have guided 7 numbers of theses each.

**Table 5: Distribution of Theses among Top Supervisors**

| Sl. No. | Guide           | University                                | State          | No. of Theses | Rank |
|---------|-----------------|---|----------------|---------------|------|
| 1       | C. P. Sheoran   | Maharshi Dayanand University              | Haryana        | 13            | 1    |
| 2       | J. U. Nanavaty  | Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University | Gujarat        | 9             | 2    |
| 3       | M. J. Jadeja    | Saurashtra University                     | Gujarat        | 9             | 2    |
| 4       | A. N. Karia     | Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University | Gujarat        | 8             | 3    |
| 5       | Pramila Chaugh  | Maharshi Dayanand University              | Haryana        | 8             | 3    |
| 6       | B. G. Maniar    | Saurashtra University                     | Gujarat        | 7             | 4    |
| 7       | J. A. Pandya    | Bhavnagar University                      | Gujarat        | 7             | 4    |
| 8       | Preet Singh     | Maharshi Dayanand University              | Haryana        | 7             | 4    |
| 9       | B. L. Sharma    | Saurashtra University                     | Gujarat        | 6             | 5    |
| 10      | Nisha Dube      | Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya               | Madhya Pradesh | 6             | 5    |
| 11      | Vimal Joshi     | Maharshi Dayanand University              | Haryana        | 6             | 5    |
| 12      | A. Subrahmanyam | Osmania University                        | Andra Pradesh  | 6             | 5    |

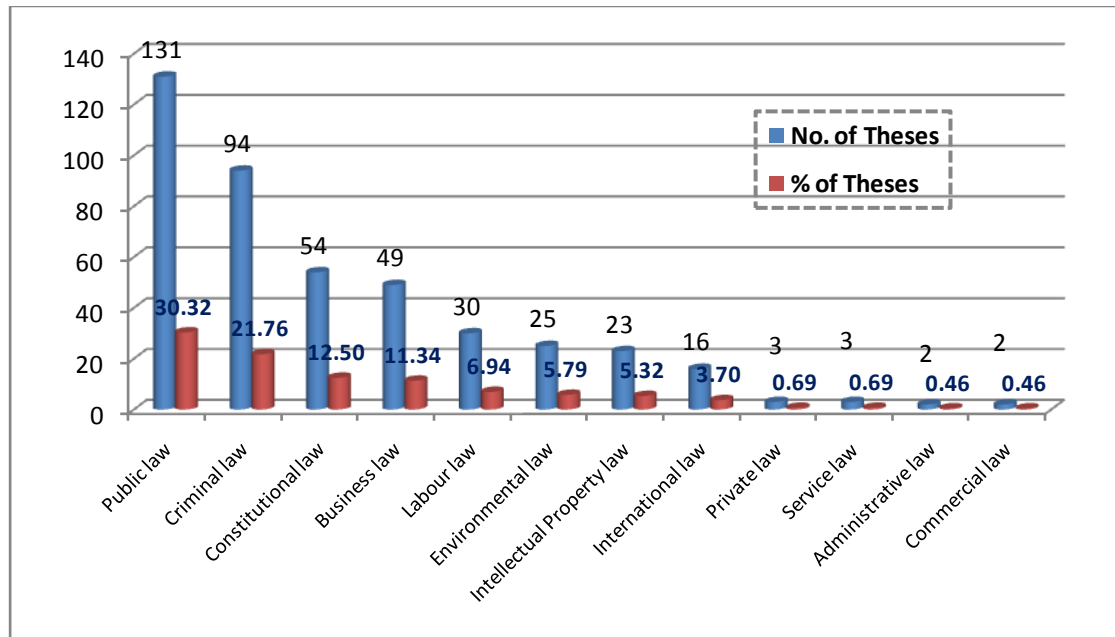


**Figure 5: Most Productive Supervisors**

**Table 6: Subject-wise Distribution of Theses**

| Sl. No. | Subject                   | No. of Theses | % of Theses |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1       | Administrative law        | 2             | 0.46        |
| 2       | Business law              | 49            | 11.34       |
| 3       | Commercial law            | 2             | 0.46        |
| 4       | Constitutional law        | 54            | 12.50       |
| 5       | Criminal law              | 94            | 21.76       |
| 6       | Environmental law         | 25            | 5.79        |
| 7       | Intellectual Property law | 23            | 5.32        |
| 8       | International law         | 16            | 3.70        |
| 9       | Labour law                | 30            | 6.94        |
| 10      | Private law               | 3             | 0.69        |
| 11      | Public law                | 131           | 30.32       |
| 12      | Service law               | 3             | 0.69        |
|         | <b>Total</b>              | <b>432</b>    | <b>100</b>  |

Table-6 and the resultant figure-6 show the data relating to the subject wise distribution of theses. All the 432 doctoral studies have been categorised into the respective core areas of research that is reflected from the title of the theses.



**Figure 6: Distribution of Theses as per Subject of Study**

It is observed that, Public Law is the most favoured area of research among the scholars where 131 numbers of theses have been deposited under different universities; next to it is the subject of Criminal Law where 94 numbers of theses have been deposited. Constitutional Law is the third favoured area of research on which 54 numbers of theses have been deposited. Apart from these, Business Law, Labour Law, Environmental Law, Intellectual Property law, International law, Private Law, Service Law, Administrative Law Commercial Law are also the favoured areas of research on which considerable numbers of theses have been produced by the scholars.

#### 7. Major Findings and Conclusion:

- The present research work is confined to 432 doctoral dissertations in the field of Law deposited under various Indian Universities and distributed over 5 years from 2009-2013.
- It observed that all the doctoral dissertations have been deposited under 52 Universities distributed over 19 states and one (1) Union Territory of India.
- The maximum numbers of theses are from Maharishi Dayanand University from the state of Haryana which is 52 in number and it accounts for (12.04%) of the total work.
- It is observed that from the states of Haryana and Gujrat highest percentages (17.4% each) of theses have been contributed while the states of Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya and Pondicherry are at the lowest rank.

- Prof. C. P. Sheoran from Maharshi Dayanand University from the state of Haryana occupies the first rank among all the supervisors in the field of Law and has earned the distinction of supervising thirteen (13) numbers of theses during the study period..
- Research work related to Public Law is the most favoured area of research in Law as highest number of research work have been conducted on this aspect from different perspectives.

## 8. Conclusion:

Taking into account the findings of the present work it can be interpreted that Law Research in India has an impressive history and a promising future. There is significant contribution pertaining to the doctoral studies and the research productivity is chiefly centered in the universities of India.

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