

ABSTRACT

AL, Umut. Scientific Publication Policy of Turkey: A Bibliometric Approach Based on Citation Indexes, Ph.D. Dissertation, Ankara, 2008.

One of the serious evidences proving the success of a country's science policy is the scientific publications produced by its scientists. Countries must develop healthy publication policies if they want to secure a future. It appears that the assessments which may serve as sources for the development of such policies are insufficient, since they emphasize the quantity rather than quality (the quality of the journal, number of citations received, a patent as the outcome) and disregard differences between the disciplines. This has a negative effect on Turkey's international scientific publication production and its international development.

The efficiency of scientific publications is usually evaluated through bibliometric studies. Citation indexes serve as the source of data for bibliometric research. This study examines the bibliometric characteristics of Turkey addressed publications and provides qualitative evaluations. In this respect, it makes use of several assessment tools such as, "the impact factor" regarding scientific journals, "the *h*-index" used for the assessment of scientists and the "relative citation impact" used for the comparison of countries.

Turkey showed one of the sharpest increases in the number of publications in citation indexes. Academia's insistence on the significance of publications in citation indexes played a major role in this increase. Another reason for the increase in the number of publications can be attributed to the promotions provided by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

It appears that only a few Turkey addressed articles were published in journals with high impact factors. The evaluations of Turkey based journals in citation indexes

indicate that they are among the journals with comparatively low impact factors. The most frequent publications come from the fields of physics and chemistry along with medical fields in Turkey.

It is anticipated in this study that the increase in the number of Turkey addressed publications in citation indexes will continue. However, this increase is not likely to reach the level of the scientifically advanced countries unless sufficient investment is made in the science and technology system.

This study proves the hypothesis that the concept of scientific publication productivity, which forms a significant dimension of our national science and technology policy, is perceived and evaluated in a way that foregrounds quantity rather than quality.

Keywords

Science and technology policy, scientific publication policy, citation indexes, publications of Turkey, bibliometrics.