The Most Cited Law Review Articles: The Critical Analysis & Future Scope

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The paper under review[1], already a complilation of two earlier studies , incorporating the 100 most cited articles of past twenty years by fred R Sharpio and Michelle Pearse[2] published in the year 2012 , after exact one decade thy author , hereby attempts humbly to introduce the research gap in the decade before commencing on review of the article. The parameters used by the authors[3] for calculating the 100 top cited articles, include the downloads, buzz metrics[4] ,law reviews and law schools. It is pertinent to mention that the paper doesn't mention the criteria for choice of "top law schools" as per the authors and also evades some important definations cited. Without further ado allow thy author to present the review paper for your humble consideration.
	KEYWORDS: - review paper, research gap, legal top 100, journal rankings, research gap, salami slicing

INTRODUCTION:

The previous decade has seen the rise of citation databases[5] and plagiarism checkers, but the more recently highlighted parameters like SNIP[6], SJR[7],have not been mentioned in the paper. The paper covers the differences as per google scholar and Microsoft academic[8], but interestingly the studies have not been replicated nor further work on the subject done by any author uptill date[9] The vast area coverage of

Heinonline[10] has already been studied by the authors, right at the commencement of the paper,as the current methodology used but thy author submits that the evolution of databases in previous decade is a separate branch of study itself[11] . it is also worth mentioning that the study of 100 top cited legal articles , is a way less valuable then when the study was initially conducted[12] .before we look through the work of the authors in the study at hand, allow thy author to take you on a tour of few hypothetical situations:

HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS:

Situation 1- A person X collects the top cited articles as per 10 journals and further makes comparative charts, without comparing the criteria, as per which, the articles had been respectively chosen, resulting in a varied graph of study with little or no significance

Situation 2- A person Y reviews the paper written by z, and adds the latest amendments, so does person p, q, and w subsequently, thereby without analyzing if the study by z had become redundant and rendering the additions by p,q,w baseless and flawed owing to distorted databases.

Situation 3- A person x studies the trends of law per decade for 3 decades, subsequently gets reviewed by y, who adds his parameters, and so,on the data gets picked, reviewed and being added to without anyone verifying the initial validity of data or the reliability.

Situation4- A person x writes the review of an article M from legal perspective, while y reviews it from historical perspective and thus, majorly changes the substance under study, the collective studies of x and y never get collected and reviewed cumulatively thus creating a search gap[13]

Situation 5- A person x researches on a particular study in a distant geographical setup from y and both study same subject in same era, the difference in publication languages and regional laws, create the research gap.

These and many innumerable alike situations continue to be at the base of the most research gaps and limitations of studies and databases.it is submitted that to shed more light on the subject, thy author hereby presents a pilot survey.

PILOT SURVEY:

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SURVEY 100 students of phd level of law colleges of tricity were randomly selected and administered a pilot survey. Thy author assures that utmost confidentiality as to the personal details of participants has been maintained. (also a copy of pilot survey for your kind consideration is attached at the end.) on a lighter note, thy author also admits to have written the previous line in almost every survey conducted!. Before presenting the data derived from the questionnaire, allow thy author to present the shortcomings of the survey:
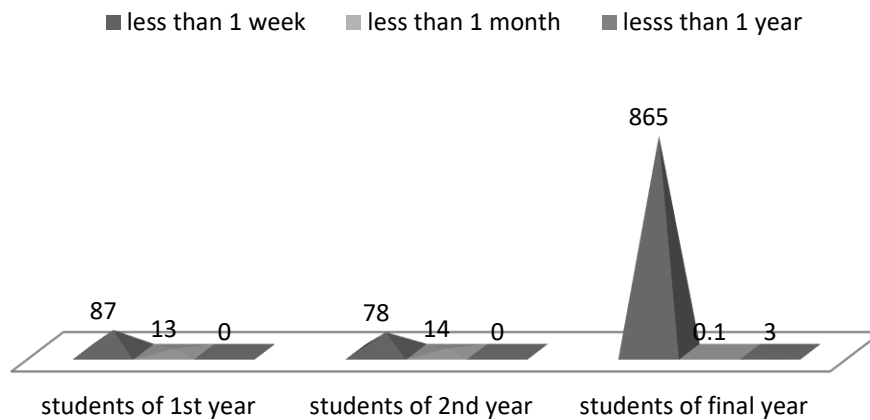
- owing to paucity of time only students from tricity could be administered the questionnaire
- the students had been administered the questionnaire without prior reference to the review at hand .
- owing to paucity of time and money the pilot survey covered subjects from only field of law, and other disciples could not be covered.
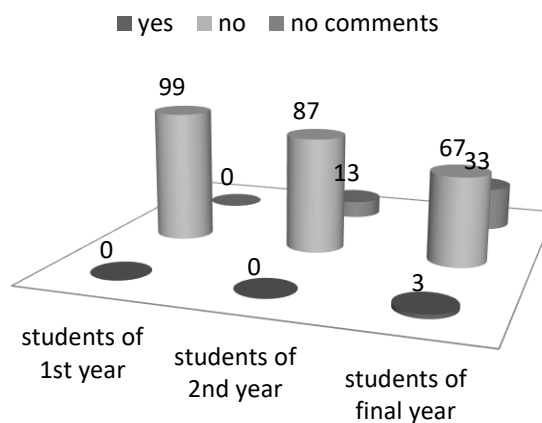
DATA AND STATISTICS DERIVED:
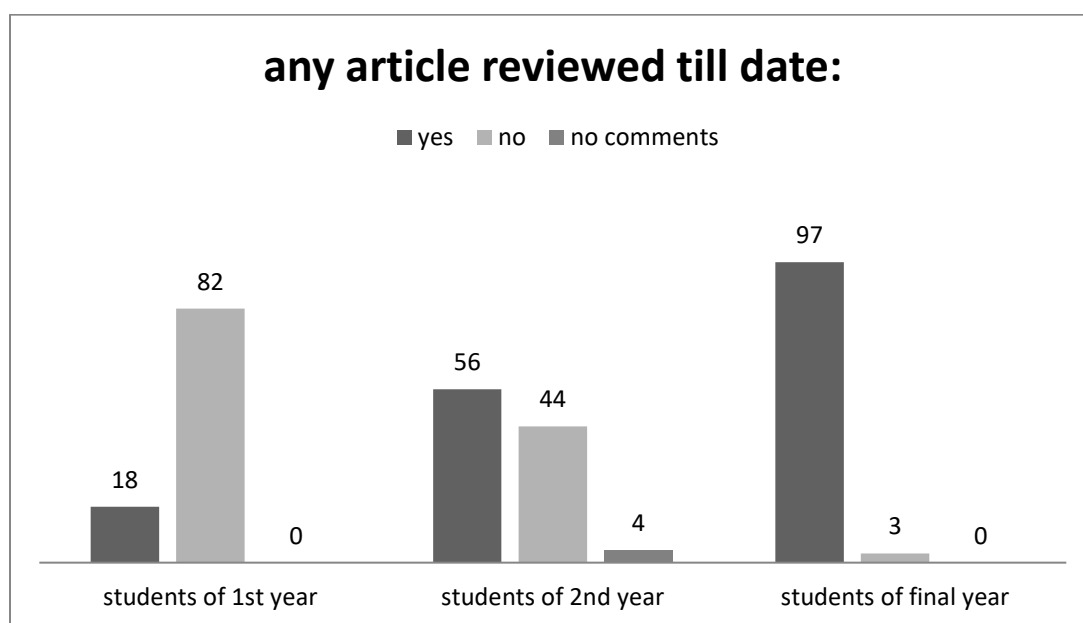
Fig1: proximity to article review
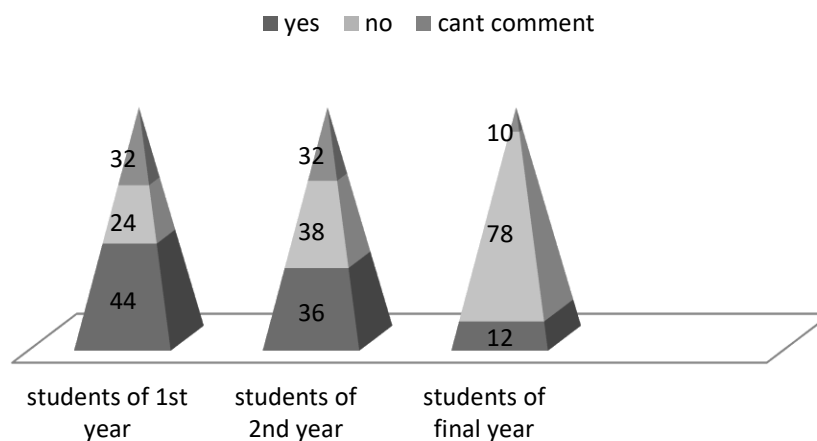
largest duration of time for which study conducted

■ less than 1 week　　■ less than 1 month　　■ lesss than 1 year

865

87　　　13　　　0　　　　78　　　14　　　0　　　　0.1　　　3

students of 1st year　　students of 2nd year　　students of final year

Fig2: Study span for researches

study conducted between the research gap of any area:

■ yes　　■ no　　■ no comments

99

0

87

13

67 33

0

0

3

students of
1st year

students of
2nd year

students of
final year

Fig 3: Study between research gap

plans for interdisciplinary research;

■ yes　　■ no　　■ cant comment

32

24

44

32

38

36

10

78

12

students of 1st
year

students of
2nd year

students of
final year

Fig 4: Willingness for interdisciplinary researches

interested to pursiew research as profession:

■ students of 1st year   ■ student of 2nd year   ■ students of final year

26%   44%

30%
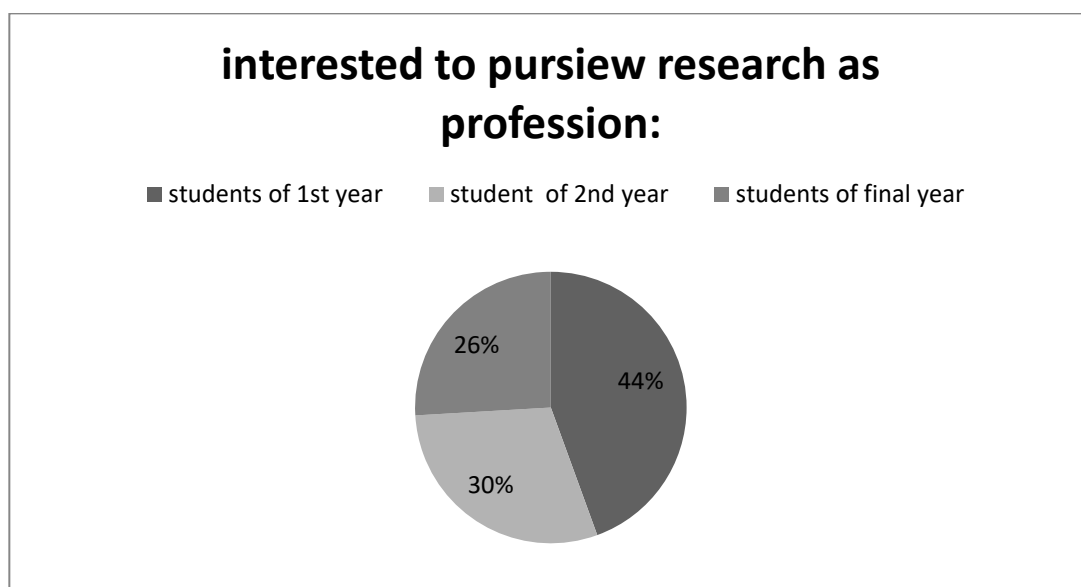
Fig 5: research as profession

it is pertinent that before we proceed to draw hypothesis from the above pilot study and reviewpaper,making the study enter the realms of research, we leave a field blank for the future researches as suggested in the end.
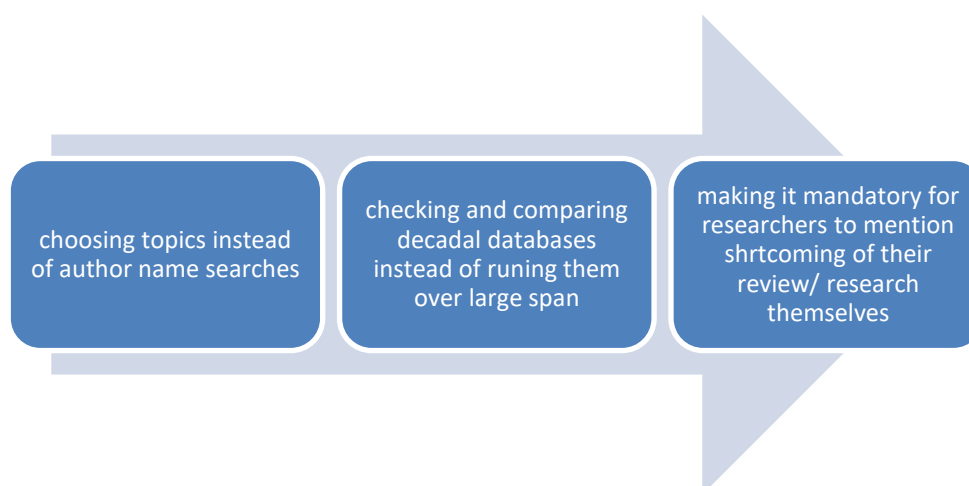
A CRITICAL TAKE:
It is important to comprehend that the review of top 100 articles as per citations as done by the authors, did not have the motive of bringing out the top listed articles of legal field, but of analysing the trends over decades, of citations and databases and the apparent shift in styles of their collections. The changes in the journals, databases and study over time, led to calculation of the trend, which was at the heart of the research. The study however is not just limited by the metrics[14] but also the redundant studies, which have not been removed successively, and a comparative list of top 100 articles of law over decades, has geographical limitations when calculated as per top law schools and reviews. Thus evading the Indian context and exclusion of the UGC guidelines, as a parameter.

TWIST OF LAWS:
The division of the articles in different fields of law, could be overlapping, the vaidity of the same has not been verified before, sharpio's study has been taken further by pearse, also after a decade of publication of the both cumulative studies, the google citations and searches, lead us to believe that the present study by sharpe has been salami sliced, into different articles, (as is evident from the references section), however, the existence of rules against salami slicing in different eras is another topic,(hopefully covered by thy author soon!)

PUTTING FORTH SUGGESTIONS:
Based on the study of the article at hand, and after its review, Thy author humbly pleads that the research topics picked for study should have the following criteria at the least to make them more meaningful:

choosing topics instead of author name searches

checking and comparing decadal databases instead of runing them over large span

making it mandatory for researchers to mention shrtcoming of their review/ research themselves

Fig 6: Suggested POA 1

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:
• Study of correlation between the citations and databases to the research discipline
• Study of correlation between the articles reviewed the most and citations attatched to them
• Study of correlation of historical evolution of research as field of profession and the databases evolved
• Study of the correlation between the interdisciplinary study patterns over decades
• Study of the top 100 legal citations in Indian context
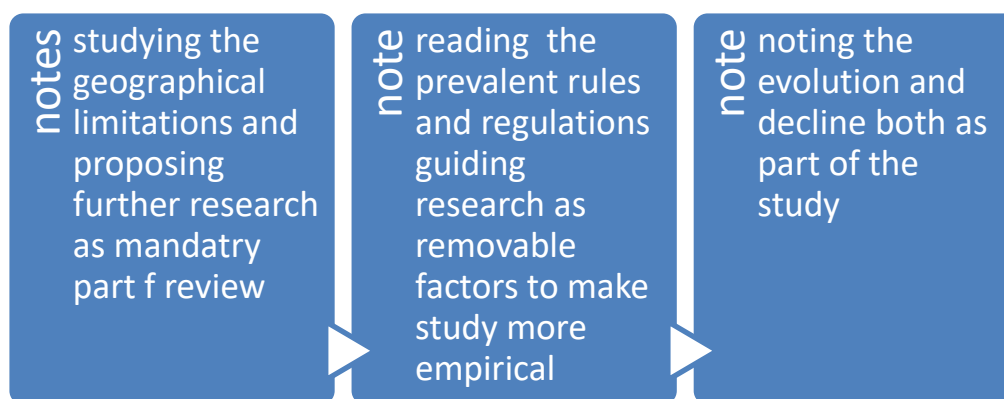
FIG 7:Suggested POA2

DRAWING HUMBLE CONCLUSIONS:
The study of the research paper mentioned above , has amply thrown light to the different research gaps, drawbacks and earnings over the decade, though a meticulously written paper as above, with heaps of information, that would have taken considerable time in collection and analysis, the review shows avenues and areas not covered or lacking which could sufficiently be covered by another future study and also, the possibilities of relating the pilot study conducted by thy author to the variables studied previously, is another area, yet to be explored. However the study of the paper above also shows its decreasing significance over the years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DISCLAIMER:

It Is Hereby Mentioned That The Sle Purpose Of The Revew Paper Given Is Academic And The Opinions/Comments/Reviews Mentioned Are Not Meant To Undermine The Work Of Any Acclaimed Author Or Be Derogatory To Him/Her.
1) Shapiro, Fred R., and Michelle Pearse. "The most-cited law review articles of all time." *Michigan Law Review* 110.8 (2012): 1483-1520.
2) "this Essay updates two well-known earlier studies (dated 1985 and 1996) by the first coauthor setting forth lists of the most-cited law review articles. New research tools from the HeinOnline and Web of Science databases now allow lists to be compiled that are more thorough and more accurate than anything previously possible. Tables printed here present the 100 most-cited legal articles of all time, the 100 most-cited articles of the last twenty years, and some additional rankings...." As per the abstract.
3) Shapiro, Fred R., and Michelle Pearse
4) "popularity not necessarily measured by counts of citations in others' work or even by downloads, but rather measured by broader "visibility and recognition" in traditional media sources, blogs, et cetera" as per the paper
5) Of which web of science and scopus have been mentioned as parameters by authors
6) SOURCE NORMALISED IMPACT PER PAPER
7) SCImago Journal Rank

8) (encompassing the change from 1985 and 1996)
9) A per google scholar records
10) "HeinOnline is a premier online research platform that provides more than 200 million pages of multidisciplinary periodicals, essential government documents, international resources, case law, and much more. Composed of fully searchable image-based PDFs and available at an affordable price, the wealth of material allows academic institutions, government agencies, law firms, court systems, corporations, and other organizations access to authoritative, true-to-print digital material without the hassle or cost of using multiple research databases."as per official website
11) https://www.datamation.com/big-data/current-database-trends/
12) https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/roig_st_johns/Redundant%20and%20Duplicate.html
13) https://scientific-publishing.webshop.elsevier.com/research-process/what-is-research-gap/
14) https://ideas.repec.org/a/kap/jbuset/v175y2022i1d10.1007_s10551-021-05004-x.html

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