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## **Swine Flu research: A scientometric study of global perspectives**

Swine flu is a pandemic disease which has affected human life from time to time. The emergence of novel H1N1 has posed a situation that warrants urgent global attention. In academic and scientific work, publication is the chief means of communicating research, a primary means of recognition and reward. Citation analysis can be used for identifying research fronts by defining the disciplines and emerging specialties.

This study aims to analyze the research output of researchers in the field of Swine Flu. The growth rates of output are analyzed from 1970 to 2009.

According to the year-wise distribution, the highest number of publications is 193 in 2009, with 249 Global Citation Scores (GCS). The lowest publication is 1 in 1971, with 23 GCS.

The authorship pattern shows that the majority of papers is multi-authored. It shows that the trend towards collaborative research is gaining currency day by day.

Geographical distribution of papers demonstrates that most of the articles 497 (42.8%) have been contributed by USA, followed by UK 81 (7.0%), India 7 (0.6%), and Sri Lanka 4 (0.4%) respectively, out of 56 countries. The result depicts that 3 out of 4 articles published by Sri Lankan researchers is in the form of case reports and the other article is part of an M.Phil. thesis.

When analyzing subject-wise distribution of publications, it's evident that most of the articles, i.e. 385 (33.16%) are from veterinary sciences, followed by virology 216 (18.60%), medicine, general and internal 144 (12.40%), microbiology 104 (8.96%) and others comprising less than 100 publications in various disciplines like immunology, infectious diseases and multidisciplinary sciences etc.

From a journal-wise perspective, the fact that the highest number of publications 45 (3.9%), is found in journals of virology is evident. The *Journal of Virology* accommodates the highest number of publications. In case of subject-wise distribution, the highest number of articles comes under veterinary sciences.

The findings show that scientific research conducted in Sri Lanka about influenza H1N1 is in a preliminary stage, according to the depth of publication and geographical distribution.