Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies,
Online ISSN 2278-8808, SJIF 2021 = 7.380, www.srjis.com
PEER REVIEWED & REFEREED JOURNAL, MAY-JUNE, 2022, VOL- 10/71

UNDERSTANDING THE INDIAN THINK TANKS SPACE AND THEIR TRAJECTORY THROUGH AN ANALYSIS OF 'THE GLOBAL GO TO THINK TANKS INDEX REPORT' FROM 2011 TO 2020

Deepak S. Mewada[1] & Prof. D. K. Pandey[2]

[1]Senior Research Fellow, Department of Defence, Strategic and Geopolitical Studies, H.N.B. Garhwal (A Central) University, Uttarakhand, India,

Email: deepaksmewadajrf@gmail.com

[2]HoD/Convener, Department of Defence, Strategic and Geopolitical Studies, H.N.B. Garhwal (A Central) University, Uttarakhand, India,

Email: dkpandeyhnb@gmail.com

Paper Received On: 22 JUNE 2022
Peer Reviewed On: 27 JUNE 2022
Published On: 28 JUNE 2022

Abstract

Purpose: *The purpose of this study is to compile and analyze certain information that has been previously published in the 'The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report'.*

Designed/methodology approach*: The analytical approach was used to analyze the past 10 years of published data of 'The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report' from 2011 to 2020. The analysis includes the year-wise distribution pattern and quantity of think tanks worldwide, particularly India. It also consists of the percentage growth of these think tanks, especially the growth of different policy think tanks in India.*

Research limitation(s): *The research is confined to only 10 years of 'The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report' publications spanning from 2011 to 2020, and no other aspects were considered for this particular research paper.*

Key finding(s): *According to the findings of the research, at the end of the decade, i.e., the year 2020, there were a total of 11175 think tanks from all over the world, out of which 612 were think tanks from India that featured in the GGTTI Report. The research also revealed that from 2011to 2020, think tanks in India had a growth of 110%, while it was a 70% overall growth of think tanks worldwide. The Indian think tanks have seen a rise from 2014, while think tanks worldwide have seen a gradual rise till 2016 and then a significant rise from 2016 to 2019, with a spike from 2019 to 2020.*

Practical implication(s): *Policy making is a complex process, and think tanks are major players in policy making. However, their role and approach have not been studied or taken into consideration. This study identified the gap and loopholes in the existing study and understanding of think tanks by examining their growth. The analysis will create awareness among potential authors, readers, policymakers, experts, and analysts. This study will attempt to understand the scope and importance of think tanks.*

Contribution to knowledge: *The research attempted to highlight the contribution of 'The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report's to the field of think tanks and their study. This study attempts to serve as a source of guidance for novice researchers interested in the analysis of research outputs of various think tanks and their scholarly databases. It also contributes to the academic world to assist and extend the boundaries of knowledge.*
Paper type*: Research.*
Keywords): *Reports; The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report', Analytical Research, Quantitative Research.*

Introduction

Think tanks provide policy-oriented research, analysis, and recommendations on domestic and international issues in order to inform politicians and the general public. Therefore, empowering individuals to make informed judgments about matters of public policy.

These organizations, in many instances, play the role of a connection by bridging the distance between the academic and policymaking world, as well as the divide between governments and civil society.

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)

Originally established at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in 1989, 'Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program' (TTCSP) is a nonprofit program of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. "It conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world and maintains a database of over 8,200 think tanks from across the world". (McGann J. G., 2020)

The Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report (GGTTI)

Global Go To Think Tank Index Report is published jointly by the 'Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program' (TTCSP) and James G. McGann, who also served as the Director of the program till 2021.[1] The Index is based on a survey that is conducted in three phases, with participants including politicians, scientists, funders to think tanks, and think tanks themselves. According to the index, there are 11175 think tanks across the world, with a maximum in the USA (2203), followed by China (1413) and then India (612).[2]

[1] https://www.case-research.eu/en/case-bids-farewell-to-james-g-mcgann-think-tanks-and-civil-societies-program-director-101939
[2] https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=think_tanks

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives with regard to the work that was published in GGTTI Reports were put into use:

1. To evaluate the year-wise growth of think tanks worldwide.
2. To evaluate the year-wise growth of Indian think tanks.
3. To understand Indian think tanks space by comparing their growth and trajectory with worldwide think tanks.
4. To detect the growth, space and distribution of Indian think tanks based on policy.

Methodology

The published data of GGTTI Reports that have previously been established served as the foundation for the analytical study that formed the basis for the research. Critical evaluation of the material was carried out in this method. Analytical methods made use of quantitative methods, where published data of GGTTI Reports were extracted and analyzed. The research productivity of these GGTTI Reports from 2011 to 2020 were focused on for analysis. Data of a total of 1,856 pages published in the mentioned 10 years were tabulated and assessed. Efforts were made to analyze the year-wise distribution of think tank patterns based on policy. This study is limited to the original research published in the GGTTI Reports.

Literature Review

Within the realm of the social sciences, text analysis has been garnering an increasing amount of interest. This surge of interest is reflected in several recent books (Neuendorf, 2002) The scientific approach of quantitative text analysis is one that is potent, effective, and simple to use. There is an astonishing amount of new literature on qualitative text available right now (e.g., Fielding and Lee, 1991; Riessman, 1993; Silverman, 1993; Denzin and Lincoln, 1994; Feldman, 1994; Krueger, 1994; Marshall and Rossman, 1995; Miles and Huberman, 1994; Wolcott, 1994; Kelle, 1995; Weitzman and Miles, 1995), the vast majority of discourse about quantitative text analysis approaches are presented as though no advancements had been made in these methods since the 1960s.(cf. Altheide, 1996; Lee, 1999; but, as an exception, Roberts, 1997a).

Findings

Chart 1 and Chart 2 showcase the data on overall think tanks over the world that featured in the GGTTI Report for the past decade, i.e., 2011-2020. While Chart 1 reflects the data on think tanks featured in the report year-wise, Chart 2 shows the growth of these featured

think tanks. Chart 1 shows that the least number of think tanks, i.e., 6545 that featured in the report were in 2011. 2015 and 2016 featured the same number of think tanks, i.e., 6846 indicating zero growth. In 2018 and 2019 as well, the number of think tanks that featured was the same, i.e., 8248. The maximum number of think tanks that featured in a single year in the past decade was in the year 2020, i.e., 11175. Chart 2 clearly indicates a gradual growth from 2011 to 2016. While 2016 to 2019 indicates a significant growth, from 2019 to 2020 there is a huge spike in the number of featured think tanks.

Chart 1: Pattern of Think Tanks Worldwide

S.No.	Year	No. of Think Tanks (World)
1.	2011	6545
2.	2012	6603
3.	2013	6826
4.	2014	6618
5.	2015	6846
6.	2016	6846
7.	2017	7815
8.	2018	8248
9.	2019	8248
10.	2020	11175

Chart 2: Line Graph Showing Trend World Think Tanks: 2011-2020

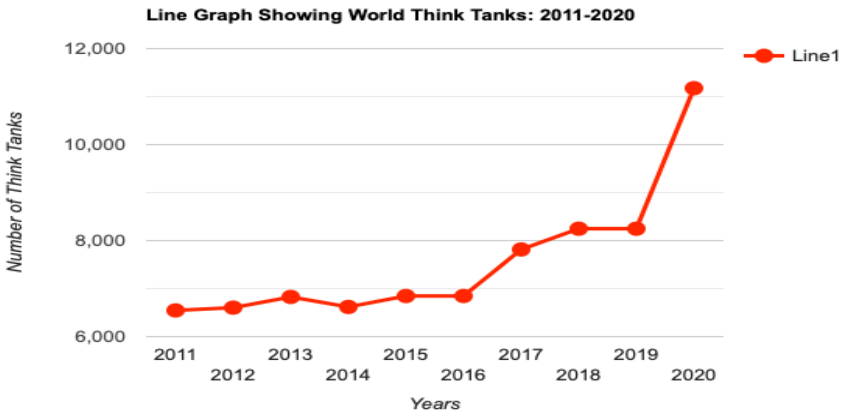


Chart 3 and Chart 4 showcase the data on Indian think tanks that featured in the GGTT Report for the past decade, i.e., 2011-2020. While Chart 3 reflects the data on Indian think tanks featured in the report year-wise, Chart 4 shows the growth of these featured think tanks. Chart 3 shows that the least number of think tanks, i.e., 192 that featured in the report were in

2014. Years 2015 and 2016 featured the same number of think tanks, i.e., 280 indicating zero growth. In 2018 and 2019 the number of think tanks that featured was the same, i.e., 509. The maximum number of think tanks that featured in a single year in the past decade was in the year 2020, i.e., 612.

Chart 4 clearly indicates a gradual decline from 2011 to 2013. While 2013 to 2014 indicates a further dip, from 2015 to 2020 there is a gradual rise in the number of featured Indian think tanks, with a clear spike from 2017 to 2019.

Chart 3: Pattern of Think Tanks in India

S.No.	Year	No. of Think Tanks (India)
1.	2011	292
2.	2012	269
3.	2013	268
4.	2014	192
5.	2015	280
6.	2016	280
7.	2017	293
8.	2018	509
9.	2019	509
10.	2020	612

Chart 4 : Line Graph Showing Trend Indian Think Tanks: 2011-2020

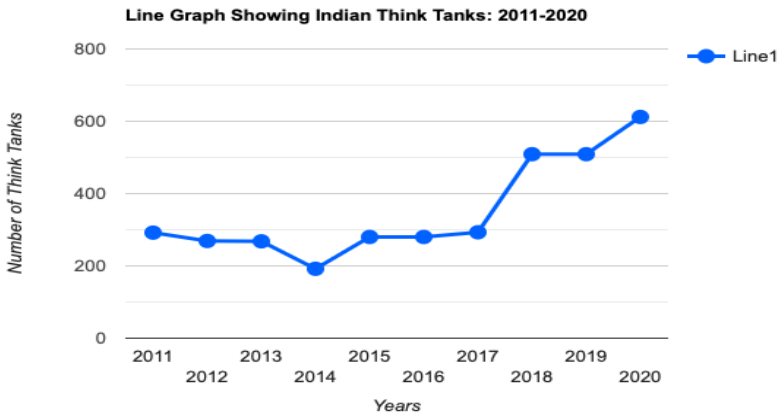


Chart 5 is a comparison bar graph of Indian and worldwide think tanks featured in GGTTI Report in the past decade from 2011 to 2020. This indicated that there is a clear rise in both Indian and World think tanks. While Indian think tanks indicated an approximate 110% growth in the past decade from 292 to 612, overall think tanks of the world indicated an

approximate 70% rise. At the beginning of the decade in the year 2011, Indian think tanks that featured in the report accounted for 4.46% of the world's think tanks, and this rose to 5.47% in 2020. In comparison, it was also revealed that while the think tanks of the world only saw a rise in the past decade, Indian think tanks saw a decline for the first half of the decade and then a rise after that.

Chart 5: Comparison Bar Graph of Indian and Worldwide Think Tanks

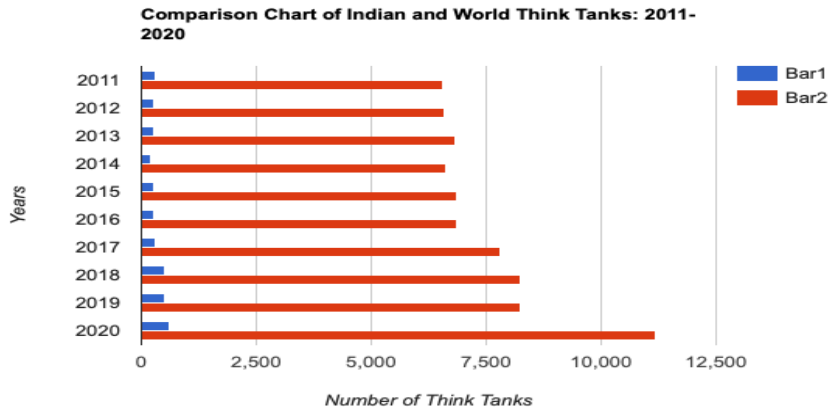


Chart 6, Chart 7 and Chart 8 showcase data on Indian think tanks policy-wise that were featured in GGTTI Report in the past decade from 2011 to 2020. Chart 6 shows Indian think tanks featured in the reports, categorized into 10 categories according to policy. Think tanks focussing on 'Foreign and Defence Policy' have seen the most growth, followed by think tanks that focus on 'International Development, Transparency & Good Governance'. Think tanks on 'Environment Policy', 'Economic Policy', 'Social Policy', 'Food & Water Security', 'Science and Technology' have also seen significant growth. However, the growth of 'Energy and Resource Policy' and 'Education Policy' think tanks has almost been negligible. Chart 7 reflects that from 2011 to 2015, the Indian think tank space saw a slow and gradual growth. However, post-2014, there is a significant rise (almost double) in the number of Indian think tanks of all categories. 'Education Policy' think tanks began featuring in the GGTTI Reports only after 2014 and 'Food & Water Security' think tanks featured after 2016.

Chart 8 showcases that by the end of the last decade, i.e., 2020, 'Foreign and Defence Policy' think tanks dominated the Indian think tank space by 16.21%, followed by 'International Development, Transparency & Good Governance' think tanks with 13.21% and 'Environment Policy' think tanks by 12.16%. Economic Policy', 'Social Policy', 'Food & Water Security' think tanks were at 10.81% each. 9.45% were 'Science and Technology' think

tanks. 'Health Policy' think tanks occupied 8.1%, 'Energy and Resource Policy' and 'Education Policy' think tanks occupied 5.4% and 2.7% space respectively.

Chart 6 Pattern of Indian Think Tanks Policy-wise

S.No.	Year	Indian Think Tanks (Policy wise)									
		Foreign & Defence Policy	International Development, Transparency & Good Governance	Environment	Health Policy	Economic Policy	Education Policy	Social Policy	Science & Technology	Energy & Resource	Food & Water Security
1.	2011	N/A	3	2	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
2.	2012	1	3	6	1	2	-	1	3	1	-
3.	2013	4	3	6	1	2	-	1	3	1	-
4.	2014	6	4	5	2	2	-	1	3	1	-
5.	2015	12	9	10	5	5	1	5	8	5	-
6.	2016	12	9	10	5	5	1	5	7	4	-
7.	2017	11	9	9	5	5	1	5	7	4	8
8.	2018	12	10	9	6	7	2	6	7	4	6
9.	2019	12	10	9	6	8	2	8	7	4	8
10.	2020	12	10	9	6	8	2	8	7	4	8

Chart 7: Trend Chart of Indian Think Tanks (Policy wise): 2011-2020

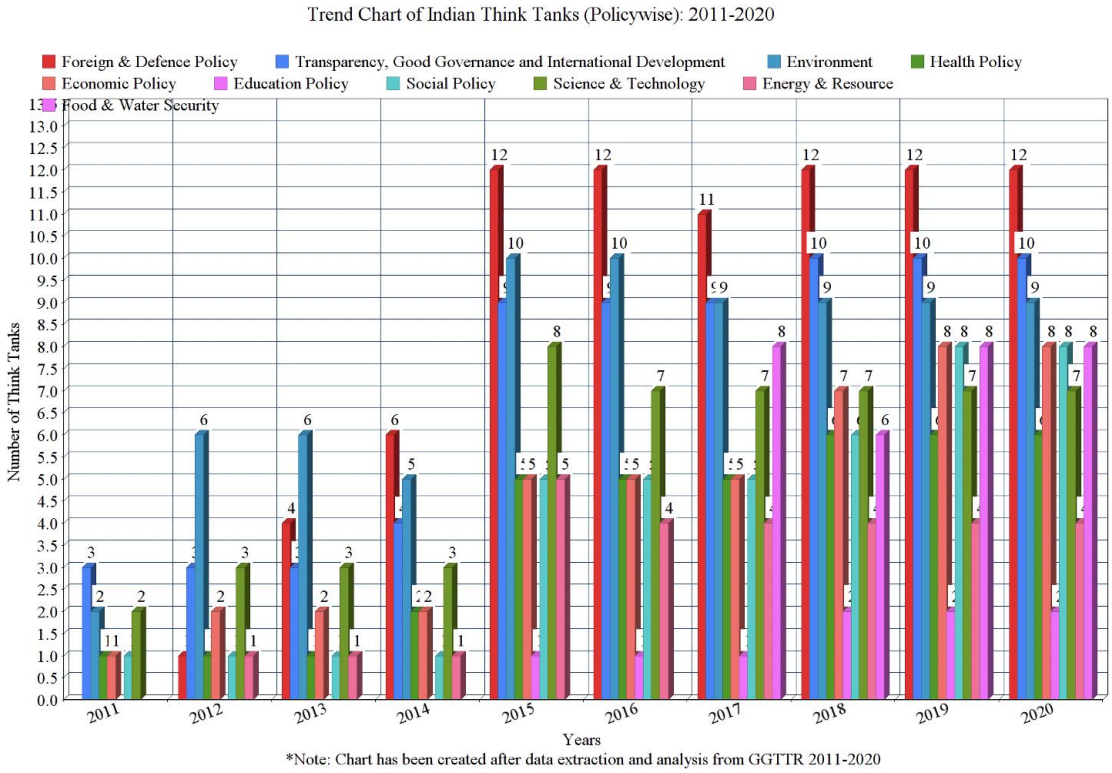
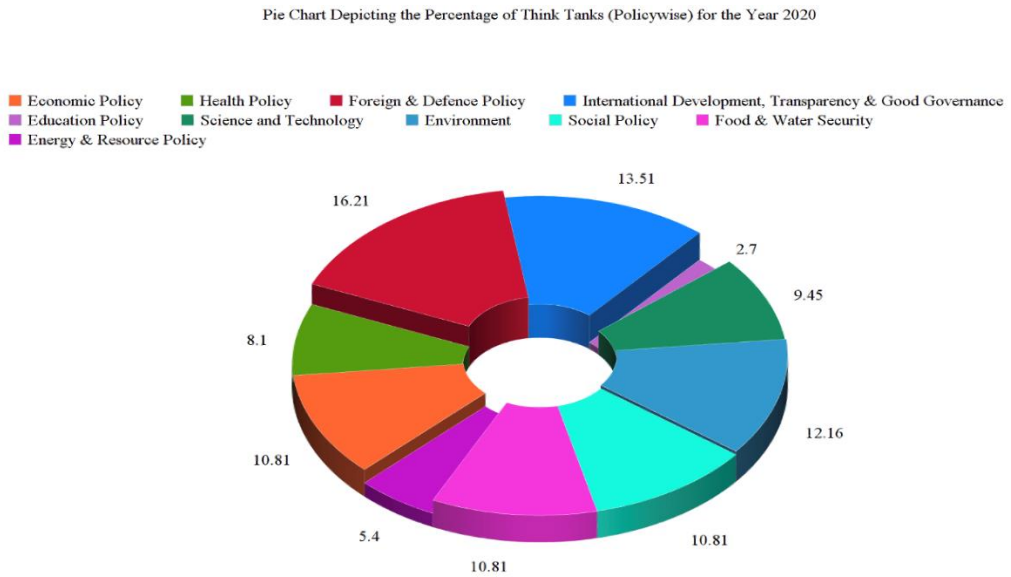


Chart 8: Pie Chart Depicting the Percentage of Think Tanks (Policy wise) for the Year 2020



Conclusion and Recommendations

From the above data and findings based on GGTTI Reports of the past decade from 2011 to 2020, it is clear that there has been a significant rise in think tanks all over the world and India from their base year, i.e., 2011. Different think tanks focussing on various policy issues of social, economic, political, environmental, health, education science and technology, development, governance and energy have not only cropped up but have also witnessed a significant rise. However, when it comes to their growth and the Indian think tank space, it has been dominated by think tanks focussing on issues of 'Foreign & Defence Policy'. It is important to bear in mind the fact that education is a factor that drives human resources, which in turn drives development and progress. In fact, education is intricately linked with every field. However, when it comes to 'Education Policy' think tanks of India, their growth is negligible. A country like India that needs to sustain such a large population, that lacks land resources and is witnessing drastic depletion of its natural resources, will need to harness its true potential by building its human resources. This can be done by investing in education, education research, 'Education Policy' think tanks and institutions.

'Energy and Resource Policy' think tanks of India are other policy organizations that have seen very less growth. The world and even India today are facing a huge energy crisis due to a shortage of natural resources like coal, oil and natural gas, due to this there is a shift towards solar, electronic and other renewable sources of energy. Indian policy analysts, lawmakers and all other stakeholders should work towards setting up more 'Energy and Resource Policy' think tanks to meet policy challenges arising due to the energy crisis.

References

Altheide, D. L. (1996). Qualitative Media Analysis. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Denzin, N. K. & Lincoln, Y. S. (eds) (1994). Handbook of Qualitative Research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Fielding, N. G. & Lee, R. M. (eds) (1991). Using Computers in Qualitative Research. London: Sage.

Feldman. M. S. (1994). Strategies for Interpreting Qualitative Data. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Kelle, U. (ed.) (1995). Computer-Aided Qualitative Data Analysis: Theory, Methods, and Practice. London: Sage.

Lee, T.W. (1999). Using Qualitative Methods in Organizational Research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Marshall, C. & Rossman, G. B. (1995). Designing Qualitative Research, 2nd edn. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

McGann, J. G. (2011). 2011 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanksand Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2012). 2012 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2013). 2013 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2014). 2014 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2015). 2015 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2016). 2016 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2017). 2017 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2018). 2018 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2019). 2019 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

McGann, J. G. (2020). 2020 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report. Philadelphia: Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania'.

Miles, M. B. & Huberman, A. M. (1994). Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook, 2nd edn. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Neuendorf, K. A. (2002). The Content Analysis Guidebook. Michigan: SAGE.

Silverman, D. (1993). Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analyzing Talk, Text, and Interaction. London: Sage.

Weitzman, E. A. & Miles, M. B. (1995). Computer Programs for Qualitative Data Analysis: A Software Sourcebook. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Wolcott, H. F. (1994). Transforming Qualitative Data: Description, Analysis, and Interpretation, 2nd edn. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Roberts, C. W. (ed.) (1997a). Text Analysis for the Social Sciences: Methods for Drawing Statistical Inferences from Texts and Transcripts. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Riessman, C. K. (1993). Narrative Analysis. Newbury Park, CA: Sage