



ANALYZING ISSUE BRIEFS OF MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES(MP- IDSA), NEW DELHI, INDIA FROM 2011 TO 2020

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to compile and analyze the information that has been previously published in the 'Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' Issue Briefs (MP-IDSA).

Designed/methodology approach: Analytical approach was used to analyze the past 10 years of published work of Issue Briefs from 2011 to 2020. The analysis includes the year-wise distribution pattern and quantity of Issue Briefs and the number of pages. It also includes the percentage space attributed to different issues and topics in terms of thrust areas.

Research limitation(s): The research is confined to only the 10 years of Issue Brief publications spanning from 2011 to 2020, and no other aspects were taken into account for this particular research paper.

Key finding(s): According to the findings of the research, there were a total of 2844 pages of material produced by 303 different Issue Briefs. The average number of pages per Issue Brief was 9.38 pages. Other findings of this research paper show that the topics related to 'Indian Defence and Security' took up the most space in terms of the number of articles and pages that were published. Topics related to 'Indian Defence and Security' had 98 articles (32.34%) and 896 pages (31.9%).

Practical implication(s): This research highlights the gap and loophole in the present style and publishing procedures of MP-IDSA. The study would surely raise awareness among prospective writers, readers, policy experts, and analysts in general, as well as among Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) stakeholders and researchers in particular. This research will aid in understanding the breadth and coverage of these Issue Briefs.

Contribution to knowledge: The study aimed to emphasize MP-IDSA's Issue Brief's reach for the researchers of social sciences in India and overseas. It will also benefit the researchers by serving as a resource for beginner researchers interested in analyzing different texts and academic resources. It

also adds to the academic realm to aid and broaden the frontiers of knowledge.

Paper type: Research.

Keywords: Issue Brief; Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), Analysis, Quantitative Research.



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Introduction

Think tanks provide policy-oriented research, analysis, and recommendations on domestic and international topics to enlighten policymakers and the public. Thus, enabling them to make informed decisions about public policy. In many cases, these organizations serve as a link by bridging the gap between academia and policymaking, as well as between governments and civil society.

Established in the year 1965 and formerly known as the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) is a think tank situated in New Delhi, which serves as India's capital city. Despite receiving funding from the Indian Ministry of Defense, it functions as an autonomous organization. MP-IDSA's workforce is highly qualified and diverse as they are selected from various backgrounds and fields of study, such as the military, government, and academia. MP-IDSA is widely recognized as one of India's most important think tanks and has the distinction of being the most prestigious think tank in India. The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania publishes an annual report on think tanks called the Global Go To Think Tank Index and MP-IDSA ranked amongst the top 41 think tanks of the world for the year 2020. It also stood among the top 33 Defense and National Security Think Tanks of the world.

By conducting objective research on defence and security and then sharing that information with policymakers and the general public, it strives to strengthen both national and international security. Journals, monographs, briefs, and books published by the Institute are the primary forms of communication used in the process of disseminating these analyses and policy recommendations.

This research paper looks at the past ten years of Issue Brief publications of MP-IDSA. An Issue Brief is a condensed version of the most compelling evidence that is currently available on a public issue that has policy consequences and is a valuable tool for policymakers.

When there are no known policy solutions available, and the issue is still in the problem identification domain of the policy process, an issue brief is the most suitable form of communication to use. The Issue Briefs of MP-IDSAs discuss various topics connected to problems with local, national, and even worldwide reputation.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives concerning the work that was published in Issue Briefs were put into use:

1. To evaluate the year-wise distribution of Issue Briefs and the number of pages.
2. To detect the space attributed to various topics.
3. To examine the distribution of issues in terms of focus and thrust areas.
4. To find out the most and least covered topics.

Methodology

The facts of GGTT Reports that have previously been established, served as the foundation for an analytical study that formed the basis for the research. Critical evaluation of the material was carried out in this method. Analytical methods used quantitative methods where articles published in the form of Issue Briefs of MP-IDSAs were extracted and analyzed. The research productivity of these Issue Briefs (SS) from 2011 to 2020 were focused on for analysis. A total of 303 articles with 2844 pages were published in the mentioned 10 years were tabulated and assessed. Efforts were made to analyze the year-wise distribution of articles, pages and think tank patterns based on policy. This study is limited to the original research articles published in the form of Issue Briefs.

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 represents the year-wise distribution pattern in terms of quantity of Issue Briefs and the number of pages. By the end of 2020, a total of 303 Issue Briefs and 2844 pages of data was generated by MP-IDSA. The year 2012 reflects the maximum number of Issue Briefs, but 2011 had the maximum number of pages generated. However, 2019 had the least number of Issue Briefs and pages produced. The table represents that there is uniformity when it comes to average number of pages per Issue Brief and the proportion of number of pages concerning number of Issue Briefs each year.

Chart 1: Distribution Pattern in Terms of Quantity

S.No.	Year	No. of Issues Briefs	No. of Pages
1.	2011	47	479
2.	2012	49	436
3.	2013	35	288
4.	2014	20	183
5.	2015	21	184
6.	2016	26	216
7.	2017	35	344
8.	2018	21	228
9.	2019	12	122
10.	2020	37	364
Total		303	2844

Chart 2 and 3 showcases that the highest years in terms of contributions are 2011 and 2012, which produced a total of 96 Issue Briefs and 915 pages with a percentage ratio of 31.68 and 32.17, respectively. The lowest contribution was during the year 2019, which has only 12 Issue Briefs and 122 pages with a percentage rate of 3.96% and 4.28%, respectively.

Chart 2: Bar Graph Showing Number of Issue Briefs Published Each Year (2011-2020)

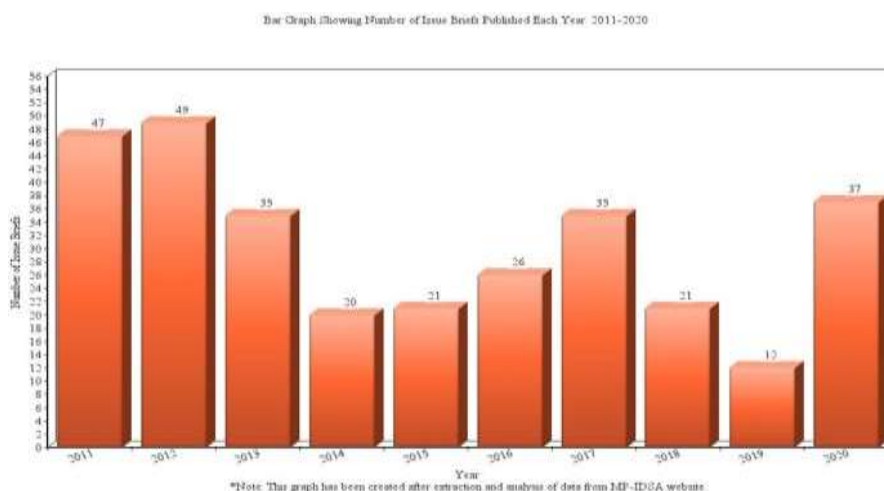


Chart 3: Bar Graph Showing Number of Pages Published Each Year (2011-2020)

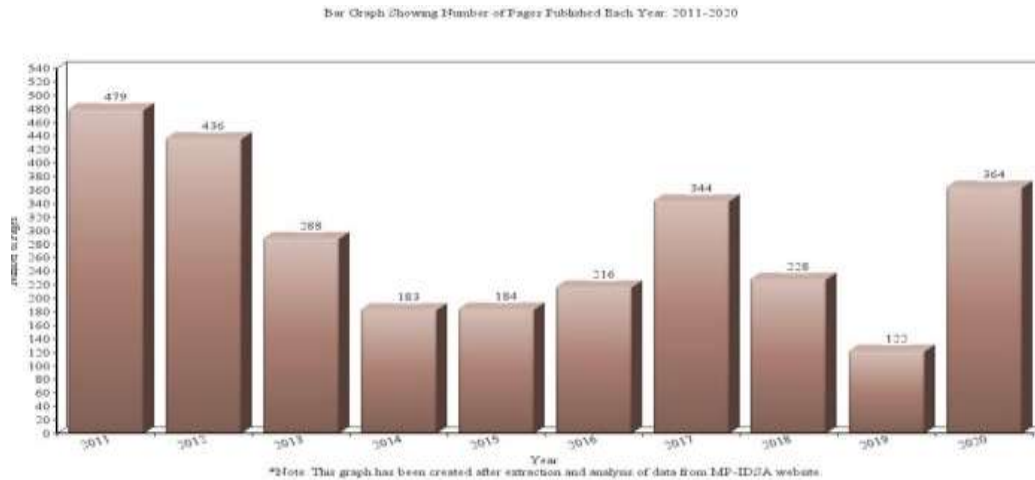


Chart 4 and 5 reflect the trajectory and trend of Issue Briefs and the number of pages from 2011 to 2020. These charts reflect a gradual rise from 2011 to 2012 and then a decline from 2012 to 2014. There is a gradual rise from 2014 to 2017 and then a dip until it reaches its lowest point in 2019. The years 2019 to 2020 sees a sharp rise.

Chart 4: Line Graph Showing Number of Issue Briefs Published Each Year (2011-2020)

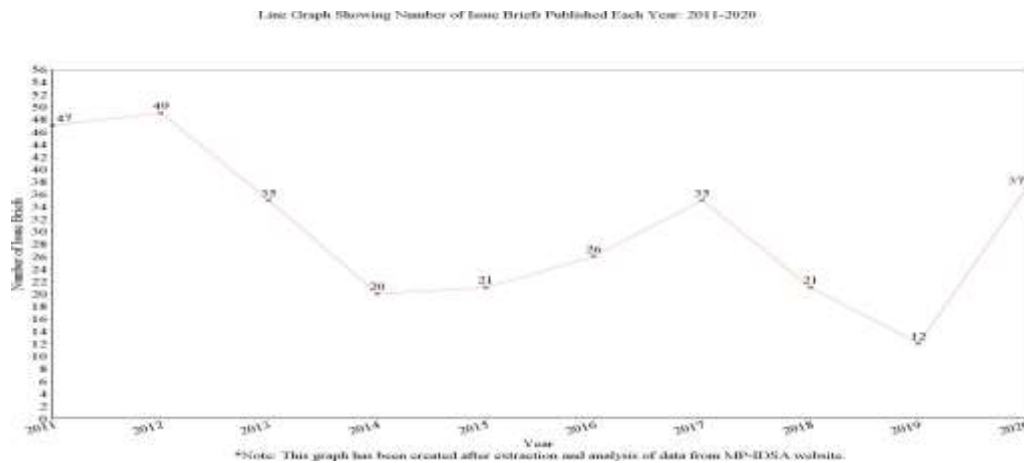


Chart 5: Line Graph Showing Number of Pages Published Each Year (2011-2020)

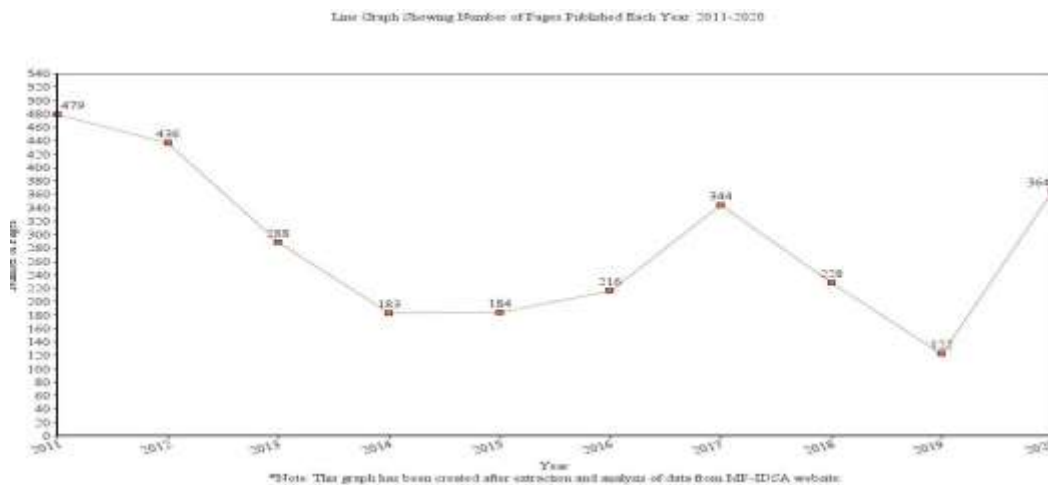


Chart 6 and Chart 7 represents year-wise distribution pattern of topics in terms of the quantity of Issue Briefs and the number of pages. By the end of 2020, the topic of ‘Indian Defence and Security’ had maximum number of Issue Briefs (98) and pages (896) produced. The year 2020 reflects the maximum number of Issue Briefs (17) and pages (170) generated this year. The table also reflects that the topic of ‘South East Asia’ was the least covered topic in the entire period of 2011 to 2020. Out of the 303 Issue Briefs and its 2844 pages, just 6 Issue Briefs and 63 pages were on this topic. The issue of ‘Terrorism’ was the second least covered topic.

Chart 6: Distribution Pattern of Topics in Terms of Quantity (Number) of Issue Briefs

S.No.	Year	No. of Issues Briefs										TOTAL
		SOUTH ASIA	TERROR.	EAST ASIA	S.E. ASIA	WEST ASIA	EUROPE, RUSSIA, USA	CHINA	MISC.	INDIAN DEFENCE & SECURITY	GULF & AFRICA	
1.	2011	2	1	6	4	6	4	5	4	10	5	47
2.	2012	11	1	5	-	3	1	9	3	12	4	49
3.	2013	5	-	2	1	7	1	5	2	11	1	35
4.	2014	3	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	8	1	20
5.	2015	4	-	2	-	2	2	1	3	4	3	21
6.	2016	7	2	-	-	1	-	1	3	10	2	26
7.	2017	1	2	2	-	2	2	7	7	11	1	35
8.	2018	5	-	1	-	-	1	4	2	7	1	21
9.	2019	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	8	-	12
10.	2020	6	1	3	-	3	1	1	4	17	1	37
Total		44	7	22	6	27	13	38	29	98	19	303

Chart 7: Distribution Pattern of Topics in Terms of Quantity (Number) of Pages

S.No.	Year	No. of Pages										TOTAL
		SOUTH ASIA	TERROR.	EAST ASIA	S.E. ASIA	WEST ASIA	EUROPE, RUSSIA, USA	CHINA	MISC.	INDIAN DEFENCE & SECURITY	GULF & AFRICA	
1.	2011	22	14	50	47	51	57	60	45	91	42	479
2.	2012	88	9	53	-	28	9	86	26	101	36	436
3.	2013	47	-	14	10	65	9	36	16	83	8	288
4.	2014	37	-	-	6	8	-	47	6	68	11	183
5.	2015	39	-	20	-	19	16	8	26	34	22	184
6.	2016	65	18	-	-	10	-	9	23	78	13	216
7.	2017	9	19	18	-	20	20	72	66	110	10	344
8.	2018	52	-	12	-	-	7	44	23	79	11	228
9.	2019	-	-	10	-	19	11	-	-	82	-	122
10.	2020	51	13	29	-	28	10	11	41	170	11	364
Total		410	73	206	63	248	139	373	272	896	164	2844

Charts 8 and Chart 9 are bar graphs that reflect the Issue Briefs and pages published each year topic-wise. Different colours reflect different topics. These charts showcase that maximum topic in terms of contributions are the topics on ‘Indian Defence and Security’ and ‘South Asia’, and the topics in terms of minimum contribution are the topics of ‘South East Asia’ and ‘Terrorism’, respectively.

Chart 8: Bar Graph Showing Number of Articles Published Each Year

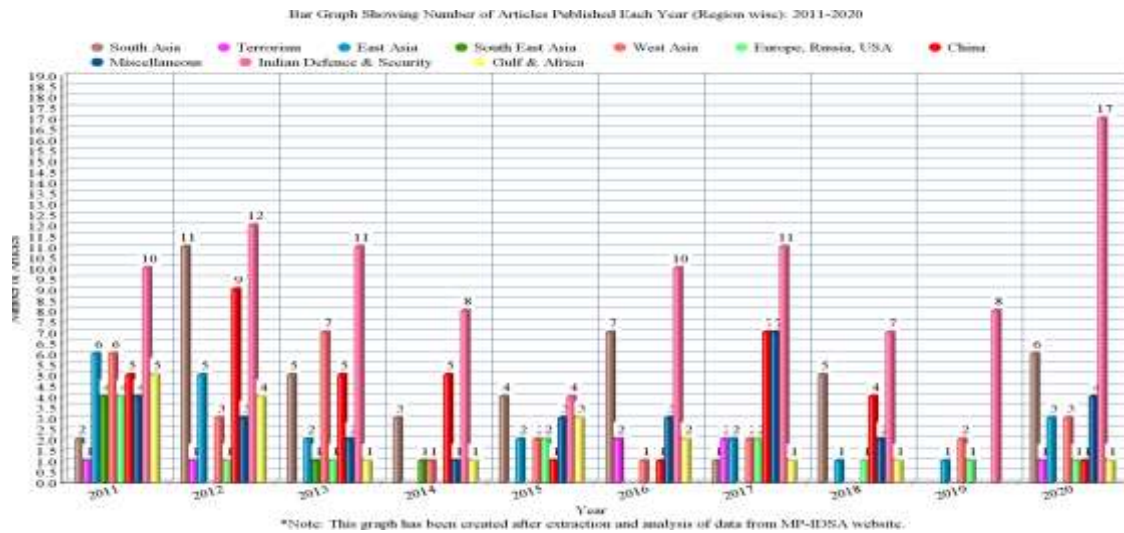
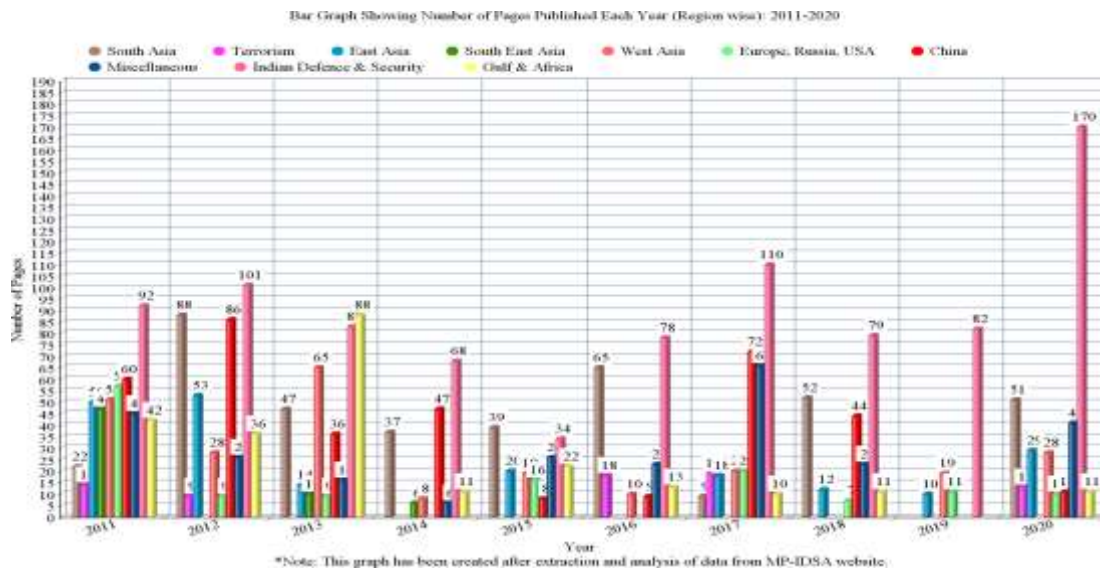


Chart 9: Bar Graph Showing Number of Pages Published Each Year Topic wise 2011-2020



Charts 10 and 11 are pie charts depicting the percentage space attributed to each topic in terms of the number of Issue Briefs and pages. As reflected in both charts, the maximum space in terms of percentage was occupied by topics on ‘Indian Defence and Security’, ‘South Asia’ and ‘China’, i.e., 31.89%, 14.46% and 12.82%, respectively. The space attributed to topics on ‘West Asia’, ‘East Asia’ and ‘Gulf and Africa’ was significantly less. i.e., 8.81%, 7.25% and 6.01% respectively. However, topics on ‘Europe Russia and USA’, ‘Terrorism’ and ‘South East Asia’ occupied the least amount of space, i.e., 4.58%, 2.43% and 2.09% respectively.

*Note: The above calculations are an average of data retrieved from Charts 10 and 11. They are made on the basis of calculations after summing the data from Charts 10 and 11.

Chart 10: Pie Chart Depicting the Percentage Space Attributed to Each Topic in Terms of Articles

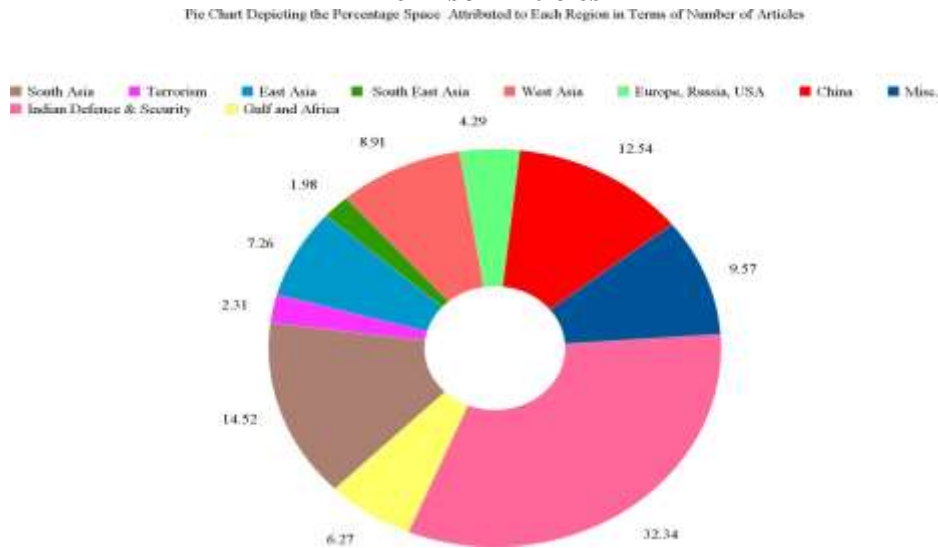
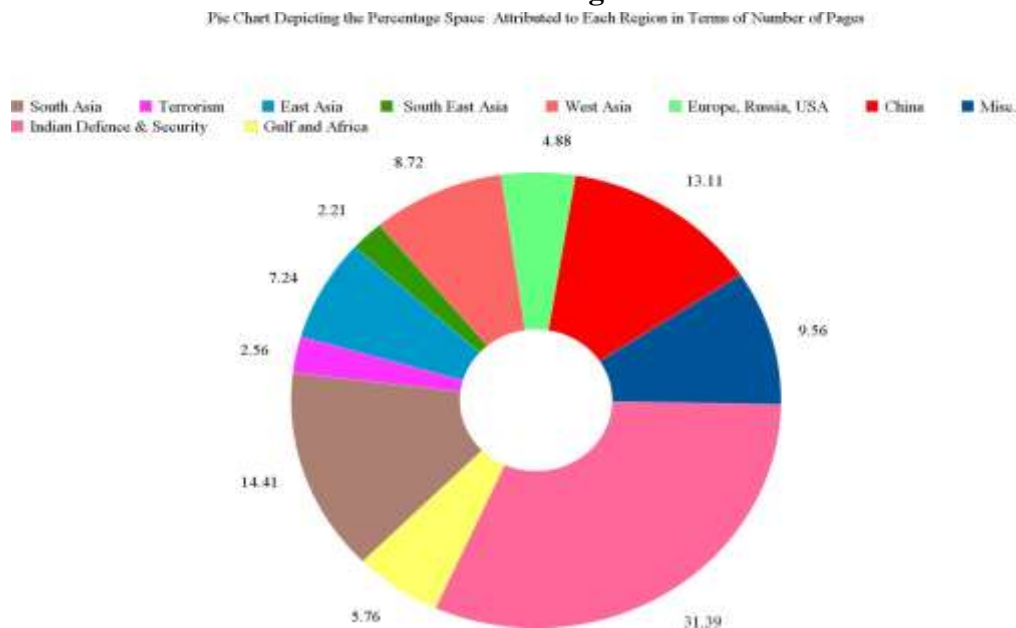


Chart 11: Pie Chart Depicting the Percentage Space Attributed to Each Topic in Terms of Pages



Conclusion and Recommendations

Established in 1965, MP-IDSA is widely regarded as India's most influential independent think tank with the mission "To promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues." MP-IDSA has published thousands of books, and has released journals and magazines

like 'Strategic Analysis', 'Journal of Defence Studies', 'CBW Magazine' and 'Africa Trends'. It also has book reviews, news digests and monographs on various issues. Paper and briefs like, 'Occasional Papers', 'IDSA Comments' 'Issue Briefs' 'Policy Briefs' 'Special Feature' and 'Backgrounder' are a part of its publication stock. The study revealed that a total of 303 Issue Brief articles with 2844 pages of data were generated in a decade from 2011 to 2020. Of the 303 articles, 98 were on Indian Defence and Security, with 896 pages out of the total 2844 pages. The second most discussed topic was 'South Asia', with 44 articles spanning over 410 pages. The case of 'China' occupied the third spot in terms of attributed space with 38 articles spreading over 373 pages. 'Miscellaneous' issues on polity, economy and society also took up 9.56% of the space. Topics on 'West Asia', 'East Asia' and 'Gulf and Africa' getting average or below average space of just a little more than 7%. Whereas, topics on 'Europe Russia and USA', 'Terrorism' and 'South East Asia' were almost neglected with an overall space of just a little more than 2%. There is no doubt that the MP-IDSA is a premier institution that focuses on objective and quality research to promote peace and security at the national and international levels. However, based on this very statement and the conclusion of this research paper, these are the following recommendations:

1. The publication of articles in terms of frequency, volume, quantity, and focus on different topics is skewed and should be uniform.
2. After calculating the sum total of number of articles and pages published in the decade of 2011-2020, it was revealed that MP-IDSA, on an average published just 30.3 articles and 284.4 pages in a year. This should be increased to at least 50 Issue Brief articles and 500 pages a year.
3. Keeping in mind the purpose, 'Mission and Vision' statement and its endeavor to promote peace and security at national and international level, MP-IDSA should focus more on the topic of 'Terrorism'. This topic currently occupied only 2.4% of the total space in the past decade, with just 0.7 articles published each year.
4. India has always had a "Look East Policy", and the Modi government in 2014 introduced "The Act East Policy". However, post-2014, not a single Issue Brief article was published in South East Asia. This needs some looking into.
5. The topic of 'Europe Russia and USA' has also been under-published with just 1.3 articles with 13.9 pages published in a year on an average. These countries and regions hold four permanent UNSC members, and all the G7 members that share cordial relations with India. These topics need more focus.

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