

Bibliometric Analysis of Graduate Theses on Non-Wood Forest Products in Turkey

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Abstract – In this study, bibliometric analysis of graduate theses, which were researched under the general title of non-wood forest products in the National Thesis Center database of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) was carried out based on various criteria. The criteria are: type, year, university, institute, department, gender, title of the advisors, language of writing, number of pages, number of references, keywords. For this purpose, the thesis search engine of CoHE was searched with the keywords "non-wood forest products and non-wood" in Turkish and "non-wood forest products" in English. As a result of the scanning process carried out on June 25 - July 5, 2023, 29 graduate theses on the subject of non-wood forest products have been identified, but one of the theses is not open access. 82% of theses within the scope of evaluation are master's thesis and 18% are doctoral thesis. The most graduate theses were completed in 2019. In total, graduate thesis on non-wood forest products was written in 11 different universities. The university that contributed the most to the subject within the scope of the study is Karadeniz Technical University. It was determined that the theses on non-wood forest products were mostly realized in the institute of science and forest engineering department. The authors of the graduate theses do not differ by gender and 90% of the advisors are male. It was determined that graduate theses were mostly completed under the advisors of professors. 43% of the theses were written in the range of 51-100 pages and approximately 50% of the theses benefited from 51-100 references. 89 different keywords were used in theses. Doctoral studies in this field can be increased.

Keywords – Bibliometric profile, non-wood forest products, CoHE, thesis

Türkiye'de Odun Dışı Orman Ürünleri Konulu Lisansüstü Tezlerin Bibliyometrik Analizi

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Derleme Makale

Öz– Bu çalışmada Yükseköğretim Kurulu (YÖK) Ulusal Tez Merkezi veri tabanında odun dışı orman ürünleri genel başlığı altında araştırılan lisansüstü tezlerin çeşitli kriterlere göre bibliyometrik analizi yapılmıştır. Kriterler şunlardır: tez türü, yıl, üniversite, enstitü, anabilim dalı, yazar cinsiyeti, danışman cinsiyeti, danışmanın unvanı, yazım dili, sayfa sayısı, referans sayısı, anahtar kelimeler. Bu amaçla YÖK'ün tez arama motorunda Türkçe "odun dışı orman ürünleri ve odun dışı", İngilizce "odun dışı orman ürünleri" anahtar kelimeleri ile arama yapılmıştır. 25 Haziran - 5 Temmuz 2023 tarihleri arasında gerçekleştirilen tarama işlemi sonucunda odun dışı orman ürünleri konulu 29 adet yüksek lisans tezi tespit edilmiş olup, ancak tezlerden biri açık erişim değildir. Değerlendirme kapsamındaki tezlerin %82'si yüksek lisans tezi, %18'i ise doktora tezidir. En fazla yüksek lisans tezi 2019 yılında tamamlanmıştır. Toplamda 11 farklı üniversitede odun dışı orman ürünleri üzerine yüksek lisans tezi yazılmıştır. Araştırma kapsamında konuya en fazla katkı sağlayan üniversite ise Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi'dir. Odun dışı orman ürünlerine ilişkin tezlerin çoğunlukla fen bilimleri enstitüsü ve orman mühendisliği anabilim dallarında gerçekleştirildiği belirlenmiştir. Lisansüstü tezlerin yazarları cinsiyete göre farklılık göstermemektedir ve danışmanların %90'ı erkektir. Lisansüstü tezlerin çoğunlukla profesörlerin danışmanlığında tamamlandığı belirlenmiştir. Tezlerin %43'ü 51-100 sayfa aralığında yazılmış olup, tezlerin yaklaşık %50'sinde 51-100 kaynaktan yararlanılmıştır. Tezlerde 89 farklı anahtar kelime kullanılmıştır. Odun dışı orman ürünleri alanındaki doktora çalışmaları artırılabilir.

Anahtar kelimeler –Bibliyometrik profil, odun dışı orman ürünleri, YÖK, tez

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1. Introduction

Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) consist of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests (FAO, 1999). NWFPs have a wide variety, and the main ones are; fruits (chestnut, pine nut, acorn, sumac, etc.), leaves (laurel, eucalyptus, etc.), balsamic oils (frankincense oil, resin, etc.), flowers, twigs and shoots, tubers, onions and rhizomes of some plants, (hyacinth, snowdrop, thuja, etc.), mushrooms, grasses, forest soil and cover (İlter and Ok, 2012).

Turkey is a country with a very rich accumulation of non-wood forest products, and the rate of using these products is increasing rapidly day by day due to the decrease in the demand for chemical products and the increase in people's demand for natural products (Ersen, 2020; Özderin and Ulusoy, 2022).

NWFPs are used for various purposes such as food, medicine, tea, dye, cosmetics, and decorative and ornamental. Thus, NWFPs constitute the fundamental input of many industries and production (Çakmaklı, 2019). Likewise, NWFPs are an important source of income for people in rural areas and the country's economy. It is obvious that when these products obtained from forests are collected and evaluated correctly and well, they will provide serious benefits to both the people living in the region and the country's economy. Moreover, Turkey's forest products exports are largely realized through NWFPs. These situations increase the importance of NWFPs (Özderin and Ulusoy, 2022).

It is calculated that non-wood forest products contributed 6 billion lira to the Turkish economy in 2020. Efforts are being made to ensure that the contribution of non-wood forest products to the Turkish economy will reach 9 billion lira in 2023. Forest villagers living near or in the forest contributed 800 million lira from these products in 2020, and this contribution is expected to increase to 1 million 100 thousand lira in 2023 (URL-1, 2023). The value of marketed non-wood forest product in Europe has been estimated at EUR 4 billion per year, nearly 20% the value of marketed roundwood (Forest Europe, 2020). Furthermore, 90% of European households regularly consume non-wood forest product, while 26% collect some type of non-wood forest product, at least once a year, for self-consumption or sale (Martinez de Arano et al., 2021).

Master's and doctoral theses are prepared at universities in Turkey in the field of non-wood forest products, which are used in many fields and contribute to the local people and the country's economy. Graduate theses are basic studies on a subject in a specific field that reveal its development, change and trends in the historical process (Güzeller and Çeliker, 2017). However, there is no evaluation and analysis of graduate theses prepared on non-wood forest products.

With bibliometric research, it can be determined how much work has been done in which areas and in which areas there are deficiencies. Thus, it guides scientists who want to work in any field or subject (Akıncı, 2020). The main purpose of studies involving the bibliometric analysis method is to discover the findings of examining various scientific publications such as theses and articles with the help of bibliometric criteria (Çatı and Öçel, 2018).

In this study, it was aimed to subject a total of 28 graduate theses, which are open to access, on the concept of non-wood forest products, located in the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education, to bibliometric analysis with various parameters.

1.1. Review of Literature

There are very few studies on bibliometric analysis of non-wood forest products. For example, George and Joshi George (2012) conducted a bibliometric analysis of articles on rattan, one of the non-wood forest products, and the data were obtained from CABI Abstract, AGRIS, and Biological Abstract database. In the research conducted by Singh et al. (2017), 622 documents on the Tulsi plant, which is a non-wood forest product, were downloaded using Scopus database between 1914 and 2017 and their bibliometric analysis was carried out. Silva et al. (2020) carried out a bibliometric analysis of 196 studies on non-timber forest prod-

ucts in Brazil until 2019, and the Scopus database was used for this purpose. Demirci and Aktepe (2021) conducted a bibliometric analysis of studies on edible plants. For this purpose, a total of 40 articles and 16 postgraduate theses were examined. The studies were accessed through Google Scholar and the Council of Higher Education Thesis Center. Sacchelli et al. (2021) aimed to present a quantitative review of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) at a regional scale in Europe by applying a text mining approach to titles, abstracts and keywords extracted from articles in the Scopus database. There are no studies on the bibliometric evaluation of master's and doctoral theses in the field of non-wood forest products in Turkey, but some studies on the bibliometric analysis of graduate theses on different subjects at the national level are given in Table 1.

Table 1

Some of the bibliometric analysis studies that examine graduate theses in the literature

Author-year	Purpose of the study
Ayaz and Türkmen (2018)	45 graduate thesis studies on local foods published on the National Thesis Center website between 1999 and 2017 were examined with various criteria.
Akkaşoğlu et al. (2019)	19 graduate theses on agricultural tourism in Turkey were examined with bibliometric analysis technique.
Özispa and Akdaş (2019)	Theses written on digital transformation in the National Thesis Center and ProQuest (Dissertations and Theses) databases between 2009 and 2019 were examined in terms of different parameters.
Gümrah (2020)	A bibliometric analysis of graduate theses prepared on management accounting in Turkey was carried out.
Teyin (2021)	The course of graduate studies on food safety published between 2010 and 2020 was analyzed with various criteria.
Keçeci (2021)	Master's, doctoral and medical specialty theses regarding occupational health and safety in the National Thesis Center were examined with the bibliometric analysis method.
Türkoğlu et al. (2022)	A bibliometric analysis of graduate theses prepared between 2000 and 2021 and published in the National Thesis Center was carried out.
Yağmuroğlu and Per (2022)	Graduate theses prepared on mammalian animals in Turkey between 1976-2020 were accessed from the CoHE database. Bibliometric analysis was carried out on 411 master's theses and 182 doctoral theses.
Yorulmaz and Baykan (2022)	264 theses on port management were analyzed according to various parameters and visualized with the help of Maxqda program.
Karaca and Türkmen (2022)	Content analysis of graduate theses written in the field of Industry 4.0 in Turkey was carried out using various parameters.
Öner and Murathan (2023)	112 master's and 16 doctoral theses on attitudes towards physical education and sports lessons were examined from a bibliometric perspective.
Tanrıverdi and Çıkkı (2023)	Theses on tobacco expertise and tobacco technology between 1987 and 2020 were analyzed bibliometrically.

2. Material and Method

Researchers in Turkey are preparing graduate theses on non-wood forest products, but a general evaluation of these theses has not been done. The aim of the study is to determine the bibliometric properties of graduate theses published between 2006 and 2023, which have permission to access the Higher Education Institution National Thesis Center database on non-wood forest products. For this purpose, the thesis search engine of National Thesis Center was searched with the keywords "non-wood forest products and non-wood" in Turkish and "non-wood forest products" in English.

In the study, 29 graduate theses published between 2001 and 2023 constitute the population of the research. Graduate theses that cannot be accessed digitally through the National Thesis Center database are not included in the scope of the research. In this respect, the sample of the research consists of 28 graduate theses with access permission. There is no access permission only to the master's thesis prepared in 2001. The data collection process for the research was completed between 25 June and 5 July, 2023.

Within the scope of bibliometric analysis of graduate theses, answers to the following questions are sought.

- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding the years?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding type?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published between on non-wood forest products regarding universities?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding institutes?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding departments?
- What is the distribution of authors of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding gender?
- What is the distribution of the advisors of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding gender?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding the titles of their advisors?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding page numbers?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding writing language?
- What is the distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products regarding reference numbers?

3. Results

In this section, graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education were examined within the scope of various parameters, and the findings obtained through bibliometric analysis were included. The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education is given in Figure 1.

The first graduate thesis on non-wood forest products in Turkey was done in 2001, but it was not included in the scope of the study because it was not accessible. The first thesis carried out within the scope of the study was the master's thesis in 2006. The majority of theses (82%) on non-wood forest products are master's theses. One master's thesis was written each year in 2006, 2011, 2014, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2 master's theses were written each year in 2016, 2017, 2018. Three master's theses were written in 2015. Graduate theses

have increased after 2014, and the highest numbers of graduate theses were written in 2019 with 8 theses. Five doctoral theses have been written on non-wood forest products, and the first doctoral thesis was written in 2009. One doctoral thesis was written each year in 2009, 2011, 2014, and 2 doctoral theses were written in 2022.

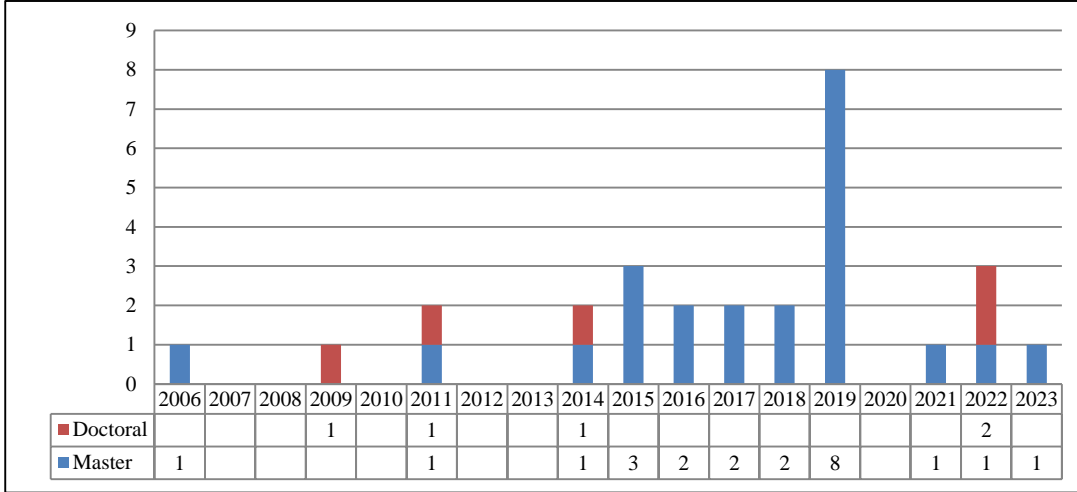


Figure 1. Distribution of postgraduate theses regarding years and theses types

The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the Higher Education Institution National Thesis Center regarding to the universities where they were written is given in Figure 2.

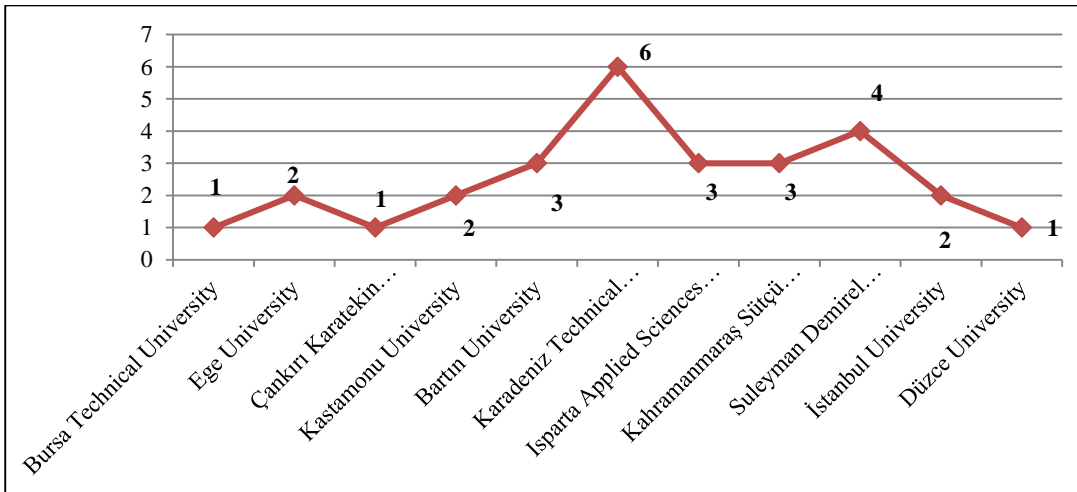


Figure 2. Distribution of graduate theses regarding universities

When Figure 2 is examined, it can be seen that graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 were written in 11 different universities, and the theses were mostly written at Karadeniz Technical University. Followed by Süleyman Demirel University, Bartın University, Isparta University of Applied Sciences, and Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, respectively.

The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education regarding the institutes where they were written is given in Figure 3.

It is seen that 82% of the graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2005 and 2020 were written in science institutes and 18% were written in graduate education institutes.

The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education regarding the departments where they were written is given in Figure 4.

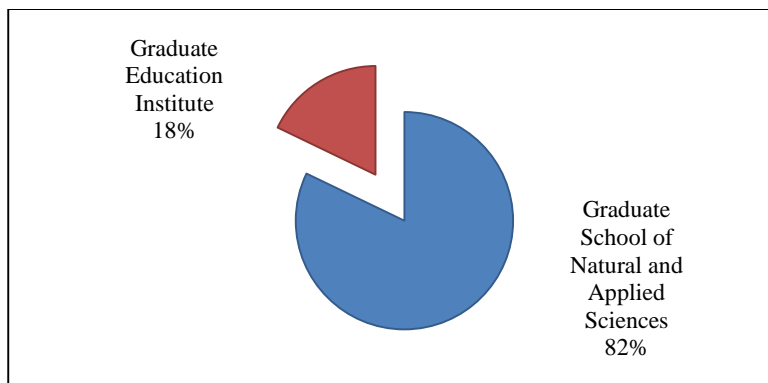


Figure 3. Distribution of graduate theses regarding institutes

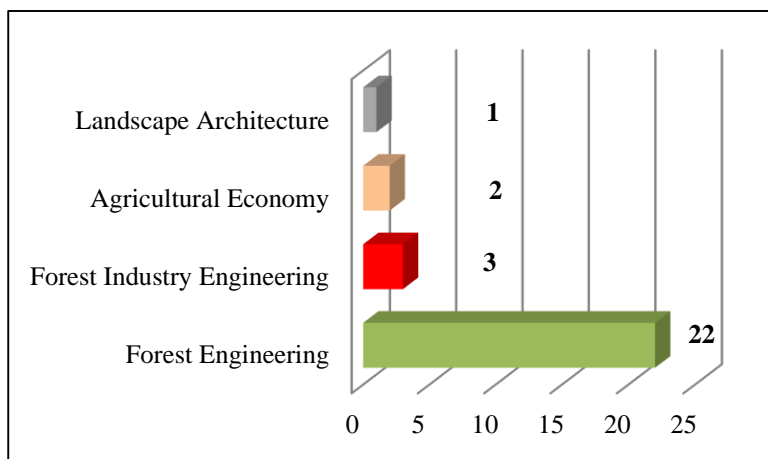


Figure 4. Distribution of graduate theses regarding departments

It is seen that 78.57% of the graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 were written in the Department of Forest Engineering, 10.71% in the Department of Forest Industrial Engineering, 7.14% in the Department of Agricultural Economics and 3.57% in the Department of Landscape Architecture.

The gender distribution of the authors and advisors of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the Council of Higher Education National Thesis Center database is given in Figure 5.

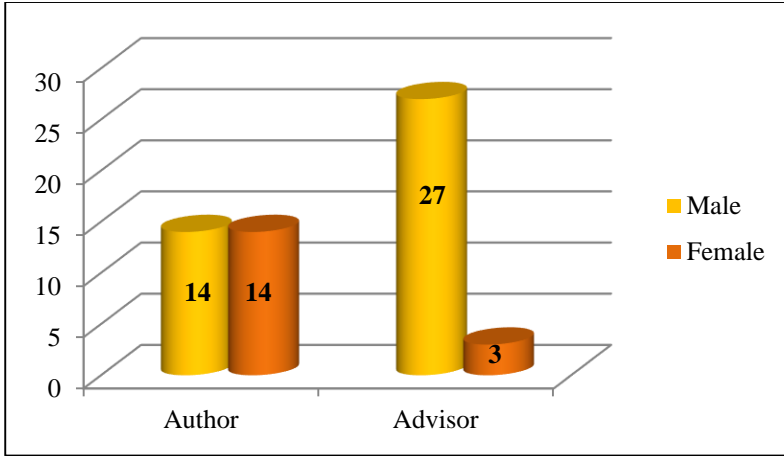


Figure 5. Distribution of authors and advisors of graduate theses regarding gender

When the gender distribution of people who write theses on non-wood forest products is examined, it is seen that male and female authors are equal. Since two theses were supervised by double advisors, the number of theses advisors increased to 30. It is seen that the majority of the thesis advisors who manage these are men (90%).

Moreover, all theses written on non-wood forest products were written using the Turkish writing language and result is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of graduate theses regarding writing language

Language	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Turkish	28	100

The distribution of academicians who supervised graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Higher Education Institution regarding to their titles is given in Figure 6.

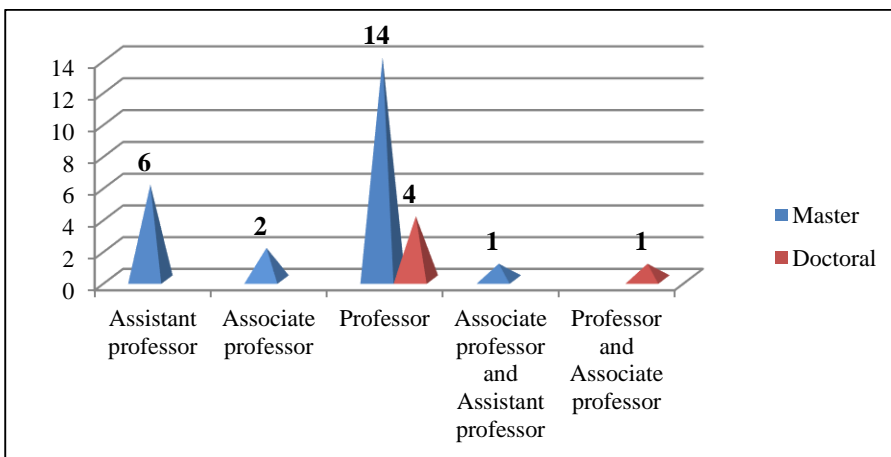


Figure 6. Distribution of graduate thesis advisors regarding title

When the distribution of thesis advisor titles in Figure 6 is examined, it is seen that advisors with the title of Professor mostly serve as advisors (64%). Co-advisors with different titles were involved in two graduate

theses, one for a master's degree and one for a doctorate. It is noteworthy that the advisors in all doctoral studies have the title of professor.

The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education regarding the number of pages is given in Figure 7.

Considering the distribution of graduate theses according to the number of pages, 44% of these are between 51 and 100 pages. It is seen that graduate theses with more than 150 pages and less than 50 pages are in the minority. All theses written over 200 pages are doctoral theses. A thesis of at most 300 pages and at least 41 pages has been written on non-wood forest products. While the average number of pages for master's theses is 95 pages, the average number of pages for doctoral theses is 214 pages.

The distribution of graduate theses published on non-wood forest products between 2006 and 2023 in the database of the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education regarding the number of references is given in Figure 8.

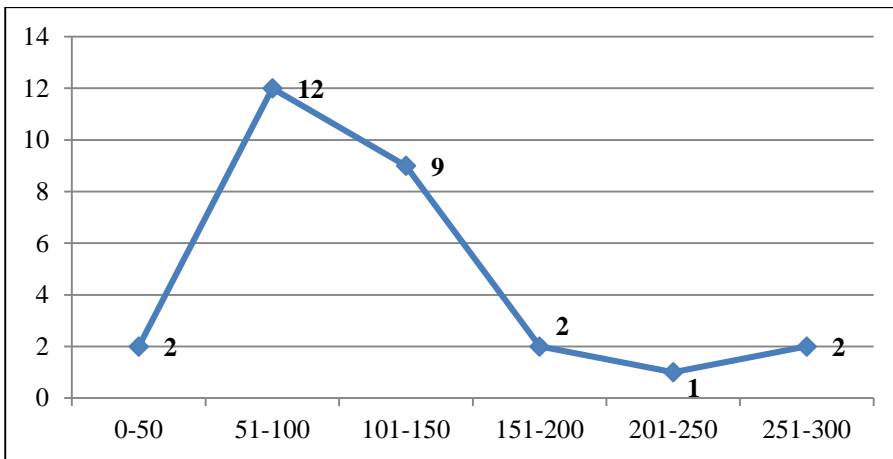


Figure 7. Distribution of graduate thesis regarding the number of pages

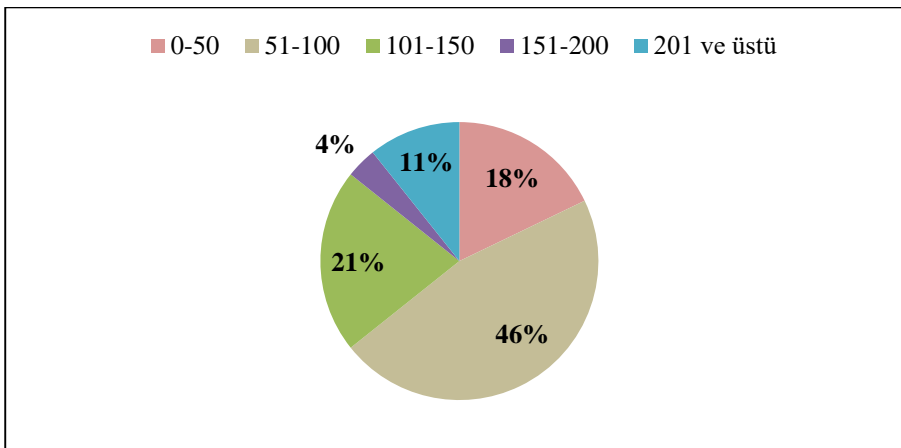


Figure 8. Distribution of graduate thesis regarding the number of references

Considering Figure 8, approximately fifty percent of theses used between 51 and 100 references. The number of theses using more than 150 references is 15%. While a maximum of 384 references were used in a thesis, at least 31 references were used in a thesis.

The fact that theses in the field of non-wood forest products are examined from a bibliometric perspective reveals the originality of the study.

As a result of the study, it was determined that graduate studies in the field of non-wood forest products were mostly carried out at the master's level and studies at the doctoral level were very few. In addition, although the number of theses at the master's level is high, the number of studies on non-wood forest products, which has become increasingly important in recent years, is below 30. Although postgraduate theses written in the academic field are considered important studies in the scientific field, especially in Turkey, this result shows that thesis on non-wood forest products is not given much importance in Turkey. The number and quality of theses on non-wood forest products should be increased.

There is no significant difference in terms of the gender of the authors whereas there is a significant difference in terms of the gender of the thesis advisors. Both doctoral and master's studies are usually carried out by professors. It is seen that all theses written on non-wood forest products are written in Turkish. Therefore, the number of theses written in English can be increased in order to increase the recognition of the theses studies on this subject in Turkey throughout the world. It is seen that graduate theses are generally made by science institutes and four different departments. Studies can be carried out to prepare theses on this subject in different institutes and departments.

As a result, this study contributes to the literature for scientists who will conduct research on non-wood forest products to see the current situation, identify research trends and guide future studies. In this study, only studies that can be accessed from the Council of Higher Education Thesis Center have been included, and researchers may conduct a study that includes articles on non-wood forest products, especially in Turkey, by using different national or international databases.

Acknowledgement

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Author Contributions

Nadir Ersen: Choosing the study subject, conducting the study, obtaining the data, making the analysis, interpreting the data, writing the article.

İlker Akyüz: Data interpretation and analysis, writing the article.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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