

## USER PERCEPTION AND UTILIZATION OF E-SHODHSINDHU: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the digital age, access to quality academic resources is crucial for research and higher education. Recognizing this need, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with the University Grants Commission and the INFLIBNET Centre, launched the e-ShodhSindhu (eSS) digital library initiative (Kaushik, 2021). This program aims to provide students, researchers, and faculty members across India with seamless access to a vast collection of scholarly journals, e-books, and databases. The e-SS digital library is a transformative initiative that democratizes access to knowledge, fostering a culture of research and innovation in India. By providing affordable and extensive academic resources (Theresa and Thomas, 2021), it empowers students, researchers, and educators to compete globally. With continued improvements in accessibility and awareness, e-SS can play a pivotal role in shaping India's academic future (Kumar, 2018). The eSS Digital Library Consortium's node agency, the INFLIBNET Centre, handles e-resources, payments, use data, etc. (Saini, 2017). More than 15,000 core peer-reviewed publications and online databases covering a wide range of areas will be made available to member universities via the consortium, both in the present and in the past. Access to electronic resources is limited to faculty, students, and researchers at universities and colleges that receive funding from the federal government under the eSS initiative (Rawat and Kumar, 2021).

The academic libraries in India are now dealing with a lot of issues, including rising user needs and expectations, decreasing budgets, rising expenses of library products (particularly electronic journals), and an overall increase in the volume of information resources (Das, 2022). Accordingly, libraries should seek out new ways to satisfy the needs of their patrons. Here, library consortia have been started in India to address the aforementioned issues; however, the endeavor to establish these groups is still in its early

stages (Manjunatha and kumar, 2024). To better serve library patrons and provide access to relevant information, some libraries have banded together to established library consortiums. Recent university establishments have challenges in expanding their programs due to a lack of resources and proper funding (Kumar and Kishore, 2021). Also showing this trend is the recently established Gondwana University in Gadchiroli. Although the government agencies have been working tirelessly to implement the state's welfare policies of inclusive development, the pace of improvement has been slower than in other parts of the state. With the foregoing in mind, we set out to evaluate how users felt about various parts of eSS in this research.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

In order to guarantee the accuracy and credibility of the material, our research meticulously gathered all relevant details. Taking into consideration the aims of the research, the methodology used a mix of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. All of Gondwana University, Gadchiroli was the focus of this investigation. To gather data on different parts of eSS, the researcher in this study employed a descriptive research strategy. Out of the 236 academic institutions connected to Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, 74 colleges provide scientific streams, according to the preliminary study. These 74 scientific colleges made up the whole population in this survey. Nevertheless, 87.8% of the 65 librarians employed by these institutions provided the data. A structured research instrument was used to gather the main data. The standard technique was followed in the development of the questionnaire, which was based on well recognized principles of instrument design (Lundberg, 2003). Various magazines and journals, both domestic and foreign, were combed through for secondary data. A battery of statistical tests were used to conduct the data analysis. After the data was analyzed using the Chi-Square Test technique, descriptive statistics were calculated from it. The statistical package SPSS 18.0 was used for the data analysis. A significance threshold of 0.05 (or 5%, to put it another way) was decided upon.

### 3. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

#### 3.1. Purpose of using e-ShodhSindhu

**Table 1:** Purpose of using e-ShodhSindhu

Purpose of using e-ShodhSindhu	No	Percent
Research and study	37	56.9
Publishing research papers/books	6	9.2
Keep abreast of current information	9	13.8
Relevant specialized primary information	2	3.1
To prepare for UGC Nationalized Eligibility Test	3	4.6
Assignments and Seminar presentations	8	12.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$$\chi^2 = 79.301; \text{df: } 5; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 3.84; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 1 presents information pertaining to purpose of using e-ShodhSindhu in the libraries of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli. Study result shows that according to 56.9% respondents e-ShodhSindhu is used for research and study while 9.2% respondents stated that e-ShodhSindhu is used for publishing research papers/books. In addition to this according to 13.8%, 3.1% and 4.6% respondents e-ShodhSindhu is used to keep abreast of current information, to get relevant specialized primary information and to prepare for UGC Nationalized Eligibility Test respectively. Furthermore 12.3% respondents stated that e-ShodhSindhu is used to prepare assignments and seminar presentations.

#### 3.2. Frequency of use of e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu consortium

**Table 2:** Frequency of use of e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu consortium

Frequency	No	Percent
Daily	0	0.0
Once in two days	0	0.0
Once in three days	6	9.2
Weekly	59	90.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$$\chi^2 = 11.427; \text{df: } 1; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 3.84; p < 0.05$$

Above Table 2 presents information pertaining to frequency of use of e-ShodhSindhu consortium in the libraries of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli. Study result shows that according to 9.2% respondents e-ShodhSindhu consortium is used once in three days while 90.8% respondents stated that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is used weekly.

### 3.3. Adequacy of the e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu

**Table 3:** Adequacy of e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu to fulfill the information needs of the users

Frequency	No	Percent
To some extent	45	69.2
To great extent	20	30.8
Not adequate	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$$\chi^2 = 46.938; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 3.84; p < 0.05$$

Table 3 shows the data on whether or not the e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu are sufficient to meet the information demands of the scientific college libraries associated with Gondwana University Gadchiroli. The study found that although 30.8% of respondents said that e-ShodhSindhu has sufficient e-resources to meet the information demands of users to a large extent, 69.2% said that it has appropriate e-resources to a certain degree.

### 3.4. Satisfaction with the services provided by e-ShodhSindhu consortium

**Table 4:** Level of satisfaction with the services provided by e-ShodhSindhu consortium in college library

Level of satisfaction	No	Percent
Highly satisfied	38	58.5
Moderately satisfied	27	41.5
Not satisfied	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

$$\chi^2 = 35.303; \text{df: } 2; \chi^2_{\text{crit}} = 3.84; p < 0.05$$

Table 4 shows the results of a survey asking scientific college libraries connected with Gondwana University Gadchiroli how satisfied they were with the services offered by the e-ShodhSindhu consortium. In terms of overall satisfaction with the services offered by the e-ShodhSindhu consortium, the study found that 58.5% of respondents are very happy and 41.5% are very satisfied.

### **3.5. Nature of problems faced in accessing e-ShodhSindhu**

**Table 5:** Type of problems faced in accessing e-ShodhSindhu

Problems faced	Yes		No		Total		$\chi^2_{\text{calculated}}$
	No	Per	No	Per	No	Per	
Low bandwidth of internet connectivity	56	86.2	9	13.8	65	100.0	33.985*
Lack of orientation	54	83.1	11	16.9	65	100.0	28.446*
Lack of remote access	56	86.2	9	13.8	65	100.0	33.985*
Lack of sufficient e-resources	56	86.2	9	13.8	65	100.0	33.985*
Lack of training to use this consortium	53	81.5	12	18.5	65	100.0	25.862*

Above Table 5 presents information pertaining to type of problems faced by librarians of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli in accessing e-ShodhSindhu. Study result shows that 86.2% respondents faced problem of low bandwidth of internet connectivity while 13.8% respondents does not feel this problem. On top of that, 83.1% of respondents reported feeling lost, while 16.9% said they weren't. Not only that, 86.2% of respondents had trouble with insufficient electronic resources, while 13.8% did not, and 86.2% of respondents had trouble with a lack of remote access, albeit 13.8% did not. Furthermore 81.5% respondents faced problem of lack of training to use this consortium while 18.5% respondents does not feel this problem.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

### **4.1. Purpose of using e-ShodhSindhu**

On the basis of the study results it is evident that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is used for research and study in most of the libraries of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli.

#### **4.2. Frequency of use of e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu consortium**

On the basis of the study results it is evident that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is used weekly in most of the libraries of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli.

#### **4.3. Adequacy of the e-resources in e-ShodhSindhu**

On the basis of the study results it is evident that e in most of the libraries of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli e-ShodhSindhu has adequate e-resources up to some extent to fulfill the information needs of the users.

#### **4.4. Satisfaction with the services provided by e-ShodhSindhu consortium**

On the basis of the study results it is evident that most of the librarians of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli are highly satisfied with the services provided by e-ShodhSindhu consortium.

#### **4.5. Nature of problems faced in accessing e-ShodhSindhu**

On the basis of the study results it is evident that most of the librarians of science colleges affiliated to Gondwana University Gadchiroli face problems related to low bandwidth of internet connectivity, lack of orientation, lack of remote access, lack of sufficient e-resources and lack of training to use this consortium.

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