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**Use of E-Shodhsindhu Consortium By Research Scholars: A Comparative
Study of Kurukshetra University and Maharshi Dayanand University**

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Abstract

E-ShodhSindhu consortium is backbone of research in higher education system in India. E-ShodhSindhu consortium provides full text and bibliographical journal databases to higher education institutions at subscription cost. The current study is an effort to find out the use of E-ShodhSindhu consortium by the Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University and Maharshi Dayanand University. Study indicates that more than 55% Research Scholars including both the universities are aware about E-ShodhSindhu consortium and they use it mainly for research work.

Keywords: E-ShodhSindhu consortium, E-Resources, Research Scholar, Kurukshetra University and Maharshi Dayanand University

Introduction

Virtual library means a library without walls where users can avail any type of information in electronic form without any hindrance. Digital library is an excellent portal for academic communities which provides access of electronic journals, databases and e-books. E-ShodhSindhu consortium is a collection of world's top and leading electronic journal databases providing access of exclusive scholarly resources since 2004. As per the annals of higher education of India E-ShodhSindhu consortium is one of the magnanimous and aspiring programs which was initiated by MHRD. E-ShodhSindhu consortium assures the fulfillment of the virtual philosophy of the libraries. The information gathered in the various academic and research processes of the universities can be digitized rapidly with the help of E-ShodhSindhu consortium, and it offers great help for the research scholars to retrieve the required information. In the review of literature through several studies it has been proved that E-ShodhSindhu has become an inseparable part of academic community. E-ShodhSindhu

consortium provides a large variety of the relevant and comprehensive information to academic communities for their academic excellence which improves the academic output of users.

Review of literature

A number of surveys have been conducted on use of E-ShodhSindhu consortium, some of the relevant studies are mentioned as under:

Siwach and Malik (2018) investigated the use of e-resources among faculty members of Panjab University, Chandigarh and found that 73.81% respondents were aware about e-resources of their respective field. The study revealed that e-journals and free internet resources were mostly used by the respondents while institutional repositories were least used. It is also found that 67.26% respondents used e-journal for research purpose and 65% respondents used for reading article. **Gautam and Sinha (2017)** carried out a study on use of electronic resources by 53 research Scholars and 45 faculty members of University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The study explored that only 39.79% faculty members and 43.87% research scholars were aware about e-resources. It is found that e-journals were preferred by 28.56% respondents while 6.12% respondents preferred e-thesis. **Angadi (2017)** conducted a study on use of UGC-Infonet among research scholars of Karnataka University and University of Mysore. The study revealed that 88.95% respondents were aware of UGC-Infonet, 85.26% respondents used it for research work whereas 58.82% respondents used to keep abreast with the latest development. Majority of respondents used UGC-Infonet twice a week while only few respondents i.e. 4.47% used e-resources fortnightly. It was also found that 55.03% respondents faced technical problem while using UGC-INFONET Consortium. **Natarajan (2017)** investigated use of electronic resources by the students of Social Science of Jimma University. Study revealed that users were well aware about e-resources, 100% respondents use these resources for presenting a paper and 94.6%

respondents used for research work. The analysis found that 85.8% respondents used e-resources daily while 9.4% respondents used e resources occasionally. **Lokesh and Bhandi (2017)** conducted a study on utilization of UGC-Infonet in Mangalore University and found that 86% respondents used UGC-Infonet for research work. It is revealed that 36.60% respondents used UGC-Infonet on daily basis whereas 22.70% used in 2-3 times in a week. **Singh and Verma (2017)** carried a study on use of electronic resources by the students and researchers: with special reference to faculty of arts, Banaras Hindu University and found that 90.54% respondents were aware about e-resources, 38.06% respondents used e-resources for study purpose, 17.16% for making assignment and 14.17% used for research work. The data also found that 26.13% respondents used e-journals weekly followed by twice a week by 13.51% respondents. **Lingaiah (2016)** investigated a study on use of E-ShodhSindhu among 33 faculty members and 71 research scholars of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad. 100% respondents were aware about E-ShodhSindhu consortium, 41.34% respondents used E-ShodhSindhu consortium for research and teaching.

Objectives of study

1. To know about the Research Scholars' awareness towards E-ShodhSindhu consortium.
2. To find out the use of E-ShodhSindhu consortium among the Researcher Scholars.
3. To find out the various purposes of using E-ShodhSindhu consortium by Researcher Scholars.
4. To know about the problems faced by the users while accessing E-ShodhSindhu consortium.

Research Methodology

The primary data was collected through the questionnaire method. A total of 125 questionnaires were distributed among the researcher scholars of various departments of pure science i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Bio-Chemistry, Microbiology of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. To enhancement the data, personnel visits to diverse

departments of both the universities were made and conducted a random conversation for gathering associated data which helped to understand the various aspects related to the study. 116 filled questionnaires were returned from the respondents. The recommendations given by the research scholars were noted and integrated into the analysis. The evaluated data has been presented in the tabular and graphical form.

Data Interpretation and Analysis

Subject Wise Distribution of Research Scholars

S. No	Departments	KUK	MDU
1.	Physics	21(30.43%)	16(34.04%)
2.	Chemistry	19(27.53%)	14(29.78%)
3.	Zoology	10(14.49%)	4(8.51%)
4.	Botany	4(5.79%)	5(10.63%)
5.	Biochemistry	11(15.94%)	5(10.63%)
6.	Microbiology	4(5.79%)	3(6.38%)

Table 1 KUK=Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, MDU=Maharshi Dayanand University,

Rohtak

Table 1 shows subject wise distribution of research scholars. Data shows that 21(30.43%) and 16(34.04%) respondents are from Physics department of KUK and MDU respectively. 19(27.53%) and 14(29.78%) respondents are of Chemistry department of KUK and MDU respectively. 10(14.49%) and 4(8.51%) respondents are from Zoology department of KUK and MDU respectively. 4(5.79%) and 5(10.63%) respondents are of Botany department of KUK and MDU. 11(15.94%) and 5(10.63%) respondents are from Biochemistry department of KUK and MDU respectively. 4(5.79%) and 3(6.38%) respondents are of Microbiology department of KUK and MDU.

Awareness About E-Resources

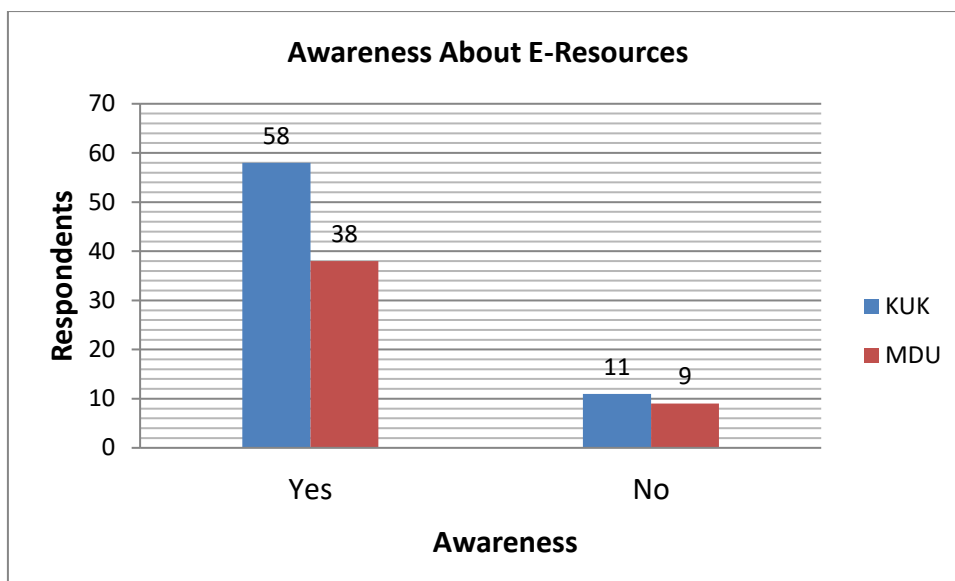


Figure-1

Figure-1 shows that 58(84.06%) research scholars of KUK and 38(80.85%) research scholars of MDU are aware about the e-resources of their respective disciplines. Rest of the research scholars are not aware about e-resources, it is so because they are fresher and yet to start their research.

Use of various E-Resources

S. No.	E-Resources	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	E-Database	10(17.24%)	5(13.16%)
2.	E-Journals	49(67.24%)	26(68.42%)
3.	E-Article	41(53.24%)	23(60.52%)
4.	E-Conferences Proceeding	7(12.07%)	9(23.68%)
5.	Virtual Conference	--	--
6.	E-Books	15(25.86%)	17(44.73%)
7.	E-Magazines	23(39.65%)	20(52.63%)
8.	E-Thesis	35(60.34%)	24(63.16%)
9.	E-Newspapers	19(32.75%)	15(39.47%)
10	Citation Database	0	0

Table- 2

Table 2 highlights that 49(67.24%) research scholars of KUK and 26(68.42%) research scholars of MDU preferred to use e-journals whereas 41(53.24%) research scholars of KUK and 23(60.52%) research scholars of MDU use e-articles. 7(12.07%) research scholars of KUK and 9(23.68%) research scholars of MDU use e-conference proceeding. The table further shows that 35(60.34%) research scholars of KUK and 24 (63.16%) research scholars of MDU make the use of e-thesis.

Purpose of Using E-Resources

S. No.	Purpose	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	Writing Research Paper	45(77.52%)	12(31.57%)
2.	Research work	49 (84.48%)	25(65.78%)
3	Enhance Knowledge	21(36.20%)	13(34.21%)
4.	Finding Information in the area of specialization	18(31.03%)	9(23.68%)
5.	Seminar	16(27.58%)	2(5.26%)
6.	Getting Current Information	17(29.31%)	4(10.52%)

Table-3

Table 3 depicts that 49(84.48%) research scholar of Kurukshetra University and 25(65.78%) research scholars of Maharishi Dayanand University use e-resources specifically for research work. 45(77.52%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 12(31.57%) research scholars of Maharishi Dayanand University make the use e-resources for writing research papers. Research scholars of both the universities prefer to use e-resources for other various purposes also i.e. to enhance knowledge, seminar and current information etc.

Awareness About E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

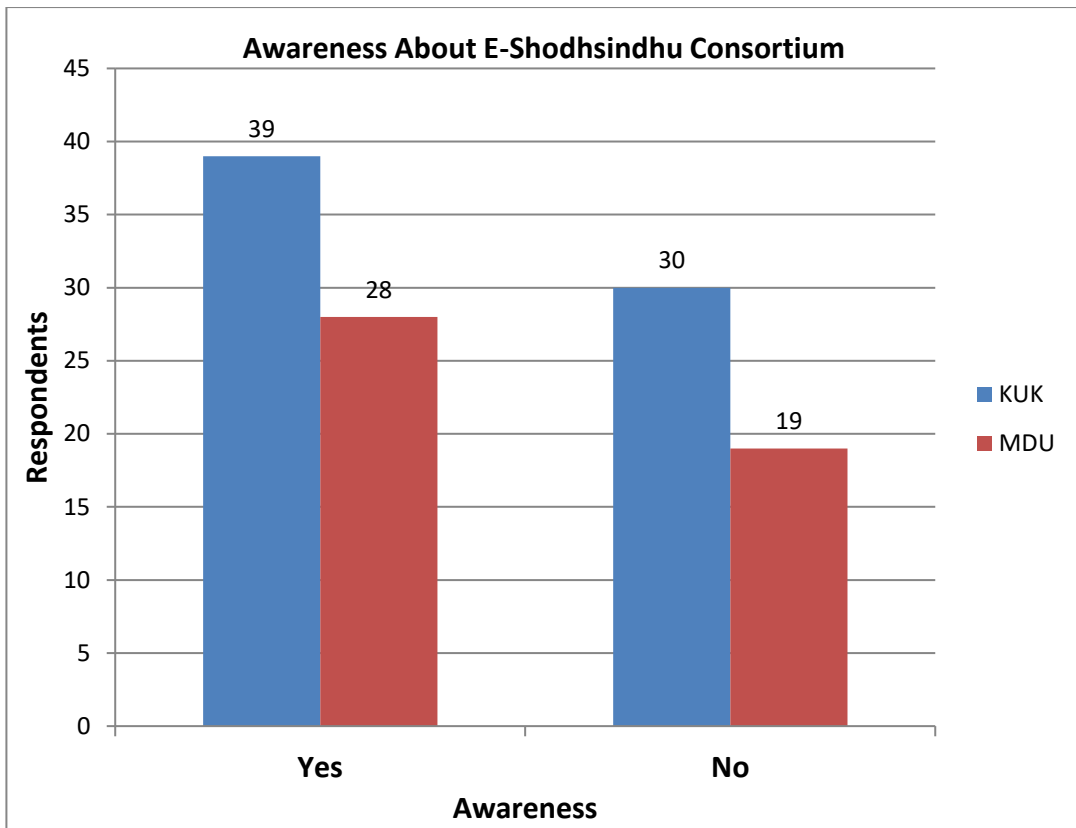


Figure-2

Figure-2 reveals that 39(56.52%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 28(59.57%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University are aware about e-ShodhSindhu Digital Library Consortium. 30 (43.48%) and 19 (40.43%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and Maharshi Dayanand University respectively are not aware about the e-ShodhSindhu consortium supplied by the UGC, it so because they may have joined the research recently.

Source to Know About E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

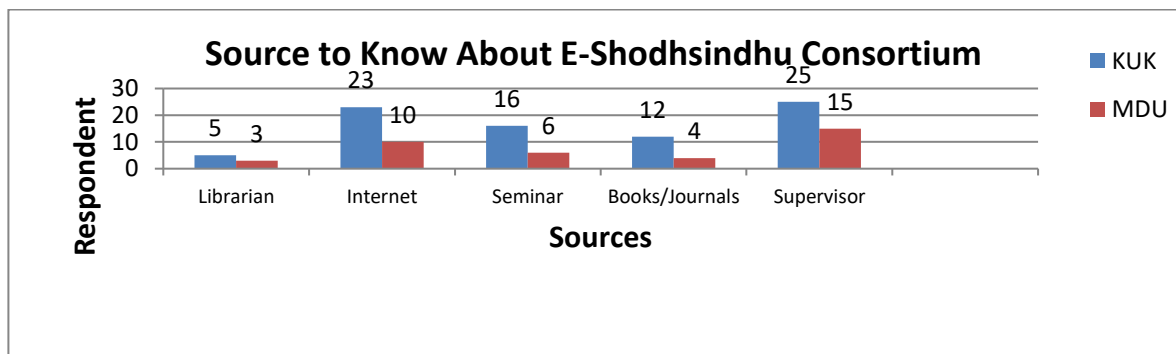


Figure-3

Figure-3 shows that 25(64.10%) research scholars of Kurukshetra university and 15(53.57%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand university got aware about e-shodhsindhu consortium from supervisor or teachers, whereas 23(58.91%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 10(35.71%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand university got aware about e-shodhsindhu from Internet/Websites. A number of research scholars of both the universities came to know about the e-shodhsindhu consortium from various other sources also i.e. Librarian, books, journals, lecture, seminar and workshop etc.

Users Preferences towards Various Databases under E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S. No.	Database	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	ACM Digital Library	11(28.20%)	6(21.42%)
2.	American Chemical Society	15(38.46%)	9(32.14%)
3.	American Institute of Physics	16(41.02%)	10(35.71%)
4.	Annual Reviews	2(5.13%)	3(10.71%)
5.	Emerald Publishing	6(15.38%)	4(14.28%)
6.	ASCE-Journals Online	-	-
7.	ASME- Journals Online	-	-
8.	ASTMStandards	-	-
9.	Cambridge University Press	4(10.25%)	-
10.	ProQuest	-	-
11.	Springer Link	11(28.20%)	6(21.42%)
12.	JStore	12(30.76%)	5(17.85%)
13.	Royal Society of Chemistry	19(48.71%)	11(39.28%)
14.	Project Euclid	-	-
15.	Oxford University Press	6(21.42%)	3(10.71%)
16.	Institute of Physics	15(38.46%)	5(17.85%)
17.	IEEE/IET Electronic Library Online	7(17.94%)	1(3.57%)
18.	Nature	16(41.02%)	11(39.28%)
19.	Optical Society of America	-	-
20.	Royal Society of Chemistry	-	4(14.28%)
21.	Wiley Blackwell Publishing	-	3(10.75%)

22	Economics & Political weekly	10(25.64%)	6(21.42%)
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Table 4

Table 4 indicates that 15(38.46%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 9(32.14%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University prefer to use American Chemical Society database whereas 16(41.02%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 10(35.71%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University prefer American Institute of Physics. 11(28.20%) research scholars of KUK and 6(21.42%) research scholars of MDU make the use of Springer Link. 12 (30.76%) research scholars of KUK and 5(17.82%) research scholars of MDU use JSTOR whereas 19(48.71%) research scholars of KUK and 11(39.28%) research scholars of MDU prefer Royal Society of Chemistry. The analysis also shows that 15(38.46%) research scholars of KUK and 5(17.85%) research scholars of MDU use the Institute of Physics whereas 16(41.02%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 11(39.28%) Research Scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University prefer the Nature publications.

Purpose of Seeking Information from E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S. No.	Purpose	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	Writing Paper/Assignment	27(69.23%)	19(67.85%)
2.	Enhance Knowledge	12(30.76%)	7(30.43%)
3.	For Research Work	29(74.35%)	21(75%)
4.	To Keep Abreast with latest Development	10(25.64%)	9(32.14%)
5.	To Improved Quality of Teaching	4(10.25%)	5(17.85%)
6.	Seminar Preparation	9(23.07%)	7(25%)
7.	For Finding Relevant Information	11(28.20%)	6(21.42%)
8.	For Preparation of paper Publication	15(38.46%)	11(39.28%)

Table- 5

Table 5 indicates that 29(74.35%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 21(75%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University use e-shodhSindhu consortium for research work. 15(38.46%) research scholars of KUK and 11(39.28%)

research scholars of MDU use e-ShodhSindhu for preparation of paper publication. 11(28.20%) research scholars of KUK and 6(21.42%) research scholars of MDU use e-ShodhSindhu for finding relevant information. Majority of research scholars i.e. 27(69.23%) of Kurukshetra University and 19(67.85%) of Maharshi Dayanand University prefer e-ShodhSindhu for writing paper/assignments etc.

Assessment of E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

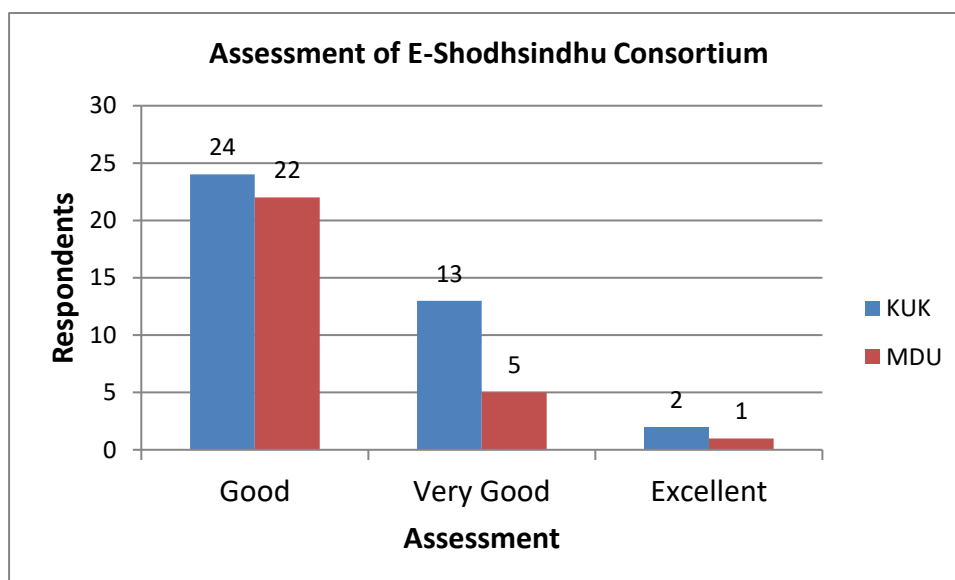


Figure-4

Figure 4 shows that 24(61.53%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 22(78.57%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University opined that the quality of e-ShodhSindhu consortium is Good. 13(33.33%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 5(17.85) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University rated e-ShodhSindhu consortium Very Good.

Period since Using E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S.No.	Period of Using E-Shodhsindhu	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	0 to 1 year	26(66.66%)	17(60.71%)
2.	2 to 3 year	6(15.38%)	5(17.85%)
3.	3 to 4 year	7(17.94%)	6(21.42%)
4.	5 to 6 year	--	--
5.	Above 6	--	--

Table-6

Table 6 indicates that 26 (66.66%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 17(60.71 %) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University are using e-ShodhSindhu since one year. 6(15.38 %) research scholars of KUK and 5(17.85 %) research scholars of MDU are using e-ShodhSindhu from 2-3 years. 7(17.94 %) and 6(21.42%) respondents of KUK and MDU respectively are using e-ShodhSindhu since last 3-4 years.

Frequency of Using E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S. No.	Frequency	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	Every Day	9(23.07%)	6(21.42%)
2.	Once in Two Days	11(28.25%)	7(25%)
3.	Once in a Week	4(10.25%)	2(7.14%)
4.	Twice a Week	6(15.38%)	5(17.85%)
5.	Once a Fortnight	3(7.69%)	3(10.71%)
6.	Once in a Month	6(15.38%)	5(17.85%)

Table-7

Table 7 indicates that 11 (28.25%) research scholars of KUK and 7 (25%) research scholars of MDU use e-ShodhSindhu once in two days whereas 9(23.07%) and 6(21.42%) respondents of KUK and MDU respectively use e-ShodhSindhu every day. 6(15.38%) research scholars of KUK and 5(17.85%) research scholars of MDU use e-ShodhSindhu once in a month, the equal number of respondents from both the university make the use of e-ShodhSindhu twice a week. 3(7.69%) research scholars of KUK and 3(10.71%) research scholars of MDU use e-ShodhSindhu once a fortnightly.

Approach to Search E-Journal in E-Shodhsindh Consortium

S. No.	Approach	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	By Journal Name	18(46.15%)	8(28.57%)

2.	By Publisher	4(10.25%)	5(17.85%)
3.	By Article	6(15.38%)	4(14.28%)
4.	By Subject	11(28.20%)	11(39.28%)

Table-8

Table 8 shows that 18(46.15%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 8(28.57%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University search e-ShodhSindhu database by the name of journal whereas 11(28.20%) research scholars of KUK and 11(39.28%) research scholars of MDU search e-ShodhSindhu by subject. 6(15.38%) and 4(14.28%) respondents of KUK and MDU respectively search e-ShodhSindhu by article they needed.

Place of Accessing E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S.No.	Access point	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	University Library	16(41.10%)	12(42.85%)
2.	Department	31(79.48%)	10(35.71%)
4	Residence	--	--
5.	At your Mobile	19(48.71%)	9(32.14%)
6.	Hostels	15(38.46%)	12(42.85%)

Table-9

Table 9 indicates that 31(79.48%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 10(35.71%) Research Scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University access e-ShodhSindhu in their respective departments whereas 19(48.71%) research scholars of KUK and 9(32.14%) research scholars of MDU access e-ShodhSindhu on their mobile phones. 15(38.46%) and 12(42.85%) research scholars of KUK and MDU respectively access e-ShodhSindhu in their respective hostels. Libraries of both the universities do not offer off campus access, hence nobody has opted the residence as place of accessing e-ShodhSindhu consortium.

Problems Faced while accessing E-ShodhSindhu Consortium

S.No.	Problem Faced	Research Scholars
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		KUK	MDU
1.	Slow Access	6(15.38%)	5(17.85%)
2.	Lack of Contents	10(25.64%)	-
3.	Insufficient Journals	19(48.71%)	9(32.14%)
.4.	Lack of Desired Literature	16(41.02%)	11(39.28%)
5.	Internet Connectivity	15(38.46%)	8(28.57%)
6.	Lack of ICT Knowledge	--	--
7.	Lack of time	--	--
8.	Not Familiar with search Methods	3(7.69%)	6(21.42%)
9.	Technical Problems	6(15.38%)	9(32.14%)

Table-10

Table-10 shows that 16(41.02 %) research scholars of KUK and 11(39.28%) research scholars of MDU opined that lack of desired literature is the problem they face in using e- ShodhSindhu consortium. The analysis shows that 19(48.71%) research scholars of KUK and 9(32.41%) research scholars of MDU feel that e-ShodhSindhu consortium has insufficient journals. 15(38.46%) research scholars of KUK think that internet connectivity is a problem in accessing e- ShodhSindhu consortium.

Attended Training/Awareness Programme on E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

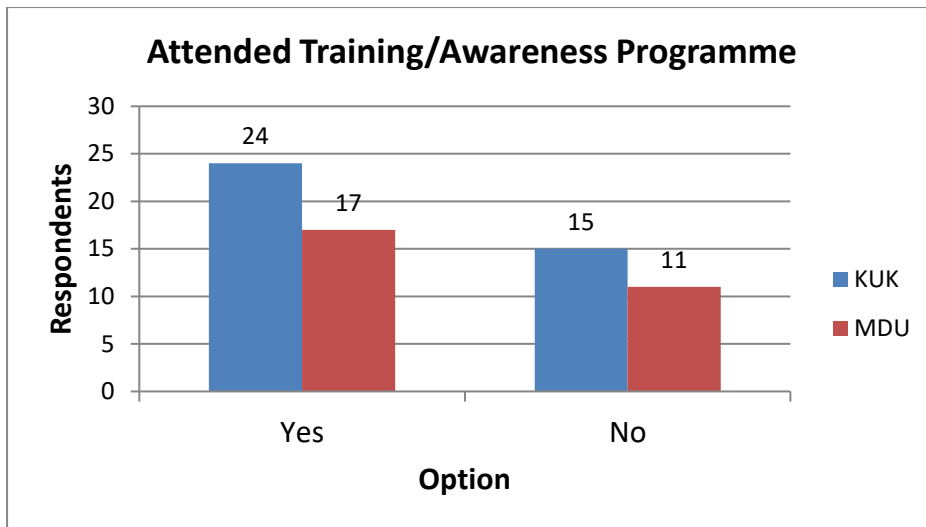


Figure-5

Figure-5 shows that 16 (61.53%) research scholar of Kurukshetra University and 17(60.71%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University have attended the training programmes conducted for using e-ShodhSindhu consortium whereas 15(38.46%) research scholars of KUK and 11(39.28%) research scholars of MDU have not attended the training programmes organized by the universities.

Satisfaction Level of Users with Coverage of Journals in E-ShodhSindhu Consortium

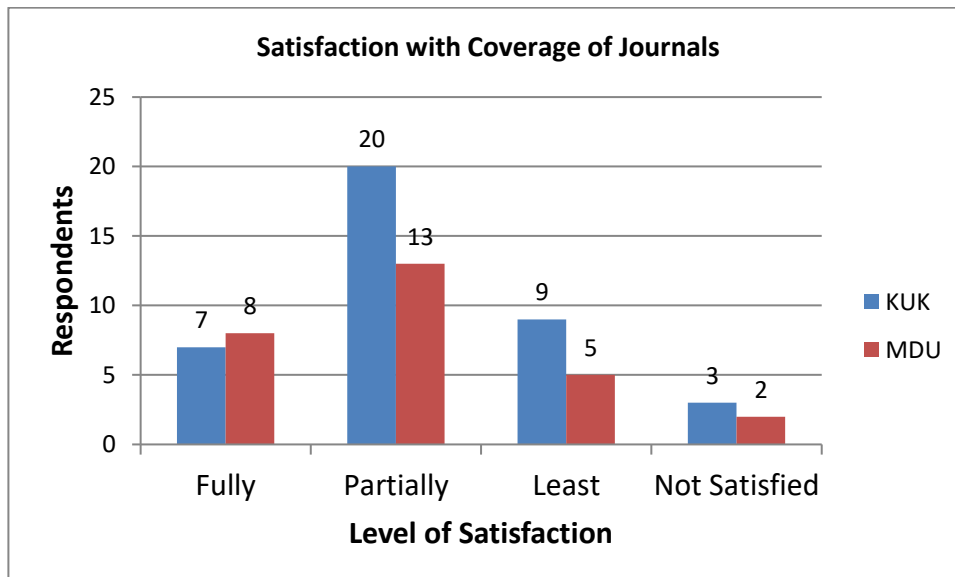


Figure-6

Figure 6 shows the scholars' level of satisfaction with the coverage of journals under e-ShodhSindhu consortium. 20(51.28%) research scholar of KUK and 13(46.42%)

research scholars of MDU are partially satisfied with the coverage of e-journals in e-ShodhSindhu consortium. Figure shows that 7(17.94%) research scholars of KUU and 8(28.57%) research scholars of MDU are fully satisfied with the journals covered in e-ShodhSindhu consortium. The data also shows that 3(7.69%) research scholars of KUK and 2(7.15%) research scholars of MDU are not satisfied with coverage of journals in e-ShodhSindhu.

Impact of Using E-Shodhsindhu Consortium

S. No.	Impact	Research Scholars	
		KUK	MDU
1.	Enhance Research Quality	17(43.58%)	13(46.42%)
2.	Developed Technical Skills	11(28.20%)	6(21.42%)
3.	Increase Research Publication Knowledge	12(30.76)	8(28.57%)
4.	Enhance Reading and Writing Skills	9(23.07%)	4(14.28%)
5.	For finding Relevant Information	10(25.64%)	9(32.14%)

Table-11

Table 11 indicates that 17(56.52%) research scholars of KUK and 13(46.42%) research scholars of MDU opined that e-ShodhSindhu consortium has enhanced their research quality. 10(25.64%) research scholars of KUK and 9(32.14%) research scholars of MDU argued that e-ShodhSindhu helps them in finding relevant information. 30.76% and 28% research scholars of KUK and MDU respectively feel that e-ShodhSindhu has increase their knowledge of research publications

Benefits of Using E-Shodhsindhu Consortium over Conventional Resources

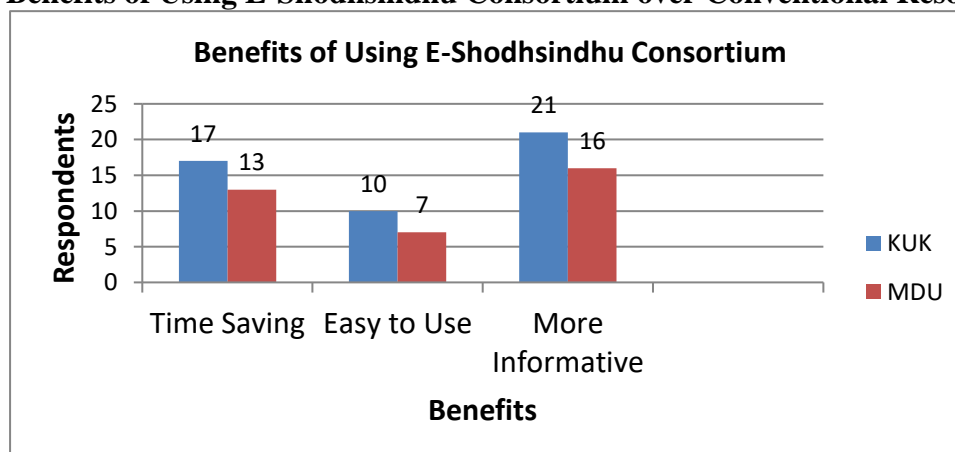


Figure-7

Figure-7 shows that 21(53.84%) research scholars of Kurukshetra University and 16(57.14%) research scholars of Maharshi Dayanand University feel that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is more informative in comparison to print resources. 17(43.58%) research scholars of KUK and 13(46.42%) research scholars of MDU think that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is time saving than print resources. More than 25% respondents of both the universities feel that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is easy to use.

Conclusion

The arrival of e-publishing has brought a revolt in research publications, subscription as well as access to the scholarly literature. In the history of higher education in India, the emergence of e-ShodhSindhu consortium is one of the most aspiring accomplishments. The core objective of this consortium is to deliver the right information to the right user at minimum cost. Academic community in Indian higher education system is fortunate to have access of large number of scholarly publication under e-ShodhSindhu consortium, as it saves their time and money. Result of the study shows that majority of respondents was familiar with e-ShodhSindhu consortia and various journals of their interest under it. The research scholars of both, KUK and MDU highly depend on e-ShodhSindhu consortium for their various daily research and academic needs. It is observed that e-ShodhSindhu consortium is the answer of each and every query of academicians for their scholarly act in university systems. Study highlights that e-ShodhSindhu is more informative, more useful and easy to use in compare to print journals. Majority of the respondents therefore desire that for benefit of the users, e-ShodhSindhu consortium should include more e-journals in addition to the currently available. As e-ShodhSindhu consortium is highly demanding and it is a wonderful platform which provides the access of thousands of e-journals, still users

face many problems i.e. off campus access, membership issue, internet connectivity and lack of computer terminals, it is necessarily, need to discuss that these all are local problems and can be rectified at university level.

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