Awareness and Use of Shodhganga Theses by the Research Scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Assess the level of awareness about Shodhganga among research scholars at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

Methodology: The survey method was used to conduct the present study. A structured questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. Data were collected through personal visits by the investigator to the respondents and 250 questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University, with 240 completed questionnaires returned.

Findings: The study reveals that the Majority of the respondents, 96.66% are searching Shodhganga for specific theses based on a topic, 91.66% opined that Shodhganga provides regular updates to thesis submissions, 81.66% opined that they need an orientation programme for accessing the Shodhganga theses. 96.66% respondents faced the problem of the server being busy while accessing Shodhganga Theses.

Originality: The study also recommends that librarians and academic professionals related to this area must promote the Shodhganga theses by conducting regular seminars, orientation and training session among the S.V.University, Ph.D scholars for the betterment of the society.

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KEYWORDS: Shodhganga, Research Scholars, Sri Venkateswara University.

INTRODUCTION

The INFLIBNET Centre, an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC), maintains Shodhganga. Initially based at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, the centre shifted to its new building in Infocity, Gandhinagar in January 2013. As of December 2023, 739 Indian universities have partnered with INFLIBNET to contribute to Shodhganga.

This massive repository offers over 500,000 theses and 13,000 synopses in open access, benefiting the global academic community. The UGC's 2009 regulations made it mandatory for universities to submit electronic copies of Ph.D theses and M.Phil dissertations to INFLIBNET.

Each participating university appoints a coordinator to ensure timely submission and verify the accuracy of the electronic documents. Under the leadership of Director Prof. Devika P. Madalli, INFLIBNET continues to facilitate knowledge sharing and preservation through Shodhganga.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Katagi and Kumbar (2022) study provides an overview of Karnataka universities' contributions to Shodhganga, a national repository of electronic theses and dissertations. Key findings include:

➢ Karnataka University tops the list of contributing universities to Shodhganga.

➢ Within Karnataka University, the Department of Kannada leads in contributions, submitting the highest number of theses to Shodhganga.

Lakshmi and Vani (2023) study examines Andhra Pradesh universities' contributions to Shodhganga, a national repository of electronic theses and dissertations. The findings reveal:

➢ Andhra University is the leading contributor to Shodhganga.

➢ The Commerce and Management department at Andhra University has submitted the most theses. The authors suggest organizing regular Shodhganga training sessions to benefit the academic community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are specific objectives of the study:

➢ To assess the Level of awareness about Shodhganga theses among the research scholars.

➢ To find out the purpose of using Shodhganga theses by the research scholars of Sri Venkateswara University.

➢ To identify the problems in facing Shodhganga theses.

➢ To know regarding frequency of usage of Shodhganga theses by research scholars.

➢ To determine the satisfactions level of the research scholars about the Shodhganga.

METHODOLOGY

To this study, the questionnaire method is mainly used for collection of data the questionnaire is prepared for the collection of data from the S.V.University, Ph.D. Research Scholars. Questionnaire intended for research scholars consist questions relating to awareness and use of Shodhganga Theses by the research scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. Total 60 research scholars responded.The data is presented in the form of tables. The bibliographic details of references cited in each chapter are given at the end of the chapter following APA Style.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table-1 Ph.D Programme

Ph.D	Respondents	Percentage
Full time	38	63.33%
Part time	22	36.66%
Total	60	100%

Table-1 shows that full time Ph.D scholars are 152 (63.33%) and Part time scholars are 88 (36.66%) from Sri Venkateswara University.

It can be concluded that most of the respondents are Full time scholars from Sri Venkateswara University.

Table -2 Awareness on Shodhganga

Options	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	240	100%
No	-	-
Total	240	100%

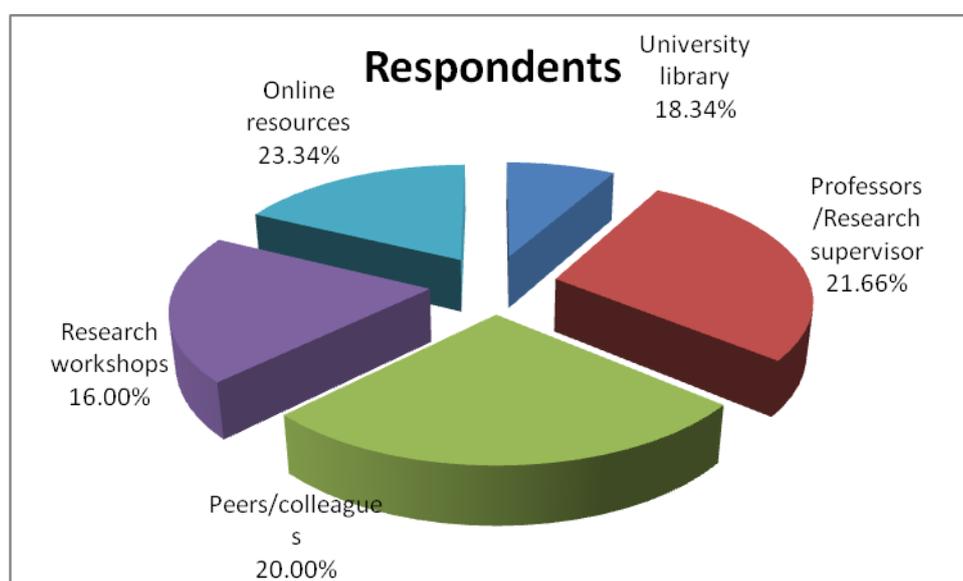Table-2 shows that cent percentages of the respondents are aware on Shodhganga.

Figure-1

Figure-1reveals that most of the respondents are known about the Shodhganga through online resources with 56 (23.34%) followed by professors and Research supervisor 52(21.66%), Peers/Colleagues 48 (20.00%), University Library 44 (18.34%) and remaining 40 (16.00%) are research workshops.

It can be concluded that highest percentage of the respondents are known about the Shodhganga through online resources.

Table-3 Preferred Search Device/Place

Devices/ places	Respondents	Percentage
Desktop	52	21.66%
Laptop	100	41.66%
Mobile phone	60	25.00%
Library	28	11.66%
Total	240	100%

Table-3 depicts that 100 (41.66%) of the respondents using Laptop to access the Shodhganga, followed by 60 (25.00%) are mobile phone, 52 (21.66%) are desktop and remaining 28 (11.66%) are Library.

Table-4 Frequency of Using Shodhganga

Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
Twice a week	32	13.33%
Weekly	80	33.33%
Monthly	52	21.67%
Rarely	76	31.67%
Total	240	100%

It is observed from the above table that most 76 (33.33%) of the respondents were using Shodhganga weekly once, followed by 20(31.67%) are rarely, 13(21.67%) are monthly and remaining 8(13.33%) are using twice a week.
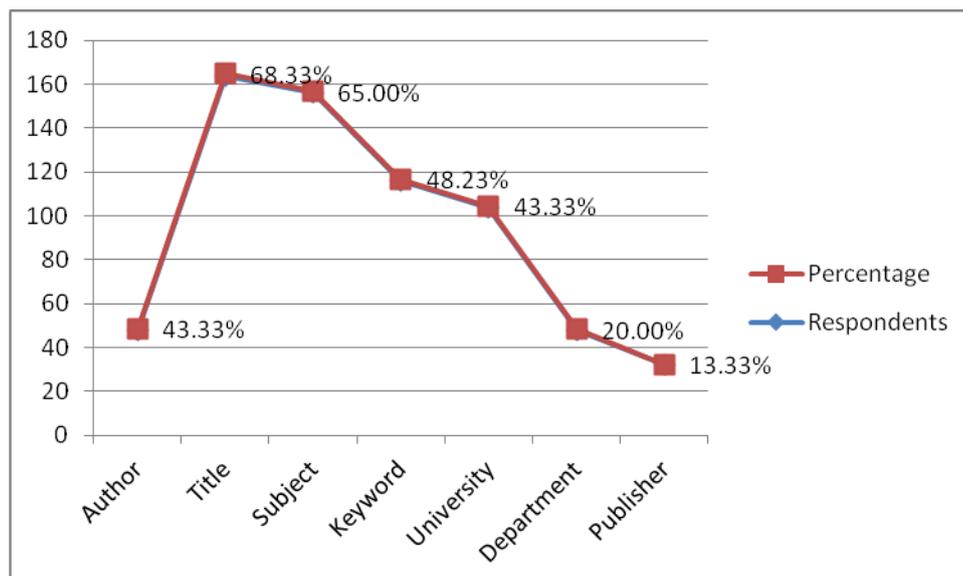
Table-5 Purpose of Using Shodhganga

Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
Selection of topic	88	36.66%
For research work	128	53.33%
Literature review	48	20.00%
Reviewing related theses	76	31.66%
Seminars/work shops	36	15.00%
Reference/citation	56	23.33%

(Respondents allowed answering more than one option)

Table-5 depicts that more than half of the respondents 128 (53.33%) are making use of Shodhganga for their research work, followed by 88 (36.66%) selection of topic, 76 (31.66%) Reviewing related theses, 56 (23.33%) reference/citation, 48 (20.00%) Literature review and remaining less percentage 36 (15.00%) seminars and workshops.

Figure-2 Preferred Search Technique

(Respondents allowed answering more than one option)

Figure-2 describes the preferred search techniques to access Shodhganga, highest percent 164 (68.33%) of the respondents preferred title search technique, followed by 156 (65.00%) are subject, 132 (55.0%) are Keyword, 116 (48.33%) are University, 104 (43.33%) are Author, 48 (20.00%) are Department, and remaining 32 (13.33%) are Publisher.

Table - 6 Need for Orientation

Options	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	196	81.66%
No	44	18.33%
Total	240	100%

It is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents 196 (81.66%) are opined that they need orientation programme for accessing the Shodhganga theses and remaining 44 (18.33%) replied that they don't need such orientation programme.

Table - 7 Type of theses search

Type of theses Search	Respondents	Percentage
Theses from my field of study	144	43.33%
Theses from related disciplines	56	23.33%
Specific theses based on a topic	232	96.66%
General research theses for guidance	40	16.66%

(Respondents allowed answering more than one option)

It is observed form the table-7 that majority of the respondents 232 (96.66%) are searching theses from Shodhganga for specific theses based on a topic, followed by 144 (43.33%) field of study, 56 (23.33%) theses from related disciplines and remaining 40 (16.66%) general research theses for guidance.

Table - 8 Problems faced while accessing of Shodhganga

Problems	Respondents	Percentage
Lack of Knowledge to Use	104	43.33%
Slow internet speed	220	91.66
Server Busy	232	96.66%
Lack of support from the library staff	144	60.00%
Discomfort of reading text on a computer screen	168	70.00%

(Respondents allowed answering more than one option)

Table-8 indicates that 232 (96.66%) respondents faced the problem like server busy, followed by 220 (91.66%) slow internet speed, 168 (70.00%) discomfort of reading text on a computer screen, 144 (60.00%) lack of support from the library staff and remaining 104 (43.33%) lack of knowledge to use.

Table - 9 Opinions on Shodhganga

Opinions	Respondents	Percentage
Improved search functionality	84	35%
More user-friendly interface	52	21.6%
Regular updates of thesis submissions	220	91.66%

(Respondents allowed answering more than one option)

It is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents 220 (91.66%) are opined that Shodhganga is providing regular updates regarding theses submission followed by 84 (35.00%) improved search functionality and remaining 52 (21.6%) more user-friendly interface.

Table - 10 Level of satisfaction

Level of satisfaction	Respondents	Percentage
Very satisfied	48	20.00%
Satisfied	124	51.67%
Neutral	64	26.67%
Dissatisfied	4	1.66%
Total	240	100

Table-10 reveals that 124 (51.66%) of the respondents are satisfied with the Shodhganga theses followed by 64 (26.66%) neutral, 48(20.00%) are very satisfied and remaining 4(1.66%) are dissatisfied.

SUGGESTIONS

➢ It is evident from the study that some users faced issues such as server busy and internet slow problems. It is suggested that the university should provide better internet services to research scholars.

➢ From the study they need orientation and training on the use of the Shodhganga theses. Hence, it is suggested to the authorities of the library or librarian to conduct the awareness programmes frequently by organizing workshops with hand-on experience.

CONCLUSION

Shodhganga is a pioneering initiative that digitizes and preserves Indian theses for posterity, while also enhancing their accessibility and visibility. As India's most effective repository, Shodhganga offers a platform for researchers to deposit electronic theses, making them freely available to the global scholarly community through open access.

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