



Profile of Extension Education Students Using E-resources for Communication

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Abstract

Now the existing environment is rapidly changing in favour of electronic side. This is why the demand of internet and E-resources among the communities belonging to academic and research is increasing rapidly. However the review of literatures reveals that there is decline in the studies on the use of E-resources and internet in context of academics, researchers and students all over the world. This paper aims at highlighting the social profile of the students using E-resources. It was found that the maximum numbers of respondents (84.90 per cent) were observed the male and remaining (15.09 per cent) were female. Highest number (54.72 per cent) of respondents was from 23-25 age groups. In this study (62.26 per cent) respondents was represent post graduation level and (37.74 per cent) respondents was represent research scholars. Maximum of the respondents (64.15 per cent) completed their basic education in Hindi language. Near about most of the respondents' Parents source of income is Agriculture. Most of the respondents' family income less than 1 Lakh Rupees and near about (50.94 per cent) respondents were from rural background.

Keywords: E-resources, CD ROM, OPACs, POD, E-journals, online resources, www, DVD, e-Magazines, e-Books, e-Audio, e-Images, Data.

Introduction

E-resource is not a simple term but a broad term that covers a wide variety of publishing models that includes OPACs, CD-ROMs, online databases, e-journals, e-books, internet resources, print-on-demand (POD), e-mail publishing, wireless publishing, electronic link and web publishing etc. This is why this term is primarily denoted as "any electronic product that delivers collection of data be it in text, numerical, graphical, or time based, as a commercially available resource". E-resources are the sources of a range of data, no matter whether it text, image collection, or other multimedia products. These data can be made available using CD-ROM/DVD, over the internet and so on. The access to E-resources are ultimately the access to the e-database, e-journals, e-magazines, e-books, electronic exhibitions, e-white papers, e-conferences proceedings and web searching tools on a range of topics of the relevance. Many free electronic resources are there for which the visitor don't have to pay but certain commercial resources are also there whose materials are available to be accessed only after making the paying the fixed amount. Now a days, everything is being technology oriented and the academic system is not an exception. For learning, teaching, research, educational updates, the scholars need to be in familiar with the available E-resources. The importance of the E-resources cannot be denied as it is one of the driving forces that directs the formation of the educated society. It is necessary that, for making an educated society, the information available should not only be stored but it should be disseminated and shared for its proper. Now a days one of the important component in academic field is internet

because it plays a pivotal role in meeting the demands and requirement of research scholars and academic institutions regarding the communication. This is because internet has now become an important and quick source of information. It also enables the sharing of information and ideas and clarification of doubts regarding the information required or needed. It has now given opportunity to have interaction and reach to wider range of audience. The present study was carried out to study the socio-economic profile of respondents using e-resources.

Methodology

The research was conducted at Department of Extension Education, Institute of Agricultural sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. There were total 53 students who registered for M.Sc. and Ph.D. programme in Extension Education, Institute of Agricultural sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in the 2013. All students enrolled in extension education were purposely selected as the sample. So the sample consisted 53 students total. Statistics like frequency and Percentage were used to analysis the data.

Results and Discussion

Gender composition: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has described gender as a socially constructed definition of men and women. It is different from sex (biological characteristics of men and women) and not the women. The determining conceptions of gender include tasks, functions and roles attributed to men and women in the society,

and in public and private life. It is revealed that maximum numbers of respondents (84.91 per cent) were observed as the male and remaining (15.09 per cent) were female. It may be due to the fact that male students registered for extension education courses were higher than female students. The present finding is similar to the findings of Thanuskodi S. and Oskouei and Chaudhary where maximum respondents were male.

Age composition: Age is the length of time that a person has lived or a thing has existed. Age of the respondents was worked out on the basis of actual numbers of years lived since birth. It is revealed that the highest number of i.e. 54.72 per cent respondents were between 23-25 year age group, followed by from 26-28 year age group i.e. 35.85 per cent and 7.55 per cent respondents were up to 22 years old and 1.88 per cent respondents were more than 28 years old. Above data indicates that maximum numbers of selected respondents were from age group of 23 to 25 year. It may be due to the fact that it is the ideal age for the study in PG and Ph.D. The present finding is similar to the findings of Thanuskodi S. where the maximum respondents belong to 23-25 year ages group.

Education: Education, in the broad sense, is any act or experience having affect on mind, character or physical ability of any individual. It can also be understood as the process of transmitting and handing over the gained experiences, knowledge, skills and values from one generation to the next. It was concluded that out of 53 respondents, 62.26 per cent respondents were represent post graduation level and 37.74 per cent respondents was represent research scholars respectively.

Medium of basic education: According to Wikipedia dictionary medium of basic education is the language that is used in teaching the basic education up to 10th standard. It may or may not be the official language of the country or territory. The respondents were categorized according to language use for basic education. It is reveals that 34 respondents (64.15 per cent) have basic education in Hindi language, 16 respondents (30.19 per cent) have English as medium of basic education, 2 respondents (3.77 per cent) have Telugu as medium of basic education and 1 respondent (1.89 per cent) have Tamil as medium of basic education respectively. From the data presented in above, it was seen that maximum numbers of

selected respondents came from Hindi medium. It may be due to the extension education courses comes under professional courses and each one want to join professional courses for better future and professional courses are taught in English language.

Parent's occupation: Occupation is the job or profession. The parents occupation of the respondents were categories into, service, farming or agriculture, business and labourer etc. according to response of respondents. It is reveals that the information about parent's occupation of the respondents. Out of 53 respondents, 23 respondents (43.40 per cent) parents working as farming or engage in agricultural activities, 21 respondents (39.62 per cent) parents werewere in service sector, 5 respondents (9.43 per cent) parents were business man and carried out various business activities and 4 respondents (7.55 per cent) parents were working as agricultural labourer. It has been observed that most of the selected respondents reported their parent's occupation was service and next was farming. Annual income is what one earns as wage or salary per year. Family annual income is the amount of money earn by all member of particular family during a year. It was work out by categorizing the income into different categories like below, Rs. 100000, Rs. 100000-300000, and more than Rs. 300000. It is reveals that out of 53 respondents, 23 respondents (43.39 per cent) have family income less than Rs.100000, twenty respondents (37.74 per cent) have family income of Rs. 100000-300000 and 10 respondents (18.87 percent) have family income of more than Rs. 300000. It has been observed that most of the respondents reported their family income below one lakh. This may be due to that in agriculture courses most of the students comes from medium economic background.

Background of the respondents: The respondents were categorized into rural, semi-urban and urban according to responses of the respondents. It is reveals that the background of the respondents which was observed that 50.94 per cent respondents was from rural background, while 26.42 per cent were found to be from semi-urban background and 22.64 per cent from urban background. This indicates that majority of respondents were from rural area. It may be due to the fact that most of the India's population lives in rural area. The data have been presented in graphical form in figure-1.

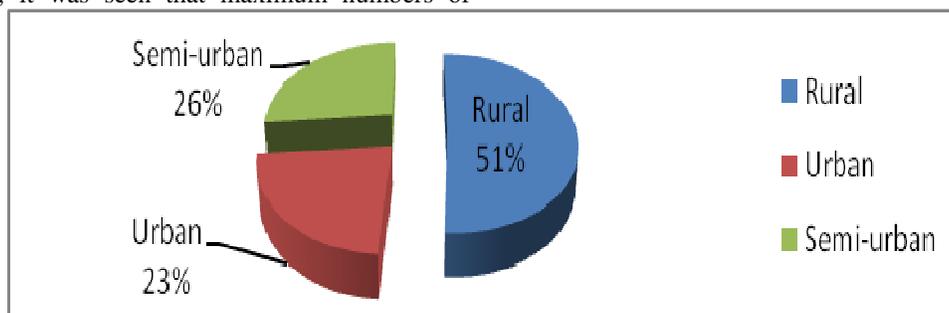


Figure-1
Descriptive statistics based on background of respondents

Conclusion

The provision of facilities related to information technologies, particularly to internet, has made a change in our way of seeking and obtaining the information. Now it has, almost, replaced the traditional and inconvenient methods of communication and way of obtaining the information. It has provided opportunity to research scholars to have reach to the materials and contents that are being done or have been done in other parts of the world, which were not within the reach of the students prior to the dawn of internet. The findings of the present study revealed that E-resources have created a significant impact among the students of department of extension education regarding their research work. Information is available in a number of ways and forms that are made available and accessible through various electronic resources. It is reflected from the study that the usage of electronic resources is more by younger generation, but the frequent users of E-resources have been found to be optimum level. Many of the respondents were unaware and have not used on line sources of thesis/dissertations, OPAC, online databases, which are having high relevance with their studies and research work. So, the Department should take initiatives to organize

orientation programmes and other awareness programmes related to this area.

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