

Awareness and Use of E-Resources among Students of Government Colleges of Teacher Education in Kerala During Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

In the sphere of education, the novel coronavirus (covid-19) disease has offered unique obstacles. Many academic libraries were forced to close their doors. This quick and unanticipated transformation has compelled library personnel to migrate their services to the digital platform whenever possible, as well as provide acceptable remote service to consumers. Given the difficulties in providing services in a public health emergency, Kerala's Government Teacher Educational Institutions will have to demonstrate how technology may be used for rescue operations during the covid Pandemic on a practical level. The goal of this work is to show how much information libraries can supply to faculty, researchers, and students, as well as the level of open-source information awareness. The present study highlights the significant initiatives taken by the libraries which can be followed by others to meet the post lockdown needs.

Keyword: Remote service, COVID- 19, Electronic Resource, Teacher Education

Introduction

Governments around the world have been forced to lock up their countries completely or partially to prevent the spread of the covid-19 pandemic virus. However, these lockdowns have severe economic and social repercussions, creating unique challenges in the field of education, not only for students but also for policymakers and service providers, including librarians. "India, on 30 January 2020, reported its first positive case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) from the state of Kerala with a student, who was studying in Wuhan University had traveled to India" (Perappadan,2020). As the first step to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, The government of India has closed all the educational institutions across the country for fifteen days from 16th March 2020 (Times of India,

2020). However, as of 6th March 2022 with 4.3Cr positive cases and 5.15L reported the death. ("India Coronavirus, 2020). In response to the national wide lockdown, the school education was quick enough to shift its whole affair to the online platform. Due to the sudden developments of lockdown, the students had to flee the campus without adequate study materials. Followed that they had to face the exams. This situation challenged the ways academic libraries used to function. The suspension of in-person service and loss of access to the physical collection at the institution's libraries has left the students, faculty, and library professionals with consideration of adopting the technology which is the only way out to resilience the challenging time. Library professionals have demonstrated their skills. In such circumstances, digital content can serve

the targeted users. In such a crucial situation-aware of the facility and service of the digital resource among the teacher education students is very important.

Government College of Teacher Education: An Overview

Teacher education or teacher training refers to the policies, procedures, and provisions designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and skills they require to perform their targets effectively in the classroom, school, and wider community. There are Four Colleges in the government sector. The first training college has grown out of the Government Normal school, Thiruvananthapuram founded in 1895. Teachers who had passed the F.A matriculation and vernacular Examination were trained in this institution till 1911. The graduate teachers of the state were then trained in the teacher's training College, Saidapet. Owing to the increase in the demand for trained graduates' teachers and the inconvenience of sending teachers to Madras for training the Normal school was converted on 19th June 1911 into a post-graduate training College affiliated to the Madras University. From then the college has been training both graduate and undergraduate teachers till 1946-47 when the undergraduate section was abolished. The college is now known as Government College of Teacher Education, Thiruvanthapuram. (Kerala, 1995). Institute of Advanced Studies in Education Trissur is first known as Mizoram Institute of Education (MIE). The IASE was established in 1975. It later become the college of teacher education (CTE) in 1997. The Government College of teacher education Kozhikode is formerly known as Government Training College was started in June 1950. Government Brennen College of Teacher Education Thalassery was popularly known as Government College of teacher education Thalassery was established in 1957.

Review of Literature

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Pooja P. Dadhe and Manju N. Dubey (2020) has conducted a case study in the year 2020 on "Library services Provided during Covid-19 Pandemic: Content Analysis of Website of Premier Technological Institutions of India". The main aim of this case study was to find out the facilities and services provided by the libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic. The major narrated findings of the study were the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated sudden and radical changes in the delivery of library services, as strict social distancing and lockdown measures were imposed. Through the study conducted by Farzand Ali, Amna & Saleem, Qurat Ul Ain (2020) on "Open Access Resources as an opportunity for Academic Libraries during a pandemic: The study has identified the advantage of open access resources for academic libraries which had a special reference to an emergency like Covid-19 pandemic to fulfill the needs of the users. Tu- (Tu-Keefiner, 2017) have conducted a situation-based case study to find out health information services and technology access during and after catastrophic floods in South Carolina. The study points out the role played by public libraries as partners of public health agencies during and after a disaster. The study recommended that public libraries actively provide reliable disaster and health resources for users. His study (Aravind, 2017) points out that with the rapid advancement in information communication technology the internet has become an inseparable part of today's educational system. With the development in information technology, more and more educational resources are being produced, distributed, and accessed in digital format.

Objectives

To assess the level of use of e-resources among the students during the Covid 19 pandemic period.

To determine the extent of using electronic resources

To find out obstacles faced in using an open-access resource.

Scope of study

The current study focuses on Kerala's four government teacher education colleges. This survey does not include target respondents from aided and self-financing colleges.

Research Methodology

We have adopted a survey method for the primary data collection purpose. Designed according to its objectives in Google form. The total student strength in four government colleges of teacher education is 350. We were sending the google form to 250 students in four government colleges of teacher education in Kerala. A

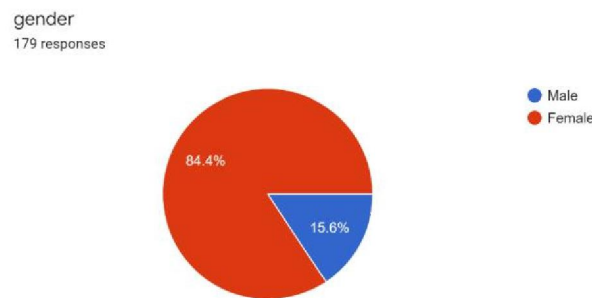
total of 179 (71.6%) students filled in the form, out of which 104(58.1%) were UG students, 74(41.8%) PG students. The data was collected in February 2022.

Data Analysis and interpretation

Profile of respondents

Government College of teacher education in Kerala – There are four colleges all over Kerala. The college offers B.Ed. and M.Ed. Programs. The total population is 350. We randomly select 250 students and send the google form the survey was answered by 179 (71.6%) respondents.

Figure 1: Demographic Factor of Respondents



Demographic Factor of Respondents, 151 respondents (84.4%) is female whereas 28 Respondents (15.6%) are male.

Fig 2: Way to learn to handle the e-resource

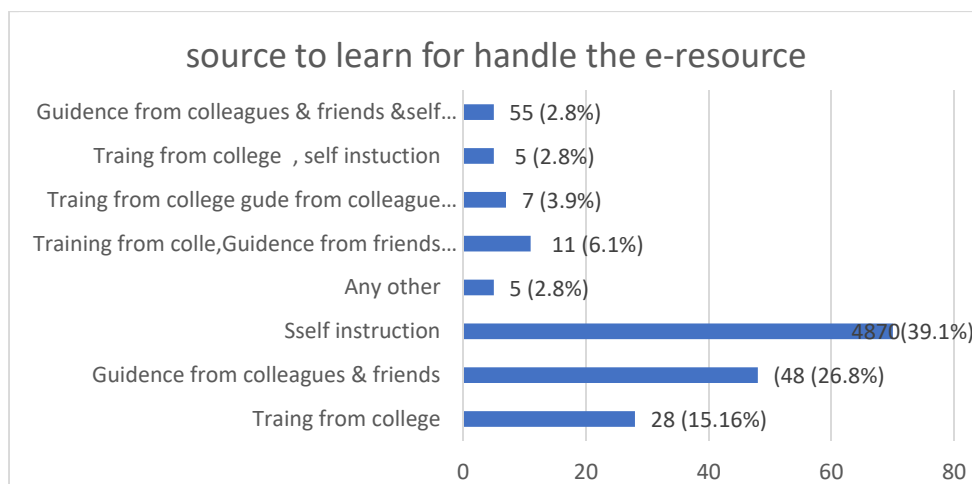
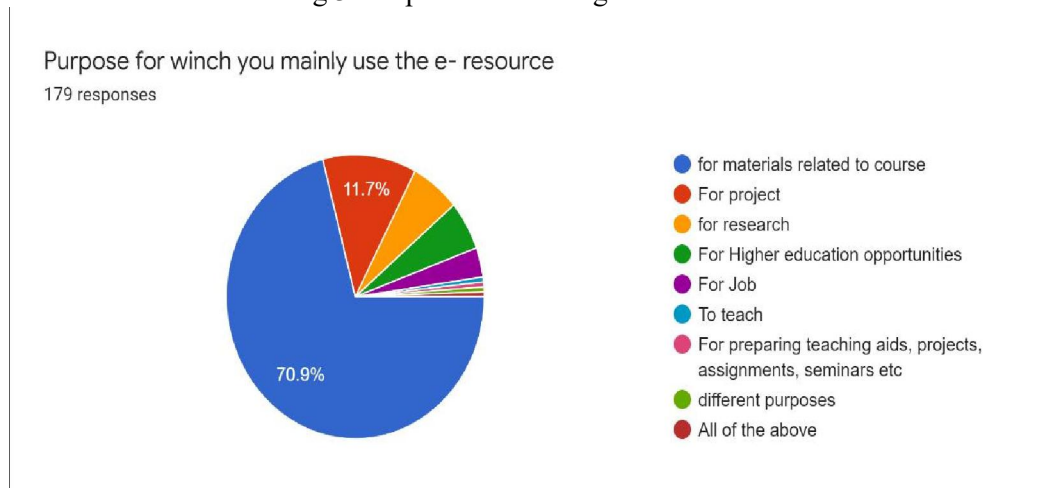


Figure 2 shows that self-instruction is the most common technique to learn how to use an e-resource (39.1%). (70). Students also benefit from advice from colleagues and friends (26.7%) when it comes to using e-resources.

Fig 3: Purpose of browsing the e-resource

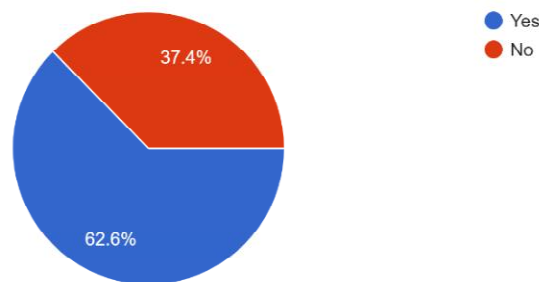


Because it's crucial to know why you're utilising an e-resource, the survey includes a question on why you're using it. Figure 3 demonstrates that the majority of 127 (70.9 percent) respondents use the e-

resource for course materials. It is used by 21(11.7) of the academic community for the project. The remaining objectives are not depicted in the diagram because they are minor in comparison.

Fig 4: Awareness of e-resource databases subscribed by their institution

Are you aware Of the e- resource databases that your Institution subscribed ?
179 responses

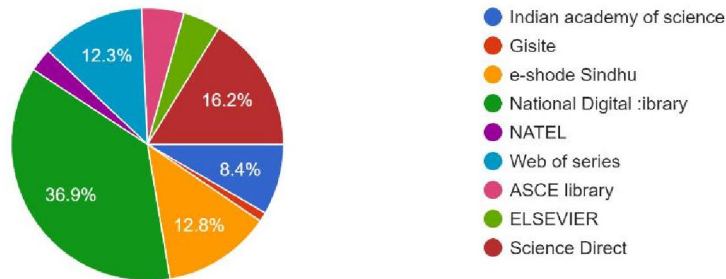


They were also asked to pick Yes/No to show that they were aware of the institution's e-resource database

subscription. Only 6% of respondents were familiar with the databases to which their institution had subscribed.

Fig 5: To know the most helpful e- resource they use

Which e-resource consortium do you prefer to use most
179 responses



Respondents say the National Digital Library is the most useful e-resource database they are aware of, as seen in Figure 5. The National Digital Library was

picked by 66.9% of those polled, followed by e-Shode Sindhu (23.8%) and Web of Series (13.8%). (22.8 percent). 12.3% of the population

Fig 6: Use of e-resource before Covid 19

How often do you access e- resource before covid 19
179 responses

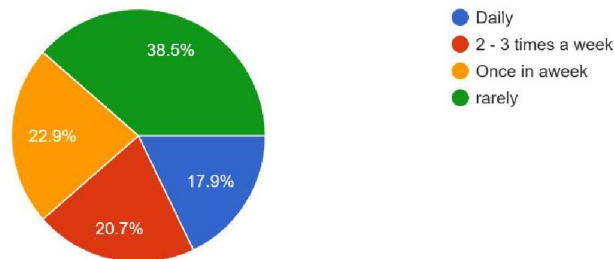
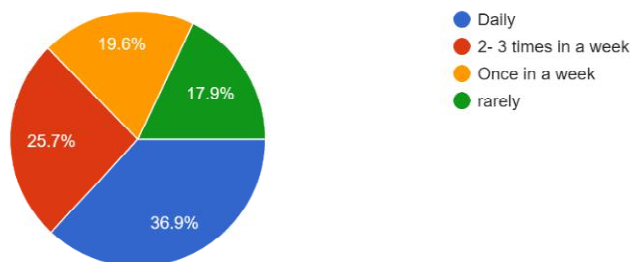


Fig 7: Use of e-resource During Covid 19 Crisis.

How often do you access e- resource During covid 19 period
179 responses



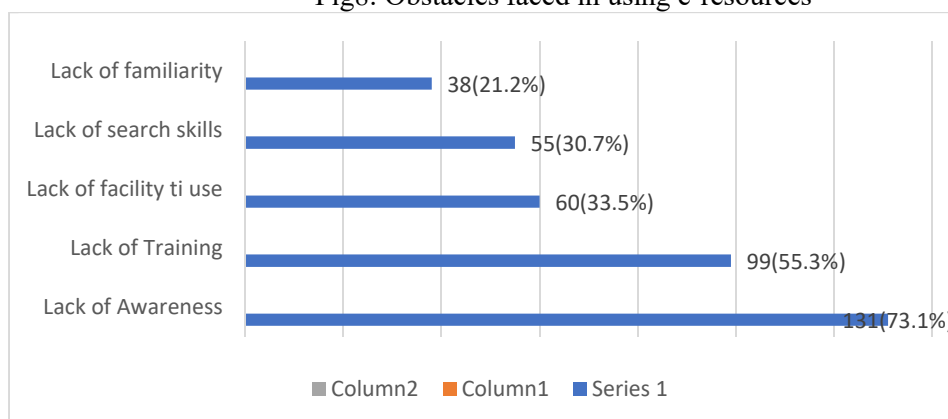
As wecompare Figure6 and Figure 7 clearly shows the use of e-resource during covid 19 period tremendously increased.

Before covid 19 period daily users and 2-3 times in a week user together 38.6 %. During Covid 19 period daily users and 2-

3 times in a week user together 62.6%. With covid 19 and accompanying national lockdown, the educational institutions are closed. The sudden developments of lockdown and shutdown forced students to

leave their campus with a lack of course materials. Subsequently, the education sector in India was transformed into an online platform. And students depend on online resources for their study needs.

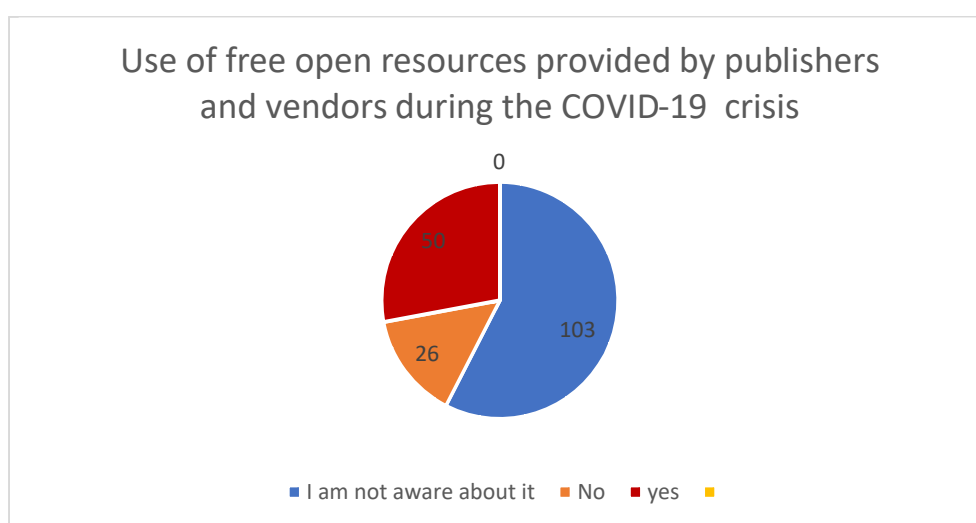
Fig8: Obstacles faced in using e-resources



The respondents were asked about the major obstacles in the use of these e-resources. An analysis of the data shows that the major obstacle in the use of this e-resource is the lack of awareness as well as lack of training. The majority 131(73.1%) responded lack of awareness followed by 99(55.3%) responded lack of training as

obstacles faced to using e-resource. It shows very clearly that we need to have a clear mechanism to provide information about e-resources to the academic community. Librarians need to arrange orientation programs, workshops, guest lectures to promote awareness and use of the e- resource.

Fig 9: Use of Free open resource provided by publishers and vendors during the Covid -19 crisis



In response to the uncertain and difficult time, some publishers are providing expanded access to e-resources (access to

additional materials than subscribed by the institutions). Including e-books, e-journals, e- databases, etc. for a limited period

during the pandemic. Fig 9 shows very clearly that the majority 103 (57.5%) were not aware of freely available open resources provided by the publishers during the covid 19 pandemic period.

Librarians must highlight the link of these free expanded resources on their portal or WhatsApp group to facilitate visibility of these options available for users.

Fig:10 Training for Using

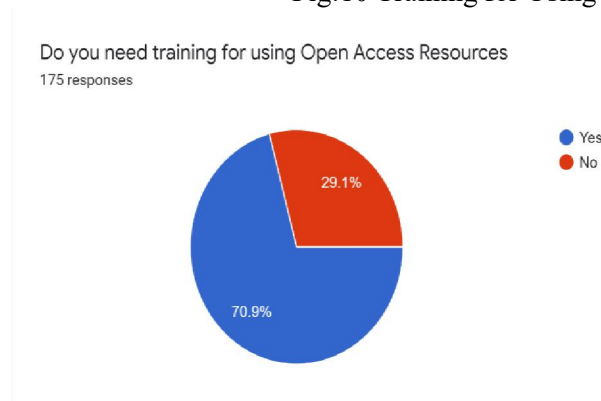


Figure 10 clearly shows that the majority of 124(70.9%) respondents requested training for awareness and using the open-access resource. This shows that the academic community is not aware of the OARs viable on the internet. These resources are very useful for their study purpose. Students joining degree colleges or even postgraduate are not trained to use library online resources. Sometimes students are not confident in using the internet too. It is very essential to provide training to students for better utilization of library services and also to increase awareness about different information sources freely available.

Findings

- The majority of academics learn how to use e-resources through self-teaching and assistance from colleagues and friends.
- The majority of academics are looking for materials linked to the course in e-resources (70.9 percent).
- 62.2 percent of respondents are aware of their institution's e-resources database subscription.
- During the Covid 19 outbreak, the utilisation of electronic resources skyrocketed.

- The Covid 19 OARs were unknown to 63.3 percent of Academic Communities. Even though they were informed, 27.9% did not use the provided services, and only 14.5 percent did.
- Users' main challenge in the research study was a lack of training and assistance on how to use e-resources.

Conclusion

In-library services have been impacted by the COVID 19 epidemic. A new college has emerged as a result of the internet and online technology. Most publishers made their resources open access to enhance the teaching-learning process. The academic community benefited much from it. However, the majority of academic communities are unaware of it. OARs were found to be challenging to use by certain users. According to the findings, 63.3 percent of Academic Communities were unaware of the Covid 19 OARs. Even though they were informed, 27.9% did not use the provided services, and only 14.5 percent did. Users' main challenge in the research study was a lack of training and assistance on how to use e-resources. Considerable planning by the library professionals will be required to be

informed about e-resource sites available freely on the internet.

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