

e-PG Pathshala: A Study on student's Experience & its Perspective in library and Information science in India

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ABSTRACT: The main goal of each country is to provide excellent, curriculum-based interactive content for every subject and make it publicly available on a platform for the use of colleges, universities, and other educational establishments worldwide. Web-based learning systems significantly impact global education by giving students access to learning materials at any time, location, and on any device. The Indian government has launched various e-content development projects. One such effort is e-PG Pathshala, a portal to online courses. In this study, we focus on the students' experience and perspective towards e-PG Pathshala in the north-central universities of India, which has 362 students. We chose eight north-central universities in India for library and information science students and took 70 % from each university. The online survey method was employed for data collection, and the acquired data were analyzed using MS Excel and SPSS software, and the mean and standard deviation for descriptive analyses. Chi-square tests were used to evaluate the validity of the results. The results indicated that most of the respondents (70.68 %) were postgraduate, and the maximum number of respondents (36.12 %) accessed e-PG Pathshala to prepare for semester exams. The majority of the students (28.11 %) have the perception that the content of e-PG Pathshala is freely available.

KEYWORDS: online learning e-PG pathshala Library and information science Learning platform North central universities India.

1. INTRODUCTION

Computerized learning, often online learning, is progressively entering India's modern educational system. The rapid growth of internet connectivity has been a key element in expanding online learning (Horn & Staker, 2011). The Indian government has taken numerous initiatives to develop and improve the country's educational system. It has built up several programmes and strategies for the country where ICT (Allen et al., 2007) has become an integral aspect of education delivery (see Table 1, Table 2a–2b, Table 3a–3b and Table 4–6, Fig. 1). For many people, there are numerous socio-economic, cultural, time, and geographical (Dhanani et al., 2015) impediments to seeking education. There is a need to implement various new programmes and projects, such as the National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), e-PG Pathshala, SWAYAM, SAKSHAT, National e-Library, e-GyanKosh, SWAYAM Prabha, and others, (Department of Higher Education, MoE, GOI, 2020) in which every learner has the opportunity to obtain the necessary information and be accessible through web portals without an account. Learners can access extensive learning material in textual or audio-visual format in various subjects through these web portals, which can be accessed from anywhere at any time (Kovacova & Vackova, 2015). The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) aims to close the technology gap by using devices to teach and learn among urban and rural learners and teachers in higher education (Dhull & Arora, 2019). We hope for those who are left behind by the technological age. All of these obstacles could be overcome with the creative application of technology. As a result, the Indian government has

made several efforts to encourage academic institutions to promote online learning through technology, ensuring that education is accessible to all. E-PG Pathshala is a content-dedicated online platform with open access. It is an MHRD initiative carried out by the UGC as part of its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT). As part of this effort, a large volume and quality of content are generated for 70+ subjects and made available in open-access mode. This research focuses on the e-PG Pathshala learning resources (Bhushan & Ranjan Kumar, 2018) and their accessibility among students, including graduates, postgraduates, research scholars, and information science students were allowed to participate due to time and geographical constraints. As librarians or library professionals, LIS students serve as intermediates between learners and resources because India is a democratic nation and conducting a survey over the entire country is extremely difficult and there are higher central universities in north India as well as those offering library and information science courses.

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To explore the demographic details and essential information regarding e-PG Pathshala from a student's perspective.
- To investigate the quality of content and the topics that are most read and accessed from e-PG Pathshala.
- To investigate the satisfaction level while accessing e-PG Pathshala.
- To explore the problems faced while accessing e-PG Pathshala.
- To discover whether the content of e-PG Pathshala is sufficient for the library and information course.
- To explore the advantages and perceptions towards the content of e-PG Pathshala.

THE PROS OF THIS SURVEY

most significant e-PG visitors, with India representing about 82 per cent of all e-PG visitors. Uttar Pradesh (51428, 17 %) covers the majority of e-PG visitors in India, whereas Delhi and New Delhi have the maximum visitor coverage (11 %). In terms of topic, library and information science has the highest percentage of e-PG visits. Abhishek Kumar and Joorel (2020) proposed the concept of library professionals' role in content development regarding e-PG Pathshala. The more significant test to build upon this is content creation. Along these lines, library experts did an indispensable job during e-content improvement. Vanlalpeka (2018) reported that the study investigates PG students at Mizoram University's School of Economics, Management, and Information Science's awareness of and use of e-PG Pathshala. According to the respondents, the primary reason for using e-PG Pathshala is to prepare projects. Hajam (2016) determined a SWOT analysis of the e-learning stage to be specific to e-PG Pathshala, a portal for every one of the courses at the postgraduate level. Towards the end, the role of libraries and information centres in electronically conveying data has also been indicated. Another study by Armstrong-Mensah et al. (2020) was to gather data on how the move to distance learning affected undergraduate and graduate students studying public health courses at GSU. The purpose was to uncover student academic obstacles and the unexpected benefits of distance learning and then use that information to develop methods that could be applied during university education difficulties. Akanbiemu (2018) studied the information needs of distance learners in Nigeria. It was discovered that information-holding services are an element of services in institutions that add to the value and excellence of learning by paying attention to the method of conveyance. Ghosh et al. (2012) The authors were to review open and distance learning in the context of current issues and challenges, observe major topics and applications in various fields, highlight recent global and regional developments, and recommend policy. Obeidat (2020) investigated undergraduate students' perceptions of online learning and how it influenced them positively or negatively regarding psychological well-being, learning and skill development, social interaction, and financial well-being. Aloklu (2020) investigated students' attitudes towards using library resources. Sixty-six people participated in the study: 60 were students in

various stages of their studies, and six were library workers at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. There was a shortage of knowledge of the institution's interlibrary borrowing service, which was under-utilized. Zakaria et al. (2021) examined faculty and student opinions of online courseware using two questionnaires. According to the study, zoom, Microsoft Teams for online interactive classes, and WhatsApp for communication with students outside of class were the most popular online platforms in Jordan.

3. PROPOSED SYSTEM (METHODOLOGY)

Library and information science graduates and postgraduates in the north central universities of India were chosen as the respondents for this study. Since library science is the most varied subject and covers everything from social sciences to technological sciences, students in this subject work their way from the library to the real world. To select the population under study for the library and information science students in north central universities of India.

- When accessing online resources, students face a problem with a lack of internet facilities.
- Most students said that the contents of e-PG Pathshala are high quality.
- Most students perceive the content of e-PG Pathshala as freely accessible.

A literature review and informal discussions with the students enrolled in the online classes during COVID-19 (Muthuprasad et al., 2021) helped design a structured and unstructured questionnaire. Respondents were also pre-tested, and the feedback from these tests was used to construct the final questionnaire.

Chi-square tests were conducted to assess the validity of the results using the statistical software SPSS (Version 20). $\sum \text{Mean rank} = x = \text{here, } / x \text{ n } x = \text{observation, } 1 \leq i \leq n \sum x = \text{Sum of observations } n = \text{Number of observations}$ Chi-square $\sum x^2 = (O - E)^2 / E$ here, $X^2 = \text{chi-squared } O - E = \text{Observed value} - \text{Expected value}$ According to the selected universities, there are 518 students enrolled in central universities in North India. A total of 388 online responses were received from students. The study used simple random sampling and the sample size was chosen from each university, representing 70 % of the population. As a result, there were 362 students in the sample. Total Population = 518 Sample Size = 70 % of the entire population Sample Size = ? Sample Size = Total Population $\times$ Sample Size/100 = 518 $\times$ 70/100 = 362

Data analysis and interpretation

Demographic information was gathered first, followed by the students' preferences, roles, satisfaction, problems, and suggestions. To reduce researcher bias, the statements were prepared based on an in-depth analysis of the literature (Onyango, 2002, pp. 61–109) and discussion with experts. The collected data were analyzed using MS Excel, SPSS software, and the mean and standard deviation for descriptive analyses. For each of the statements, we used a measure of consensus in addition to calculating the percentage table for the role of the students.

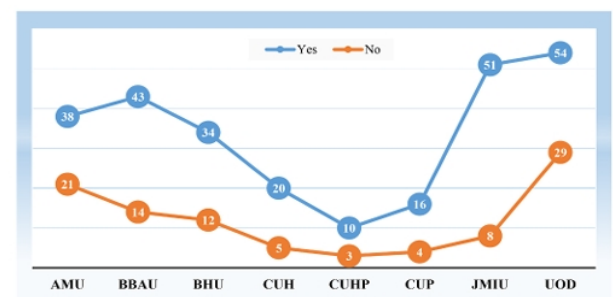


Fig. 3. e-PG Pathshala's content is sufficient for the LIS course.

majority of respondents, 281 (26.58 %), stated that e-PG Pathshala was available 24*7, followed by 248 (23.46 %) who freely accessed course content; 193 (18.25 %) said that content was accessed conveniently; 169 (15.98 %) respondents said that e-PG Pathshala has appropriate content;

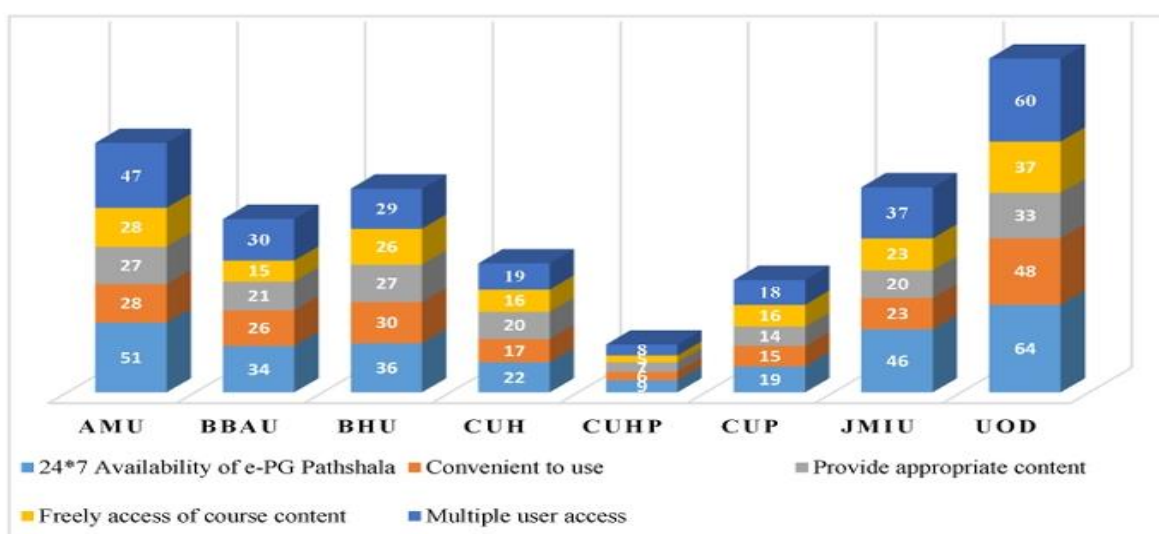
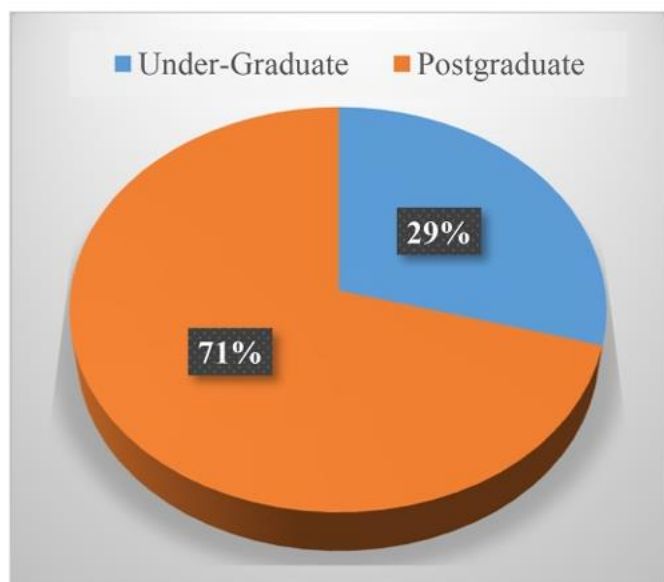


Fig. 4. University-wise advantages of using e-PG Pathshala.

PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE CONTENT OF E-PG PATHSHALA TABLE 8A–8B DESCRIBES THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CONTENT OF E-PG PATHSHALA. THE PERCEPTION OF 285 (28.11 %) RESPONDENTS SAID THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAS FREELY AVAILABLE INFORMATION, FOLLOWED BY 268 (27.09 %) EASILY ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION, 198 (20.02 %) RELEVANT INFORMATION, 178 (17.99 %) TIME-SAVING INFORMATION, 59 (5.96 %) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESSIVE OR UNNECESSARY INFORMATION, AND ONE RESPONDENT HAD OTHER PERCEPTION PREPARING FOR THE UGC NET EXAM. WE ALSO USED THE PEARSON CHI-SQUARE TEST TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF PATTERNS IN THE DATA. THE RESULTS REVEALED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS SAID THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAS FREELY ACCESSIBLE CONTENT, RESULTING IN A TABULATED VALUE OF CHI-SQUARE OF 90.531, WHICH IS GREATER THAN THE CALCULATED VALUE OF CHI-SQUARE, REJECTING THE NULL HYPOTHESIS AND ACCEPTING THE ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS. THE DIFFERENCES WERE VERY SIGNIFICANT BASED ON THE TEST STATISTIC'S DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE PATHSHALA FROM HOME. REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF POOR INTERNET CONNECTION, IT WAS FOUND THAT (29.46 %) OF RESPONDENTS WERE FACED WITH THE PROBLEM, WHICH INDICATED THAT THE INTERNET IS THE MAJOR PROBLEM. SOME PAST WORK (64.93 %) RESPONDENTS ALSO FACED INTERNET SPEED PROBLEMS (SONKER & SRIVASTAVA, 2017); (BRAHMA & VERMA, 2018). THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS, 26.58 %, STATED THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAD 24*7 AVAILABILITY, AS ALSO FOUND IN THE

AVAILABILITY OF E-PG PATHSHALA (JEYAPRAGASH ET AL., 2017). THE PAPER INDICATED THAT 53.59 % OF RESPONDENTS SAID THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAS HIGH-QUALITY CONTENT. THE PERCEPTION OF 28.11) RE SPONDENTS SAID THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAS FREELY AVAILABLE INFORMATION, WHEREAS (SONKER & SRIVASTAVA, 2017) IN THIS STUDY, 80.31 % OF RE SPONDENTS SAID THAT E-PG PATHSHALA HAS RELEVANT CONTENT. 8.3. RELEVANCE OF EXAMINING DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS IN INDIAN HEIS HAJAM (2016) DETERMINED THAT A SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE E-LEARNING STAGE SHOULD BE SPECIFIC TO E-PG PATHSHALA, A PORTAL FOR EVERY ONE OF THE COURSES AT THE POSTGRADUATE LEVEL. HENCE, THE E-PG PATHSHALA CONTENT IS BOTH FOR UG AND PG STUDENTS. WE IDENTIFIED THE (ABHISHEK KUMAR & JOOREL, 2020) SHOWING LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS' ROLE IN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT REGARDING E-PG PATHSHALA. THE MORE SIGNIFICANT TEST TO BUILD UPON THIS IS CONTENT CREATION. THE RESPONDENTS HIGHLY READ THE MANAGEMENT TOPICS OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES, 46.13 %. FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, LIS PROFESSIONALS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS, THIS ARTICLE ON THE PAPER "INFORMETRICS & SCIENTOMETRICS" OF THE BROAD SUBJECT LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE WAS MENTIONED BY (CHATTOPADHYAY & HALDER, 2021), WHEREAS 26.24 % RESPONDENTS WHO RARELY READ AND ACCESSED INFORMETRICS AND SCIENTOMETRICS TOPIC FROM E-PG PATHSHALA (NAGESH KUMAR, 2017). WERE FOCUSED ON THE DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT DATABASES IN THE DEGREE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND HOW LIBRARIES DEAL WITH THOSE DATABASES.

Limitations and future scope of work

- This research work is restricted to library and information science students and for the north central universities of India.
- The similar exercise to be done for remaining e-PG Pathshala along with other central universities of India

6. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The e-PG Pathshala is an online course for postgraduate students from various institutions, universities, and organizations. Notable faculty members from various organizations created these online courses that benefit students' academic pursuits. The study clearly shows that students use e-PG Pathshala for preparing semester exams, which results in imparting education and enhancing the self-learning process which achieved one the objectives 2. It is clear that most students did not face problems while accessing and using e-PG Pathshala and it full-fills objective 3. The study results revealed that the main advantages of e-PG Pathshala are its 24*7 availability and its accessibility in open access which is also mentioned in objective 5. It is critical to continue providing orientation and make them aware of e-PG Pathshala at this time. It is also vital for the Ministry of Education to organize training programmes for the entire academic department. All students will be taught this information to use e-PG Pathshala efficiently. The material of the e-PG Pathshala may be frequently updated with content and may have more content topic by topic, which is in the syllabus of the UGC-NET exam. The Ministry of Education makes using e-PG Pathshala mandatory for all universities. Students would be encouraged to use online resources as study materials to become more dependent on the materials provided by e-PG Pathshala resources and content to enhance their learning. The results of the study revealed that teachers and collaborators have an important role in educating students about e-PG Pathshala. It may also provide more than one YouTube lecture by different teachers or specialists for a topic or chapter. It will be very comprehensible for the students. The e-PG Pathshala is only for English-medium students. It may also be available in different languages for the

students, so that the optimum utilization of the content of e-PG Pathshala. This kind of study may be done in other subject areas also because it is seen number of programs offered by the institutions are known to library and information science students but other students have less ideas and knowledge regarding this, also we can study what types of awareness programs were implemented by the concerned authority to raise the awareness of this platform among students of other subject fields. CRediT authorship contribution statement Sana Aslam: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization. Sharad Kumar Sonkar: Supervision, Project administration, Conceptualization. Abhishek Kumar: Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Formal analysis.

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Data availability statement

The data that supports the findings of this study are available in the supplementary material of this article.

Ethical approval

This study was conducted as an online survey, and we acknowledge our moral and professional responsibility to carry out this research ethically and responsibly. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in this study.

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Declaration of competing

interest The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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