



## Use of e- content under e-PG Pathshala of INFLIBNET by College Faculty: A case study of selected colleges of Kashmir

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**Abstract:** INFLIBNET, Information and library network, an inter-university centre and a statutory body of University Grants Commission is the hub of academic libraries in India and is very instrumental in developing standards, protocols, software packages, e-content etc. for the academic libraries of higher education. Among the different initiatives of INFLIBNET, e-PGPathshala, an initiative of the MHRD, executed by UGC through INFLIBNET is very useful for the students and faculty of higher educational institutions. Under the e-PG Pathshala initiative high quality, curriculum based e-content with more than 20000 modules both in e-text and video formats on 70 subjects are freely made available to the concerned users. This paper is an attempt to introspect the awareness, and use of e-content under e-PGPathshala initiative by the college faculty. To fulfill the objectives a structured questionnaire through Google form was used to collect the data. The findings of the study reveal that most of the faculty members working in degree colleges of Kashmir are aware of e-PGPathshala initiative. However, only a few of them are using it.

**Keywords:** E-content, e-PG Pathshala, e-pathya, Online Learning, faculty members etc

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

The Open educational Resources are the free resources available online with unrestricted access, for teaching, learning and research purposes over the internet removing the financial and permission barriers. The OERs have a direct connection with e-learning. There are different types of pedagogies incorporated in the OERs to facilitate effective & quality learning. About half of all the research articles published become open access, either immediately or with the passage of time. The commonly used open access initiatives in Indian libraries include, NDLI-national digital library of India, SciELO-Scientific Electronic Library Online, DOAJ- directory of open access journals, DOAB-directory of open access books, Jstore, PANDORA- Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources of Australia, Budapest Open Access Initiative, INFLIBNET resources like e-Adhyana, e-pathya, e-PGPathshala and many more. Out of all these resources of INFLIBNET, the ePGPathshala is widely used by the post graduate students and faculty members throughout India.

The e-PG Pathshala is an initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC through INFLIBNET, The hub for promotion of academic libraries in India. The e-content is developed by a team of experts working in Indian universities and other R & D institutes across the country. The content is available in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages. Every subject team comprises of principal investigator, paper coordinators, content writers, content reviewers, Language editors and multimedia team. Each subject is further divided into papers and each is divided into chapters and in total there are about more than 22000 modules with e-text, which can be downloaded for free. Besides the e-text, there are thousands of videos through which one can learn and understand the thought content in detail and thus facilitate e-learning. The subjects covered under the initiative are Adult Education, Analytical chemistry/ Instrumentation, Anthropology, Architecture, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biophysics, Biotechnology, Botany, Buddhist Studies, Business Economics, Chemistry, Chinese, Commerce, Comparative Study of Religions, Computer Science, Criminology, Earth Sciences, Economics, Education, Electronic Science, English, Environmental science, Food & Nutrition, Food Technology, Forensic Science, Geography,



Geology, Hindi, Home Science, Hotel and Tourism Management, HRM, Human Rights & Duties, Indian Culture, Information Technology, Japanese, Jyotish-ganit, Law, Library and Information Science, Linguistics, M planning, Management, Material Science, Mathematics, Media & Communication Studies, Performing Arts (Dance/Drama/Theatre), Pharmaceutical Science, Philosophy, Physical Education Sports and Health Education, Political science, population studies, Psychology, Public Administration, Risk / Disaster Management, Russian Studies, Sanskrit (Acharya in Vyakrana), Sanskrit (MA), Social Medicine and community Health, Social Work Education, Sociology, Spanish, Statistics, Urdu, Visual Arts, Women Studies/Gender Studies Etc.

The academic community of India is mostly using the open access resources of National Digital Library of India, National Digital Academy of Ethiopia, Directory of open access journals, directory of open access books, JStore, EPGPathshala, etc. The utility of OAI are preferred because of the unrestricted access to the research on internet. As per the definition of Budapest Open Access initiative (BOAI) the concept of Open Access in relation to journal literature as, “free availability on the public internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited” (“**Budapest Open Access Initiative,(n.d).** **Khalili (2011)** found that nearly half of the researchers are unfamiliar with Open Access terms. (**Jain, 2012**) define open access materials as full text, can be accessed by anybody from anywhere and its contents can be in any format from texts and data to software, audio, video, and multi-media, scholarly articles and their preprints. The open access is different from the free access as the users have the right to distribute the content as & when they wish.

The e-PGPathshala is widely used by the all the academicians and scholars in general and post graduate students in particular. There are 1,56,34,153 number of visitors from 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 2022. Thus on an average more than 26 lac new visitors are using the resources every year. This study is an attempt to introspect the awareness and use of ePGPathshala by the college faculty.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Open Access is simply the free online availability of digital contents, scholarly journal articles, research results which authors publish without expectation of payment and is based on an ethical argument that research funded by the public should be available to the public ( **Keisha & Sophiarani, 2008**). The **Budapest Open Access (2002)** Initiative defines open access as “free availability on the internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.” **Bjork (2004)** defines OA as that a reader of a scientific publication can read it over the internet, print it out and even further distribute it for non-commercial purposes without any payments or restrictions. According to **Suber (2006)** Open Access to scientific article means online access without charge to readers or libraries. Committing to open access means dispensing with the financial, technical and legal barriers that are designed to limit access to scientific research articles to paying customers. Self-Directed Learning process is described as a learners inherent ability to manage his or her own learning process, by understanding himself/herself as the source of his/her own decisions and actions feeling it as a responsibility towards his/her own lifelong learning (**Sze-yeng & Hussain 2010**).

**2.1 SCOPE:** The scope of the study is restricted to selected colleges of Kashmir and the respondents are faculty members working in the selected colleges.

## 3. OBJECTIVES:

- To gauge the awareness of subject oriented e-content available on e-PGPathshala among faculty members of Govt. Degree Colleges.
- To know the use of e-content resources available on e-EPGPathshala by college faculty.
- To identify the satisfaction level of target population.



#### 4. METHODOLOGY :

To fulfill the objectives a questionnaire through Google form was sent to the target population for data collection and the data was then tabulated and interpreted to get the desired results. However the colleges for the study were selected randomly.

#### 5. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

##### 5.1 COLLEGES COVERED:-

Six Government Degree Colleges of Kashmir Division were selected for the study out of which one college belongs to central Kashmir and five colleges are from South Kashmir. The faculty selected government degree colleges of Kashmir were chosen for the assessment. The questionnaire was framed and sent to respondents and the data received was tabulated. The colleges covered in the study are listed in Table 1 as:-

S. No.	Name of the institutions
01.	Government Degree College, Kulgam
02.	Government Degree College, D. H. Pora
03.	Altaf Memorial Government Degree College, Killam
04.	Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina
05	Imtiyaz Memorial Government Degree college, Shopian
06	Govt. Degree College (Boys) Pulwama

##### 5.2 DESIGNATION OF RESPONDENTS

During the survey in the selected colleges ,70 faculty members consisting of Assistant professor, Lecturers on academic arrangement, Librarian, & Physical Training Instructor were selected as respondents :-

Category of respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage%
Assistant Professor	34	48.57%
Librarian & supporting staff	14	20%
PTI and supporting staff	4	5.72%
Lecturers on Academic Arrangement	18	25.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### 5.3 AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT E-CONTENT OF E-EPGPATSHALA

When the respondents were asked about whether they are aware of the e-content under e-EPGPPathshala, The answer was almost affirmative. Out of the total 70 respondents only 08 were not aware. The below given table represents the category of respondents who are aware:-

Category of respondents	Response in the affirmative	Percentage
Assistant Professor	30	88.24%
Librarian & supporting staff	14	100%
Physical Training Instructors	04	100%
Lecturer on Academic Arrangement	14	77.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>88.57%</b>



#### 5.4 TYPE OF THE E-CONTENT USED

When the faculty members were asked about the type of e-content of e-EPGPathshala used by them more than 37% were using e-text, 31% were using self learning videos and the same number of the faculty were using both e-text & self learning vedios.The data is tabulated as :-

Content Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
e-text	26	37.14%
Self Learning Videos	22	31.43%
Both	22	31.43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5.5 SATISFACTION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

The respondents were asked about their satisfaction level of the e-content resources available in the EPGPathshala. More than 97% of them were fully satisfied, the details of which are tabulates as: -

Category of Respondents	No. of Respondents	Satisfaction	Percentage
Assistant Professor	34	32	94.12%
Librarian & supporting staff	14	14	100%
PTI and supporting staff	04	04	100%
Lecturers on Academic Arrangement	18	18	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>97.14%</b>

#### 5.6 TIME SPENT ON THE E-CONTENT

In order to know the usage and importance of the e-content of EPGPathshala in the process of teaching-learning and research, the time spent by the users in searching, reading and downloading is a prime factor. When the faculty was asked about the time spent on weekly basis, majority of the faculty members spent two to three hours a week. The data so received was tabulated as:-

Weekly Time spent by faculty	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than one hour	20	28.57%
Two to three hours	30	42.86%
Three to four hours	14	20%
More than four hours	06	8.57%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5.7 PURPOSE OF USING THE SUBJECT SPECIFIC E-CONTENT

The e-content of e-EPGPathshala being subject specific, easily available and free of cost are used by most of the faculty for teaching-learning process, writing articles, and updating of knowledge. The below mentioned tables gives us the details of purpose of using the e-content

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Teaching learning process	22	31.43%



Writing Articles	04	5.71%
Updating & understanding of thought content	02	2.86%
All the above	42	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 6. MAJOR FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- Majority of the college faculty are aware of the e-content of e-EPGPathshala.
- More than 10% of the faculty are not aware of the e-content and are not even interested to know about it and as such the need of the hour is to organize 2 to 3 days awareness and training programmes regarding the usefulness of the content at least quarterly in a year.
- Majority of the faculty members are using the content for teaching, writing articles updating of Knowledge and research purposes.
- The college faculty who are using the content are almost fully satisfied about the quality of the content.
- Most of the college faculty is spending two to three hours in a week for searching, browsing and downloading of e-content.
- Almost all the faculty agreed that the videos for self learning are of good quality and content & most of them are using the self learning videos also.

## 7. FURTHER STUDY AND CONCLUSION

Electronic resources are surprisingly fragile and accessible. The financial constraint forced Libraries and statutory bodies meant for promotion of library and information services to acquire open access resources. Keeping in view the rising cost of information resources, many academic governmental ,non-governmental bodies, foundations, commissions, organizations and institutions have made their attempts to develop different open access resources for use by the academicians and common people at national and international levels to promote education and research. . In the Indian context the e-PGPathshala is one such initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC through INFLIBNET, The hub for promotion of academic libraries in India provides high quality, curriculum based, e-content with more than 20000 modules both in e-text and vedio formats on 70 subjects are freely made available to the concerned users. Ironically most of the college faculties are not making the best use of the e-content resources. The need of the hour is to arrange awareness programmes on availability & usefulness of such type of open access resources for educational purposes so that more and more users can utilize the resources for their progress in academics & research.

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