

# Use of Open Courseware by PG Students of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow: With Special Reference to E-PG Pathshala

*Sharad Kumar Sonkar*

*Prachi Srivastava*

## Abstract

*The open access movement provides ample opportunities for study and learning to the students, faculty members, and the general public. It involved different kinds of persons in the communities which are working in the various institutions, organizations, universities, and industries. The present study explores the awareness and use of E-PG Pathshala program developed by UGC. The paper highlights regarding knowledge, the Source of Awareness, Place and Time of accessing E-Resources, Types of material preferred, Reasons for using E- learning courseware, Frequency of using E-Content, Purposes of using E-Content, Reasons for using e-content over print article, Satisfaction and Perception about project E-PG Pathshala. It also highlights the Problems faced by users while accessing E-Content.*

**Keywords:** e-PG Pathshala, E-Resources, Open Courseware, Open Educational Resources

## 1. Introduction

E-Pathshala is an online course work of the graduate students studying in the various institutions, organizations, and universities. It is developed by the various experts working in the different discipline in the country. The initiative started by the National Mission of Education through ICT (NME-ICT) developed by UGC under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry has supported to the UGC for the development of the online course work for the post graduate students. It includes course content for the 77 subjects based on their curriculum. It consists high quality, interactive course materials for the various subjects in all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences,

linguistics, and languages, etc. All these contents can be accessed by any one from anywhere without paying anything. This initiative fulfills the gap of the teachers in the various institutions and helps to the students for the imparting education and advancement of the knowledge of the particular subject. It is a Gateway for all postgraduate courses which enhance self-learning process, assessment and update with other courses. It provides a separate platform for the students and separate platform for the content writers. The students can download a module for study and learning. <sup>1</sup>

## 2. Objectives

The following objectives have been undertaken for the compilation of the study, these are as follows:

- ❖ To explore the use and awareness of E-PG Pathshala



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- ❖ To investigate the source of awareness, and time spend in access e-content
- ❖ To explore the search approach and the type of materials preferred by the users
- ❖ To discover the reasons and purpose to use e-content
- ❖ To investigate the problems face by users while accessing and using the E - Content
- ❖ To explore the satisfaction and perception regarding E-PG Pathshala

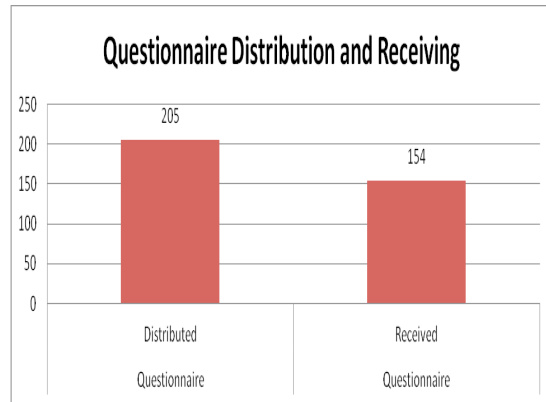
**3. Methodology**

Survey method is used for the completion of the study. Questionnaires were used as an instrument for the collection of the data. The questionnaire was prepared and distributed among the PG Students of University of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. The collected data were codified, classified and tabulated for the analysis and interpretation. The total one fifty-four filled questionnaires were received from PG students of all the departments of the university. On the basis of the collected data, the findings and suggestions have been drawn.

**4. Data Analysis**

**Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution and Receiving**

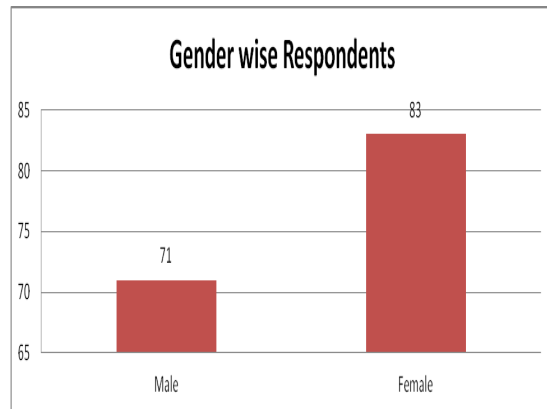
Name of University	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire received	Response %
BBAU	205	154	75.12



The above table and figure 1 show that the distribution and receiving of the questionnaires were total 205 questionnaires were distributed among the PG students of the BBAU out of those only 154 (75.12%) questionnaires were received.

**Table 2: Gender wise Respondents**

Gender	Male	Female	Total
BBAU	71 (46.10%)	83 (53.90%)	154

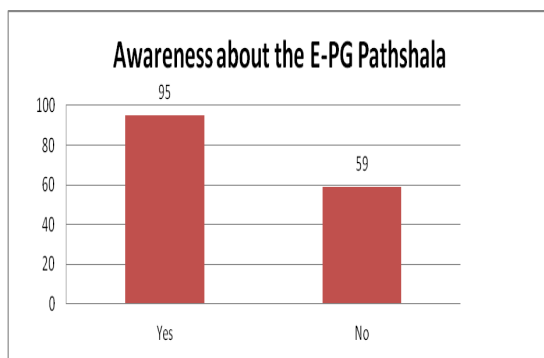


**Figure: 2**

Table above and figure 2 explore that gender distribution of the respondents were total respondents are 154. Total population includes 71(46.10%) male and 83(53.90%), female respondents.

**Table 3: Awareness about the E-PG Pathshala**

Awareness	Yes	No	Total
BBAU	95 (61.68%)	59 (38.31%)	154

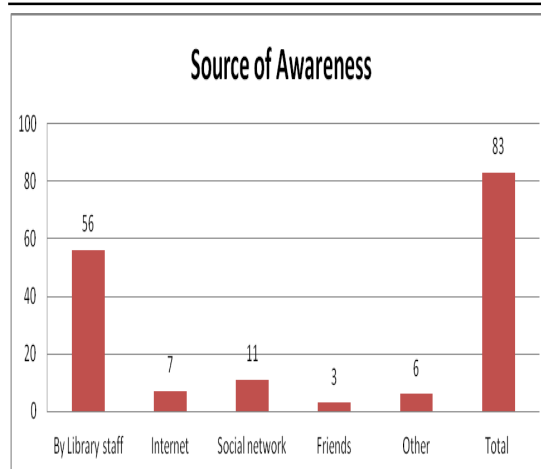


**Figure: 3**

From the table and figure 3, the majority of the students 95(61.67%) are aware of E-PG pathshala which is highly appreciable because it enhances the use of online resources developed for the PG students while (38.31%) are not aware.

**Table 4: Source of Awareness**

Source of awareness	Number of response	Response %
By Library staff	56	36.36
Internet	7	4.54
Social network	11	7.14
Friends	3	1.54
Other	6	3.89
Total	83	100



**Figure: 4**

The table and figure 4 shows that the sources of awareness of E-PG Pathshala, where 56 (36.36%) students of BBAU aware by Library staff, 11(7.14%) by Social Networks, 7(4.54%) by Internet and 6(3.89%) of users by others sources. It means that most of the students of BBAU aware about E-PG Pathshala through Library staff.

**Table 5: Place of accessing E-Resources/content**

Place of access	No. of Response	Response %
Library	25	16.23
Hostel	51	33.11
CCF	41	26.62
Department	45	29.22
Others	22	14.28

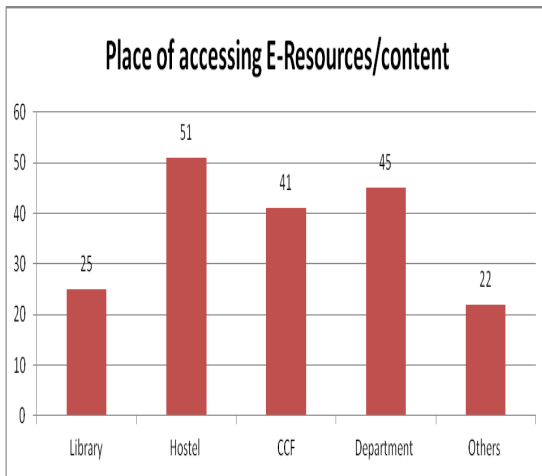


Figure: 5

The above table and figure 5 show that the place of accessing e-resources/content where best place to access e-resources/content is hostel which is 51(33.11%), 25(16.23%) in Library, 41(26.62%) in computer center facility, 45(29.22%) in department and 22(14.28%) use in other places. It shows that most of the users access E-Resources/content from the hostel and computer center.

Table 6: Time spent on E-content accessing

Time on access	No. of Response	Response %
Less than five hours	86	55.84
Six to ten hours	63	40.90
More than ten hours	14	9.09

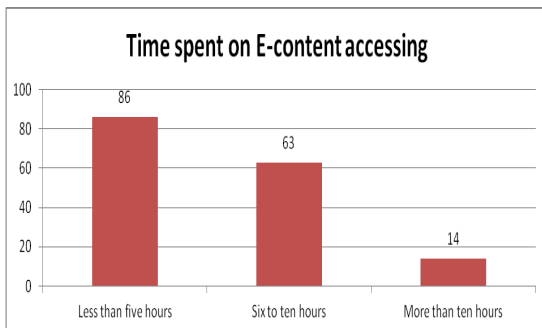


Figure: 6

It is observed from the above table and figure, 86(55.84%) respondents spent less than five hours on E-contents, 63(40.90%) users spent six to ten hour and 14(9.09%) students spent more than ten hours. It clearly means that most of the students of BBAU spent less than five hours on accessing E-contents.

Table 7: Search terms used while accessing E-Resources

Search by Term	No. of Response	Response %
Author	22	14.28
Title	42	27.27
Subject	79	51.29
keywords	59	38.51

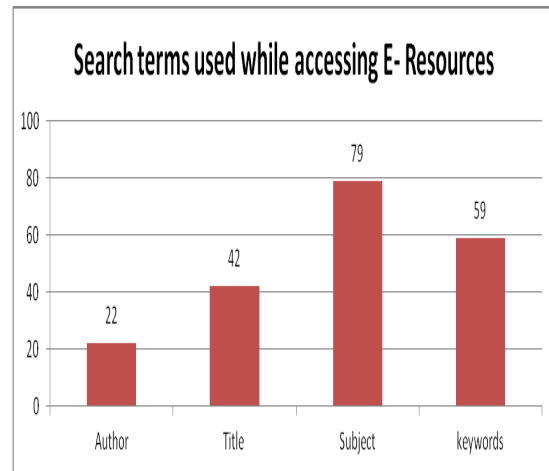
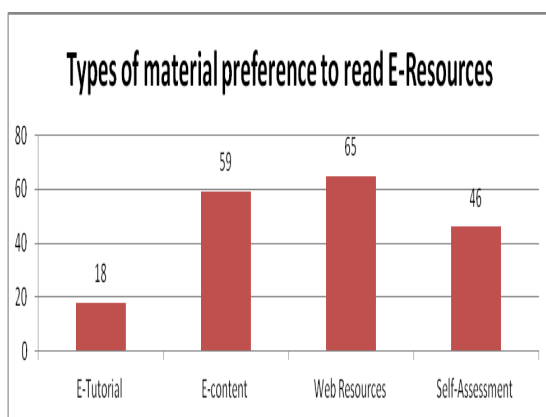


Figure: 7

Table and figure no. 7 reveal the search terms used while accessing e- resources were 22(14.28%) respondents search by author, 42(27.27%) by the article, 79(51.29%) by subject and 59(38.31%) by keywords. It reveals that in BBAU, the most used search term is Keywords.

**Table 8: Types of material preference to read E-Resources**

Types of material preference to read e-resources	No. of Response	Response %
E-Tutorial	18	11.68
E-content	59	38.31
Web Resources	65	42.20
Self-Assessment	46	29.87

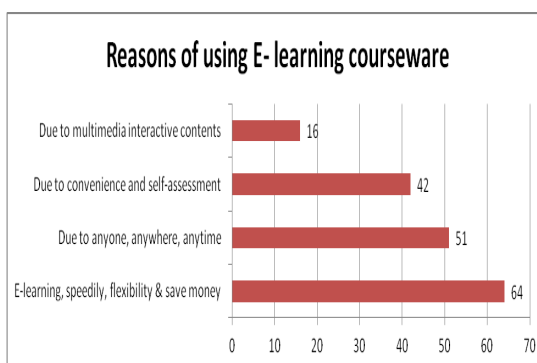


**Figure: 8**

It is observed from the previous table and figures that types of material preference to read e-resources where 18(11.68 %) students prefer E- Tutorial, 59(38.31%) E-Contents, 65(42.20 %) web-resources, and 46(29.87%) prefer by self-assessment. It means that most of the students of BBAU prefer web resources.

**Table 9: Reasons of using E- learning courseware**

Reasons	No. of Response	Response %
E-learning, speedily, flexibility & save money	64	41.55
Due to anyone, anywhere, anytime	51	33.11
Due to convenience and self-assessment	42	27.27
Due to multimedia interactive contents	16	10.38

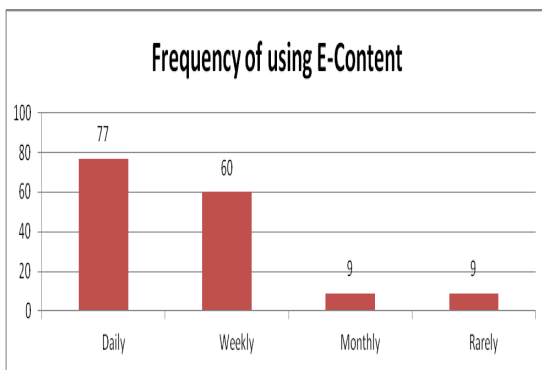


**Figure: 9**

The table and figure no. 9 show that reasons of using e-learning courseware where 64(41.55%) are using for speedily, flexibly & save money, 51(33.11%) due to anyone, anywhere, anytime, 42(27.27%) for convenience and self-assessment and 16(10.38%) for multimedia interactive contents for using e-learning courseware. The result of the table indicates that the most of the students of BBAU 64(41.55%) feel that e-learning courseware is speedy, flexible and saves money.

**Table 10: Frequency of using E-Content**

Use E-Content	No. of Response	Response %
Daily	77	50.00
Weekly	60	38.96
Monthly	9	5.84
Rarely	9	5.84

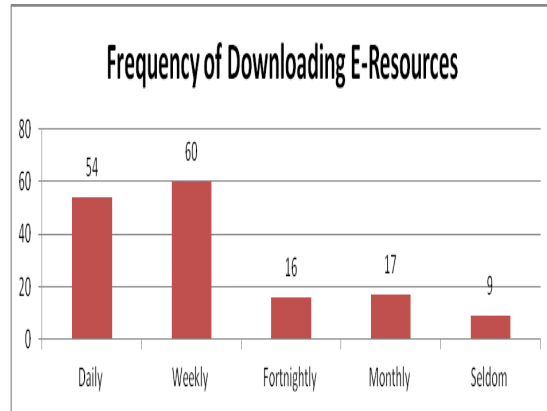


**Figure: 10**

It is revealed from the above table and figure that frequency of using e-contents where 77(50.00%) respondents use daily, 60(38.96%) use weekly, 9(5.84%) use monthly and also 9(5.84%) use rarely. The Graph clearly indicates that the students of BBAU use e-resources daily.

**Table 11: Frequency of Downloading E-Resources**

Frequency of downloading	No. of Response	Response %
Daily	54	35.06
Weekly	60	38.96
Fortnightly	16	10.38
Monthly	17	11.03
Seldom	9	5.84

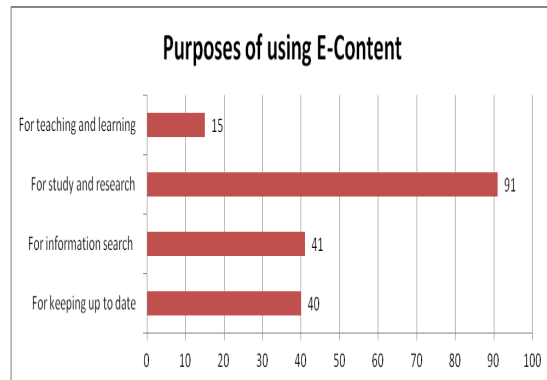


**Figure: 11**

From the above table and figure, 54(35.06%) users download e-resources daily, 60(38.96%) users download e-resources weekly, 16(10.38%) users use fortnightly, 17(11.03%) users download monthly, and 9(5.84%) users download seldom. Mostly users download e-resource weekly.

**Table 12: Purposes of using E-Content**

Purposes of using E-Resources	No. of Response	Response %
For keeping up to date	40	25.97
For information search	41	26.62
For study and research	91	59.09
For teaching and learning	15	9.74

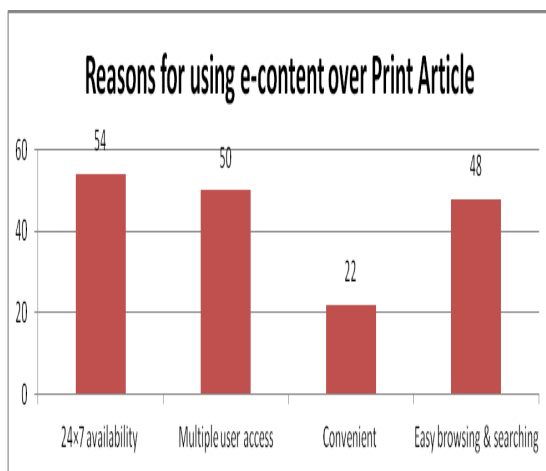


**Figure: 12**

Table above and figure indicate that the purposes of using e-content were 40(25.97%) for keeping up to date, 41(26.62%) for information search, 91(59.09%) for study and research and 15(9.74%) for teaching and learning. From the table and figure, it means that most of the students of BBAU use e-resources for study and research.

**Table 13: Reasons for using e-content over Print Article**

Grounds for using E-Content	No. of Response	Response %
24x7 availability	54	35.06
Multiple user access	50	32.46
Convenient	22	14.28
Easy browsing & searching	48	31.16

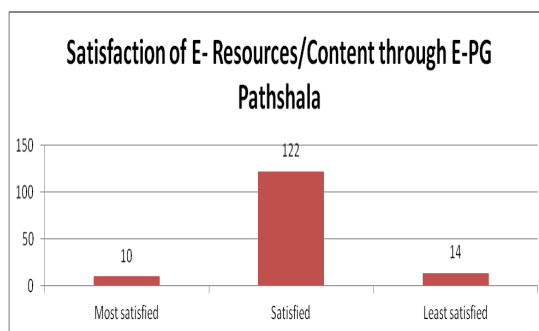


**Figure: 13**

The table and figure no. 13 show that reasons for using e-content over print article in BBAU, most of 54(35.06%) students access for 24x7 availability, 50(32.46%) for multiple user access, 22(14.28%) for convenient and 48(31.16%) for easy browsing & searching.

**Table 14: Satisfaction of E- Resources/Content through E-PG Pathshala**

Satisfaction level	No. of Response	Response %
Most satisfied	10	6.49
Satisfied	122	79.22
Least satisfied	14	9.09



**Figure: 14**

It is explored from the above table and figure about the satisfaction of e- resources/contents through E-PG Pathshala where 10(6.49%) are most satisfied, 122(79.22%) are Satisfied and 14(9.09%) users least satisfied with the e-resources available in E-PG Pathshala. The study shows that the university students are satisfied with the e-resources.

**Table 15: Perception about E-PG Pathshala**

Perceptions	No. of Response	Response %
Most relevant	18	11.68
Relevant	124	80.31
Not-relevant	7	4.54

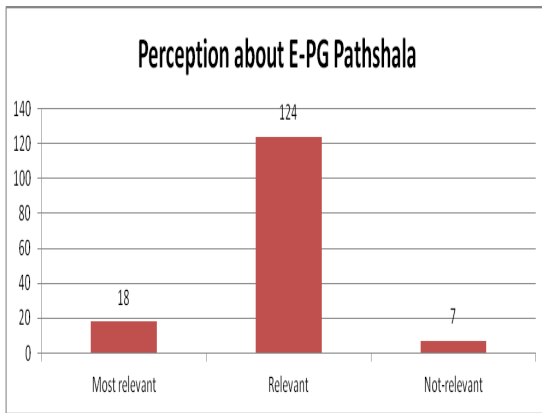


Figure: 15

It is highlighted from the above table and figure 15 that the perception about E-PG Pathshala where 18(11.68%) respondents are saying most relevant, 124(80.31%) students say relevant and 7(4.54%) users say not relevant. The study reveals that respondents of BBAU find e-resources relevant on E-PG Pathshala.

Table 16: Problems face by users while accessing E-Content

Perceptions	No. of Response	Response %
Internet speed	100	64.93
Inadequate Resources	34	20.07
Lack of training	20	12.98
No-remote access	1	0.64
Inadequate E-Article	19	12.33
Any other	4	2.59

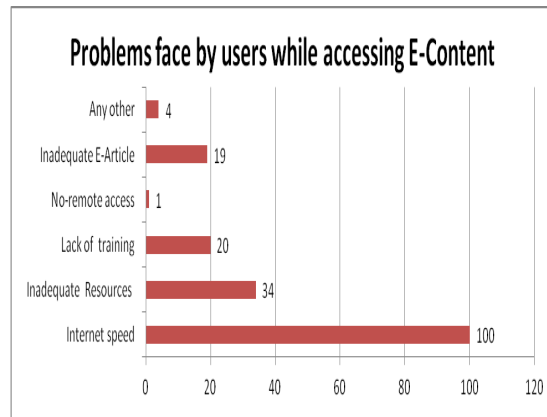


Figure: 16

The above table and figure no.16 reveal that in BBAU 100(64.93%) Students face main problem by internet speeds, 34(20.07%) users face by inadequate resource, 20(12.98%) face problem in the lack of training, 1(0.64%) faced by no-remote access, 19(12.33%) faced by inadequate e-article and 4(2.59%) faced problems from the others reasons.

5. Conclusion

Online line course has provided ample opportunities for the students and distance learners, and for those organizations which are not having adequate faculty for teaching. Online courseware are developed by the eminent faculty members of the various institutions for the lifelong learning. Today, most of the urban students are using computers, laptop and internet at their home for various studies and learning purpose. E-PG Pathshala is the courseware developed by the UGC under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The MHRD has funded the UGC for the development of the electronic content in 77 subjects for the postgraduate studies according to their syllabus or curriculum. The responsibility of the educationist, teachers, faculty members, learners and students actively participate and advertise about the open educational resources



so that these resources may be optimally utilized by the society in the world. Teachers, faculty members and research involved in the creation and contribution of the open educational resources should be promoted and rewarded.

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**About Authors**

**Mr. Sharad Kumar Sonkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and information Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow-226025  
Email:[sksonker@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sksonker@yahoo.co.in)

**Mrs. Prachi Srivastava**, Semiprofessional Assistant, University Library, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda - 151001  
Email:[jiyapony@gmail.com](mailto:jiyapony@gmail.com)