Use and awareness of Open Education Resources among educators, graduate students and research scholar of Saurashtra University.

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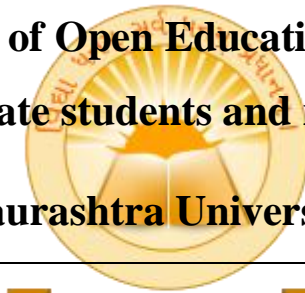
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Abstract:

In the world of information communication and technology every work is possible online in business, industries and education. Even ratio of using online resources is found maximum in students. In this case use of Open education resources are very beneficial for the students and teachers. for the study data have been collected from 500 respondent. Among them 100 are educators, 200 students and 200 research scholar. After analyzing the data it is found that students and research scholars are more aware with the use of OER.

Keywords: Open Education Resources, ICT, online resources, traditional resources.

Introduction:

Today Information communication and technology affects to all the sectors. It affect at every span of our life whether it will be a business, our work place, our communication tools, toys with which our children plays. It affects the overall function of the society.

Open Education resources are essential learning materials with a view to spread learning worldwide. These resources are openly licensed and easy to use. It can be used from mobile, desktop or in print format. The UNESCO Paris Declaration on OER (2012) start with the permission that " Everyone has the right to education" which refers to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international recommendations and agreements.

The current research work is to find our awareness and usage of Open Education resources among graduate students and research scholar of Saurashtra University.

Review of Literature:

Kurelovic, **Elena Krelja(2016)**in the article said that educational resources is essential for any education institute. Nowadays education institution share their resources in digital form via internet and those are freely available. OER is the right way to everyone get free and accessible education. But the implementation of OER has certain limitations and the primary is non English users has difficulties to access the same. It is found that awareness for OER is an important step for the acceptance of the same. (Kurelovic, 2016)

Colvard, Nicholas B, Edward Watson, C and Park, Hyojin(2018) said about the challenges in higher education today related to students, their learning and success. Current research work is found out impact of course level on use of OER by teachers. Result shows that most important change in adopting of OER is it saves money of students and reducesstudent's debt. Adoption of OER also improves grades of the students. (Colvard, 2018)

Stylianos, Hatzipanagos and Jon, Gregson(2015) in the article said about role of open access and open educational resources in distance education. Data were collected from librarians and programme directors regarding current practice. The aim of the paper was to bring awareness about what can be achieved by adopting open access movement in higher education. Another step is to take action to improve use of open access material which also includes open education resources. Paper also examine benefits and disadvantages of OER. (Stylianos, 2015)

Objective of the study:

(1) To identify example of Open Access

(2) To find out users awareness for Open Education Resources

(3) To find out usage of different type of OER

(4) To find out availability of OER on traditional learning material.

(5) To find out advantages and disadvantages of OER

Research method:

For the study random sampling technique has been used. Data have been collected from 500respondent of different colleges. Among them 100 are educators, 200 students and 200 are research scholar. Questionnaire has been used as a data collection tools. Analyzed data has been evaluated to find out impact of OER on academic.
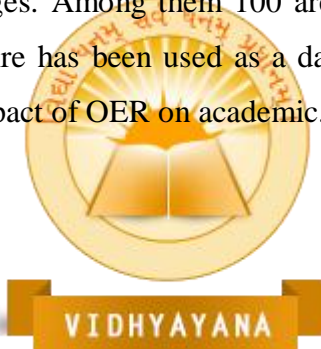
Findings:

Objective : 1   To identify example of Open Access

- Example of Open Access:

Nowadays many libraries build digital repositories for availing their resources openly by the users and researcher. The institute of development study is the institutes that make their open access material accessible through institu=]=repositories. Like DSpace platform. The latest concepts like knowledge hub, learning hub provide access to open education resources. FAO

gives information for agricultural research for development network (CIARD, 2014). It launch the open knowledge hub in 2015.

Content created by educators themselves like presentation slides or content on internet like website, articles, videos etc.

Objective: 2   To find out users awareness for Open Education Resources

The respondent said that they are familiar with the OER and open textbooks. They also aware with the concept of OER. There are certain things to keep into mind while using open access resources and those are issues of copyright and licenses. Among the teachers most of them are using open education resources for preparing their teaching material. The resources commonly used by them are website links, you tube videos and open access articles which they are generally taking from google. A part from teachers, students and research scholars are also using open education resources as a part of their study. It is found that the teenagers are more likely to use the video to solve their educational queries.

Generally common response received from all the participant is it is lowered the cost of learning. OER not only lowered the cost but they also overcome the geographical distance. That users can use this OER from anywhere at any time.

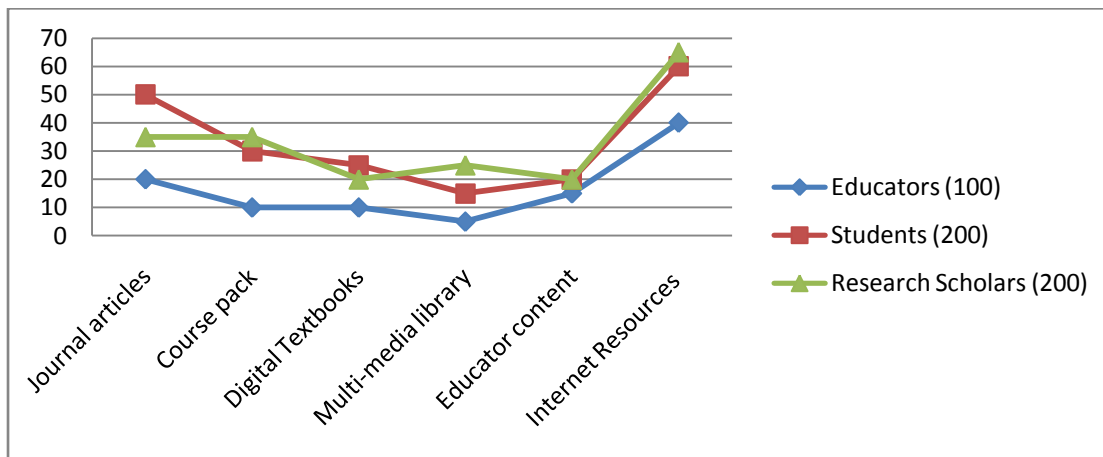**Objective: 3   To find out usage of different type of OER**

Usage of Open Education resources by users

Type of Resources	Educators (100)	Students (200)	Research Scholars (200)
Journal articles	20	50	35
Course pack	10	30	35
Digital Textbooks	10	25	20
Multi-media library	5	15	25
Educator content	15	20	20
Internet Resources	40	60	65

It is found that maximum users which includes educators, students and research scholars use internet sources at open education resources. That is 40, 60 and 65 respectively. The second preference is given to journal respectively by 20 to educators, 50 students and 35 research scholars. 10 educators, 30 students and 35 research scholars uses course pack, 10 educators, 25 students and 20 research scholar uses digital text book. Thus different open education resources are used differently by each category uses.

Objective 4 To find out availability of OER on traditional learning material.

While considering the options available on open education resources on traditional material

We found following Open Education Resources over traditional learning material.
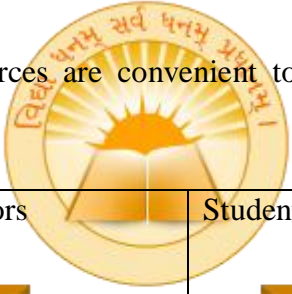
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Traditional learning material	Open Education Resources
Text book	Digit books
Print Journals and magazines	Online data bases, journal articles
College library	Google and other search engine
Tuition classes	Online videos
Class notes	PPT and homework notes updated in institute website

Thus many online open education resources are available over a traditional learning material.

While asking people which resources are convenient to them for study or teaching their response is as under.

	Educators	Students	Research Scholar
Traditional resources	60	50	45
Open Education Resources	40	150	155

It is found from above table that educators are using more traditional resources for teaching. 60 educators said that they are using the traditional resources whereas 40 uses OER for preparing notes to teach their students. While only 50 students are using traditional text book for study, they general used google for their homework, use you tube video to learn their educational related topics and use maximum online open sources software for study. Talking about the research scholar maximum scholar uses online resources for their research purpose. To use google, open access repositories to collect research related information.

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Objective 5 To find out advantages and disadvantages of OER

Use of Open education resources are both advantage and disadvantage. Advantages for different discipline of users are classified.

Advantages of OER for faculty:

- Flexible in curriculum:

Faculties can do modification in OER easily as per their classroom requirement. With the help of it educators adjust their content, pedagogies and an approach according to their learners need. Here teachers can compare their teaching materials with other teachers from anywhere in the world.

OER does not give freedom in selecting course material but it also create opportunities for new resources

Advantages of OER for students

- Low cost: from open education resources students get their required material at free of cost, it reduces their debt.
- According to research work by Feldstein et.al said that students who are learning through OER get more grade and lower failure. Moreover the students also feel that these resources are more useful and knowledgeable then traditional textbook.
- Openness: the open aspect of OER make different usage pattern than other online resource.
- Finance: OER adoption also leads to financial benefits for students and institutions.

Disadvantages of OER:

- Mc. Kerlich et. All. 2013 said that OER are still at the initial adoption stage.
- Adoption of OER is found widely accepted but because of that it require awareness and understanding at all dimensions, increase the use of OER require quality content of the same.
- One of the uncertainty found is the issues related to the copyright and related content
- Access of OER required computer or mobile with high internet facility. At the time of power failure it cannot be worked.

Conclusion:

From the above study it is found that in education system from teachers to students and research scholars, everyone are adopting open education resources at certain level. Study have been conducted for educators, students and research scholar of Saurashtra university. It is found that teachers are more rely upon traditional resources like text book and reference book for teaching and preparing their teaching notes. Whereas students and research scholars are maximum using OER for doing their homework, exam preparation, assignment, exams and research work. It is found necessary to remove some obstacles in using OER and those are non-availability internet facility at campus or power fluctuation. Awareness among the faculties is also necessary so that they can find that the use of OER by their students does not violate copyright.

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**S p e c i a l   I s s u e -   I n t e r n a t i o n a l   O n l i n e   C o n f e r e n c e
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