

## AWARENESS OF E-LEARNING AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS IN SPMVV, TIRUPATI: A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*This article deals with the e-learning awareness among the research scholars of various disciplines of Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV), attending Ph.D., Coursework in 2015-2016. Total 98 questionnaires were received back out of 120. Major findings are: out of 98 respondents 84 (85.71%) have access to networked computer, 50 (51.02%) respondents use network computer at home, 86 (87.75%) respondents are aware of Internet, 74 (75.51%) respondents have knowledge of password, 72 (73.46%) are aware of chatting, while only 18 (18.36%) and 20 (22.44%) respondents have knowledge about drag and help screens, 78 (79.59%) respondents are using e-mail for their studies, 72 (73.46%) respondents are aware of download / upload, only 10 (10.20%) and 22 (22.44%) respondents are aware of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues and plagiarism respectively, 70 (71.42%) and 52 (53.06%) respondents are familiar with programmes of NCERT and NCTE respectively. Major recommendations are: e-learning should be the part of coursework conducted by the universities, teachers' active participation is needed in promotion of e-learning and motivation to research scholars, indigenous e-learning resources should be created for the benefit of the research scholars. Topics such as: scholarship, research ethics, plagiarism, IPR Issues, e-learning projects, etc., should be the part of Ph.D., coursework syllabi of universities.*

**Keywords:** e-learning, Awareness, Research Scholars, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

E-learning is also known as computer-based training, internet-based training, web-based training, web-based instruction, computer supported collaborative learning, online learning and

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) provides a wide spectrum to have alternatives platforms to facilitate a user or group to learn in an effective and efficient way. In the learning society, e-learning is getting more and more importance due to various benefits associated with it. Various efforts have

advanced distributed learning. E-learning enables a person to understand in a way, which provides a platform to learn and remember more than traditional learning.

been made to promote e-learning contents by the government agencies, NGOs and Institutions. In the present article an attempt has been to find out the level of e-learning awareness among the research scholars of various disciplines of SPMVV, Tirupati (AP), India.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The locale of the study is the research scholars, conducting research at SPMVV, Tirupati (AP), India. Present study aims to study and analyse the following:

- To know the level of awareness regarding e-tools and sources among the research scholars conducting research at SPMVV, Tirupati (AP)

- To know about the knowledge regarding the basic applications needed in an e-environment
- To know what type of e-resources are consulted by the research scholars for their research work
- To know familiarity regarding the institutions/projects, which are engaged in popularizing e-learning or e-contents URL in India.

**3. METHODOLOGY**

The present study aims to record and analyse the level of awareness among research scholars in various disciplines regarding the concept of e-learning and emerging concepts of ICTs. Survey research method was applied for this study and purposive sampling method was used for this survey. A research scholar was the unit of observation for this study. Data

have been collected from these selected respondents through structured questionnaire. 120 questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars of SPMVV, Tirupati (AP), and 98 research scholars responded and their responses have been analysed in data analysis. The survey of the research scholars is conducted in the month of March 2016.

**4. ANALYSIS**

The results and their analysis are given in following tables:

**4.1 ACCESS TO NETWORKED COMPUTER**

Table 1 indicates that out of 98 respondents 84 (85.71%) have access to networked computer. It shows the widespread access to machines and

diffusion of technology in their learning process. Only 14 (14.28%) do not have access to networked computer.

**Table 1. Access to networked computer**

Sl. No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Yes	84	85.71
2	No	14	14.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.2 PLACE OF USING NETWORKED COMPUTER**

The analysis of data stated in Table 2 shows that 50 (51.02%) respondents use network computer at home while 46 (46.93%) go to use network computer at café. 20 (20.40%) respondents and 10

(10.20%) respondents use network computer at departments and libraries respectively. The analysis of data shows that students prefer home and café to have access to networked computer.

**Table 2. Place of using networked computer**

Sl. No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Home	50	51.02
2	Café	46	46.93
3	Departments	20	20.40
4	Libraries	10	10.20

**4.3 TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS**

The analysis of data stated in Table 3 shows that out of 98 respondents, 86 (87.75%) respondents are aware of internet. 12 (12.24%) and 10 (10.20%)

respondents are aware of intranet and groupware respectively. Only 4 (4.08%) respondents are aware of extranet.

**Table 3. Awareness of Technologies**

Sl. No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Internet	86	87.75
2	Intranet	12	12.24
3	Groupware	10	10.20
4	Extranet	4	4.08

#### 4.4 KNOWLEDGE OF TOOLS / SERVICES

Collected data as tabulated in the Table 4 indicate that out of 98 respondents 74 (75.51%) respondents have knowledge of password, 72 (73.46%) respondents are aware of chatting, 64 (65.30%) and 62 (63.26%) respondents are aware of Windows and Menu. 60 (61.22%) respondents have knowledge of User name and Video Conferencing whereas 46

(46.93%) respondents have knowledge of Icon, Webcams and Logon/Logoff. 24 (24.48%) respondents have knowledge of Blogging and 20 (20.40%) respondents have knowledge about help screens. Only 18 (18.36%) respondents have knowledge of dragging. Analysis of data shows that most of the students have knowledge about tools and services.

**Table 4. Knowledge of Tools / Services**

Sl. No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Password	74	75.51
2	Chatting	72	73.46
3	Windows	64	65.30
4	Menu	62	63.26
5	Username	60	61.22
6	Video Conferencing	60	61.22
7	Icon	46	46.93
8	Webcams	46	46.93
9	Logon / Log off	46	46.93
10	Blogging	24	24.48
11	Help Screens	20	20.40
12	Drag	18	18.36

#### 4.5 USE OF E-RESOURCES FOR STUDIES

Table 5 reveals that out of 98 students 78 (79.59%) respondents are using e-mail for their studies. It indicates that research scholars are using e-mail services for their studies as a medium for sharing the views or getting information. 64 (65.30%) respondents are consulting YouTube, 56 (57.14%) respondents are using chats, mobile texting and mobile video sharing. 50 (51.02%) respondents are using wikis and 46 (46.93%)

respondents are using Messenger. 28 (28.57%) respondents have taken benefit of blogs and digital video conferencing and 8 (8.16%) respondents are using virtual learning systems for their studies. Analysis of data shows that research scholars are aware of the e-resources/tools but they are not consulting or taking benefit of all resources equally. Plenty of reading materials on all subjects are available on internet from various sources.

**Table 5. Consultation/use of e-resources / tools for studies**

Sl. No.	Item	Total	Percentage
1	E-mail	78	79.59
2	You Tube	64	65.30
3	Chats	56	57.14
4	Mobile texting	56	57.14
5	Mobile Video sharing	56	57.14
6	Wikis	50	51.02
7	Messenger	46	46.93
8	Blogs	28	28.57
9	Digital Video Conferencing	28	28.57
10	Virtual learning Systems	8	8.16

#### 4.6 AWARENESS OF APPLICATIONS

The data in the Table 6 shows that out of 98 respondents 72 (73.46%) respondents are aware of download/upload, 50 (51.02%) respondents have knowledge of logging and 42 (42.85%) respondents have knowledge of Installation procedure. 38 (38.77%) respondents are aware of basic

applications and 36 (36.73%) respondents are aware of Referencing for their study. Only 22 (22.44%) and 10 (10.20%) respondents are aware of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues and plagiarism respectively. IPR and plagiarism issues are concerned with the research activities.

**Table 6. Awareness of Applications**

Sl.No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Download/upload	72	73.46
2	Logging	50	51.02
3	Installing	42	42.85
4	Basic Applications	38	38.77
5	Referencing	36	36.73
6	Navigation	24	24.48
7	Plagiarism	22	22.44
8	IPR Issues	10	10.20

#### 4.7 FAMILIARITY ABOUT POPULAR PROGRAMMES

The analysis of data in Table 7 reveals the fact that 70 (71.42%) and 42 (42.85%) respondents are familiar with programmes of NCERT and NCTE respectively. These are the popular programs among the research scholars. 36 (36.73%) research scholars are aware of each UGC Infonet and ISRO – EDUSAT. 18 (18.36%) respondents are aware of

INFLIBNET Digital Library. Only 14 (14.28%) and 12 (12.24%) respondents are talked to teachers and spoken tutorial respectively. Data indicate that Ph.D. research scholars are aware of multiple benefits of e-learning, but not exploiting these resources equally due to various reasons.

**Table 7. Familiarity about Popular Programmes**

Sl.No	Items	Total	Percentage
1	Programs of NCERT	70	71.42
2	NCTE	42	42.85
3	UGC-INFONET	36	36.73
4	ISRO:EDUSAT	36	36.73
5	Digital Library INFLIBNET	18	18.36
6	Talk to Teacher	14	14.28
7	Spoken Tutorial	12	12.24

## 5. FINDINGS & CONCLUSION

- Out of 98 respondents 84 (85.71%) have access to networked computer.
- Only 14 (14.28%) do not have access to networked computer.
- 50 (51.02%) respondents use network computer at home while 46 (46.93%) are going to use network computer at cafe.
- 20 (20.40%) and 10 (10.20%) respondents use network computer at departments and libraries.
- 86 (87.75%) respondents are aware of Internet and only 4 (4.08%) respondent is aware of Extranet.
- 74 (75.51%) respondents have knowledge of password, 72 (73.46%) are aware of each of chatting and password, 64 (65.30%) and 62 (63.26%) research scholars are aware of Windows and Menu respectively.
- 18 (18.36%) and 29 (20.40%) respondents have knowledge about drag and help screens respectively.
- 78 (79.59%) respondents are using e-mail for their studies, 64 (65.30%) respondents are consulting YouTube and 56 (57.14%) respondents are using chats, mobile texting and mobile video sharing.
- While 8 (8.16%) respondents are using Virtual learning systems for their studies.
- 72 (73.46%) respondents are aware of download/upload, 50 (51.02%) respondents have knowledge of Logging and 38 (38.77%) respondents are aware of basic applications.
- Only 10 (10.20%) and 22 (22.44%) respondents are aware of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues and plagiarism respectively.
- 70 (71.42%) and 52 (53.06%) respondents are familiar with programmes of NCERT and 42 (42.85%) are familiar with the NCTE and 36 (36.73%) research scholars are aware of UGC INFONET and ISRO-EDUSAT.

## 6. SUGGESTIONS

E-learning should be the part of Ph.D. course work conducted by the universities. E-learning can boost the use of online and electronic sources. Research scholars would benefit if they are aware of

Now library and other agencies are acquiring e-learning resources to help the

various online and electronic sources. E-learning will be more useful in writing review of literature and understanding of various complex phenomena.

research scholars in selection of problem and writing the review of literature.

Research scholars must be motivated to become e-learner. This will help a lot to overcome various problems faced by

Data indicate that research scholars are aware of multiple benefits of e-learning. It is a good sign for creating e-learning environment in academic

Indeed various efforts have been made in India for popularizing e-learning among the research scholars. Familiarity with the efforts made by the institutions in popularizing e-learning in India among

- E-learning projects
- Scholarship
- Research ethics

Research scholars must be aware of these issues. Universities must pay attention to incorporate above mentioned

research scholars. Teachers or supervisors can play a vital role in this regard.

institutions. Various e-learning content URL are available, research scholars are not fully exploiting these resources due to various reasons.

scholars is less due to various reasons. In the syllabus of course work universities, following topics should be added to enhance and update the skill and knowledge of the research scholars:

- Plagiarism
- IPR Issue
- Information literacy etc.

topics in the syllabus of Ph.D. coursework, so research scholars can be benefitted.

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