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An Analytical Study of Awareness and Perception of Faculty Members and Research Scholars towards National ETD Repository of India

Dinesh K Gupta, Professor, Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Sc., Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, INDIA | dkg.kuk@gmail.com



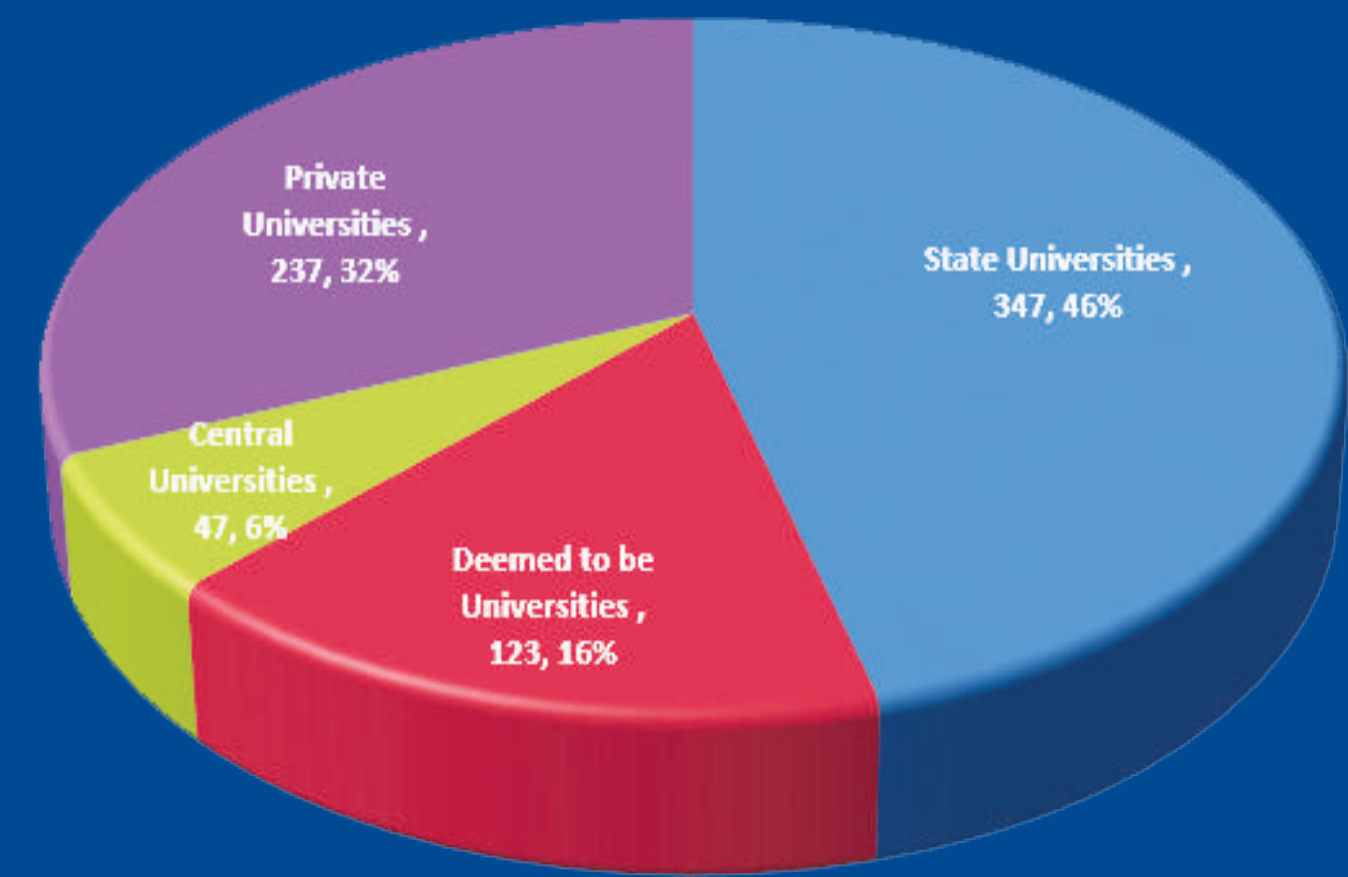
Abstract: ETD Repositories help in disseminating the latest research information to a wider range of Researchers, avoiding the duplication of researches as also checking the use of increasing plagiarism in research work. In order to improve the ETD system in India, INFLIBNET (INformation and LIBrary NETwork) has established 'Shodhgangotri' Research-in-Progress and 'Shodhganga' National ETD repository and made it compulsory for all the Indian Universities to submit a softcopy Synopsis of Research programme of Ph. D. and of all the Ph.D. theses by signing MOU with INFLIBNET. However, the success of the ETDs repository solely depends upon the commitment of the universities and active participation of Library Professionals, Faculty and Research Scholars in implementation of the UGC directions on the subject. By now while a large no. of universities have signed the MOU with INFLIBNET, the others are in the process of signing the same. The major objective of the present study is to investigate the attitudes and perception of the Faculty Members and Researchers towards their role and responsibility in the contribution to the national ETDs Repository and to highlight the obstacles encountered by the Faculty and Researchers in adoption of the National ETD Repository and give suggestions to expedite promotion of submission and usage of National ETD Repository.

Keywords: ETDs, Universities, ETD initiatives, Shodhganga, Theses

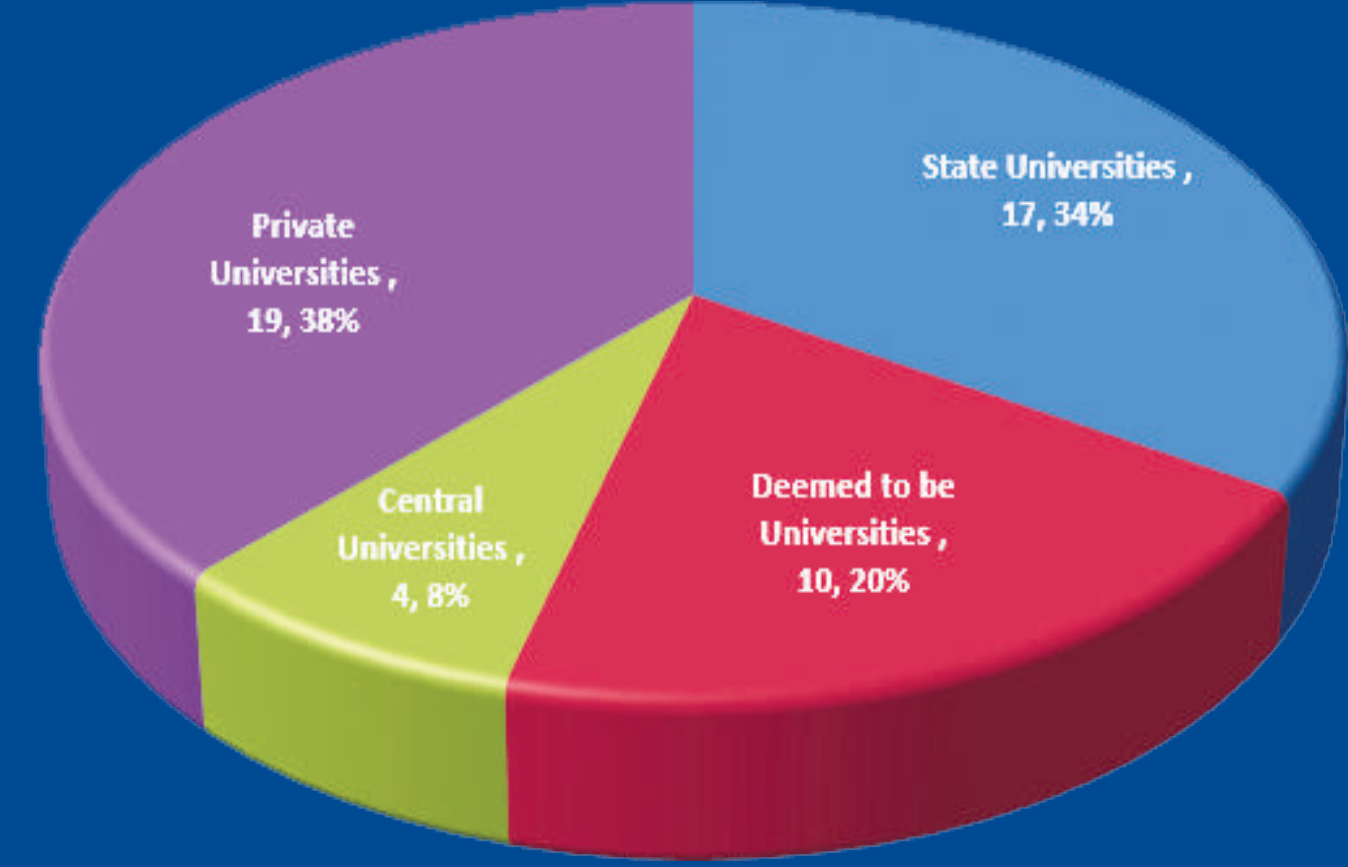
Introduction

Higher Education in India

► No. & Types of Universities in India: 754



► No. & Types of Universities in Haryana State: 50



INFLIBNET



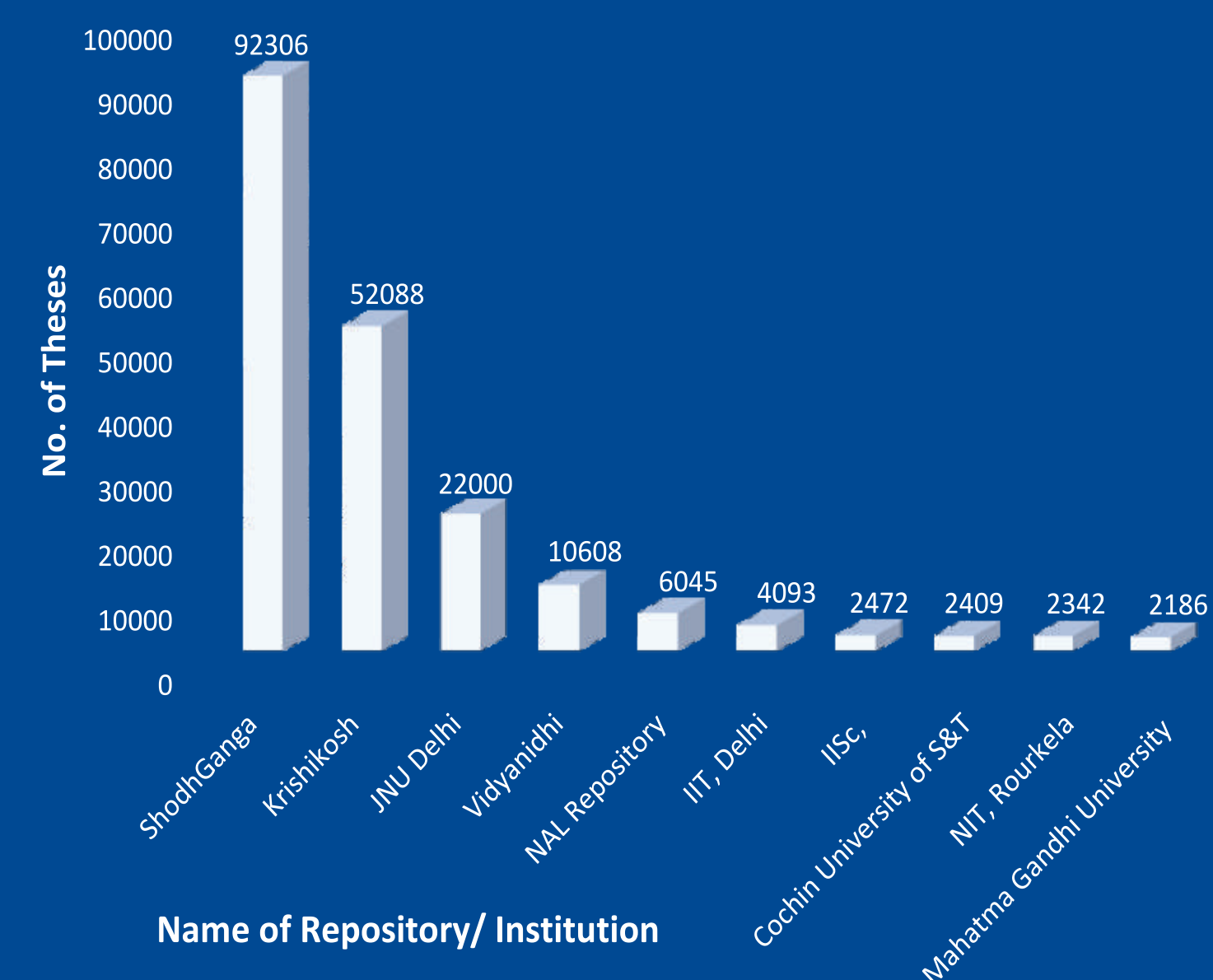
Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connecting them as well as information centres in the country through a nation-wide high speed data network using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilisation of information. It is responsible for creating & maintaining Shodhganga: National ETD Repository

Activities

| | |
|---|--|
| Gathshala A Gateway to all Post Graduate Courses | Acharya Integrated e-Content Portal A Gateway to All Learners |
| VIDWAN Expert Database & National Researcher's Network | INFOPORT INFLIBNET Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources |
| indCat Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities | SOUL 2.0 State-of-the-art Integrated Library Management Software |
| N-LIST National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content | OAS Open Journal Access System |
| Shodhganga National ETD Repository | Shodhgangotri Research in Progress |
| Shodhganga a reservoir of Indian theses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU with INFLIBNET mandatory for Universities: 275 as on 31.5.2016 92306 Theses CFTRI like IITs, IIMs, NITs etc. joining Shodhganga soon |

ETDs Repositories in India

► As per DOJAR there are 36 ETD Repositories in India. 10 Major ETD Repositories



Objectives

1. The primary objective of the study was to gain an initial understanding of the awareness and use of ETDs among Faculty and Research Scholars.
2. To examine the attitude of the Faculty Members and Research Scholars towards embargo of ETDs.
3. To identify and analyse the specific factors that promote or hinder the use of ETDs.
4. To suggest measures for improving the ETD repository promotion and usage.

Related Works

The literature survey showed largely studies report the availability of ETDs, Creation of ETDs etc. in various countries, however, only a few studies were found regarding the survey on awareness and usage of ETDs.

Methodology

Questionnaire based Survey Method is used to achieve the objectives of the study. A well-structured Questionnaire was designed and was pre-tested before using it for the survey. Questionnaires were distributed personally to the respondents.

Scope

The study was limited to Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, INDIA.

Sample Size

| Respondents | Distributed | Response (%) | Usable (%) |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Faculty Members | 100 | 72 (72) | 53 (53) |
| Research Scholars | 200 | 165 (82.5) | 114 (57) |
| Total | 300 | 237 (79) | 167 (56) |

Survey

Figure 1: Awareness about Concept of ETDs

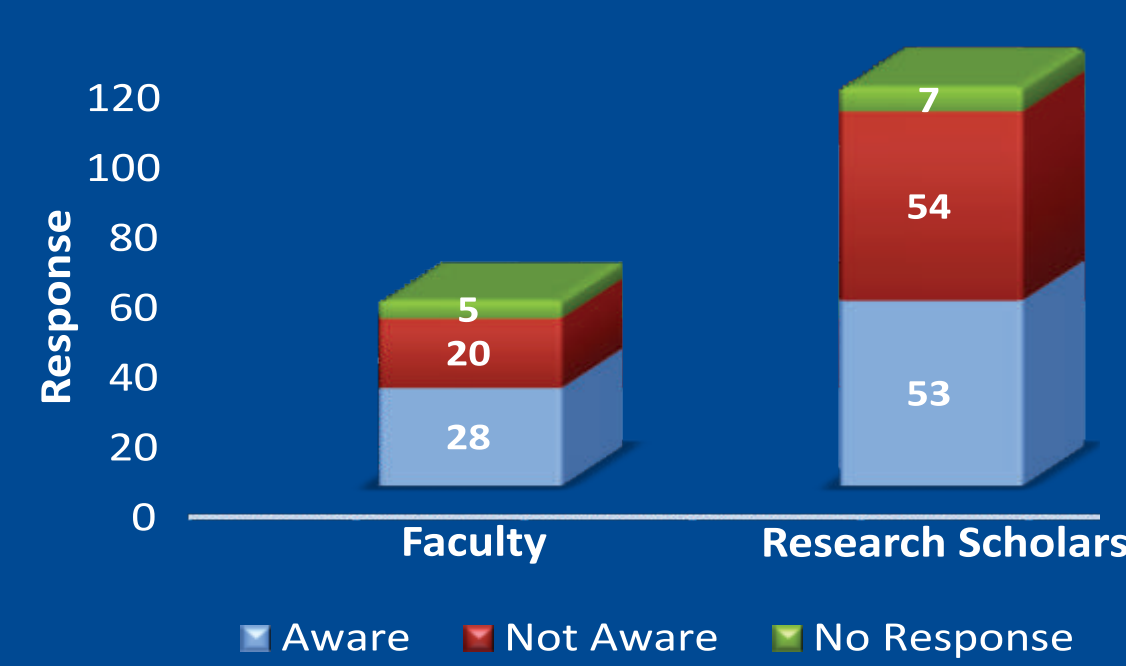


Figure 2: Support Online Access of Ph. D. Theses

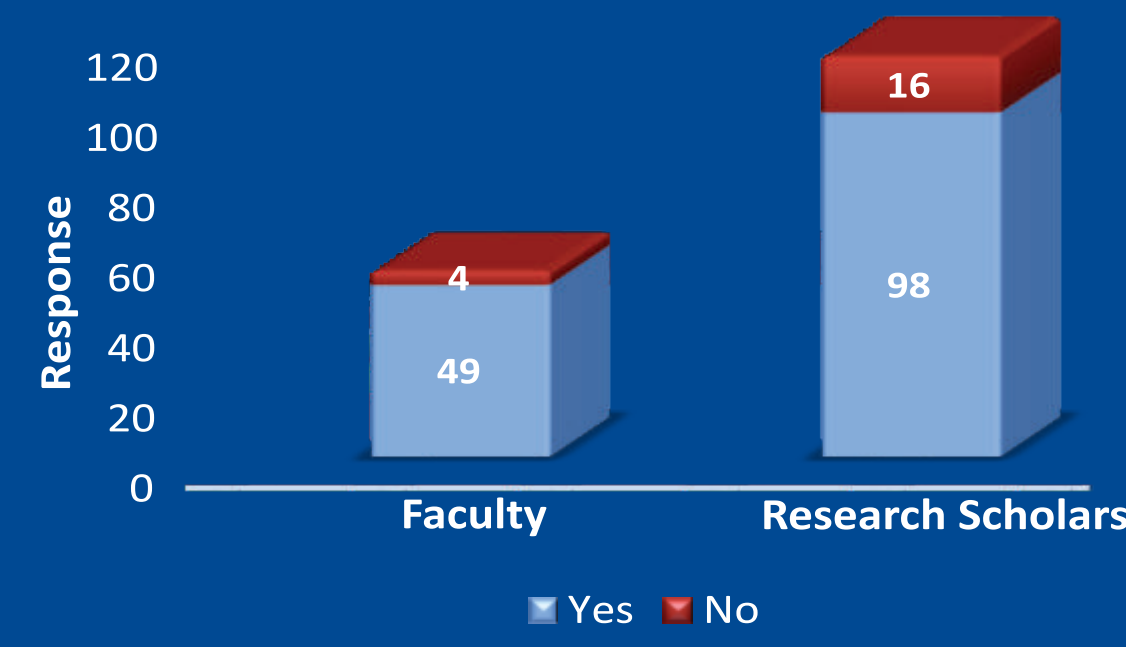


Figure 3: Extent of ETD Accessibility Support

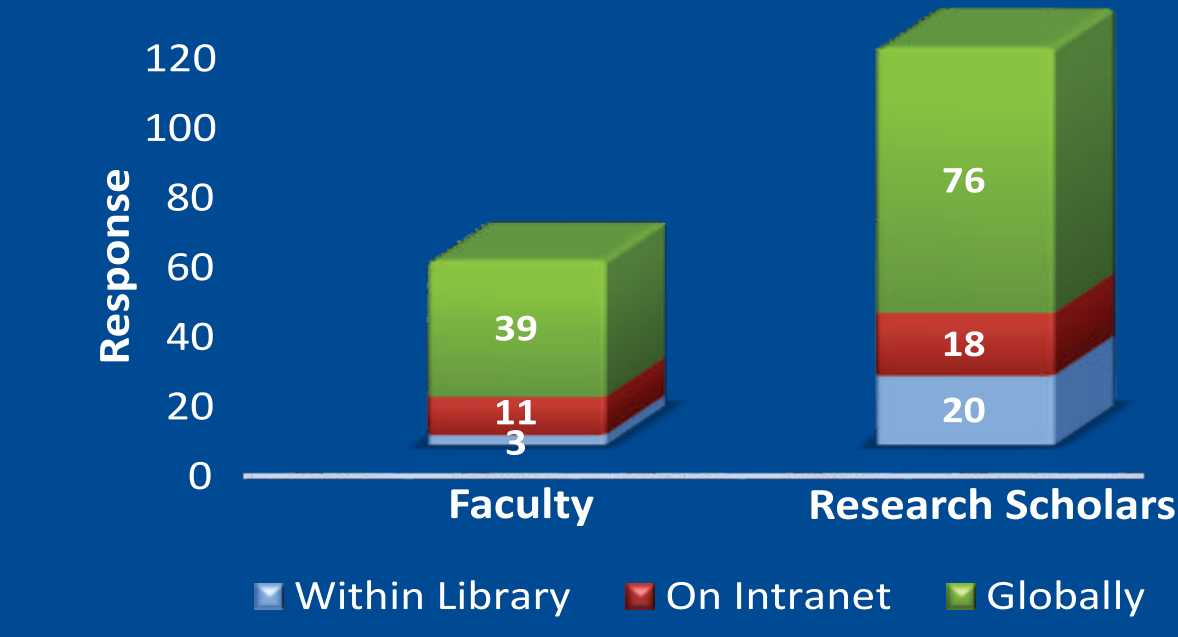


Figure 4: ETD submission by University Mandatory or not

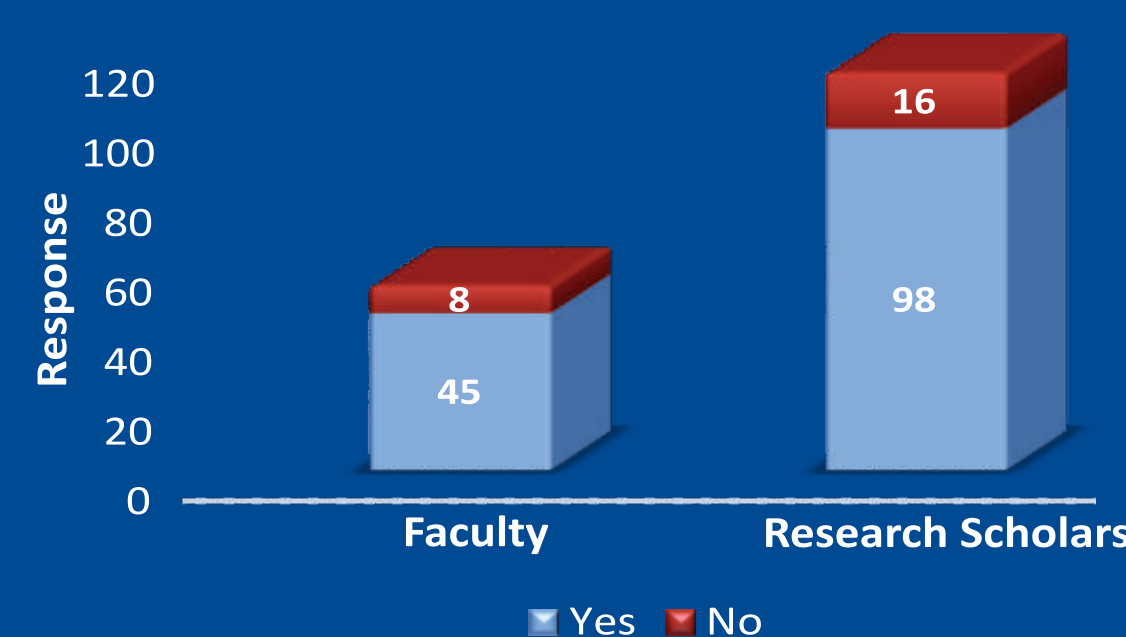


Figure 5: Awareness about National Guidelines for ETD submission

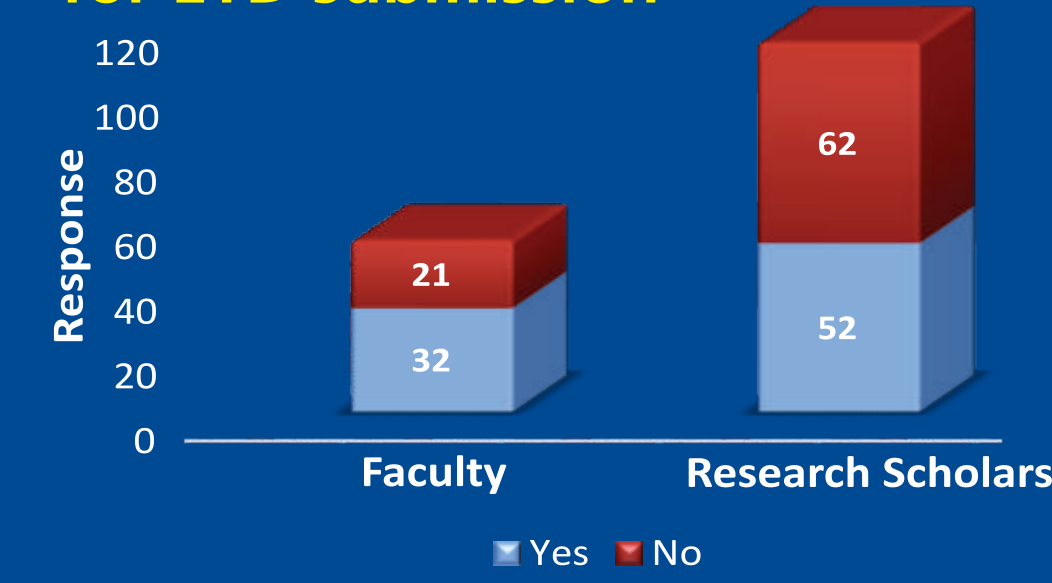


Figure 6: University Evolved any Copyright Policy for ETD Submission

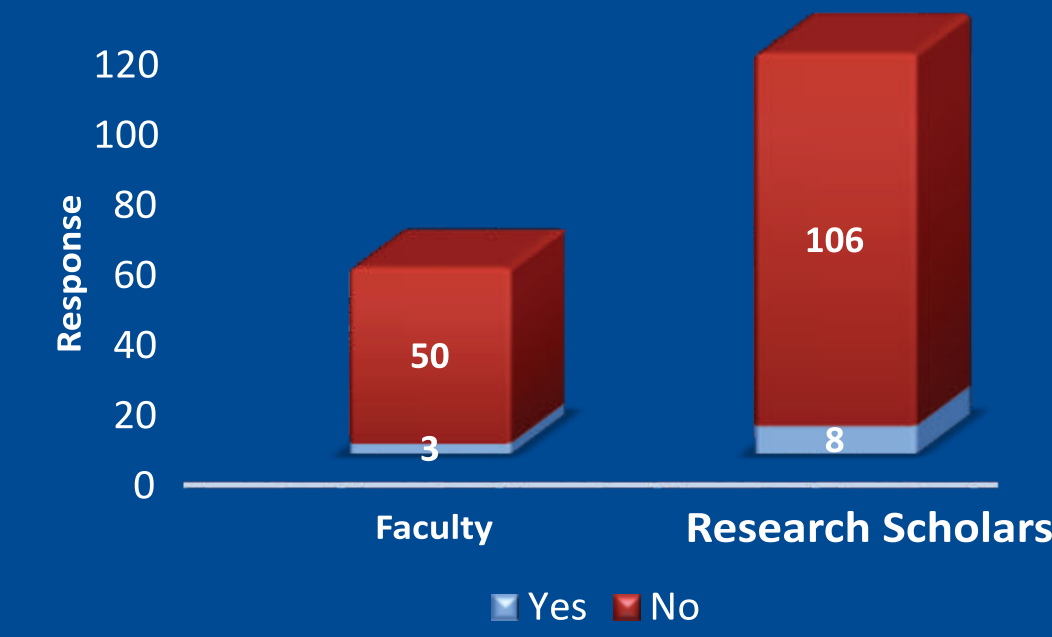


Figure 7: Library Set up ETD Repository to Facilitate E-submission

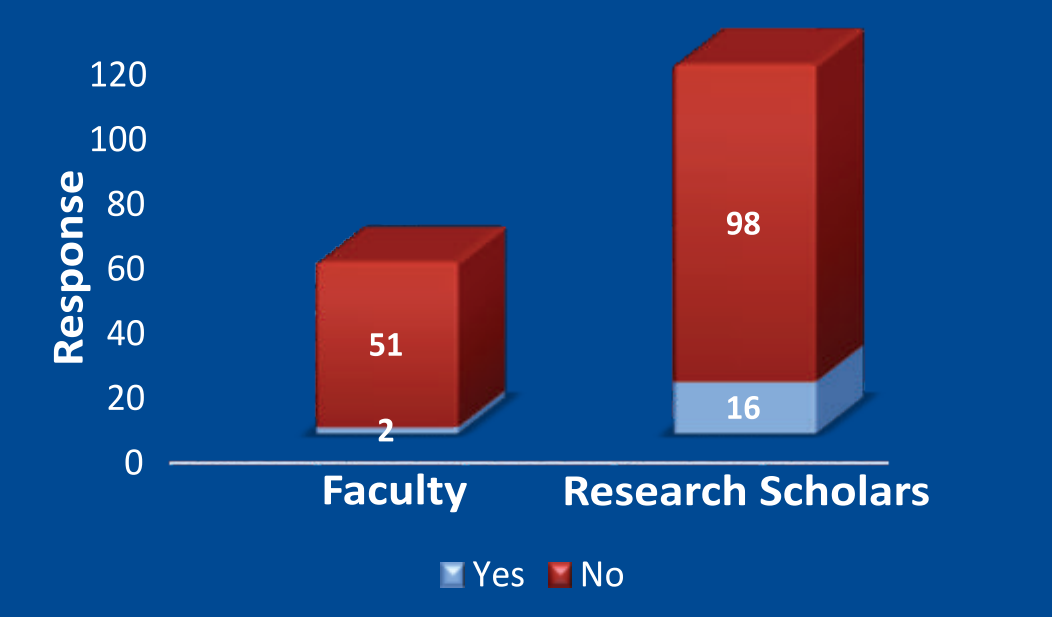


Figure 8: Library uploaded ETD submission Guidelines/ Templates on University Website

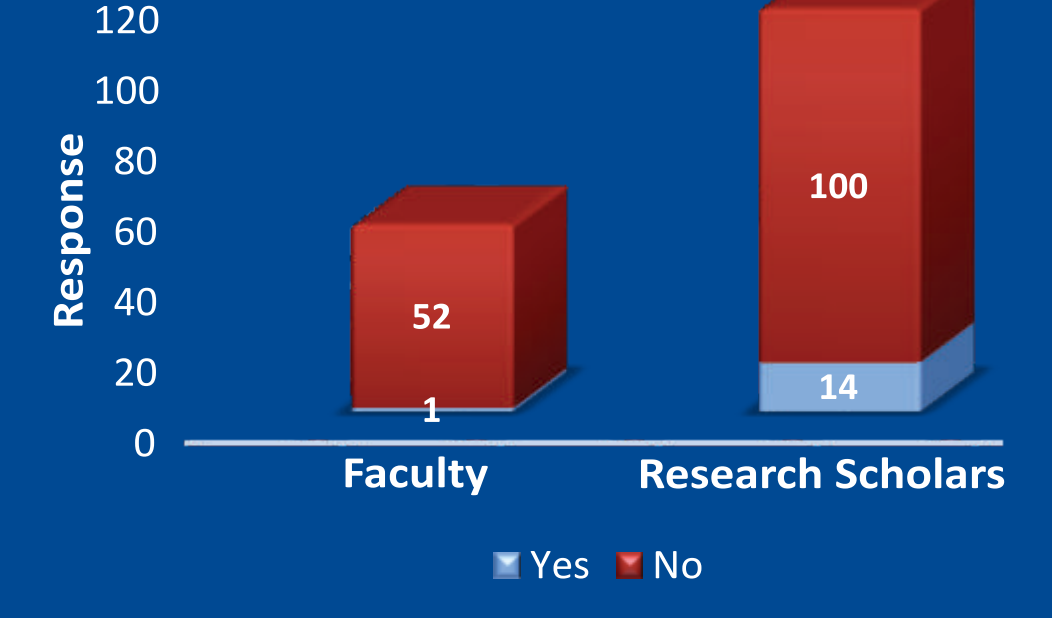


Figure 9: Awareness about INFLIBNET

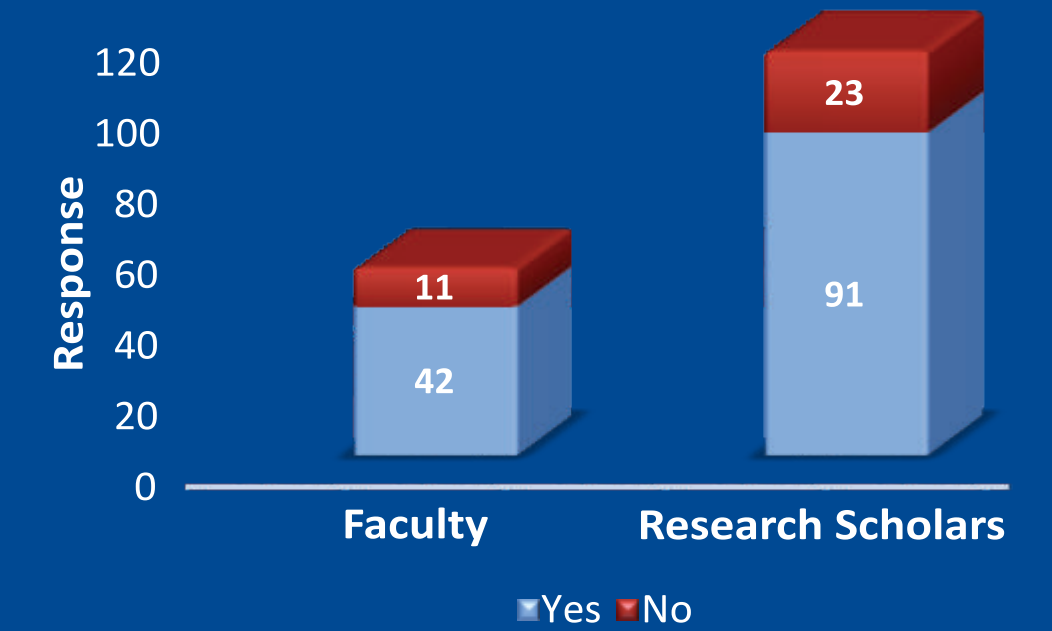


Figure 10: Awareness about SHODHGANGA, National ETD Repository

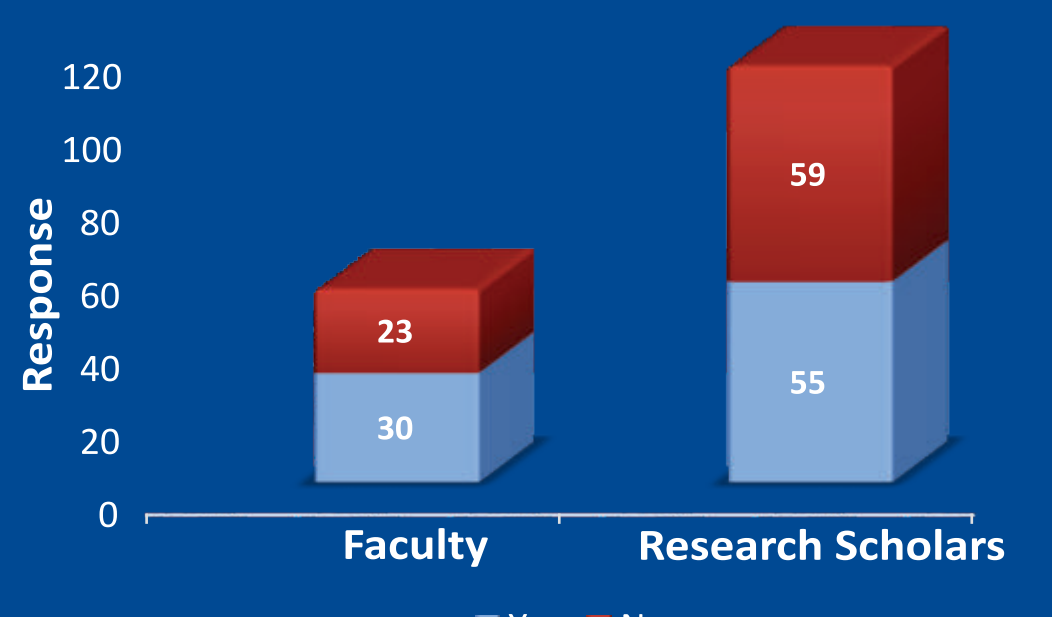
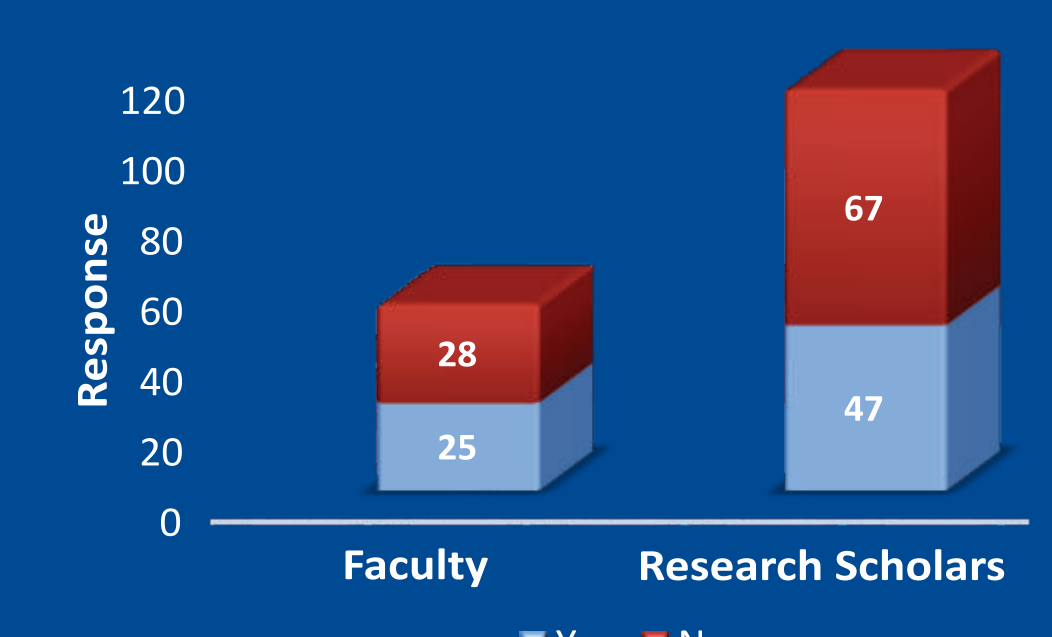


Figure 11: Awareness about SHODHGANGOTRI



Findings

- Faculty Members and most of the Research Scholars are aware of ETDs and most of the respondents in both the categories favour the Online and Global access of ETDs.
- ETD submission is mandatory in the University, however, a large number of respondents are not aware of the UGC Guidelines for ETD submission.
- The University has not as yet evolved any Copyright Policy for ETD submission and Plagiarism check before Ph. D. Theses submission.
- The library has neither any facilities of ETD creation/ submission nor uploaded any Guidelines in this regard on university portal.

- The University is in the process of signing MOU with INFLIBNET for uploading the ETDs on 'Shodhganga' in keeping with the UGC Regulations of 2009 for the award of Ph. D. Degree.
- Most of the Respondents both among Faculty and Research Scholars have not been making use of the services of INFLIBNET, Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri.

Conclusion

Results show that even though most of the respondents are aware of ETDs, yet they are not availing ETDs to their fullest potential in the absence of proper ETD creation facilities and guidance in the library. The reason found from the study is the deficiency of professional staff in the university library and indecision of the administration on signing of the MOU with INFLIBNET, lack of facilities for Plagiarism Checking, uploading/sending ETDs to Shodhganga, etc.

Suggestions

- UGC should ensure the strict compliance of the UGC Regulations of 2009 for the award of Ph.D. degree which also provides for uploading of Synopsis and Theses on the 'Shodhgangotri' and 'Shodhganga' respectively.
- UGC has made it compulsory for the universities to sign the MOU with INFLIBNET and uploading of the Ph. D. theses on 'Shodhganga', yet it should ensure that universities do it in a time-bound manner and those which don't sign the MOU, should not be provided any development grant by UGC.
- The Universities should religiously implement the ETD policy keeping with the directions of the UGC.
- The degrees of such research scholars whose Ph. D. synopsis and Theses are not uploaded on Repositories of INFLIBNET should not be recognised by the UGC.
- Still many universities are awarding Ph. D. degrees without plagiarism checking, Plagiarism check of the research work for Ph. D. should be made mandatory as a precondition for submission of Ph. D. Theses.
- User Awareness/ Training programmes for the Faculty and Research Scholars should be organised to popularise the concepts of ETDs, ETD Repositories, Copyright and Plagiarism check, uploading of Synopsis and Theses of Research Work.
- Proper provision for helping researchers creating ETDs should be made in the libraries.

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