Mapping of Electronic Theses of Shodhganga Repository Submitted by the New State Universities of West Bengal: An evaluative study

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A sea change has been noticed in the field of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) that also impacted the scholarly research in the higher education sector. The new ideas, knowledge created by the research have the major impacts directly or indirectly for the overall development of the civil society at large. The new research and dissertations are now available to the public domain due to Open Access Movement in recent pasts. The Shodhganga Project for digital archiving of electronic theses by the INFLIBNET (Information & Library Network) Centre, is a step - ahead direction where Indian universities contribute their theses to upload to this Online Repository for smooth access by the common people throughout the world. This paper is an attempt to make an evaluative study of the contributions by the newly created (after the year 2000) State aided universities of the state West Bengal.

Keywords :-*Shodhganga, Institutional Repository, Open Access, Theses*

1   INTRODUCTION

Due to revolutionary evolution of the Information & Communication Technology (ICT), knowledge is freely accessible by the information seekers from the any part of the globe. It is now possible for the massive development of the Open Access movement throughout the world. The concept of Open Access was came into light by the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) in December 2001. Since then, it has been widely accepted across the whole world.

The concept of Institutional Repository (IR) came into existence with the

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development of Open Access. The terminology IR was coined by SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and was emerged in the year 2002 with the launch of DSpace Software. Simply an Institutional Repository can be defined as a university based institutional repository which is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials including long-term preservation where appropriate as well as organization and access or distribution. The contents of IR include both published and unpublished materials such as journals, articles, books, book chapters, patents, learning objects, reports, conference papers, special materials, preprints, working papers, theses, course materials, video recordings etc.

Progress of Electronic Theses & Dissertations in India

The first ETD was developed in India by the University of Mysore as a project named Vidyanidhi which was an effort for creating, maintaining and providing the network access to the Indian theses. With this the open access of the Indian theses had started widely.

The Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR) possess the information of all the repositories of the world registered under them. In India, since 2009, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has made mandatory for all the researchers to submit both the print as well as the electronic form of their theses and dissertations in their respective universities so as to make it available for a large number of academic communities. Thereafter, the two projects namely Shodhganga (Repository of submitted theses) and Shodhgongotri(Repository of Ongoing Theses) came into existence were initiated by the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad.

Shodhganga The UGC has given the responsibility to the INFLIBNET for hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations " Shodhganga" accessible to all the institutions and universities in India. The software used for Shodhganga is DSpace which helps to preserve the theses digitally.

2   OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

1. find out the total number of theses submitted to Shodhganga by the newly created (after 2000) State aided universities of West Bengal;
2. rank the newly created state universities of West Bengal on the basis of their contributions to Shodhganga; and
3. find out the leading departments along with the rank of the respective newly created state universities of West Bengal on the basis of their contributions to Shodhganga.

3   METHODOLOGY, SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The data have been collected through observation method from the Shodhganga repository. A survey was conducted from 20.03.2021 to 04.04.2021 for mapping the contribution of these in Shodhganga by the newly created state aided universities of West Bengal. Here it is mentioned that a good number of state aided universities are established so far. For the convenience of the study, the universities which were established after the year 2000 have been included in the study.

The newly created State aided Universities of West Bengal

A network of the state aided universities were established in the state West Bengal a few years ago. This particular study is confined to those universities which were established after the year 2000 onwards. But it is very interesting to note that more than 20 universities were established in the recent past. But among these only seven state aided universities of the state West Bengal contributed the theses and dissertations to the Shodhganga repository so far. These universities are Bankura University; Gourbanga University; KaziNazrul University; Raiganj University; SidhoKanhoBirsha University; Presidency University & Sanskrit College & University.

4   DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1 : Contribution by the newly created State aided universities of West Bengal

Sl. No	Newly created State Aided Universities	Total Number Of Contributions	Rank
1	Bankura University, Bankura	01	7th
2	Gourbanga University, Malda	12	5th
3	KaziNazrul University, Asansol	02	6th
4	Raiganj University, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur	41	2nd
5	SidhoKanhoBirsha University, Purulia	42	1st
6	Presidency University, Kolkata	20	3rd
7	Sanskrit College & University, Kolkata	17	4th
Total		135	

From the Table 1, it is found that the highest number theses (42) are contributed by the SidhoKanhoBirsha University followed by the Raiganj University (41). The other notable contributions by the Presidency University; Sanskrit College & University and Gourbanga University are 20, 17 and 12 respectively whereas the KaziNazrul University only started to contribute. Their contributions are 02 and 01 in number respectively.

Table 2: Department wise contributions to Shodhganga by the State aided Universities

I   SidhoKanhoBirsha University, Purulia

Sl. No	Departments	Contributions	Rank
1	Bengali	14	1st
2	Commerce	01	
3	Education	03	
4	Chemistry	03	2nd
5	Economics	05	
6	English	03	
7	Geography	02	
8	History	01	
9	Mathematics	01	
10	Philosophy	01	3rd
11	Physics	04	
12	Sanskrit	03	
13	Zoology	01	
Total		42	

There are total 13 departments of SidhoKanhoBirsha University, Purulia that contributed to Shodhganga among which Department of Bengali contributed the highest number (14) of contributions followed by Department of Economics (05); Department of Physics (04). All the departments such as Education, Chemistry, English& Sanskrit contributed the equal number (03) of contributions to the Shodhganga Repository so far followed by the Department of Geography (02). The rest departments contributed only 01 in number of each. These are Department of Commerce; History; Mathematics; Philosophy & Zoology.

II Raiganj University, Uttar Dinajpur

Sl. No	Department	Contribution	Rank
01	Bengali	06	2nd
02	Computer & Inf. Sc.	01	
03	Economics	03	
04	English	02	
05	Geography	08	1st
06	History	03	
07	Mathematics	03	
08	Philosophy	04	
09	Physics	01	
10	Political Science	05	3rd
11	Sanskrit	03	
12	Sericulture	01	
13	Zoology	01	
Total		41	

From this Table, it is clear that different departments (13) contributed different number of theses to the Shodhganga repository by the Raiganj University. It is observed that, the Department of Geography contributed the highest number (08) of theses to the Shodhganga followed by the Department of Bengali (06) and the Department of Political Science (05) and the Department of Philosophy (04) respectively. The four departments such as Economics, History, Mathematics & Sanskrit contributed 03 in number of each followed by the Department of English (02). The rest of the departments such as Computer & Information Science, Physics, Sericulture, Zoology contributed equal number of theses of each (01) to the database of the Shodhganga repository.

III Presidency University, Kolkata

Sl No	Departments	Contributions	Rank
01	Bengali	05	2nd
02	Chemistry	02	
03	Geology	03	3rd
04	Life Science	07	1st
05	Physics	03	3rd
Total		20	

There are only five (05) departments among which the Department of Life Science contributed the maximum number of theses (07), followed by the Department of Bengali (05). Both the departments such as Geology & Physics contributed the equal number (03) theses and ranked 3rd followed by the Department of Chemistry (02).

IV The Sanskrit College & University, Kolkata

The department of Sanskrit of the Sanskrit College & University contributed the total 17 in number theses to the Shodhganga repository so far.

V Gourbanga University, Malda

Sl. No	Departments	Contributions	Rank
01	Botany	01	3rd
02	Education	04	1st
03	English	01	3rd
04	Geography	04	1st
05	Mathematics	02	2nd
Total		12	

The total five (05) departments contributed the different number of theses to the Shodhganga repository. Both the departments such as Education and Geography contributed the same number of theses (04) to the Shodhganga followed by the Department of Botany & English contributed only 01 of each to the Shodhganga online Repository.

The two other universities namely KaziNazrul University and Bankura University have the very less number of contributions such as 02 & 01 respectively. These contributions are made by the Department of English by both the universities.

5   FINDINGS

1. There are total seven (7) state funded newly created (after the year 2000) universities in the state West Bengal that made contributions to the Shodhganga repository.

2. Among the seven universities the Sidho Kanho Birsha University stood first whereas the Raiganj University occupied the 2nd position followed by the Presidency University, the Sanskrit College & university & Gourbanga University. Both KaziNazrul University as well as Bankura University started to contribute.

3. Both the Sidho Kanho Birsha University & Raiganj University have the total 13 departments followed by Presidency University &Gourbanga University whereas Bankura University & KaziNazrul University have only one (01) department to contribute.

4. In terms of contributions of theses & dissertations, the departments of Bengali (14) , Economics (05) & Physics (04) holds the 1st , 2nd and 3rd position respectively in the SidhoKanhoBirsha University. On the other hand, the department of Geography (08), Bengali (06), and Political

Science (05) occupied the 1st , 2nd and 3rd position according their order in case of Raiganj University. The department of Life Science, Bengali & jointly the department of Physics and Geology hold 1st , 2nd and 3rd position respectively in case of Presidency University. The department of both Geography and Education occupied the 1st position in case of Gourbanga University. The department of Mathematics held the 2nd position and jointly the department of English & Botany held the 3rd rank also.

In case of other two universities there is no need of mention as these universities contribute a very less number of contributions to the Shodhganga online repository.

6   CONCLUSION

By taking the initiative " Shodhganga" Project by the INFLIBNET Center, the UGC solved a long pending problem of the visibility of scholarly theses submitted by the different scholars of different subjects of the different universities throughout the India beyond the library walls at the national level. Due to its wide acceptance among the academicians Shodhganga is a most admired & resourceful repository due to its open access. A few of the newly created state aided universities (after 2000) in West Bengal are doing well while uploading the theses in Shodhganga whilst the rests are in the beginning stage. It is also found that a lot of variations in the department - wise contributions because in same universities some departments contributed more and some contributed very less in number. The university as well as the Library authority should take the positive initiatives to identify the problems and try to increase the rate of contributions of their respective universities. Last but not the least, the mutual collaboration in between the two authorities is very vital for its successful implementation.

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