

Impact of U.G.C. Infonet Consortia on the Users of Universities of Jharkhand in Eastern India

Bal Ram, Research Scholar, Dept. of Information Technology, Birla Institute of Technology Mesra Ranchi.

Dr. Bhaskar Karn, Associate Professor, Dept. of Information Technology, Birla Institute of Technology Mesra Ranchi.

Abstract

The E-journals are becoming famous for research community as well as easy to use and consistent also. The electronic resources make the e-learning operative which advances the attention among the students as well as staff and encourage them for the independent learning. This paper discusses the awareness and utilization of e-Resources and UGC Infonet consortium in the users of Universities of Jharkhand in Eastern India. Concept of e-resources apart from this paper also covers the consortium in Indian context in brief. Today the value of Information and users need have increased enormously so much, no single publisher or institute fulfills their need. So that important of consortia is much more.

Introduction: The requirement, use and cost of information are rising day by day. And funds of resource centers are reducing, for fulfillment of this gap born a new term consortia. This era is digital era, where libraries are moving towards smaller and smaller but with rich of information resources. We can say that the information are stored, produced and disseminate in the form of bits and bytes. Libraries are based on digitized data of information that has gradually replaced paper-based records. Internet plays an important role in making these electronic journals available to the end users on their resource center. Libraries are communal institutions whose aims are to provide information services to the people. Libraries play a very special role in the digital era. The plan of the information centers today is to provide services not only to its registered members but also to every member of the community. In the present era computer and Internet plays an important role for the dynamic functioning of information technology. The growth of Internet technology is directly linked with the development of life and society. The major objectives of library consortia are to make best use of availability and accessibility of

resources and services to a wider category of users in a very less budget. This study is based on use and awareness of only U.G.C. Infonet consortium on the users of Universities of Jharkhand state.

Definition of consortium: A huge number of definitions available a very few given bellow: According to Online free dictionary (2013) an association or a combination, as of businesses, financial institutions, or investors, for the purpose of engaging in a joint venture. Or a cooperative arrangement among groups or institutions: a library consortium.

According to Wikipedia, (2013) A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. Or Consortium is a Latin word, meaning 'partnership, association or society' and derives from consors 'partner', itself from con- 'together' and sors 'fate', meaning owner of means or comrade.

As Dr. Ranganathan says that “Library is a growing organism” commands the whole world to the wave of Consortium. If the library becomes the part of the Consortium they can spread their wings all over the world with more resources and services.

Necessity of consortium: The following few factors that necessitate the need for building library. E-Journal consortia are as follows:

- The rapid growth of electronic resources, information as made it more and more impossible for purchase the individual library to all the relevant information. The outcome has been that libraries have become more and more dependent on inter lending in order to fulfill the necessities of their users.
- The developments in scholarly publishing and price policies of publishers posed new challenges and opportunities for academic libraries in purchasing and managing the serials within their restricted budget. So to solve the ongoing serial crisis, it is essential for a common infrastructure a firm to share the resources among libraries.
- The overwhelming application of new technologies, new methods of information retrieval/dissemination has contributed to rapid escalating user expectations in the sense that the users expect library information to be delivered as fast as any other information they need.

- The rapid technological developments have resulted in a constant pressure for new hardware, software and education and training of library staff.
- Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings.
- Providing enhanced library services with an emphasis on access to new electronic resources including databases and services offered through the Internet and the www.
- To leverage resources by sharing existing collections or resources through virtual union catalogues and material delivery services that provides reciprocal access from member library holdings.
- To reduce the cost of member library operations by obtaining coup purchase price for information products. Prakash, A. Jaya. (2005).

Review of Literature: Before started the research I have studied the following earlier relevant research and case studies, which is beneficial for research. Raza, M. M., et al. (2006) studied that seeks to examine the usage of e-journals by the researchers at Aligarh Muslim University. The survey reveals that all the researchers are aware of e-journals in AMU. From this survey, the investigator has been able to find out that many research scholars are consulting e-journals from their departmental labs and computer centers, not only for research purposes but also to update their own knowledge. And find most of the researchers are aware of UGC-INFONET consortia provided by AMU, as well as JSTOR. Most of the researchers are not satisfied with the e-journals available related to their subject. However, it is a common feeling that e-journals will not replace the traditional print format but rather complement it as a new medium of communication. Bostick, Sharon L. (2001) this article will explore library consortia in the United States, with particular focus on academic libraries. Libraries in the United States offer a rich and varied array of services and collections. Although the libraries often differ in focus, they all share a concern about the cost of resources and access for their clientele. Libraries in the United States also have a deep tradition of sharing their resources, often in the form of consortia. Alexander, Adrian W. (1999) studies library cooperation in America, with emphasis on the latter half of the 20th century. Motives for library cooperation, along with potential obstacles and keys to success are identified, and a nexus between service quality improvement and library cooperation is noted. The role of library consortia in the current electronic environment is described, with particular emphasis on the 1990s, during which the Internet became widely available. Malhan, I V. et al. (2012) Reported that, consortia in India and portrays the challenges of e-resources access and describes how the changing landscape of libraries,

information products offered by publishers and emergence of e-learning environment is influencing consortia. The article concludes that we need to focus on more effective consortia models for just in place delivery of content for greater user convenience. Enhance their usage, Institutional need and user requirements.

Objective of study:

1. The staff training and education programs for the maximum utilization of e – resources.
2. How useful existing training programme for users.
3. How useful Consortia to its associate members.
4. Tools and techniques of existing library system, which are used to manage the e – resources to its optimum utilization.
5. The research productivity of the institutions both in terms of quality and quantity of publications.

Research Methodology:

For completion of objective of study I have applied stratified random sampling method for collection of necessary data. For achieve the purpose of study a survey conducted through questionnaire among library users. The library users in the university may be students, (post graduate and graduate level) research scholars, faculty members and administrative staffs in the state of Jharkhand. In this study I have taken four University of Jharkhand state i.e. Ranchi University Ranchi, Birsa Agricultural University Ranchi, Central University of Jharkhand and Vinoba Bhave University Hazaribagh. The questionnaire related to awareness of electronic resources, uses of UGC Infonet consortium and its necessity and availability in university.

Scope of the study:

This study focuses on the use and awareness of UGC-Infonet consortium on the users of universities of eastern India only for Jharkhand. Attempts have been made to know the information requirements and availability for the users. The main focus of this study is to identify the needs and requirements of users in general and to know the use of UGC-Infonet consortia in university library. The area of study is restricted to users of only universities of Jharkhand. Madhusudhan, Margam (2008).

Data analysis and interpretation:

The total numbers of 170 questionnaires are distributed among four universities library users and 149 users provide their response and return data sheet. I processed 149 questionnaires and analyze as follows.

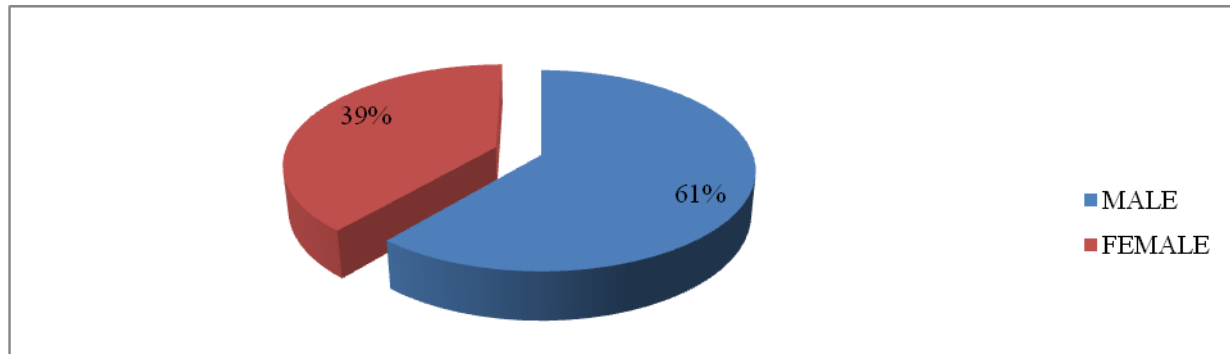


Figure: 1 Gender

Here the figure 1 shows that 61% of respondents were male and 39% respondent's female candidates in total respondents. So it is clear that the number of male candidates is more than female candidates.

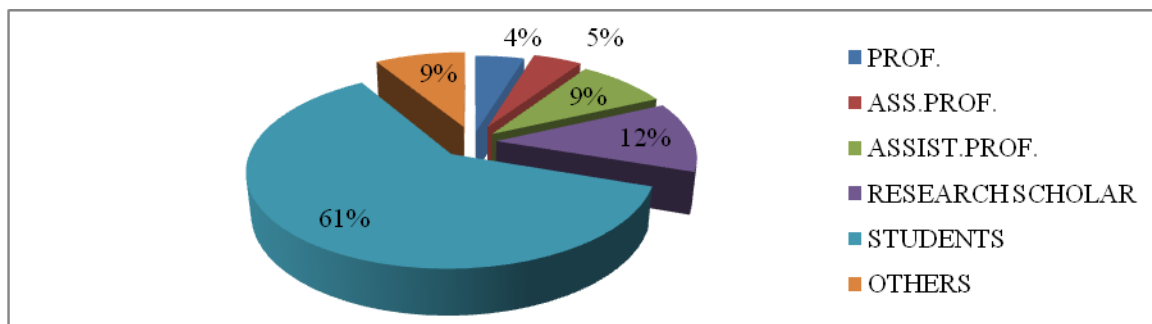


Figure: 2 Professions

Figure number 2 shows that the category of respondents according to their profession. Professors 4%, Associate Professors 5%, Assistant Professors 9%, Research Scholars 12%, Students 61% and others 9%. Here it is clear that the student's number of respondents is much more than other category respondents.

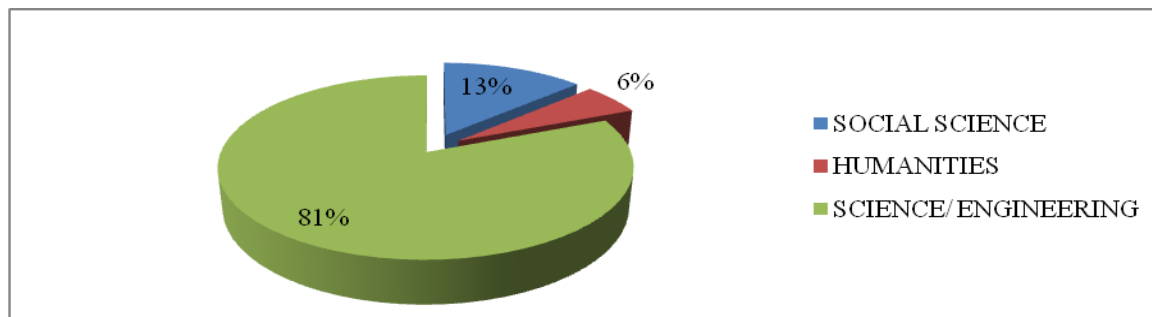


Figure: 3 Streams

The table number 3 shows that the streams of respondents. Here 13% respondents are belongs to Social Science stream, 6% respondents are belongs are Humanities and 81% respondents belongs Science and Engineering streams, so it is clear that the number of respondents are much more than others streams respondents.

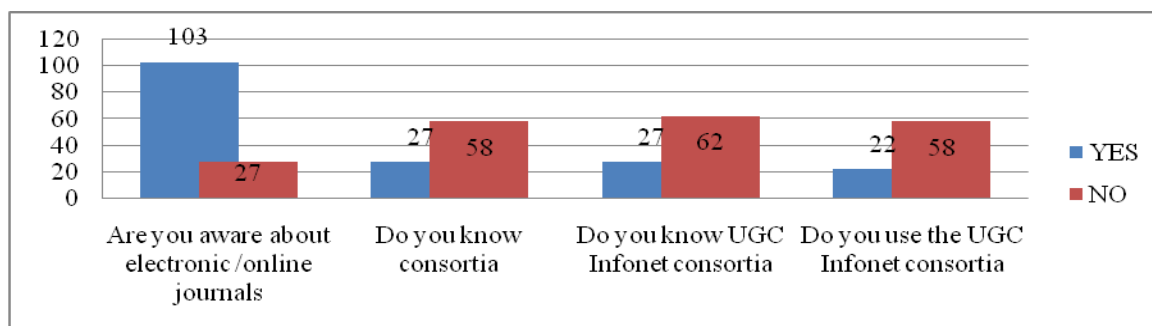


Figure: 4 Awareness

The table number 4 shows that the awareness of users about online journals, consortia, UGC Infonet consortia. The figure shows that the awareness of on line journal is good but awareness about consortia and UGC Infonet consortia is poor as well as use is also very less among the users..

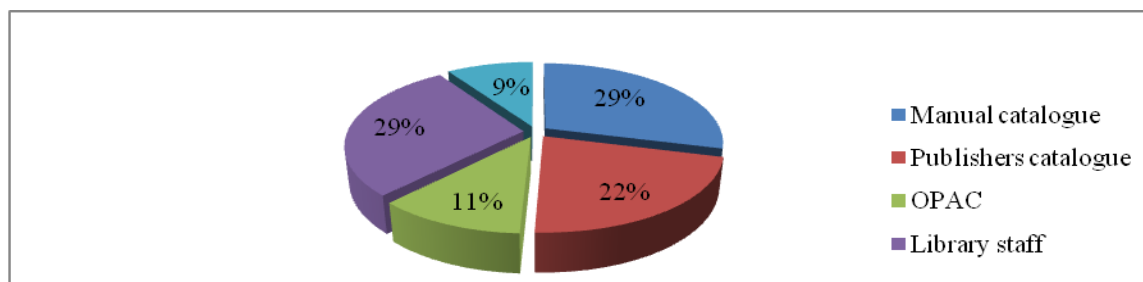


Figure: 5 Search methods of relevant information in the library

Figure number 7 shows that the searching methods adopted by users for search their resources. 29% users use manual catalogue card, 22% use publishers catalogue card, 11% users use OPAC for search their resource, 29% user take help library staffs for finding their resource and 9% people don't do response.

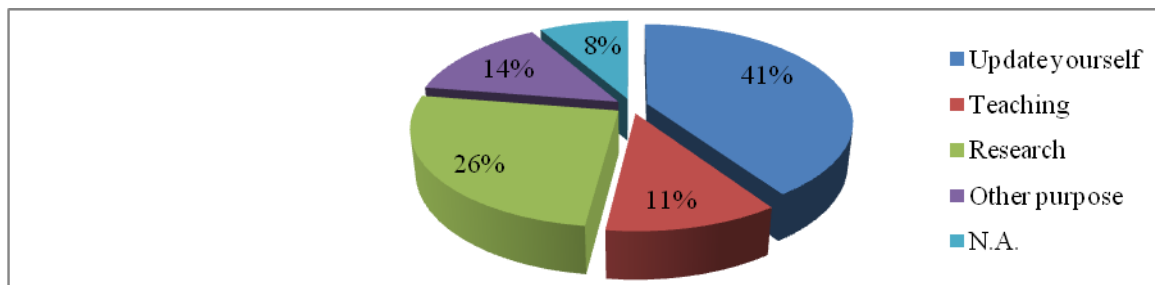


Figure: 6 Purpose of use the UGC INFONET Consortia

The Figure number 10 shows that the purpose of users for UGC Infonet consortia. 41% users use for update yourself, 11% users are use UGC Infonet consortia for teaching purpose, 26% users are use for research purpose, 14% users use for many purposes, 8% users are not sure for any specific purposes. So that I can say the use of UGC Infonet consortia is multipurpose.

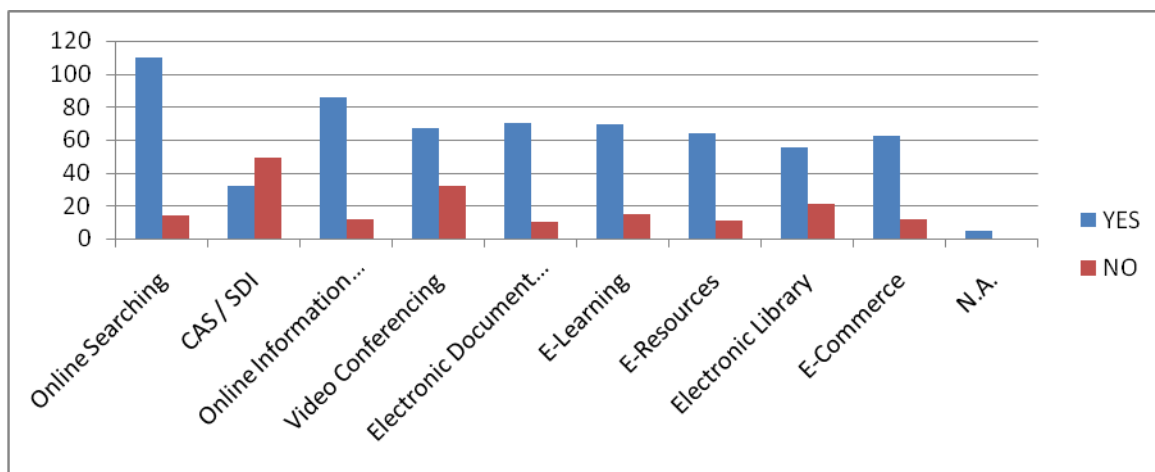


Figure: 7 Awareness about services

Figure number 11 shows the awareness of users about Library & Information services. The blue line graph indicates the awareness about services and red line of graph indicates not aware about services. So that it is clear the lot of users aware about services except CAS/SDI. Online searching is most popular, on line retrieval, video conferencing, electronic document delivery, e

learning, e resources, electronic library, e commerce etc. And a very less no. of users are not aware about following services.

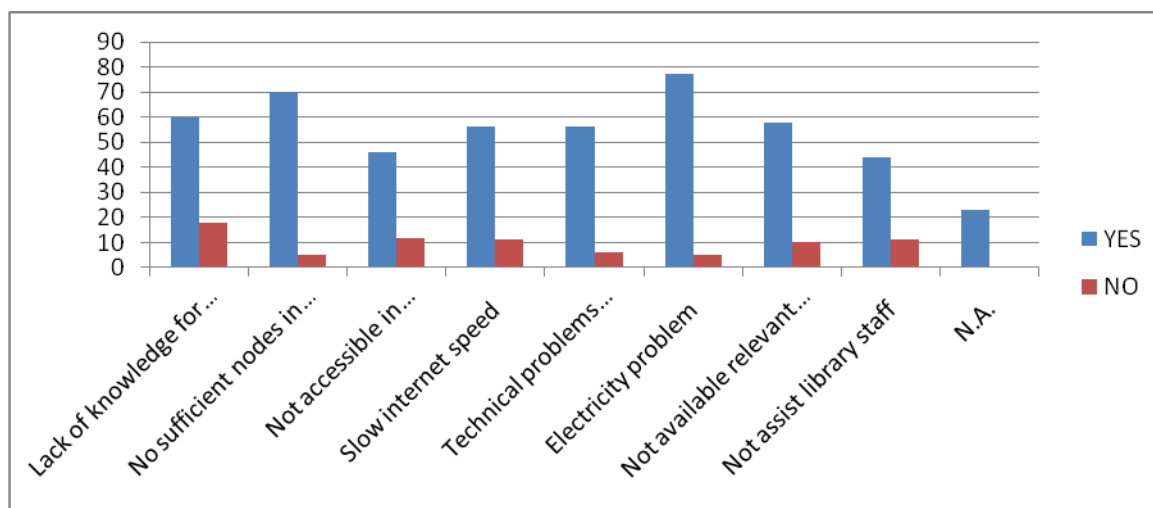


Figure: 8 Problem of searching of UGC Infonet

The figure number 12 shows that about the problems affected to the users for use the UGC Infonet consortia. The main problem of users is electricity problem, not sufficient node available in central library, lack of knowledge how to use UGC Infonet consortia, technical problem, not access in library, slow internet speed, relevant information are not available etc.

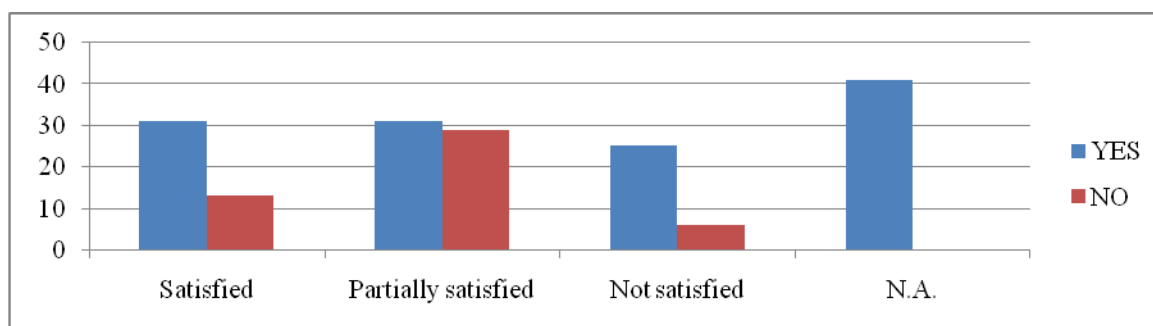


Figure: 9 Satisfaction

Here figure number 13 shows the satisfaction about resources includes in UGC Infonet consortia. The lot of users are not opted this question few are satisfied about resources, few are partially satisfied and some users are not satisfied of UGC Infonet. So that I can say the users satisfaction level is good but need awareness and rich resources, infrastructure in library and information centers.

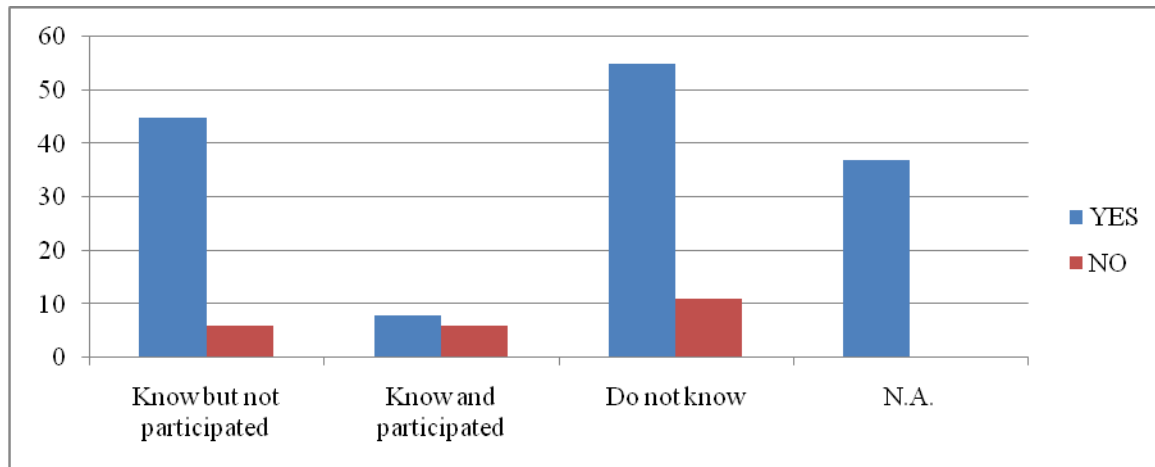


Figure: 10 Awareness about UOP

The figure number 15 shows the awareness of user about user orientation programme. Here the figure shows the lots of users are not aware about user orientation programme, very few users know and participated in UOP and lot of users know but not participated.

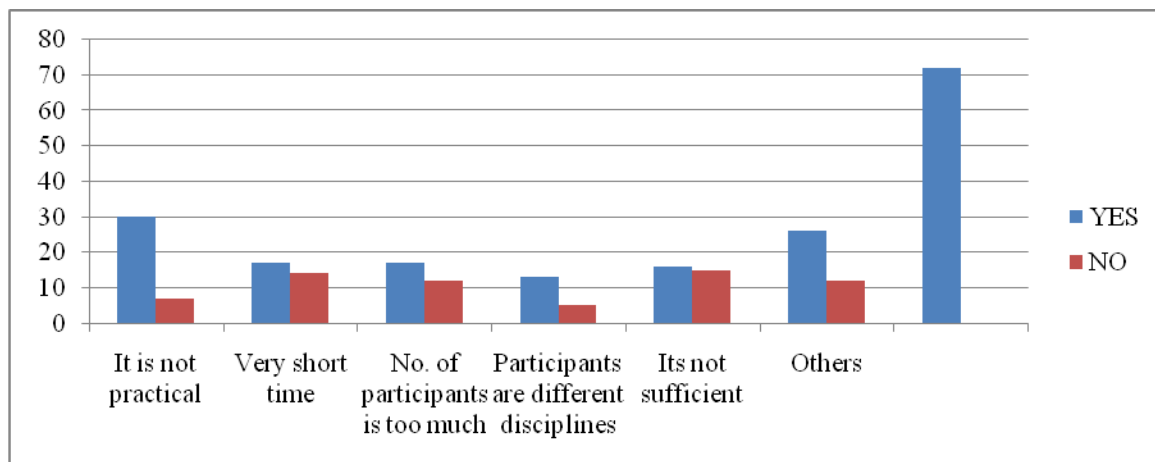


Figure: 11 Satisfaction of UOP

Here figure number 15 shows the satisfaction of users during user orientation programme. A very large number of users say that it is not practical, some complain it is very short duration, some complain the number of participant is too much, some users complain the participants are different background so that problem create , some complain it is not very useful. Here it is clear the user orientation programme is not play a very effective role between users lot of users need for restructure about user orientation programme for effective between users.

Conclusion: This study has conducted for UGC Infonet consortia in the university of Jharkhand state to assess the availability of resources, user awareness, and available infrastructure in universities. The management spends a big amount to make sure availability of electronic resources in university libraries. The study has shown the importance of electronic resources in development of education and quality of research. The users reply well and found that users aware about electronic resources as well as UGC Infonet consortia, he need more availability of electronic resources in libraries. One thing notable here user's compatibility with print resources is better than electronic resources. To enhance the use of consortia more users awareness program organized and upgradation of existing library services for maximum use of electronic resources is necessary. One more things about the users are more and more aware about library services but so many problems faced for avail the services. So that we can say the users is partially satisfied with UGC Infonet consortia and he wants more and more advancement in the context of facilities, infrastructures and availability of E- documents.

References:

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