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Awareness and Utilization of Krishikosh Repository among Postgraduate Students of Horticultural Universities in Karnataka: An Analytical Study

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ABSTRACT

As technology has reached this era of digitalization, usage of digital repositories has also played a major role in scholarly work.Krishikosh is one such repository that provides access to scholarly information related to agriculture. However, the extent to which postgraduate students in horticultural universities of Karnataka are aware of and utilizing the Krishikosh repository is unclear. The present study seeks to address this gap by accessing the utilization of Krishikosh repository by the postgraduate students. The study's findings can assist in determining the factors that support or inhibit the use of Krishikosh repository and can guide the efforts to enhance its use.

KEYWORDS

Krishikosh, Digital Repository, ETD, Electronic theses and dissertations, Horticultural Sciences.

1. Introduction

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are digital versions of theses and dissertations they are submitted and accessed online. ETDs are typically stored in online repositories and made available to researchers and the general public for free. The application of ETDs has been on the rise owing to their accessibility and ease. ETDs can be accessed from anywhere globally, and this can make it simpler for researchers to find and utilize the most up-to-date research in their areas of specialization. Electronic submission and storage of ETDs can also make it simpler to submit, review, and publish theses and dissertations, and this can make it simpler for students to present their findings to the world.

Agricultural ETDs are a important tool for students, researchers, and policymakers concerned with the new advances in agricultural research.By making agricultural theses and dissertations available online, ETDs increase accessibility to research and can facilitate collaborations and knowledge sharing among researchers.

Apart from Shodhganga, other Indian ETD repositories are the Vidyanidhi Digital Library, an electronic theses and dissertations repository of the Mysore University, and the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) @ IISc, a repository of theses and dissertations of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

In India, a number of agricultural ETD repositories exist that are committed to preserving and giving access to ETD. A few of the popular agricultural ETD repositories in India are:

- Vidyanidhi: It is an ETD repository set up by the University of Mysore, which has a collection of ETDs related to agriculture from various Indian Universities and institutions (*Vidyanidhi*, 2023).

- Shodhganga: It is a national repository of ETD set up by the INFLIBNET Centre in Ahmedabad. It has a separate section for agricultural ETDs, which includes theses and dissertations from various agricultural Universities in India (*Shodhganga*, 2023).
- KrishiPrabha: It is an agricultural ETD repository developed and maintained by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) which contains doctoral and master's theses related to agriculture from different agricultural universities in India.

2. About Krishikosh

Krishikosh Digital Repository is a web-based platform providing access to a vast array of research outputs such as thesis, dissertations, articles, reports and other scholarly publications on agriculture and allied sciences. It is managed by the ICAR and hosted by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS). The repository is to enable open access to agricultural research and to make knowledge sharing and dissemination among the scientific community easy. The repository now has over 1.60 lakh items comprising over one lakh theses, from 103 ICAR institutes/State Agricultural Universities (ICAR, 2023).

3. Literature Review

(Veeranjaneyulu, 2014) explained the evolution and probable influence of KrishiKosh, an institutional repository for agricultural research in India, and points out its advantages, drawbacks, and the requirement for ongoing improvement. In the same (Wadnerkar, 2016) examined the significance of institutional repositories in preserving knowledge and cultures in the long term. It focuses on "Krishikosh," an Indian National Agricultural Research System institutional repository, examining its holdings and testing its utility to the researcher as well as to end-users. It also provides an institutional repository model.

(Malakar & Pathak, 2016) discussed the utilization of ETDs by research scholars in Gauhati University and the importance of Shodhganga. The research also identified the importance of ETDs in research and implies ways to foster their development and promotion. In another study points out the significance of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) in enhancing the access to research and decreasing library space requirements and also mentions the features, methodology, and data interpretation, and ends with the observation that user awareness of INFLIBNET in ETD Shodhganga must be enhanced (Ganesan, 2016).

(Gupta, 2016) discussed that the importance of ETD repositories, the establishment of 'Shodhgangotri' and 'Shodhganga' in India and the study revealed attitudes towards the national ETD repository in India and suggests ways to promote submission and usage. Similarly, (Sinha & Purkayastha, 2018) conducted a study on the awareness and use of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) by the scientific community of Assam University, Silchar, with a special focus on the Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri repositories managed by INFLIBNET. The study provides information on various ETD repositories and offers recommendations based on survey findings.

(Partap, 2018) carried out a study on use and awareness of the Krishikosh institutional repository among foreign scholars in CCS HAU and LUVAS in Hisar. The study identified that most of the respondents were satisfied with Krishikosh and recommends organizing regular awareness programs to increase usage and satisfaction. The paper highlights the significance of institutional repositories and the importance of continuous improvement efforts. (Okoroma, 2018) addressed that, content recruitment challenges in institutional repositories in Nigeria, highlighting low awareness and knowledge of IRs among lecturers. It suggested the need for awareness programs to increase their disposition towards submitting their work. Another study examines the use of SUAIR by academic staff at CVBMS in Tanzania, highlighting positive attitudes but lack of awareness and skills. Provides valuable insights for similar universities in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mnzava& Chirwa, 2018).

(Adaeze, 2020) surveyed awareness and use of institutional repositories by the academic staff within tertiary institutions, encompassing strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for improvements. A study by (Bamigbola, 2021) carried out a study on awareness, anchor and adjustment factors impacting the use of institutional repositories by Nigerian lecturers. The research established that the aforementioned factors are determinants to use and recommends enhanced awareness programs and use of computers.

(Kumar et al., 2022) describes Krishikosh, an institutional repository for agricultural research in India, including its features, open access policy and content. The study also proved usage statistics, showing high popularity and global reach, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a recent study by (Bankapur& Hadimani, 2023) Krishikosh is a digital platform that was developed as part of the National Agricultural Innovation Programme aimed at collating and disseminating agricultural materials from various libraries in India. It has a collection of 266,288 documents like theses, books, journals, reports and more from 106 libraries of SAU and ICAR institutes. The top throughputer's institution is TANUVAS, Chennai. It allows users to perform advanced searches using Agro tags. Further, it is built on the Dspace platform and facilitates easy resource access. This study focused on the role that Krishikosh plays in enhancing agricultural research and education.

4. Objectives

The main objectives were;

1. To Assess the level of awareness of Krishikosh repository among postgraduate students in horticultural Universities of Karnataka.
2. To know the frequency of use and purpose of using Krishikosh repository.
3. To Identify the factors that influence the adoption and usage of Krishikosh repository among postgraduate students.
4. To identify the satisfaction level related to the usage of Krishikosh repository.
5. To explore the attitudes of postgraduate students towards the utilization of Krishikosh repository.

5. Scope, Limitation and Methodology

The scope of this study is to investigate how postgraduate students from Horticultural Universities in Karnataka, India, utilize the Krishikosh repository. Specifically, the focus is on students enrolled in three postgraduate centres: KRC College of Horticulture in Arabhavi (Belagavi), College of Horticulture in Bagalkot, and College of Horticulture in Bengaluru. The study examines the level of awareness and use of the Krishikosh repository, the factors influencing its adoption, the perceived benefits and challenges associated with its usage, and suggestions for enhancing its utilization.

A systematic questionnaire was used to carry out this research. The questionnaire was randomly distributed among the postgraduate students. Feedback was obtained from 175 out of 200 randomly chosen respondents, providing a response rate of 87.5%. Interviews were also conducted with respondents in order to have a better comprehension of their opinions and to have an accurate set of data. The collected data was then tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted to make further inferences.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

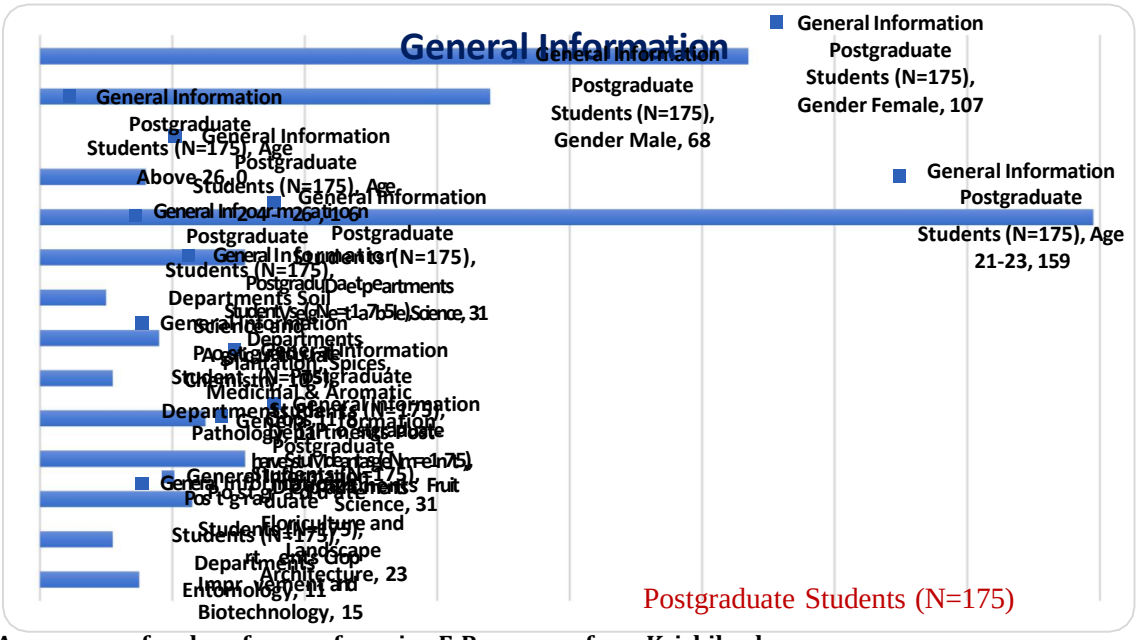
6.1 General Information

Table1 depicts that, out of 175 postgraduate students, a majority was female 107 (61.14%) and 68 (38.86%) male. With respect to age groups, 159 (90.86%) were in the age group of 21 to 23 and 16 (9.14%) were in the age group of 24 to 26. Table-1 also depicts that, most 31(17.71%) of the postgraduates were from the department of Fruit Science and Vegetable Science each.

Table 1: General Information

General Information		Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage %
Gender	Male	68	38.86
	Female	107	61.14
Age	21-23	159	90.86
	24-26	16	9.14
	Above 26	0	0

Departments	Crop Improvement and Biotechnology	15	8.57
	Entomology	11	6.29
	Floriculture and Landscape Architecture	23	13.14
	Fruit Science	31	17.71
	Post-harvest Management	25	14.29
	Plant Pathology	11	6.29
	Plantation, Spices, Medicinal & Aromatic Crops	18	10.29
	Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry	10	5.71
	Vegetable Science	31	17.71



6.2

Awareness of and preference for using E-Resources from Krishikosh

Table 2 shows that all the postgraduate students were aware of Krishikosh. It is also found that, the preference to use the different types of collections available on Krishikosh repository. 100% of postgraduate students mainly preferred 'theses', followed by 101 (57.71%) preferred to 'Institutional publications', 94 (53.71%) to 'miscellaneous', 03 (1.71%) to 'articles' and 'reports', 02 (0.81%) preferred to 'books' and 'Conference/seminar proceeding' from the Krishikosh repository.

Table2: Postgraduate students awareness of and preference for using E-Resources from Krishikosh

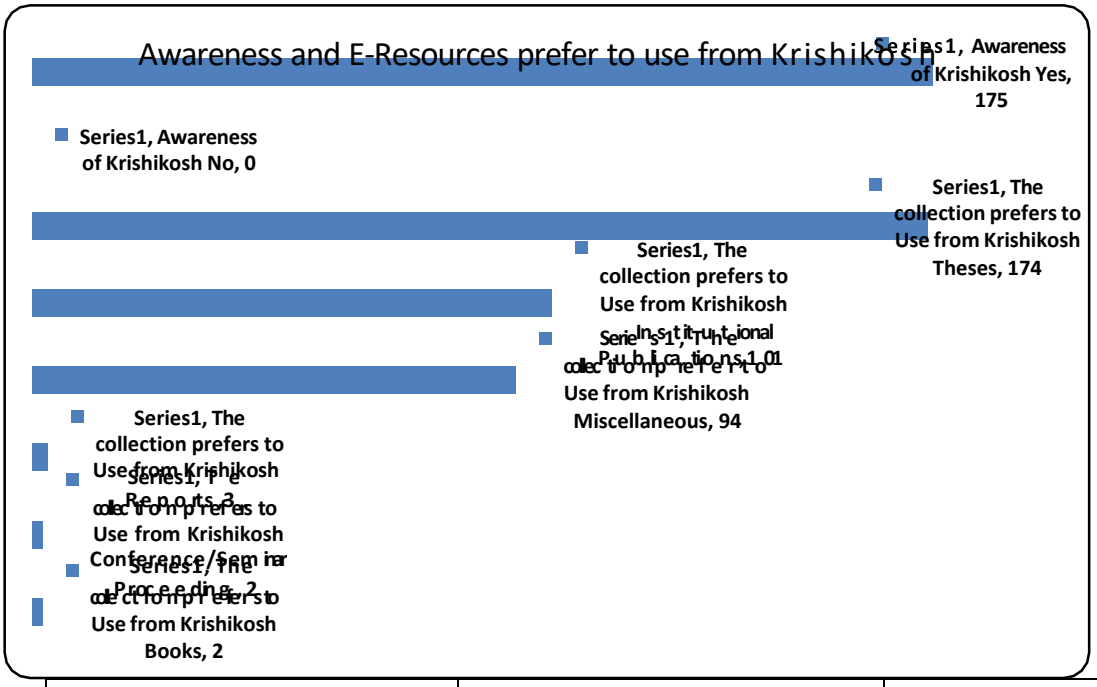
Opinion	Postgraduate students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Awareness of Krishikosh		
Yes	175	100
No	00	00
The collection prefers to Use from Krishikosh		
Theses	174	99.43
Articles	03	1.71
Books	02	1.14
Reports	03	1.71

Institutional Publications	101	57.71
Conference/Seminar Proceeding	02	1.14
Miscellaneous	94	53.71

6.3 Sources of knowledge about Krishikosh

Table3 reveals that, the library website/notice board is the best source to get knowledge about Krishikosh 173 (98.86%), followed by 128 (73.14%) through library staff, 87 (49.71%) through friends/colleagues and 04 (2.29%) surfing through internet.

Table 3: Sources of Knowledge about Krishikosh



Sources	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Library Website/Notice Board	173	98.86
Library staff	128	73.14
Friends/Colleagues	87	49.71
Internet	04	2.29
Advertisement	00	00

6.4 Location of accessing Krishikosh

It is evident from Table 4 indicates the most of them (98.29%) accessed the Krishikosh from the Library, followed by respective departments (54.86%), computer lab (42.86%), hostels (19.43%) and less students (5.71%) access Krishikosh at home.

Table 4: Location of accessing Krishikosh

Places	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)

Library	172	98.29
Department	96	54.86
Computer lab	75	42.86
Hostel	34	19.43
Home	10	5.71

6.5 Frequencyand average time spent to accessingKrishikosh

Table 5 depicts that 108 (61.71%) of the postgraduate student's access Krishikosh daily, 57 (32.57%) twice aweek, 5(2.86%) monthly, 4(2.29%) weekly, and 1(0.57%) fortnightly respectively. Also indicates that large number of the postgraduate students 110(62.86%) spent their time in accessing/searching Krishikosh for one hour, 65(37.14%) for 1-2 hours.

Table 5: Frequencyand average time spent to accessKrishikosh

Frequency	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Frequency of accessingKrishikosh		
Daily	108	61.71
Twice aweek	57	32.57
Weekly	04	2.29
Fortnightly	01	0.57
Monthly	05	2.86
Average time spent in accessing Krishikosh		
1 Hour	110	62.86
1-2 Hours	65	37.14

6.6 Preferred search methods

Table 6 shows that, about 164(93.71%) postgraduate students preferred keyword option to search retrieve information in the Krishikosh repository, followed by 132(75.43%) to author, 82(46.86%) to subject', 52(29.71%) to title, and 33(18.86%) preferred to community option.

Table 6: Preferred search methods

Search methods	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Author	132	75.43
Title	52	29.71
Keyword	164	93.71
Subject	82	46.86
Community	33	18.86

6.7 Purpose of using Krishikosh

Table 7 found that, all (100%) of the postgraduate students use Krishikosh with the primary purpose of enlightening their research work, 139 (79.43%) use it to 'publish articles/books', 92 (52.57%) use it to prepare 'seminars/workshops/presentations', 59 (33.71%) use to 'find new areas, 22 (12.57 %) used 'others' purpose and 01(0.57%) of using for teaching purpose.

Table 7: Purpose of using Krishikosh

Purpose	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Research	175	100

Prepare Seminars/workshops/presentation	92	52.57
Publish Articles/Books	139	79.43
For Teaching	01	0.57
To find new areas	59	33.71
Others	22	12.57

6.8 Role of Krishikosh in academic/research activities

Table 8 identified that, majority of the postgraduate students 142 (81.14%) agreed Krishikosh repository is 'to meet specific information needs' and 'access from a different location'. About 141(80.57%) strongly agreed that, 'save the time in searching theses' and 'searching theses faster and easier', followed by 140(80%) strongly agreed 'access of current information'.

Table 8: Role of Krishikosh in research activity

Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral
Save the time in searching theses	141(80.57%)	34(19.43%)	0(0%)
To meet specific information needs (subject area, topic-wise)	32(18.29%)	142(81.14%)	0(0%)
Searching easier and faster (User friendly)	141(80.57%)	33(18.86%)	1(0.57%)
Access from a different location	33(18.86%)	142(81.14%)	0(0%)
Access to current information	140(80%)	35(20%)	0(0%)

6.9 Difficultiesfacedin accessingKrishikosh

In the Table 9, 172(98.29%) feels that, 'difficulty in downloading', followed by 147(84%) feels lack of relevant information, 81(46.29%) lackofknowledge inaccess, 39(22.29%) feels that slow loading speed, 22(12.57%) feels that not updated and 6(3.43%) feels the staff doesn't support.

Table 9: Difficultiesfacedin accessingKrishikosh

Difficulties	Frequency (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Lackofknowledge ofaccess	81	46.29
Difficulty in downloading	172	98.29
Lack of relevant research	147	84.00
Not updated	22	12.57
The staff doesn't support	6	3.43
Slow loading speed	39	22.29

6.10 Attitude towards Usefulness

Table 10 shows that, large number of the postgraduates 122(69.71%) opined to say useful, 50(28.57%) as very useful, 03(1.71%) as somewhat useful and none of the students mention to the not useful category.

Table 10: Attitude towards Usefulness

Attitude	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Very Useful	50	28.57
Useful	122	69.71
Somewhat useful	03	1.71
Not useful	00	00

6.11 Satisfaction level towards utilization of Krishikosh

Table 11 found that, about 133 (76%) postgraduates were satisfied with the utilization of Krishikosh, followed by 39(22.29%) 'highly satisfied', and 3(1.71%) 'moderately satisfied' towards the utilization of

Krishikosh.

Table 11: Satisfaction level towards utilization of Krishikosh

Level of satisfaction	Postgraduate Students (N=175)	Percentage (%)
Highly satisfied	39	22.29
Satisfied	133	76
Moderately satisfied	03	1.71
Not satisfied	00	00

7. Major Findings

- Majority of the postgraduates are female 107 (61.14%) and 159 (90.86%) are in the age group of 21 to 23.
- As per the research, all postgraduate students were aware of the Krishikosh repository, and Theses emerged as the primary choice among respondents when it came to their preferred collections or resources from Krishikosh
- 98.29% of the postgraduate students were accessed the Krishikosh from the Library, and 54.86% from their respective departments.
- Most of the participants, specifically 171 (87.2%), said they utilized the Krishikosh repository for research work. Most of the respondents, i.e., 139 (79.43%), utilized Krishikosh for publishing their books or research articles.
- Highest, 142 (81.14%) postgraduate students agreed because Krishikosh repository is 'to meet specific information needs' and 'access from a different location'.
- The study reveals that a high percentage of postgraduate students (98.29%) faced challenges while trying to download theses from Krishikosh. And considerable number of respondents (84%) expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of relevant information provided by Krishikosh.
- The study identified that most of the them 122 (69.71%) opined to say useful, 50(28.57%) as very useful, 03 (1.71%) as somewhat useful.
- About 133 (76%) postgraduate students reported being 'satisfied' with the e-resources available in Krishikosh, while 39 (22.29%) reported being highly satisfied.

8. Suggestions and Conclusion

The Krishikosh repository is well-reputed and respected by postgraduate students and the academic community at large. It is an important source for accessing teaching/education, research and extension literature in horticulture, agriculture, and allied sciences. The research identified that, all the respondents knew about the importance of the Krishikosh repository, and theses were the most utilized collection/resource. But most of the postgraduate students (98.29%) experienced problems in downloading materials and a good number (84%) experienced insufficiency of relevant information from Krishikosh. In order to address these problems, the research suggested that universities/authorities hold orientation programs, workshops and seminars for emphasizing the significance and proper use of Krishikosh. Through these steps, it is hoped that the use of Krishikosh will be maximized, resulting in its full potential contribution.

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