



Perception and Awareness Towards Usage of E-Books (A Study with Reference to Students in Thane City)

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Abstract: *Books are the most vital source of knowledge diffusion, personality development, and for leisure reading. In present-days, e-books have gained incredible acceptance due to numerous recompenses associated with it. E-resources too are now a fragment of every academic and research library. The study aims to understand the perception and awareness of students towards usage of e-books. It also attempts to understand the relationship between variable like gender, age, Area of Discipline level of course and Frequency of using E-books & Purpose of Usage of E-books. Demographic and other pertinent facts have been collected through a well-structured questionnaire and the chi-square test has been applied for analysis. The result of analysis, decipher that most of the students prefer e-books for the completion of assignments due to convenience of its usage, affordability and 24x7 accessibility. Some disadvantages associated with e-books use were: Difficult to read, eye strain, Costly and Compulsory smart device and Internet. The finding of this study will be useful to academic libraries and stakeholders to build closer communication with students to address their need in e-books assortment and to impart the skills for locating and using e-books and thus the study would contribute in development of composed and apposite library resources.*

Keywords: E-books, E- Learning, Adoption of E-books, Print Books, Students' perception

I. INTRODUCTION

Books are the most rich and valuable source of information in today's era. It gives an innovative outlook and deeper sense of understanding things. The books are ethos, information, evidence, feeling, passion, emotion, leisure and fantasy. Since past decade, books have undergone farfetched change i.e., from printed books to electronic books. E-books has gained tremendous popularity and acceptance among the readers due to feasibility and 24*7 accessibility. Affordable internet, smartphones, PCs and computer with advanced features are also catalyst for the boom of e-book. Incorporating technology into classrooms has a positive impact on the quality of education thus helps to improve the academic performance. E-books abridges and augment the overall learning



experience and make the learning process more interactive and engaging. E-books are considered as a mean of blended learning tool in educational system but it cannot swap the face-to-face teaching method and printed books.

E-books proposes several advantages such as accessibility, affordability, searchability, compactness, inexpensive, can be highlighted, downloaded, shared, zoom and read etc. On the other hand, construing of e-Book entails distinct hardware and software, internet connection and electricity. This paper attempts to comprehend students' perception and awareness towards usage of e-books in order to explore the outlooks/wants and issues encountered by the students, to address the problems and provide an enhanced learning experience.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literatures were reviewed aligning with the research questions to analyse the research gap.

Abdus (2014) explored the impact of e-book on attitude towards reading among elementary school students. Despite the low levels of e-book awareness and usage non-e-book users indicated their desire to learn more about e-book. The study revealed that students enjoyed reading the electronic medium more than the paper book.

Abdullah and Gibb (2008) conducted study on students' perceptions and reactions towards e-book in Higher Education. A survey and a follow-up study conducted by using students from University of Strathclyde. The result revealed the most prevalent reason for using e-book was for finding the relevant content or used for reference purpose.

Anuradha and Usha (2006) examined the usage of e-book from the viewpoints of users in an academic and research environment. The results indicated that the students are inclined to use new technology more often than teachers. The study also discovered that use of e-book appears to be very low, indicating a requirement for creating awareness about both software and hardware related to e-book.

Barden, M. (2007) investigated student perceptions towards e-book and their frequency of use. The study found Lack of awareness as the most popular reason for non-use of e-books. The study also stressed on the most significant impetus of using e-book was its accessibility, ease of use and it also avoided traditional library problems such as fines, queues, etc.

Ismail and Zainab (2005) focused on identifying the usage pattern of e-book especially on how, when, where and why undergraduates at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur use or do not use the e-book service provided by



the University of Malaya library. The result of study stated that there is significant difference between the frequency of e-book use and gender.

Michael (2007) Acknowledged level of awareness and pattern of usage of electronic books by scholars in the humanities. A survey of the University of Denver community assessed knowledge about and usage of electronic books represents that Scholars in the humanities have a higher level of awareness of e-book, their patterns of use are different whereas Humanists still prefer printed books at a higher rate.

Nyambala (2015) examined the increase in use of e-book among undergraduate students in academic libraries in Kenya with particular interest to Technical University of Kenya and Catholic university of Eastern Africa. The study documented that selected students were aware of the availability of e-book in the libraries. E-books awareness and promotion should be intensively done by making provision of electronic devices, access to computers, increased bandwidth to enhance usability and promotes great use of e-book.

Tyagi (2011) survey on use and awareness of electronic information sources at IIT Roorkee, India found that users have knowledge about the availability of electronic journals, but many use them as the supplementary way to use information. The study also revealed that most users are aware about the availability of online journals through the library, and they can make maximum use of it for various purposes.

Sharmistha Bhowmik Pal, Mr. Utpal Pal (2023) in their paper Perception and awareness of students towards usage of e-books during lockdown: a case study of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India provided snap on unique feature of e-books, problem faced while accessing and purpose of usage of e-books. Overall, it was concluded that in recent time, e-books had played crucial role during the lockdown when all the educational institutions were shut.

III. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

Students are the chief clientele of internet services provided by the telecom sector. In the extant scenario students are updating their knowledge and refining technical skills with the help of internet. Internet has become a part of day-to-day activities for students.

E-books offer an adaptive learning platform wherein the students learn via traditional i.e., face to face mode and electronic/online mode. It is of great importance to determine students' awareness and perception towards usage of e-books due to numerous of advantages associated with it. The present research paper attempts to understand the relationship between variable like gender, age,



Area of Discipline level of course and Frequency of Using E-books & Purpose of Usage of E-books. The study would also help the educational institution to inculcate awareness about E-book usage among students in order to address them and provide a better learning experience despite of the fact that printed books cannot be replaced.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The study is descriptive in nature and tries to understand the perception and awareness of students towards usage of e-books.

The study attempts to achieve the following objectives:

- To understand the demographic profile of the selected students in Thane city
- To study the student's awareness on e-books, frequency and Purpose of e-books usage by the respondents
- To identify the perceived advantages and disadvantages of using e-books
- To find the association between gender, age, area of discipline level of course and frequency of using e-books
- To find the association between gender, age, area of discipline level of course and purpose of usage of e-books
- To provide suggestions that can behold stakeholders.

V. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The study is based on the following hypotheses.

H₀₁ . There is no significant association between gender and frequency of using e-books.

H₀₂ - There is no significant association between age and frequency of using e-books.

H₀₃ - There is no significant association between area of discipline and frequency of using e-books.

H₀₄ - There is no significant association between level of course and frequency of using e-books

H₀₅ . There is no significant association between gender and purpose of usage of e-books

H₀₆ - There is no significant association between age and purpose of usage of e-books

H₀₇ - There is no significant association between area of discipline and purpose of usage e-books

H₀₈ - There is no significant association between level of course and purpose of usage of e-books



THANE CITY

Thane city is one amongst the growing and well-connected suburbs. It is fast emerging city in Mumbai and forms a part of Mumbai metropolitan region. The economic activities have largely contributed to the growth of Thane City. It has well developed infrastructure therefore Suburban areas in Thane city are increasingly becoming the centre of attraction for migration of people from metro cities and also from rural areas. There is shift in rise of population and standard of living due to high quality of education and employment. Thane has transmuted into a pulsating self-sufficient city that hosts several industries, offices and educational institution. Real estate, banks and financial institution are on boom. Reputed schools, colleges and leading higher education institutions and universities are gradually emerging and has been a hotspot for students, researcher and stakeholder to learn and explore in the digital era.

VI. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

With a majority of students pursuing higher education belong to the digital natives, prefer to use technology in their day-to-day life. It becomes essential to find out the expectations requirements of the users and challenges faced by the students in order to address them and provide a better learning experience. The present paper aims to study perception and awareness of students towards usage of e-books. The sample size of the study is 140 students of degree college in Thane City. This study pitches light on understanding the factors that creates an e-book awareness, adoption and its usage among selected students in Thane City. The research focuses to identify the perceived advantages and disadvantages of using e-books. The study aims to find the relationship between gender, age, area of discipline, level of course and frequency of using e-books & purpose of usage of e-books.

VII. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- There was a paucity of time, the study has been completed within a very short period of time.
- The study is restricted to selected students in Thane city only.
- The sampling size used for study is small, the larger size could have generated more accurate results.



VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection

Primary data - Data collection tools include both quantitative and qualitative instruments. A well-structured questionnaire was designed (pre-tested and validated) in a way to satisfy the requirement of study. Personal interviews and discussions have also been adhered to.

Table 1: Sections of the Questionnaire

Section	Title
Section A	Demographic profile of the selected students in Thane city
Section B	Awareness on e-books, frequency and purpose of e-books usage
Section C	Perceived advantages and disadvantages of using e-books

Secondary data - The secondary data was collected from reports, books, journals, bulletins, and other sources like online articles and newspapers, interviews on different national news channels, various published and unpublished literature and websites.

Statistical tools used - The data was analysed using MS-Excel, sorting, merging, and aggregating. Statistical tools such as tables, bar graphs, pie charts, averages, percentages, etc. have been used to analyse the collected data. Hypothesis was tested using Chi-Square test.

Sampling design: -

Sampling method: Snow ball sampling

Area of sampling: Selected students in Thane city

Sample size: 140 respondents surveyed through questionnaire

Pilot study

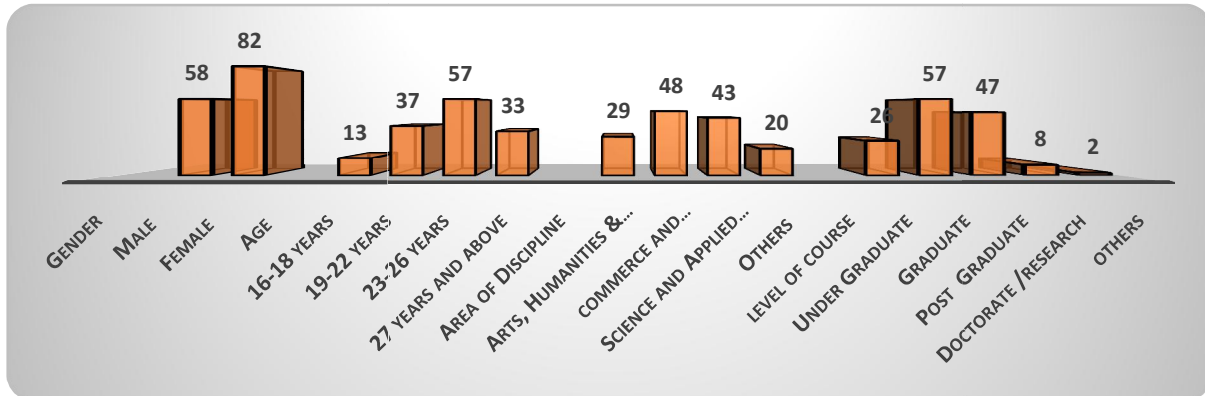
A pilot study was conducted for a sample of 14 respondents i.e., 10% of the sample size taken for the study. For post pilot study necessary modifications were made to satisfy the objectives of study.

The survey outreach- Through WhatsApp and Personal contacts.

IX. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:

The demographic profile assisted to evaluate the general characteristics of selected students with respect to gender, age, area of discipline, and level of course taken into consideration for the study.

**Graph. 1-** Demographic profile of the selected students in Thane city

Source- Primary data

Interpretation:

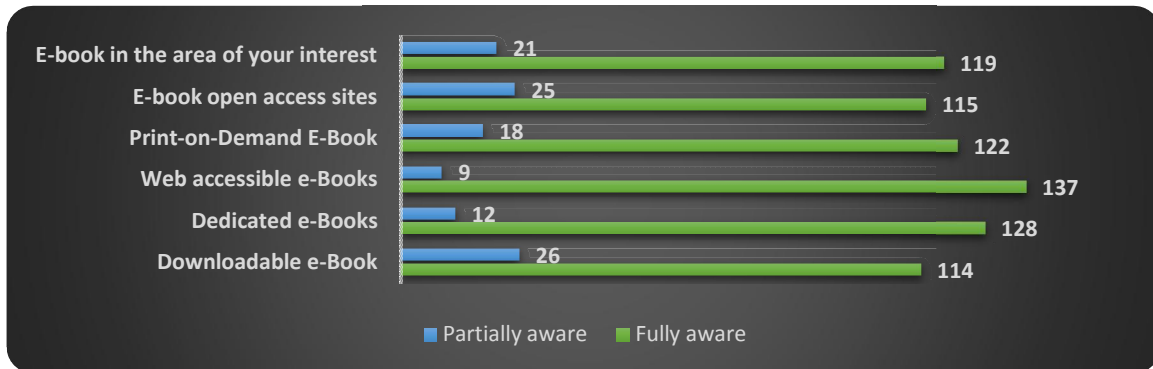
Demographic profile helps to understand back ground of the respondents who are the users of e-books. The above graph no. 1, represent the demographic profile of the students selected for the study. Its reveals that out of 140 respondents selected for study, 58 respondents are male rest female. The age group revealed that 13 respondents lie between age group of 16 to 18 years, 37 respondents belong to age group 19 to 22 years, 57 respondents lie in age group of 23 to 26 years, whereas 33 respondents lie in the age category of 27 years and above. With reference to area of discipline 29 respondents belong to arts, humanities and social sciences, 48 respondents are associated with commerce and management, 43 respondents are connected with science and applied sciences, whereas 20 respondents belong to others category. With reference to level of course 26 respondents are pursuing under graduate course, 57 respondents are pursuing graduate course, 47 respondents have enrolled to post graduate course, 8 respondents have taken up doctorate/research course and 2 respondents are pursuing course not listed.

AWARENESS ON E-BOOKS

Awareness of students on E-books assist to comprehend the knowledge about e-books, that is demonstrated through a certain behaviour and understanding.



Graph. 2- Awareness on E-books



Source- Primary data

Interpretation:

The above graph decipher the students awareness on e-books, with respect to knowledge about downloadable e-Book 114 respondents are fully aware while 26 respondents are partially aware, in connection to dedicated e-books 128 respondents are fully aware, while 12 respondents are partially aware, the awareness to web accessible e-books revealed that 137 respondents are fully aware while 9 respondents are partially aware, familiarity to Print-on-demand e-book highlighted that 122 respondents are fully aware while 18 respondents are partially aware, understanding on e-book open access sites pitched that 115 respondents are fully aware while 25 respondents are partially aware and with reference to e-book in the area of interest portrays that 119 respondents are fully aware while 21 respondents are partially aware.

FREQUENCY OF USING E-BOOKS

It backs us to know the rate of use or number of times e-book used by the students.

Graph. 2- Frequency of using E-books



Source- Primary data



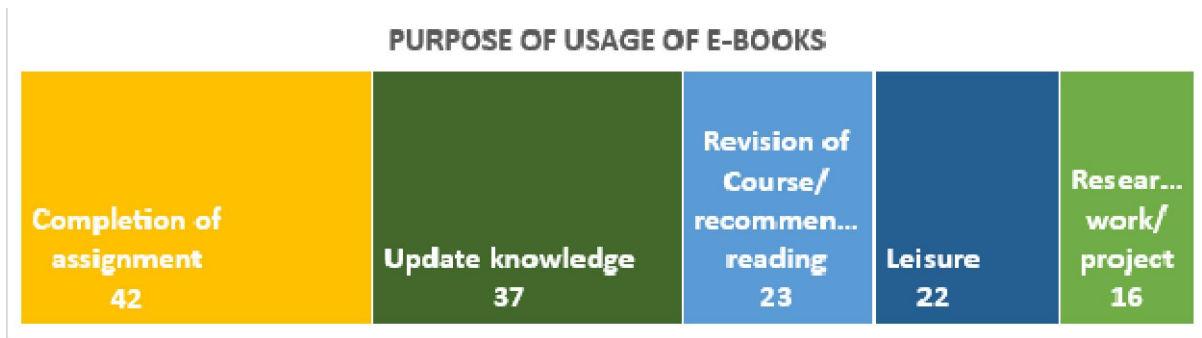
Interpretation

In the above graph, it was observed that, majority i.e., 57 respondents occasionally use e-books, 44 respondents rarely use e-books and 39 respondents are the frequent user of e-books.

PURPOSE OF USAGE OF E-BOOKS

It helps to evaluate the intent of using e-books, the persistence of students to prefer using e-books.

Graph. 3- Purpose of usage of E-Books



Source- Primary data

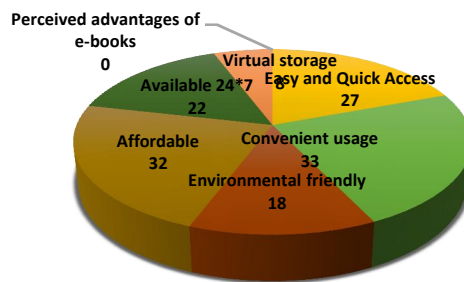
Interpretation

The above graph related to Purpose of usage of E-books highlights those 16 respondents used e-books for research work/project, 23 respondents use it for Revision of Course/recommended reading, 42 respondents for Completion of assignment, 37 respondents use e-books to Update knowledge, while 22 respondents used it for leisure.

PERCEIVED ADVANTAGES OF E-BOOKS

It reveals various factors that helps to understand positive aspects or benefits of usage of e-books with respect to feasibility and convenience

Graph. 4 Perceived advantages of e-books



Source- Primary data



Interpretation

The above chart divulges to understand the perceived advantages of e-books from students' point of view 27 respondents are of the opinion that e-books are easily and quickly accessible. 33 respondents revealed that e-books are convenient to use, 18 respondents are of view that e-books are environment friendly, 32 respondents opined that e-books were Affordable, 22 respondents are of the opinion that e books are available 24*7, while 8 respondents positively noted to its feature of Virtual storage.

PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES OF E-BOOKS

It revealed several aspects to understand drawbacks related to usage of e-books with respect to and suitability, skill and device.

Graph. 5- Perceived disadvantages of e-books



Source- Primary data

Interpretation

With regard to the Perceived disadvantages of e-books, the above chart discloses that 24 respondents are of the opinion that the usage of e-books requires adequate IT skills, 30 respondents opined that internet connectivity is must, 23 respondents are of view that e-books are of costly affairs due to its overpriced subscription, 31 respondents pointed that usage of e-books need costly and compulsory smart device whereas 32 respondents found difficult to read e-books.

X. HYPOTHESES TESTING

Hypothesis of study was validated with the help of Chi-Square test

I. GENDER AND FREQUENCY OF USING E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between gender and frequency of using e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:



H_{01} - There is no significant association between gender and frequency of using e-books.

H_{a1} - There is significant association between gender and frequency of using e-books

The below table represents the data of Gender and frequency of using e-books.

Table 2 - Gender and frequency of using e-books.

Gender	Frequency of using e-books			Total
	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	
Male	18	33	7	58
Female	26	24	32	82
Total	44	57	39	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=2) (right-tailed)

1. Since p-value $< \alpha$, H_{01} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between gender and frequency of using e-books.

2. P-value equals **0.0004919**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9995$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{01}) is small: 0.0004919 (0.049%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a1} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **15.2347**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty; 5.9915]$.

II. AGE AND FREQUENCY OF USING E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between age and frequency of using e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{02} - There is no significant association between age and frequency of using e-books.

H_{a2} - There is significant association between age and frequency of using e-books.

Table 3- Age and frequency of using e-books

Age	Frequency of using e-books			Total
	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	
less than 18	4	8	1	13
19-22 years	18	9	10	37
23-26 years	13	29	15	57



26 years and above	9	11	13	33
Total	44	57	39	140

Source – Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=6) (right-tailed)

1. Since p-value $< \alpha$, H_{02} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between variable age and frequency of using e-books

2. P-value equals **0.02679**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9732$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{02}) is small: 0.02679 (2.68%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a2} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **14.2677**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty; 12.5916]$.

III. AREA OF DISCIPLINE AND FREQUENCY OF USING E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between Area of discipline and frequency of using e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{03} - There is no significant association between area of discipline and frequency of using e-books.

H_{a3} - There is significant association between area of discipline and frequency of using e-books.

Table 4 - Area of discipline and frequency of using e-books.

Area of discipline	Frequency of using e-books			Total
	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	
Arts, Humanities & Social sciences	10	14	5	29
Commerce and Management	9	25	14	48
Science and Applied sciences	14	17	12	43
Others	11	1	8	20
Total	44	57	39	140

Source – Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=6) (right-tailed)



1. Since $p\text{-value} < \alpha$, H_{03} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between area of discipline and frequency of using e-books.

2. P-value equals **0.01101**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.989$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{03}) is small: 0.01101 (1.1%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a3} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **16.5671**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty: 12.5916]$.

IV. LEVEL OF COURSE AND FREQUENCY OF USING E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between level of course and frequency of using e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{04} - There is no significant association between level of course and frequency of using e-books.

H_{a4} - There is significant association between level of course and frequency of using e-books.

Table 5- Level of course and frequency of using e-books

Level of course	Frequency of Using E-books			Total
	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	
Under Graduate	10	7	9	26
Graduate	10	26	21	57
Post Graduate	22	20	5	47
Doctorate /research	2	3	3	8
Others	0	1	1	2
Total	44	57	39	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=8) (right-tailed)

1. Since $p\text{-value} < \alpha$, H_{04} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between level of course and frequency of using e-books

2. P-value equals **0.02505**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9749$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{04}) is small: 0.02505 (2.51%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a4} .



3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **17.5286**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty: 15.5073]$.

V. GENDER AND PURPOSE OF USAGE OF E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between gender and purpose of usage of e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{05} - There is no significant association between gender and purpose of usage of e-books.

H_{a5} - There is significant association between gender and purpose of usage of e-books.

Table no. 6 Gender and Purpose of Usage of E-books

Gender	Purpose of Usage of E-books					Total
	Research/ Project work	Revision of Course/recommended reading	Completion of assignment	Update knowledge	Leisure	
Male	5	8	15	27	3	58
Female	4	22	27	20	9	82
Total	9	30	42	47	12	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=4) (right-tailed)

1. Since $p\text{-value} < \alpha$, H_{05} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between gender and purpose of usage of e-books

2. P-value equals **0.03561**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9644$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{05}) is small: 0.03561 (3.56%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a5} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **10.3041**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty: 9.4877]$.

VI. AGE AND PURPOSE OF USAGE OF E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between age and purpose of usage of e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{06} - There is no significant association between age and purpose of usage of e-books



H_{a6} - There is significant association between age and purpose of usage of e-books

Table no. 7 Age and Purpose of Usage of E-books

Age	Purpose of Usage of E-books					Total
	Research /Project work	Revision of Course/recommended reading	Completion of assignment	Update knowledge	Leisure	
less than 18	1	3	1	5	3	13
19-22 years	3	17	10	3	4	37
23-26 years	3	5	25	22	2	57
26 years and above	2	5	6	17	3	33
Total	9	30	42	47	12	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=12) (right-tailed)

1. Since p-value < α , H₀₆ is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between age and purpose of usage of e-books

2. P-value equals **0.0001056**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9999$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H₀₆) is small: 0.0001056 (0.011%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a6}.

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **38.9917**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty; 21.0261]$.

VII. AREA OF DISCIPLINE AND PURPOSE OF USAGE OF E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between area of discipline and purpose of usage of e-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H₀₇ - There is no significant association between area of discipline and purpose of usage of e-books.

H_{a7} - There is significant association between area of discipline and purpose of usage of e-books.



Table 8- Area of Discipline and Purpose of Usage E-books

Area of Discipline	Purpose of Usage of E-book					Total
	Research/ Project work	Revision of Course/recomm ended reading	Completion of assignment	Update knowledge	Leisur e	
Arts, Humanities & Social sciences	1	4	8	13	3	29
Commerce and Management	3	4	10	24	7	48
Science and Applied sciences	4	15	15	8	1	43
Others	1	7	9	2	1	20
Total	9	30	42	47	12	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=12) (right-tailed)

1. Since p-value < α , H_{07} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between area of discipline and purpose of usage of e-books.

2. P-value equals **0.003033**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.997$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{07}) is small: 0.003033 (0.3%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a7} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **29.7615**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty: 21.0261]$.

VIII. LEVEL OF COURSE AND PURPOSE OF USAGE OF E-BOOKS

In order to examine the association between level of course and Purpose of Usage of E-books the following hypothesis is proposed:

H_{08} - There is no significant association between level of course and Purpose of Usage of E-books

H_{a8} - There is significant association between level of course and Purpose of Usage of E-books



Table 9- Level of course and Purpose of Usage of E-books

Level of course	Purpose of Usage of E-books					Total
	Research/Project work	Revision of Course/recommended reading	Completion of assignment	Update knowledge	Leisure	
Under Graduate	1	6	7	10	2	26
Graduate	2	21	10	19	5	57
Post Graduate	3	2	24	14	4	47
Doctorate /research	3	1	1	3	0	8
Others	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	9	30	42	47	12	140

Source- Computed from primary data.

Interpretation

Independence (Association), using χ^2 distribution (DF=16) (right-tailed)

1. Since $p\text{-value} < \alpha$, H_{08} is rejected.

The statistical model does not fit the observations

A significant association was found between level of course and Purpose of Usage of E-books

2. P-value equals **0.000242**, ($p(x \leq \chi^2) = 0.9998$). It means that the chance of type I error (rejecting a correct H_{08}) is small: 0.000242 (0.024%).

The smaller the p-value the more it supports H_{a8} .

3. The test statistic χ^2 equals **43.4147**, which is not in the 95% region of acceptance: $[-\infty; 26.2962]$.

Table 10: Summary of outcomes of Chi-square test

Hypotheses	Null hypotheses Accepted/ rejected	Outcome
H_{01}	Rejected	There is significant association between gender and frequency of using e-books
H_{02}	Rejected	There is significant association between age and frequency of using e-books



H₀₃	Rejected	There is significant association between area of discipline and frequency of using e-books
H₀₄	Rejected	There is significant association between level of course and frequency of using e-books
H₀₅	Rejected	There is significant association between gender and purpose of usage of e-books
H₀₆	Rejected	There is significant association between age and purpose of usage of e-books
H₀₇	Rejected	There is significant association between area of discipline and purpose of usage e-books
H₀₈	Rejected	There is significant association between level of course and purpose of usage of e-books

XI. FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Some of the key findings and conclusions of the study grounded on the basis of analysis are presented hereunder.

1. The demographic profile of the selected students for the study revealed that out of 140 respondents, 58 respondents are male rest female. It indicates that the majority of female uses e-books.
2. Majority of respondents i.e., 57 respondents lie in age group of 23 to 26 years indicates that relatively young group are the users of e-books.
3. With reference to area of discipline, maximum 48 respondents are associated with commerce and management which indicates that they use e-book to the maximum extent.
4. With reference to level of course, majority i.e., 47 respondents have enrolled to post graduate course are the users of e-books in their discipline and course.
5. The students awareness on e-books decipher that 114 respondents are fully aware about downloadable e-Book, 128 respondents are fully aware about dedicated e-books, the awareness to web accessible e-books revealed that 137 respondents are fully aware, familiarity to Print-on-demand e-book highlighted that 122 respondents are fully aware about it, understanding on e-book open access sites pitched that 115 respondents are fully aware



and with reference to e-book in the area of interest portrays that 119 respondents are fully aware about it.

6. Frequency of usage of e-books revealed that majority i.e., 57 respondents occasionally use e-books for their assignment completion and reference purposes.

7. The findings related to purpose of usage of e-books highlights that maximum i.e., 42 respondents make use of e-books for completion of assignment.

8. The perceived advantages divulges from the findings that maximum i.e., 33 respondents portray that e-books are convenient to use followed by affordability, 24*7 availability and Virtual storage.

9. With regard to the Perceived disadvantages of e-books, majority i.e., 32 respondents found difficult to read e-books followed by costly and compulsory smart device required, regular internet connectivity and e-books are of costly affairs due to its overpriced subscription.

10. The findings reveal that there is significant association between gender, age, area of discipline, level of course with frequency of using e-books and there is significant association between gender, age, area of discipline, level of course with purpose of usage of e-books.

XII. SUGGESTIONS

The study explores the various factors credible to perception and awareness of students towards usage of e-books. with respect to demographic profile. Taking into consideration the findings of the study, the following suggestions are recommended.

Awareness programs must be conducted to acquaint the stakeholders to content and structure of e-book. Avenues for technological developments should be created for the better collection and subscription of e-book. The usage of e-book can be buoyed by launching e-libraries in colleges/universities. Professionals need to promote e-books and edify users and staff about the pros, cons and usage of e-book in the high-tech epoch. Colleges/universities/Government must spend on R&D and allocate the budget for the procurement of e-book resource creation.

Stakeholders must shift their attitude i.e., away from printed book to e-book. Library should build closer communication with stakeholders to address their need on e-books collection and to teach the skills for locating and using e-books.



XIII. SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The study provides scope for researchers to conduct study on:

- Comparative study on usage of e-book by the students/researchers/academicians.
- Comparative study on usage of e-book in academic/public libraries
- E- book a golden gateway for researchers of various disciplines.

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