



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
Impact Factor: 8.4  
IJAR 2021; 7(12): 435-441  
[www.allresearchjournal.com](http://www.allresearchjournal.com)  
Received: 05-09-2021  
Accepted: 13-10-2021

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## Utilization of e-ShodhSindhu consortium by faculty members of private autonomous engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh: Librarians' perspective

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.22271/allresearch.2021.v7.i12f.9946>

### Abstract

Access to resources is now considered more important than collection building. The consortium facilitated the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at an affordable cost and the best term of licenses. A consortium with the collective strength of resources of various institutions available to it is in a better position to address and resolve the problem of managing, organizing, and archiving the electronic resources. Increase in the habit of reading, and rise in the information through sharing, with economical and cheaper with print resources. To face the challenge of global changes in technical education and to reach by the Autonomous engineering colleges, India is not far behind in providing its academic community and private engineering colleges also. To cater the needs e ShodhSindhu a national consortium is providing e-journals and e-databases to all Indian community and using the same by Private Autonomous colleges is being centred.

**Keywords:** Consortium, eSS, Autonomous private engineering colleges, ICT, e-journals, e-databases, Andhra Pradesh

### Introduction

In the latest era of Information technology and Internet, Knowledge is most powerful asset of any country. Libraries role is very pivotal from ancient India to the present world and playing a key role in education, research & development of developed as well a developing countries in the form of collection, Stocking and communication of Knowledge. In context of India there are 500 colleges in pre independent era and now it is 500 Universities and 25,000 colleges. At the background of development of IT and Internet the role of Libraries around the globe providing access of e-resources like e-journals, e-books and other online e-resources). In the context of awareness on education and thrust of knowledge, Information is quite needed and expensive in nature, to overcome the problem of Budgetary Constraints Sharing of Information is the only mode of accessing among member Libraries. For this Cooperative based access of e-resources is the only solution. The word Consortia had emerged and in consortia mode, through which users are able to access desired scholarly e-journals in Indian Libraries and around the Globe.

“Consortia” is a plural form of “consortium” but is often used in a singular form. The consortium is derived from the Latin word “consort” which means “Partnership”. A library consortium is a group of Libraries that come together to satisfy their Information needs co-operation and the sharing of resources. Library Consortium mainly deals with resource sharing in digital or electronic. The main aim of the Consortia is to achieve what the members of the group cannot access individually.

### Literature review

Literature published between 2009 and 2021 on Library consortia all around the India and world. A comprehensive review of literature has become an essential part of any investigation as it identifies the problems and gaps in the area of research and also provides a basis for the theoretical framework of the study and interpretation of the findings. In this chapter, an attempt is made to review briefly the available literature on the information facility for higher education and research in general and in India in particular and not claim the full works on the subject published.

Srivastava J P & Verma, Vijay Kumar (2014). Examined the everincreasing prices of journals, publishers and vendor dominated market, change in demand of the users, lack of competition, and for various other reasons, no institutional library is in the position to fulfil all the demands of the users. This has given the concept of library resource sharing. The problems and hurdles in establishment of many technical and specific subject related consortium approaches in pursuit of optimizing the libraries' resource base and cutting of costs through coordinated bargains with publishers. Consortium based library subscriptions to e-journals and electronic full-text databases are picking up good momentum in India. INDEST-AICTE consortium, CSIR consortium, IIM consortium, IBFLIBNET's UGC-INFONET consortium, DRDO consortium etc. are successful ones to name a few. At the same time Library Consortia are not free from problems. There are various issues relating to consortia like uninterrupted online access, perpetual access to back issues, pricing, licensing, copyright and archival solutions etc. These need to be strategically tackled and well addressed to get the best out of the consortia. This paper discusses the types, needs, models and advantages of consortia subscriptions in general. It also discusses the challenges and issues faced by library consortia with special reference to INDESTAICTE consortium.

Chander Romesh & Gupta, Arun (2015). Observed that the library consortia are now being overhead globally. It is more because of electronic or digital form of information. Consortia are all about sharing and improving access to information. A library consortium is a group of two or more libraries that have agreed to cooperate with each other in order to fulfill certain similar needs, usually resource sharing. The increasing price of published electronic journals, indexing and abstracting databases along with the traditional published print subscriptions has forced library community to explore alternating means of subscription. This Study briefly discusses the concept, need and major consortia initiatives in India.

Mishra, Divya (2016) <sup>[15]</sup> Examined that the development and Current Status of Library consortia in India from the perspective of a successful organization (NKRC). The purpose of this paper is to describe the development of e journal consortium to National Knowledge Resource Consortium, which is the successful resource sharing network and information provider in India. NKRC plays a vital role in facilitating resource sharing in India and is expanding its role services rapidly.

Nayana J & Padmavathi N. (2021). Found that the growth of technology increases the growth of information, today information availability it is hard to all the information for resource. To fulfill the user needs, the libraries may depend on other 93 library, resource sharing i.e., concept of consortia. The paper discusses the development and current status of e-ShodhSindhu and National knowledge Resource Consortia. (NKRC). The main purpose of this paper is to describe the development of e-journal consortia in India.

Suman & Sanjeev Sharma (2016). Examined the use of INDEST-AICTE Consortium by the users of IIT, Roorkee. A well-researched and structured questionnaire framed and distributed for a total number of 300 questionnaires and 270 were chosen for analysis of data and 30 questionnaires were distributed among the users. Most of the users' access e-

journals and databases through INDEST. The study finds that the INDEST-AICTE Consortium is very much essential to help in fulfilling the ever-increasing information needs of the users. There is also need to create awareness and train the users to access the INDEST-AICTE Consortium in a more effective and efficient manner.

Jawahar Lal (2017). The author found that the role of e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources in the Study of Social Sciences. It deals with INFLIBNET Centre, e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources, Aims and objectives of e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources and the number of journals in discipline of Social Sciences of various publishers or aggregator made available through e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources.

### **e-Consortium in different areas of knowledge Use of Consortiums of University Libraries**

UGC-Infonet consortium is one of the landmark achievements in the field of higher education in India. It is only the possible solution to the ever-growing and increase demand for information and ever decreasing or shrinking the budget to the universities. The users can access the scientific and research articles on 24x7 hour basis on their desk top. Presently it includes 20 full text database, 10 bibliographic and open access databases. These databases cover all most all fields of higher learning i.e., Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics etc. The present study evaluates the awareness and usage of UGC-Infonet by the faculty members of Odisha's state universities. Maharana, Rabindra K, *et al.*, (2013).

### **Using of Consortiums in College and Special Libraries**

INFLIBNET is one of the pioneers in this service in India. The most prestigious consortia project of INFLIBNET is UGCINFONET. INFLIBNET planned to launch N-LIST project to minimize the information or knowledge gap between the academicians of the country and accessible by the undergraduate colleges. The study examines the relevance of N-LIST to support research at the college level especially in physical, chemical and biological sciences. The result shows moderate to good performance of the consortium in case of physical science but poor in cases of chemical & biological science. Joydip Chandra & Sunil Kr Chatterjee (2014).

### **Use of Consortiums in Technical and Engineering Libraries**

The use of INDEST-AICTE Consortium by the users of IIT, Roorkee. A well-structured questionnaire had framed and 300 questionnaires were distributed among the users. Out of 300 only 270 were chosen for analysis of data and 30 questionnaires were rejected because of incomplete response from the respondents. Most of the users' access e-journals and databases through INDEST. The study found that the INDEST- AICTE Consortium is very much essential to help in fulfilling the ever-increasing information needs of the users. There is a great need to create awareness and train the users to access the INDEST-AICTE Consortium to make its uses effectively and efficiently. Suman & Sanjeev Sharma (2015).

### Study of Consortiums in Agricultural and Medical Libraries

The usage of ERMED consortium, Purpose for accessing of e-journals. Frequency and training users of using accessing e-journals. This study also tries to find the problems of accessing and satisfaction level of library users of Jorhat Medical College & Hospital (JMCH). Hira Kalita (2017).

### Usage of Consortiums in Foreign Academic and Special Libraries

The history and development of Library consortia in China from 1980 to 2009, gives examples and descriptions of different types of Library consortia in China, comprising of Academic, public, special, multi-type library consortia at the regional and national level. Dong, Elaine Xiaofen (2009)<sup>[7]</sup>.

### Analysis and Data interpretation

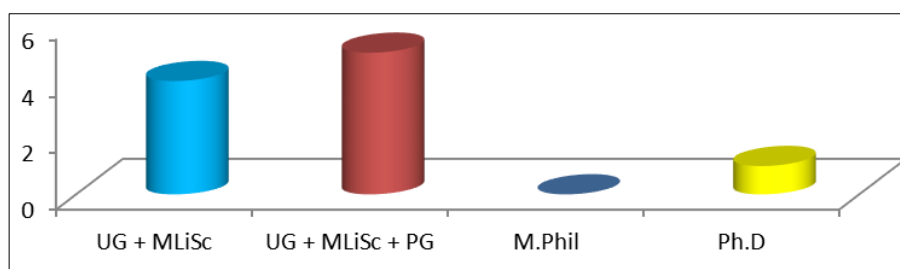
**Table A:** General Information of the Institution

| Name of the Institution | District      | Affiliating University       | Year of Establishment | NAAC Status |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| ANIL                    | Visakhapatnam | andhra University            | 2001                  | Accredited  |
| BECB                    | Guntur        | Acharya Nagarjuna University | 1981                  | Accredited  |
| GDLV                    | Krishna       | JNTUK                        | 1998                  | Accredited  |
| GMRI                    | Srikakulam    | JNTUK                        | 1997                  | Accredited  |
| GVPE                    | Visakhapatnam | JNTUK                        | 1996                  | Accredited  |
| LIET                    | Vizianagaram  | JNTUK                        | 2008                  | Accredited  |
| MICT                    | Krishna       | JNTUK                        | 2002                  | Accredited  |
| MVRG                    | Vizianagaram  | JNTUK                        | 1997                  | Accredited  |
| SRKR                    | West Godavari | JNTUK                        | 1980                  | Accredited  |
| VLIT                    | Guntur        | JNTUK                        | 2007                  | Accredited  |

Table A. describes the Affiliating University, Location and Year of Establishment of the colleges under the study. There are 2 colleges each from the districts of Guntur, Krishna, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram. There are one college each in the districts of Srikakulam and West Godavari. There are 8 colleges which are affiliated to JNTUK, Kakinada and one college each are affiliated to andhra University and Acharya Nagarjuna University.

**Table B:** Educational Qualification of the Librarian

| Qualification   | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------|-------|------------|
| UG + MLiSc      | 4     | 40%        |
| UG + MLiSc + PG | 5     | 50%        |
| M.Phil          | 0     | 0          |
| Ph.D            | 1     | 10%        |
| Grand Total     | 10    | 100.00%    |



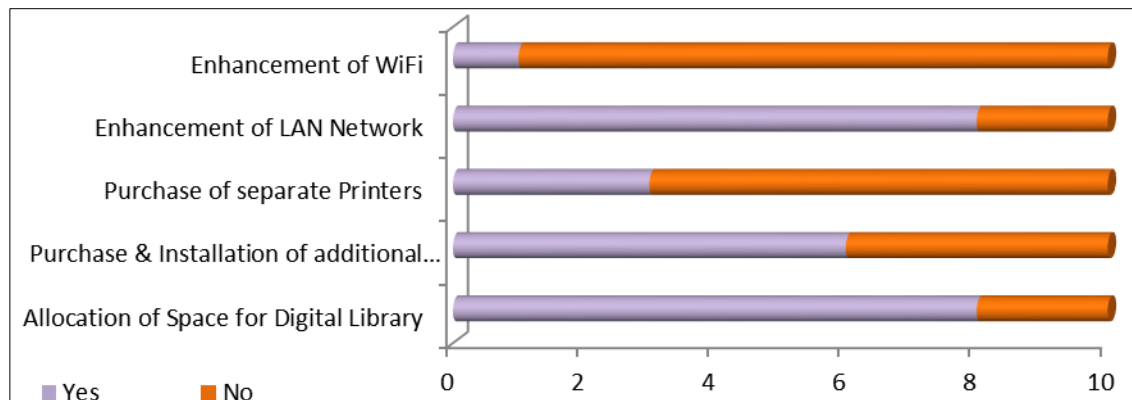
**Fig B:** Educational Qualification of the Librarians

Table B. describes the Educational Qualifications of the Librarians. It is being observed that there are 4 (40%) Librarians who have Under Graduate and MLiSc qualification while there are 5 (50%) Librarians who have

Under Graduate + MLiSc + Another Post Graduation qualification, and 1 (10%) Librarian has PhD as qualification.

**Table C:** Infrastructure established before subscription of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

| Infrastructure                                           | Yes     | No      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Allocation of Space for Digital Library                  | 8 (80%) | 2 (20%) |
| Purchase & Installation of additional Computer Terminals | 6 (60%) | 4 (40%) |
| Purchase of separate Printers                            | 3 (30%) | 7 (70%) |
| Enhancement of LAN Network                               | 8 (80%) | 2 (20%) |
| Enhancement of WiFi                                      | 1 (10%) | 9 (90%) |



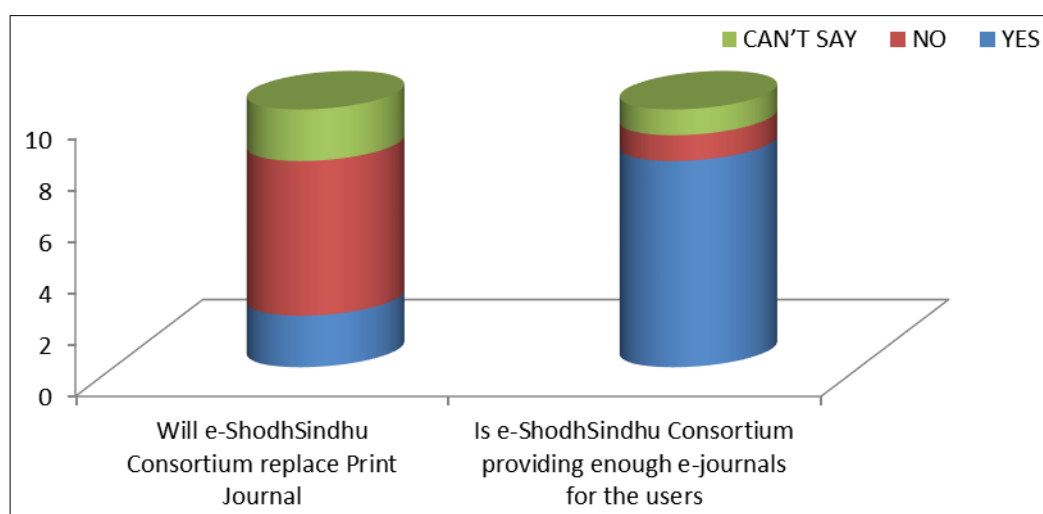
**Fig C:** Infrastructure established before subscription of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

Table D. describes the infrastructure developed by the institutions before the subscription of the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. It is being observed that 8 (80%) Institutions had Allocation of additional space for Digital Library while 8 (20%) Institutions had not allocated any additional space for the Digital Library. Regarding the Purchase & Installation of Additional Computer Terminals, 6 (60%)

Institutions made new purchases while 4 (40%) Institutions haven't made new purchases. Similarly for Purchase of New Printers, 3 (30%) Institutions said YES while 7 (70%) said NO. For Enhancement of LAN Network, 8 (80%) Institutions said YES while 2 (20%) Institutions said No. Finally for the Enhancement of the WiFi Network, 1 (10%) Institution said YES while 9 (90%) institutions said NO.

**Table D:** Opinion on the possibility of replacement of Print Journals by e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

| Opinion of replacement of eSS                                         | Yes     | No      | Can't Say |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Is e-ShodhSindhu Consortium providing enough e-journals for the users | 8 (80%) | 1 (10%) | 1 (10%)   |
| Will e-ShodhSindhu Consortium replace Print Journal                   | 2 (20%) | 6 (60%) | 2 (20%)   |



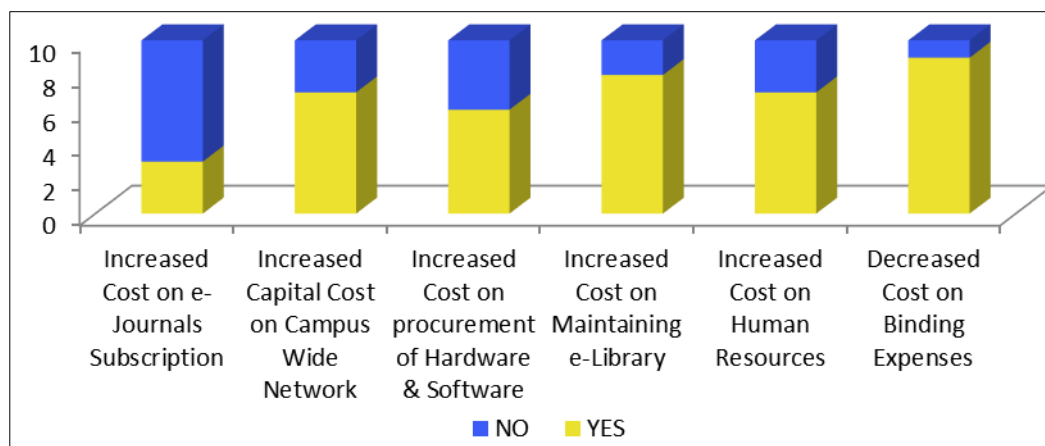
**Fig D:** Possibility of Replacement of Print Journals by e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

Table D. describes the opinion of the Librarians on the possibility of replacement of Print Journals by e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. It is observed that 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium is providing sufficient number of e-Journals while 1 (10%) Librarians opined NO and 1 (10%) Librarians opined Can't Say regarding the provision of sufficient number of e-

Journals within e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. It is observed that 2 (20%) Librarians opined YES that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium will replace Print Journals while 6 (60%) Librarians opined NO and 2 (20%) Librarians opined Can't Say regarding the possibility for e-ShodhSindhu Consortium to replace the Print Journals.

**Table E:** Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Budget

| Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Budget | YES     | NO      |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Increased Cost on e-Journals Subscription            | 3 (30%) | 7 (70%) |
| Increased Capital Cost on Campus Wide Network        | 7 (70%) | 3 (30%) |
| Increased Cost on procurement of Hardware & Software | 6 (60%) | 4 (40%) |
| Increased Cost on Maintaining e-Library              | 8 (80%) | 2 (20%) |
| Increased Cost on Human Resources                    | 7 (70%) | 3 (30%) |
| Decreased Cost on Binding Expenses                   | 9 (90%) | 1 (10%) |



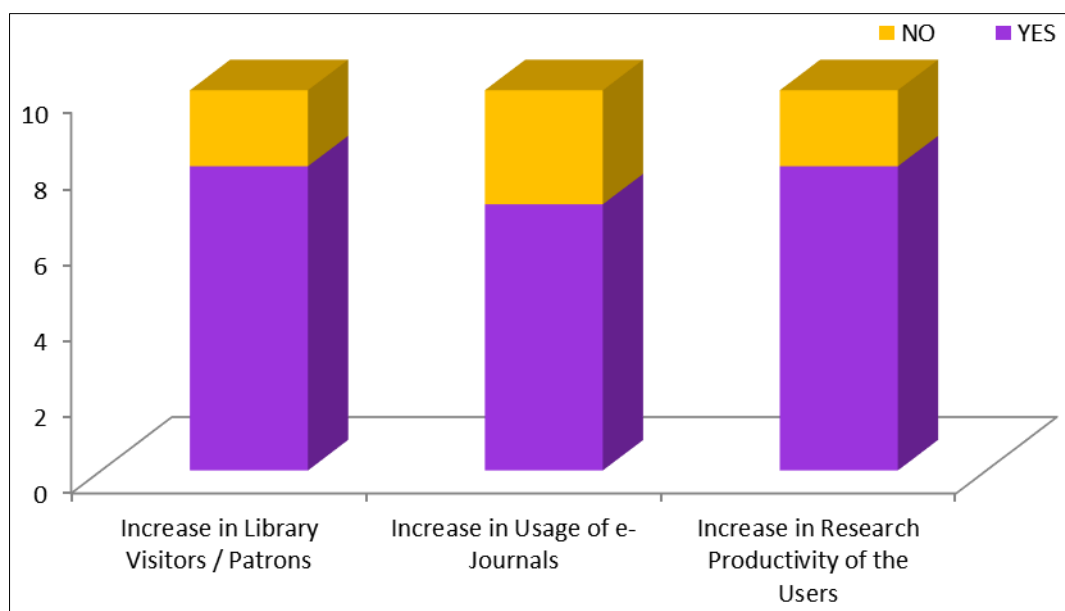
**Fig E:** Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Budget

Table E. describes the opinion of the Librarians about the impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Budget. It is observed that 3 (30%) Librarians opined YES and 7 (70%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the cost of e-Journal Subscriptions. 7 (70%) Librarians opined YES and 3 (30%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the Capital cost on Campus Wide Network. 6 (60%) Librarians opined YES and 4 (40%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased

the cost on Procurement of Software & Hardware Equipments. 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES and 2 (20%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the cost on Maintaining e-Library resources. 7 (70%) Librarians opined YES and 3 (30%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the cost on Human Resources. 9 (90%) Librarians opined YES and 1 (10%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Decreased the cost on Binding Expenses.

**Table F:** Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Usage

|                                                | Yes     | No      |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Increase in Library Visitors / Patrons         | 8 (80%) | 2 (20%) |
| Increase in Usage of e-Journals                | 7 (70%) | 3 (30%) |
| Increase in Research Productivity of the Users | 8 (80%) | 2 (20%) |



**Fig F:** Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Usage

Table F. describes the impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on the Library Usage by the users. It is observed that 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES and 2 (20%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the Library Visitors / Patrons. 7 (70%) Librarians opined

YES and 3 (30%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased in usage of e-Journals. 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES and 2 (20%) Librarians opined NO that e-ShodhSindhu Consortium had Increased the Research Productivity of the users.

**Table G:** Measures for increasing the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

| Measures for increasing the usage of eSS                 | YES | NO |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Regular Circulation of the list of subscribed e-Journals | 8   | 2  |
| Providing Current Awareness Service to Users             | 7   | 3  |
| Maintaining & Providing E-SDI services for Users         | 6   | 4  |
| Advertising e-Journal Services                           | 8   | 2  |
| Providing link of e-Journals on Library Website          | 9   | 1  |
| Providing access on Campus Wide Network                  | 9   | 1  |
| Purchase of more Licenses                                | 6   | 4  |
| Conducting seminars for users by the vendors in campus   | 7   | 3  |

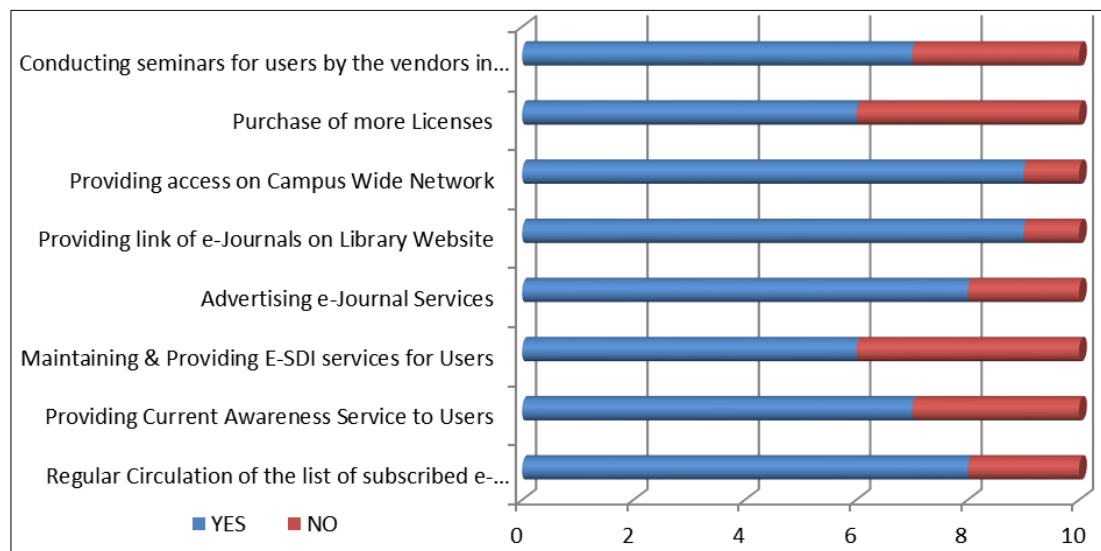
**Fig G:** Measures for increasing the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium

Table G. describes the Measures taken for increasing the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium by the users. It is observed that all the 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES and 2 (20%) Librarians opined NO towards Regular Circulation of the list of subscribed journals of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 7 (70%) Librarians opined YES and 3 (30%) Librarians opined NO towards Providing Current Awareness Services to Users so that there is improvement in the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 6 (60%) Librarians opined YES and 4 (40%) Librarians opined NO towards Maintaining & Providing E-SDI services to users so that there is improvement in the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 8 (80%) Librarians opined YES and 2 (20%) Librarians opined NO towards Advertising e-Journal Services to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 9 (90%) Librarians opined YES and 1 (10%) Librarians opined NO towards Providing Link of e-journals on Library Website to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 9 (90%) Librarians opined YES and 1 (10%) Librarians opined NO towards Providing Access on Campus Wide Network to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 6 (60%) Librarians opined YES and 4 (40%) Librarians opined NO towards Purchase of more Licenses to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. 7 (70%) Librarians opined YES and 3 (30%) Librarians opined NO towards Conduct of Seminars for Users by the Vendors in the campus to improve the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium.

### Conclusion

There is rapid and drastic change in the mode of information accessed by the users. With the introduction of the

technology in the libraries, there is change in the electronic publishing and access to research communication. All these changes had paved the path for the library professionals to serve the users more effectively which is based on the users' needs and relevance of the information required. The present study is conducted to ascertain the usage pattern of the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium by the faculty members of the selected autonomous colleges in the state of Andhra Pradesh. During the study, It is being observed that the librarians Educational Qualification and the important role in providing Infrastructure, Possibility of Replacement of Print Journals by e-ShodhSindhu Consortium, Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Budget. Impact of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium on Library Usage, Measures for increasing the usage of e-ShodhSindhu Consortium.

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