

CONTRIBUTION OF PH.D. THESES BY DEPARTMENTS OF HINDI TO SHODHGANGA: A STUDY IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIAN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

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ABSTRACT

The Shodhganga is a digital archive of electronic theses for Indian universities, set up by the UGC under the INFLIBNET centre. Presently, 54 central universities are listed on the UGC website, out of which 41 have signed MoUs with INFLIBNET to contribute their research on Shodhganga. Only 26 central universities in India are contributing Ph.D. theses of Hindi literature to the Shodhganga repository. A thesis is a very important data set that emerges from higher education institutions' research and development activities, and once uploaded to Shodhganga, it is available globally. This paper presents the analysis of theses on the subject of Hindi literature uploaded on the Shodhganga portal by the Hindi departments of central universities in India. A total of 1541 theses on the subject of Hindi literature, uploaded by the Central Universities of India, have been analyzed year-wise and state-wise.

KEYWORDS: *Shodhganga, Central University, Thesis, Hindi literature, Repository*

INTRODUCTION

On any subject, a thesis is a significant source of information. The Ph.D. thesis is a key source of scientific publications in universities and an important aspect of postgraduate education. A thesis is an original research work in which the author presents his or her study and findings to support his or her candidacy for a degree or professional qualification, according to the ISO definition.

A Ph.D. thesis is important for developing critical thinking skills, finding approaches to comprehending the study challenge, and generating new information. The Ph.D. thesis is one of the most important sources of knowledge, and its authors play a key role in the formation of international alliances.

Electronic theses account for a significant share of academic publications, particularly doctoral or Ph.D. theses that include the findings of at least three years of independent scientific research. They are considered library documents with a specific legal status and are produced by universities as part of academic grey literature. E-theses, or at least part of them, get published as journal articles. The majority of theses and their contents remain in the grey literature, posing accessibility and utility limitations for users.

In higher education, a thesis is a significant source of research and development. Their open access will hasten learning, teaching, and research activities in higher education systems. The University Grants Commission took an initiative in the year 2006 to develop a common repository for the collection of Indian theses under the INFLIBNET

Centre. It was established as the Shodhganga repository, which has given global visibility to the scholarly output of Indian universities.

Hindi is the official language of India and is a major world language. It is also, after Chinese, the most widely spoken language on the planet. Hindi is spoken from Ambala (Haryana) in the west to Purnia (Bihar) in the east and from Badrinath- Kedarnath (Uttarakhand) in the north to Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh) in the south. It is known as the Hindi-speaking area or the Hindi region.

SHODHGANGA: AN OVERVIEW

Ph.D. theses are regarded as valuable and unique sources of information. The thesis is still a mostly untapped and underutilised resource, resulting in duplication. The University Grants Commission (UGC) issued a notification on May 5th, 2016 mandating the submission of electronic versions of theses by university researchers (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree, Regulations, 2009, modified in 2016).

The availability of electronic theses online, via a centrally maintained digital repository, not only allows for easy access and storage of Indian doctoral theses, but also helps to raise the level and quality of research in India. This will address the severe issues of duplication and low research quality caused by "low visibility" and "missed" elements in research output. The INFLIBNET Center has been responsible for hosting, preserving, and making accessible to all colleges and universities a digital archive of Indian electronic theses known as "Shodhganga." The word "Shodhganga" was coined to describe the INFLIBNET Centre's digital archive of Indian electronic theses. The word "Shodh" comes from the Sanskrit word "Shodh," which means "discovery." The "Ganga" is the most sacred, largest, and longest of all the Indian subcontinent's rivers. The Ganga represents India's long-standing culture and civilisation, which is always altering, moving, and revered by its people. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains Shodhganga, a collection of Indian intellectual works.

Shodhganga was created with DSpace, an open-source digital repository program. DSpace adheres to widely accepted protocols and standards for interoperability. Shodhganga is a platform that allows researchers to submit their Ph.D. thesis to the entire scholarly community.

The INFLIBNET Center encourages member universities to create institutional and ETD repositories. Using DSpace or other similar technologies, many member universities have already developed their own institutional and electronic thesis repositories. University libraries with sufficient network and computing capabilities will be able to host their own electronic thesis repository, where their scholars can submit electronic copies of their theses. Shodhganga duplicates each university's academic structure in terms of departments, centres, and colleges, making navigating each university easier.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The nature of grey literature is evolving, according to Tillett and Newbold (2006), and there is still a need and desire for organisations to collect, conserve, and make this material available in an increasingly computerised context.

Sheeja (2012) in her research pointed out that recent developments in the services of the Indian Electronic Thesis Repository emphasise the importance of a unified platform to preserve, search, and retrieve Indian theses.

A study says e-theses submitted to repositories have higher visibility, optimal utilisation, and a large citation rate.

Shivaram and Biradar (2018) found in their research that the presence of theses in Indian reserves led to a massive increase in grey literature that was found to be above the world average.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present paper has the following objectives:

- To find out the research trends in the subject of Hindi literature in the Central Universities of India.
- Investigate the year-by-year distribution of theses uploaded to Shodhganga.
- To find out the difference in the contribution of the Central Universities of Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi-speaking states.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is limited to the Hindi Departments under the Central Universities of India listed on the UGC website. This study is limited to those central universities which are contributing to the Shodhganga repository through theses on the subject of Hindi Literature.

At present, there are 54 central universities in India, out of which only 41 universities are contributing to the Shodhganga repository. Out of these 41 universities, only 26 universities are contributing to the Shodhganga repository through theses related to Hindi literature.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present study is confined to the theses of the Hindi Literature subject under the Central Universities of India listed on the UGC website. The above data has been collected from the database of theses related to Hindi and Hindi language, uploaded by the Central Universities of India till date on 11.04.2022 in the Shodhganga repository of INFLIBNET. The data has been carefully classified and structured according to the objectives of the study. The data collected was analysed and presented in tabular form using MS-Excel for analysis and conclusions were drawn.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Central Universities of India's Contribution to Shodhganga through Theses of Hindi Literature

Table 1 shows the number of theses in Hindi literature uploaded by the Central Universities of India in decreasing order with percentage. At present, 26 central universities in India are making available their theses on Hindi literature for uploading in Shodhganga. A total of 1541 theses have been contributed by these 26 universities, out of which the highest 333 (about 22%) theses have been contributed by Aligarh Muslim University and the same contribution has been made by Banaras Hindu University. It is followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Hyderabad in second and third place, respectively. In the list of central universities which have uploaded the most theses of Hindi literature subject in Shodhganga, the top 6 central universities have contributed more than 70 percent of the total theses of Hindi literature. The remaining 20 central universities contributed less than 30% of the total. The number of such central universities which are providing less than 10 theses on Hindi literature for Shodhganga is 11. The number of such central universities that are providing 5 or less than 5 theses of Hindi literature for Shodhganga is 5.

Table 1: Contribution of Central Universities through Theses on Hindi Literature in Shodhganga

S. No.	Name of the University	No. of Theses	No. of Theses in Percentage (%)
1	Aligarh Muslim University	333	21.61
2	Banaras Hindu University	333	21.61
3	Jawaharlal Nehru University	172	11.16
4	University of Hyderabad	104	6.75
5	Dr. Harisingh Gour University	91	5.91
6	Delhi University	80	5.19
7	Allahabad University	74	4.80
8	Manipur University	71	4.61
9	Visva Bharati University	59	3.83
10	Assam University	58	3.76
11	Jamia Millia Islamia University	32	2.08
12	Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University	29	1.88
13	Rajiv Gandhi University	26	1.69
14	North-Eastern Hill University	12	0.78
15	Tripura University	11	0.71
16	Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	7	0.45
17	Indira Gandhi National Open University IGNOU	7	0.45
18	Pondicherry University	7	0.45
19	Gujarat Central University	6	0.39
20	Central University of Rajasthan	6	0.39
21	Tezpur University	6	0.39
22	Central University of Haryana	5	0.32
23	Guru Ghasidas University	5	0.32
24	Himachal Pradesh Central University	3	0.19
25	Mizoram University	3	0.19
26	Karnataka Central University	1	0.06

The Yearly Distribution of Theses Uploaded by Central Universities in Shodhganga

Table 2 shows the number of theses on Hindi literature uploaded by the Central Universities of India in Shodhganga as well as the percentage by year. Theses on Hindi literature have been uploaded by Central Universities in Shodhganga since 2010.

Table 2: Year wise Distribution of Theses Uploaded by Central Universities in Shodhganga

Year	No. of Theses	No. of Theses in Percentage (%)
2010	1	0.06
2011	27	1.75
2012	6	0.39
2013	20	1.30
2014	194	12.59
2015	311	20.18
2016	71	4.61
2017	115	7.46
2018	70	4.54
2019	105	6.81
2020	271	17.59
2021	212	13.76
2022*	138	8.96

*In the year 2022, there is only data till the 11th of April 2022.

According to the above table and Figure-1, less than 5% of the theses on Hindi literature were uploaded by the Central Universities in Shodhganga during the initial years, i.e., from 2010 to 2013. Most (about 20%) of the theses on Hindi literature were uploaded by central universities in the year 2015. About 18% and 14% were uploaded in the years 2020 and 2021, respectively. In the year 2010, only 1 thesis was uploaded.

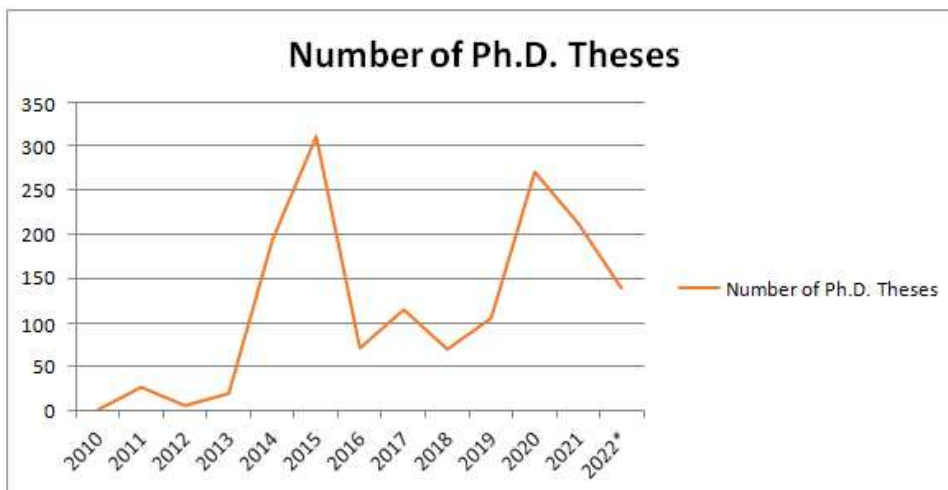


Figure 1: Year-wise Distribution of Theses.

Contribution to Shodhganga by Hindi-Speaking and Non-Hindi-Speaking States' Central Universities

In Figure-2, nine (9) states coming under the Hindi-speaking States-Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, and one (1) Union Territory (National Capital Territory) of Delhi have been shown.

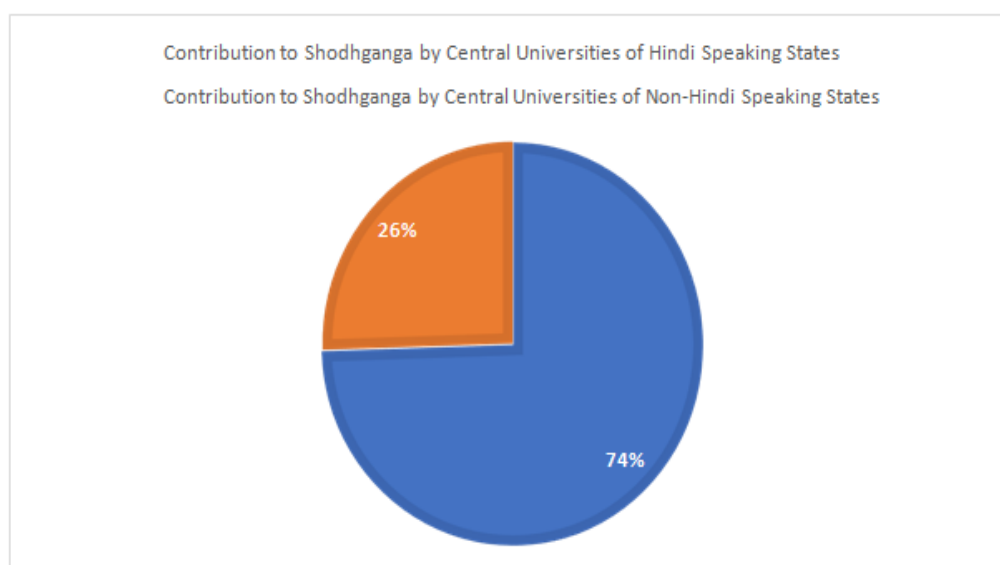


Figure 2: Hindi Speaking States of India.

In Shodhganga, out of 26 central universities that have contributed through theses of Hindi literature, 13 central universities are located in Hindi-speaking states and the same number of central universities are located in non-Hindi-speaking states. Table 3 and Figure 3 show the contributions of Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi-speaking states.

Table 3: State-wise Distribution of Theses Uploaded by Central Universities in Shodhganga

S. No.	Name of University	Name of State	Number of Theses	Number of Theses in Percentage (%)
Contribution to Shodhganga by Central Universities of Hindi Speaking States				
1	Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh	333	21.61
2	Banaras Hindu University	Uttar Pradesh	333	21.61
3	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Delhi	172	11.16
4	Dr. Harisingh Gour University	Madhya Pradesh	91	5.91
5	Delhi University	Delhi	80	5.19
6	Allahabad University	Uttar Pradesh	74	4.8
7	Jamia Millia Islamia University	Delhi	32	2.08
8	Indira Gandhi National Open University IGNOU	Delhi	7	0.45
9	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	Uttarakhand	7	0.45
10	Rajasthan Central University	Rajasthan	6	0.39
11	Guru Ghasidas University	Chhattisgarh	5	0.32
12	Haryana Central University	Haryana	5	0.32
13	Himachal Pradesh Central University	Himachal Pradesh	3	0.19
Contribution to Shodhganga by Central Universities of Non-Hindi Speaking States				
14	University of Hyderabad	Telangana	104	6.75
15	Manipur University	Manipur	71	4.61
16	Visva Bharati University	West Bengal	59	3.83
17	Assam University	Assam	58	3.76
18	Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University	Maharashtra	29	1.88
19	Rajiv Gandhi University	Arunachal Pradesh	26	1.69
20	North Eastern Hill University	Meghalaya	12	0.78
21	Tripura University	Tripura	11	0.71
22	Pondicherry University	Puducherry	7	0.45
23	Tezpur University	Assam	6	0.39
24	Gujarat Central University	Gujarat	6	0.39
25	Mizoram University	Mizoram	3	0.19
26	Karnataka Central University	Karnataka	1	0.06

**Figure 3: State-wise Distribution of Theses Uploaded by Central Universities in Shodhganga.**

From the study of Table-3 and Figure-3, it is known that the contribution of the Central Universities of Hindi-speaking states in terms of uploading the theses of Hindi literature in Shodhganga is about 74 percent, while the contribution of the Central Universities of non-Hindi-speaking states is only about 26 percent. The contribution of Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University of Uttar Pradesh state is the highest among the central universities of Hindi-speaking states. Among the central universities of non-Hindi-speaking states, the Hyderabad University of Telangana state has the highest contribution.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The contribution of Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University has been commendable in the direction of uploading the theses of Hindi literature in Shodhganga. In Shodhganga, more than 40 percent of the total uploaded theses on Hindi literature have been contributed by central universities from the year 2020 till now (dated 11 April 2022). The contribution of the Central Universities of Hindi-speaking states with the view of uploading the theses of Hindi literature in Shodhganga is almost three times that of the Central Universities of non-Hindi-speaking states. The University of Hyderabad, being located in the non-Hindi-speaking state of Telangana, is one of the top 5 universities in the list of central universities uploading the maximum number of Hindi literature theses in Shodhganga.

Out of 54 central universities of India, only 26 central universities are providing theses on Hindi literature for the purpose of research. Other central universities should also take the necessary measures to upload theses by encouraging teachers and students to do maximum research work on Hindi literature.

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