

# Use of E-Resources Available in VTU-E Consortium by Library Users of Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag, Karnataka, India

Manjunath B. Uttarkar<sup>1</sup> and B. R. Gadagin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, <sup>2</sup>Sl. Grade Librarian

<sup>1</sup>Royalaseema University, Kurnool, Andra Pradesh, India

<sup>2</sup>Veerashaiva College, Bellary, Karnataka, India

E-Mail: [mbuttarkar@rediffmail.com](mailto:mbuttarkar@rediffmail.com)

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**Abstract** - This study is about the status of usage of E-Resources available under Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)-Consortium by the Library Users of Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag (TCE, Gadag). Descriptive study Method (Case Study of TCE Library Users) was employed by using self-designed questionnaire. The study was conducted on users of TCE, Gadag Library which comprises of teaching staff and UG Students perusing Engineering Courses. The study was carried out by distributing questionnaires to the participants for knowing their skills in accessing information/e-resources for their academic and research activities. Altogether 50 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and 48 responses were received. The study was conducted in the month of November 2016. The data collected from the administered questionnaires are analyzed, tabulated and represented in graphical form. VTU E-Consortium is formed in January 2014. The study revealed that most of the respondents were aware of the VTU-Consortium and were using e-resources, mainly the e-journals, frequently for seeking information. After the data analysis, it was found that maximum users were using electronic resources for their academic purposes along with print resources. It is noteworthy that majority of users under study prefer e-resources while only a few of them prefer printed resources. Majority of respondents have suggested the library authority to provide adequate Internet Terminals with high speed bandwidth for optimum utilization of e-resources available under VTU Consortia.

**Keywords:** E-Resource; VTU Consortium; Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag; Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Engineering & Technology sector improvement and growth ratio is much larger than any other science sectors, to fulfill the user needs of information and resources, the consortium concept is introduced. Nowadays use and cost of information are increasing continuously, while the required budget for these resources is shrinking. Therefore to fulfill the needs of user; information consortium was came into existence.

This era is digital era, where libraries are moving towards electronics resources with rich of information resources. We can say that the electronic resources are stored, produced and disseminate in the form of bits and bytes.

Modern Libraries were having digitized data of information that has gradually replaced by paper-based records. Internet plays an important role in making these electronic journals and electronic books available to the end users on their resource center. The plan of the information centers today is to provide services not only to its registered users but also to every user of the knowledge community.

The improvement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is directly or indirectly influences to intellectuality of person, society and on information centers. [1] VTU Consortium was the dream project of the Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi (VTU), to promote the use of e-Resources to its affiliated institutions to get access an affordable cost; this is the first of its kind co-operative initiative in the entire country. The consortium aims at strengthening the collection of e-Resources in every institution and to enable their faculty and students to access scholarly information. This study was made based on use and awareness of only VTU consortium on the users of information center of TCE, Gadag

### A. Definition of Consortium

The 'Consortia' is the plural form of 'consortium' but is often used in place of singular form. The term is derived from Latin word which emphasizes the coming together of separate groups for a purpose. Also a large number of definitions available among them few were given bellow:

According to Online business dictionary (2016);

- Short-term arrangement in which several firms (from the same or different industry sectors or countries) pool their financial and human resources to undertake a large project that benefits all members of the group. A consortium lasts for a period that is usually shorter than that for a syndicate.
- Benefits the parties to an agreement or arrangement are entitled to receive from one another.

According to Wikipedia, (2016); A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common

activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal.

According to English Oxford Dictionary (2016); An association of several companies .

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

### ***B. Importance Of Consortium***

The following few factors describe the necessitate needs to build library e consortium are;

- a. [2] Access to resources is now considered more important than the collection building. The consortium facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and at the best terms of licenses. To reduce the cost of member library operations by obtaining information products.
  - b. (Prakash, A. Jaya. 2005); A consortium, with the collective strength of resources of various institutions available to it, is in a better position to resolve the problems of managing, organizing and archiving the electronic resources (Bedi & Sharma, 2008). The overwhelming application of new technologies, new methods of information retrieval/dissemination has contributed to rapid escalating user expectations in the sense that the users expect library information to be delivered as fast as any other information they need. Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings.
1. [3] To leverage resources by sharing existing resources or collection though virtual union catalogue and sharing of
    - i. Collections and collaborating on collection development; each library is able to contribute unique titles to the consortium – avoid duplication
    - ii. Electronic resources including the creation of digital collections-sharing among consortium members need not be just in terms of licensing products- it can also include sharing in the creation of digital collections.
    - iii. Sharing the archiving of resources.
    - iv. Sharing staff expertise- a consortium provides opportunities for staff members to develop new skills and interact with a varsity of people who would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise
    - v. Sharing risk- by sharing risk, members of a consortium can undertake projects that are larger than one institution can safely take on its own.
    - vi. This form of cooperation enables the consortia libraries to borrow books, periodicals, articles, and scientific journals, which are not available locally.

vii. Electronic access enables the user initiate their own search of remote catalogues and make requests for information.

2. To reduce the cost of library operations by obtaining a group purchased price for information product.
3. To bring pressure on, providers especially publishers to reduce the rate of rise in the cost of purchasing information.

### ***C. Benefits Of Library Consortia***

1. Reduction in the cost of e-resources
2. Ability to negotiate favorable terms and conditions of use
3. Expansion of services and resources.
4. Sharing of staff skills and expertise to strengthen library leadership
5. Increased effectiveness of advocacy for policy change.
6. Promotes cost effective, customer driven services

[4] A consortium is able to speak with one voice to vendors, policymakers and funders. Shared resources and jointly planned activities enable member libraries to provide more services, more effectively. Through smart negotiations and joint purchasing agreements, library consortia can significantly reduce the costs of commercial e-resources and achieve better terms and conditions of use, thereby maximizing value for money. Sharing human resources provides opportunities for staff to develop new skills and to engage in joint advocacy, marketing, service development, technology deployment and fundraising efforts. Why build 10 library systems when you can build one? Through resource sharing, consortium user’s works together to build services that efficiently address the needs of their faculty and students.

## **II. VTU CONSORTIUM**

[1] The VTU Consortium was the dream project of the VTU, Belagavi, to promote the use of e-Resources to its affiliated institutions to get access at an affordable cost. This is the first of its kind co-operative initiative in the entire country. The consortium aims at strengthening the collection of e-Resources in every institution and to enable their faculty and students to access scholarly information. The VTU consortium e-resources concept was born in the mind of VTU, Belagavi to provide a quality resource to the affiliated institution members, to promote research activities and to meet the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi. (AICTE) e-journals Norms. VTU has formed a committee headed by Honorable Vice Chancellor, Registrars and Librarian with the core committee members and experts. VTU Consortium was started with some of the publisher’s resource to provide its service to affiliated institutions.

### List of Publications provided in VTU E- Consortium is given below

ASCE- (American Society of Civil Engineers)  
PROQUEST Technology  
PROQUEST Management  
ELSEVIER's SCIENCE DIRECT  
IEEE Explore Digital Library  
Springer  
Knimbus  
Taylor & Frances  
CRCnetBASE

#### Resources are available with VTU E-Consortium

E – Journals : 8611  
Conference proceedings : 6514  
Standards : 3043  
Abstract : 18100  
E Books : More than 12000

[1] The affiliated institutions were spending more than 25-35 Lakhs to subscribe the minimum e- Resources. Looking at the difficulties experienced by the colleges and the importance of getting access to scholarly Journals for the Students of VTU, the University ventured in to establish a VTU Consortium. Initially this consortium was functioning on the voluntary membership of the colleges. Looking at the mixed response from the colleges the Executive Council of the VTU decided to lessen the burden of the colleges and introduced Nominal fees for the students like UG and PG.

#### A. Services of VTU consortium

[1][5]The consortia-based subscription to e-resources is a viable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources across Technical Institutions at competitive rates of subscription. Major benefits of The Consortium are as follows:

1. It acts as a single-window service for Technical Institutions with their diverse research and academic interests;
2. VTU Consortium attracts its institutions with its competitive rates of subscription with wider range of e-resources;
3. Users would get access to material previously not subscribed to, including back files;
4. VTU Consortium subscribed resources are accessible online in electronic format with back volumes.
5. The research productivity of beneficiary institutions is expected to improve with increased access to international databases and full-text resources.

#### B. Tontadarya College Of Engineering, Gadag

[6] Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag (TCE), is an undergraduate engineering college established in the year 1997. TCE is presently approved by AICTE, New Delhi,

recognized by Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) Karnataka and affiliated to VTU, Belgaum.

### III. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

For the present study the primary and secondary source of literature has been consulted. Some journal articles and theses have also been consulted. Many studies have been carried out worldwide to know the status of use of e-resources and ICT use by the library users. Most of the studies have been conducted on Internet use pattern by library users of different libraries. Many studies on Internet use and Internet Literacy awareness have been conducted both at International and national Level. A number of studies have been conducted on Status of Internet Use Pattern and On-Line Access to E-Resources available under Digital Library and Consortium [7], [8], [9], [10], [11],[12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [3], [20], [21],

But no such studies have been conducted on the status of usage of E-Resources available under the VTU Consortium in Karnataka and other parts of North Eastern Region of India. Therefore, in this study an attempt has been taken to study the status of usage of E-Resources available under VTU Consortium by the library users of TCE, Gadag.

### IV. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. To know the compatibility of users of TCE library to use resources.
2. To identify the awareness of users about online journals, VTU Consortia and services available in TCE library.
3. To know the platform for usage of VTU consortium by users of TCE Library.
4. To identify use of e-resources in a week at TCE library.
5. To study the purpose of use of VTU Consortium.
6. To analyse the search methods to get relevant e-resources by users.
7. To know the problems in using VTU consortium at TCE library by its user.

### V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For fulfillment of objective of study I have applied stratified random sampling method for collection of necessary data. To achieve the purpose of study, a survey conducted through questionnaire among library users. The library users in the institution may be students, research scholars and faculty members of TCE, Gadag. The questionnaire related to awareness of electronic resources, use of VTU consortium, its necessity and availability in institution, the problem facing by users to use VTU consortium.

## VI. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study focused on the use and awareness of VTU consortium by the users of TCE, Gadag Library and Information Center. Attempts have been made to know the information requirements and availability for the users. The main focus of this study is to identify the needs and requirements of users in general and to know the use of VTU consortia in College library. The area of study is restricted to users of only TCE, Gadag Library and Information Center (2016).

## VII. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The total numbers of 50 questionnaires are distributed among TCE library users, 48 users provide their response and returned the data sheet. I processed 48 questionnaires and analyze as follows.

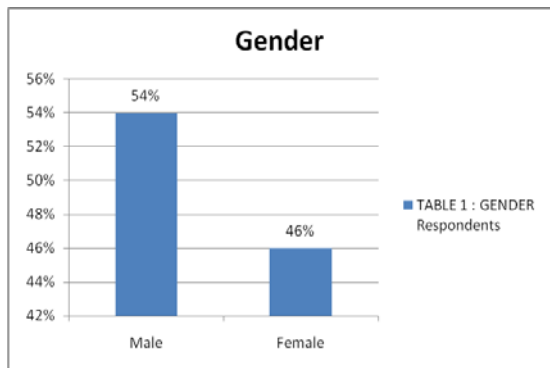


Fig.1 Users gender wise

Here the figure 1 shows that 54% of respondents were male and 46% respondent's female candidates in total respondents. So it is clear that the number of male candidates is more than female candidates.

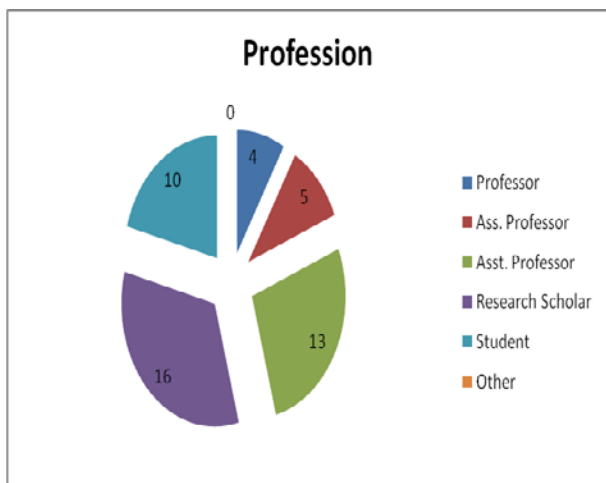


Fig.2 User professions wise

In Figure 2 show the category of respondents according to their profession. From figure 2, it clears that the Research Scholar's number is more than other category respondents.

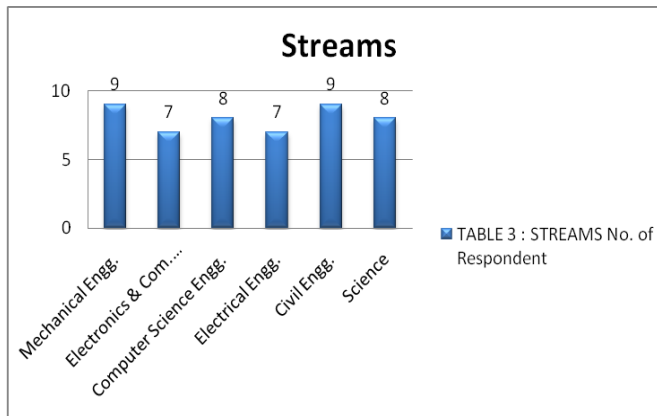


Fig.3 Users Stream wise

The Figure 3 shows the streams of respondents. It clearly indicates that the respondents from Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering streams were more than other stream respondents.

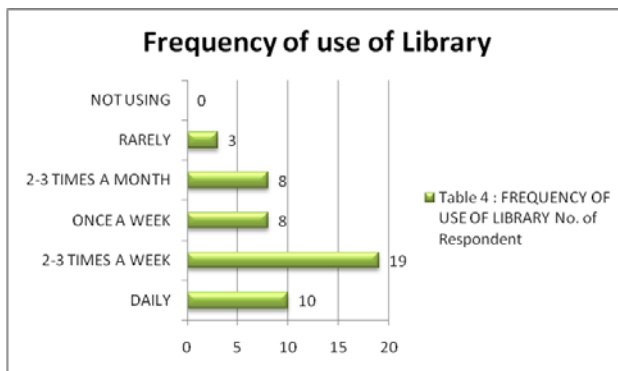


Fig.4 Frequency of use of Library

Figure 4 shows the frequency of respondents to library usage. 19 respondents were visiting to library 2-3 times in a week.

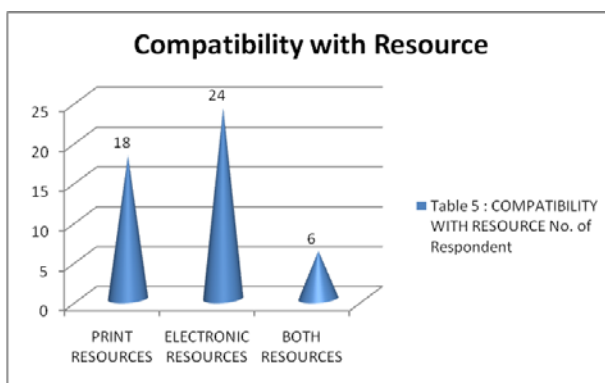


Fig.5 Compatibility with information resources.

Figure 5 shows the compatibility of users with resources. From this graph we can know that 50% of respondents were compatible with using e resource and 212.5% students were compatible with using both resources.

It is clear that maximum respondents were feeling comfort with using e-resources, which enhances the utility of VTU e-consortia resources.

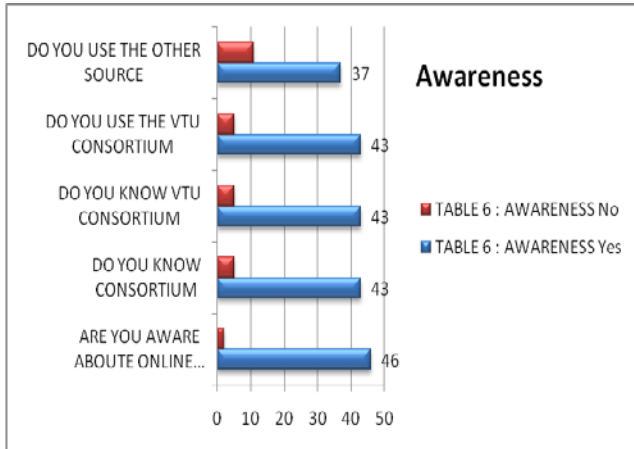


Fig.6 Awareness of users about online journals.

Figure 6 shows the awareness of users about online journals.

From this figure we can know that 43 users were using VTU Consortium. It shows maximum users are using VTU Consortium.

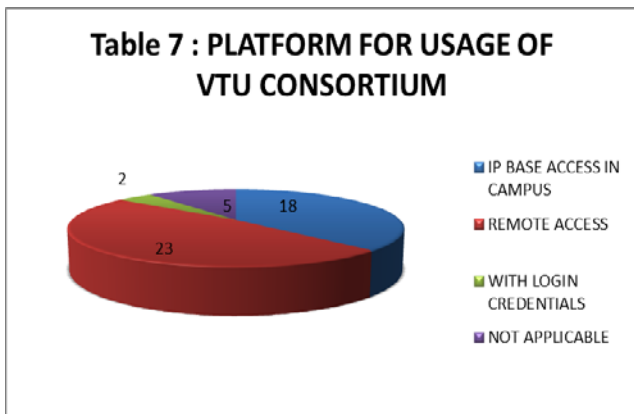


Fig.7 Platform for usage of VTU Consortium.

Figure 7 shows the platform for usage of VTU Consortium. 23 respondents were using remote access and it is the highest number, because with remote access they can access resources anytime, anywhere.

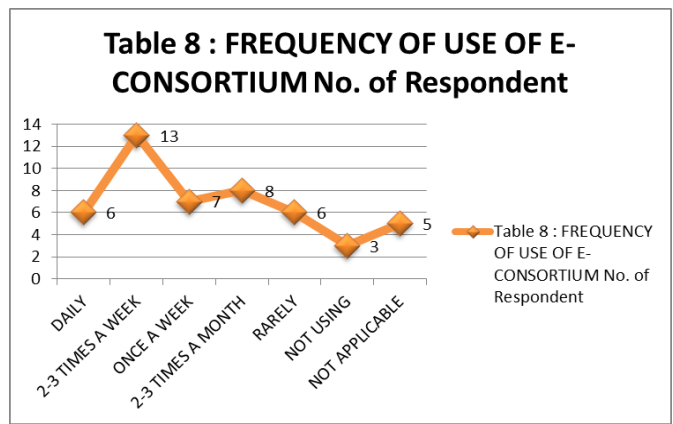


Fig.8 Frequency of use of e-consortium.

Figure 8 shows the frequency of VTU consortia use by respondents. 13 respondents (about 30%) were used 2-3 times a week and 3 respondents (about 7%) were not using this. From this data we can say that very negligible numbers of respondents were not used VTU consortia daily.

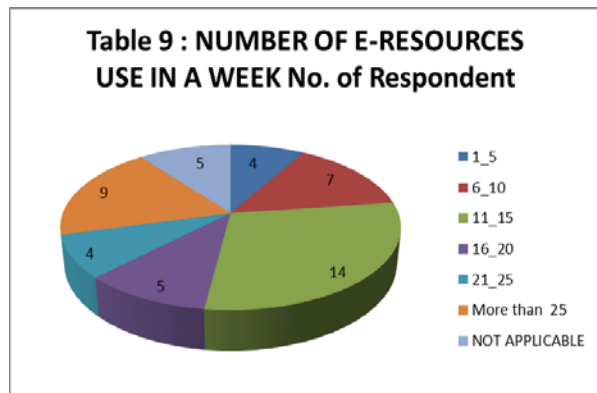


Fig.9 Number of e-resources used in a week

Figure 9 shows the number of e-resources used by respondents in a week. Here 14 respondents (about 32.56%) used 11-15 e resources in a week and a set of 4 respondents used from 1-5 and another set of 4 respondents used 21-25 e-resources. So we can say that 11-15 e-resources were used by respondents in a week.

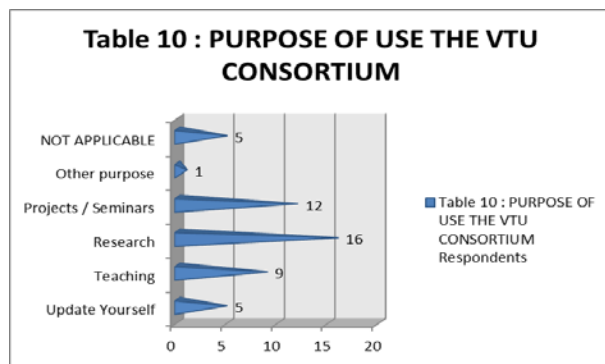


Fig.10 Purpose of use the VTU E-Consortium

Figure 10 shows the purpose of use of VTU e-consortia by respondents. 16 respondents were used for research purpose, and 1 user used for other academic purpose. From this we can say that VTU e-consortia resources were used extensively for research work by research scholars.

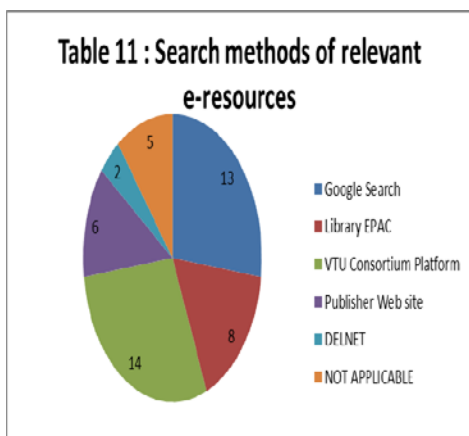


Fig.11 Search methods of relevant e-resources

Figure 11 shows the searching methods adopted by respondents in e-resources. Very less respondents (2 respondents) searched through DELNET and 14 users searched through VTU e-consortium platform. It indicates that 33% of respondents were using VTU Consortium platform.

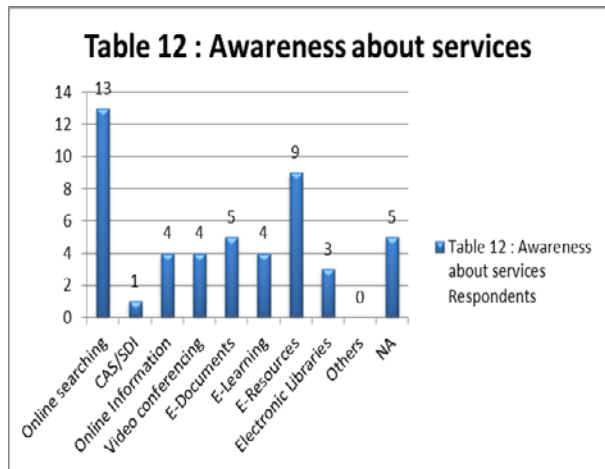


Fig.12 Awareness about Library services

Figure 12 shows the awareness of respondents about Library & Information services. It is clear that many respondents were aware about available services except CAS/SDI. Online searching was most popular, on line retrieval, video conferencing, electronic document delivery, e-learning, e-resources, electronic library, e commerce etc. were also known services.

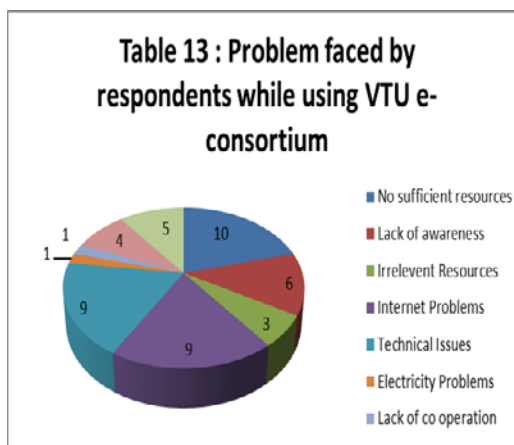


Fig.13 Problem faced by respondents while using VTU e-consortium

Figure 13 represents problem faced by respondents while using VTU e-consortium. The main problem of respondents was that they were unable to find adequate quantity of e-resources, and other associated problems were Technical issues, Internet Problems. Respondents require technical assistance for the effective use of VTU e-consortium.

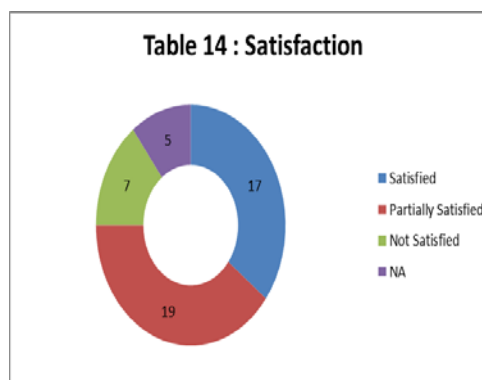


Fig.14 Satisfaction about the e-resources.

Figure 14 shows the satisfaction of respondents about the e-resources materials available under VTU consortia. The 19 users were partially satisfied and 17 users were satisfied. So that we can say the users satisfaction level is excellent.

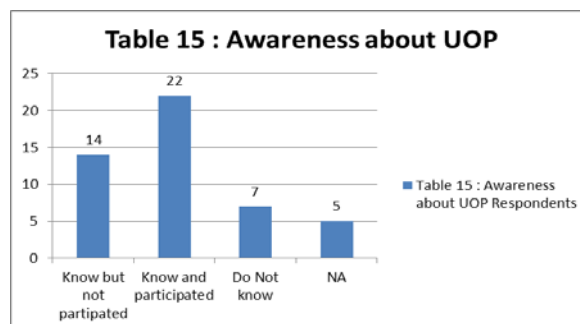


Fig.15 Awareness about UOP



Figure 15 shows the awareness of respondents about User Orientation Programme (UOP). Here the figure shows the many respondents were aware about UOP. UOP is very essential to users for effective usage of available information resources.

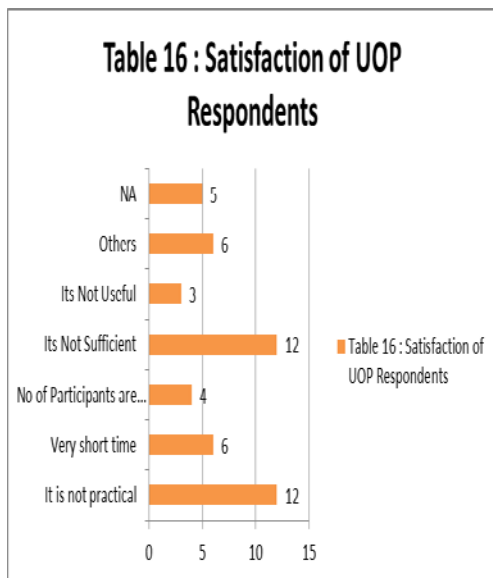


Fig.16 Satisfaction of UOP

Figure 16 shows the satisfaction of respondents during UOP. 12 respondents expressed that UOP has not provided sufficient skills and training required for effective use of VTU e-consortium. Therefore the design of UOP must be improved for its effectiveness.

### VIII. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The important findings of the study were summarized below

- 19 respondents were visiting library 2-3 times in a week.
- This survey showed 6 respondents were comfort with both print and e-resources and 24 respondents (about 50 %) were comfortable with e-resources.
- 43 users are aware about e-resources, consortia and VTU consortia. So it means a VTU consortium excellent.
- 23 users were using Remote access and it was the highest number, because with remote access respondents were fulfilling their requirement of resources anywhere, anytime.
- 13 respondents (about 30%) were used 2-3 times a week. Very negligible numbers of respondents were not used VTU consortia daily.
- Here 14 respondents (about 32.56%) were used 11-15 e resources in a week and 4 respondents from 1-5 and another 4 respondents used 21-25 e-resources.

- 16 respondents were used e-resources for research purpose, and minimum respondents were used for other academic purposes.
- 33% of respondents were used VTU e-consortium platform for their academic needs.
- With this study it was clear that, many respondents were well aware about all services except CAS/SDI services.
- The main problem of respondents was not getting sufficient resources from VTU e consortium as well as Internet Problem.
- The 19 respondents were partially satisfied and 17 respondents were completely satisfied. Therefore the respondents satisfaction level is excellent.
- This study showed that many respondents were aware about UOP.
- 12 respondents opined that UOP was not sufficient. Therefore the design of UOP must be improved for its effectiveness.

### IX. CONCLUSION

The Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag is one of the top 10 Colleges in North Karnataka as per the Nelson survey, 2014, and it is imparting higher education in the field of Technology since 1997 to rural background students. The study has conducted for VTU consortia to assess the availability of resources, user awareness, and available infrastructure in Tontadarya College of Engineering, Gadag. The institute spends a big amount to make sure availability of electronic resources in college library. The study has shown the importance of electronic resources in development of education and quality of research. The users reply well and found that users aware about electronic resources as well as VTU consortia, they need more availability of electronic resources in libraries. One thing notable here user's compatibility with electronic resources is better than print resources. To enhance the use of consortia more user's awarenesss.

Program organized and up gradation of existing library services for maximum use of electronic resources is necessary. One more things about the users are more and more aware about library services but so many problems faced for avail the services. So that we can say the users is partially satisfied with VTU consortia and he wants more and more advancement in the context of facilities, infrastructures and availability of electronic resources.

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