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# Mapping the Contribution of ETDs to Shodhganaga by the North East Universities in LIS Research

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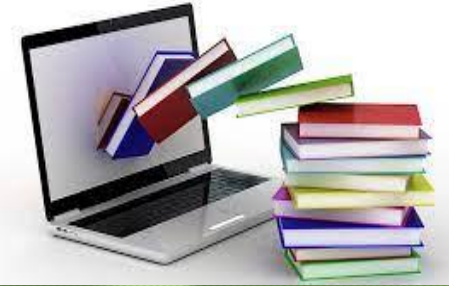
# Introduction



- At present electronic publishing are replacing the printed recorded of knowledge, information explosion is also the driving force behind the emergence of the electronic resources, it is difficult to keep the physical record of each document, the job is time consuming as well as demands lots of space.
- With the advent of ETDs (Electronic Thesis and Dissertation), it has become very easy for researcher to look for research output of institutions. It has emerged as a valuable asset for acquiring and disseminating research output. ETDs has gain lots of popularity in the academic field of study; nowadays, almost all the universities across India are involved in creating database of ETDs.



# Background of the Study



- ETDs databases are on developing stage in India, it is growing day by day, faculties and scholars are much facilitated by this system. The acceptance of Open Access among the scholarly community has made it easy for the researchers to access information.
- Supporting open access movement, various institutions and organizations have taken initiative to develop and make a database of ETDs on their collection. Most of the universities worldwide are accepting and encouraging the submission of theses and dissertations in electronic format. With database of ETDs researcher can easily avoid duplication in their research work as it gives quick access and retrieval of available research studies.
- ETDs also solve the problem of space in libraries for keeping the physical copies of research output of an institute. In India lot of initiatives are taken on ETDs which has led to huge developments of ETDs at national level.

# Background of the Study

- In India we have Shodhganga, a national repository of ETDs where universities submit their doctoral thesis/dissertation and make it available to the entire scholarly community across the world in open access.
- Furthermore, in India we also have another repository which is called Shodhgangotri, it is a repository of Research Synopsis, where approved Synopsis of research scholars of Indian universities is uploaded.



# Shodhganga

- Shodhganga is the digital repository of Indian ETDs, developed and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre and funded by the Government of India (GOI). UGC has mandate the submission of doctoral theses/dissertations of universities fall under his umbrella into Shodhganga.
- Shodhganga ensures easy access to ETDs and also helps in maintaining the high standard of the contents. It helps in avoiding duplication of research and also solves the problem of poor visibility of research contents.
- Shodhganga has gain milestone with the record of 478687 number of theses submitted from 729 universities of India, moreover 840 number of universities have signed MoU with Shodhganga as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**Table-1 Status of Top 10 Universities Contributing Electronic Theses and Dissertations to Shodhganga ETD Repository as on 1/08/2023**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Top Ten Universities</b>	<b>No. of ETDs Contributing</b>
1	Tamil Nadu	Anna University	14520
2	Tamil Nadu	University of Madras	14359
3	West Bengal	University of Calcutta	13856
4	Maharashtra	Savitribai Phule Pune University	12309
5	Uttar Pradesh	Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University	10133
6	Bihar	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University	9675
7	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh Muslim University	9606
8	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra University	9186
9	Punjab	Panjab University	8837
10	Uttar Pradesh	V. B. S. Purvanchal University	8720



# Review of Literature



ETDs are the bright spot in academic field, providing huge exposure to research output and opportunities for creative scholarship (Das and Saikia, 2014). Vidyanidhi, developed by University of Mysore is the first ETD repository of India, it is initiated to generate collection of ETDs and to provide network access to Indian theses and dissertation. With this the open access to the Indian theses has started widely across the country. Since then, many projects have come up for the development of ETDs, among them the biggest project is development of Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri, maintained by INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad (Devi and Verma, 2017). ETDs databases are very flexible, it can store multimedia, sound, video, and hypertext links (Bhat and Mundhol, 2014).

# Review of Literature



- ETDs are very important as it holds the primary source of information which researchers can easily access as well as share their research work effectively and creatively among the scholarly community of all over the world through internet. Open Access ETDs also helps researcher in, increasing their citation count (Sengupta, 2019). There are many studies conducted by the researcher to know the status of ETDs in different states of India which showed great progress in the growth and development of ETDs in Indian Universities (Devi and Singh, 2021); (Sengupta, 2019); (Verma, Yadav and Singh, 2017); (Sivakumaren and Swaminathan, 2020) (Dey and Das, 2021).



# Objectives of the Study



1. The study tried to evaluate the status of ETDs contribution made by State and Central Universities of North East (NE) India;
2. To know the contribution of ETDs made by the Library and Information Science (LIS-ETDs) departments of selected universities;
3. To know the most productive LIS research supervisor based on the LIS-ETDs contribution in Shodhganga.
4. To examine the use of ETDs by the Research Scholars of selected universities.

# Research Methodology



- For the present study the researchers have selected State and Central Universities of North East India shown in Table-2.
- At present we have 11 Central Universities and 27 State Universities in North East which are funded by the Government of India (GOI).
- All the data used for the present study was retrieved after thoroughly investigating the Shodhganga website.
- Also, a questionnaire prepared on Google Form was distributed among the Research Scholars of North East State and Central Universities, offering Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science through various social media platforms. The questionnaire received back, was carefully analysed using MS Excel and presented in tables and graphs.



Table-2 List of State and Central Universities in North East region as of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Sl. No.	State	Universities	State/Central
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh University, Pasighat	ST
2		Rajiv Gandhi University	CU
3	Assam	Assam University	CU
4		Tezpur University	CU
5		Assam Agricultural University	ST
6		Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management	ST
7		Assam Science and Technology University	ST
8		Bhattadev University	ST
9		Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Vishwavidyalaya	ST
10		Bodoland University	ST
11		Cotton University	ST
12		Dibrugarh University	ST
13		Gauhati University	ST
14		Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	ST
15		Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University	ST
16		Madhabdev University	ST
17		Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	ST
18		Majuli University of Culture	ST
19		National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam	ST
20		Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai	ST
21		Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University	ST
22		Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences	ST

23	Manipur	Central Agricultural University	CU
24		Manipur University	CU
25		National Sports University	CU
26		Dhanamanjuri University	ST
27		Manipur Technical University	ST
28		Manipur University of Culture	ST
29	Meghalaya	North-Eastern Hill University	CU
30	Mizoram	Mizoram University	CU
31	Nagaland	Nagaland University	CU
32	Sikkim	Sikkim University	CU
33		Khangchendzonga State University	ST
34		Sikkim National Law University	ST
35	Tripura	Maharaja Bir Bikram University	ST
36		National Law University, Tripura	ST
37		Tripura University	CU



# Findings of the Study

# 1. Status of North East (NE) State and Central Universities Contributing ETDs to Shodhganga

- The table-3 depicts that **out of 11 Central Universities of NE 9 Universities are contributing ETDs in Shodhganga and out of 26 NE State Universities only 9 universities are contributing ETDs on Shodhganga.**
- The table-3 also revealed that out of total 37 NE State and Central Universities, maximum 19 (51.4%) universities have not contributed ETDs to Shodhganga whereas **only 18 (48.6%) NE State and Central Universities have contributed ETDs to Shodhganga.**
- Out of 18 contributing universities **Gauhati University has scored 1<sup>st</sup> Rank with 6214 (37.8%) number of ETDs contributions followed by North-Eastern Hill University which has scored 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank with 2512 (15.3%) number of ETDs contribution and Assam University has scored 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank with 2150 (13.1%) number of ETDs contribution on Shodhganga.**
- However, from table-3 it is also clear that NE State and Central Universities **overall have contributed total 16455 number of ETDs to Shodhganga.**



Table:3 Number of ETDs Contributed by NE  
State and Central Universities to Shodhganga as of 1 August 2023.

Sl. No.	NE States	<u>Name of the Central Universities</u>	ETDs Contributing	Percentage (%)
1		Rajiv Gandhi University	534	5.8%
2	Assam	Assam University	2150	23.4%
3		Tezpur University	864	9.4%
4		Manipur University	1404	15.3%
5	Manipur	National Sports University	0	0.0%
6		Central Agricultural University	0	0.0%
7	Meghalaya	North-Eastern Hill University	2512	27.3%
8	Mizoram	Mizoram University	712	7.8%
9	Nagaland	Nagaland University	412	4.5%
10	Sikkim	Sikkim University	176	1.9%
11	Tripura	Tripura University	421	4.6%
Total			9185	100.0%

Sl. No.	NE States	<u>Name of the State Universities</u>	ETDs Contributing	Percentage (%)
1	Auranachal Pradesh	Arunachal Prdaesh University, Pasighat	0	0.0%
2	Assam	Assam Agricultural University	52	0.7%
3		Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management	2	0.0%
4		Assam Science and Technology University	2	0.0%
5		Bhattadev University	0	0.0%
6		Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Vishwavidyalaya	0	0.0%
7		Bodoland University	70	1.0%
8		Cotton University	15	0.2%
9		Dibrugarh University	894	12.3%
10		Gauhati University	6214	85.5%
11		Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	12	0.2%
12		Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University	0	0.0%
13		Madhabdev University	0	0.0%



14		Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	0	0.0%
15		Majuli University of Culture	0	0.0%
16		National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam	9	0.1%
17		Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai	0	0.0%
18		Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University	0	0.0%
19		Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences	0	0.0%
20	Manipur	Dhanamanjuri University	0	0.0%
21		Manipur Technical University	0	0.0%
22		Manipur University of Culture	0	0.0%
23	Sikkim	Khangchendzonga State University	0	0.0%
24		Sikkim National Law University	0	0.0%
25	Tripura	Maharaja Bir Bikram University	0	0.0%
26		National Law University, Tripura	0	0.0%
	Total		7270	100.0%

## 2. NE State and Central Universities offering Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science

The table-4 depicts that out of 37 NE State and Central Universities only 6 universities are offering Ph.D. program in the field of Library and Information Science.

Table:4 NE Universities offering Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science

Sl. No.	University Name	Year of Establishment	No. of Faculties
1	Gauhati University	1966	5
2	North-Eastern Hill University	1985	6
3	Manipur University	1986	6
4	Mizoram University	2002	8
5	Assam University	2009	4
6	Tripura University	2016	4



### 3. NE State and Central University contributing LIS-ETDs in Shodhganga (N=185)

- The present study revealed the ETDs' contribution in the field of Library and Information Science in figure-1. At present 5 universities contribution LIS-ETDs in Shodhganga and Gauhati University recorded highest 67 (36.2%) number of LIS-ETDs contribution on Shodhganga among selected universities of North East followed by 43 (23.2%) number of LIS-ETDs contribution, made by North-Eastern Hill University, 36 (19.5%) number of LIS-ETDs contributed by Mizoram University, 29 (15.7%) number of LIS-ETDs contributed by Manipur University and lastly 10 (5.4%) number of LIS-ETDs contribution recorded by Assam University in the field of Library and Information Science. LIS department of Tripura University has not submitted any LIS-ETDs as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

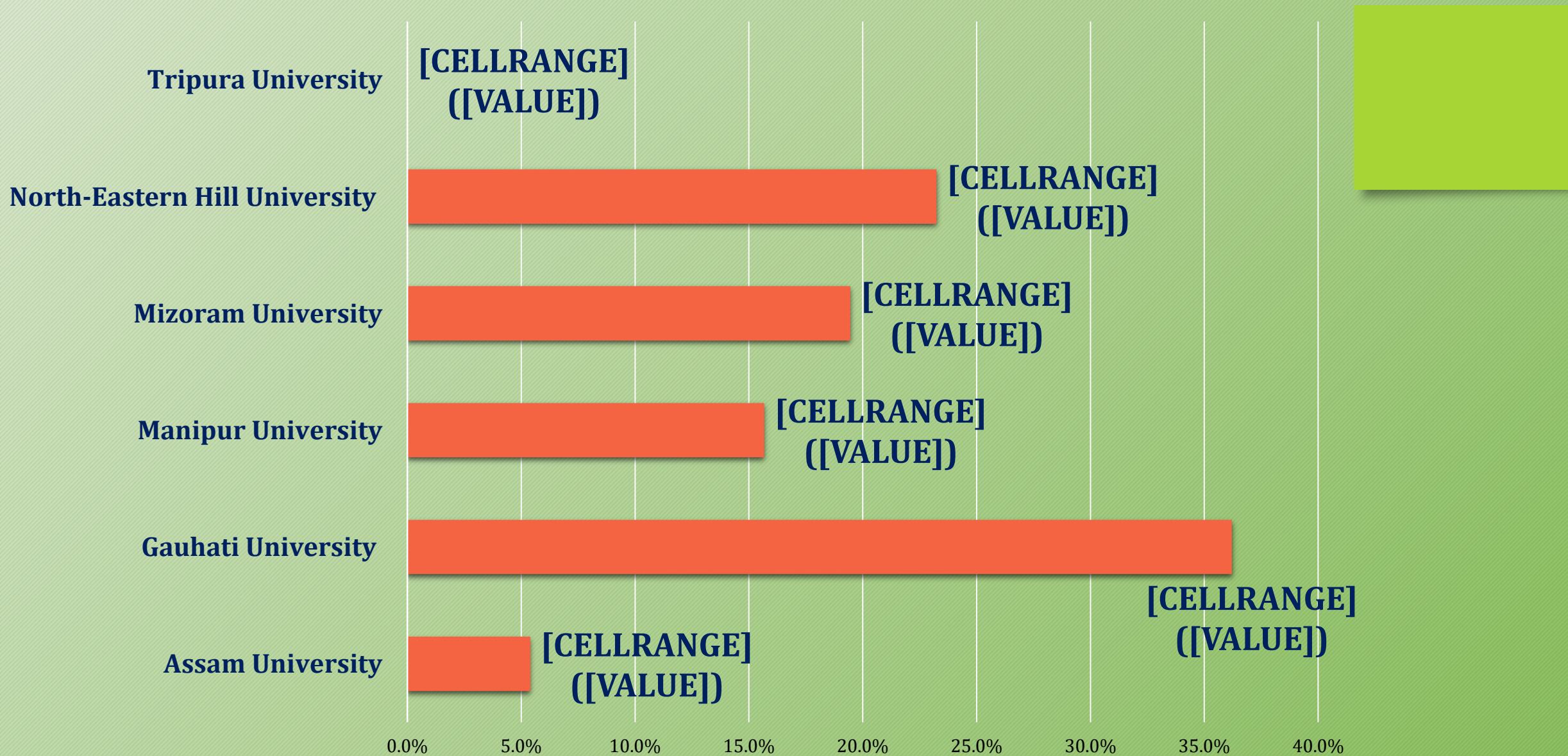


Figure-1



## 4. University-wise Supervisors' Availability of LIS-ETDs on Shodhganga

The table-5 Showed the production of ETDs on Shodhganga in the field of Library and Information Science by the supervisors of theses submitted by LIS research scholar. It is found that there is total 185 number of ETDs contributed by NE Universities in the field of Library and Information Science. Moreover, the study also revealed that out of all the supervisors of Ph.D., Dr. Narendra Lahkar has taken 1<sup>st</sup> Rank with contribution of 20 (10.8%) number LIS-ETDs among North East Universities.

**Table: 5 University-wise supervisors' availability of LIS-ETDs on Shodhganga (N=185)**

State	Name of the Supervisors	No. of ETDs Uploaded	Percentage %
Assam University	Dr. Mukut Sarmah	5	2.7%
	Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha	5	2.7%
Gauhati University	Narendra Lahkar	20	10.8%
	Tilak Hazarika	2	1.1%
	Narendra Nath Sharma	16	8.6%
	Dhrubajit Das	1	0.5%
	Sanjay Kumar Singh	9	4.9%
	Dipen Deka	2	1.1%
	Alaka Buragohain	8	4.3%
	Rajani Kanta Barman	9	4.9%



Manipur University	Dr. Ch. Ibohal Singh	6	3.2%
	Dr. Th. Madhuri Devi	6	3.2%
	Dr. Th. Purnima Devi	6	3.2%
	S L Sangam	1	0.5%
	Prof. M.R. Kumbhar	4	2.2%
	Dr. Ramansu Lahiri	4	2.2%
	Th. Khomdon Singh	2	1.1%
Mizoram University	Prof. S.N. Singh	8	4.3%
	Lalngaizuali	2	1.1%
	Amit Kumar	2	1.1%
	Dr. Manoj Kumar Verma	7	3.8%
	R.K.Ngurtinkhuma	5	2.7%
	Prof.Pravarkar Rath	8	4.3%
	Dr. R.N. Mishra	3	1.6%
North-Eastern Hill University	Dr.Akhananda Shukla	1	0.5%
	Dr.Bikika Laloo	7	3.8%
	S. Ravikumar	3	1.6%
	Dr. P. Hangsing	9	4.9%
	Prof. Moses Marg Naga	8	4.3%
	Dr. J.C. Binwal	6	3.2%
	Dr. A.S. Chandel	3	1.6%
	Akash Handique	1	0.5%
	N. M. Panda	1	0.5%
	Dr.Veena Saraf	5	2.7%
Total		185	100.0%

## 5. Research Scholars' Awareness and Usage of ETDs on Shodhganga (N=77)

The researchers have distributed 17 number of questionnaires to each selected universities of North East, mentioned in Table-5. Therefore, total 102 number of questionnaires were distributed among 6 selected Universities of North East. Here, the result is drawn from the 77 number of questionnaires which were received back from the research scholars of selected universities. The empirical data of the present study showed that maximum 25 (32.5%) response received from Arts and Humanities discipline of study followed by Social Sciences 17 (22.1%); Science 14 (18.2%); Commerce and Management 12 (15.6%) and from Technology received 9 (11.7%) number of responses. Form the study it is also evident that 100% of the Research Scholars are aware of ETDs available on Shodhganga and using ETDs for their research works.



## *5.1 Usage Statistic of ETDs on Shodhganga by Research Scholar (N=77)*

The figure-2 denotes that **maximum number of research scholars 25 (32.5%) are Always using ETDs available on Shodhganga** followed by 22 (28.6%) research scholar using Frequently, moreover, 17 (22.1%) research scholars mentioned, using ETDs Occasionally and lastly 13 (16.9%) research scholars stated that Usually they are using ETDs available on Shodhganga.

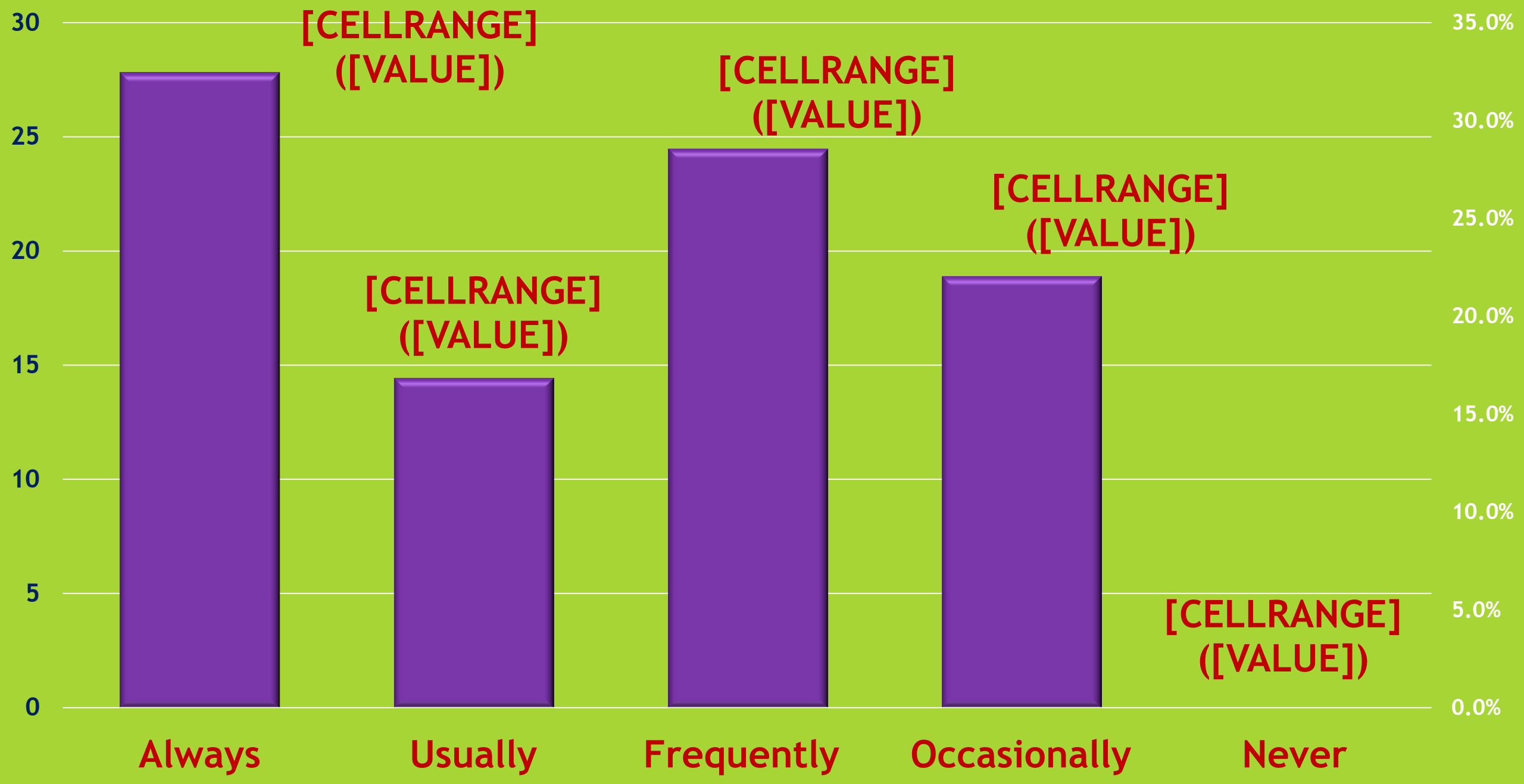


Figure-2



## *5.2 Research Scholars Level of Satisfaction of Using ETDs available on Shodhganga (N=77)*

Research Scholars showed satisfactory feelings towards the use of ETDs available on Shodhganga, revealed in figure-3. The figure-3 depicts that mostly 33 (42.9%) number of research scholars are Satisfied with ETDs available on Shodhganga and 21 (27.3%) respondents are very Satisfied. However, 14 (18.2%) respondents showed Neutral opinion and lastly 9 (11.7%) research scholar mentioned that they are Dissatisfied with ETDs on Shodhganga.

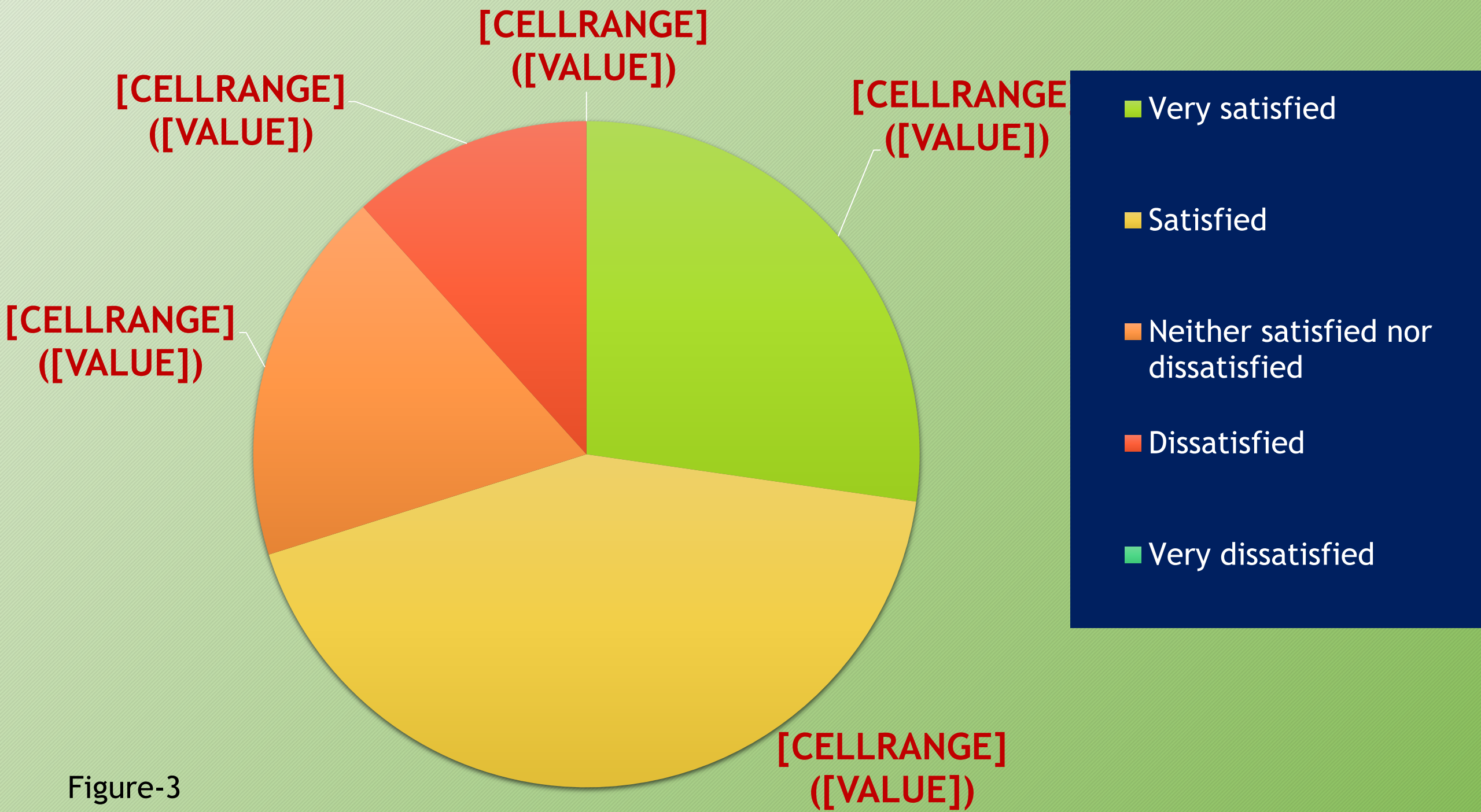


Figure-3



### *5.3 Problems faced by the Respondents While Accessing in Shodhganga. (Multiple Answers Permitted)*

Out of 77 respondents it can be seen from the table-6, **Insufficient Terminal is the major problem faced by 50 (64.9%) number of research scholars while accessing Shodhganga.** However, 37 (48.1%) stated that there is No Problem faced by them while accessing Shodhganga. Besides, 34 (44.2%) research scholar selected Not Easy to Understand followed by 31 (40.3%) research scholars said there is Less Training Program and Awareness, 27 (35.1%) number of research scholars selected Less Searching Options, 12 (15.6%) selected Slow Downloading, 9 (11.7%) selected Unwillingness of Library Staffs to help and lastly 5 (6.5%) said Slow Speed of Internet are the problems faced while accessing Shodhganga.

Table:6 Problems faced by the Respondents while accessing in Shodhganga (N=77)

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Slow Downloading	12	15.6%
Less Searching Options	27	35.1%
Insufficient Terminal	50	64.9%
Not Easy to Understand	34	44.2%
Slow Speed of Internet	5	6.5%
Less Training Programs and Awareness	31	40.3%
Unwillingness of Library Staffs to Help	9	11.7%
No Problem	37	48.1%



# Conclusion

- The present study gave us the clear picturesque of ETDs development in North East Universities.
- The study focused on evaluating the progress of ETDs contribution to Shodhganga in the field of Library and Information Science.
- The NE universities are still growing their collection in Shodhganga, it is under the process of gradual development.
- However, it is very disappointing to note that 51.4% universities of NE are not contributing ETDs to Shodhganga.

# Conclusion

- Furthermore, after consulting previous studies made by many researchers across the country, regarding ETDs contribution on Shodhganga, it was found that in NE universities have less number of ETDs contributed to Shodhganga comparing to other states of India (Dey and Das, 2021); (Sengupta, 2019); (Sivakumaren and Swaminathan, 2020).
- North East State and Central Universities altogether have contributed 16455 number of Electronic Theses and Dissertation, which is very less in number.
- Mostly through Shodhganga project, UGC initiated a solution to the problem of poor visibility of research beyond Library walls across the country (Devi & Verma, 2017). Hence, the Libraries of NE universities have to work harder to make arrangement for uploading ETDs on Shodhganga as it is the duty of Library to upload ETDs on Shodhganga.



- The university Authorities and Librarians must look after the problems and the reasons for slow increase of ETDs on Shodhganga in NE region.
- However, NE Central Universities have made great progress over the year which can be noticed while comparing the previous studies conducted on status of ETDs in North East Central Universities by Devi and Verma (2017).
- The Universities across the country must take this on serious note and fast forward the process of contributing ETDs on Shodhganga.
- Lastly, it is believed that the findings of the present study will bring the attention of higher authorities and necessary arrangements will be made to increase the contribution of ETDs to Shodhganga in NE region.

**THANK**

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