Measuring Central Universities' Research Contribution to the Nation (India): An Assessment of ETDs (Shodhganga)

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Background: Information and communication technology (ICT) has significantly impacted the way people search, gather, and disseminate information. Grey literature, which includes research not widely published or with limited non-commercial publication, includes important sources like dissertations and theses. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) have significantly impacted this process. The University Grants Commission Notification, published on June 1, 2009, mandates Indian researchers to submit electronic copies of their theses and dissertations for free access to the global academic community. Universities can receive UGC funding to digitize their research backlog by signing Memorandums of Understanding with the INFLIBNET Center and making electronic copies available to Shodhganga. Students must submit their theses and dissertations online to meet this requirement. While it can be a useful source of data for research, it is crucial to remember that there are other metrics that should be utilized to evaluate a university's contribution to national research. Shodhganga is a repository for Indian Ph.D. theses, while INFLIBNET collects and makes research available through its network. This project facilitates effective sharing and accessibility of research findings within the academic community. The Shodhganga repository now has 482492 full-text theses and dissertations uploaded (till September 5, 2023), and 840 universities have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and are contributing to it.

Figure 1

(Source: https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/Access on 28.08.2023)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

➢ **CATEGORIZE THE THESES:** The study examines the research landscape in Central Universities by analyzing ETD uploads to Shodhganga in 2022.

➢ **ASSESSING LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION**, departmental classification, evaluating interdisciplinary collaboration, and setting performance benchmarks.

➢ **ANALYZE THE DATA:** Determine how many ETDs were submitted by each Central university in order to analyze the data.

➢ **COMPARE THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES ETDS:** It's critically important to compare university contributions to research, such as the number of ETDs uploaded.

It is crucial to keep in mind that these aims may change based on the particular environment and objectives of the evaluation done on the research contributions made by central institutions through ETDs in Shodhganga.

Methods: The methodology for gathering information about Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) from central universities involved thorough searching on Shodhganga, organizing the data into an Excel spreadsheet, and selecting specific universities to ensure accurate representation. To avoid having the same data twice, the researchers chose universities unique in their states. It is important to note that some newer central universities may not have uploaded their ETDs yet on Shodhganga, as they are still in the early stages of development. The data was organized and carefully selected to avoid duplicates. The study emphasizes the importance of carefully selecting and organizing data to ensure accurate representation of central universities.

Table 1: Central Universities offer ETDs on Shodhganga

Serial No.	Name of the University	ETDs offer On Shodhganga
1	Aligarh Muslim University	Yes
2	Assam University	Yes
3	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Yes
4	Banaras Hindu University	Yes
5	Central Agricultural University	Yes
6	Central Sanskrit University	Yes
7	Central University of Gujarat	Yes
8	Central University of Haryana	Yes
9	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	Yes
10	Central University of Jammu	Yes
11	Central University of Jharkhand	Yes
12	Central University of Karnataka	Yes
13	Central University of Kashmir	Yes
14	Central University of Kerala	Yes
15	Central University of Orissa	Yes
16	Central University of Punjab	Yes
17	Central University of Rajasthan	Yes
18	Central University of South Bihar	Yes
19	Central University of Tamil Nadu	Yes
20	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	Yes
21	English & Foreign Languages University	Yes
22	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	Yes
23	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	Yes
24	Indian Maritime University	Yes
25	Indira Gandhi National Open University	Yes
26	Jamia Millia Islamia	Yes
27	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Yes
28	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	Yes
29	Manipur University	Yes
30	Maulana Azad National Urdu University	Yes
31	Mizoram University	Yes
32	Nagaland University	Yes
33	National Sanskrit University (previously Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth)	Yes
34	North Eastern Hill University	Yes
35	Pondicherry University	Yes
36	Rajiv Gandhi University	Yes
37	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University	Yes
38	Sikkim University	Yes
39	South Asian University	Yes
40	Tezpur University	Yes
41	The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University	Yes
42	Tripura University	Yes
43	University of Allahabad	Yes
44	University of Delhi	Yes
45	University of Hyderabad	Yes
46	Visva Bharati	Yes

The table 1 lists universities with Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) available on the Shodhganga platform, with all universities having "Yes" status, indicating their ETDs are accessible.

Table 2: Central Universities do not provide ETDs on Shodhganga

Serial No.	Name of the University	ETDs do Not Provide ETDs on Shodhganga
1	Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh	Not uploaded
2	Central University of Andhra Pradesh	Not uploaded
3	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University	Not uploaded
4	Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya	Not uploaded
5	Mahatma Gandhi Central University	Not uploaded
6	Nalanda University	Not uploaded
7	National Sports University	Not uploaded
8	Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University	Not uploaded
9	Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University	Not uploaded
10	Sindhu Central University	Not uploaded

The table 2 displays universities with "Not uploaded" status for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) availability on the Shodhganga platform, indicating that these ETDs are not accessible.

Table 3: Central Universities and their ETD Count

Serial No.	State	Name of Central University	Established	Centralized	No. of ETDs
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Rajiv Gandhi University	1985	2007	52
2	Assam	Assam University	1994	1994	28
3	Bihar	Central University of South Bihar	2009	2009	22
4	Chhattisgarh	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	1983	2009	10
5	Delhi	The Central Sanskrit University	1970	2020	27
6	Gujarat	Central University of Gujarat	2009	2009	30
7	Haryana	Central University of Haryana	2009	2009	8
8	Himachal Pradesh	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	2009	2009	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Central University of Jammu	2011	2011	21
10	Jharkhand	Central University of Jharkhand	2009	2009	13
11	Karnataka	Central University of Karnataka	2009	2009	28
12	Kerala	Central University of Kerala	2009	2009	39
13	Madhya Pradesh	The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University	2007	2007	31
14	Maharashtra	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	1997	1997	33
15	Manipur	Manipur University	1980	2005	76
16	Mizoram	Mizoram University	2000	2000	104
17	Meghalaya	North-Eastern Hill University	1973	1973	96
18	Nagaland	Nagaland University	1994	1994	16
19	Odisha	Central University of Orrisa	2009	2009	4
20	Pondicherry	Pondicherry University	1985	1985	2
21	Punjab	Central University of Punjab	2009	2009	31
22	Rajasthan	Central University of Rajasthan	2009	2009	18
23	Sikkim	Sikkim University	2007	2007	41
24	Tamil Nadu	Central University of Tamil Nadu	2009	2009	24
25	Telangana	English and Foreign Languages University	1958	2007	7
26	Tripura	Tripura University	1987	1987	27
27	Uttarakhand	Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	1973	2009	64
28	Uttar Pradesh	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	1996	1996	48
29	West Bengal	Visva Bharati	1921	1921	39
Total					940

Central Universities with Total ETDs

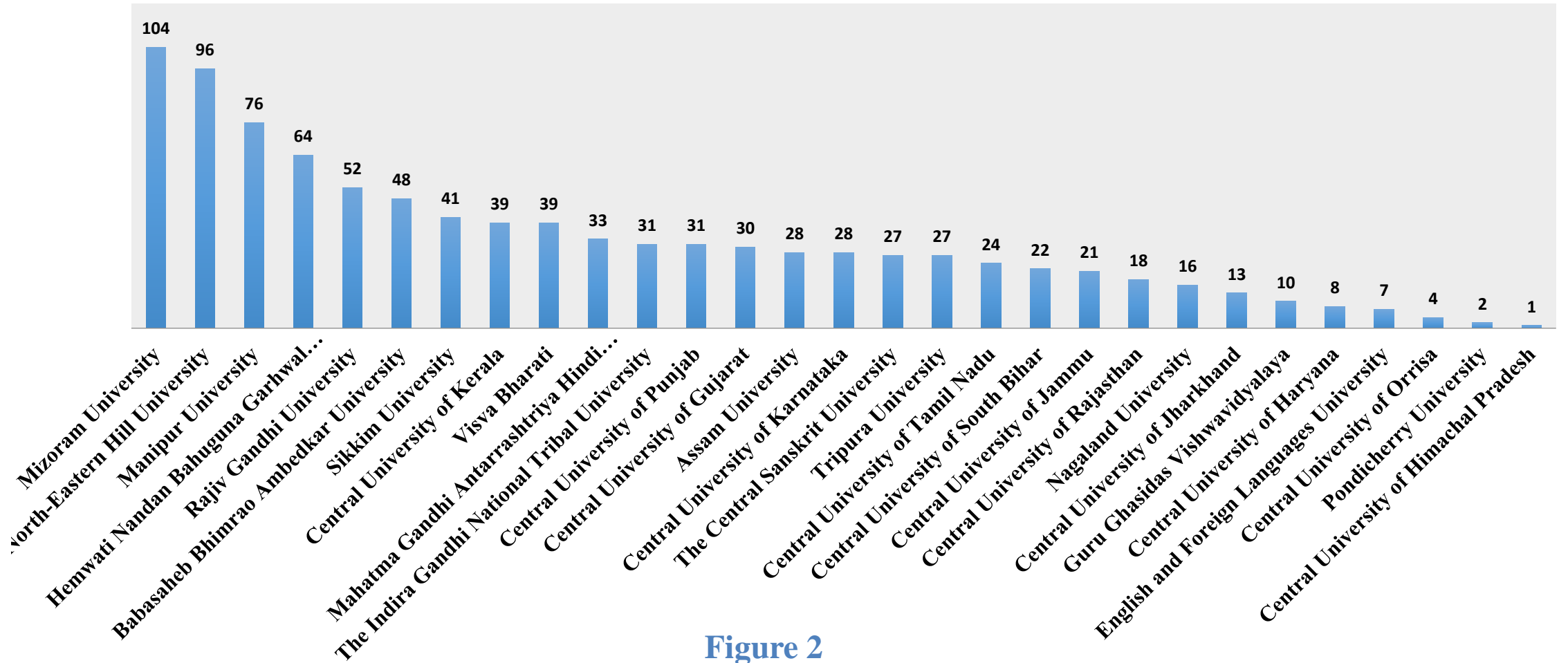| University	ETDs
Mizoram University	104
North-Eastern Hill University	96
Manipur University	76
Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal...	64
Rajiv Gandhi University	52
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	48
Sikkim University	41
Central University of Kerala	39
Visva Bharati	39
Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi...	33
The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University	31
Central University of Punjab	31
Central University of Gujarat	30
Assam University	28
Central University of Karnataka	28
The Central Sanskrit University	27
Tripura University	27
Central University of Tamil Nadu	24
Central University of South Bihar	22
Central University of Jammu	21
Central University of Rajasthan	18
Nagaland University	16
Central University of Jharkhand	13
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	10
Central University of Haryana	8
English and Foreign Languages University	7
Central University of Orrisa	4
Pondicherry University	2
Central University of Himachal Pradesh	1

Figure 2

Table 3 and Figure 2 displays Central Universities by state, establishment year, centralized status, and ETDs available, totaling 940 ETDs across these universities.

Table 4: Comprehensive overview of the Linguistic Distributions of ETDs

Serial Number	Language	No. of ETDs
1	English	793
2	Hindi	84
3	Sanskrit	27
4	Nepali	7
5	Manipuri	7
6	Bengali	5
7	Oriya	3
8	Kannada	3
9	Arabic	2
10	Tenyidie	2
11	Khasi	2
12	French	2
13	Tamil	1
14	Spanish	1
15	Far East	1
	Total	940

The table provides a comprehensive overview of the linguistic distributions of 940 ETDs across various languages. The table presents the number of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in various languages. English is the most dominant language with 793 ETDs. Hindi has 84 ETDs, while Sanskrit has 27 ETDs. Nepali has 7 ETDs, indicating research conducted in Nepali or focusing on Nepali subjects. Manipuri has 7 ETDs, Bengali has 5 ETDs, Oriya has 3 ETDs, Kannada has 3 ETDs, Arabic has 2 ETDs, Tenyidie has 2 ETDs, Khasi has 2 ETDs, French has 2 ETDs, Tamil has 1 ETD, Spanish has 1 ETD, and the Far East has 1 ETD. The diversity of research contributions in this collection is evident in the various languages and their respective languages.
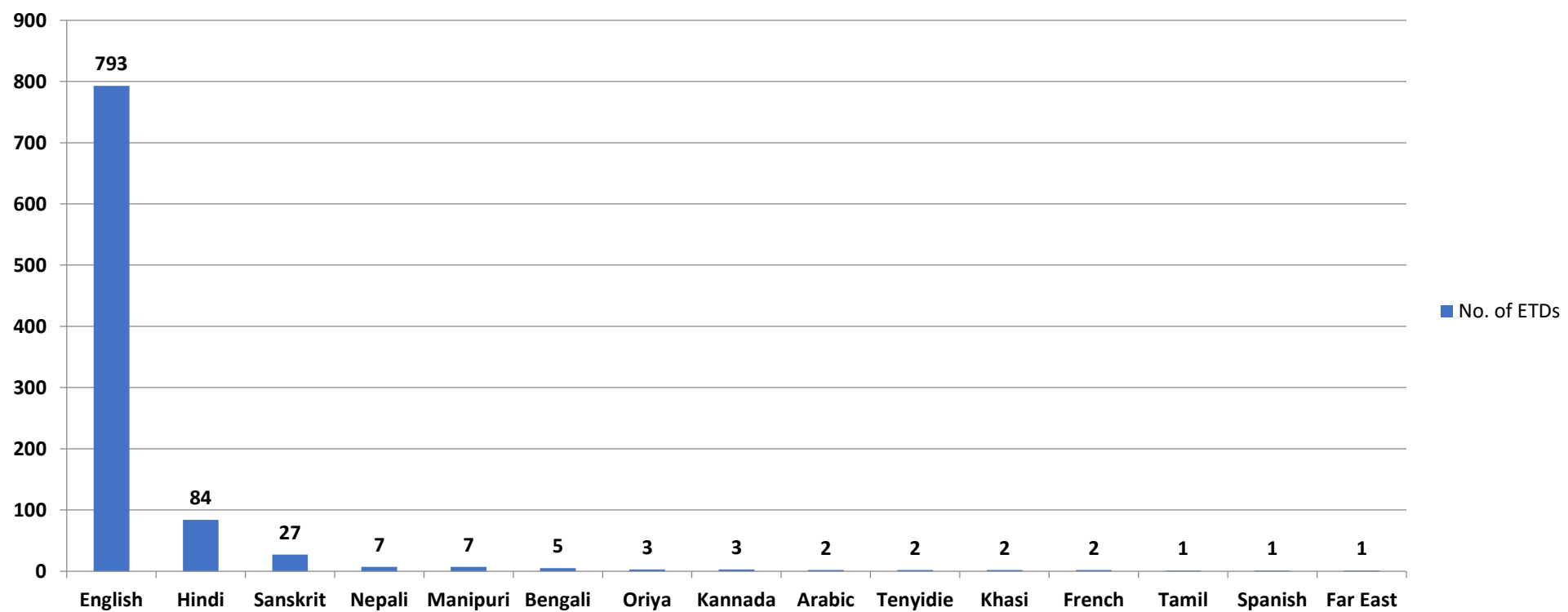
Figure 3: Comprehensive Overview of the Linguistic Distributions of ETDs

The total number of ETDs is 940, with English being the predominant language. Other languages include Hindi, Sanskrit, Nepali, Manipuri, Bengali, Oriya, Kannada, Arabic, Tenyidie, Khasi, French, Tamil, Spanish, and Far East. The diversity of research contributions in this collection is evident in the various languages and their respective languages.
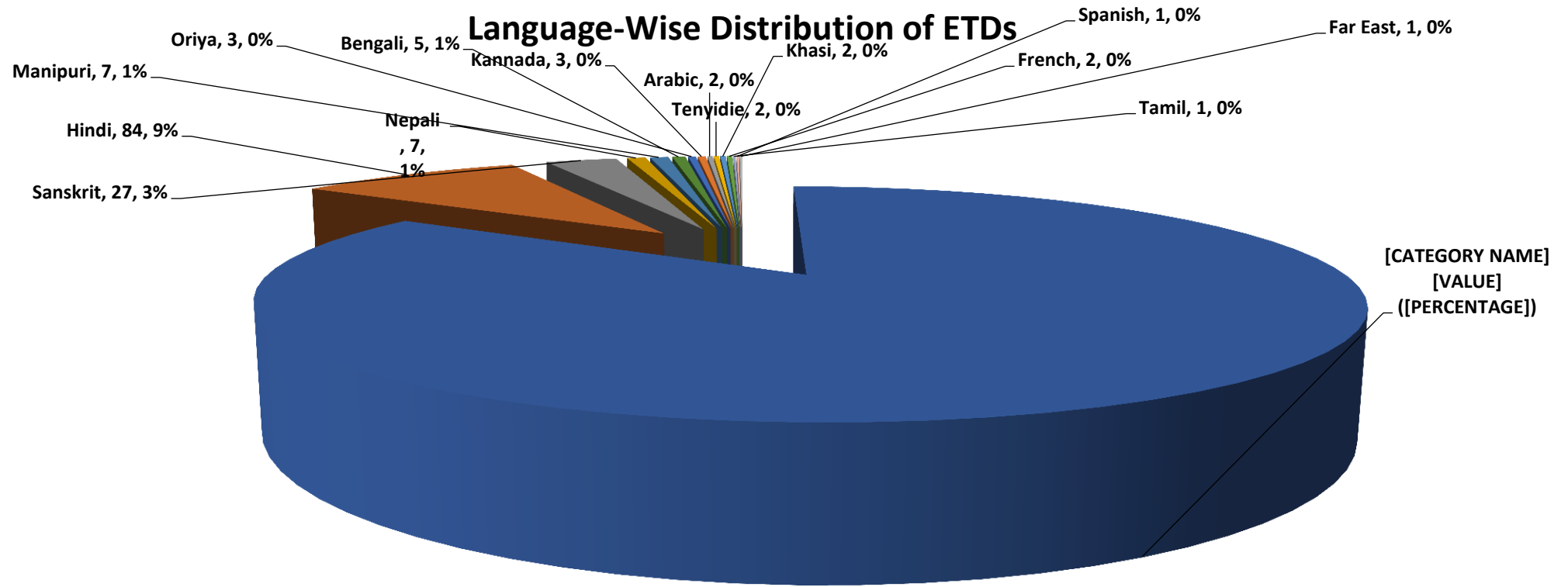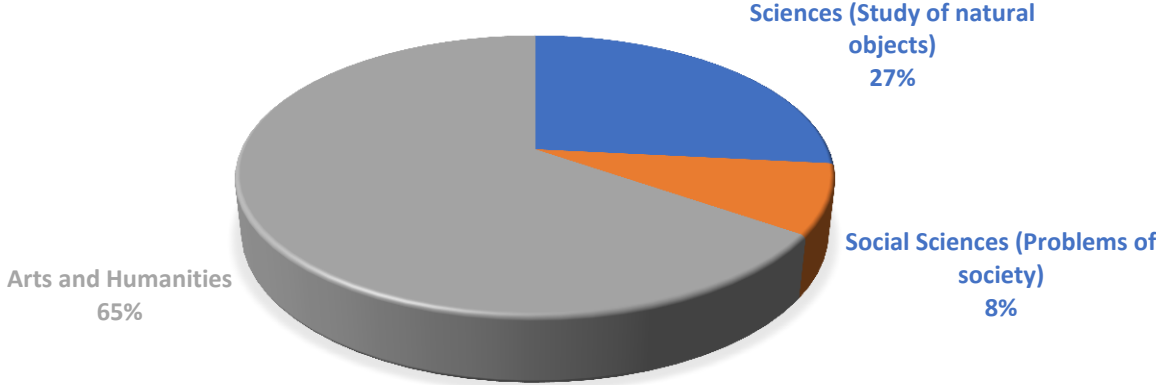
Language-Wise Distribution of ETDs

Oriya, 3, 0%
Bengali, 5, 1%
Kannada, 3, 0%
Khasi, 2, 0%
Spanish, 1, 0%
Far East, 1, 0%
French, 2, 0%
Manipuri, 7, 1%
Arabic, 2, 0%
Tenyidie, 2, 0%
Tamil, 1, 0%
Hindi, 84, 9%
Nepali, 7, 1%
Sanskrit, 27, 3%
[CATEGORY NAME]
[VALUE]
([PERCENTAGE])

Figure 4: Comprehensive Overview of the Linguistic Distributions of ETDs

Figure 3 and 4 shows that the most common languages are English, Hindi, and Sanskrit, but there is also representation from regional and other languages, illuminating the many linguistic and cultural contributions of the academic community.

Table 5: Distribution of Departments Across Academic Disciplines

Serial Number	Sciences (study of natural objects)	Social Sciences (problems of society)	Arts and Humanities
1	53	16	130

FIGURE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF DEPARTMENTS ACROSS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Sciences (Study of natural objects) 27%

Social Sciences (Problems of society) 8%

Arts and Humanities 65%

The table displays the distribution of departments across three academic fields in central universities across India, with the majority of ETDs from the Arts and Humanities Departments.

Results: Central Universities have varying degrees of establishment, with most having a centralized status since their inception. The number of ETDs on Shodhganga indicates research activity, with Manipur and Mizoram being notable for their substantial number. The data also highlights the linguistic and regional diversity of research conducted in Central Universities, with various languages and disciplines represented. The results provide a comprehensive overview of Central Universities in India, highlighting their significant role in the country's academic landscape and their research productivity. It also offers insights into the nature and diversity of academic research in India, requiring further analysis and exploration of their ETDs.

Conclusion: Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on Shodhganga in 2022 reveals English as the predominant language, with 793 documents, indicating its global importance in academic communication. The table also highlights the rich linguistic and cultural diversity in academic research, with languages like Hindi, Sanskrit, Nepali, Manipuri, and Bengali contributing to the collection. The ETDs on Shodhganga include a diverse range of languages, including fewer common ones like Tenyidie, Khasi, and Arabic, as well as international languages like French and Spanish. This diversity highlights the inclusivity of research and the contributions of scholars from various linguistic backgrounds. English remains the dominant language for academic discourse, emphasizing its global reach and accessibility. This data offers valuable insights into the linguistic dimensions of academic research in India.

Thank You