
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' AWARENESS TOWARDS E-GOVERNANCE IN LEARNING MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and the United States. Higher education is of vital importance for the country, as it is a powerful tool to construct Knowledge-based society of the 21st Century. Also, e-Governance is understood as a set of activities incorporating the effective contribution of information and communication technology (ICT) for strengthening administration and management in higher education system. The use of information technology based system in education will lead in increase of the contribution of students and also will increase the development and effectiveness of the learning methods. The potential of e-Governance would bring positive impacts to teaching and learning by providing students and teachers with flexibility, accessibility, more prospects for participation and more outcomes. This paper attempts to find out the higher education students' awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management. Survey method was adopted in this study. The sample consists of 160 students at different level from 10 Arts and Science colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University. A tool on questionnaire was used to collect data. Findings reveal that the awareness towards e-Governance by higher education students was found average besides Science students have better awareness than the Arts students. On the other hand, the demographic variables Gender and Locale did not have a major impact on the Awareness towards e-Governance among the higher education students.

Keywords: *e-Governance, awareness, Higher education and Learning Management*

Introduction

The Indian higher education system is facing an unprecedented transformation in the coming era. A lot of pressure has been employed on the higher education system at two stages. First, to accommodate the increasing numbers of student population and secondly, to maintain the quality of education imparted through the system. These two aspects are always linked with effective and efficient management system. Furthermore, e-Governance is understood as a set of activities involving the effective contribution of information and communication technology (ICT) for strengthening administration and management in higher education system. According to the World Bank(2005), "E-Government refers to the use by government agencies of information technologies (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government". Alam(2016) stated that ICT integration in higher education brings a change in student and teacher learning behavior and develops higher order skills such as collaborating across time and place and solving complex real world problems. Kapoor & Kelkar(2013) pointed out e-Governance in teaching and learning enable more effective education and offer significant advantages over traditional teaching methods. This has been possible by technological implementation based environments such as bulletin boards, virtual lectures , e - Libraries and video conferencing. Also, e-Learning environment can support communication with classmates

and lecturers. e-Governance solutions in educational sector incorporates the latest technology to bring a system that combines administrative and university management functions that are necessary for successful handling of all issues relating to the academic affairs and the challenges for smooth functioning of an educational institution.

Rationale of the Study

A good higher education system is necessary for inclusive development of a nation. Ramganes .et al., (2015) perceived the Globalization and technological changes have triggered the transformation in higher education to sustain in the global competitive environment and to withstand the prolific growth of higher education sector a good technology based administration is very much needed. Kumar (2012) specified that the implementation of information technology may increase the broad contribution of the students in the process of achieving good education goals at all levels by providing the opportunity of online discussion groups and by enhancing the fast development and effectiveness of the learning methods. Singh(2014) viewed that now teacher has to perform various roles like encouraging, supporting and facilitating in teaching-learning situations. For effective implementation of certain student-centric systems such as project-based learning which puts the students in the role of dynamic researches and technology becomes the appropriate tool. Volman & Van Eck, 2001 stated the use of ICT offers powerful learning environments and can transform the learning and teaching process so that students can deal with knowledge in an active, self-directed and constructive way. Shah(2013) found that the Management Information Systems (MIS) are being used by colleges to support a range of administrative activities beginning from the students' admission process to publishing of results and performance analysis. Higher educational institutions may have various requirements that include computerization and management of processes such as registration, admission, student information, classes, time table, transport, attendance, library, salary, examinations, performance, grades, hostels, security and reports. Tiwari .et al., (2013) noticed e-Governance in education provides new methods of communicating to the students, new ways of imparting education and new ways of organizing and delivering information and services. The advancements in the information technologies, internet and the mobile communication provide opportunities to transform the relationship between administration and students in a new way. In that way, the present study makes its attempt to ascertain the awareness towards e-Governance among higher education students.

Objectives of the Study

- To ascertain the level of Higher education students' awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management
- To find the difference, if any in the awareness towards e-Governance among Higher education students with respect to Gender, Locale and Subject

Hypotheses of the Study

To accomplish the objectives the following hypotheses were formulated for testing:

- Higher education students' awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management is average.
- There is no statistically significant difference between Male and Female Higher education students with regard to awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management
- There is no statistically significant difference between Rural and Urban Higher education students with regard to awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management
- There is no statistically significant difference between Arts and Science Higher education students with regard to awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management

Methodology

The investigator adopted descriptive method with a survey technique. Stratified random sampling technique was used to collect the data. Data was collected from 160 Higher education students of 10 Arts and Science Colleges in Tiruchirappalli district. The collected data were analyzed for further understanding. Percentage analysis and t- test were used to analyse the data using SPSS Package.

Tool

The 'e-Governance Awareness Scale'(eGAS) was developed by the investigators. The questionnaire consists of 40 items representing all the four dimensions such as Knowledge about e-Governance, Interest in learning e-Governance, Usage of e-Governance and Attitude related to e-Governance. The responses for the questionnaire received from Higher education students consisted of a four point Likert type scale with four options such as Never, Sometimes, Often and Always. For establishing face validity and content validity, the tool was subjected to the advice of a panel of experts. Based on their expertise, the tool was fine - tuned with necessary modification. Cronbach's Alpha test was adopted to measure the reliability of the tool. The reliability coefficient for the tool is 0.891.

Scoring Procedure

A score of 4 was given for Always, 3 for Often, 2 for Sometimes and 1 for Never. Since there were no negative items, all the items were scored in the same manner as stated above.

Results and Discussion

Analysis and interpretation of the results are the most important steps after the data collection. The collected data were analyzed by use of appropriate statistical techniques for the present study.

Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive analysis summarizes the data meaningfully. It is used to measure the central tendency and the variability of the research. Here this was done awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management among Higher education students.

Table 1 Percentage Analysis of awareness towards e-Governance

Variable name	N	Low		Average		High	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Awareness towards e-Governance	160	19	11.88	118	73.75*	23	14.38

* indicates the level of Awareness towards e-Governance

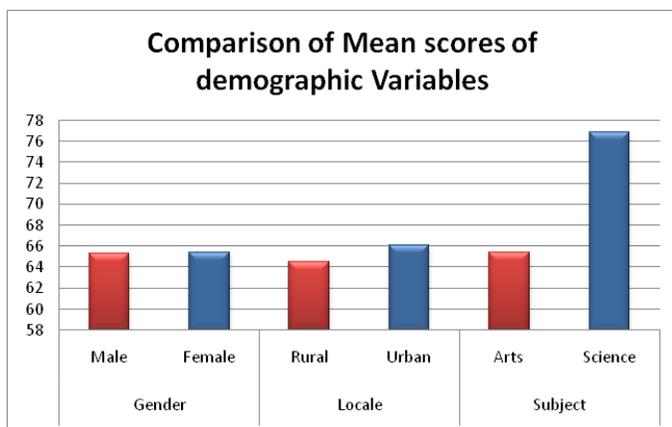
From the above Table-1 inferred that 11.88 % of the higher education students were low, 73.75 % for Average and 14.38 % for high. This finding is supported by the previous research conducted by Krishnan et al. (2017).

Differential Analysis

Table 2 Differential analysis of Awareness towards e-Governance

Variables		N	Mean	S.D	P - value	Result
Gender	Male	76	65.34	15.45	0.858	Not significant
	Female	84	65.40	16.25		
Locale	Rural	73	64.48	15.86	0.761	Not significant
	Urban	87	66.13	15.85		
Subject	Arts	64	65.42	16.19	0.000	significant
	Science	96	76.89	27.61		

SD=Standard Deviation

Figure 1

It can be seen from the table -2 that there is no significant gender difference in awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management. The p value 0.858 for the variable gender is not found significant at 0.05 level. The above obtained result Contrary the previous findings of study conducted by Tabusum et al. (2014).

From, the above table-2 indicates that there is no significant difference in the locality of the students. The p value 0.761 is greater at 0.05 level. Therefore, locale did not have its influence in awareness towards e-Governance in Learning Management. Krishnan et al. (2017) was of the opinion that the locale did not have any influence in the awareness towards e-Governance.

Also, the above table-2 indicates that there is significant difference in Awareness towards e-Governance among the Arts and Science higher education students. The p value 0.00 is less than 0.05 levels of significance. It means that as compared to arts students, science students have

more awareness towards e-governance. This finding is supported by the previous research conducted by Wong & Cheung (2011).

Recommendations and Suggestions

- Workshops can be organized to update the technological knowledge of the higher education students.
- Government should ensure adequate funding of academic institutions to develop their e-resources.
- The practicum on ICT integration in teaching and learning may be included in higher education curriculum at all levels.

Conclusion and Discussion

e-Governance is one much mechanism that can help societies, governments and institutions to become more efficient in the delivery of services. It will be help in the betterment of the higher education in the country and increase the number of employable students. Thus, the present study has identified 73.75% of higher education students fall under the average category of Awareness towards e-Governance. Also, Arts students were low comparing with Science students. The demographic variables Gender and Locale did not have any influence on the Awareness towards e-Governance among the Higher education students. There is no doubt that allocation of adequate financial resources, qualified and trained human recourses and supporting educational policies are some of the important prerequisites to have outcome based integrated higher education programmes.

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