

# **Usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) among Faculty Members in Pravara Rural Education Society, Pravaranagar, Rahata , Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) District: A Study**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study examines the adoption and utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER) among faculty members at institutions under the Pravara Rural Education Society, Pravaranagar, Rahata, Ahmednagar District. OER, characterized by accessibility and cost-effectiveness has gained prominence as a transformative tool in the educational sector. The research investigates faculty members' awareness, attitudes, and practices regarding OER, identifying the factors influencing their usage and integration into teaching and learning processes.*

*Using Survey methods, data were collected through surveys with faculty across diverse disciplines. The findings reveal that while a significant proportion of educators are aware of OER, their actual usage remains limited due to challenges such as lack of technical skills, inadequate institutional support, and concerns over resource quality. Conversely, those actively using OER report enhanced pedagogical practices and improved student engagement.*

*The study highlights the need for targeted interventions, including faculty training programs, infrastructure enhancement, and policy support, to promote widespread adoption of OER. It concludes by recommending strategies to overcome barriers and harness the potential of OER in rural educational settings, emphasizing its role in fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments.*

**KEYWORDS:** Open Educational Resources (OER), faculty adoption, rural education, Pravara Rural Education Society, teaching innovation, educational equity.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of Open Educational Resources (OER) as a transformative force in modern education. OER, which includes freely accessible teaching, learning, and research materials have gained global recognition for their

potential to enhance academic quality, reduce educational costs, and foster collaborative learning and know which services Faculty members play a pivotal role in the effective integration of OER into educational practices. Their awareness, perceptions, and usage patterns significantly influence the adoption and impact of these resources in academic institutions. Understanding these patterns are particularly critical in rural areas. This research focuses on using OER among faculty members of Pravara Rural Education Society, a prominent educational institution in Pravaranagar, Ahmednagar District. The study explores the awareness, adoption, and challenges faced by faculty members in utilizing OER, as well as the potential benefits for teaching and learning in Pravara Rural Education Society, Pravaranagar, Rahata, Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) District.

**Online educational resources (OERs)** are teaching and learning materials that are available online for free use

Definition: OERs are freely available online for anyone to use for learning and teaching. They can include textbooks, course materials, modules, streaming videos, tests, software, and more.

### **Characteristics**

OERs are available in many formats, including text, images, audio, and video. They are developed by people or organizations. If any, ownership rights. OERs are licensed under an intellectual property license that allows others to use and re-purpose them free of charge.

### **Benefits**

OERs can help:

- Improve the affordability of education
- Personalize the learning experience
- Help students learn at their own pace Provide the latest information

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH PAPER**

- ✓ To assess the awareness and understanding of Open Educational Resources (OER) among faculty members of Pravara Rural Education Society, Pravaranagar.
- ✓ To evaluate the extent and frequency of OER usage in teaching and learning practices by faculty members.
- ✓ To identify the challenges and barriers faced by faculty in adopting OER for academic purposes.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study is based on primary data collected from the selected Library Users of Pravara Rural Education Society's faculty members in Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) District. A Simple questionnaire was distributed to all respective faculty members to obtain information from OER users.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The review of literature is required as it guides the researcher on the correct path of his journey. The main purpose of the review of literature would be to avoid duplication of research. Houston (2020) studied "Awareness and Usage of MOOCs: The Underrepresented Experience. In these studies, educational technology developers, equally distribute educational and technological resources, especially in low-income communities. Harsasi (2015) in his study "The Use of Open Educational Resources in Online Learning: A Study of Students' Perception" all OERs

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(Multimedia) can help Students with a better understanding of a topic. Dhanani, Chavda, Patel & Tandel (2016) conducted a study on “Awareness and Utilization of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and Video Series as Continuous Learning Tools for Faculties”. The study found that many faculties use the Internet and online discussion tools for educational purposes. **Johnson et.al. (2021)** conducted a study on “Attitudes and Awareness of Regional Pacific Island Students Towards e-learning”. This study found that most students had a positive attitude toward e-learning.

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

The study was carried out in selected 120 Faculties who responded to the questionnaire from **Pravara Rural Education Society’s Colleges in Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) District.**

**Table No- 1** Awareness and Familiarity with OER:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Awareness and Familiarity with OER</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Yes	100	100 %
2.	No	00	00%
	Total	100	100%

Table No. 1 shows that 100 (100%) respondents were aware and Familiar with OER. It is observed that all respondents are aware and Familiar with OER.

**Table 2** If yes, how did you learn about OER

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Familiarity with Online Resources</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Professional Development Workshops	54	54%
2.	Colleagues	62	62%
3.	Online Platforms	51	51%
4.	Conferences/Seminars	76	76 %

Table No. 2 shows that 54(%) of respondent users stated ‘Yes’ for Professional Development Workshops .62 (%), 51(%) ,76(%) of respondent users stated ‘Yes’ for Colleagues, Online Platforms, Conferences/Seminars, respectively. It is observed that most users use various platforms for OER learning.

**Table 3.** Types of OER Use

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Types of OER Use</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Research Articles	75	75 %
2.	Interactive Simulations	61	61 %
3.	Lecture Notes	56	56 %
4.	Video Lecture	45	45 %
5.	Textbooks	48	48 %

Table No. 3 shows that 75(75%),61 (61%),56(56%)45(45%)48(48%) respondents, users were stated 'Yes' for the use of Research Articles, Interactive Simulations, Lecture Notes, Video Lecture, Textbooks. It is observed that most users Using Types of OER.

**Table 4.** Purpose of Using OER

Sr. No.	Purpose of Using OER	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Curriculum Development	54	54%
2.	Classroom Teaching	65	65%
3.	Student Assignments	41	41%
4.	Self-Learning	75	75%
5.	For Research paper Writing	69	69%
6.	For Current Information	71	71%

Table No. 4 shows that 54(54%), 65(65%), 41(41%),75(75%),69(69%)71(71%) respondent users stated 'Yes' for the Curriculum Development ,Classroom Teaching, Student Assignments, Self-Learning, For Research paper Writing, For Current Information respectively. It was observed that most users use OER for various Purposes.

**Table 5.** Benefits of Using OER

Sr. No.	Benefits of Using OER	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Cost-effectiveness	80	80%
2.	Enhanced Teaching Quality	85	85%
3.	Access to Diverse Resources	69	69%
4.	Improved Student Engagement	74	74%
5.	Improve Self	82	82%

Table No. 5 shows that 80(80%), 85(85%), 69(69%) ,74 (74%) 82 (82%) respondent users were benefited with OER. Cost-effectiveness, Enhanced Teaching Quality, Access to Diverse Resources, Improved Student Engagement and Improve Self respectively. It was observed that mostly users were benefited with Using with OER.

**Table 6.** Challenges with using OER

Sr. No.	challenges with using OER	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Lack of Awareness	19	19%
2.	Limited Accessibility	42	42%
3.	Poor Internet Connectivity	36	36%
4.	Difficulty in Customization	46	46%
5.	Time Intensive OER Selection Process	48	48%

Table No. 6 shows that 19(19%), 42(42%), 36(36%) ,46 (46%) 48(48%) respondent users were challenges with using OER. Lack of Awareness, Limited Accessibility. Poor Internet Connectivity, Difficulty in Customization, Time-Intensive OER Selection Process. It was observed that minimum users faced challenges while using OER.

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**Table 7** Recommendation of integrating OER into your institution's curriculum

Sr. No.	OER in the institution's curriculum	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Yes	79	79%
2.	No	21	21%

Table No. 7 shows that 79(79%), 21(21%), respondent users stated Yes and No for recommendation of integrating OER into their institution's curriculum. It was observed those users agreed to integrate OER into the institution's curriculum.

### **CONCLUSION**

The main purpose of this survey is to find out the status of Usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) by Faculty Members in Pravara Rural Education Society, Pravaranagar, Rahata, Ahmednagar (Ahilyanagar) District: A Study OER is teaching and learning materials that are available for free to students, educators, and the public. They come with open licenses, allowing others to adopt the materials for their purposes. The study indicates that most research scholars are familiar with Online Education Resources. However, researchers encounter challenges when trying to customize these resources to meet their specific needs. Therefore, it is recommended that libraries focus on customizing Online Education Resources. Libraries should establish a dedicated unit for OER customization and work to raise awareness of OER based on the needs of scholars. Additionally, libraries should assist users in finding suitable OER, offer quick search techniques, and guide on copyright matters. Also, this study helps to understand the problems and difficulties of Libraries to provide Awareness, More Accessibility, More Internet Speed, conduct Workshops, FDP to Users and also know the difficulties and problems of libraries after this survey the management to increase Library Orientation for Maximum use OER.

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