



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Education**

**A STUDY OF AWARENESS AND USAGE OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

**KEY WORDS:** Open Educational Resources, OER, awareness, usage, challenges, creative common licence

**Dr. Pallavi Sameer Talekar**

Assistant Professor, Hansraj Jivandas College Of Education (Autonomous), Mumbai.

**ABSTRACT**

Technology is playing a very crucial role in the field of education. The world is opening doors for everyone to learn and share knowledge. The Open educational resources are helping in development of this new culture. The researcher tried to find out the awareness about OER among the teachers in secondary schools in Mumbai and also usage of OER by the teachers. The researcher designed questionnaire 'OER knowledge and use' to collect data in survey. The finding shows that teachers utilize the resources available freely online for education purpose, but less number of teachers are ready to share their own resources. Many teachers are not aware of the details of creative common licence.

**INTRODUCTION**

Technology has been evolving since the existence of early men. It has become an important part of educational institutions. Educational technology is making learning more interesting and creative. It helps to meet the various diverse needs of the students. Technology has empowered teachers to create and learn various strategies of teaching and will make learning a fun-filled experience. The total transformation in the field of education could be observed by using educational technology.

Open Educational Resources are of great help in teaching learning process in today's classroom. Open educational resources are freely accessible, openly licensed text, media, and other digital assets that are useful for teaching, learning. They are widely available in various forms for various purposes. Open Educational Resources helps to connect teachers and students beyond the classroom and makes teaching-learning interesting. Open Educational Resources are enhancing the classroom of 21<sup>st</sup> century. It also helps in reaching out the various needs of students.

Open Educational Resources are the need of an hour. The researcher decided to find out awareness among teachers related to the open educational resources. The researcher also wanted to know the challenges faced by the teachers.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To study the awareness about Open Educational Resources among the secondary school teachers.
- To study the usage of Open Educational Resources by the secondary school teachers.
- To study the challenges faced by the teachers while using Open Educational Resources.
- To study the interest of the teachers towards creating and publishing their own Open Educational Resources.

**SAMPLE**

In present study, the researchers has randomly selected the sample of 150 teachers from schools in Mumbai. The selected teachers were working in the secondary section of the schools affiliated to state board, ICSE board and CBSE board. All the schools were unaided schools.

**METHODOLOGY**

For the present study the researchers has used survey method.

**TOOL**

The researcher has developed a questionnaire 'OER knowledge and use' to find out awareness and usage of open educational resources by the teachers.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

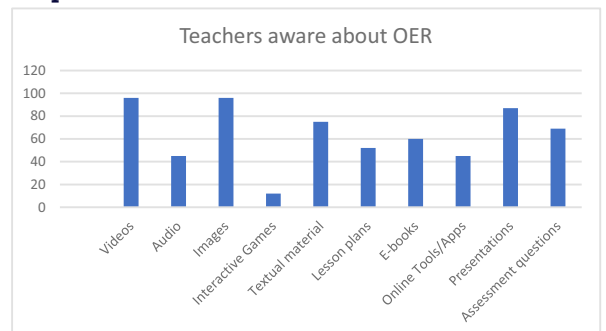
- To study the awareness about Open Educational Resources among the teachers

**TABLE 1**

**Awareness about Open Educational Resources**

OER	% of Teachers aware about OER
Videos	96
Audio	45
Images	96
Interactive Games	12
Textual material	75
Lesson plans	52
E-books	60
Online Tools/Apps	45
Presentations	87
Assessment questions	69

**Graph 1**



The above data shows that 96% of the teachers are aware that videos are available as OER and 45% of the teachers aware that audio files are available freely for use. Most of the teachers are aware that images and presentations are available freely for use. Very few percentage of teachers are aware about the online tools or apps are available as Open educational resources.

Now a days as most of the schools are having projectors or smart board installed in the class, teachers uses mainly utilize images for a pictorial representation of content which helps in better understanding of the content. Therefore teachers search for the images and the readymade presentations available on the topic.

- Knowledge of Creative Commons Licence

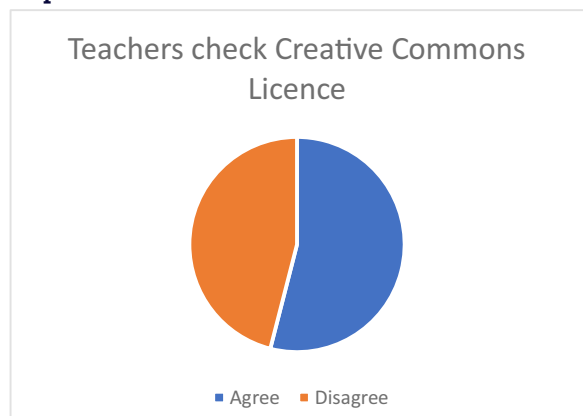
**TABLE 2**

**Creative Commons Licence**

	Agree	Disagree
Teachers check Creative Commons Licence before using the online information	54%	46%

The above data shows that 54 % of teachers check the creative common licence before using the information available online, but 46% teachers do not check the CC licence.

**Graph 2**

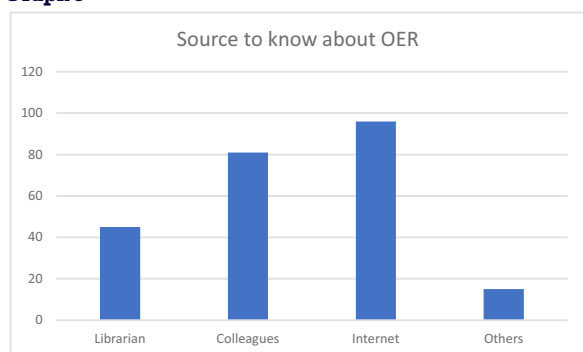


- The source of information about OER

**TABLE 3**  
**Sources of information about Open Educational Resources.**

	Agree
Librarian	45
Colleagues	81
Internet	96
Others	15

**Graph 3**



The above data shows that 96% of the teachers came to know about various Open Educational Resources from internet and 81% teachers came to know about various Open Educational Resources from their colleagues in school. 45% teachers came to know about OER from librarian and 15% of teachers came to know about various Open Educational Resources from other sources like friends, seminars, workshops attended etc.

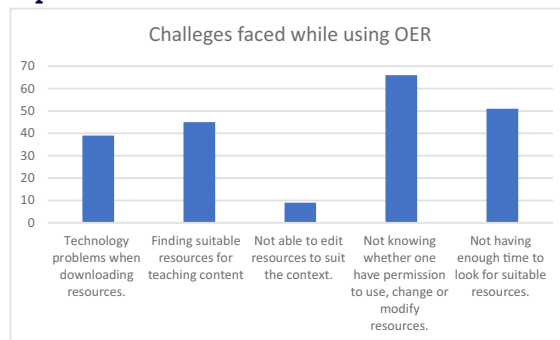
This may be because most of the schools follow culture of sharing information. The colleagues share the knowledge and experiences which helps others to grow.

- The challenges faced by the teachers while using Open Educational Resources

**TABLE 4**  
**Challenges Faced While Using OER**

Challenges	Agree	Disagree
Technology problems when downloading resources.	39	61
Finding suitable resources for teaching content	45	55
Not able to edit resources to suit the context.	9	91
Not knowing whether one have permission to use, change or modify resources.	66	34
Not having enough time to look for suitable resources.	51	49

**Graph 4**



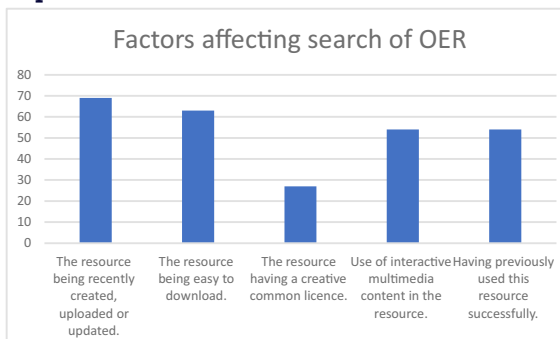
The above data shows that 39 % of teachers face technical issues while downloading the resources. 45% teachers find it difficult to search suitable resources. Most of the teachers are not able to edit the resources. 66% of teachers do not understand meaning of the creative commons licence and 51 % teachers agree that they do not have enough time in hand to search for the resources.

- Factors affecting search of OER

**TABLE 5**  
**Factors Affecting Selection a Particular OER**

	Agree	Disagree
The resource being recently created, uploaded or updated.	69	31
The resource being easy to download.	63	37
The resource having a creative common licence.	27	73
Use of interactive multimedia content in the resource.	54	46
Having previously used this resource successfully.	54	46

**Graph 5**



The above data shows that 69% of the teachers select to use a particular OER because it's recently created, uploaded or updated. Also 63% teachers select to use a particular OER because it's easy to use and has an easy access to it.

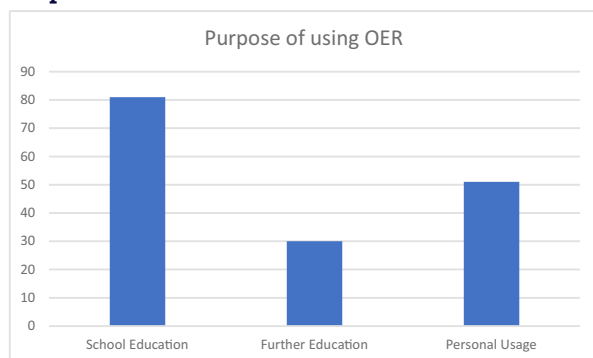
27% of the teachers use or select an OER only because it has creative common license whereas for other teachers content knowledge, updated OER, easy access and having a detailed description of resources are the reasons to select a particular OER. 54% of teachers select OER due to multimedia content. 54% of teachers select OER based on the previous positive experience of using the OER.

- Purpose of using OER in Education

**TABLE 6**  
**Purpose of using OER in Education**

Purpose	Agree	Disagree
School Education	81	19
Further Education	30	70
Personal Usage	51	49

**Graph 6**



The above data shows that 81% of teacher's purpose to use OER is for school education. Whereas 51% teachers use OER for personal usage, such as for creating mind maps, or content creation etc. Whereas only 30% teachers used OER for further education.

More teachers use it for school purpose is because to make teaching learning process more interesting for students. The teachers who use OER for personal usage is to enrich their content and for their professional growth.

- The interest of the teachers towards creating and publishing their own Open Educational Resources.

**TABLE 7**  
**Creating an E-book**

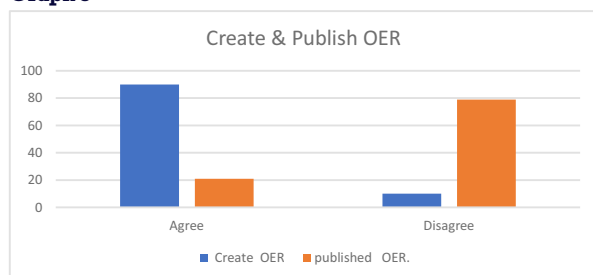
	Agree	Disagree
Teachers can make an E-book.	18	82

The above data shows that 18% of the teachers can create their own E-book. Whereas 82% of the teachers cannot. This is because majority of the teachers don't possess the skill of creating an E-book. Whereas some teachers might have learnt it in workshop or online courses.

**TABLE 8**  
**Creating and publishing an OER**

	Agree	Disagree
Can Create an OER	90	10
published learning resources as OER.	21	79

**Graph 8**



The above data shows that 90% of the teachers can create their own OER but only 21% of the teachers have published their learning resources as OER. This shows that though teachers want to use resources available freely, they do not want to create a free resource. The change in mindset of the teachers is required. Some of the times the educational institutions in which teachers are working do not allow teachers to publish OER.

**TABLE 9**  
**Making Teaching Materials Available Openly**

	Agree	Disagree
Own institution	72	28
Everyone	48	52

The above data shows that when it comes to making teaching

materials available openly only 72% of the teachers agree to make it available to faculty in their own institution. Whereas 48% agree to make it available for the everyone globally.

Many teachers aren't comfortable in making learning resource available outside their institutions is because of their school policy or also because of various other reasons such as negative impact on recognition etc.

**TABLE 10**  
**Understanding copyright & implications on teaching materials.**

	Agree	Disagree
Teacher understands copyright & implications on the materials used their teaching.	48	52

The above data shows that 48% of the teachers understand the copyright and implications on materials used for teaching. Whereas 52% of the teachers don't understand the copyright and implications on teaching materials.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The secondary school teachers in Mumbai show the positive attitude towards use of Open educational resources. The teachers are ware of different kind of material avilable freely to use by others. It is observed that highest Open Educational Resources about which teachers are aware of and also used by the teachers are videos, images, presentations. The browsing on the internet played a very important role in bringing in awareness about the open educational resources.

Most of the teachers are using OER to preapre for teaching learning activities. The teachers shared that while using OER the challenges they face are time contrain, undertsanding the creative commons licence, searching suitable material and skill of editing the material. While selecting and using OER most of the teachers give importance to recently created, updated, or uploaded content. It also shows that teachers are aware about Open Educational Resources and many of them have up to date knowledge about it.

It was also found that, many teachers don't know the meaning of Open Educational Resources and creative common licences but they are aware of various tools and content available online freely. The teachers are not really convienced to generate the OER are due to multiple reasons. This underlines that the free culture is yet to start in India. There need to bring in the change in the mindset of teachers and working culture educational institutions. Though technology has brought in change in the field of education, the free culture of sharing resources has not started in our education system.

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