

One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS): Reshaping Library Acquisition in Government Colleges of Gujarat

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Abstract

The study investigates the awareness and readiness of library professionals in the government colleges of Gujarat about the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) program. The objectives cover to evaluate library professionals' knowledge, recognize their requirements for infrastructure and training, identify benefits and challenges they predict and recommend the idea for the betterment of the initiative. The study divided responses into five geographical regions of Gujarat like Central, East, North, South, and West. The structural questionnaire was distributed amongst the professional WhatsApp groups and 36 responses were received and considered for the evaluation. Research adopts a quantitative and descriptive approach for the study. The data analysis was conducted using Microsoft Excel and tables and charts were prepared to present differences among zones. The outcomes reveal that the Central zone has maximum awareness and involvement whereas East and North zones are less prepared and less participating. Many respondents understood that ONOS could increase access and decrease expenditure on library acquisition. However, key difficulties like inadequate infrastructure, deficiency of staff training, and minimal awareness of ONOS are yet present. Few participants reported being fully prepared, and no one identified themselves as very familiar with ONOS. Gaps in data transfer and lack of institutional training further slowdown effective implementation. The research suggests targeted outreach programs, increased technological collaboration, capacity-building workshops, and increased policy exchange to promote reasonable and capable ONOS implementation. It is necessary to target zonal gaps to meet the goals of the initiative to confirming equal access to academic resources to India's public higher education institutions. The results suggest a necessary understanding of the situation and offer reasonable recommendations for policymakers and educational leaders.

Keywords: One nation one subscription, library acquisition, government colleges, gujarat, resource management, academic libraries

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Received Date: May 15, 2025

Accepted Date: May 29, 2025

Published Date: June 15, 2025

Citation: Chetas Bhagat, Prakashbhai Makwana, Geeta Gadhavi. One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS): Reshaping Library Acquisition in Government Colleges of Gujarat. *Journal of Advancements in Library Sciences*. 2025; 12(2): 37–46p.

INTRODUCTION

In 2025, the Government of India had launched the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative to provide reasonable access to academic resources through higher education institutions. ONOS had extended a centralized subscription model for intellectual content, enabling standardized access for all government-funded institutions concentrating on economic restraints, inadequate resources, and infrastructural variations. Productive implementation of ONOS needs sound technological infrastructure, academic partnership, and proactive involvement of stakeholders.

The study examines the perceptions of library professionals from government colleges in Gujarat that study their familiarity, insight, and opinions for ONOS. It expands investigate realized prospects, implementation constraints, and the initiative's capability influence on library acquisition practices. Librarian opinions are valuable to recognize the success and future of ONOS.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To evaluate the familiarity and understanding of ONOS amongst library professionals in government colleges of Gujarat.
2. To recognize the perceived benefits and challenges accompanying with the implementation of ONOS.
3. To assess the understanding with ONOS in government college libraries of Gujarat, with attention on infrastructure, staff training, and institutional willingness.
4. To suggest plans for enhancing ONOS implementation and its effect on government colleges of Gujarat.

Scope of the Study

The study mainly concentrated on government college libraries in Gujarat. The colleges are divided into five zones like Central, East, North, South, and West. The survey envisioned spreading to library professionals in Gujarat. Their insights highlight the ONOS initiative, challenges, and the needs of their institutions. The findings give a clear picture of ONOS's potential impact on library acquisitions and resource management in government colleges. Furthermore, it also adds to greater policy and intellectual considerations by proposing an obvious illustration of ONOS's capacity influence on library acquisitions and resource management, specifically in government colleges. The research assists us in telling upcoming policy decisions regarding national library initiatives and their role in supporting academic institutions.

Limitations of the Study

The research has various limitations. The research is restricted to government colleges in Gujarat that received advantages from the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative. So, it does not consider universities, private institutions, and other organizations that may have various experiences with ONOS. This study may not completely display the capabilities of institutions outside this territory or offer a countrywide outlook. The study contains 36 respondents which may not entirely characterize the variety of library professionals in the government colleges in Gujarat. The survey was shared exclusively via chosen WhatsApp groups, which may have constrained the variety of respondents and led to potential respondent bias. The small sample size may restrict the applicability of the findings, specifically to another states or institutions.

Research Questions

- How confident are librarians regarding ONOS and its cost-effectiveness?
- Will ONOS enhance access to resources throughout the colleges of Gujarat?
- What challenges do colleges encounter with ONOS, and are they prepared for it?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The objectives of the implementation of One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) in India is to reform library acquisition models by raising resource sharing and cost-competence. Consortia models like ONOS present a resolution to overcome the economic limitations encountered by academic institutions, especially in government colleges. Outcomes have highlighted the cost-saving capability and raised accessibility that ONOS can extend by combining subscriptions (Rao, 2023; Kumar, 2024) [1,2].

Equally, challenges such as constraints of technological infrastructure and faculty try to make new models remain dominant. Patel (2022) [3] describes that these obstacles are beyond highlighted in

government colleges, where monetary aid and technological cooperation are repeatedly hampered. Sharma (2023) [4] explores that ONOS extends the possibility for reasonable access to resources. Its success strongly depended on focusing on these infrastructural gaps. Jain & Rao (2022) [5] indicate that institutions must experience a change in organizational culture and implement policy changes that support collaborative resource sharing for ONOS to be successful. Equally, Mehta & Kumar (2023) [6] highlight that educating library staff and clear communication of benefits to faculty are significant causes in defeating resistance and confirming easy implementation. Singh (2021) [7] highlights the ability of ONOS to connect the urban-rural share in access to academic resources, Kaur (2021) [8] concentrates the requirement for institutional willingness to implement these models successfully. In the context of Gujarat, it is important to study the regional challenges, for example resource inconsistencies and infrastructural constraints, which may impact the effective implementation of ONOS in government colleges (Bhagat & Jain, 2023) [9]. Additionally, Bagga, Sawhney, and Gilani (2025) [10] explore the policy's influence on minor Indian journal publishers, indication that ONOS could decrease their prospect and economic support. They encourage comprehensive policies that safeguard and support local publishing stakeholders.

The study investigates the ideas of library professionals in Gujarat concentrating on the opportunities and challenges in implementing ONOS in government colleges.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research uses a quantitative, descriptive research design to assess library professionals' prospects on the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative in government colleges in Gujarat. A structured survey was shared with library professionals through professional WhatsApp groups of library professionals in Gujarat. The survey aimed to gather data on the identified values, trials, and willingness for ONOS implementation. A convenience sampling method was used that extended numerous but may have skipped those external groups, decreasing sample diversity. Convenience sampling is fast, comfortable, and economical whereas it may cause for influenced outcome and constraints the capability to simplify outcomes to a bigger population. Data was collected through an online questionnaire communicated over chosen WhatsApp groups to confirm targeted, competent, and economical approach to significant respondents. The survey data was analyzed in Microsoft Excel and Basic statistics were applied to summarize the responses. Cross-tabulations were applied to know the connections between awareness, institutional willingness, and assumed challenges on the Initiative. Charts and graphs were prepared to exhibit the outcomes and developments clearly. Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis because of its user-friendliness, integrated analytical functions, and competence to manage, interpret, and portray data effectively. [11-15]

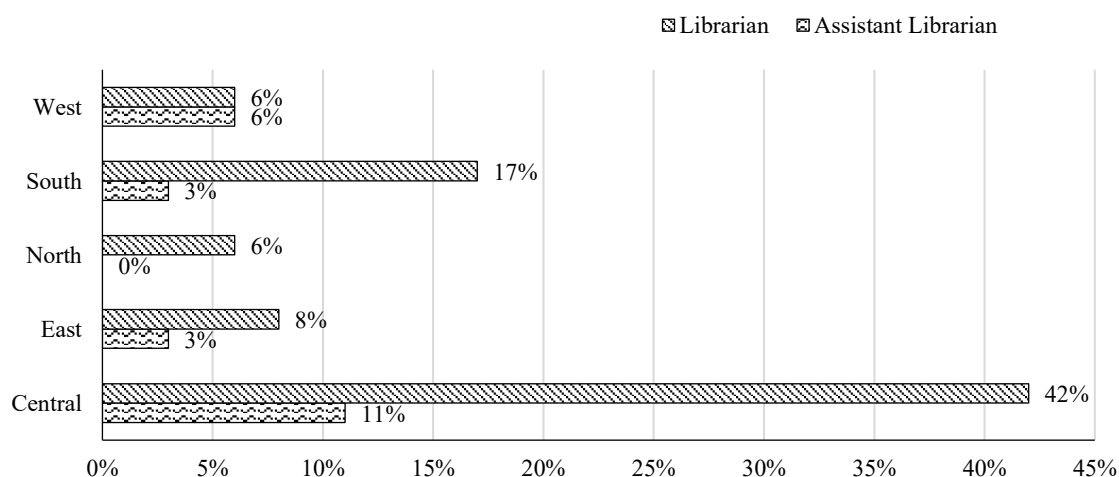


Figure 1. Designation.

Table 1. Experience.

Zone	Experience				
	0–5 years	6–10 years	11–15 years	15–20 years	21+ years
Central	7 (19%)	6 (17%)	4 (11%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)
East	2 (6%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
North	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)
South	3 (8%)	4 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
West	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Figure 1 represents the regional distribution of respondents that are classified by designation as Assistant Librarian and Librarian as per different zones. Amongst Librarians, the Central zone has the highest ratio at 42%, followed by the South zone at 17%. The East and West zone each represent 8% and 6% respectively. The North zone adds 6%. In the case of Assistant Librarians, 11% are from the Central zone, 6% from the West, and 3% each from the East and South zone, with no representation from the North. The outcome reveals that the librarians in the Central zone were highly aware due to more colleges or staff whereas few assistant librarians recommend staffing gaps in the North zone. Library staff from mostly in some zones are showing a need to study staff and resource distribution further [16-17]

Table 1 focuses on the work experience of library professionals from diverse zones. It finds out straightened regional variations. Most respondents have 0–5 years (19%) or 6–10 years (17%) of experience in the Central zone whereas less have 11–15 years (11%) or 15–20 years (6%), and none have over 20 years. 6% of respondents fall in the 0–5 and 6–10 years groups, with no one having more experience in the East zone. The North zone has very minimal contribution, with only 3% each in the 6–10 and 15–20 years groups whereas in the South zone, 8% have 0–5 years and 11% have 6–10 years of experience, with no one beyond 10 years. The West zone has 6% with 0–5 years, 3% with 6–10 years, and 3% with 11–15 years of experience, and none with more than 15 years. No respondents have over 20 years of experience throughout all zones. The majority of respondents are in the initial or intermediate periods of their careers, generally with 0–10 years of experience, demonstrating a younger or freshly hired personnel.[18-20]

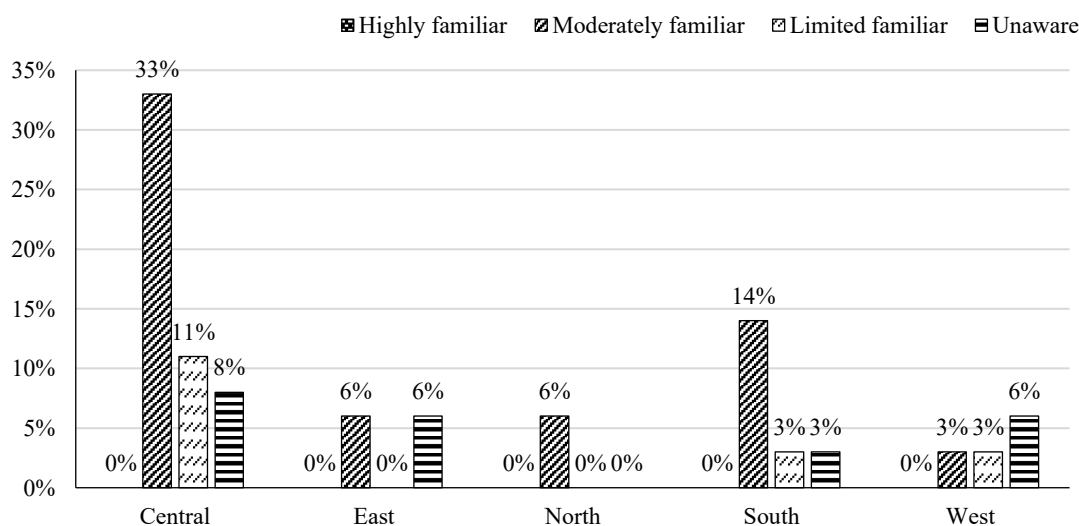


Figure 2. Experiencing ONOS: perceptions from librarians.

Figure 2 illustrates the familiarity levels of library professionals from various zones. There is a clear absence of skilled awareness because nobody from any zone was found to be "highly familiar". 33% had moderate familiar, 11% had limited familiarity, and 8% knew nothing at all in the Central zone. 6% of people had moderate knowledge in the East and North zones. As far as East and North zones are concerned, another 6% knew nothing but nobody had limited familiar or was unaware in the North. 14% were moderately familiar, 3% had limited familiarity and another 3% were unaware in the South zone. The West zone had the minimal number of moderately familiar people (3%), 3% had limited familiarity, and 6% were unaware. Several people, notably in the Central and West zones, realize inadequate familiarity with the area that they require additional guidance and awareness programs.[21-23]

Figure 3 exhibits how people understood about the initiative in different zones. Mainly learned about it via institutional communication, specifically in the West Zone (33%), although nobody in the Central Zone used this resource. Peer discussions were also common mostly in the West Zone (50%). Little gain knowledge by journals, and nobody obtained information from conferences or workshops. When inquired concerning their knowledge level, they mainly stated they were "moderately knowledgeable", particularly in the Central Zone (33%). A small number of respondents had limited knowledge, and certain from the West, East, and Central zones revealed they were not knowledgeable at all. Not a single person is declared to be very knowledgeable. These indications that although peer talks and institutional messages facilitate spreading the word, many still lack deep understanding, and recognized sources like conferences are not being used.

Figure 4 displays what library professionals imagine about ONOS that will facilitate making library acquisitions more cost-effective zone wise. Professionals from the Central zone agreed with the large. 17% strongly agreed, and 36% agreed. This explains effective support from that zone. The East zone had the minimal agreement, with only 6% strongly agreeing and 6% agreeing. There were no responses in the Disagree or Strongly Disagree categories in any zone. In the North zone, nobody agreed or strongly agreed. Only 6% opted Neutral. The South and West zone had little agreement: 8% in the South and 11% in the West. Nobody selected Disagree or Strongly Disagree. This signifies the Central zone had the most positive view. Other zones revealed less support, and some people preferred Neutral. Generally, the response was particularly positive, with very few negative responses.

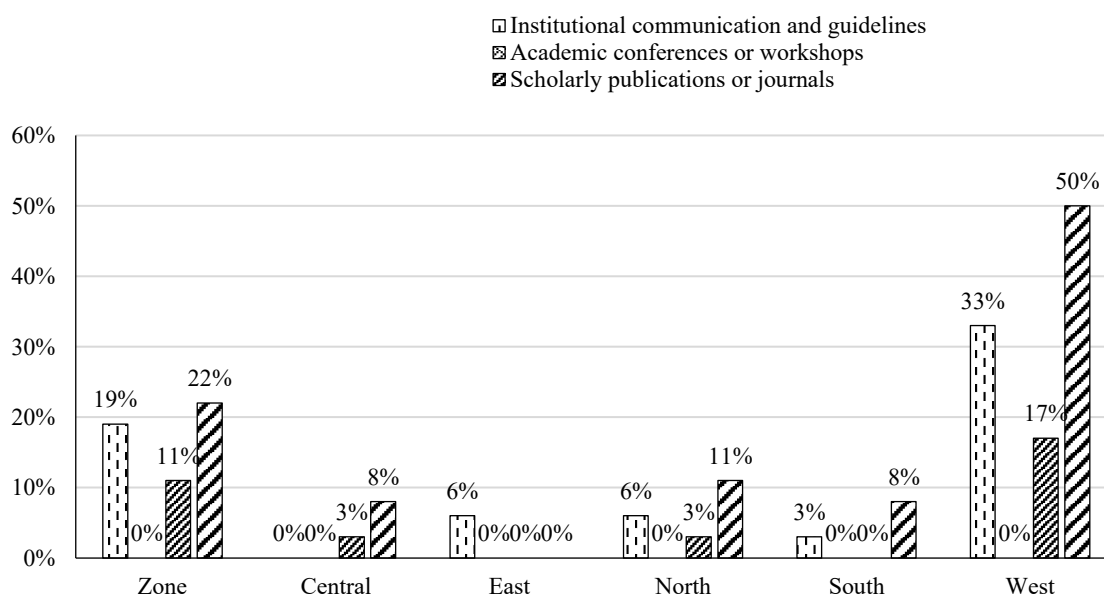


Figure 3. Top sources of information on the ONOS program: visions from librarians.

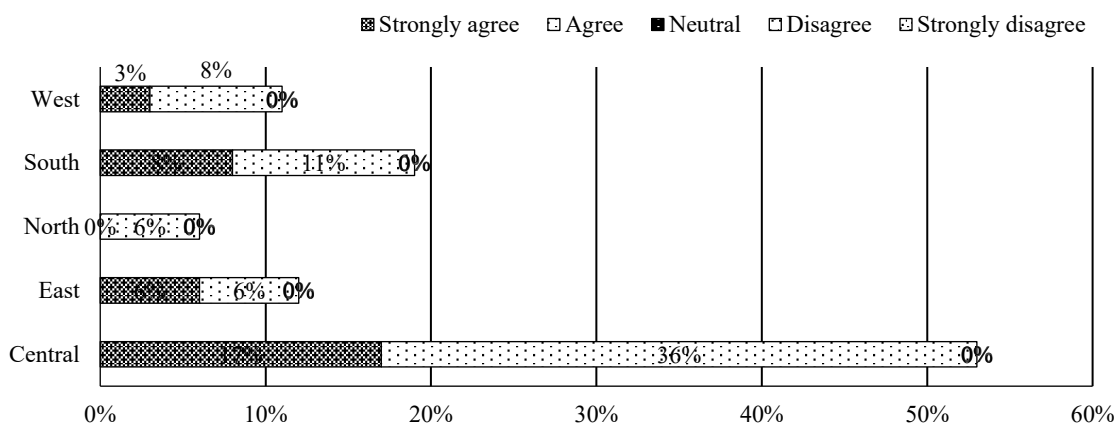


Figure 4. Alleged influence of ONOS on cost-effectiveness in library acquisitions.

Table 2. Positive Consequences of ONOS: Key Potentials for Increased Resource Management.

Zone	Cost reduction	Improved accessibility	Streamlined subscription	Enhanced collaboration
East	2 (6%)	4 (11%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
West	3 (8%)	4 (11%)	2 (6%)	2 (6%)
North	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
South	4 (11%)	5 (14%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
Central	9 (25%)	13 (36%)	3 (8%)	3 (8%)

Table 2 indicates the survey findings about how the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) program is performing in distinct zone of India. The Central zone provided an excellent response. Several told ONOS improved them acquire enhanced access (36%) and save funds (25%). The South zone also had pleasant response, essentially for improved access (14%), although the other zones were not as powerful. The West zone had a stabilized response, with 11% each for improved access and easier subscription. The East zone demonstrated inadequate progress. The North zone had the minimal response, with no significant modifications in any area. Globally, the Central zone found the most advantages from ONOS. The South zone viewed several enhancements in access, while the West had a combined outcome. The East and North zones presented the slightest advantage. This indicates ONOS is functioning reliable in some zones than others, essentially in preventing access and saving money.

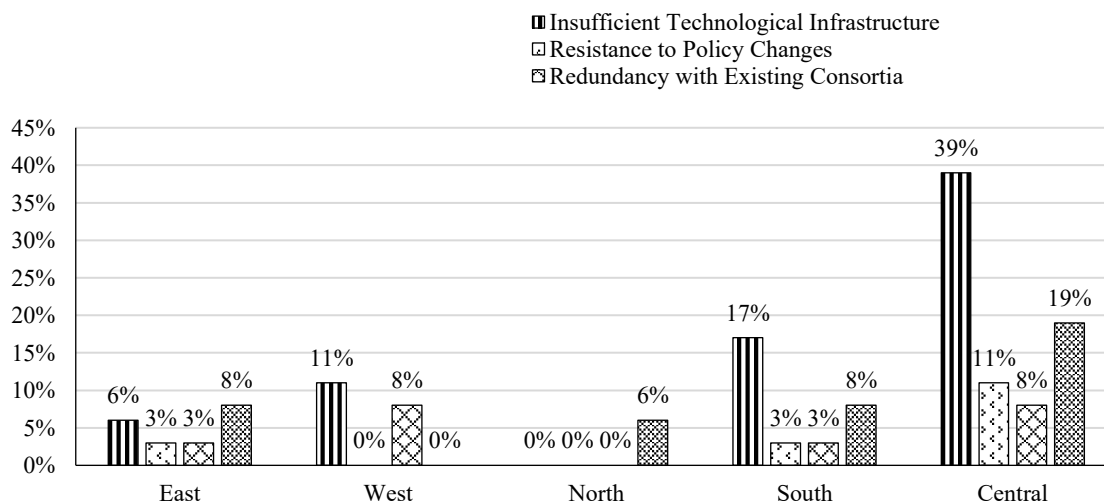


Figure 5. Obstacles to ONOS: librarians speak out.

Figure 5 indicates the challenges faced in various zones when initial national-level library programs. The Central zone had the highest worries. It registered 39% insufficient technological Infrastructure, 11% with resistance to policy changes, 8% with Redundancy with Existing Consortia, and 19% with lack of Adequate staff Training. This reveals that the Central zone has deficiencies in competent infrastructure and skilled staff. The South zone also had several concerns, with 17% informing poor technology and 8% facing a lack of training. The West zone had limited challenges—11% for technology and 8% for overlapping services—but no concerns with staff or policy challenge. The East zone had minimal and neutral statistics in all areas (6–8%). The North zone only had 6% concern with staff training, indicating it is achieving improved general. In brief, the major difficulties are poor technology and lack of staff training, predominantly in the Central and South zones. These areas need exceptional interest to make national library policies function highly.

Figure 6 demonstrates the willingness of academic libraries for ONOS. 0% of libraries stated being "Fully prepared." In the Central zone, 8% were "Not prepared," 22% were "Somewhat prepared," and 22% were "Unsure." In the East and West zones, 8% and 3%, respectively, were "Somewhat prepared," while the North zone had 6% "Not prepared." The South zone had a combination of 3% "Not prepared," 11% "Somewhat prepared," and 6% "Unsure." This presents farther consciousness but still various vagueness. Generally, libraries across India are not entirely prepared for ONOS, and further guidance and assistance are required.

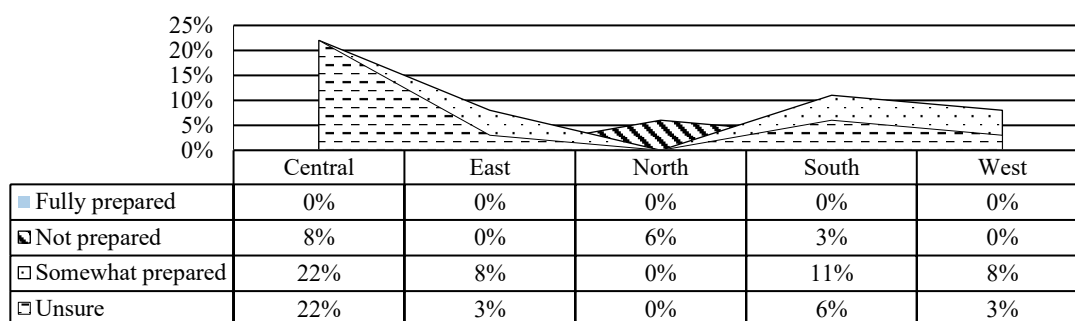


Figure 6. ONOS: An experiment of infrastructure and readiness.

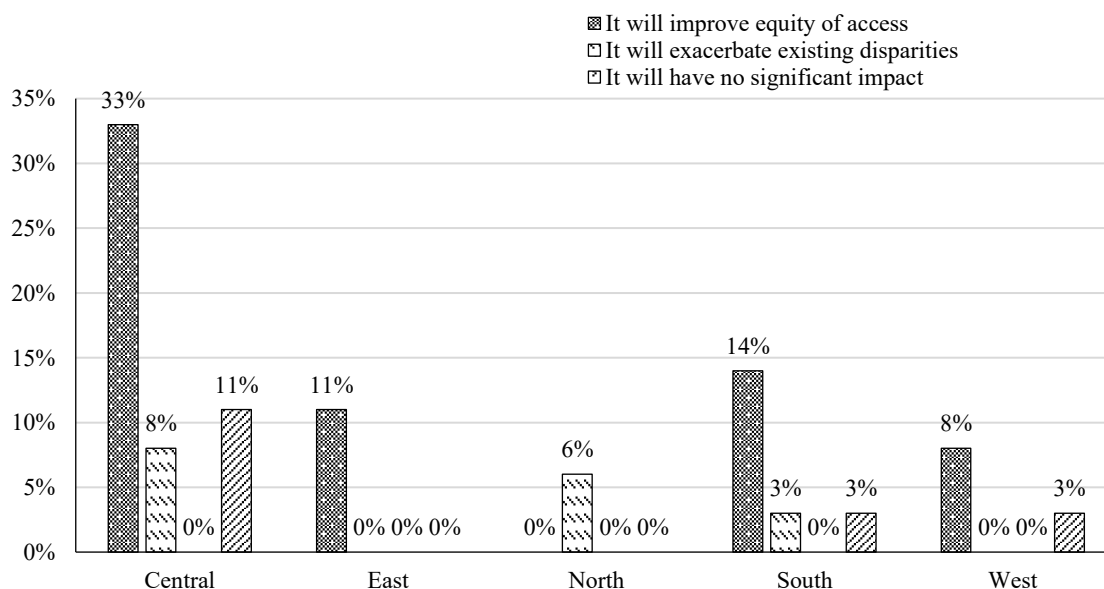


Figure 7. Equal access or missed opportunity? Ideas on ONOS effect.

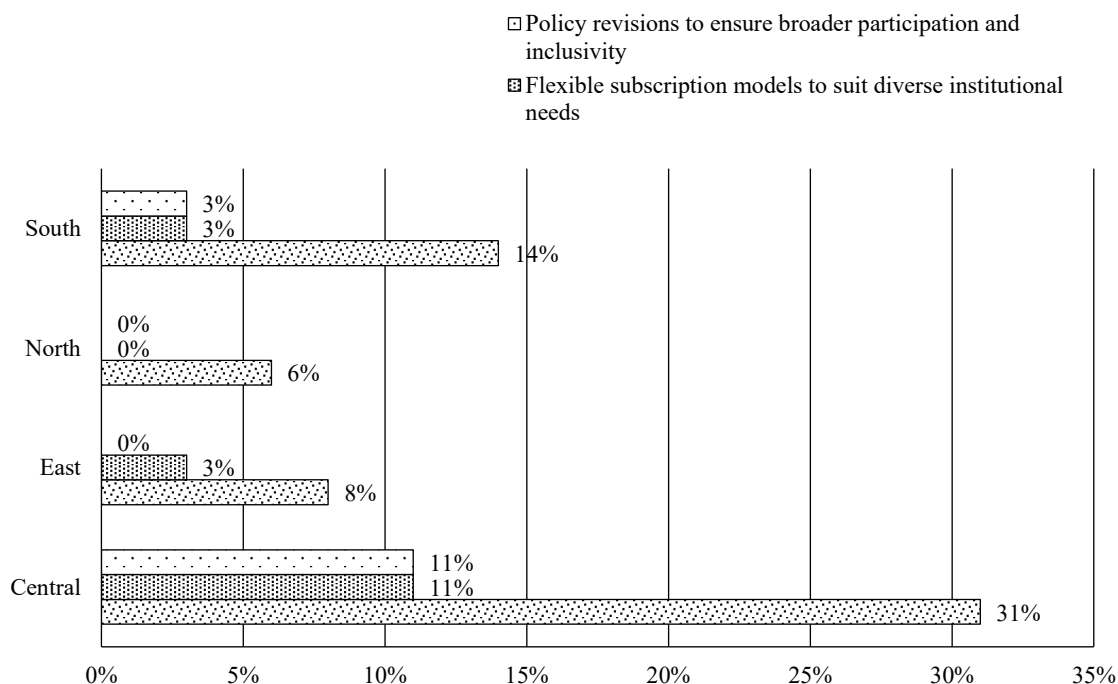


Figure 8. Connecting dots: planned significances for supporting ONOS in gujarat.

Figure 7 demonstrates zone wise ideas on how the ONOS programs may enhance equivalent access to learning resources. The Central zone had extreme support (33%) for ONOS, viewing effective expectations for enhanced access. 11% agreed in the East. However, only 6% in the North strengthened it, with several concern it could deteriorate access. The South (14%) and West (8%) had combined but primarily positive outlooks. Only just someone revealed ONOS would make no change, which indicates the majority of professionals consider it to have some sort of impression like good or bad. Several professionals were unsure, exclusively in the Central (11%), South (3%), and West (3%) zones. This reveals certain misunderstandings or lack of information on what way ONOS will operate. Several zones predict ONOS positively, but clear regulation and provincial projection are required by the government.[24-25]

Figure 8 appears zone wise viewpoints on expansions wanted for the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative. The significant areas are communication and training for library staff, variable subscription models, and policy modifications. The Central zone indicates the greatest cooperation (31%) for improved communication and guidance, advising a necessity for more capability developing. The Central and South zone indicate somewhat additional concern in adaptable subscription models (11% and 3%), point to some institutions view merit in customization. Policy modifications have become the minimum attention, especially in the South and West, probably because communication and resource access are larger concerns. The Central zone requires additional guidance support, and ONOS should schedule awkwardly for all zones.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study intended to discover the familiarity level of library professionals about the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, the advantages that they imagine, the readiness of their colleges to use it. It discovered the challenges that they faced in government colleges in Gujarat. The result verified the objective of the study and fulfilled the research questions effectively. Many library professionals understood about ONOS and assumed it could increase access to academic resources and nominal costs. This reveals that ONOS is envisioned as a practical and significant model, specifically

for colleges with financial constraints.

Simultaneously, the study realized various challenges which include Insufficient digital infrastructure, minimal faculty contribution, and Inadequate training programs. These concerns were more visible in some portions of Gujarat whereas some areas are well-prepared than others. It also highlighted small Indian journal publishers might be excluded from the ONOS system, which could put their existence and expansion at risk. So, it is essential to have reasonable policies that also provision for minor publishers.

The study outlines the following recommendations from these findings

- Facilitate dedicated training for librarians and faculty.
- Expand digital infrastructure, specifically in countryside.
- Incorporate minor Indian publishers in ONOS decision process.
- Evaluate the willingness of each college and provide support as required.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to give explanation on ONOS and encourage support.

In summary, the study addressed its objectives and increased valuable thoughts to the national discussion about ONOS. The program has effective capability, but its success depends on concentrating these reasonable concerns with reasonable, impactful, and thoughtful resolutions.

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