



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIGEST

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ISM)
DHANBAD

From the HOD's Desk



Dear Colleagues, Alumni, Research Scholars, Students, Staff and all well-wishers,

With great pleasure, we present the Departmental Newsletters, which serve as a platform to engage, enlighten, and strengthen our commitment to fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking, scholarly inquiry, and interdisciplinary dialogue. Through focused research and innovative pedagogy, we aim to deepen our understanding of human society, culture, and the arts.

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Our faculty and researchers continue to traverse beyond the conventional boundaries of research, engaging with challenges through the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary lenses of history, philosophy, literature, education, sociology, psychology, and more. This year, we have launched several new research initiatives and projects highlighting the relevance of the humanities and social sciences in today's rapidly changing world. These initiatives reflect our commitment to academic excellence and demonstrate our desire to connect our work with real-world impact. We are particularly proud of the strides we've made in fostering a more inclusive and diverse academic environment, a crucial aspect of maintaining the vitality of our disciplines.

Thank You.

Prof. Gyan Prakash
HoD, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, jointly conducted a National Conference on Ancient Indian Text, Science and Technology (AITST) from 25th February to 27th February 2026 in collaboration with ICPR and ANRF.



The conference successfully brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from diverse disciplines, including science, technology, the humanities, and philosophy, to engage in meaningful dialogue on the contemporary relevance of Ancient Indian Texts.

The inaugural session of the conference was held with great enthusiasm and academic spirit. The session was graced by Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, along with the Convener Prof. Gyan Prakash, Head of the Department of HSS, and Co-Conveners Prof. Sathya Narayana Sharma, Prof. Shruti Kanungo, and Prof. Rahul D R. The Guest of Honour address was delivered by Swamy Kripamayananda of Anand Marg, while the Chief Guest for the occasion was Prof. C. D. Sebastian, IIT Bombay. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. Shruti Kanungo.



The three-day conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 50+scholars and researchers, faculty members and independent scholars from across the country, representing leading institutions such as IIM Calcutta, IIT Roorkee, IIT Mandi, IIT Bhubaneswar, Banaras Hindu University, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, and the University of Lucknow.

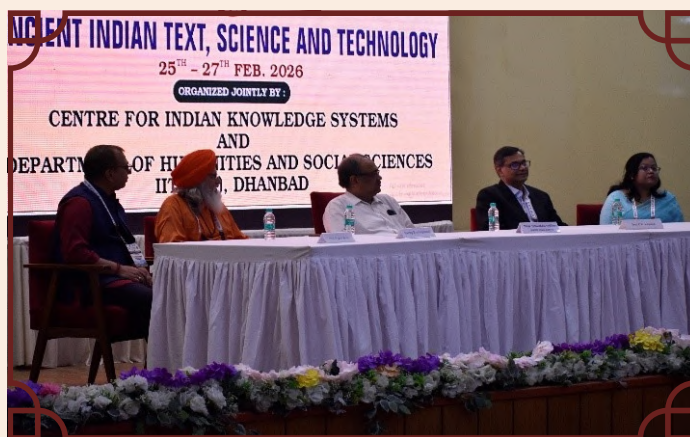
NATIONAL CONFERENCE



The conference programme was thoughtfully structured with keynote lectures, plenary sessions, and thematic paper presentations that encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue across science, technology, humanities, and philosophy.

Participants presented diverse research perspectives that demonstrated the contemporary relevance of ancient Indian intellectual traditions. The presentations highlighted how insights from classical texts can meaningfully contribute to discussions on sustainable development, ethical reasoning in science and technology, holistic health practices, and integrative knowledge frameworks.

Engaging discussions and scholarly interactions throughout the three days underscored the importance of revisiting indigenous knowledge systems through modern academic lenses, making the conference a significant and intellectually enriching academic event.



The conference concluded with a shared recognition that re-examining ancient texts through modern analytical perspectives can uncover timeless wisdom and inspire innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. Overall, the event marked a significant step toward fostering integrative research and strengthening academic discourse rooted in India's rich intellectual heritage.

Bashir Ansari, with Prof. Ahmed Sameer and colleagues, published the paper “Antecedents of mobile e-waste recycling behaviour: A study of planned intentions and direct behavioural triggers among adolescents and young Indian adults.” The study shows that environmental concern increases planned recycling intentions, but social norms, perceived obsolescence and fears about information security drive behaviour directly, leading many to hoard old phones rather than formally recycle them.

The paper recommends pairing environmental education with convenient, certified secure-data recycling options, such as take-back points and sanitisation certificates, to convert intentions into action.

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Sage Journals

Original Article

Antecedents of mobile e-waste recycling behaviour: A study of planned intentions and direct behavioural triggers among adolescents and young Indian adults

Bashir Ansari¹, Ahmed Sameer¹, Saifi Izhaz², and Mudassir Ali²

Abstract

This study investigates the psychological pathways influencing mobile e-waste recycling behaviour among adolescents and young Indian adults (AYAs), a critical issue given the nation's rising volume of electronic waste. We examine the mediating role of recycling intention in the relationship between key psychological antecedents – environmental concerns (EC), normative interpersonal influence (NII), perceived psychological obsolescence (PPO) and information security risk perception (ISRP) – and actual recycling behaviour utilising the theory of planned behaviour (TPB). Using survey data from 368 AYAs, a generalized linear model mediation analysis with 5000 bootstrap resamples was conducted. The results revealed distinct operational pathways for different predictors. EC was found to significantly predict recycling intention in a partially mediated relationship that also included a direct effect on behaviour. Conversely, NII, PPO and ISRP did not significantly predict recycling intention; instead, they exerted a significant direct positive influence on subsequent recycling behaviour. Theoretically, this research reveals a dual-pathway mechanism within an extended TPB. Value-based constructs operate via planned intentions, while pragmatic factors (social cues, obsolescence, security risks) directly trigger behaviour. Practically, the findings explain the prevalent e-waste hoarding phenomenon in India as a rational, security-driven response. This identifies direct behavioural triggers, alongside intention, as key targets for future interventions.

Journal of Computer Assisted Learning

WILEY

Journal of Computer Assisted Learning

REVIEW ARTICLE

A Bayesian Meta-Analysis of Digital Game-Enhanced Vocabulary Learning

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Keywords: Bayesian meta-analysis | digital games | game-based learning | game-enhanced learning | systematic literature review | vocabulary

ABSTRACT
Background: Digital game-enhanced vocabulary learning (DGEVL), referring to the use of commercial off-the-shelf games for vocabulary learning, has attracted growing scholarly interest. Although existing studies predominantly report positive effects, previous reviews have conflated different game types, restricted their scope or overlooked the processes that mediate learning outcomes. As a result, there is limited understanding of how and under what conditions DGEVL works, leaving gaps in theory and research practice.

Objective: This study aimed to examine the effectiveness of digital game-enhanced vocabulary learning and identify the factors that facilitate or hinder its impact.

Methods: A meta-analysis of 12 studies (14 samples, 763 participants) was conducted using a Bayesian random-effects model to assess the overall impact of DGEVL. Subgroup analyses explored the influence of study, participant, intervention and assessment characteristics. To contextualise these findings, a systematic review of 25 studies, comprising 12 quantitative studies included in the meta-analysis and an additional 13 qualitative studies, was carried out, and a thematic analysis was conducted to construct a conceptual model of the learning process.

Results and Conclusions: DGEVL demonstrates a strong positive effect on vocabulary learning (posterior median $\theta_{\text{DGEVL}} = 1.11$, 95% credible interval (CI) [0.62, 1.60]; $\theta_{\text{DGEVL}} = 1.40$, 95% CI [0.58, 2.25]), with substantial between-study heterogeneity ($\tau^2_{\text{DGEVL}} = 0.58$, 95% CI [0.26, 1.06]; $\tau^2_{\text{DGEVL}} = 0.88$, 95% CI [0.26, 1.48]). These effects vary depending on factors such as the length of the intervention, learner proficiency, and the type of game played. The cyclical model conceptualises vocabulary learning as a cyclical process shaped by gamified language interventions and metacognitive regulation. The study highlights the need for balanced assessment techniques, prolonged interventions, micro-longitudinal data collection, comparative designs and rigorous trials.

1 | Introduction

Game-enhanced language learning refers to the use of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) or vernacular games, designed primarily for entertainment, as resources for language teaching and learning (Reinhart 2009). Unlike serious or educational games, which are purpose-built around explicit pedagogical objectives, COTS games provide authentic environments in which language is both received and produced as part of gameplay (Gee 2003; Reinhart 2009; Sundqvist 2019).

Although both game types have distinct affordances, the value of COTS games for language learning does not lie in the absence of structured teaching/learning, but in the way structure is distributed across narrative, interaction and gameplay mechanics. For example, a serious game such as *Building for Ground* sequenced tasks, immediate corrective feedback and explicit instructions (Kara and Karvelis 2025; Liu et al. 2024). By contrast, a COTS game such as *World of Warcraft* offers

Sofiya Shahiwala and Prof. Rahul D. R. published a paper titled, "A Bayesian Meta-Analysis of Digital Game-Enhanced Vocabulary Learning" in Journal of Computer Assisted Learning.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jcal.70246>

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Arthya Pandey presented a paper titled 'Revisiting Disability: A Study of Marginalisation of Baba in Clear Light of the Day, at the Second Annual Young Researchers' Conference (YRC) From Conflict to Thriving: Critical Responses on Re-thinking Marginalities at BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, from 19 to 20th February, 2026.



Diptashree Banerjee and Simanta Nandi jointly presented a paper titled "Mapping Nazrul's Influence: A Global Digital Footprint Study" in the "International Conference: Society, Education, Literature and Philosophy in the Light of Kazi Nazrul Islam" organized by Nazrul Centre for Social & Cultural Studies (NCSCS), Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal on 16th-17th February, 2026

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Sharanya Chakraborty received session best paper award for the paper titled "Pursuit of Awe in an Era of Efficiency: A Constructivist Grounded Theory" at International Conference on Indigenous Practices and Modern Psychological Innovations: Bridging the Gap for Promoting Health & Well Being, Organised by Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, in association with the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), 5-7 February, 2026.



Bashir Ansari attended the India AI Impact Summit 2026, hosted by the Government of India on February, 2026. He gained knowledge in how to view AI thorough a human-like lens and largely using it as a tool to leapfrog societal development, also the need to invest effort at grassroots levels to deploy AI within the MANAV framework—especially in India’s rural areas—to ensure

that this technology does not further strengthen the digital divide. He also attended the Stanford AI+Health 2025 conference hosted by the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI) in February, 2026. It was a massive convening of clinicians, researchers, and industry leaders focused on moving past the hype and digging into the practical, real-world application of AI in clinical settings. He was inspired to see how the field is finally moving from theoretical models to tools that are actually reshaping healthcare delivery today.



Rabiya Fatima received the best presentation award at the Second National Annual Conference on Addictions in the Modern World: Clinical, Behavioural and Digital Challenges for her paper “Loneliness and ChatGPT Addiction: A Social Mediation Model of Rumination and Negative Emotions”, held at Amity University, Patna on March 24 and 25, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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