

MOOCs in Education

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Abstract: Online Courses via digital, distance learning method is now a popular demand among learners. Basically, highly educated peoples get benefits of this type of learning mode. But, the main aim of this method of study is basically initiated for the benefits of a large section of people those who are deprived from education. Nowadays, Central government of India also has started initiatives to popularize it and to reach out large section of people. Teachers are giving support to encourage their students to go through various MOOCs. Here, in this topic, we try to focus the situation of Massive Open Online courses worldwide and also in our own country. Here, we try to analyze different survey reports based on success of MOOCs worldwide, try to know about its impact on our country and to know about the impact of MOOCs among us.

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Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses available for anyone to enroll from teacher to student, from educated to non educated for everyone those who education aspirants. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance your career and deliver quality educational experiences at scale. MOOC.org is an extension of edx. a leader in online courses....Wikipedia.(www.edx.org). Despite varied definitions, key characteristics of MOOCs are 1) there is no entry requirement of all courses can be taken by anyone from anywhere online. 2) These are usually run two or three times each year. 3) These are generally led by pioneer academics and supported by teaching assistants. 4) It typically requires 1-2 hours of study each week for around 5 weeks. 5) These are self directed. If anyone wants to follow the course materials complete the readings and assessments and get help from a large community of fellow learners through online forums. 6) It could be affiliated with Universities and mostly free from the top 140 Universities all over the world. Universities offer certificates or statement of completion despite the fact that course is free but the credential costs money. 7) It is user friendly for differently able persons also. 8) any subject or skills with a proper design can be taught via online education, including science, health, music and sports. 9) it can be used as a social support mean in regular open and distance learning program. 10) It is basically learner centric. 11) Highly effective on multimodal, media rich online environment. 12) It is a rich repository of relevant resources during and after the course.

Stanford University used MOOCs as an opportunity to create a supportive environment for faculty to explore, create and express themselves in new ways through open and digital education. In 2011, three Stanford Faculty opened their courses to the public and attracted thousands of participants. Vice Provost for Online Learning (VPOL) launched a seed grant program in June 2012 to collect and support faculty ideas for digital learning. Faculty described a context that encouraged, a) Intellectual and professional generosity, b) Experimentation and risk taking, c) personal expression, and healthy skepticism.

In the University of Edinburgh, MOOCs are freely accessible and open licensed short courses, delivered to large cohorts of learners fully online. To date, more than two million people have signed up to Edinburgh courses across a broad range of subject area and they form part of the University's commitment to knowledge exchange and community outreach.

As declared by Coursera, "We envision a world where anyone, anywhere can transform their life by accessing the world's best learning experience". Through Coursera all online admission required. Courses varied from 4 weeks to 3 years. Prices for courses about to pay \$15 to \$25,000 varied from one to another.

As claimed by WiziQ, it equipped with a high definition virtual classroom, a cloud based course builder with unlimited course creation and content upload capacity, and the world's first white labeled (custom branding enabled) mobile learning application for learners. Deliver live learning with HD video conferencing, online whiteboard and real-time messaging with unlimited participants through virtual classroom. WiziQ claimed that "Upload content in any format and create interactive self-paced eLearning courses within minutes.

Create multimedia tests and assessments online in 9 different formats. Keep track of your teaching performance and your learners' progress with class and course related analytics. Let your learners access your eLearning content on-the-go with WizIQ mobile and tablet application for Android and iOS devices. Self instructor-led and self-paced courses with a payment gateway integrated into your learning portal. Pricing is not displayed on the website primarily.

Open2study short courses are no longer available. But anyone can find undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught entirely online through 15 top Australian Universities with open Universities Australia. (source : <https://www.open2study.com/>).

Possible areas in which MOOCs may help in improving the quality of education: a) choice based courses, b) collaboration in building courses, c) running a MOOC, d) local support and evaluation, e) flipped classroom, f) continuing education. MOOCs would be very helpful for the Indian students. World level curriculum would enrich them to compete in global job market. MOOC's study materials are costly so it is difficult for the students to get online courses all in free always. Technological infrastructure is not always easy to get in hand. Lecture delivery is not possible always through vernacular. Students from technical and professional field are mostly access MOOCs. So, there is a need of large investments in this field to ease the burden of existing institutions. Prof. A.K Bakshi, Chairman of the Centre for E-Learning, said, "These online courses have been developed by a team of senior academicians and are expected to enhance the gross enrolment ratio in higher education without compromising with the quality. These courses will also help in bridging the digital divide in the country."

SWAYAM (Study webs of active learning for young aspiring minds) was started with great view to provide access to the best quality learning resources across the country. Its objective is to allow higher quality education based on best quality information technology. MOOCs developed on the platform of SWAYAM.

It has four components such as, e-tutorial, e-content, web resources, self assessment. SWAYAM is the digital platform for distance learning where prestigious educational institutes offer best quality content for students from school till post-graduation. The courses on SWAYAM are produced and delivered by AICTE for self-paced and international courses, NPTEL for engineering, UGC for non technical post-graduation education, CEC for under-graduate education, NCERT & NIOS for school education, IGNOU for out of the school students, IIMB for management studies and NITTTR for Teacher Training program.

The National Program on Technology (NPTEL) was initiated by seven IITs. The main focus was on crust area on engineering, physical Sciences and management on Under Graduate and Post Graduate Level. "These courses are open for anyone to access – at no cost. So anyone who is interested in learning gets access to quality content, which also includes discussion with the content creator and access to assignments for self testing." Keep this view in mind and to encourage more students they are building up local chapters. Under headship of a college faculty they create SPOC means Single Point of Contact. Through SPOC, NPTEL gives information for smooth functioning of the centre. (source: <https://nptel.ac.in/local chapter/index.php>).

IIMB (Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) has started IIMBx program in August 2014 that offers Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The mission of this program is to deliver world-class MOOCs in management to learners across the globe and create positive social impact using educational technology since July 2015. (<http://www.iimb.ernet.in/>).

SWAYAM provides opportunities for a life-long learning collaborated with UGC. Here learner can choose from hundreds of courses, virtually every course that is taught at the university / college / school level and these shall be offered by best of the teachers in India and elsewhere. If a student is studying in any college, he/she can transfer the credits earned by taking these courses into their academic record. Anyone working or not working, in school or out of school, UGC-SWAYAM presents a unique educational opportunity to expand the horizons of knowledge for every learner of any stage, any age level. UGC provides courses in school(171), Diploma(41), Certificate(137), Undergraduate(1075), Post Graduate(703), D.El.Ed course, Annual refresher program in teaching(ARPIT).

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is one of the nine National Coordinators which have been assigned a specific sector for preparation of online courses for SWAYAM. NIOS is developing online courses at school level for out of school learners and Elementary Teacher Education. There are 44 courses of NIOS being offered on SWAYAM Platform - 14 at Secondary level, 16 at Sr. Secondary level, 4 Vocational courses and 10 courses of Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India established in 1989. NIOS provides opportunities to interested learners by making available the following courses/programmes of study through open and distance learning (ODL) mode: Elementary Education through its Open Basic Education (OBE) programme, Secondary Education (Class 10th), Senior Secondary Education (Class 12th), Vocational Education, Life Enrichment & Elementary Teacher Education, NIOS operates through a network of five Departments, 22 Regional Centres and more than 6500 & Accredited Institutions (Study Centres) in India and abroad. It has a current cumulative enrolment of about 2.82 million

learners during last five years with an annual enrolment of about 550 thousands at Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational levels which makes it the largest open schooling system in the world. The openness and flexibility in education is key to educational programmes of NIOS. There is no upper age for admission in NIOS. Freedom of choice of subjects, self-learning study materials, transfer of credits and flexible examination system with ICT based On-Demand Examination (ODES) System are some of learner centric facilities being provided by NIOS. With the advent of ICT, NIOS is moving towards digital and online learning for open learning system. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses available for anyone to enroll. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance your career and deliver quality educational experiences at scale.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, has continuously striven to build an inclusive knowledge society through inclusive education. Since then it is striving to offer high-quality teaching through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. Today, it serves the educational aspirations of over 3 million students in India and other countries through 21 Schools of Studies and a network of 67 regional centers, around 2,667 learner support centers and 29 overseas partner institutions.

IGNOU has been entrusted with responsibility of National Coordinator for facilitating development of certificate/diploma courses in various disciplines. IGNOU invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for developing MOOCs on SWAYAM for both credit and non-credit streams from Course Coordinators through recognized Universities/ Institutes of National Importance and other educational Institutions authorized to award degrees/credits and from subject specialists both in Public and Private Sectors. MOOCs offered through IGNOU will cover a wide range of subjects covering core subject areas and new and innovative areas of knowledge. The thrust will be on MOOCs on professional and life skills.

There are very few common questions raised by people that a) what is the impact of MOOC in new age learning? b) What about learner's view about this model? c) What is the impact of this learning model in education community of teachers and students?

We can use the survey data published online by the various organizations.

In 2018, new learners signed up for at least one MOOC down from 23 million the year before. Despite the slowdown the numbers of paying users have increased. There is a list of top five MOOC providers by registered users : Coursera-37 million, b)edX-18 million, c)XactangX-14 million, d) Udacity-10 million, e)FutureLearn-8.7 million. According to the survey, by the end of 2018, over 900 universities around the world started 2000 new courses that were added to the list this year less than addition of the courses from previous year. The number of available MOOCs has grown comparative to user growth.

The 2018 Open up Ed Trend Report on MOOCs showed that a)MOOCs are not mainstream in the corporate world, b)MOOCs are primarily recognized as human resources development and training tool. c) MOOCs work best as complementary education tool. d) MOOCs face high expectations. e) MOOCs face administrative and inexperience barriers.

Low level of digital literacy, lack of experience of online learning, language issues, lack of awareness of open education, low levels of digital literacy, lack of experience of online learning, language issues and lack of independent study skills are all shortcomings of decline of numbers of users of MOOCs but there is a opportunity also to come over these issues through MOOCs. Despite these hindrances participants of online users meet teachers via online all over the world and enjoy a collaborative learning environment.

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