"SWAYAM: The way to success MOOC's in India"

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ABSTRACT:

The quality of education in India is a challenge to the nation. With the development of information and communication technology (ICT), knowledge acquisition process is not just limited to the four walls of traditional classroom. To bring the best quality learning resources across the country, Government of India has bring a modern educational method called as "Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)" to attract extensive attention by educational circles.

The MOOC is the modern quality education tool to educate the large number of people at minimum cost and efforts. MHRD is making good efforts to develop online national portal for quality education called SWAYAM. With a view to providing access government started the project of 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM).

SWAYAM offers online courses to any learner of the nation at free/minimum cost with the help of ICT based on edX platform. The quality of SWAYAM is based on the quality of the course content, content creators and the learners. It will help the nation in skill development program thorough which the employment and skilled manpower is created. The success of SWAYAM is depends on the learners, government, national agencies like UGC, NPTEL, IGNOU, CBSE, NCERT & NIOS and the educational institutions in the country. The objective of the paper will be to focus on the rise of MOOCs and SWAYAM beneficial for mass in India.

Keywords: MOOC, SWAYAM, MHRD, ICT, Modern Education.

INTRODUCTION:-

Education in India has witnessed many phases from the Gurukula system of education to the Modern system of education. With the development of information and communication technology, today knowledge acquisition process is not just limited to the traditional closed classroom. As a modern educational method, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have made the educational process break through the traditional restrictions of time and space and it has extended the ways to acquire knowledge.

The MOOC is massive open online course (MOOC) is popular in western world and India is not exceptional to this, many Indians are also using the MOOC platform for their technology and skill enhancement in all the fields. The most of the courses of MOOC are aimed at unlimited participation and open access through the web so there is no boundaries for sharing the knowledge.

MASSIVE OPEN ACCESS ONLINE COURSES (MOOC's):-

The term "MOOC" was coined in 2008 by Canadian academician named David Cormier, whereas first MOOC was taught by George Siemens and Stephen Downes in University of Manitoba, Canada where a class of 25 regular students was extended online to teach 1500 students. It is regarded as the new method in educational trends especially higher education. Some researchers have termed the MOOCs as the tsunami in the ocean of education which has challenged, if not threatened, the way traditional pedagogy is carried out in the educational institutions. In this technological development, traditional teaching methods are substituted by the online interaction between the teachers and students, entirely or partially.

Wikipedia.org defines MOOC as online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings and problem sets.

MOOCs provide interactive user forums that help build a community for the students, professors, and teaching assistants (TAs). MOOC is an extension of "Open Educational Resources" movement which contributes positively to all forms of classroom types available – Distance education, online learning and Traditional classroom session.

Massive - means the targeted participants are in large number not limited to the class or the college , any person can get registered themselves without any educational background and start learning simultaneously.

Open Access – The courses offered here are open to all without any geographical boundaries and openly accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime 24x7x365 basis with the free use and reuse of the source material.

Online- indicates that it is offered through the web.

Courses – there are many courses available across the discipline and it can be taken with any educational background. a self-paced class, usually of 4-8 weeks, with students joining across the country and interacting virtually and certificates or "statement of accomplishment" is awarded to the successful students after evaluation of exams online assignments either by auto grader or peer group.

TYPES OF MOOCS:-

There are two types of MOOCs

A) **cMOOC** ;- stands for connectivist MOOC. It is based on the connectivity theory of education where Connectivism, openness, and participatory teaching are the principles. Participants share their views and opinions, resources etc. on a particular topic and send it to the instructor. The latter sorts the material and organizes it into a sharable e-mail with embedded HTML links and sends it to all the participants. This builds a "connective ecosystem" of the learning resources under a common platform. Some earlier MOOCs belonged to this category though cMOOC's are not in fashion any more.

B) **xMOOC**:- stands for Extended MOOC. This method revolves around the traditional college teaching model with video recorded lectures along with quizzes (MCQ's) and other evaluation assignments and verifiable certificates or "statement of accomplishment" delivered online through some MOOC providing website. xMOOC is more of a behaviourist approach and uses the open source LMS (learning management system) for course management.

Aim of MOOCs

MOOCs have come into existence or more so gained popularity as they are innovative in their courses, attract large number of students, they don't follow brick and mortar education environment, whole wide world is a library to them, also award certificates against very nominal fee and provide access to education at no cost.

Role of Instructor

Instructor bears the responsibility of designing content, assessments, activities and deciding about learning path to be followed.

Role of Learner

Learner has access to knowledge for the course work opted through content which is generally videos mailed. He participates actively in group for discussions, attempts the assessment area in form of quizzes and also undertakes research work or goes for more literature review to attempt the projects.

Flow of knowledge

The knowledge imparted by instructor directly flows to learner in an altogether different environment from that of a formal classroom teaching, though content or knowledge is not compromised upon.

Methodology of Learning

Learners or students of a particular MOOC are expected to view videos posted by MOOC platform, developed by instructor, attempt quiz and apply the learned contents to a project for which ideas or tentative list may be provided by instructor.

Assessment

Assessment is based on attempted quizzes or assignments based on videos or content already provided to students.

Creator of Content

The content is created by the instructor as per the MOOC theme or subject covered.

Interactions

Learners view content and also participate in online discussions, post their queries to which other MOOC participants can reply and share their opinions.

Timeframe

While few MOOCs can be accessed 24/7 while others have set time frame. The deadlines, launch of new chapters, addition of videos is informed to the participant on their e-mail ids.

ADVANTAGES OF MOOC's

1. MOOC's allow us to pursue our area of interest while doing job, studying or anything.
2. People from various geographical backgrounds can come over and join MOOC without physical connectivity.
3. MOOC's offers best of institutes, teachers without even moving out from home. Physical presence is not at all required.
4. MOOC's can be carried out during your free time. There is no time schedule regarding listening to or viewing video is allotted.
5. MOOC's do not restrict the number of seats. It is massive in nature.
6. All you need is Internet connection and a PC/ mobile phone /tab and you can complete a course.
7. It is very beneficial for those for whom financial crisis hold them from undertaking education.
8. MOOC's are almost entirely free of cost unless and until you need a certificate.
9. MOOC's help to gain people from corporate sector more efficiency and sharpen skills in required area.

LIMITATIONS OF MOOC'S

1) MOOC's being massive in nature fails to provide face to face or one to one interaction between a Learner and Instructor.
2) MOOC's may not end up helping you earn a degree.
3) MOOC's are self-motivated.
4) MOOC's can never replace the need of classroom/ traditional teaching.
5) MOOC's are not ideal for courses where labs are needed for experimentation.
6) MOOC's are hardly taken seriously by participants. The number of enrollments is always much   higher as compared to number of completions. Drop outs rates are very high.
7) MOOC's can never be that interactive as much as a classroom is.

SWAYAM:-

Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is an Indian MOOC an open source platform based on Open edX platform. The SWAYAM is the government of India initiatives with three cardinal principal of Education Policy they are access, equity and quality.

SWAYAM provides an integrated platform and portal for online courses, using information and communication technology (ICT) and covering High School till all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that every student benefits from learning material through ICT. SWAYAM is a:

1. One-stop web and mobile based interactive e-content for all courses from High School to University level.
2. High quality learning experience using multimedia on anytime, anywhere basis.
3. State of the art system that allows easy access, monitoring and certification.
4. Peer group interaction and discussion forum to clarify doubts.
5. Hybrid model of delivery that adds to the quality of classroom teaching.

Whereas, SWAYAM is involves the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) compliant e-content (video and text) and building a robust IT platform. Under NMEICT, NPTEL (a group of 7 IITs and IISc) developed e-content in 23 Disciplines numbering 933 Courses. CEC has so far completed the development of e-content in 29 Undergraduate subjects and shall further be completing e-content in 58 Subjects in four quadrants. UGC is in the process of completing e-content in 77 Post Graduate subjects. Similarly, many other institutions are engaged in development of e-content.

In order to disseminate educational content to masses, the MHRD has launched 32 Direct-To-Home (DTH) educational TV channels called "SWAYAM Prabha" broadcasting education content 24x7 basis, and the content developed under SWAYAM would be used for transmission in SWAYAM Prabha (SP) DTH channels.

The country like India it is very difficult to provide the quality education to the mass at minimal cost and efforts. The SWAYAM is going to be the boon to Indian and Indian learners. The skill India dream can be materialized with the help of SWAYAM the MOOC developed by Government of India. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM has intention to achieve and cater to native languages, permit the offering of blended MOOCs, incorporate local marks/grades, offer proctored online exams, integrate with AADHAR, the unique ID for Indians, and to provide content sharing between different platforms (Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2016).

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS:-

The ministry of human resource development department of higher education has identified the following as national MOOC Coordinators sector wise

SL NO	NATIONAL MOOC'S COORDINATOR	SECTOR
1	University Grants Commission (UGC)	Non Technology Post Graduation Degree Programme
2	NPTEL	Technical / Engineering UG & PG degree programme.
3	Consortium for Educational Communication	Non Technology Under Graduation degree programme.
4	IGNOU	Diploma and Certificates
5	CBSE NCERT & NIOS	CBSE and Open Education, classes 9th to 12th
6	NIOS	Out of school children Educational Programmes from Class 9th to 12th.
7	IIM Bangalore	Management programmes.
8	NITTR, Chennai	Teacher Training programme.

SWAYAM BOARD

SWAYAM Board (SB) shall be the Body for managing the SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha by coordinating the work of technical and academic bodies so as to deliver high quality online education.

SWAYAM ACADEMIC BOARD

There shall be a SWAYAM Academic Board responsible for guiding the National Coordinators and for laying down quality standards.

SCOPE OF SWAYAM:-

As per Government of Indian (Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development) SWAYAM shall cover the following:

A. **Curriculum based course contents**:- Covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. in higher education domain.

B. **School education (9-12 levels) modules**:- For teacher training as well as teaching and learning aids to children of India to help them understand the subjects better and also help them in better preparedness for competitive examinations for admissions to professional degree programmes.

C. **Skill based courses:-** Which cover both post-higher secondary school skills that are presently the domain of polytechnics as well as industrial skills certified by the sector skill councils of various Ministries.

D. **Advanced curriculum and professional certification:-** under a unified scheme in higher education domain that can be tailored to meet the demands of **choice based credit system (CBCS)** currently being implemented in India at undergraduate level.

E. **Curricula and courses**:- That can meet the needs of life-long learners of Indian citizens in India and abroad.

F. **Independent courses**:- which may not be part of any set curriculum and may be taught as awareness courses, continuing education programme and for training of specific skill sets.

SWAYAM IS FOUR QUADRANT APPROACH

The four Quadrant approach means e-learning system that has the following components

1. **Quadrant-I:-** It is e-Tutorial, that shall contain Video and Audio Content in an organized form, Animation, Simulations, Virtual Labs.
2. **Quadrant-II**:- It is e-Content, that shall contain PDF/e-Books/ illustration, video demonstrations, documents and Interactive simulations wherever required.
3. Quadrant-**III:-** It is Web Resources, that shall contain Related Links, Open Content on internet, Case Studies, Anecdotal information, Historical development of the subject, Articles.
4. **Quadrant-IV:-** It is Self-Assessment, that shall contain MCQ, Problems Quizzes, Assignments and solutions, Discussion forum topics and setting up the FAQ, Clarifications on general misconceptions.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

While building a MOOC on SWAYAM, course team shall take care of the following aspects:

➢ Accidental mistakes, integrity of content, outdated information, inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the videos and other course content.
➢ Double-check the veracity of the answers to questions with determined answers (e.g. multiple choice, dropdown etc.) with regards to assessments.
➢ Check that all author names, readings, etc. are accurately represented on course resource pages and other content.
➢ Check for any broken links, missing pages, images, multimedia component both at course as well as content level.

Quality assurance and testing of the completed course shall be put in place in the SWAYAM platform. This will include running through a trial version of the course to check for any misplacements of content, functionality of all interactions, and functionality of all links.

ADVANTAGES OF SWAYAM:-

1. The SWAYAM is free of cost for any Indian for learning but he has to pay for certificate.
2. The SWAYAM is tailor maid to Indian scenario and are complimentary to formal education in India.
3. The accessibility of quality teachers was limited to the institutes like IIT's, IIM's, and top most Universities and institutions of India but through SWAYAM the learner in any corner of the county can have access to these top most teachers of the county.
4. The courses will add to the skill India program.
5. The quality of learner is evaluated by the same parameters at national level so the outcome will be the same at national level. It will helps in maintaining the stand of education in India.
6. The high quality education will reach to the mass at minimum cost and efforts by the government.

CONCLUSION

The success of SWAYAM and MOOC's is depends on the quality content of courses offered to the public and the relevance and success of the candidates who are taking this courses. Every educational institution should have separate arrangement for the students who want to learn from these courses. The recent development in telecommunication sector makes the access to internet has become very much cheaper so that learner can take benefit of this.

The government is trying to impart quality education in the nation; SWAYAM is one of the steps towards this. The time will tell the national dream of the quality education to the mass through SWAYAM will be achieved or not. The SWAYAM is in growing stage; the development will depends on the learners, government, national agencies like UGC, NPTEL, IGNOU, CBSE, NCERT & NIOS and educational institutions in the country.

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