Role Of Swayam In Skill Up Gradation Among Undergraduate Students

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Abstract: To develop a highly populated country like India, transformation in the higher education system by implementing new techniques in teaching has become a necessity.. Employers in the present fast-changing job market prefer to hire candidates with specific skills rather than with a degree certificate. Online platform of studies is one of the prominent modes of education in the existing higher education system. The initiation of the government in this context by introducing novel programmes such as SWAYAM, National Digital Library and SWAYAMPRABHA are appreciable. SWAYAM is a free online education platform providing the best learning resource to the present youth. The research paper intends to study the role of SWAYAM in developing the skills of the undergraduate students with reference to the secondary data.

Key Words: SWAYAM, online education, technology, techniques,

Introduction: Employers in the present fast-changing job market prefer to hire candidates with specific skills rather than with a degree certificate. In spite of scoring good grades in their degrees the students are unable to perform well in their interviews. They are rejected for not having the quintessential skill set required for the job role.

It is identified that students are completing their degrees with good percentages with good understanding of the subject. However, implementing the knowledge acquired in the job is becoming a problem for them. This situation is mainly due to lack of specific skills. It is also obvious that there are students without a degree but with proficient skills who are able to sustain their jobs and help for the growth of their organisations. By this we are able to analyse that skills more important than the degrees acquired.

Additionally, due to the emerging new technological advances and developments, the skills once considered relevant are becoming outdated. The candidates seeking jobs are not upgrading their skills accordingly. The employers are selecting the candidates who possess the skills or who are quick in learning the new technologies. Hence, a degree will not be considered enough for a job. Additionally, a degree often refers to a broad category of knowledge, while skills refer to a specific ability or expertise. Employers are looking for specific skills in order to fill the exact needs of their company, instead of general knowledge that may not be as applicable.

In conclusion, a degree can be considered as a basic qualification required for a job. However, without the specific skills only a degree is not significant for seeking a job. The employers are selecting the candidates who possess the specific skills directly applicable in the job role. Hence, a candidate has to focus on skill development rather than increasing the qualifications.

Opinion of the Students :

1. The Current Methodology of Teaching mainly focuses on scoring Marks
2. The pedagogy implemented in the institutions is not supporting all round development.
3. Don't know how to use the information effectively. Need Guidance
4. Constant Support / Mentoring is needed to support students opting for Online Courses
5. Teacher Accessibility and Availability - Off Campus
6. Teachers are not equipped with 21st Century Skills.

    In the above situation, online education may overcome the above barriers and fulfil the needs of the present learners in India.

About SWAYAM

The SWAYAM initiative was launched by the then Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) (now Ministry of Education), Government of India under Digital India to give a coordinated stage and free entry to web courses, covering all advanced education, high school, and skill sector courses. It was launched on 9 July 2017 by Pranab Mukherjee, Honorable President of India.[2][3][4] SWAYAM has been developed cooperatively by the Ministry of Education and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), with the help of Microsoft. The current SWAYAM platform can facilitate 2,000 courses. The platform offers free access to everyone and hosts courses from class 9 to post-graduation. It enables professors and faculty of centrally funded institutes like IITs, IIMs, IISERs, etc. to teach students.[5][6]

SWAYAM has accumulated 203 partnering institutes, 2,748 completed courses, 12,541,992 student enrollments, 915,538 exam registrations, and 654,664 successful certificates.[7]

SWAYAM (meaning 'Self' in Sanskrit)[8] is an acronym that stands for "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds"[9]

 Online mode of learning has become popular these days. The educational institutions are not able to establish the infrastructure required to provide technological aids in teaching. As the financial requirement for the same is more which is not affordable by all institutions. Accordingly, the Indian government has taken the initiation to develop the human resources in India by introducing various novel programmes like SWAYAM, National Digital Library, and SWAYAMPRABHA etc. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is designed by the Indian government with the help of Microsoft to achieve the cardinal principles of access, equity and quality. SWAYAM is a platform which educates the students and creates the knowledge economy. The platform is an open platform with enormous courses offered free of cost. The best teachers from all over the country deliver video lectures through hundreds of courses with transferable credits. All these courses are available to the students from ninth standard to PG level.

The best faculty from IITs of Madras, Bombay, Guwahati, Kanpur, IIMs of Bangalore, Calcutta and Universities of Delhi, JLN, Banaras are offering courses in various subjects through which at least one crore students are expected to benefit in 3 years. In this SWAYAM platform, students learn and enhance the specific skills through online video lectures in their flexible timings at their convenience. All the courses designed by the best teachers across the country are free of cost and interactive. It is obvious that more than 1000 best teachers have contributed for the development of the content for the courses.

Credit Transfer in SWAYAM

UGC has already issued the UGC (Credit Framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM) Regulation 2016 advising the Universities to identify courses where credits can be transferred on to the academic record of the students for courses done on SWAYAM. AICTE has also put out gazette notification in 2016 and subsequently for adoption of these courses for credit transfer.

SWAYAM COURSES ARE DEVELOPED IN FOUR QUADRANTS:

1. High Quality Video lectures: video Lectures by the best teachers with duration of 20 to 30 minutes each video.
2. E-Book : Specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded
3. Assessments: Self-assessment tests, quizzes,
4. Online Discussion forum: for posting queries and clarifying clearing the doubts.

5. FEATURES OF SWAYAM:

SWAYAM comes with the following features in order to provide quality education to all students:

1. Students can access educational content available on SWAYAM from convenient locations. However, they need a proper internet connection and supportive devices to start their learning journey.
2. To enhance the learning capacity of students, all the educational courses of SWAYAM are available in audio-visual format.
3. The interaction forum of SWAYAM helps students clarify doubts related to any topic of their course or syllabus.
4. Once students complete a course available on the platform, they need to take an exam. After they pass the exam, they get a certificate for that particular course.
5. Professors and experts from universities develop all the academic content and courses available on SWAYAM. Therefore, students get high-quality study materials to enhance their knowledge and exam preparation.
6. SWAYAM conducts certification exams in a proctored manner to avoid unfair practices. Therefore, all the certifications are highly valued by employers during the recruitment process.
7. Students get all the courses free of cost at SWAYAM. Additionally, the platform doesn't ask for any hidden charges.
8. According to UGC notification, all the credits earned through SWAYAM courses are transferred to students' academic records in colleges or universities.

Benefits of SWAYAM

The prime benefits of the SWAYAM portal are mentioned hereunder.
1. Access to top-class education and other related resources to the underprivileged
2. Availability of education without the need to pay any exorbitant fees
3. Helping in the development of the society by providing quality education to every citizen of the country. .
4. Online mode of learning allows sharing of best quality education with faculty and everyone.
5. SWAYAM courses provide an excellent course delivery methods unbound by location or time allowing for accessibility to instruction

Table :1 Number of Courses Offered through SWAYAM

Slno	Details	Number
1	Number of courses	2,748
2	Number of student enrolments	12,541,992
3	Number of exam registrations	915,538
4	Number of successful	654,664

SWAYAM NATIONAL COORDINATORS :

SWAYAM courses are available at various levels and to maintain the best quality content and delivery for each level, nine National coordinators have been appointed. They are:

1. AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) for self – paced and global level courses.

2. NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) for Engineering.

3. UGC (University Grants Commission) for non-technical Post graduation Education.

4. CEC (Consortium for Educational Communication) for undergraduate Education.

5. NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) for school Education.

6. NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) for school Education.

7. IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) for out of school students.

8. IIBM (Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) for management studies.

9. NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research) for teacher training programmes.

9. CONCLUSION:

The Indian Government initiation of providing online mode of learning to all in skill development is the best alternative in the present education system. As it is clearly evident that the present job market is demanding skills from the candidates along with their degrees to perform well in their job roles. Learning through online resources at their convenience is beneficial to the youth. SWAYAM is such a platform which provides flexibility to the students in giving the best content and knowledge designed through the courses offered. It plays a significant role in delivering the high standard quality education and skill development through the course for sustainability in the jobs. Hence, the government of India and national coordinators of all levels in the nation have to take some effective steps to implement swayam for skill development..

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