

Moocs: An Open Distance Learning

Dr. K. RAJAMANNAR¹, Mrs. A. INDRA REFLINE MISSIER²

¹Assistant Professor of Commerce, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012

²Assistant Professor of Commerce, St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi.

ABSTRACT

According to this research, the number of people enrolling in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has skyrocketed. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are becoming increasingly popular around the world. India is the second-largest user of MOOCs, after the United States, which is first. This study discusses the availability of MOOCs in India, as well as the many universities across the country that offer MOOC courses to academia. The advantages and disadvantages of MOOCs, as well as their future, have been explored. According to the report, MOOCs and online education have a lot of potential for speeding and ensuring social cohesion and long-term progress. Online education may successfully reach every individual with minimum effort on the part of the Indian government. India still has a long way to go; they are unlikely to be fully operational until 2020.

Key Words: MOOC, Growth, Online, Potential, Institution.

INTRODUCTION

Vast Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, have knocked on the door of formative education with a massive flood of possibility. Dave Cornier of the University of Prince Edward Island and Bryan Alexander of the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education coined the term MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in 2008. MOOCs are a relatively new phenomenon in distant education, having begun about the middle of 2011. As of December 2016, over 58 million students had signed up for MOOC courses offered by over 700 colleges and 6850 courses offered by other providers such as Coursera, edX, and Udacity. MOOCs allow you to get an education from top colleges with the best faculty even if you are unable to travel there. They are referred to be "huge" since they are available to the whole public. These courses can be completed entirely online, allowing for unrestricted participation and open web access. It is beneficial to people who desire to improve in their employment by obtaining expertise in a specific topic of interest. MOOCs are successful because all a student needs are an Internet connection and a willingness to learn, and the learning may be done through recorded lectures.

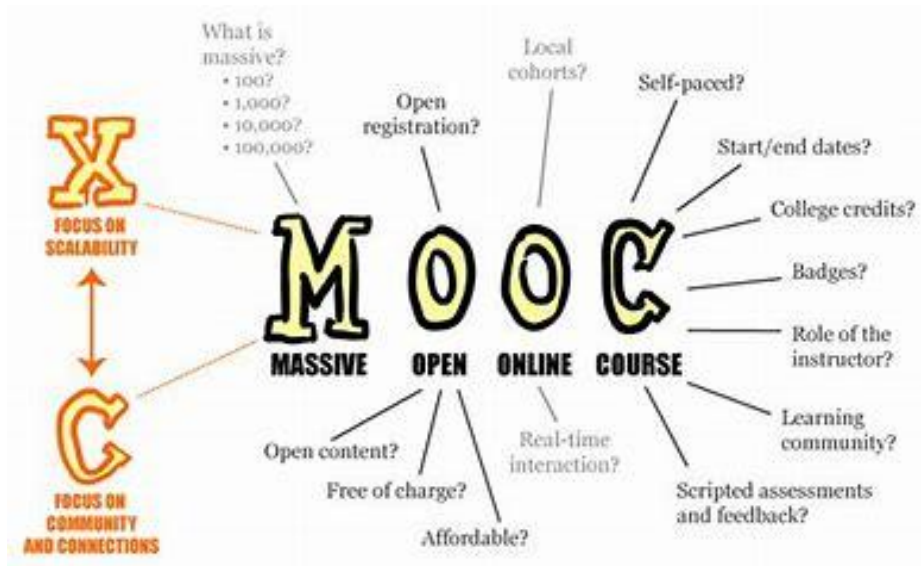
DEFINITION

"A course of study made available over the internet without charge to a very large number of people."

“A MOOC is an online course with the option of free and open registration, publicity–shared curriculum, and open- ended outcomes. MOOCs integrate social networking, accessible online resources, and are facilitated by leading practitioners in the field of study. Most significantly, MOOCs build on the engagement of learners who self-organise their participation according to learning goals, prior knowledge and skills, and common interests (the MOOC model for digital practice).”

AIM OF MOOC’S

MOOCs were created or have grown in popularity because they are innovative in their courses, attract a broader audience, do not follow a brick-and-mortar education setting, treat the entire globe as a laboratory, offer diplomas for a small fee, and provide free education.



CLASSIFICATION OF MOOC’S

C-MOOC: A connectivist mindset is emphasized by a C-MOOC, which is a social platform for cooperatively sharing and growing knowledge within a community of individuals. Connectivism is named after the relationship between work experience, learning, and knowledge, which is embodied in the idea of 'connectivity.' Participants have more power in C-MOOCs than in designer-led MOOCs. C-MOOCs are more open, flexible, and responsive to the needs of their participants, so participants decide on the course's goal, think about how to achieve it, and participate actively through blogs, tweets, and other forms of communication that are shared via email after being compiled by course organizers on a daily basis.

X-MOOC: An X-MOOC follows a more traditional educational approach, with lectures broadcast on video, and is frequently well-funded. X-MOOCs are well-funded and are a typical extension of regular course content, learning theories, and higher education teaching methodologies. The offered material is of high grade. Courses with poor content, such as plagiarism, are quickly closed. X-MOOCs are created through a collaboration between a university and a MOOC platform, which operates with a profit motive in mind.

TIMEFRAME

While some MOOCs are available 24 hours a day, others have a predetermined time limit. Participants are notified of deadlines, the opening of new chapters, and the insertion of videos via their e-mail addresses.

MOOC's

MOOCs are denoted by the letter

M - which stands for Massive in Number (There is no limit to student intake; there can be tens of them or there can be tens of thousands)

O - Open to all, can be placed anywhere, with or without obligatory criteria, and is free or as cheap as feasible.

O stands for Online (completely through internet). Attendance in class is not needed in this course.

C - Courses, i.e. those that are based on a well-defined syllabus, are structured, have a set time limit, and are reasonably priced.

REASONS FOR THE GROWING POPULARITY OF MOOC'S

One of the most compelling reasons to participate in a MOOC is that it may be completed by anyone, anywhere in the globe. You will get access to course materials as well as professional advice from some of the world's greatest universities and academics. The best part is that the majority of these courses are free, and you can complete them at your own leisure. You may take a class on a subject that isn't offered at your college, or you could simply take a course to broaden your knowledge and hear from other instructors on a topic related to your field of study. Let's take a closer look at a few of these factors.

FREEDOM TO LEARN ANYTHING

The wonderful thing about online learning is that you may enrol in classes on any subject or course you like. To be allowed to take the class, you do not need to pass a test or anything. Whether you want to learn about biotechnology or digital marketing, you can pick and choose from a wide range of topics. There are also multiple levels of courses available on the same subject, such as introductory level courses for beginners and advanced level courses for those who already have a good understanding of the themes.

INTERACT WITH STUDENTS WORLDWIDE

When you enroll in a MOOC course, you open yourself up to interactions and discussions with students from all over the world. The bulk of MOOC courses available now include forums, peer review, and real-time conversations as fundamental components. Students are also encouraged by course instructors to provide constructive criticism on the work of other students participating in the class. It contributes to the concept of group learning and aids in the development of a sense of accomplishment.

LIMITATION OF MOOC'S

In the case of MOOCs, providing timely help and assessment of students has become a difficult undertaking. Professors or academicians may be able to plan and conduct online lectures, but they may not be able to connect with and evaluate the thousands of students who are enrolled in their course from all over the world.

PROVIDERS

Provider	Founded	Type	Headquarters
ALISON	2007	Commercial	Ireland
Canvas Network	2008	Commercial	USA
Coursera	2012	Commercial	USA
Coursmos	2014	Commercial	USA
edX	2012	Non-Profit	USA
Eliademy	2012	Commercial	Finland
FutureLearn	2012	Commercial	UK
Iversity	2013	Commercial	EU
Kadenze	2015	Commercial	USA
Khan Academy	2006	Non-Profit	USA
Lynda.com	1995	Commercial	USA
OpenClassrooms	2007	Commercial	France
OpenHPI	2012	N/A	Germany
OpenLearning	2012	Commercial	Australia
Open2Study	2013	Commercial	Australia
OpenSAP	2009	Non-Profit	Germany
Peer to Peer University	2005	Non-Profit	USA
POLHN	2013	Non-Profit	Western Pacific Region
Shaw Academy	2006	Commercial	Ireland
Stanford Online	2012	Non-Profit	USA
Udacity	2010	Commercial	USA
Udemy	2007	Commercial	USA
WizIQ	2019	Commercial	India/ USA
360academia		Commercial	Nigeria

ADVANTAGES OF MOOC

- ✓ MOOCs facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge while also assisting in the development of lifetime learning abilities by providing simple access to global resources.
- ✓ It improves cross-cultural ties, resulting in collaboration between educators and students at institutions both locally and worldwide.
- ✓ MOOCs promote active learning.
- ✓ MOOCs promote classroom flipping.
- ✓ "No exam fever" emphasizes a deep approach to learning rather than a surface-level, strategic approach.
- ✓ Peer evaluation allows students to learn by grading others. Because teaching or grading someone else is the best way to learn.
- ✓ MOOCs give people the chance to learn from world-class universities and renowned instructors without having to be a student at that university and from anywhere in the world.
- ✓ Unless and until you require a credential, MOOCs are virtually entirely free.
- ✓ MOOCs enable people in the corporate sector become more efficient and sharpen their abilities in a specific set of areas.

DISADVANTAGES OF MOOC

- ↻ The MOOC includes all video lectures and slides, as well as all relevant reading materials. This allows students to go through the lectures in a single day rather than in stages, resulting in a lack of thorough knowledge of the subjects.
- ↻ It is also impossible to answer questions in real time while listening to the lectures.
- ↻ Technical courses that require physical hands-on practical experience (e.g., civil, mechanical, electrical, etc.) are difficult to provide via MOOC.
- ↻ MOOCs may not assist you in obtaining a degree.
- ↻ MOOCs are self-disciplined. The more you can push yourself and keep your desire lamp on, the better.
- ↻ There are no effective assessment methods available, such as classroom Q&A, surprise quizzes, or presentations;
- ↻ There are no adequate evaluation methods available, as automatic machine assessments and evaluations are ineffective. Peer review can cause students to become discouraged, causing them to drop out of class.
- ↻ The MOOC model of education will suffocate the care, empathy, and respect that exists between teachers and students in a traditional classroom. It just serves to expand the virtual social network.

CONCLUSION

MOOCs are the future of online learning today. They have made an impact by delivering free courses that have enabled individuals and students all over the world to engage, interact, discuss, and learn from the world's most renowned teachers, thereby improving people's lives and bringing about genuine change in communities. According to the Ministry of HRD's initiatives listed in its 2015 Annual Report, an attempt in this area is being made in the shape of Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), an interactive e-learning Indian platform for all disciplines. Furthermore, MOOCs should be managed in a cost-effective and creative manner, with a plan that is well-suited to universities and institutions. India's prosperity will undoubtedly be aided by an education system based on new technologies and online studies. 35 MOOCs have the potential to make science and technology education more accessible to the general public, but they will require students to learn technical abilities. Indians' appetite for MOOCs is rapidly growing, and they have chosen MOOCs to make global classrooms a reality. MOOCs have shown to be excellent in this direction for Indians who have a thirst for quality-based western education.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Global statement. (2014, September 9). India: Digital education and the road to MOOCs. Retrieved from <https://globalstatement.wordpress.com/>,
- Gregg Bayes-Brown. (2014, January 13). The rise of edX · Articles · Global University Venturing. Retrieved from <http://www.globaluniversityventuring.com/article.php/3235/the-rise-of-edx>
- Shah, D. (2016, Dec 25). By The Numbers: MOOCs in 2016, How has the MOOC space grown this year? Get the facts, figures, and pie charts, <https://www.classcentral.com/report/mooc-stats-2016/>
- Iversity online courses. <https://iversity.org/> (accessed on 10 October 2014).

India announces official MOOC platform 'Swayam'. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.class-central.com/report/swayam>

Literacy Rate in India-Literacy in Indian States.(n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/literacy-rate-in-india.html>

Morrison, D. (2003, April 22). The Ultimate Student Guide to xMOOCs and cMOOCs-mocnewsandreviews.com. Retrieved from <http://mocnewsandreviews.com/ultimate-guide-to-xmoocs-andcmoooco/#ixzz3nCw7rBY9>

Online Training on Professional Courses and Certifications by Experts.(n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.apnacourse.com/>

Massive Open Online Courses for Agricultural professionals to usher in classrooms without boundaries. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics. <http://www.icrisat.org/newsroom/news-releases/icrisat-pr-2014-media27.htm> (accessed on 10 October 2014).

Open online course for India's Agri-professionals launched. Agriculture Today. In 7th International Agriculture Leadership Summit, 2014. <http://agriculturetoday.in/AT-October.pdf> (accessed on 10 October 2014).