A Study on Role of MOOC (SWAYAM) courses in inculcating required employable skills for upcoming Graduates

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Abstract

Education is an important phase in every individual's life, Education helps one to acquire necessary skills to be competent in corporate world and also it teaches for one life. Indian education system has seen many phase starting Gurukul System, the British model of Education, Government and Universities regulated mechanism and now trend towards online and satellite education platform. In India education is divided into various phases like, Primary, Higher Primary, Higher Education and Research. Most of us we exit from education at Pre university Level or graduate levels due to financial, family or various reasons. Many corporate and Industry people expressed their opinion that, Indian formal education has failed to feed required employable skills for graduates as per the expectation of industries.Looking at the reasons for exit and also employable skills, MHRD has introduced SWAYAM – Online learning platform. SWAYAM platform in indigenous developed by ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India council for technical education(AICTE) with the help of Microsoft and would be ultimately capable of hosting 2000 courses and 80000 hours of learning: covering school, undergraduate, post graduate, engineering, law and other professional courses. University Grants Commission (UGC) has vided Gazette Notification dated 19th July, 2016, notified Regulation, 2016 regarding 'credit Framework for online Learning courses through SWAYAM'.

Key Words: Education, Employability, Online Learning

Introduction

The current Indian education system is rooted through history by passing various phases. In the olden days, the main source of knowledge was spiritual texts. The children were taught to read these texts and enunciate manthra's or sloka's about gods and adopt the same in the life. In the gurukula system children were send to ashrams or homes of sages called gurus or teachers, where they lived and learned about various things ranging from small errands to religious enlightenment.

In the British period British colonial ruler did not show any interest in education. The Christian missionaries were the first to come forward. The Baptist missionary William Carey had come to India in the year 1793AD . He along with his friends established Baptist mission in Serompore(1800 AD) By their enthusiasm many primary schools come up in nearly places.

Objectives of the paper

1. To know the evolution of Indian education system.
2. To understand the requirement of corporate enterprises
3. To understand the opportunities and challenges of SWAYAM platform

SWAYAM

Study webs of Active-learning for young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), is a web portal where massive open online courses (MOOCs) are available on all kinds of subjects. SWAYAM is the Indian electronic e – education platform which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to post-Graduate stage in an interactive electronic platform. The IT Platform for SWAYAM is built and is expected to be operationalized with a capacity to host nearly 2000 courses. This would provide the best quality education to more than three crore students across the country. The system would allow 10 lakh students using the system concurrently. Once it becomes operational, students from the backward rural areas can access teaching from the best institutes in the country electronically, thereby, raising the overall standards of higher education in the country.

For creating of massive Open Online courses (MOOCs) ,8 National MOOCs coordinators (NMCs) have been appointed with the responsibility of identity the best teachers for preparation of the material for the MOOCs.

Unique about the courses of SWAYAM

The SWAYAM portal will host MOOCs which are highly interactive and can be accessed on computers /laptops or even smartphone. "MOOCs have e-content, activities and assessment spread across weeks as per different credits along with other features such as introductory videos. For example, for all our 42 ePGPathshala MOOCs, the learner will completing the course in 15 weeks, out of which there are two weeks (8th and 15th week) for revision and assessment. The MOOC coordinator along with teaching assistants will facilitate the discussion forums and answer learner queries. For students seeking credits, online assignment submitted by them will also be graded by the teaching assistant with an appropriate feedback mechanism,"

SWAYAM has been developed under a four – quadrant approaches: (1)video lecture, (2) Specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded /printed (3) self – assessment tests through tests and quizzes and (4) an online discussion such as arts , science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine and agriculture. Learners from conventional universities can earn credits for up to 20% of their courses through these MOOCs. For remaining courses, they can use it as supplementary material. Teachers can also benefit a lot as they can enrol and can access all the e-content.

Advantages of SWAYAM

- Language support: As Indian is multilingual country, MOOCs provide an opportunity to create and disseminate the courses in as many as language. A learner can take the course of its choice of language and the same resource can be translated in different language.
- Accessible beyond the physical boundaries: MOOCs can be accessible by any one from any place. There is no need together at one place.

- MOOC encourage flipping the classroom: Teacher-student contact time usually used for lectures could be used differently, e.g. for discussions, experiments, project and group-work, working with peers etc. Students watch lectures online at home and interact with faculty regarding their doubts while n class.

- To help to prepare for entrance exam: MOOCs will be proven beneficial for the preparation of competitive exams as they provide concept based support.

- Multimedia digital resources : multimedia resources in various formats are available in the course for better understanding of a concept, which is normally, cannot be easily understood from textbook.

Challenges

The ever biggest challenge of organizing MOOCs in India will be the infrastructural problem. Some of the other challenges are given below:

- MOOCs demand digital literacy :To train the instructor will be the biggest challenge

- Certification:Certifications will also the other challenge. Weather the learner is able to get admission or job on the basis of such certifications.

- Real time answering during lecture: Real time answering the questions is also not possible during the lecture session as these will be pre-recorded.

- Different Role of instructor: Another major challenge is the different roles of instructor. Having a large number of participants also poses hurdle in communication between instructor and students.

Conclusion

Looking at the evolution of Indian education system, we have been witnessing changes from time to time and we are also accepted the same. Present industry people are no more interested in recruit people and to train as they are looking for cost cutting to attain business objectives of the organisation. As people say, Formal education is just a passport for the corporate world but suitable skills can get a required visa to your destination. Many of the organisations look for the skills rather than the formal education. Majority of the MOOC courses are not just web based, they are also Application based platforms. Many of our graduate students are using the smart phone and in the present our internet prices are also affordable, this is the main factor which helps more students to enrol for MOOC courses. As SWAYAM courses are online and also helpful in upgrading skills and to have networking, we conclude that, MOOC courses plays an import role in inculcating required skills in upcoming graduates.

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