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A STUDY OF NEW FACE OF E-LEARNING MOOCS, ITS AWARENESS, IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT

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Abstract:

MOOCs are the recent development in the area of Distance Education. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) provides unlimited courses in variety of subjects via internet as medium. The courses are taught by tutors from IITs and renowned Universities using ICT tools like Videos, Presentations, Webinars and discussion forum. MOOCs provide wide range of learning opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge of students, teachers and professionals. In India, UGC has notified in 2017 that MOOC courses are to be offered through SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). Our research paper presents the study of online survey carried out about the awareness of MOOC. An online survey is conducted using Google form facility. Paper also focuses on motivation to students and teachers for MOOCs, its importance in modern era. This paper also discusses the impact of blended MOOC environment on teaching learning outcome.

Keywords: ICT tools, MOOC, Distance Education, Webinars, SWAYAM

I.INTRODUCTION:

MOOCs are a recent and popularly explored development in e learning pedagogy first introduced in 2006 and emerged as a popular mode of self-learning in 2012. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is the face of digital and self-learning era of techno savvy generation. Traditional education system is restricted to classroom learning but this open platform gives students opportunity to learn, explore, practice and experience. Students, teachers and even professionals have freedom to learn course which is not included in curriculum and enhance the skills. Learning on MOOCs has no barriers of time and money. MOOC is the best solution for all those who have the erg to learn new things. Considering the extensive demand for online learning, many providers like Udemy, Coursera, edx, NPTEL (SWAYAM) etc. come forward to provide wide range of online courses in current Trends and Technology. Even the course in current curriculum is taught effectively using self-understanding Videos and animation. Many online course providers have collaboration with top Universities which facilitate students with Certification at very less cost. Faculties from IITs and IIMs are actively involved in friendly customization of MOOC modules to enhance teaching learning.

II.LITERATURE REVIEW:

We have reviewed and studied many articles using World Wide Web on MOOCs awareness among the educators, students. The impact of MOOCs on present education system is very high. It has a student centric approach which provide open and innovative medium for Teaching-Learning. MOOCs are the catalyst for higher education and transforming at rapid speed from Connectivist (cMOOC) generation to

Extended (xMOOC) generation. Survey conducted by researchers showed that students are highly motivated with MOOCs due to its effectiveness, convenience, lifelong learning experience, economic support. Study on MOOC satisfaction conducted by one of the

researcher revealed that Instructors and 70 % students are highly satisfied on the other hand 25% students are dissatisfied due to lack of understanding in instructions by Instructor.

III.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

➤ Survey:

In order to investigate the awareness, effectiveness and impact of Massive Open Online Courses, a quantitative survey was conducted using online Google form. The data is collected from the responses of approximate 127 participants including faculties and students belonging to different streams. The Google form questionnaire covers prominent survey on:

- Do you have access to Computer with Internet?
- Do you find learning a topic online easy?
- Are the online Videos helpful to understand the concept?
- Are you aware of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)?
- Which of the following MOOC providers you are aware?
- Have you done any Online Certification Course?
- Do you think Online Certification is helpful in better job opportunities/prospects? · Are you satisfied with the content of the Course?
- Why did you choose the online Certification course?

➤ Participants

The online Google form questionnaire was sent to a sample of students and teachers. The link of online form was shared with brief information about the goal of survey and motive of our study. One week of time was given and total 127 participants including students and teachers completed survey. Data was stored automatically in Google data sheets.91% of data was collected from students.

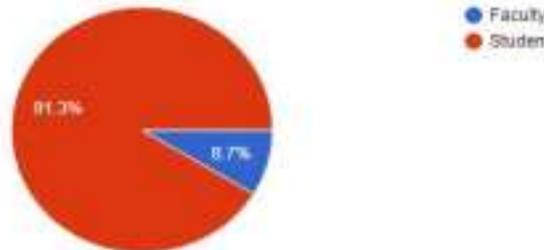


Fig1: Profession of participants

➤ Analysis and Findings of the Survey:

Sample data for research paper was collected from 127 candidates from diverse stream. The survey presented that 50% of them were responsive about MOOCs providers. Udemy followed by Coursera and NPTEL (SWAYAM) were most widespread amongst all. Orientation of teachers towards MOOCs is high as compared to students.

In result analysis we found that 112 out of 127 responses i.e., 88% participants have computers with internet facility.



Fig2: Participants having Computers with Internet Facility

The study of noticeable aspect of this research paper is focused below:

- Do you find learning a topic online easy?

Out of 122 participants 115(97%) found online learning topic was easy. Ease access to internet provide ample chances to students to learn courses with time convenience, interest and cost effectiveness. Downloaded videos were available for better understanding.



Fig3: Do you find learning a topic online easy?

· Are you aware of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)?

In survey response, the percentage of graduate students was more than Post Graduates and teachers. Hence we found that awareness among graduate students was less. They need more orientation and motivation for online courses. Only 54% (69 out of 127) of students had cognizance of MOOCs in learning.

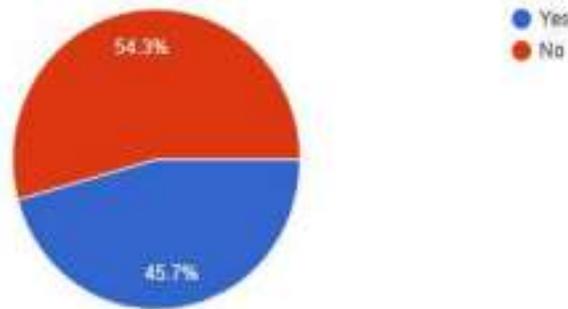


Fig4: Are you aware of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)?

· Do you think Online Certification is helpful in better job opportunities/prospects? In the study we found that 114 participants out of 127(89%) responded positively to this question. This showed that though awareness about MOOC was not significant but students were confident that online certification will help them to get better job visions.

· Why did you choose the online Certification course?

This question was asked to test the mindset of students and faculties in the selection of online method of learning. The responses were collected by keeping scope limited to three parameters (a. Professional Requirement b. Interest c. Skill Development).(72%) 90 out of 127 responded that Online Certification helps in skill development.



Fig5: Why did you choose the online Certification course?

IV.IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT:

MOOC Courses can be customized and shared by users. Commonly used by universities to teach for a short-term specialization course, either academic or professional. There is no traditional boundary of semester. The main benefit of MOOCs is its open access across the boundaries of campus, country and even world. A large number of students can enrol at the same time. There is no limit for student registration as we see in traditional campus education.

MOOCs are the unique, free and valuable form of non-formal education. Many students and professionals are highly influenced by MOOCs as it provides chance to get degree from International Universities. As per our study we found prominent impacts:

1. Institutions are conquered by digital footprint.
2. Teaching profession is highly elevated by MOOCs approach.
3. Tutors across the World, from top Universities can contribute as a Team for Course Design.
4. New space to serve the demands of all learners.
5. Freedom to design course as per the requirements of Users.

V.CONCLUSION:

This is a simple and straight forward study on awareness about MOOCs, its importance and impact. This survey-based paper reveals that awareness on MOOCs is very high among teachers than graduate students. The impact of MOOCs is relatively high but motivation for fulfilment/completion of course is very less. Only 20% of candidates from the total registration can successfully

complete the course. To imbibe the importance of online courses, University and it's all departments should take efforts to include such skill oriented courses in choice based system. This will definitely increase motivation.

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