SWAYAM: The dream of Indian MOOC

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Abstract

The quality of education in India is challenge to the nation. The MOOC is the modern day quality education tool to educate the mass at minimum cost and efforts. Government of India (MHRD) is making an effort to develop online national portal for quality education called 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 depend on the government, national agencies like UGC, NPTEL, IGNOU and CBSE NCERT & NIOS, and the topmost institutions in the country.

Introduction:

The MOOC is massive open online course (MOOC) is popular in western world and India is not exceptional to this, many Indian 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 via the web so there is no boundaries for sharing the knowledge.

The first MOOCs emerged from the open educational resources (OER) movement. The term *MOOC* was coined in 2008 by Dave Cormier of the University of Prince Edward Island in response to a course called *Connectivism and Connective Knowledge*

A **massive open online course** is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. As the name itself indicates the MOOC is,

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

Open – The courses offered are open to all without any geographical boundaries.

Access – The courses are available online and can be accessed anywhere and anytime free of cost.

Courses – there are many courses available across the discipline and can be taken with any educational background.

The different courses offered under MOOC are from management to the technology and most of the courses are applicable to day today work environment. The most popular MOOC are edX, cousera, Udacity, etc. The globally recognized universities like Harvard University, UCLA, University of Michigan, Oxford University, American University of Beirut, Stanford University etc are offering the courses. The main benefit of these MOOC are world popular courses can be learnt at our place as per our convenient at low or without any cost.

SWAYAM:

SWAYAM is **S**tudy **W**ebs of **A**ctive-learning for **Y**oung **A**spiring **M**inds 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. 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 Management, 2016).

The ministry of human resource management department of higher education has identified the following as national MOOC Co-ordinator and the sector they are University Grant Commission for non technology post graduation degree program, NPTEL for Technical / Engineering UG & PG degree programme, Consortium for Educational communication for non technology under, IGNOU for diploma and certificate\ and CBSE NCERT & NIOS for CBSE and Open Education, classes 9th to 12th

Scope of SWAYAM

As per Government of Indian (Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2015) 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 (all courses would be certification-ready in their detailed offering).

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.

UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulation, 2016. (The gazette of India, 19th July 2016)

University Grants Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) of Section 26 of the UGC Act 1956 (No. 3 of 1956), makes the following Regulations, namely;

These shall further apply to the transfer of credits of such students who are enrolled as regular/part-time students in any educational institution in India.

These shall come into force from the date of their publication in the official Gazette 19th July 2016

The parent Institution shall, incorporate the marks/grade obtained by the student, as communicated by the Host Institution through the PI of the SWAYAM course in the marks sheet of the student that counts for final award of the degree/diploma by the University with the proviso that the programs in which Lab/Practical Component is involved, the parent institution will evaluate the students for the practical/Lab component and accordingly incorporate these marks/grade in the overall marks/grade

The SWAYAM is four quadrant approach: the four Quadrant approach means e-learning system that has the following components (The Gazette of India, 17th August 2016):

• Quadrant-I is e-Tutorial: that shall contain: Video and Audio Content in an organized form, Animation, Simulations, Virtual Labs.

• Quadrant-II is e-Content: that shall contain: PDF/e-Books/ illustration, video demonstrations, documents and Interactive simulations wherever required.

• Quadrant-III is Web Resources: that shall contain: Related Links, Open Content on internet, Case Studies, Anecdotal information, Historical development of the subject, Articles.

• Quadrant-IV is Self-Assessment: that shall contain: MCQ, Problems Quizzes, Assignments and solutions, Discussion forum topics and setting up the FAQ, Clarifications on general misconceptions.

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 IITs, IIMs, 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 is depends on the quality of courses it offer to the public and the relevance and the success of the candidates who are all taking this courses. Only the time will say the impact and use of these courses. Every educational institute should have separate arrangement for the students who want to learn from these courses. The recent development in telecommunication sector the access to internet has become very much cheap so the learner can take benefit of this development. The government is trying to impart quality education in the nation, SWAYAM is one of the step 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 infant state, the development will depend on the government, national agencies like UGC, NPTEL, IGNOU and CBSE NCERT & NIOS, and the topmost institutions in the country.

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