



# ROLE OF MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

*In the current educational scenario in higher education there are lot many emerging trends which an organization needs to concentrate upon, out of which one important concept is Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The aim of the paper is to throw light on the concept, roles, feature, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages. MOOC is one of the recent innovations in ICT based teaching learning. It provides interactive user forums to support community interactions among students, teachers and teaching assistants (TAs). It is a recent and widely researched development in distance education, which is first introduced in 2006 and emerged as a popular mode of learning in 2012.*

**KEYWORDS:** MOOC, TAs, HIGHER EDUCATION

## CONCEPT OF MOOC

Massive Open online course is an online course. It is a model for delivering learning content online to any person who wants to take a course, with no limit on attendance. It visualizes teaching and learning as life-long process, which is to develop individuals capabilities to leads a meaningful life in the society. It is recent and widely researched development in distance education which is first introduced in 2006 and emerged as a popular mode of learning in 2012. It is emphasized open-access features such as open licensing of content, structure and learning goals which is to promote the reuse and remixing of resources. The word of MOOC stands for Massive Open Online Course. It has four dimensions such as massive, open, online and course. This course is created by George Siemens and Stephen Downes. But it was called as "Connectivism and Connective Knowledge / 2008 or CCK)\*. It was created as a credit course CCK)\* had 25 students who had paid fees for the course and a round 2200 learners who took the course for fee. From 2012, MOOCs are widely used to improve the knowledge of the individual. In 2016, MHRD, Govt. of India has launched its MOOCs platform, which is popularly known as "SWAYAM". It stands for Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. MOOCs can best be utilized for

continuous professional development of teachers in India.

## OBJECTIVES

- (i) To create a community among participants of life-long learners.
- (ii) To create standard courses to the students as their needs
- (iii) To develop independent study among the learners
- (iv) To allow learners for elective courses
- (v) To provide the qualitative life to the individual
- (vi) To promote the skill of the learners

## ROLE OF MOOC IN HIGHER EDUCATION

MOOC is a new model online course. It has appreciated by the universities to carry out the course in higher level. We still find ourselves at the experimental stage, but it is not too early to think about what kind of long-term impact MOOCs might have in higher education. It is up-ending the whole model of higher education for the students at the time of course. It is allowing students to complete full courses of study. There are most of the universities offered online course for the benefit of the learners and basic technologies



involved such as video lectures, discussion forums, test to provide the benefits of the students. Some see MOOCs up-ending the whole model of higher education, allowing students to complete full courses of study in a non-traditional format, particularly with international students, which have made up a large part of the student body in early MOOC courses. MOOCs for higher education have rapidly expanded in the USA, Europe<Asia-Oceania etc, since 2008. Future Learn (UK),iversity(Germany), MiriadaX (Spain) in Europe, KMOOC (Korea) and Open Learning (Australia) in Asia-Oceania. First of all, MOOCs promise to provide free education, unlimited participation and open access for anyone. That is, they aim at democratizations of education. The registered learners who appear to be broad, diverse, and non-traditional, can get the free opportunity of participating in the lectures which famous professors in top universities give online. Supporters of MOOCs consider them as a means of democratizing access to education and as promising new insights into teaching and learning from analytics on tens of thousands to millions of students.

Second, many universities in the world scrambled to join in the new movement of MOOC. They did not want themselves to be left behind, compared with other top-leading universities and govt. from many countries are eager to participate in the paradigm shift of MOOC.

### FEATURES OF MOOC

MOOCs are state of art. But the high technology cannot ensure the quality and success of MOOCs. MOOCs have the strength of free course, which are far from a degree from an accredited universities. Because learners must pay for the degrees. It explains that MOOCs are situated with being self-contradicting between access and cost. Most universities have offered online courses for many years and the basic technologies involved-video lectures, discussion forums, tests etc , which is used with on-campus and distance students. MOOCs are built on efficiency of scale, giving access to the teaching of a world class professor to thousands of students at once. The lectures, assessments and activities for a course especially an online course and the expertise of the professor behind the content isn't cheap and in many cases, is unique to a particular university. MOOC courses are not fixed into traditional term and semester models of the university, so they can start any time and any type which is the chief feature of the course.

### CHARACTERISTICS

- (1) Autonomy:  
The structure of MOOC is conceived to promote autonomous learning with a number of resources in the form of videos, links, documents etc for the debate and communications.
- (2) Massive:  
It allows wider facilities of access to a very large number of students much larger than face-to-face online course.
- (3) Open:  
It is open to everyone to study high quality online courses. There is no requirement of some prerequisites such as passion of a qualification or a level of performance in earlier studies.
- (4) Online:  
The course is fully offered online via the internet and it does not require physical presence or attendance in a classroom. It can only learn at home conveniently, flexibly and at own space.
- (5) Course:  
The course materials are available on internet and are all completely free. A student is exposed to a course via web. Most courses are free and of short duration.

### ADVANTAGES

- (1) The free courses are offered.
- (2) The courses are offered by professors at the leading schools.
- (3) It is regarded as an equalizer to democratize higher education through providing web-based teaching.
- (4) It provides an alternative to formal education. They are open and free to everyone anytime and anywhere.
- (5) It cannot make a compromise with quality factor.
- (6) It can be seen as a form of open education offered for free through online platform.

### DISADVANTAGES

- (1) It is difficult to keep track of students' assignments and involvement.
- (2) It can't be used as a credit-earning course at universities.
- (3) It can't use by the poor internet connection of learners.
- (4) The number of students are in different countries who cannot afford for getting an internet connection.



- (5) The life of student is confined to one room with internet access.
- (6) The students are facing language problem while offering MOOCs.

## CONCLUSION

MOOCs are a great platform for higher education all over the globe in view of the trend of globalization propelled by ICT. Some have speculated that MOOCs would help give individuals in the job market. It would seem to have a logical role for professional development in the workplace. The goals of the MOOCs are transformed from simple attainment of skills or knowledge to applying the insights and research of experts in workplace. It can be a way for universities to offer high quality, self-paced courses to fill these needs at a minimal cost to students in higher education. There are a few drawbacks, MOOCs have a lot of potential for reinventing the way we learn. It will be interesting to see how they progress and grow over time.

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