MOOC As A Knowledge Software Or Certificate Course: A Study On Openness, Scalability And Reachability Of Moocs Among Students

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Abstract: A massive open online course (MOOC) is an online trend of study which is designed to reach limitless partakers and free of charge by way of web. It's a forward looking step in the field of education in the context of teaching and learning. MOOCs are offering educational platform to millions of students all over the world. There is flexibility and space for study in MOOCs. It provides opportunities to students and scholars by providing low cost courses. MOOCs are made by sequence of videos, classes offered to students. Colleges and universities are espousing some different stands towards pursuing with MOOCs and it helps in achieving numerous goals. This paper aims to study role of MOOCs among students of college and university and in which way they use it, whether to gain knowledge or just to fulfill the criteria of course. As part of the study, a survey will be taken from technical and non-technical students to assess the impact of MOOC. Further, it will also try to determine the importance of MOOC in the respective disciplines.

Index Terms : MOOCs, Online Education, Distance Education, Technology, Certificate Course, Learners.

1. INTRODUCTION

In advanced universities, online courses are compulsory nowadays. And MOOCs is helping universities in online learning. It helps students in getting credits in their courses. MOOC is a worthy solution in the field of education in the world of advanced technology more than face to face accumulation of knowledge. We can learn online from anywhere and from foreign university professors, we are able to get lectures. Students are not bounded to the classroom and their own teachers. It saves time and it replaces the on-campus courses. Learners can use the MOOCs notes repeatedly according to their convenience. MOOCs are helping to improve the standard of education with new strategies and techniques. It has motivated the institutes to engage students in new activities of education such as assessments, lectures, etc. MOOC is one of the best ways to achieve the end of these activities. These courses are full of content on any topic learners want to learn and these are very informative. The beginning of MOOCs has the ability to change the way of receiving an education. It is uplifting the way higher education is presented and it can also help the students to advance the career as a precious tool. The most important point with MOOCs is that learners don’t have to leave their job or school. People can join MOOCs in their busy schedules without doing a big alteration. MOOC helps learners to understand what they have to choose according to their choice or interest and in this matter, they give favourable advice. MOOC is mainly patterned by universities to fill the gap between their courses and high school. Some of the teachers use MOOC as an apparatus to engage their students with another approach of knowledge that can reveal their students to the concept of being a person who receives education on his/her own way learner. Cognitive class, edX, Coursera, Future Learn, Udacity, etc. are platforms which give students a chance to do MOOC course. These platforms are giving better idea of any subject which is very important for students to transform their career. These platforms are having licensed courses for top level universities. And they have specialised courses to increase the interest of learners in bringing up excitement. Each MOOC program is having an unparalleled manner of producing their courses and that is why; we couldn’t compare the price of programs. Few charge a monthly fee; meantime others provide few free courses. It depends on program features and our requirements regarding the course. Few allow us to choose a free of cost course, but they are providing a certificate without pay. This paper describes the role and effectiveness of MOOCs among students/learners. MOOC is worthy for students or not for their future and higher education. MOOC is accessible for them or not because they are many reasons which can stop students from accessibility such as fee cost, time, place, teachers etc. MOOC helps in achieving the goals including all the factors. MOOC is a great component which can improve the career of students in a way they want it particularly, because there are so many options to opt.

2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fiona M. Hollands and Devyani Tirthali (2014) in "MOOCs: Expectations and Reality" shown that it is greatly found that higher education is in the centre of a noteworthy transformation and must adjust budget reductions and the changing needs of learners and employers. High outlooks flourish for the aspect MOOCs can take part in this change. MOOC helps students to prepare for college by suggesting what students are getting into. So many students change their choice several times which is actually wastage of time and money. It helps learners to choose right path for their future, Brian Robson, (2018). Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are unparalleled platform for learning surrounding. It is distinctive platform for open learning which is available for uncountable number of students and it plays important role in higher education, (Waleed Al-Rahmi A., et el. 2018). "Exploring the factors affecting MOOC retention: A Survey Study", Kate S Hone and Ghada R. El Said,( 2016). The consequence of MOOC's features on learner’s outcome of experience. Role of MOOC content, effectiveness, instructor’s interaction is important in the aspects of learner’s memory. Good human interaction is important in the process of teaching and learning because it is having important role in the whole process. “When it comes to MOOCs, where you are from makes a difference Bahaa G. Gameela” by Karin Gwinn Wilkins (2019). Online learners should have particular talent to accomplish MOOCs. By survey of Arabic and English MOOC’s learners who have registered through two platforms, it is found that learners are having difference that is living in different areas. Some areas are higher in ICTs and effectiveness than learners who reside in
other areas. “Do MOOCs contribute to student equity and social inclusion? A systematic review 2014–18” (2019), Sarah R. Lambert. The present study has identified, classified, and reviewed the equity and inclusion purposes and outcomes of MOOCS and open education programs from 2014 to 2018. This study has shown that MOOCs and contemporary open education programs that aim to enable improved student equity and social inclusion are an active global and multi-lingual phenomenon.

3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
This study attempts to inform the importance and role of MOOCs to the students and educators. This study will make awareness among the students that taking courses through MOOCs will help to get scope in higher education and their future. This study also provides significance that an average student gets to know about the opportunities of attending elite university courses and elite professors classes. The paper destines to accessibility and reachability of MOOC among learners, improving academic level, opportunist platform for learners and learners’ opinion and experience of MOOCs. The study holds consideration of MOOC as certificate course for credits in course or knowledge platform and benefits of course as distance learning in technology area.

4 RESEARCH DESIGN
The quantitative methodology has been used to collect and analyse the data obtained from all the respondents. For this research, randomly total of 100 respondents have been selected as a sample. The samples are based on the statements given by the answer of respondents. The survey is Google forms have been distributed through WhatsApp and Gmail to the various students from technical and non-technical streams in VIT, Vellore. The questionnaire included: personal details, access to MOOC course, affordability of the course, duration of the course, number of certificates students attained and scope of the course. The present paper mainly focuses on the following objectives:

- To find out the scope of the MOOC among technical and non-technical students in VIT, Vellore.
- To investigate whether MOOC is taken as a knowledge software or certificate course among the technical and non-technical students in VIT, Vellore.
- To investigate the preference whether technical students or non-technical students taking MOOC more.

5 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS
Data collection is a process of collecting data and measuring collected information on variables to establish answer for stated research questions and examine outcomes. Researcher has selected technical and non-technical (arts, science and engineering) streams in VIT. The questionnaire is equally distributed to biotechnology, mechanical engineering, business, English, and electronics engineering departments. They have been given two weeks to fill the questionnaire based on their experience of satisfaction and dissatisfaction regarding MOOC and return it to the researcher. So, that researcher can do his/her research work based on data collected and come to the conclusion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 summarised, from the total of 110 response, 100 is selected for the research paper. Some responses have been found with missing information and details couldn’t be used as a contribution for the research. So, researcher has used deleted 10 responses. 16 male respondents and 84 female respondents been used as data analysis for the research. The opted courses chart and gender chart of respondents is given below:-

The pie chart shows the stream of respondents to which they belong. It shows clearly that majority of students belong to engineering and twenty eight percent of respondents belong to science, with just eight percent difference from science stream students, arts stream students responded.

The pie chart illustrates the number of male and female respondents of VIT University. It shows more number of females have responded comparatively from males. Overall, we can see the number of female respondents is more and male respondents are less.
6 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Researcher has gathered all the data to analyse findings of MOOC among technical and non-technical students in VIT University, Vellore. For analysing his/her data researcher has used inferential analysis. Inferential analysis comes under the branch of statistics. Inferential analysis uses random sample of data taken from people to elaborate and to give certain properties of data collected. By using inferential analysis researcher has analysed pie chart, table, numerical data etc. The bar below is showing statistical analysis of findings of the paper -

As chart shows they are six categories adopted by researcher to analyse the MOOC in the opinion of students. It fulfilled their needs or not and reason behind opting MOOC whether it helped them for higher education, additional learning, certificate and job. And after analysing ten questionnaires prepared by researcher, and based on that six particulars are prepared to show the overall result of work. First particular is accessibility, which is mainly to show the expectation of learners towards online course, its workable for them or not with the courses they registered and based on their first experience they registered for second time or not. Researcher has included question like for how many courses students have registered. In response researcher get to know, out of hundred forty percent has registered for one MOOC course. Second particular is awareness; it shows from which source students get to know about MOOC. It is important to find the sources of awareness of any particular thing. So, researcher has included awareness in his/her survey questionnaire, as a result researcher found that majority (52%) of students gets to know of MOOC from their institute. For analysing how far the students got motivation from MOOCs, researcher examined the respondents experience towards achieving their objectives; fifty two percent respondents had good satisfaction. While talking about content of MOOC course, (76%) most of the respondent responded that it was not that much difficult for them to complete in one attempt. For learners MOOC is very important if they are preparing for their higher education because it gives them good platform through which they can enhance their skill and other way it gives opportunity to prepare for future, 52% respondents replied, it is helpful in their higher education. Satisfaction is one major factor in MOOC; anyone can get satisfaction in their studies through good teachers and usefulness of syllabus. Seventy two percent respondents told they are satisfied with teachers and eighty four percent respondents are satisfied with course.

7 CONCLUSION

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are mainly online courses for the aim of education it is distinguished by being accessible and scalable in the impression that anyone can approach to it. The centre on social commitment outstretched to the small vis-a-vis groups that head towards a healthier effect on MOOCs in words of accomplishment. Social sign and exploration were proved not to be the significant part of learners’ acquaintance. However, researcher has focused on inner work of learners’ acquaintances. The study reveals that MOOCs is very high position among the graduate and post graduate students of VIT. High level of motivation and awareness on MOOCs is evidenced among the students from technical stream than from non-technical streams. For technical students it is compulsory made by the institute. So, they have to opt for MOOC for their studies. Most of the students are taking MOOCs as a certificate course than knowledge software. Satisfaction and intention of students towards MOOCs is one of main purpose of the study. The effect of MOOC on student’s learnedness carrying out is confirmed by findings. MOOCs are mainly attributed for getting additional mark for the course and additional qualification for getting high salaried/ high positional jobs.

REFERENCES