MOOCs: An E-Campus

Mohit Gupta   *Sheel Bhadra Yadav*   *Aparna Dixit*

Abstract

The teaching and learning process of human started from the ancient time with evolution of human civilization. The process of teaching and learning has been changed with time. In modern time, people are being multitasking & learning lots of things simultaneously, but it is not possible in regular mode and at the fixed time of classes. To make this possible in this time of information revolution a new venture of e-learning, "MOOCs" came in light. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are the courses on cloud that provide environment of an e-campus and virtual classrooms. In this e-campus where learners can attained their classes and lectures at any time from any place with an unlimited number of participation throughout the world via access of internet. MOOCs are one of the best use of ICT (Information Communication Technology). These courses are being run by many prestigious institutions of the world (e.g. Swayam, Indian School of Business, Harvard University etc). MOOCs are transforming the libraries into the classrooms and the center of education. Since the Institutions that are hosting MOOCs also provide certification after successful completion of course by taking assessment. Further in this paper the joining process, structure, role, various programs and the status of MOOCs in India and world being discussed.

Keywords: MOOCs, cMOOCs, bMOOCs, xMOOCs

1. Introduction

Looking back to the past few years we found that the way of getting education is to go in "Ashrams" which is known as "GURUKUL SHIKSHA". It is an institution that is some times very far to the house of scholar and the learner should have to reside there and get educated in the direction of their teacher, so on this tradition changed and the school and colleges are established they took the place of Ashrams and in these colleges students may get the knowledge by teachers and professors. In this teaching system some new things engaged like distance-education and education by correspondence but both of these methods are time taking method because the college institution sends the study material through the postal medium and one should have to wait for receiving that.

The new concept of teaching & learning is being very popular among learners is MOOCs which is stand for Massive Open Online Course. MOOCs can be consider as an online open course as a cloud campus. The courses in the MOOCs are available for every person who has the interest in the learning these courses available free of cost to every users. MOOC courses are very popular among the person who wants to learns or study from the faculties over the world.

e.g. if there is a course going to start on MOOCs platform and an user want to enroll in that course

for learning .He has to just register himself under the course via websites with simple Steps he can attend all the lectures class and modules of courses there is no boundation of punctuality of time for the course. Unlike live classes MOOCs hosting authority also provide certification after assessment which is valid throughout the world in India.

2. MOOCs

The massive open online courses (MOOC) have emerged in the past few years due to the revolution of online higher education. The concept of MOOCs began with the offers of two young Canadian researchers namely" George Siemens and Steven Down", who tutored a course in 2008 the course was about "Connectivism and Connectivist Knowledge" at Manitoba University. More than 2500 non-paying student with addition to 25 student from Manitoba University got attracted and enrolled in the course. The credit of current MOOCs revolution also goes to "David Wiley and Alec Couros", as they were little faster in running on MOOCs. The strategy of course is to provide knowledge to the students with the basic framework and then lead from backend.

 MOOCs are working efficiently for democratization of education on a global scale consider as ending of closed access learning. MOOCs is working towards globalization of learning MOOCs are working in order to provide education for all, from any place, at any time, of any subject. MOOCs have grained so much traction due to succession in unmoving educational exchange since MOOCs the mile stone in the path of today's internet revolution MOOCs is new emerging platform. Now- a-days the behavior of learners is completely changed since they want all the information an there figure tips .so the makes pass a mark able rule to fulfill the need of the user

and in order to educated the user. MOOCs enable user to get education from the top institution and with their facilities with breaking the handle high fesses and distance from their native places. MOOCs provide overseas study on the hands of user.

MOOCs are the courses that enroll anyone who wishing to attend the course for free. Early MOOCs known as connectives MOOCs which emerged out of the OER movement. It emphasizes both active student learning and knowledge creation using a wide range of tools that are shared with the fellow standard. Widely known as MOOCs xMOOCs the video lectures and online educational tools. In these lecture sessions or in a class the student may be in thousand there is no boundation number of students in this MOOCs has a wide number of courses which is being relayed various host user is free to choose any of them or area of their interest as in figure 1.
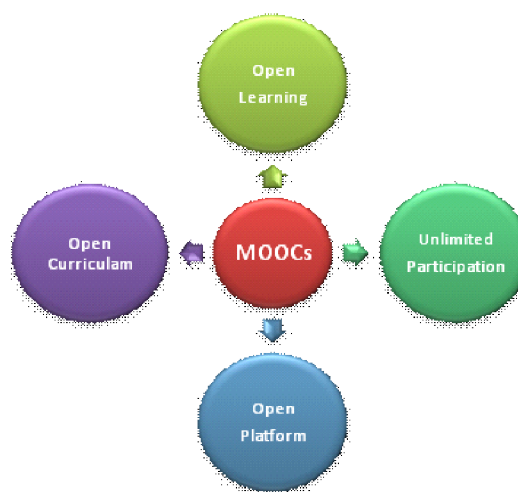

Figure: 1

2.1 Characteristics of MOOCs

The word MOOC consist of four individual words i.e. massive, open, online and courses, which are also consist all the characteristics of MOOCs.

❖ **MASSIVE:** Massive means to enroll unlimited number of participations, or a large number of learners than in traditional face to face course. It should be massive in order to reach every place over the globe without any boundation of age, need of academic background etc.

❖ **OPEN:** Be open to provide a free access of the resources to the learners.

❖ **ONLINE:** The course and its content is designed with the feasibility to delivered by, or on, the internet as the core medium of communication.

❖ **COURSES:** Courses have a learning oriented structure with resources and evaluation to credit the acquired learning.

2.2 Different kinds of MOOCs

MIOOCs has been first introduced in the year of 2008. Since 2008 there are a lot of changes are implemented in the ideology of MOOCs as shown in Figure 2. Different ideologies have driven MOOCs into different pedagogical directions which are given below:

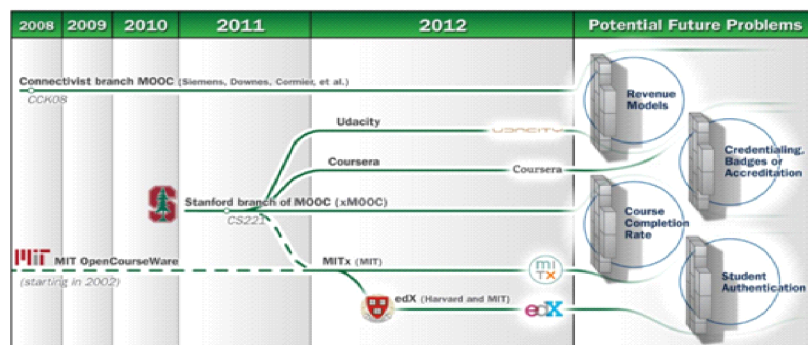❖ **bMOOCs:** If MOOCs are imbedded into traditional classroom activities in a blended learning mode, the respective MOOCs are labeled as bMOOCs.

❖ **cMOOCs:** The Connectivist MOOCS (cMOOCs), which are based on Connectivism and Connectivist theory of the learning with the network developed formally. cMOOCs emphasis connected, collaborative learning and the courses are built around a group of like-minded individual, who are relatively free from institutional constraints.

❖ **xMOOCs:** xMOOCs is content based MOOCs which fellow a more behaviorist approach. This is based on traditional model of learning. xMOOCs use recorded lectures, self-assessment quizzes and requires completion of small tasks. Courses of xMOOCs are basically based on interaction media, such as lectures, videos and the text. XMOOCs are being very popular due to its characteristics various companies and government launched their programs to run xMOOCs such as Udacity, Edx, Swayam etc.

In many ways all the above follow same learning process versus learning content. SPOCs (Small, Private Online Courses) is different kind of concept having many similarities to MOOCs.

Figure 2. Different types of MOOCs
(Source: Delta Initiative: EvolutionCombine20120927)

Layout and steps to Join MOOCs

The steps of Joining MOOCs and to establish a platform for MOOCs is a very simple and easy. For establishing a platform of MOOCs first of set up a webpage or a channel to provide the course classes to the user and it should be noticed that the layout of webpage is not very complicated, it should be clear to access and should have all the required plug ins. The host platform of MOOCs should provide a login access to the user as well as faculty to remove unauthenticated access. There should be a panel for faculties to deliver there lectures. The layout of host to user is defining by figure 3.

Steps to enroll in the courses following are the steps to enroll in any courses. when the topic of learners is decided.

❖ Step1:- Find out the desired courses on MOOCs platform and Meta search engine (e.g. MOOCs list platform (e.g. Swayam, edx)

❖ Step2:- If the courses of interest is found than register on MOOCs platform

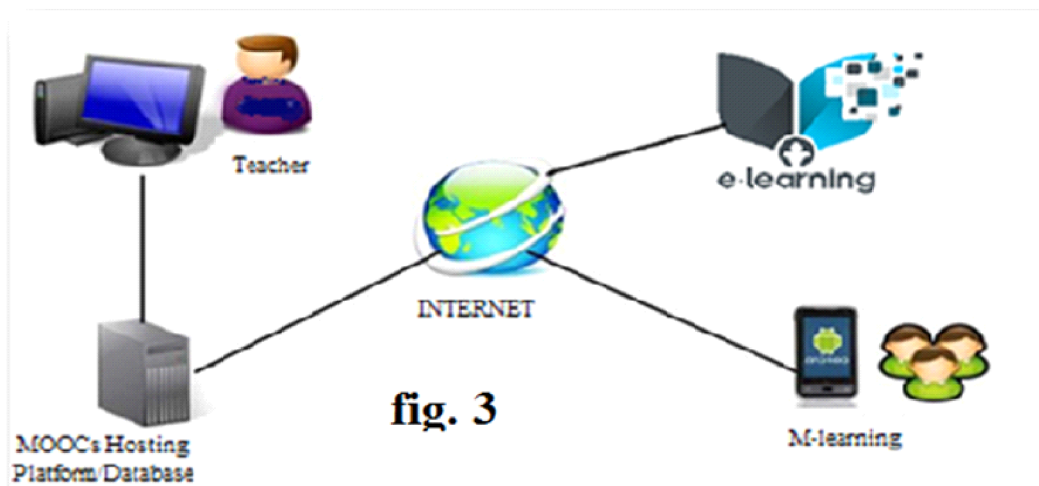❖ Step3:- Enroll for the course and note the date of beginning.

Figure: 3

The lecturers and classes providing to the MOOCs host by participating faculty or instructor of the institutions or university which is providing to the end user through internet is first the delivered to host by the course or programmer host

When the course is being offered to student or learner before the beginning of course MOOCs host declared that which institution and faculty will delivered lecture on that topic

❖ Step4:- After beginning of course take regular classes of course on that platform via signing.

❖ Step5:-Check your progress report in login section if available (SWAYAM provide it)

❖ Step 6:- After successful completion of course you can apply for assessment and certification if available on platform

3. Libraries and MOOCs

Libraries can be said a social institution due to services providing by it. Libraries are serving human by providing information in both physical as well as electronic form using Electronic services libraries providing faster reliable and best access to the users than before, moving towards new Era, MOOCs is being very popular among librarian these services are increasing their user rapidly. Academic libraries provide all the data related to their courses running in host institution.

The participation of libraries in MOOCs are fallen into the following three categories: Copyright, Clearance and locating alternative such as creative common materials and other free sources; course production; and development of policies. Some other possible areas include archiving class materials, curating user-generated content such as forum discussion and student projects providing the leadership and teaching of information literacy to the users.

Copyright clearance includes the permission, licensing, negotiation and the fair use of determination. Some libraries of the world are engaged very much in order to production of courses and the others are serving their users with a multi-institutional efforts.

4. MOOCs in India

Education plays a vital role in the development of any country. Since India is a developing country and for a proper development education is an essential need. In this era of digitization when India is transforming into "Digital India". The digital way of learning like MOOCs is being very popular and playing a key role in spreading education. In India over 2 million learners are taking advantage of MOOCs and enrolled in the courses Ministry of human resources development of Government of India has started various initiatives and programs for e-learning and to avail MOOCs courses to the learners like Swayam. Swayam is a big mile stone in path of MOOCs. Swayam is an e-campus to learners. Swayam is a program initiative by government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of education policy viz, access quality and equity. Swayam offered various under graduate, post graduate, school education, out of school education, free of cost to learners however student wanting certification shall be offered a successful completion of the courses.

At the end of each course, there will be assessment of the student through proctored examination and the marks/grades secured in this exam could be transferred to the academic records of the students. UGC (University Grant Commission) has already issued the UGC regulation 2016 the advising universities to identify courses which can be transferred on the academic records of the students on Swayam. Swayam provide pretty good environment and the access to the learner they have their own application which run an android and IOS. Through television learners can also get knowledge of their subject of interest.

Aside Swayam various other prestigious institutions like Indian School of Business, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Institute of Technologies and many others are providing MOOCs facility to facilitate the learners of every subject field. Many institutions have their own websites as well as m-learning (Mobile-Learning) apps on which they are providing services.

5. MOOCs in the World

MOOCs are being very popular as a global phenomenon. More than 200 universities are offering the over 2000 courses via MOOCs and more than 20 million students are enrolled in them. Various universities and institutions are active members of MOOCs even they established their own platform for providing MOOCs.

❖ **EdX (http://www.edx.com)** edx is a non- profit MOOCs platform founded by joint cooperation of two prestigious institutions MIT(Massachusetts Institute of technology) and Harvard University with a initial investment of $16 million. Currently, edx is providing courses in various subject fields like chemistry, public health, computer science etc.

❖ **Coursera (https://www.coursera.org)** This is a profit taking company. This company is started with a initial investment of $22 million. There are four universities are participating in coursera namely Standford University, Princeton University and Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania. Currently there are more than 200 courses are running on them.

❖ **UDACITY (https://www.udacity.com/)** is another for-profit start-up founded by Sebastian Thrun, David Stavens and Mike Sokolsky with $21.1 million investment from venture capitalist firms, including Charles River Ventures and Andreessen Horowitz. Udacity currently offers 18 online courses in computer science, mathematics, general sciences, programming and entrepreneurship

Initiatives	For profit	Free Access	Certifi- cation fee	Institu tional credits	Country
EdX	No	Yes	Yes	No	United States
Coursera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial	United States
Udacity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial	United States
Udemy	Yes	Partial	Yes	Partial	United States
P2PU	No	Yes	No	No	United States
Swayam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	INDIA

6. Benefits of MOOCs

MOOCs have gained public awareness with a ferocity not seen for some time. This popularity of MOOCs attracted many prestigious institution of higher education to come up within a mainstream of MOOCs that is beneficial for users and educators in many ways that are given below:

❖ **Institutional Benefits:** The Universities and institute of higher education can get the benefits of MOOCs by changing education into education for all on an international level. Many educators want to share their knowledge on global level, they can get the advantage of making a network of thousands of students in virtual environment that make big area of their audience.

❖ **Learners Benefits:** MOOCs are very much beneficial for the learners or students. Learners get an opportunity to get educate of every global topic with the learners over the world by the best faculties of the world. MOOCs is a platform where everyone has equal chance to get knowledge without the barriers of age, time, qualification and most of them money. MOOCs provide the environment student can create their own degree by taking the best online course of

subject of interest from the best professional around the world.

❖ **Practical Benefits:** Moreover, learners and educators, the MOOCs give the practical advantages also, they provide a platform to apply various teaching practices on learners via educators. By applying the different teaching practices on different group of learners, the best teaching practices & their perception on learners can be found.

❖ **Marketing Benefits:** In terms of business MOOCs provide the opportunity to the institutions to make themselves popular among others by introducing MOOCs along with its various features. Some companies in the US were especially launched MOOCs hosting platform such as: Udacity, EdX & Coursera.

7. Conclusion

The use of e resources is certainly common place in all areas of partner institutions – from communications and administration, marketing, and more innovative uses of these technologies for learning and teaching. MOOCs is the great venture of this technology which provides a best easier, reliable and most flexible way of learning. The scope of MOOCs is every sector of education which makes it very strong in the field of education. It is part of e-learning that comprises a campus itself. In making libraries into an institution it plays a vital role.

MOOCs is being very popular among youths because now-a-days youths want everything on their fingertips and through MOOCs, they are getting it. MOOCs are breaking the boundaries of various problems to get as well as provide education. It can be said that MOOCs are working

with the motto of "EDUCATION FOR ALL" and these can be the future of learning and teaching.

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About Authors

Mr. Mohit Gupta, Student, DLIS, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
Email: mohitg1407@gmail.com

Mr. Sheel Bhadra Yadav, Guest Faculty, DLIS, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
Email: sheelyadav1990@gmail.com

Miss Aparna Dixit, Guest Faculty, DLIS, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
Email: uniqueaparna.9march@gmail.com