MOOCs - INFLUENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract:

MOOCs become global phenomenon in 2012 with constant evolution in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) making sense of them. In this paper discusses the role of MOOCs in higher education. It gives a brief discussion on changing the future of higher education institution with focuses on implication of innovative education practices. The commercial start-up such as Course and city have also been launched MOOCs with help of prestigious universities, giving online courses for free or charging very small amount for certification. In advent of Information communication technologies, MOOCs has sparked commercial interest form capitalists and Corporate Houses who want to enter in Higher Education Market. This article highlights the role govt. bodies, Higher Education Policy maker and Higher Education Institutions to develop sound ecosystem for Higher Education which is affordable cost and quality education for all.

Key Words: MOOCs, Higher Education, HEIs

Introduction:

In 18th and 19th century and early 20th century in India and other countries there are corresponding course or Distance Education was carried out all over the world. These courses are carried out by agencies like Universities with the help of printed material sending to Learner. Till now in India the open Universities like IGNOU (Indira Gandhi Open University) , Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar open University, YCMOU and many more Universities Carried out Distance Education. Now days we are in Digital Age. With the boon of Digital age learning is converted into e-learning.There is rapid change in technologies has change the education paradigm as www based instruction playing a important role in teaching and learning process. The new technologies lead learner to participate in massive open online courses (MOOCs) with providing online education platform without attending face-to-face classroom teaching. MOOC is nothing but Massive Open Online Courses which is made available to global learner crossing the barrier of Space, language, money."The term MOOC was coined in 2008 by Dave Cormier to describe the Connectivism and Connective Knowledge (CCK08) course led by George Siemens and Stephen Downes" (Massive open online course, n.d.).According to Bell, [2010] the connectivism leads university faculty to play their role in teaching and learning process. These online courses attract learner form different geographic allocation to take part in learning process. This collaborative online learning platform by using distributing knowledge, shearing ideas and gating new knowledge within the connected educational environment. Above all these courses are free or very few amount of fees charge for gating certification after completing the courses. Although the fact that these online courses provide learner free of cost they should not substitute higher education system because MOOCs has not give answer of some important questions such as

high dropout rate of students, the role of teacher in online education and institution providing MOOCs. In this paper we discuss the role of MOOCs in the
current higher education system.

What is MOOCs?

MOOCs are online learning phenomenon which developed from a decade ago and now these are gating some media attention and significant interest from higher education institutions and some privet institutions to see some business opportunities in Higher Education systems. It can be seen that it is extension of correspondence courses which is popular in higher education. Now in MOOCs online learning approaches in terms of open access to courses and scalability. It gives the new opportunity and fresh thinking about new business models for open education. The main aim of MOOCs was to provide free access education to university level by opening Higher education for as many students as possible. MOOCs have two key features i.e.

1. Open access – Any learner can participate in online course for free 2. Scalability – These courses are designed to support an large number of registered learner. The main aim for MOOCs development is an open education to all and knowledge should be shared openly and any desire learner should take part in higher education learning process without demographic, economic and geographical constrains. But some MOOCs provider interpreted the main feature of MOOC. Some MOOCs are massive but not open and some are open but not but not massive. This concept may threat to the future development of future open education system.

Types of MOOCs:

There are two types of MOOCs that is cMOOCs and xMOOCs cMOOCs is based on a network platform and when the learner decided to learn he or she can used social media platform. There is no teacher or tutor and defined syllabus. As well as there no formal assessment is possible hence the learner have to themselves judge what and how they have learned. cMOOCs are collaborative learning and the courses are built around a group of like-minded 'individuals' Which are relatively free from University/institutional constraints.

MOOCs is a designed much more traditional course structure where large number of learner can register with specific syllabus. The learning can carried out by peers by making available online videos, lectures, some ppt and many more. That means by specified aim of completing the course obtains some knowledge certification of the said subject. The learners have the opportunity to discuss and clear their difficulties from peers or among the learner through discussion. The learning assessment is made by peers and even certificates are awarded.

MOOCs have a much more traditional course structure. They are characterized by a definite aim of completing the course obtaining knowledge certification of the subject. They are presented specified syllabus of recorded lectures and some self-test problems. Some providers require paid subscriptions for acquiring graded materials and certificates. Branded IT platforms that offer content distribution partnerships to institutions liked IIT Bombay. The instructor is the expert provider of knowledge, and student interactions are usually limited to asking for assistance and advising each other on difficult points.

Key developments of MOOCs initiatives:

MOOCs is one of the platform for learner. It is founded by MIT and Harvard. There are more than 20 million users and with mostly top-rank universities/ institutions. As we know that it is non-profit organization spreading education removing constrain like location, cost and access of resources. It is also trying to fulfill the demand of people to learn on their own term. It is reimagining the possibilities of education, providing the high-quality, stackable leaning experiences including the groundbreaking MicroMasters Programs. The learner from

all categories whether job market, changing fields, seeking promotions or exploring new interested in new field of education. Open edX is a open source platform where the courses are freely available to learner. Using open edX technologist and educator may build learning tools and contribute new feature to the platform which create new innovative solutions to get benefit learner[3]

Course:

It is massive open online courses founded in 2012 by Stanford University's computer science professor Andrew Ng and Daphne koller in America. Course works with universities and other organizations to offer online courses with certificate and degree in various subjects. Course currently carries 3900 + courses and specializations, 20+ degree and MasterTrack certificate and 13+professional certificate. [4]

UDACITY:

It is founded by Sebastian Thrum, David Stavens and Mike Sokolsky with$21.1 million investment form capitalist firms. It offers their "Introduction to Artificial intelligence" Online courses for free. Over 160000 students in more than 190 countries enrolled. It's mission to pursue to democratize the education i.e. Education to all. [5] After completing a course the learner received a certificate of completion indicating their level of achievement with signed by the instructors at no cost.

Khan Academy:

It is well known free online learning platform. It works for non-profit education organization with backing from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Google. It is started by Salman Khan a American educator in 2008, it offer many more subject but focusing on Mathematics and Science.[6] Influence of MOOCs to Higher Education: The emergence of new technologies in communicational and information Science MOOCs plays important roles in Higher Education due to globalization. Due to social media, economic and technological developments in education there is a potential for open education to play important role in accessing resources of education for all and changing environment for Higher Education.

The changes in Higher Education are

• Internationalizations and globalization increase the momentum of higher education.

• Increasing demand of higher education due to globalization which projected to be 120 million learner worldwide by 2020.

• Due to changing demands of learner and the experience there is increase in number of lifelong adult learning.

• Technological development high impact of social media on learner.

• We have to change higher education affordable and cost effective.

As above consideration we need new business models and innovations in higher education to meet the new challenges in higher education for longer term. For example in India SWAYAM implication.To meet further requirement of higher education we have to take momentum towards open education which opens opportunities for sharing ideas, collaboration between universities and institutions, learners and educator globally and locally giving more meaningful experience in teaching and learning. To open up higher education we have to Open Curriculum, Open learning, Open Assessments, Open Platform should provide by higher education institutions. By providing above facilities Open education brings new opportunities for innovation in Higher Education to support institution to implement the fundamental values of university base education and shifting main focus from traditional classroom teaching to learner centered learning in Higher Education.

Influence in Higher Education Policies:

There are worldwide changes experiencing in Higher education. Due to high cost of funding in higher education take a note on national policy for education. Most of Govt. looking to take new stapes for new funding mechanism to reduced cost and improvement in quality of teaching and Learning.We have to rethink about the current education system form which we cannot achieve the Goal of higher learning in globalization. By implication of New education policies we get momentum For the concept of free and open access to high quality university learning. There are three key areas become policy concerns to current development in MOOCs and open education is Funding for higher education, Degree provision and Quality assurance. To achieve above goal our Indian govt. implement New Education Policy. For example in India SWAYAM implication. SWAYAM is a Hindi language acronym that stands for "Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring. Minds". SWAYAM programmer was developed by Government of India to gate quality education Accessible to all as describer in Indian Education policy. The main aim of Swayan to access, equality and quality. It is developed by Ministry of Human Resources and All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of IIT Madras with the help of Google Inc. and Persistent Systems Ltd. to achieve their cardinal Principles of Education policy.

Influence for Higher Education Institutions:

Advent of new technologies delivery models including rapid development of MOOCs gets a Pressure on conventional Higher Education institution, but it creates an opportunities for these institutions to develop themselves for new positions. For this they have adopt new innovations such as MOOCs fit in their activities. It can be said that MOOCs have potential to impact on higher education In two ways: Teaching improvement and Higher Education institutions has to develop new mission Which include openness and access for different group of students. It also provides that Higher Education Institutions has the innovative and explore new pedagogical practices and flexible learning Paths should find out.

Openness plays an important role in new education systems in Higher Education. A number Of organizations, institutions, govts, educators and learner all over the world have participated in OER (Open Education Resources) movement by supporting, funding, producing and accessing the Educational resources online anywhere and freely. New business strategies and learning models Should be developed by Higher Education institutions in response to the challenges posed new context Of funding structures that they operate. The MOOCs has potential to open up Higher Education for the Masses and has challenged the traditional way of thinking about giving higher education. HEI also Target those learners who are not able to learn for some region or to attract learner by reducing the cost Of course or providing batter learning experience with low market cost and those who look for simple Straight forward courses batter than degree in particular field. To achieve all above goal HEI should Need to assess their strengths and develop plan to make them able online education by providing MOOCs or other open education initiatives. Moreover HEI have make learning more flexible with Course design and gives bankable credits to learner to study at their own place and own time which They suits. These new strategies and new technologies can make higher education more cost effective And accessible and may also contribute to balance work, family and social life of learner.

Conclusion:

MOOCs is one of the way to open up Higher Education which accessible, flexible, affordableAnd completion of university degree courses for free or at very low cost for students who are Interested in learning. MOOCs attracted to Higher Education institutions

and private investors all over The world seeking to build their brands which tries to entre in education market. The institutions Providing traditional education has to develop new plans, new business model, new financial and Revenue model to satisfy needs of new group of students. For Higher Education Institutions Open Education gives new opportunities for innovation in Higher Education that will allow exploring new Online learning and teaching practices. Open Education system spreading at national and international Level, new funding structures, quality insurance and accreditation to support different approaches for Delivering improved quality higher education is required. Higher Education policy maker should bring Such a policy that Higher education made more affordable and accessible for all and at the same time It should be profitable for Higher Education Institutions. This will change for an open higher Education ecosystem.

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