

Chapter 14

Open Educational Resources for MOOC: Initiative at National Level

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ABSTRACT

The higher education sector is being influenced by many factors, and a paradigm shift from conventional learning to virtual learning can easily be observed. MOOCs are an innovative initiative in promoting and imparting virtual learning to the end users that are restricted to pursue their higher education due to time, space, and money constraints. Open educational resources are an integral part of MOOCs, and to sustain the viability of MOOCs, quality open educational resources are a need of the hour. Issues related to MOOCs and open educational resources are being taken up by various governmental and non-governmental organizations in accelerating the e-learning concepts among their citizens and to fill up the gaps, if any, to avoid digital divide between the students of regular and open universities. India, being a developing country, needs to put more efforts into promoting the concepts of MOOCs and to popularizing the concepts. In this regard, the Government of India has introduced various platforms for open educational resources for enhancing and supporting MOOCs.

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INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized every walk of life and education sector is not an exception to it. Days were gone, when work/job was performed manually, need of an hour is to enhance the quality, performance and efficiency of services and product and this is possible by the application of ICT in the respective domains. ICT has revolutionized the process and systems up to such an extent that a paradigm shift can be observed from proprietary environment to an open environment, for instance, use of open source software in place of proprietary software, use of open conference system, availability of open access resources and so on and so forth. Teaching and learning also inculcated the wave of open technology and gave birth to a new breed of courses better known as “Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)”. MOOC is a new platform of teaching and learning, irrespective of the restriction imposed by time, space and money. Sustainability of MOOC in turn depend upon many factors, one such factor that can make or mar the MOOC is the availability of good quality open educational resources (OER), that can help in minimizing and filling up the gap of teachers in a conventional system. Moreover, open educational resources can also work and act like an online library for supporting the vision and mission of MOOC. Various non-governmental organizations and also Government of India, has taken initiatives in this regard to support teaching and learning in general and MOOC in particular.

This paper is an effort in this direction and outlined in details the initiatives taken up by Government of India and other organizations directly or indirectly involved in teaching and learning outcomes.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR MOOC IN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Lots of literature and study has been conducted in the recent years with respect to MOOC, its application in educational sectors and its related subsidiary branches such as open educational resources. Some of the prominent recent studies, directly related to my paper is discussed and outlined below as:

Sundararajan (2015) in his paper “Digitization of Higher Education in India” gave a comprehensive details that how higher education sector can be digitized for the benefit of the society, as a whole. What all efforts Government of India has taken to make the educational sector more tech-savvy. Benefits and challenges of digitization are also discussed at length in his paper. Alhaji (2015) in his research discussed, what are digital libraries, reason to be considered for digitization, planning and benefits of digitization for the academic society etc. Bakshi (2016) discussed

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