

Chapter 7

Role of MOOCs for Technology and Business Education: Opportunities and Challenges in the Indian Context

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ABSTRACT

Education with the help of technology is deliberated as an encouraging development and means of transforming the teaching-learning model. The significant changes in use of the technology in online education has seen the emergence of the concept of massive open online courses (MOOCs). India has the world's largest youth population of about 500 million in the age bracket of 5-24 years. According to the statistics offered by Deloitte, 69% of jobs will be impacted by automation and analytical skills. Critical thinking and emotional intelligence will have a higher demand as against reading and writing by 2022. The World Economic Forum's 'Future of Jobs 2018' report states that more than one-half of India's workforce will have to be reskilled by 2022. There is a need to make the Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive. In this context, this chapter attempts to bring out the various aspects related to the challenges and opportunities through usage of MOOCs in technology and business education, especially in the context of the new education policy of the Government of India in 2020.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this chapter is to bring out the various aspects related to the challenges and opportunities with regard to Technology Management Education in India through MOOCs, in the context of the New Education Policy of the Government of India, 2020. Education plays an important role in building an empowered nation. It is an accepted fact that investing in education is an effective means to minimize poverty and develop a learned human resource. Higher education offers long lasting benefits for individuals and nations. Human capital is said to have the most significant impact on socio-economic growth of

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any country. The higher education system is therefore responsible for nurturing professionals who are fit for the future of work. Higher education promotes a more efficient economy, offers improvement in people's lives, and contributes to a more stable society.

Higher Education System of India

Higher education system of India is the third largest in the world in terms of students. The country occupies an important place in the education sector of the world. It consists of Universities, Colleges and institutes offering various programmes of studies leading to Graduate, post graduate and doctoral degrees. It includes various type of institutions like universities, colleges, institutes of national importance, polytechnics etc. Universities are also of different types like central universities State universities, Deemed universities and Private Universities. There are various regulatory bodies like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), research councils like Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Accrediting agencies like National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and the National Board of accreditation (NBA).

Challenges of Higher Education System in India

The role of higher education in the emerging scenario of knowledge economy is very crucial and multifaceted for any country in general and India in particular. A few challenges faced by higher education system in India are:

Access: The current gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education is 26.3% which is low as compared to other developing economies. A majority of the premier institutions imparting Technology education and Business Education are located in urban areas leading to disparity in access and equity to these programmes across regions, states and gender.

Curriculum: The curricula of various programmes of studies are unable to meet the requirements of the industry due to slow updating along with fewer chances for interdisciplinary learning.

Shortage of Faculty and High Student-Faculty Ratio: The student enrolment in higher education has increased at a faster rate in the last few years and the availability of faculty has not increased accordingly and most of the institutions face the problem of shortage of faculty.

Inadequate Infrastructure and Facilities: Many institutes are imparting education without proper infrastructure and basic facilities like libraries, hostels, Laboratories, transport and sports facilities etc. which are necessary for ranking of the institutions.

International Faculty and students: Presently there is a very less collaboration of higher educational institutes with low engagement of international faculty and a less number of international students.

Low Employability of Graduates: Low employability of graduates is one of the major problems in India. Only a small proportion of Indian graduates are employable due to the gap between education provided and industry requirement.

Poor global ranking of institutions: Indian universities made a poorer show at the QS World University Rankings, 2021 with majority of the top-ranked institutions dropping in their rankings and only four universities appeared in the Top 300 as against the last year.

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