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## **Importance of MOOC in Education**

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## Abstract

21<sup>st</sup> century is a digital century. We can observe that popularity of digital technology is increasing day by day. We also know that digital technology has become a very important part of global education system. In present scenario, our education system is rapidly changing from traditional classroom system to digital classroom system it means offline education is now converted to online education. In online education there are lots of numbers of paid courses are available but it is not affordable for all. Mooc's have a bundle of free courses in education providing quality learning resources for worldwide learners. Mooc is a big educational database platform that provides free online courses in various numbers of subjects. This research paper discovers the impotence of MOOC's in education, examining their effect on accessibility, pedagogy and lifelong learning.

**Keywords:** Mooc, Free education, open courses, various massive courses, online education, digital platform, zero cost courses, learner's course, open content, online learning community, XMOOC, CMOOC and real time interaction.

## I. Introduction

At present, Internet is grown very fast and available very easily for all. In last 20 years improvement in internet is continuously increased. With the development of internet online educational websites provides better learning experience. Online educational sites prepare and deliver best learning content to create significant learning environment that fit the needs of advance diverse and modern learners. Online learning courses provide explanation of point to point topics of various subjects with purposeful activities, problem solving, collaborations, interactions and conversations. Mooc online courses help to raise opportunities study free courses in digital platforms.

## What is Mooc?

A massive open online course is a free internet based distance learning course that is designed for huge number of worldwide learners. Mooc online courses are available for students as well as corporate. In Mooc platform almost 1000 + universities provide their 20000 + courses in various streams for global learners. Nowadays many online educational service providers institute design free courses for learners. Mooc is an instrument for self actualization providing opportunities for a lifelong learning. Here learner can choose



from thousands of courses. Mooc also provides a platform for interactive forums and custom e learning methods that encourage self paced learning which remains focused on skills.

**M** Massive (There may be 300 million+ worldwide learners in Mooc.)

**O** Open (Anytime, Anywhere, anyone can register for Mooc courses.)

**O** Online (Courses are based on digital and delivered entirely over the internet.)

**C** Course (Pure Online courses similar as most of the online college courses.)History of MOOCs:

The word was initiated in 2008 by Dave Cormier, from the University of Prince Edward Island; in 2011 MIT University introduces the first large collections of MOOC based resources. In 2012, MIT and Harvard universities expand MOOC with the help of EdX. With the growth of technology based work increase at that time demand of online course also increase to gain skills. In the duration of 2020 to 2022 (Covid Pandemic) MOOCs are more popular and accepted as the new standard of education at all levels.

### How do MOOCs work?

MOOCs are online courses that learners access through the internet. Basically they consist of materials made accessible online, which may include recorded videos, readings, quiz and problem sets, interactive learning modules etc., typically each MOOC will include a course provider and platforms. A course provider is often a university, which supplies the course materials and instructors. The platform—such as Coursera, edX, Future Learn, Udacity and Swayam. These all platforms provide the technological infrastructure for course modules. User access and other learning resources. Mostly MOOC providers are universities and corporate entities. MIT and Stanford universities are leading providers of online course. Microsoft and Accenture also provide publicly available online courses.

### Categories of MOOCs:

- 1 - CMOOCs: Used to develop dynamic material for self study. The material was developed through Online discussions and collaborations among learners taking the course across the globe.
- 2 - XMOOCs: In this they are well structured with preselected reading and reference materials.



## MOOC course structure:

MOOC courses are developed with modules, single module contains units. In each module it contains readings, graphical diagrams, video lecturers, a problem sets and a quiz. Length of module may change as per the course and its content.

## MOOC based degrees, certificates and credentials:

At present MOOCs based platforms also provide education certifications and degree programs. MOOC has 4 different certification levels. (1) Certificate course – For individual course, (2) Micro credentials – It consists of 3 to 6 courses, popular for skill or competency as per the EdX. (3) Online degrees - It is equivalent to master's program similar as university master's degree programs, (4) Corporate training- these courses are deployed as an enterprise level for small and large corporate employees.

## II. Advantages

The global acceptance and adoption of online educational courses has following advantages:

(1) MOOC's online courses are offered at zero cost or no cost concept. (2) Learners can learn any required skills at any time anywhere without physical location dependency. (3) No penalty if learners can't complete the course. (4) MOOC's platform is more flexible because if learners are not able to attend the session then pre recorded videos are available. (5) MOOC's are best for those who want to refresh his/her knowledge. (6) MOOC's are useful for service professionals and citizens to upgrading their skills. (7) Useful for corporate empires to develop the competitiveness and talent of professionals through online learning. (8) If any expert want to share his/her knowledge and skills then MOOC's platform is best to create your own course. (9) Learners can easily learn more than one course at same time duration. (10) Opportunities to learn best online courses from world's best universities.

## III. Limitations

There are some challenges and limitations in MOOC's platform:

(1) Learners must rely on self support and motivation to complete their course. (2) Dropped out ratio of learners is too high in MOOC's. (3) Some learners also think that MOOC's are only for knowledge they are not degree providers. (4) Live teaching environment and live teacher engagement experience is missing



because MOOC's are based on no tutor no teacher concept. (5) MOOC's platform is not suitable for physically disabled learners. (6) In some countries poor or limited internet connection is a big breaker in MOOC implementation.

#### IV. Popular MOOC's:



At present thousands of MOOCs are available in internet but out of this many are offered on popular digital platforms with the help of various educational institutions they have invested to make their courses available Online. The following are the popular educational MOOCs platform.1. EdX 2. Coursera 3. Future Learn 4. Udacity 5. SWAYAM 6. Udemy 7. Moodle 8. Canvas Network 10. Khan Academy.

#### V. Conclusion

MOOCs are becoming the most valuable aspect of the —OPEN EDUCATION PLATFORM. It's like open-source recourses for all worldwide learners. Lifelong learning is not possible and easy for many learners in the world so MOOCs platform is best for those learners who have no time for regular studies but it is important to make sure those courses relevant with the learner's education and career goals.



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