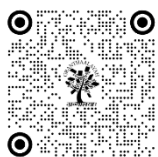# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON E-LEARNING THROUGH SWAYAM MOOCS: AN EDUCATIONAL STUDY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic is observed in every nook and corner of the world, in each and every sector right from the health, business, economy, information technology and education etc. The COVID-19 pandemic has been badly disrupted the education system in India. To eradicate this serious issue of educational disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the only way to establish a consistent structure for the next course of action is to transition to e-learning, where both teachers and students need to turn to a digital platform. India has started various projects for offering MOOC courses. SWAYAM plays a major role among them. SWAYAM is a programme initiated by the Government of India. This paper discusses the different features of the SWAYAM platform. The study also differentiates the concept of SWAYAM. SWAYAM is an ethnic IT Platform for hosting the MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). The geographical, sociological and political barriers in education can be overlooked by making MOOCs as similar to regular school education.

Keywords: Covid-19, E-Learning, SWAYAM, MOOC, Digital Platform

1. INTRODUCTION

"Education is a vital component for the advancement of any country. There are various difficulties in giving prominent education in India which is the biggest wellspring of quality education". But now everybody is being denied of education as COVID-19 is taking the state of a pandemic in India. We need to defeat this hindrance. A wide range of opportunities in the form of e-learning have opened the door to affordable constructive education. It can characterize as a process where internet technologies are utilized to give educational curriculum outside of a conventional theatrical classroom to upgrade information and execution. In most cases, this alludes to a course, program, or degree offered totally on online, where one can interact with one's teacher, professor, or other students. E-learning has transformed education. It offers the chance to learn whenever and anyplace. It is a method for social affair assets and giving correspondence. E-learning is a mode for one to plan, and improve learning materials using the online technologies. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is software for giving online learning materials to an enormous number of individuals. These are continuous online courses with association and unlimited accessibility. It is a field of learning where students are given online information just as answers to different textual questions. Technology, students can concentrate together at home as indicated by their own pace.

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is predictable to have in excess of 2000 courses from various streams of educational disciplines. MOOCs (Massive, open and online courses) shall allow the stakeholders of Education who need to learn, teach, or innovative earn, the capability to understand their own true potential and change our country. The most important feature of MOOC is providing education to public, at minimum level of cost at world scale and to provide a confirmation of completion to those who fulfil their study. MOOCs is providing education where there is a need to create collaborations between the salient features of anytime-anywhere format of e- Learning and the traditional classroom based chalk and talk method to develop a unique content delivery mechanism, which is approachable to learners' needs and ensures seamless transfer of knowledge across geographical boundaries. Commonly MOOCs are expected at unlimited participation through internet devices that use traditional E-learning resource like readings, video lectures, in-lecture quizzes and weekly quizzes and projects along with interactive user forums to clarify thoughts and enhance learning by providing a social learning experience to the students.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharmistha Pramanik (2018) India students majority can't enroll for their desired regular course because of limited seats at Universities and college or non-availability of ideal institution with proper infra-structure. MOOCs offer to open up higher education by casual supplementary & affordable completion of university education for free or at a low cost for learners who are interested in learning. It really nurtures a unique prospect to expand distances of knowledge life-long. Universities can start Selective open online course (SOOCs) with the help of MOOCs. IITs are already offering their open certificate course on selective subjects. In present days MOOCs are playing supportive role of traditional education system, students should take advantage of free MOOCs.

Chiranjit Majumder (2019) The present study illustrate that 'Massive Open Online Courses' (MOOCs) through platform like Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds is a very worthy jointly initiative by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), Government of India to offer an integral teaching learning platform in online mode.

Dr. Deepak Sharma1, Amandeep Singh (2020) This COVID-19 crisis has impacted immensely the education sector of India. While many challenges have emerged, new opportunities have also evolved. To safeguard education from the drastic effects of the pandemic situation, it is extremely important to revisit the future of learning and the change that could be done by equal access to quality education. India is not sufficiently prepared to provide education get to all regions of the country via digital channels. This is the students who are not fortunate, like the rest, will suffer from the choice of digital channels.

Mr. Suman Atta, Dr. Sunil Kumar Baskey (2020) In the present era, India is going through a devastating crisis which has paralyzed the society. The corona pandemic has adversely affected the academic initiatives all over the world. In that case, even if institution-based education is not possible, arrangements have to be made to receive education at home. The solution that can be advocated in such a scenario is incorporation of high-end technology in the teaching learning process. The current advance technology-based education system is now in the palm of our hand. As software of e-learning, MOOC has been able to meet the demand for this education in India. Therefore, the access rate of e-learning in India needs to be further increased, for the universalization of online education, the problems that exist in India need to be addressed.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the Impact of Covid-19 on E-Learning through SWAYAM MOOCs.
- To understand the different features of SWAYAM platform in India.

4. METHODOLOGY

The research aim of this study is to explore the experience of Impact of Covid-19 on E-Learning through SWAYAM MOOCs an educational study in India. A qualitative research design was adopted, and the study was carried out in the year 2022. The study is carried out with the help of secondary data, and to achieve the objective of the study.

5. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON E-LEARNING THROUGH SWAYAM MOOCS

A learning system based on formalized teaching but with the help of electronic resources is known as E-learning. While teaching can be based in or out of the classrooms, the use of computers and the Internet forms the major component of E-learning. E-learning can also be termed as a network enabled transfer of skills and knowledge, and the delivery of education is made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times. Earlier, it was not accepted wholeheartedly as it was assumed that this system lacked the human element required in learning.

However, with the rapid progress in technology and the advancement in learning systems, it is now embraced by the masses. The introduction of computers was the basis of this revolution and with the passage of time, as we get hooked to smartphones, tablets, etc, these devices now have an importance place in the classrooms for learning. Books are gradually getting replaced by electronic educational materials like optical discs or pen drives. Knowledge can also be shared via the Internet, which is accessible 24/7, anywhere, anytime.

SWAYAM is the online education portal of government of India, has seen an important jump in the number of enrollments in the last two years outstanding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The SWAYAM portal saw over one crore enrolments as educational institutes resorted to computer-generated learning due to the pandemic and lockdowns. 'SWAYAM' is a platform of India's higher education and offers a prospect to students to get academic credit earmarked as credit-eligible for institutions' certificates. Presence the world's biggest MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) platform, it offers over 700 courses from more than 135 Indian institutions in India. Everybody can access these courses, with the portal holding classes from the 9th standard Up to PG. The study materials are being organized by experienced professors from reputed institutes and are available in various local languages. In fact, more than 1.6lakh students registered themselves in July 2020 for four courses as well as Machine Learning, Data Science, programing, Data Structures and Algorithms etc. Enrolment was more than 40,000 students during the semester. IIT Madras, Chennai Mathematical Institute and IIT Kharagpur opened these courses. "It is a convenient platform for students as well as non-students. Responsibilities are given on a weekly basis with deadlines," one of the students enrolled in SWAYAM said the Logical Indian. "After finishing point, exams are conducted with least charges and later certificates are given which can be used for future references such as jobs or higher studies".

6. DIFFERENT FEATURES OF SWAYAM IN INDIA

The SWAYAM full form is Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. The SWAYAM portal is launched with the objective of accomplishing three principles of education– Quality, Equality and access. The Ministry of Education (formerly the Ministry of HRD) launched the SWAYAM program on 9th July 2017. Its goals are to provide a quality education through E-learning courses to millions of students. Subjects are related to vital Portals, government initiatives, and programs are often seen in the news. The initiative correlated to the field of education is very significant for the UPSC Civil services exam in the syllabus of the General Studies paper. Gain and Time, analytical approach and direct factual - based questions have been tested from the topics related to government initiatives. Students will also learn about the latest news, SWAYAM Prabha, significant facts, and profits related to the program.

6.1. SWAYAM'S LATEST NEWS

1) More than 100s of universities are offering MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)

According to State for education Union Minister, there are 112 universities that have offered for MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) with the help of SWAYAM Portal till June 2022. There are about 70lakh unique users and 2.8crores enrolment on SWAYAM Portal and app from all over the country in various learning courses.

2) Translation of Study Materials into Local Languages

To deliver inclusive and better coverage, the study material of SWAYAM MOOCs courses was transformed into eight regional Indian languages. The 8 languages are Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, Malayalam, Hindi, Gujarati, and Marathi. These courses are Law, Management, engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences, etc.

6.2. FEATURES OF SWAYAM

Some important features of the SWAYAM platform are given below–

Mobile learning accessible– It means learning which can be easily accessible from anyplace through any device connected to the internet. SWAYAM is a hub for interactive E-content.

Audio-Visual Content– These courses on the platform is accessible in the audio-visual multimedia format. It would be easily accessible to learners and would improve their learning.

Certificate Courses– It will keep track of the development and issue a certificate for the students after an online examination.

Doubt Solving– It similarly has the feature of an Interaction forum where learners can clear up any doubts.

Quality Assurance– SWAYAM courses are planned expert professors and faculties of Universities. Hence, the quality of classroom teaching has not been affected.

Proctored Platform– SWAYAM platform affords certificate after the completion of the course. The exam for the certificate is conducted in a proctoring method to stop any malpractice and to maintain the honesty of the exam.

Free of Cost– All the courses are on the SWAYAM platform are available free of cost with no hidden charges.

Transfer of Credit– The UGC has informed the UGC Regulation act 2016 to permit the transfer of credits that were earned from SWAYAM courses into the academic record of the student in their parent institutions or universities.

6.3. BENEFICIARIES OF SWAYAM –

The SWAYAM initiative is available all across the country. The beneficiaries includes –

Students studying in class ninth to Post-graduation in India.

Students are belonging to streams such as commerce, Science, engineering, arts, commerce, performing arts, humanities, Law, medicine, and agriculture, etc.

Students in Afghanistan– In 2019 the central government permitted students and faculty of Educational Institutions in Afghanistan to enroll and use the SWAYAM MOOC Courses.

6.4. IMPORTANT TERMS ABBREVIATIONS RELATED TO SWAYAM:

A number of important terms and abbreviations associated to the SWAYAM platform are given below in the following table–

Terms/Abbreviations	Meaning.
MOOCs	Massive open online course.
SWAYAM	Study webs of active learning for young and aspiring minds.
CBCS	Choice-Based Credit System.
SAB	Swayam Academic Board.
SME	Subject Matter Experts.
ICT	Information and Communication Technology.
DTH	Direct-to-home example: Swayam Prabha channels.
NC	National Coordinators. Examples – NCERT, NPTEL, etc.

7. CHALLENGES FOR IMPLEMENTING E-LEARNING IN INDIA DURING PANDEMIC

1) The problems that are noticeable in implementing e-learning in India in the current scenario are as follows,
2) Lack of digital literacy of teacher educators. Teachers face problems because they do not have skills about digital literacy.

3) Lack of multidisciplinary approach in higher education. There is lack of inclusion of e-learning in all disciplines in higher education.

4) Lack of governmental importance on online certificate course. Unlike institution-based education, the government does not place importance on e-certificate.

5) Language problem for accessing the platform. India is a multi-lingual country where communication is usually done through English on e-learning platforms, but not all students in India are proficient in English language, so this is also a special challenge for India.

6) Advanced topics are usually added to the curriculum of e-learning platform, which requires skilled and experienced person. There is a dearth of experienced people based on online education in India.

7) Lack of economic power improving technical infrastructure in the educational institute.

8) Great emphasis on quantitative education instead of quality education.

9) Good internet connection is required to take online classes, but we cannot say that internet services are good in all areas of India. This is because in some cases, such services are lacking in remote rural areas. Again, this internet service requires money which is a bit difficult for a developing country like India.

10) Students are not attracted to the lesson due to lack of face-to-face interaction between teacher and student, and teachers are not able to improve their teaching due to lack of proper feedback from students.

11) This online class was disrupted due to lack of proper electricity service in various parts of India.

12) India has to face all these challenges in implementing e-learning in the present scenario.

8. CONCLUSION

The study reveals that Covid-19 pandemic has adverse effects on education. Swayam is being understood as an instrument for self-actualization provided that opportunities for a life-long learning and in Covid-19 it helps lot to students as well as teachers. As a replacement for of reinventing the roll government has taken a proper step to build the India MOOCs around the present facilities and resources developed under the NMEICT. SWAYAM Project gets advance extended with the SWAYAM PRABHA initiative, an ambitious 32 educational DTH channels of the MHRD providing 24*7 curriculum based education programmes. SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha initiatives are proposed do go hand in hand supplementing and complementing each other. Main-streaming the SWAYAM initiative with the proper education system will go a long way in understanding the dream of the nation in universal access of education. With suitable planning and implementation, SWAYAM can play a vital role in Digital India and Skill India missions of the government of India.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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