MOOCS THROUGH E-LEARNING: AN INNOVATION IN TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

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Abstract

Mooc are web-based online courses an emerging trend of study is developing .Present paper focuses on the on concept of Mooc with respect to teacher education and higher education .As mooc courses use the e-learning technique ,present paper studies e-learning & it's implications with respect to moocs. Conclusion says that moocs emerging trends which makes use of e-learning & social media are very helpful to develop knowledge gaining and sharing society. Present paper gives a detailed information about moocs.

Keywords*: Moocs, e-learning, innovations, Teacher Education, Higher Education*

Introduction

Mooc are web based online course which provide global access of knowledge for geographically dispersed students. This is the new emerging trend of online learning which has started to grow since 2012. Nowadays various e-learning tools,web tools are emerging which are used in classrooms and in various blended learning approaches .Mooccourses make use of these tools in more systematic way to provide online distance educations to all. These courses designed on various subjects . Anybody can search for his area of interest.Mooccourses are new innovations in e-learning systems & are becoming more popular among students & adults to form learning communities.

Concept: What is mooc ?

A massive open online course is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via web.In addition to traditional course materials such as filmed lectures , reading and problem sets , many moocs provide interactive user forums to support community interactions between students ,professors and teaching assistants (TAs).

Moocsare   a recent and widely researched development in distance education which were first introduced in 2008 and emerged as a popular mode of learning in 2012.

A massive open online course (Mooc) is a free web-based distance learning program that is designed for the participation of large numbers of geographically dispersed students.

A mooc may be patterned on a college or university course or may be less structured .Although Moocs don't always offer academic credits, they may enable certification employment or further studies.

Mooc is an interactive step-by-step course aimed at reaching an unlimited number of participants worldwide to create a community of lifelong learners.

History of Moocs:

The word MOOC was coined in 2008 by Dave Cormier, from the University of Prince Edward Island for a course offered by the University of Manitoba, "Connectivism and Connective Knowledge." There were 25 tuition-paying students from university and 2,300 non-paying students from the general public who took the course online. There were RSS feeds for material and participation was facilitated through a variety of venues including Moodle (a learning management system), blog posts, Second Life and real-time online meetings.In 2011, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) OpenCourseWare (OCW) became the first large collections of MOOC resources made available by a university. In 2012, MIT and Harvard spearheaded the edX initiative for the promotion of MOOCs. The acronym MOC is pronounced with a long oo sound, to rhyme with kook rather than book. The Oxford online dictionary added the term (as "Mooc") in August 2013.

Need of Moocs:

Is there a niche topic you have always been interested in, but never had an opportunity to explore it ? Studying in sync with thousands of online learners has massive benefits . As a Mooc Learner ,you will build upon your knowledge of a special interest subject.Your CV will grow with extra-curricular initiatives . Plus, employers will notice your commitment   to continuing Professional Development .You can enroll any of moocs course free of charge. All required course material will be provided online which is also 100% free.

Why would a university offer their expertise for free ?

There is a growing need to make learning as open and accessible as possible- and UEA(University of East Anglia) want to be ahead of the game. Universities are now having to consider the digital revolution and blended learning as playing a major part in the way their

students study. This is not only essential to being a leading institution in the future , but it gives us all access to a truly interactive education.

What does a Mooc look like ?

All Moocs are available on the FutureLearn website platform , which is very easy to use: Learners have 24:7 access to traditional course materials such as reading and problem sets ,plus interactive tools , such as video , quizzes ,user forums social media chats and articles that all generate discussion and debates.

Who can study a Mooc ?

Each course is open to anyone with internet access across the world we like to call these switched-on individuals who sign up to study with thousands of other learners.

Who teaches a Mooc ?

Moocs are all taught by academic experts in their field .These are Educators of the course. They will support your learning by actively engaging in online forums ,discussion boards and if you're lucky they might tweet you.

What is the time commitment ?

A typical Mooc will run anywhere from2-10 weeks depending on the depth of the topic , requiring between 2-6 hours of study , per week. Content will be accessible at any time of the day or night throughout the duration of your course.

Will Moocs be accredited ?

Although Moocs do not currently offer professional accreditation from UEA FutureLearn can send you personalized printed certificate to acknowledge your learning and add to your CPD

Features of Moocs

- Moocs help you learn online free of charge.
- Moocs are flexible so fit around your life.
- Moocs connect you with top UK educators and international learners.

Importance of Moocs

- It can be considered as an aid in teaching and learning process.
- It is a concept of distance education characterized by using Web 2.0 to teach some kind of content to a large number of people through free video lessons that can be accessed at any time or place.
- Courses can be modified and shared by users and are often used by universities to teach for a short term some specialization course, either academic or professional. The main benefit of MOOCs is its open access.

- MOOC courses are important to assist formal education and distance learning, especially in the technology area.

Objectives of the study

1. To study meaning & concept of MOOCS online courses.
2. To study mooccourses related to teacher education & higher education.
3. To study implications of e-learning relevant tomoocs courses.

Types of Moocs

In terms of instructional design models to be employed with Moocs , moocs have been classified by Stephen Downed into two distinct types: XMoocs (Extended Moocs) and CMoocs(ConnectivistMoocs). The very same classification is self-explanatory conveying that there should be a distinct approach for each type. The basic difference between extended andconnectivistmoocs is related to where learning takes place.XMoocs have been design to be run in a single Mooc platform that can handle many concurrent users and they consist the vast majority of the Mooc courses offered. On the contrary , the key concept behind Cmoocs is networking , meaning that learners may go anywhere to locate sources of information. Learning may also take place outside Mooc platform ,such as in other websites or even in Facebook ,twitter or other social networks.

Moocs Study Formats

Moocs formats may differ from one platform to another ,but on the major platforms you can expect to find more than video lectures. They usually offer discussion forums ,quizzes ,peer grading exercises ,exams and reading to guide you through the content .Additionally students are inspired to create study groups and networks online (on Facebook , for example) or even offline through the MeetUp website .Most courses provide a syllabus with a schedule and detailed explanations about the content.

Moocs and Higher Education

Moocs will not replace the college degrees of the   higher education   but it would be supportive to higher education for getting the skills ,enhancing professional competencies which is needed in most of the companies. Many of moocs are free of cost & they provide access to world –class professors & knowledge. Traditional college degrees are deeply embedded in government regulation and standard human resources practice.It doesn't matter how good a teacher you are if you don't have a bachelor's degree , it's illegal for a public school to hire you .

Free online courses won't revolutionize education until there is a parallel system of free or low-free credentials not controlled by traditional colleges that leads to jobs. Now technological innovators are working on that ,too.

In the long run ,MOOCS will most likely be seen as a crucial step forward in the reformation of higher education .But their true impact won't be felt until students and learners of all kinds have access to digital credentials that are also built for the modern world. Then they will be able to acquire skills andget jobs for a fraction of what colleges cost today.

Moocs & Teacher Education

Moocs have the advantage of being capable to reach many participants at once.Also with changes in technology and in study and work demands , it is important that teachers keep up with these changes by updating their pedagogy and the study materials they use.Moocs provide opportunity to teachers and teacher educators exposure to up to date materials and interactive CPD activities.

COL(Common wealth of Learning- is an intergovernmental organization   created by Commonwealth- heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning distance education knowledge, resources and technologies)has therefor partnered with different organizations to mount different Moocsfor teachers and teacher educators and since September 2014 when COL launched the first MOOC for teachers and teacher educators a total of 3066 teachers and teacher educators have been reached .

- *Teach smarter with Open Educational Resources* was run in partnership with National Council of Educational Research and Training(NCERT)http://ncert.nic.in/ and this attracted over 1000 registrations.

- *Using ICTs to enrich teaching and learning* is being run in collaboration

    with the African Virtual University (AVU)http://www.avu.org).   This has registered over 1600 participants.

- *Action Research* which is being run in collaboration with Wawasun Open University Malasia http:// www.wou.edu.my/ has attracted 362 participants

(Ref: www.col.org/programmes/teacher-education/moocs-teacher-education)

From the above information it can be said that through such kind of education teacher can enhance his knowledge & skills which will be useful for student development.

Benefits of Moocs

- MOOCS bring people together.
- MOOCS keep competitive edge.

- Learning at your own pace following your own schedule .

- Learning in informal settings at your convenience.

- Choose your language

- Anyone can sign up for moocclass no need of degree .

- No distance constraints.

- Offering interesting business opportunities.

- Making class more attractive and more meaningful.

- Distributed Learning

E-Learning &it's implications related to moocs

E -learning is learning utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom .

It uses multimedia platform ,computermedied instruction and we –based learning etc.Nowadays mobiles& social networking media can also be used to transfer the knowledge. In e-learning CDs/DVDs ,CAI programs use of social media ,video conferencing audio-visual aids has to be used in combinations.Internet & social media has facilitated e-learning.These tools & techniques ateacher has started to use in his class & classes are becoming audio visual. Within them virtual classrooms &collaborative learning has also used. These are all parts of e-learning.Contents are sometimes delivered face to face or it can be delivered online.When we mix face to face interaction with digital or online media it forms blended learning.Blended learning is a part of e-learning or online learning.Some distance learning courses are also conducted online which uses e-learning techniques.

But among all these techniques moocs online courses courses are new emerged trend of learning which is spreading rapidly to all. These courses can be accessed by anybody who has internet. They are free of cost. These courses deliver their content online through e-learning techniques like video lectures they send.Sometimes these courses are having quizzes ,online exams some exercises which can be solved in collaboration with groups through social media. These include online discussion forums, peer grading exercises & some part of reading. Mooc courses make proper use of e-learning techniques .Students can solve these exercises & send it online. In this process they can discuss through social media to the group partners & thus collaborative learning occurs. A video lecture on moocs can be watched in isolation or in groups. These lectures aresupported by organized group work. Facilitators or tutors guide the students online to complete it.

But the main thing in this process is those who have joined the course has to submit all the activities online within that deadline. Unless that ,course cannot be proceeded. We have to do the collaborative group work through social media & internet within the time. Hence participant must be self –motivated, actively collaborative & ambitious to complete the work.Otherwise there can be drop outs. from the course. But one who has interest and ability to complete the activities through e-learning techniques will get benefit of learning through experts of the professors from top universities and highly designed curricula.

This trend has made the learning possible at low cost, promote the global access of the knowledge to all &developing a learning society in the era of highly competitive & technological edge. Hence we can say that e-learning tools are instruments to complete such courses successfully & those who have mastery to use e-learning techniques will have open door to gain knowledge from such online courses.

Conclusions :

- Moocs given free education globally to all which will develop learning society.

- It would assist in higher education .

- It is helpful to make learning in informal settings.

- These are helpful for teachers and teacher educators for their professional development.

- Mooc courses are the platforms to share & exchange knowledge.

- Through e –learning students find new techniques for learning.It promotes experimental learning.

- Use of systematic e-learning tools & group activities for course development which will be accessible globally.

- Moocs emerging trends which makes use of e-learning & social media are very helpful to develop knowledge gaining and sharing society.Mooc with blended learning approach find beneficial to teaching learning process.

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