Introduction

Information and Communication Technology has added a lot of meaningfulness and dynamism in teaching-learning strategies. According to National Education Mission Through Information and communication Technology (NEMICT, India) teaching and evaluation has had a vital and positive impact on student accomplishments, particularly in terms of "Knowledge grasping” and "Practical & Presentation skills” especially in subject areas like Arithmetic, Science and Social Studies.

Throughout the past few years, the world has witnessed an incomparable growth in communication, network and knowledge technology. Development of latest broadband communication services and convergence of telecommunication with computers have created several prospects to use a range of latest technology tools for teaching and learning system. The combination of computers and communications offers extraordinary opportunities to the education systems to enhance.

MOOCS

The expansion of Information and Communication provides the opportunity to teachers to widen their sphere of knowledge and its dissemination throughout the globe. The ICT has potential to improve the teaching methodology and envision a brand new learning culture. Interactivity, flexibility and convenience are the gifts of ICT. ICT has the capacity to achieve the prospect for interactions between the participants by online tools to provide a richer learning environment than traditional tools would allow. With this vision ‘Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)” was designed by Government of India to accomplish the three fundamental principles of Education i.e. access, equity and quality across the population. The objective of this effort is to bring the best teaching-learning resources to one and all. With the idea of providing access to the best quality learning resources across the country, the project ‘Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds’ (SWAYAM) was started by MHRD, India. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have up till now remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. SWAYAM provides an integrated platform and portal for online courses, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) covering High School till all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that every student benefits from learning material through ICT. SWAYAM involves development of Massive
Open Online Courses (MOOCs) compliant e-content (video and text) and building a robust IT platform. In order to disseminate educational content to masses, the MHRD has launched 32 Direct-To-Home (DTH) educational TV channels called “SWAYAM Prabha” which broadcasts education content on a 24x7 basis, and the content developed under SWAYAM would be used for transmission in SWAYAM Prabha (SP) DTH channels. However, there is a need for synergizing the quality of content on these platforms, and also for standardizing the content delivery.

In order to ensure that best quality content are produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed:

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<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>National MOOCs Coordinator</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University Grants Commission (UGC)</td>
<td>Non-Technology Post Graduate Degree Programmes</td>
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<td>Non-Technology Post Graduate Degree Programmes NPTEL</td>
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<td>Consortium for Educational Communication</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>AICTE</td>
<td>Self-paced and international courses</td>
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The National Coordinators constitutes the Committees:

Academic Advisory Council: This committee is a group of academicians to assists the National Coordinator for judgment and taking decisions on every MOOC proposal.

Subject Matter Expert Groups (SMEGs): This Committee is a group of subject experts of each subject to evaluate the Proposals for Online Courses and make recommendations for their acceptance, improvement or rejection.

**WORKING METHODOLOGY**

The National Coordinators (NC) ensures the conversion of course into MOOC in a comprehensive manner. National Coordinator also identifies courses where online education is possible and preferred. It is followed by advertisement in newspaper and other print and electronic media for calling Expression of Interest from recognized Universities/ Institute of National Importance and other educational Institutions authorized to award degrees/credits for credit courses and for non-credit courses expression of interest is called from subject specialists both in Public and Private Sectors. The Course Coordinator (CC) who submits the Expression of Interest for a specified course submits the undertaking from Host university/institute about the willingness to offer the course for credit, conduct examination, assessment, evaluation, issue certificates and transfer the credits to the students of the Parent University/Institution as per the UGC/ AICTE/any other regulatory body Regulations issued for the purpose.

After evaluating the Expression of Interest received, the NC identifies the course coordinator...
for each Course. The evaluation is based on

- The quality of the sample content
- Reputation of the expert/ institute
- Teaching-learning methods proposed

Thereafter, Course Coordinator (CC) is invited to prepare the MOOC within 6 months from that date. The NC also ensures that no further courses should be allotted to a CC unless he/she has successfully completed a course allotted earlier. In case, the selected CC is a private person or a private institution, not entitled to award credits/ certificate, it shall identify a public Institution authorized to offer credits/ certificate for the course and issue certificate, as Co-applicant. An MOU between the two defining their roles will be formulated and later approved by the NC. After approval of the course the NC communicate the decision to the CC and also releases the funds required for starting the production.

On Completion of Production of the course the Course Coordinator intimates the NC about the readiness for review of the Course. The NC receives the content, gets it previewed from academic and technical experts and thereafter NC convenes the Subject Matter Expert Group (SMEGs) meeting for screening the course in detail along with the video and reading resources. The SMEGs screens the course content with recommendation like typos and grammar checks, pedagogy and learning experience, formatting of text and images, presence of basic online course elements like video/e-Content, discussion forums, interactive elements, assignments, assessment methodology etc. Based on these recommendations, the NC puts forward the course before the Academic Board, which finally approves the Course for uploading on the SWAYAM portal.

GUIDELINES OF MHRD

According to UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulation, 2016.New Delhi, the 19th July, 2016, Gazette of India (20th July, 2016).

1. Swayam is an Indian version of online learning platform to cater the features of anytime-anywhere format of e-Learning and mechanism to develop content delivery mechanism. The purpose of this platform is to broaden the access of higher education and bring down its cost by using technological advances.

2. The SWAYAM shall notify to the Registrars of all the Institutions, on 1st June and 1st November every year, the list of the online learning Courses going to be offered in the forthcoming Semester.

3. Within 4 weeks from the date of notification by SWAYAM, all institutions shall reflect on through their Competent Authority and register the students in selected online learning courses being offered through the SWAYAM platform. The selection of course by institution (Parent Institute) will be done according to their academic requirements and selection of those courses should be done which is authorized for credit transfer. Institution can only allow up to 20% of the total courses being offered in a particular program in a Semester through the online learning courses provided through SWAYAM platform.

4. The Course Coordinator (Who launches the course on SWAYAM Portal) and his/her Institution (Host institute) is responsible for evaluating the registered students. The evaluation is based on certain parameters like assignments, discussions, forums quizzes, sessional examinations and final examinations. The
examination can be online or offline mode, this decision is taken by Parent institute and host institute.

5. After evaluation the marks/grade is awarded as per the announced evaluation scheme by the host institution within the four weeks of commencement of final examination.

6. The parent institute incorporates the marks/grade obtained by the student, as communicated by the Host Institution ii the marks sheet of the student that counts for final award of the degree/diploma by the University.

7. The parent Institution gives the comparable credit weightage to the students for the credits earned through online learning courses through SWAYAM platform in the credit plan of the program. No university can refuse any student for credit mobility for the courses earned through MOOCs.

The Scope of SWAYAM

a) Courses available on SWAYAM are based on curricula covering various disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc.

b) Courses for school level having School education modules for teacher as well as learners are also placed on the portals. These courses are meant to equip the teachers and learners to help them understand the subjects better.

c) Skill based courses; cover both the domain of polytechnics as well as industrial skills certified by the sector skill councils of various Ministries.

d) Courses are designed with a vision of advanced curriculum for professional certification. This helps to cater a unified scheme in higher education domain that can be tailored to meet the demands of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) currently being implemented in India at undergraduate level.

e) MHRD aims to offer about 2000 online courses within one year through SWAYAM.

f) MHRD claims that about 60,000 students have already completed their courses through this platform.

Sources

[1] https://swayam.gov.in/


[3] UGC Notification No. F.1-100/2016(MOOCs/e-content)