

## MOOC'S AS A DIGITAL PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH: ITS IMPACT, FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

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Higher Education is making its way progressively in the world of digitalization. Easy access to education through the digital technology has led to better retention rate as compared to earlier times. Digital revolution has brought to the major transformation in the functioning of the government and non-government organizations covering various domains. Whether it is finance, personnel, education or any other field, all have embraced this technology. But whenever new advancements are there, people are normally impressed and start following blindly. But its effectiveness, purpose and quality of learning can be evaluated only after a certain period of time of its implementation.

The beginning of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) finds its way in 2008 when introduced by Stephen Downes and George Siemens for the first time. MOOC's have been playing a significant role in higher education and has expanded its horizon's rapidly. Mooc courses are designed to meet the educational requirements of the students in terms of learning and providing knowledge content. Mooc's provide free and easy access to educational topic of their choice and preferred short term courses to a large number of participants at their own pace. This interactive online course includes video, reading content, references, lecture methods, activities etc. It is imparted through three main platforms as Coursera, edX and Udacity. Mooc's are of two types: cMOOCs and xMOOCs.

cMOOCs is a collaborative learning technique applicable to develop the study material as per the requirements based on discussion method. xMOOCs, are based on the conventional method using a pre-designed content and study material. xMoocs limit the teacher-student direct interaction but supplement the university level courses to a large number of students at either nominal charges or free of cost. MOOCs not only included the students but educators too. In 2018, with 11.4 k courses, around 101 million learners from 900 universities worldwide have been participating to take the MOOC courses. Due to changes in the policy MOOCs has shown growth abruptly. Due to stable growth, each course has few learners. MOOC providers by registered users are:

	Learners	Courses	Microcredentials	Degrees
Coursera	45 million	3,800	420	16
edX	24 million	2,640	292	10
Udacity	11.5 million	200	40	1
FutureLearn <sup>2,4</sup>	10 million	880	49	23
Swayam <sup>2,3</sup>	10 million	1,000	0	0

Fig (1): Enrollment of students (<https://www.classcentral.com/report/mooc-stats-2019/>)

As MOOCs are adopted worldwide, fig (2) gives an idea of the usage of MOOCs in India, China and United States.