

Benefits and Challenges of MOOC in Present Scenario

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ABSTRACT:

In modern day's education system, online education becomes common to everyone. In online education system different authorities, institutions, university, private organizations contribute in their way. MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) is a newly modern technology-based education platform. Here people, can get education from anywhere for a nominal or free of cost. Here a large number of people get enrollment through online. It's open for all. It provides various courses of different subject across different country. In present perspective online education become so important to us. So, it is become very initial to understand its different area of MOOCs. MOOCs is one of the biggest platforms in online education. Today India becomes second highest user (after USA) of MOOC. MOOC has various advantages and benefits, like anyone can get courses from anywhere in country. Secondly it has low-cost fees. Professionals are also been able to continue the courses. It is an online platform so people get certificate in very less time. Geographical barriers also been removed. Besides those benefit it has many challenges. MOOC is an online based course so student requires good internet connection. They also require modern gadgets and maintenance resources. It has technical challenges also. In the present study the researcher tries to describe the concept of MOOCs, its benefits and current challenges. This study is descriptive qualitative research. The researcher uses secondary data like books, journals, research paper to complete the work. Through the study the researcher describes brief history of MOOCs, its characteristics and challenges and its significance in different perspective. It will be benefited to research scholar, students, and to the people who wanted to know and discover about MOOCs. Through this study we will get a complete description of MOOCs.

Key words: Online courses, Learning platform, Mass education

1. Introduction:

The current education system shifting towards a new era, where technology become facilitator and teacher become guide and student become active participator. Modern education is student centric. Everything is created depending on students need, interest and capacity. From curriculum to school setup each and everything created towards student all round development. In this journey teaching method and courses are also change, noting is permanent. Education system is not an exceptional. Here various changes are seen day by day. Teaching materials, method, process, are go through from various changes. A new technology-based education arrived throughout whole world. It is called MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). A course that has huge capacity, online system and open to all. MOOCs is a newly innovative education system. MOOCs refers Massive Open Online Courses. Through the name it describes the nature

of MOOCs. Here Massive means the huge capacity of enrollment. Open means the restriction free characteristics. Online means its way of conducting the course. Courses means different courses.

In MOOC any number of students can get proper education. It is also free or nominal cost. These courses conducting in online. It has great potential to educate a big number of populations, like India. In few years India become second highest MOOC provider. In India MOOC has different platform and more than 2000 courses¹ in different field. More than 220 million students benefited² by these massive courses. In our country more than 200 university provide³ more than 2000 MOOC courses with collaboration with SWAYAM(Study Web for Young Aspirant's Minds). MOOC provide various professionals and skill-based courses. In present time it has great value and its future is very bright. Mainly after COVID-19 maximum institution are forced to shift in online education system. Teacher and student focus on life benefited education. Teaching method is changed. Learning process are also transforming in a new shape. Now people are used to modern gadgets. Online education may be reached every knock and corner by the help of MOOC. Government of India also focuses on digital mode education. So, we may say that in future MOOC will become a giant platform in the field of education. It has great potential and advantages. Poor and needy family student are also getting quality education from MOOC. But other hand it has many challenges in the third world country, where people are still fighting for basic necessity, people are fighting for survival. Their education is treated like a luxury. MOOC has faced big challenges. It needs technology and maintenance worth. It requires the connectivity of internet. Also wanted a standard infrastructure, materials, and faculty. In present study we get a complete concept of MOOC. Also understood its benefit and aware of its challenges. It also highlights MOOCs characteristics. The future researcher who may work on it, they are also benefited. In present time when whole world shifted towards technology-based education, MOOCs is become so important topic to discuss. So, the current study will highlight a very important issue towards modern education.

2. Review Literature:

Aldamani, S. et al. (2020). Conducted a study on “A Review Paper on MOOCs Development Stages, Types and Opportunities and Challenges”. The main objectives of the study were to know about MOOC. Descriptive & analytic method used on it. The researcher finds out various type of MOOC, Its advantages, weakness. Lastly it can be concluded by the future researcher should evaluate the motivation factors based on specific type of introduce the type as a moderate factor.⁴

Latha, A. (2019). Conducted a study on “Construction and Validation of Courses Design Instrument with reference to Massive Open Online Courses”. Main aim of the study was to study the impact of age, gender, income, educational background, occupational status and number of prior MOOC courses completed on learner engagement and consumer perceived leaning. It was a quantitative research, various secondary data like website, journal, books, index, were used. Researcher finds various different stages of MOOC in Indian perspective, 46% of the respondents enrolled in MOOC course are less than the age group of 30 years. Lastly it can be concluded by consumer motivation and course design factors are found to be significant in influencing consumer engagement where consumer engagement is found to be significant in influencing consumer perceived learning.⁵

Sharma, A. & et al. (2018). Conducted a study on “MOOCs: A comprehensive study to highlight its strength and weakness”. The main objective of the study was to study the effectiveness of MOOC for working professional in India. It was a quantitative research, various secondary data like journals, report, used in it. The researcher find MOOCs effectiveness may be examined by analyzing started factors,

classified as positive corner impact learning satisfaction, learning discipline and organization recognition. Lastly it may conclude as- it is recommended to the course fee on merit basic for employs significantly adding to an organizations growth and marking it future ready in the rapid changing business environment.⁶

Rani, K. (2020). Conducted a study on “Awareness of MOOC among Arts and Science College students and Interest towards Mobile Technology. The main aim of the study was to find out the level of self – learning strategies of college student. Analytical method was used in it. The findings shows that there was a positive correlation between MOOCs awareness and self-learning statuaries. Lastly it can be concluded as the data gives interested and meaningful result.⁷

Uppal, R. (2019). Carried out a study on “Effectiveness of massive open online course in training higher education teachers”. Main objective of the study was to analyses the effect of MOOC on perception of community building amongst the participation. It was quantitative research. Various secondary data used on it. The researcher find that, it was limited initiative to community building amongst the participants. In conclusion from the research that it was observed that higher education teacher has a significantly positive opinion about the MOOC that include its course design, structure, media, immediate feedback of context.

3. Significance of the study:

MOOCs, Massive open online course is a newly online based mass education system. Our education system sifted towards online. So, in future MOOCs and other online platform may become the primary sources of education. So, it is very important aspect in future perspective. In the present study researcher focus on various aspect related to MOOCs. MOOCs has great potential to teach huge number of people. Like India where education is not available for everyone, MOOCs gives a big opportunity to teach a big number of people. MOOCs is free or nominal fees, so people can pursuit it. It conducts in online so people from different parts of world can get the proper education in same time. It is also choice based so student can choose whatever they need. It's fully student centric. They can get skill-based course that can help them in professional, daily life and longer in life. So, MOOCs has different aspects to work. The present researcher is work on MOOCs current challenges & benefits. It will light up different advantages and benefits of MOOCs. Also, various challenges that might be create a problem, also been discourse. MOOCs has great potential to educate lots of people. Its low costing so government also focuses it. So, it is a great area to research. Various area and knowledge might be come up through it. Newly ways of discover its potential also light up. Student who might want to work on it, also get help from it. This has potential to see a clear view to them who might work deeply in the area of MOOCs.

4.Objectives of the study: Objectives of the research study is as follows

1. To understand the MOOCs.
2. To realize the various benefits of MOOCs.
3. To find out different challenges of MOOCs in present scenario.

5.Research Questions: In this study the present researcher formulated some research questions on basis of objectives of the study:

R Q 1. What are the concepts and characteristics of MOOCs?

R Q 2. What are the benefits of MOOCs?

R Q 3. What are the challenges of MOOCs?

6. Methodology of the study: In the present study, descriptive documentary survey and Analytic method is selected. Through the method researcher find valuable data related to MOOCs and describe it properly. And it is qualitative in nature. The study was on the basic of secondary sources of data like research article, journals, books, websites, thesis, etc.

Table 1: Distribution / Sources of data collection procedure

SL. no	Sources	Description	Number
1.	Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOOCs concept • MOOCs characteristics • MOOCs challenges 	3
2.	Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOOCs types • MOOCs benefit • MOOCs history 	7
3	Doctoral Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOOCs benefit • MOOCs current situation 	3
4	Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOOCs characteristics • MOOCs Challenges 	5

7. Discussion:

Brief History of MOOCs: MOOCs – Massive Open Online Course is an online schedule course that provide various professional, skilled based, general courses for huge number of people in a nominal or free of cost. MOOCs has millions of users but it has interesting story. In initial stage it is built as a credit course. It was 2008 when George Siemens and Stephen Downs started MOOCs in University of Manitoba⁸. At the beginning its build as a credit course. It’s called as connectives and connective knowledge 2008 or simplified as “CCKO8”. 25 students attended the course on the campus of the University of Manitoba, further 2300 students from around the world participated online. After this MOOCs has various changes through all these years. In 2011, Standford University offered three courses for free online. In the year 2012 professor Sebastian Thrur and Peter Norving of Standford University⁹ started an online courses called as “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence”. Over 20,000 students complete this course and 160,000 students from around the world enrolled here.¹⁰ This focus on exploiting the possibilities of reaching a massive audience. It is become so successful. After this both Professors started

Udacity a business model for online knowledge sharing. Later it develops and offers MOOCs for free. In April 2012 Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller two Stanford CS professors,¹¹ started a company called “Courser” which partnered with universities in preparing and offering MOOCs. In a short time, Coursera and Edx become so popular. They start unique MOOCs program, which is still going on. In 2014, edx started MOOCs courses in India and they witnessed massive success with attracting over 35,000 learners¹². Since then, India has different MOOCs platform like “mooKIT” from IIT- Kanpur (2012),¹³ “IITBX” developed by IIT Bombay(2013)¹⁴, SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) by MHRD (2017) and others. Now India become second largest user of MOOCs after USA.¹⁵

Concepts of MOOCs: MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) is a free web – based distance learning program that designed for large number of geographically dispersed students. It is an online course aimed to provide education to huge population and open access via the web. MOOCs provide various interactive courses for skill, professional and personal development in different platforms. It provides online teaching materials, feedback, one and one interaction for effective learning. MOOCs courses are fully student centric and chose based. In present time it treated as distance education. It is low costing or free so people are affording it easily.

Types: There are mainly two types of MOOCs ,1. cMOOCs and 2. xMOOCs.¹⁶

cMOOCs: cMOOCs are MOOCs that allow for dynamic development of study materials. That is instead of having a pre-planned self of reading materials and course where the materials are developed through online discussions and collaborations among learners taking the courses across the globe. It has open accesses features such as open licensing of content, structure and learning goals to promote the reuse and remixing of resource.

xMOOCs: xMOOCs believe in the conventional approach where the course is well- structured with pre-selected reading and reference materials. In xMOOCs licenses are closed for their courses materials but maintain free access for students.¹⁷

Characteristics of MOOCs: MOOCs has different characteristics as^{18 19 20}–

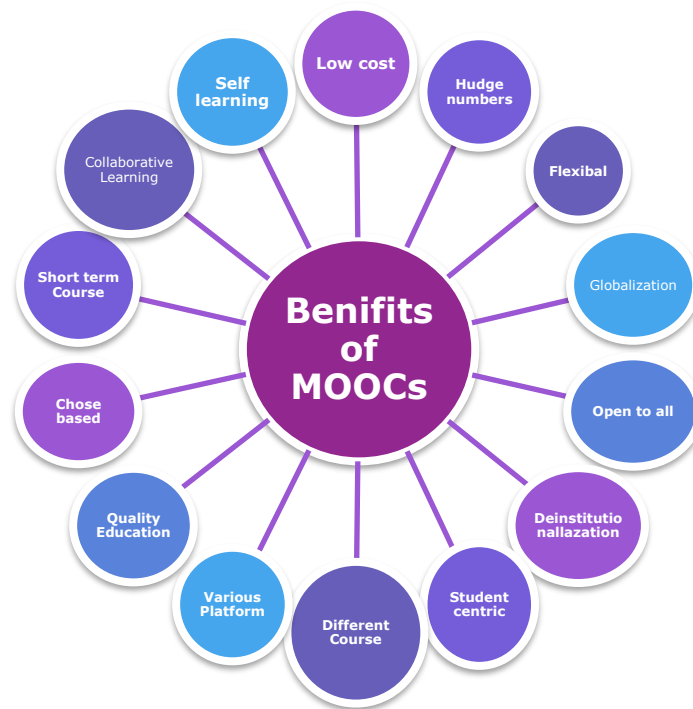
1. MOOCs provide different online courses. These courses are based on professional, skill based, personality development and other.²¹
 2. It is a web-based platforms. The whole system runs on website.
 3. It offers different courses in different platforms, participate can go and chose the courses.
 4. MOOCs use and provide different languages option to different courses. Participates can chose their familiar language.
 5. MOOCs courses spreads in worldwide, people from different country can get those courses.
 6. The course fees are very nominal, some places it is free of cost.
 7. MOOCs provide their teaching material in different platforms.
 8. Its courses are preplanned and designed before apply.
 9. Its courses are time oriented.
 10. MOOCs is a dynamic system; different professor, different university are collaborated together.
- From the above characteristics MOOCs different concepts are discussed.

BENEFITS OF MOOCs: MOOCs has different benefits as ²²–

1. **Teach huge number of students:** MOOCs has great capacity to teach huge number of students. It has the capability to enroll massive number of students. With the help of MOOCs millions of students,

teachers, and different professionals get different courses. At present more than 220 million people enroll in MOOCs platform.²³

2. **Low cost:** MOOCs has low cost perceive. In platform like SWAYAM, edX, it is free of cost.²⁴ It's very low cost. In various places its charge around 30-90 \$. So, people can get the education, enroll themselves in the courses. That's way millions of people enroll them self in MOOCs.
3. **Minimize the dependency of general education:** In country like India, it is a huge presser in general education. MOOCs minimize the pressure of general education. In India more than 35 million people enroll in MOOCs. They get skill based, lifelong education by MOOCs.
4. **Open access for all:** MOOCs is open access to everyone. Anyone can get education from anywhere. In India where geographical distance may come as a barrier. MOOCs help then to access educations. More than 2,000 courses in SWAYAM and 3200 Curses in NPTEL are run in India.²⁵
5. **Deinstitutionalized education:** Education is very much dependency on institute. But MOOCs has the capability to minimize the dependency of formal educational institutions. MOOCs provide individual, personalized courses by them, it's possible to deinstitutionalized the education system.
6. **Student centric education:** MOOCs is fully student centric. All the courses are created based on child interest, potential, and possibilities. The platform emphasized to help and support everyone. They can choose the courses as they want. They evaluate their potential, capacity and then chose the right one. They emerge the skill and personal development.
7. **Different courses:** MOOCs provide different courses, skill-based courses, professional courses and other personal development courses. Professional who works in different field they can also do the same. So, people are emphasized by those courses. In present approx. 10,000 free university courses are available in MOOCs.²⁶
8. **Various platform:** MOOCs has different platform. More than 35 platform are providing MOOCs courses.²⁷ So people can go any of them. They get the courses from anywhere from the world.
9. **Quality education:** MOOCs has different specialist professors from different university they provide quality education in different platform. More than 1,300 instructors are present in SWAYAM platform.²⁸ They collaborate with student and provide great quality education.
10. **Global education:** MOOCs has global platform, more than 35 platform are providing courses globally²⁹. So, anybody from anywhere can get an international standard of education by specialist educator. MOOCs provide the opportunity for all of them. Its help them to develop skills and professional perspective.
11. **Chose based system:** MOOCs is choosing based platform. People can choose whatever they want to do. They are capable to choose various courses. It helps a lot to develop their skills.
12. **Short time period of courses:** MOOCs has short time courses, so students get quality education in short period. Its courses duration is 1 to 16 weeks maximum.³⁰
13. **Collaborative learning:** MOOCs platforms collaborative with each other. Various institute are collaborated with MOOCs platforms.³¹ They exchange knowledge, experiences, technology. So, it helps in both way and ultimately students get proper education.
14. **Exchange of materials:** MOOCs various platforms exchanges teaching materials, instructional method and other resources. So, it beneficial to all of them if greater way.³²
15. **Self-learning materials:** MOOCs is a great system to provide student self-learning materials. Student are become self-sufficient and their confidence also boost.



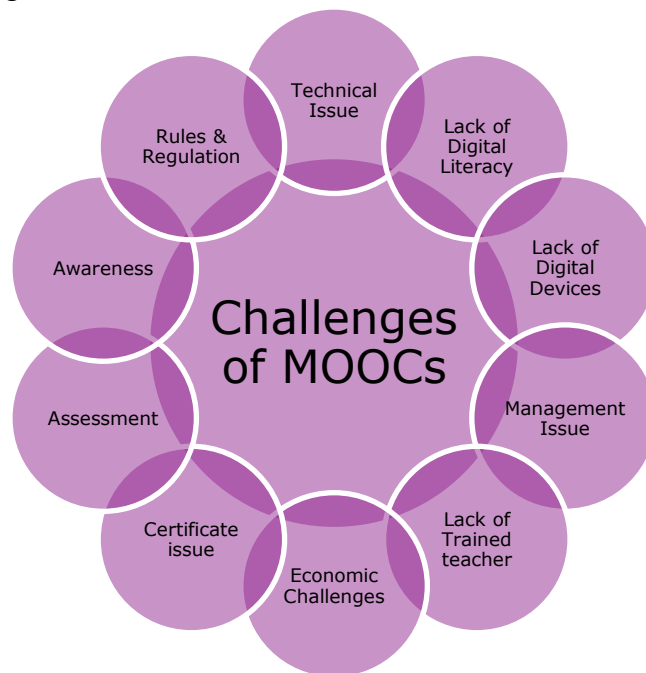
MOOCs have lot of benefits. Some of those are mentioned in this presentation. With the help of modern technology its benefits are also increasing day by day. It may also been so useful by developed its positive sides, and removing weaker parts.

Challenges of MOOCs:

It is true that MOOCs has so many benefits but it has so many challenges too. Some of them mentioned below^{33 34}_

1. **Technical Issue:** MOOCs is an online course. It requires high connectivity of internet facility. It faces lots of technical issue. That is a big challenge for MOOCs. Also, it requires well website side and separate technical team, to manage the system constantly. It may be a huge challenge for them.³⁵
2. **Digital Literacy:** Digital literacy is another requirement for conducting MOOCs program smoothly. Students require enough knowledge to carried their devices and maintain the classes regularly. A country like India where millions of people are still illiterate, digital literacy become a great burden and a huge challenge for MOOCs courses as well.³⁶
3. **Requirement of Digital Devices:** MOOCs is an online course, some place blended modes are also continuing. Here the participate requires modern devices. The participate requires modern devices mandatory. The participate requires a phone or laptop with internet facility. But in India only 50% of population are the ability to purchase the devices, here people are still suffering to day-to-day requirements So it's an big external challenges of MOOCs.
4. **Management challenges:** MOOCs is a massive learning platform so it requires a huge management system. They have to well trained and specialist. They should require well organized body to conducting so many classes, teaching hours, and distributing learning materials and so on. So, management system becomes a big challenge for MOOCs.³⁷
5. **Well trained teachers & staff faculty:** MOOCs require well trained teachers, faculty, and technical staff. They need a well-organized training. Somewhere it's become a big challenge.

6. **Economic challenges:** MOOCs requires a huge economic support. They require technical support staff, well trained faculty, learning materials, teaching faculty and so on. But the fees are nominal or free so economic challenges, is a big challenge of MOOCs.³⁸
7. **Certificate provide:** MOOCs has faced some challenges on value of their certificate. Because somewhere their certificate gets no acceptance. In job opportunity the candidate face some difficulty with MOOCs certificate.³⁹
8. **Teaching Materials and other requirements:** MOOCs require so many teaching tools, learning materials and other supporting materials. It's a big issue and a big challenge for MOOCs.⁴⁰
9. **Quality assessment body:** MOOCs evaluate millions of students but they require evaluation too. There has no organized body that assesses MOOCs platforms. In future perspective it's a big challenge to make a well structure quality assessment body. It faces huge challenges in formal assessment.⁴¹
10. **Awareness & Advertisements:** In third world country people are not so aware about digital education, digital platforms like MOOCs. So, awareness in people is a big challenge. There might others advertisement by popular platforms. Also, it faces advertisement challenges.⁴²
11. **Government role:** Government play a huge role to conduct education system. In a digital platform their might some norms, rules, and regulations. Government has to direct those aspects and carries this initiative through the people. So, government rules, regulations with online assessment, certification etc, is a critical challenge for MOOCs.⁴³



MOOCs is a massive platform in field of education, so its challenges are different from other sides. The present researcher focuses on MOOCs different challenges that discuss in above.

Conclusion:

MOOCs is a newly online courses system. It is student centric, chose based, dynamic education system. It has so many positive sides that benefited for millions of students and educator as well. It provides so many skills based, vocational, life centric courses. So, it has different dimensions. It's free of cost or might a nominal cost. So, it might play a huge role towards in literacy and mass education. Despitess this good side it faces lots of challenges, like technical, economical, management structure and others. These barriers

have to remove for a greater perspective. Here government has a great role to play. People who know about MOOCs have the duty to share it with others. Mass education and others distance educational bodies have to develop or acquire its good side. MOOCs has also lots of changes in evaluation, reconnection, certification system. It needs rules, regulation and comminuting quality assessment as well. The present study the researcher focuses on MOOCs benefits and challenges. Other major parts also need to focus. Lots of work done yet, and lots of work need to be done. It may conclude as MOOCs is major steps towards the futuristic education.

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