

MOOC: The Pace of Learning

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Abstract: *In this era, Massive open online course (MOOC) provides a vital role in the education sector. It plays a key role to make easy and quality education for any age group. Here, I propose the different aspect of learning through technology and different technical approach supported by MOOCs. To be more specific, synchronous method and asynchronous method discuss on the basis of pace of learning for learners.*

Keywords: MOOC, Massive open online course, synchronous, asynchronous, learning approach

1. Introduction

MOOC: Massive open online courses are free educational opportunities that are provided in an online setting with no cap on class size. With standard educational material like lecture slides and videos coupled with interactive components. MOOCs are a relatively new development in education that represents a trend towards affordable education available for the people. They are conducted in a collaborative networked environment. The fact that the majority of students are enrolled in MOOCs due to low completion rates or the difference in learning outcomes between online and face to face instruction, MOOCs still live in developed rations, the original promise of MOOCs to democratise and reduce the cost of on demand learning internationally while better utilising faculty resources. Massive open online courses provide a platform for educational material online to students who want to learn.

Learning: Online (Web based) or Offline (Face - to - Face)

Learning is the systematic method to catch activities, behaviours, skills, working approach, acquiring knowledge, performing task and attitudes. These methods are possessed by people. Previously we learnt traditionally by face to face, but today we move to take support of machine or computer for learning. So, we can say that this type of mechanism is online for learning. Therefore, learning through machine is the new platform of learners. The method, that various human study, is known as their learning style. There are four main type of learning like auditory, visual tactile and kinaesthetic. Our main focuses on auditory and visual methods.

Auditory Methods:

In auditory method, the primary modes of learning for auditory are listening and speaking. Auditory learners require hearing what is being said in order to understand. However, if the writing is organised logically they may struggle to grasp written instruction. The following methods should be used by teachers to instruct auditory learners: verbal, group discussion, verbal reinforcement, group activities, reading and putting material into a pattern.

Visual Methods:

In visual method, students that prefer to communicate ideas and thoughts via the use of images graphics, colours, and

maps are said to have a visual learning style. Information must be seen in order to be learned by visual learners. These learners might employ colour, tone and brightness to recall material because they are likely to have photographic memories. So, these two learning style is very easy to adapt offline (face to face) but online (web based) it is very difficult to implement and execute. However many technologies are involve to create a base for learners. There are two type of approach to learn online (web based) synchronous method of learning and asynchronous method of learning.

Synchronous method of learning:

All forms of learning in which the learner and the instructor must be present at the same time and location are referred to as synchronous learning. This includes live online meeting for the entire class or smaller groups as well as in - person classes. In synchronous learning, students typically follow the learning path side by side with their instructor, who can offer assistance as they work through assignments and activities.

Asynchronous method of learning:

A common teaching strategy in online education is asynchronous learning. which is student - centered. Its fundamental tenet is that, as opposed to synchronous learning. Which takes place at the same time and location with a group of learners and their teacher or one student and their instructor, learning can occur at various times and locations specific to each learner. Instructors typically create a learning path for asynchronous learning, which students follow at their leisure.

Technology behind MOOCs:

In order to create, deliver, and manage the courses, MOOCs use a variety of technological components. Some are discuss here:

- 1) Learning Management Systems: MOOCs frequently make use of specialised LMSs, which act as the main platform for hosting and distributing course materials. Platforms for learning management systems offer services such course registration, content organisation, progress tracking, discussion forums, and exams.
- 2) MOOCs mainly rely on video content to provide lectures and course materials via video streaming. The use of adaptive streaming and other video streaming technologies ensures fluid viewing across a range of

devices and internet speeds. With the goal of reducing latency and distributing video material internationally, content delivery networks are frequently used.

- 3) Online tests: MOOCs use a variety of techniques to gauge students learning. These could consist of multiple - choice tests, coding assignments, peer - reviewed exams, or even computerised grading programmes. Exam integrity can be protected via technologies like online proctoring.
- 4) Discussion forums and social learning: Discussion forums and other social learning tools are frequently used in MOOCs to allow students to connect with peers and instructors. To encourage fruitful debate and the development of communities, these forums may make use of technology like threaded conversations, moderation tools, and notification frameworks.
- 5) Data analytics and learning analytics: MOOC platforms gather a tonne of information about how users interact with content, how engaged they are, and how well they perform. These data are analysed using data analytics and learning analytics technology, which then give instructors and course administrators insights. These discoveries can be used to personalise learning processes, detect problem areas, and enhance course design.

MOOCs Features and Platforms

MOOCs platforms are online platforms that host and distribute educational courses to a sizable number of students through the internet. Wide - ranging courses are accessible through MOOC platforms, often in the form of video lectures, test, homework, and discussion boards. The word massive in the context of MOOCs refers to the widespread enrolment of learners from all over the world. The goal of MOOC platforms is to open up high - quality education to anyone with an internet connection, regardless of where they live or their financial situation.

Features Provided by MOOCs

- 1) Course offerings: MOOC platforms provide a broad range of courses in a variety of subject, including computer science, the humanities, business, mathematics, and more. The catalogue can be browsed by students, who can then select the classes that best suit their interests and educational objectives.
- 2) Flexibility in scheduling and learning rate is made possible via MOOC platforms. As long as they have access to the course materials, students may usually learn at their own speed and work their studies into their daily schedules.
- 3) Resources for interactive learning: MOOC systems include multimedia components including movies, slideshows, interactive quizzes, and assignments to improve the learning process. Through greater understanding and recall of course material, these materials hope to engage students.
- 4) Discussion Forums: MOOC systems frequently feature discussion forums or online communities where students may communicate, exchange ideas, and work together on projects. Peer - to-peer learning and a sense of community are prompted through this.
- 5) Certifications are available from many MOOC platforms when a course is completed, and these can be posted on

resumes or professional profiles. Although certain credentials might cost money, several platforms offer free courses with the opportunity to buy certificates.

Some Popular Platforms of MOOCs:

Today, there are a number of well known MOOC platforms that provide a wide selection of courses from numerous institutions and instructors. The most well - known and popular MOOCs Platforms are as follows:

- 1) Coursera is one of the biggest and most well known MOOC platforms, providing courses from prestigious institutions and organisations all around the world. Computer science, business, arts, and humanities are just a few of the topics it covers.
- 2) edX: MIT and Harvard University developed the non - profit MOOC platform edX. It offers a wide range of courses in several fields and hosts courses from prominent colleges and institutions.
- 3) Udacity: Udacity specialises in offering courses in disciplines connected to technology and programming. It offers both free and paid courses.
- 4) Udemy is a platform that lets independent educators make and market their courses. It provides access to a sizable library of courses on a variety of subjects, from technology and business to personal growth and hobbies.
- 5) FutureLearn is a UK - based MOOC portal that provides courses from academic institutions and cultural organisations. It offer both free and paid training options and covers a wide range of topic.
- 6) The well - known online learning platform LinkedIn Learning, formerly Lynda. com, provides video courses on a variety of subjects, including business, technology, creative skills, and more. It is renowned in particular for its professional development and skill - development programmes.
- 7) The Indian government created the online learning platform SWAYAM to offer free courses and teaching resources to teachers and students all around the nation. It provides a wide variety of courses in many different academic fields, including as engineering, the humanities, the sciences, and more.

Due to their wide range of course options, excellent content, trustworthy alliances with universities and organisations, and user - friendly interfaces, these platforms have grown in popularity. It's important to keep in mind that different geographic areas and academic setting may have different levels of accessibility and acceptance of MOOC platforms.

2. Conclusion

To sum up, MOOCs have shown to be an effective instrument or tool for democratising education, granting everyone access to top - notch courses, encouraging lifelong learning, and establishing a worldwide learning community. MOOCs are likely to keep playing a big part in the future of education as they continue to progress and improve.

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