MOOC in India: Pros and Cons

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I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful instrument in one's life. It is beneficial for individuals as well as for the whole society as the civilized human being . The future of an individual and also of a nation is built on the basis of education. Education is a powerful tool to combat various issues and adversities.

India is a country where the right to quality education is firmly rooted in the Indian constitution . previously this right i.e. right to education is covered under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution through judicial judgements like Mohini Jain case,[1] Unni Krishna case.[2] The Directive Principles of State Policy[3] through Article 45 and Article 51A (k) [4]under fundamental duties cover the right to education act.

The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. In Right to Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, dsel.education government.in)

In Mehtab and another v State of Haryana and others,[5] the Supreme Court said that even special children have a fundamental right to elementary education and the right to grow up to their optimum potential. Right to education is one of the basic international human rights .Sustainable development goals for 2030 which took birth during the United Nation Conference of 2012 and Rio de Janeiro, sought to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The NEP, National Education Policy attributes on quality education. [6].In recent years development of the science and technology focus shifted from the traditional offline education system to online education. Online learning uses technology for delivering the courses. Education with technology is considered as most promising development in education. With technology globalization, the concept of learning and teaching has undergone a tremendous change. Technological usage in education provides a global learning environment, which allows accessing the course material anytime, anywhere, connecting other learners, and getting access to the content without considering any geographical boundaries. The significant changes in use of the technology in online education has seen emergence of the concept of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).[7]

India is among the leading countries in offering online courses through MOOC platform. Step by step development took place in India in the field of open education. The Indian government took initiative like to provide e- book, e-library etc. National Digital Repository of IGNOU, Sakshat providing e-content, Shishya for XI-XII Standards by CBSE Board, and Vidya Vahini integrating IT into the curriculum of rural schools by providing interactive training and developmental communication. Most of these initiatives started with establishing dedi Some of the common names in

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[1] Mohini Jain v State of Karnataka, 1992

[2] Unni Krishnan, J.P. And Ors. Etc. ... vs State Of Andhra Pradesh And Ors. ... on 4 February, 1993

[3] Part IV of the Indian Constitution

[4] Part IV - A of the Indian Constitution.

[5] Mehtab Etc vs State Of Haryana And Another on 9 February, 2022

[6] National Education Policy 2016, based on TSR Subramanian Report

[7] Chauhan Joyti and Anita Goel, An Overview of MOOC in India, Research Gate, July 2017,at researcher.net

this path are, Education and Research Network (ERNET) connecting various colleges and schools by providing network connectivity; EDUSAT, a satellite launched for education in India, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), use the power of television to act as means of educational knowledge dissemination; Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET) autonomous Inter-University Centre for connecting university libraries, also it has started several other programs. These all are the initiatives towards open education and education with Information technology still MOOC was out of their reach.

Education sector faced serious setbacks due to covid-19 pandemic . One of the side effects of the covid-19 pandemic is on education. Now the classes were forced to move online at very short notice. massive open online classes is the substitute as the educational response to the pandemic .MOOC is a new tool for imparting education in the digital era. Well known Universities Around The World offer courses with moocs such as America Canada Britain China and now on the basis of MOOC new learning modes were developed, for example SPOC (small private online career) DLMOOC (deep learning MOOC), MOOR (massive open online research) MOOL(massive open online lab).

MOOC is beneficial in many ways. It is free online course, affordable, flexible, anyone can participate irrespective of boundaries and impart quality education. In India, MHRD constituted MOOC National Committees like Swayam, NPTEL,IIT Bombay X418, etc. MOOCs are a bonus to the current situation and skill sets. According to the UGC regulation of 2020, the top 100 universities in the country are allowed to impart distance learning and online programs without permission. This initiative removes the barriers in education like cost, location, access and imparting the highest quality of education. Many fields are covered from science to leadership, communication skill enhancement and others. Skill India, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan movement and AISECT now have their own MOOCs and have MoUs with other countries like Ireland, USA, Germany. In MOOCs , short videos, images, posts, quizzes activities are part of gaining personal attention.

MOOCs try to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, 2030 which promotes quality education for all.

1.1 PROS of MOOCs

- Free of cost (generally)
- High range of participation (enrollment)
- Open for all and materials developed through courses are shared and available to all
- Interactive as it provide opportunities to share information
- Promote international marketing, outreaching of universities and institutions
- Recognition of online learning and even online degrees

1.2 CONSo of MOOCS

A. Quality

Quality was understood as an end product of the adequate performance by a conjunction of variables like curriculum, teaching, learning mater, teachers qualification and performance. (Tripathi Charusheel, Overindulgence in the Facile What the Present Nationwide Surveys are Missing, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.L XIIN.38, 17 September 2022)

Also Sustainable Development Goals, 2030 speaks about ' quality education '. The question is whether MOOCs fulfill the goal or requirements of quality education. The area of concern here are 1. Implementation of policy related to MOOCs and 2. Execution of the same.3. No clear definition of quality education and learner centric terms 4. Ability of MOOCs to fulfill the learning needs of youth and adults. 5. Qualifications and ability of teaching staff (teachers training, language and subject command, experience etc for better outcomes.) thus there's difference between quality education and quality of education.

B. Participation and Attrition Rates

Though the number of register for MOOC are high yet less than half of registrants active participants. Most of the participants are not interested in completing the course. Drop out rate is high because no college credit was offered and students were not encouraged to finish it. Another point is that to the MOOC people with higher education get attra9and

not undergraduates or graduates. Lack of awareness about the course and unability to attain all classes makes the aim of MOOCs less achievable.

C. Students with Disabilities Deprived from MOOCS
Learners who have visual disabilities can't be made to go through such courses.

D. Lager Participation Little Attention
MOOC being a global platform for online education, there are a large number of participants. Little individual attention is given during the course.

II. CONCLUSION

MOOCs in the digital era is the most favorable learning method. It takes an hour. Learning process is conducted without age , language and boundaries barriers. It enhances the skill and development of the learners. In countries like India, MOOCs give an opp6to economically weaker sections of society to get higher education. It is a platform for imparting education in an innovative way of teaching and learning . A coin has two sides , so is the case with MOOC. It has both advantages and disadvantages. It is another source of learning . But lack of planning ,cheating practice, and less individual attention are harmful to the MOOCs .

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