

Online Course: Concept, Need, Scope

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Session plan

- Online Courses- Context and Need
- Changing Pedagogy and Teacher's role
- Online Courses- Features, Advantages & Disadvantages
- Two approaches to Online Courses-MOOCs and SPOCs

Need for Online Course

- ❖ No physical location dependence
- ❖ Learning from authoritative sources
- ❖ Certification- University credits, professional training

Context

- Rise in online teaching during Covid-19 pandemic
- Access to quality education in geographically distant locations
- NEP 2020 stresses on inquiry and discussion based methods
- 21st century learner is attuned to technology

What is an Online Course?

A set of instructional experiences using the digital network for interaction, learning and dialogue

Text, audio, multimedia-based

Key components



eTutorials in the form of pre-recorded lessons or live lectures

Reading text

Activities for formative assessment to self check the learning attained

Discussion forums – synchronous and asynchronous discussions

Teaching Modifications

- **Increase engagement-** Interactive discussions, student-led teaching, use of games, multimodal content
- **Change in assessment -** Flexible/extended deadlines for assignment completion
- **Collaborative problem-solving-** Team-based projects involving creative and social media tools

Embrace technology in the classroom

Role of Teacher and Learner in online courses

TEACHER

- from lecturer to guide, facilitator
- not deliver notes
- pre-record lectures
- use class time for discussions
- customize instructions, assessments

LEARNER

- from passive receptor to active participator
- self-paced
- self-motivated
- autonomous

Advantages

- Affordability
- Flexibility, convenience
- Comfortable environment
- Quality & multimodal content
- Interactive, engaging tools
- Active learning,
- Progress tracking
- Inclusiveness
- Easy registration, payment
- Easy translation, updation
- Scaling up

Disadvantages

- Digital literacy
- Technical issues
- Assessment challenges
- Teachers training
- Limited human interaction
- Motivation issues
- Time management
- Disorienting
- Accreditation
- Reduced campus networking

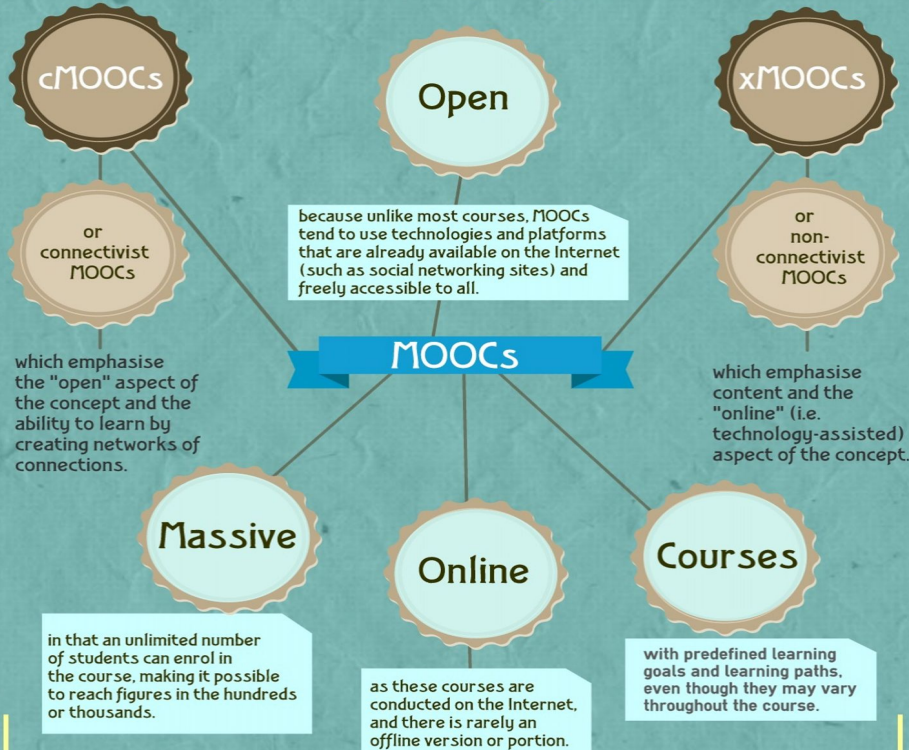
MOOC

a course of study made available over the internet to a very large number of people across geographical locations.

- ❖ Synchronous (live)
/Asynchronous (self-guided)/
Blended
- ❖ Paid/ Free/ Free to audit, paid certification
- ❖ SWAYAM, NPTEL

MOOCs

Definition & Categories



Office of Learning Technologies



UOC Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

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- ❖ xMOOC (eXtended, content-based)
- ❖ cMOOC (Connectivist, network-based)

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[http://openaccess.uoc.edu/webapps/o2/bitstream/10609/2/1661/6/MOOCs Definition.png](http://openaccess.uoc.edu/webapps/o2/bitstream/10609/2/1661/6/MOOCs%20Definition.png), CC BY-SA 2.5,

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Approaches

MOOCs

Freely available to anyone with internet access

SPOCs

Localised, restricted, micro-level, open to select group of learners

SPOC

online classes with limited enrollment, often offered by universities to individual learners or employees within organizations

- ❖ Smaller, specific
- ❖ Involves blended teaching
- ❖ Stronger teacher-learner link
- ❖ Higher learner participation, and completion rate
- ❖ A MOOC with a human touch

MOOC

Massive-large learner numbers

Open- to all, free access to resources, open content & platforms

Online- via internet

Course- learning objectives, instructional strategy, testing

SPOC

Small- small learner numbers

Private- can be offered by private individuals, restricted-group

Online- via internet

Course-learning objectives, instructional strategy, testing

MOOC+++

- Anytime, anywhere sharing of resources
- Active learning
- Multiple evaluation mechanism
- Cultural diversity through interactions with worldwide learners

MOOC ---

- Teacher workload
- Credibility issues
- High drop-outs- Lack of personal contact; Less interactivity; Discussion and reflection tasks difficult in large groups

SPOC +++

High interactivity

Creativity, critical thinking

Convivial atmosphere

Activities facilitated by people

Real time supervision &
customization

Less teacher pressure, higher costs

Flexibility to regular course

SPOC - -

Learning resources restricted to a small group

Lacks the benefit of large scale learner diversity

Takeaway

In a scenario marked by discussion based learner-centred methods and digitization of education, there is a need for online courses.

They involve modifications in teaching.

MOOCs provide for anytime, anywhere learning to many learners. Through blended teaching, SPOCs bring in higher interactivity and personalization, and enable to complement regular courses.

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