

Any Time Learning (ATL) for Higher Education Teachers through MOOC

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ABSTRACT

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are such online courses which are developed as per the pedagogy stated herein and following the four quadrant approach consisting of video, text, and self-assessment and learn more. Course: shall be of two types: credit courses and non-credit courses. 1. Credit Course shall mean a course which is taught for at least one semester as a part of a PG Programme in Indian Universities. 2. Non-Credit Course shall include courses like awareness programme, continuing education programme or of specific skill set as independent course, which are not part of any set curriculum. A varied set of institutions such as, Centres under the Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT) located in Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities; UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs), National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training (NITTTRs), IIITs, Open Universities have been notified as NRCs.

Keywords: MOOC, NRC Refresher Course

The National Policy on Education 1986 and its programme of action (1992), advocates to setup Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs) in different Universities/ Institutions in the country. The University Grants Commission has set up 66 Academic Staff Colleges so for conducting specially designed orientation programmes for newly appointed lecturers and refresher courses for in service teachers of higher education. The Orientation programme is intended to inculcate in the young lecturers the quality of self-reliance through awareness of the social, intellectual and moral environment as well as to discover self-potential and confidence. The Refresher course provides

opportunities for serving teachers to exchange experiences with their peers and mutually learns from each other. It will be a forum to abreast of the latest advances in the subjects, technological spin off etc. Lecturers working in the Universities and Colleges, who are included in the list of Colleges under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, even though they may not yet be fit under 12-B of the UGC Act, may be invited to participate in the Refresher courses. It has also been agreed that teachers of colleges which do not yet come within the purview of Section 2(f) but have been affiliated to a University for at least 5 years, be permitted to participate in the Refresher courses.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM. In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres have been identified which are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum. Faculty can benefit from this initiative as it is highly flexible and can be done at one's own pace and time. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are building momentum, accolades and concerns across industry and academia MOOCs are a very new development that began to develop in 2012. Some of the early MOOCs emphasized open features and open licensing of content, structure and learning goals. Those features are to promote the reuse and remixing of resources. Despite that, some newer MOOCs use closed license for their course materials but still maintain free access for users from all over the globe.

A varied set of institutions such as, Centres under the Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) located in Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, State Universities; UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs), National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training (NITTTRs), IIITs, Open Universities have been notified as NRCs. These NRCs cover wide ranging disciplines of Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Design & Manufacturing, Humanities, Language Teaching, Commerce, Management, Education Planning and Administration, Public Policy, Leadership & Governance, Library & Information Science, Astronomy & Astrophysics, Assessment and Evaluation, Pedagogy and research methods, cutting edge areas of Nano-sciences, Internet of Things, etc. The NRCs will revolutionize professional development of faculty by catering to massive numbers by leveraging ICT and online technology platform of SWAYAM.

Under this initiative, all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority will have

an enabling opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines through the technology based online refresher course. The NRCs will develop the Refresher Module which will include the latest trends in their earmarked discipline by 15th June each year. The training materials will be uploaded and made available through SWAYAM to all the teachers w.e.f. 1st October each year and based on the response, the course can be repeated in the following January. NRC will publish the list of the faculty who have been certified by 31st December, 2018. UGC will issue order/regulations for Career Progression and APIs. SWAYAM is the indigenous platform of the MHRD, GOI providing an integrated portal and platform for hosting Massive open online courses (MOOCs) developed under the aegis of NME-ICT. Government of India adopted the MOOCs concept to supplement the formal education system in the country from high school to higher education, named aptly as the "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" (SWAYAM). It hosts various courses based on curriculum, continuing education and skill.

MOOCs: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are such online courses which are developed as per the pedagogy stated herein and following the four quadrant approach consisting of video, text, self assessment and learn more.

Course: shall be of two types: credit courses and non-credit courses.

1. Credit Course shall mean a course which is taught for at least one semester as a part of a PG Programme in Indian Universities.
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Subject: Shall mean a specific area under a discipline (Example: Physics) taught in an educational institution consisting of specific programme/courses, resulting in the award of a certificate/diploma/ degree shorter duration.

National Coordinator (NC): National Coordinators are the Institutions that have been so designated by the Ministry and assigned a specific sector or preparation of online courses for SWAYAM. UGC is the NC for developing Non-Technology PG Courses.

Course Coordinator (CC): A Subject Matter Expert (SME) belonging to a reputed educational institution/Industry or a specialist in the field identified and entrusted with the task of developing online course.

Host Institution: An educational institution who offers the MOOC on SWAYAM is called Host Institution. The host institution facilitates conducts the examination, evaluation and award and transfer of credits. On successful completion of each course, the Host Institution offering the MOOCs course would issue the certificate, along with the number of credits and grades, through which the student can get credits transferred into his marks certificate issued by his/her parent institution.

MOOC Structure

The MOOCs being offered on SWAYAM following the four-quadrant instructional design, as per the MHRD Guidelines. The structure of each MOOC will have following components: Details of the Quadrant approach for MOOCs development:

Total Number of Modules	Total number of modules in the MOOC	Remarks
I- Quadrant Engagement time (Video)	Total video hours of the MOOCs. Video of 25~30 minutes per module.	Shall contain Video and Audio Content in an organized form, Animation, Simulations, video demonstrations, Virtual Labs, etc, along with the transcription of the video.

II- Quadrant Engagement time (Text material, ebook, objectives, summary, glossary, case studies, FAQs, Other Learning material)	Total engagement time for 2 nd quadrant elements for all the modules of the MOOC	Total text material to be 15- 20 pages long per module- 12 font Arial, single space. Counting 3 minutes/page the learning engagement time to be in the range of 45- 60 minutes per module. Shall contain self-instructional material, e-Books, illustrations, case studies, presentations, Web Resources such as further references, Related Links, Open source Content on Internet, Video, Case Studies, books including e-books, research papers & journals, Anecdotal information, Historical development of the subject, Articles, etc.
III- Quadrant (References, Web links)	Please provide the reference list as a word document	Give specific links that are viable and direct to appropriate pages. Links to other learning sites. Do not give www.wikipedia.org or www.google.com Discussion forum for raising of doubts and clarifying them on a near real time basis by the Course Coordinator or his team.

IV - Quadrant	<p>Total engagement time for in course assessment.</p> <p>Assessment to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 . Quizzes- self graded 2. Assignments- 3 short (up to 200 words) and 2 long answer (up to 500 words) depending on the course requirements 	<p>10-15 MCQ per module comprise of Quiz.</p> <p>Engagement time is 1 minute per MCQ form Quiz</p> <p>Engagement time for Assignment questions should be 5 minutes per short question and 10 minutes per long question.</p> <p>Total engagement time should be in range 4550 minutes per module.</p> <p>Shall contain problems and solutions, which could be in the form of Multiple Choice Questions, Fill in the blanks, Matching Questions, Short Answer Questions, Long Answer Questions, Quizzes, Assignments and solutions, Discussion forum topics and setting up the FAQs, Clarifications on general misconceptions.</p>
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