

TO ASSESS THE POPULARITY OF SWAYAM COURSES

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ABSTRACT

Due to pandemic COVID-19, the education system changed has drastically and is been forced to move on web, because of that the online education evolved and people were also came in habit of online studies because it was their daily routine friendly and was easily accessible to them anywhere and anytime. Now at present, India after U.S , is dominating the global growth in enrollment. Many initiatives have been taken by the India Government to provide & support concept of open education. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft sponsored and developed the SWAYAM platform. SWAYAM is one the Government's initiatives that aims to provide distance education to all the learners who are unable to continue their learning due to their reason of physical distance and also because of the limited seats at college & university level. The MOOCs philosophy is based on the premise that learning happen through network of connections. It aimed at unlimited participation and open access via internet. Thus, this research is the small initiative to know the top most courses on SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform and the cause behind the popularity of those courses.

Keywords: Online education, E-Learning, MOOCs, SWAYAM, COVID-19, Open Courses.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to pandemic COVID-19 there was a drastic change in our education system. Over the most recent couple of years, the interest of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) has expanded tremendously and the COVID-19 pandemic has ignited this development. At that point when the lockdown for forced in India,

everybody and everything moved on web or online was the new trend thus did the education system.

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) was started to develop quick teaching method and stages and pulled in huge number of understudies progressively. Everything started with only one course and today more than 2400 courses are presented in this mode around the world.

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) platform for was first started by IIT Bombay, in India. It was a change in the Indian education system, with the evolution of technologies the new ways of teaching and learning came into existence. MOOCs consists of three main component for learning, those are: videos, quiz and social networking and collaboration. Videos refers to the pre-record lectures, quiz is for an assessment and social networking and collaboration allows the participants to interact with each other to perform group activities. By the time passes more and more of the students have enrolled in the MOOCs platform because of that the government of India initiated a program named, SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds).

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) was introduced with the objective to take the best teaching resources to all. It offers the courses that can be access from anywhere and at anytime via Internet. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft sponsored and developed the SWAYAM platform. SWAYAM covers various courses including, school, certificate, diploma, under-graduate, post-graduate courses and many other professional courses. With the aim to educate and certify the students who are at distance and want to learn. SWAYAM has three cardinal principles of the Education Policy they are, Access, Equity and Quality.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW (NATIONAL LEVEL)

Majumder C. (2019) found in his study that SWAYAM initiatives is good for those people who have all the necessary technology related to online study but one major loophole is that many villages have not amenities related to the internet so they cannot learn in proper way through this platform. The researcher observed that learning through SWAYAM is a very good initiative that was started by the Government of India.

Mandal C.G and Majumdar P. (2019) found in their study that SWAYAM as well as SWAYAM PRABHA offers better results in education which ultimately fulfills the aim of universal access of education. Indian government flagship mission like Digital India and skill India mission can get success with the efficiently planning and implementation of SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA.

According to Kamble R.M and Chavan S. (2020) SWAYAM has been facing many challenges with regard to digitalization, popular among learners and other parameters. In spite of that, it would not be wrong to say that SWAYAM is playing very important role for individual employed learners for their academic growth and particularly for the student genre.

LITERATURE REVIEW (INTERNATIONAL LEVEL)

Chizmar and Walber's (1999) in a study on web-based learning environments guided by principles of good teaching practice also indicated that the ability to freely pick and choose from the menu of diverse learning experiences enabled them to find the approaches that best fit the way they learn. Convenience is also an advantage reported in the online learning literature.

Poole's (2000) in his study of 815 student participations in a discussion-oriented online course, the findings indicated that students participated in online discussion at the times which is most convenient to them, such as on weekends. Poole also found that students mostly accessed the online course from their home computers, which was the place most convenient to them. Other researchers have also found similar results that online learners read and respond to instructor's comments in online discussions at times convenient to them e.g. early morning, late evening (Murphy & Collins, 1997).

Vonderwell (2003) interviewed 22 students in regards to their perceptions of their perceptions of their asynchronous online learning experiences. Some participants expressed that the asynchronous environment allowed them to write carefully about their ideas. For example, Vonderwell revealed that one participant started, "The discussion questions were not just for writing the answers; they required reflection" (p. 86). Flexibility is an area of strength of the online learning environment that has been identified by researchers (Petrides, 2002; Schrum, 2002). In Petride's (2002) study, he reported that participants revealed that it is easier to work in collaborative groups in an online course, since there was no less needs to rearrange everyone's schedule. In addition to flexibility with time, choices related to the learning experiences were also reported as positive.

3. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

With the digitalization of the education system the concept of MOOCs has evolved. Many studies have revealed that the online studies offers better results in education and is also convenient to the learners. However, the online education has seen the drastic change over the period of time. Thus, this research is a small initiative to know the top most courses on SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform and the cause behind the popularity of those courses.

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

This study has examined the popularity of top 10 SWAYAM courses for 10 days i.e. from 29 October 2022 to 7 November 2022, according to their access by learner and the method of teaching. The aim is to analyze the leading courses on SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) portal in which most of the learners have enrolled.

3.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The following will be the objectives of the proposed research study

1. To analyze the content of the SWAYAM portal.
2. To evaluate the number of students enrolled on SWAYAM courses.
3. To analyze the language of the courses available on the SWAYAM portal.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature. The study will try to find out the top 10 courses on SWAYAM platform's and why the learners have enrolled on those courses. Necessary data will be collected from primary and secondary sources to conduct the proposed research work.

Primary data will be the main source of this study. The researcher will collect the data through the "SWAYAM CENTRAL", the official website of SWAYAM.

Secondary data will be collected through various published sources such as- Research paper and Research article, Various websites (Government & Private) and Related past research work thesis.

4.1 DATA INTERPRETATION

The data of top 10 SWAYAM courses is retrieved from the SWAYAM Central. According to the access of learners within 10 days. Popularity of those courses are mentioned according to their number of enrolment in the examined period.

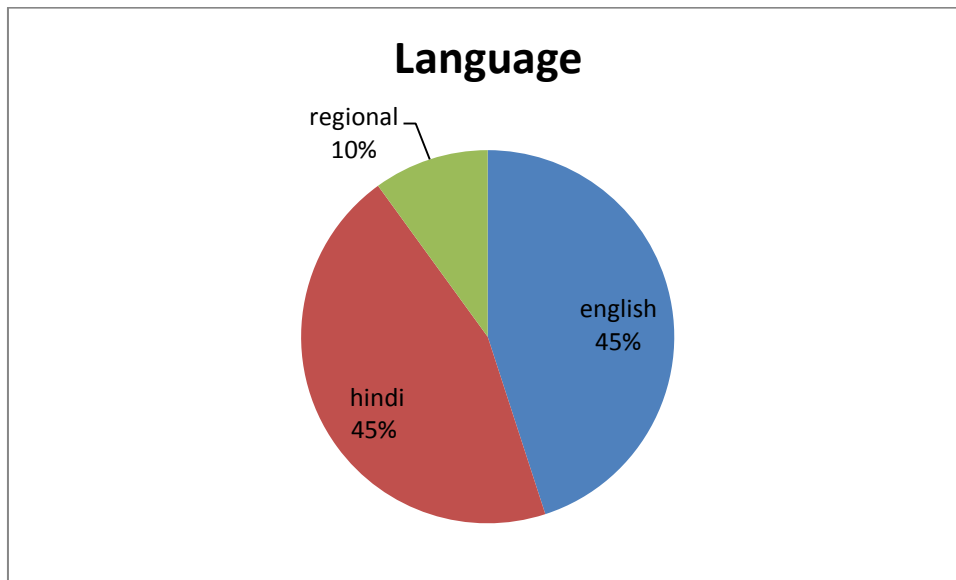
S.No	Course Name	Offered by	Coordinator	No. of Enrolment	Credit points	Year of launch	UG/PG level
1	Python for Data Science	IIT, Madras	Prof. Raghunathan Regasamy	56840	1	26-8-2019	UG
2	Advanced C++	IIT, Bombay	Prof. Kannan Mondgalya	48296	1	31-3-2020	Both
3	Android App Using Kotlin	IIT, Bombay	Prof. Kannan Mondgalya	37700	2	20-4-2020	Both
4	Animation	Banaras Hindu University	Dr. Abhishek Kumar	21214	4	15-1-2021	PG
5	Digital Marketing	Punjab University, Chandigarh	Dr. Tejinderpal Singh	11982	4	24-7-2022	PG
6	Academic Writing	HNB Garhwal University	Dr. Ajay Semalty	10020	4	10-7-2022	PG
7	Introduction to Robotics	IIT Madras	Prof. Asokant Prof. Balaraman Ravindran Prof. Krishna Vasudevan	6,552	3	25-7-2022	Both
8	Early Childhood Care and Education	Avinashilingam Institute for H.Sc & Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore	K. Arockia Maraicheloi	2,845	4	16-10-2022	PG
9	Biochemistry of Biomolecules	St. Xavier's College, Kolkata	Dr. Sudeshna Shyam Chaudhury	2790	4	01-6-2020	UG
10	Introduction to Peace & Conflict Management	IGNOU	Dr. Bishnu Mohan Dash	907	4	14-8-2022	UG

4.2 DISCUSSION AND DATA ANALYSIS

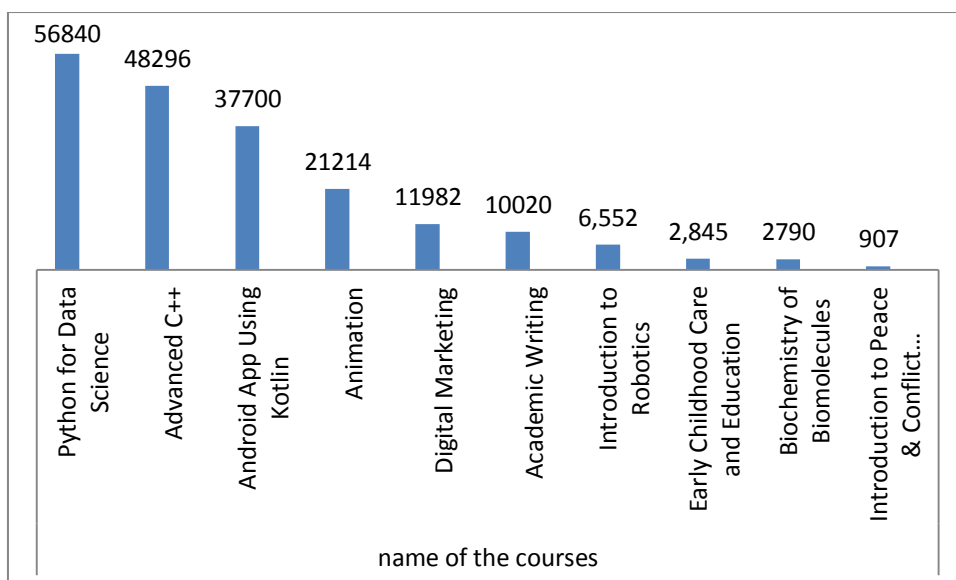
The analysis of the selected SWAYAM courses showed that there is a huge demand of the courses covering computer syllabus, the top most courses among the top 10 courses that the researcher has selected are cover with the computer knowledge subjects, for example- Python for data sciences, Advanced C++ and many more. For this study 10 top courses were selected according to its popularity on SWAYAM in the examined period of 10 days. The data and details were collected from the official site of SWAYAM i.e SWAYAM CENTRAL.

However, the analysis of the selected courses showed that the enrollment of the learners has been changing and there is a great impact of computer based courses on other courses. In the top 1 courses on SWAYAM i.e Python for Data Sciences, 56,840 learners have enrolled at UG (Under-graduate) level. In the second popular course i.e Advanced C++, 48,296 learners have enrolled to get the advanced knowledge of computer. The third course is Android App Using Kotlin in which 37,700 learners have enrolled from both UG and PG level. The fourth popular course is Animation offered by Banaras Hindu University in which 21,214 learners have enrolled at PG level. The fifth course is Digital Marketing coordinated by Dr. Tejinder Pal Singh has a number of 11,982 learners at PG level. The sixth course in the top courses on SWAYAM is Academic Writing with the 10,020 number of learners who have enrolled. The seventh one is Introduction to Robotics in which there are 6,552 learners who have enrolled. The eighth course is Early Childhood Care and Education which is enrolled by 2,845 number of learners. The ninth course is Biochemistry of Biomolecules in which 2,790 learners have enrolled. The last and the least famous course among the Top 10 courses on SWAYAM portal is Introduction to Peace and Conflict offered by IGNOU and coordinate by Dr. Bishnu Mohan Dash in which 907 learners have enrolled at UG level.

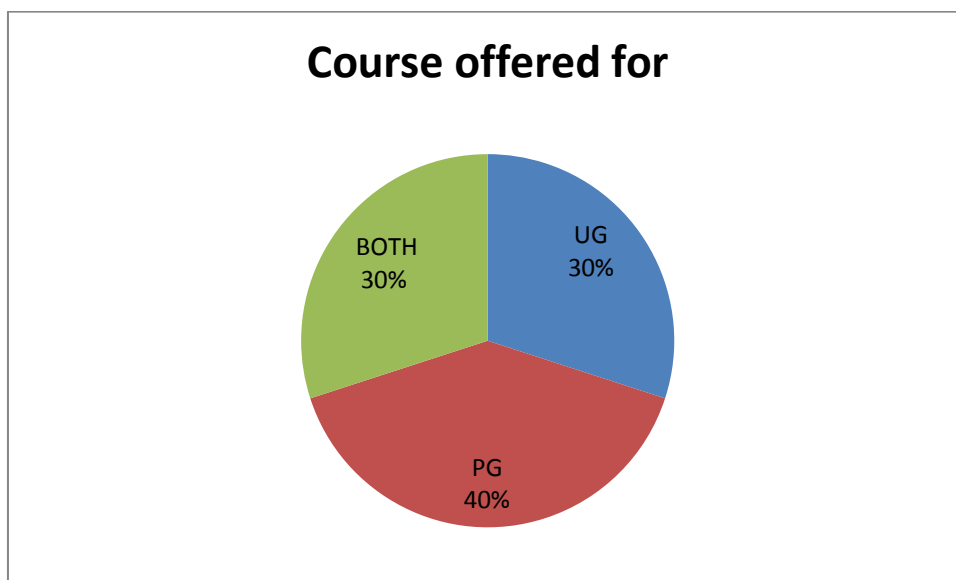
A. Language



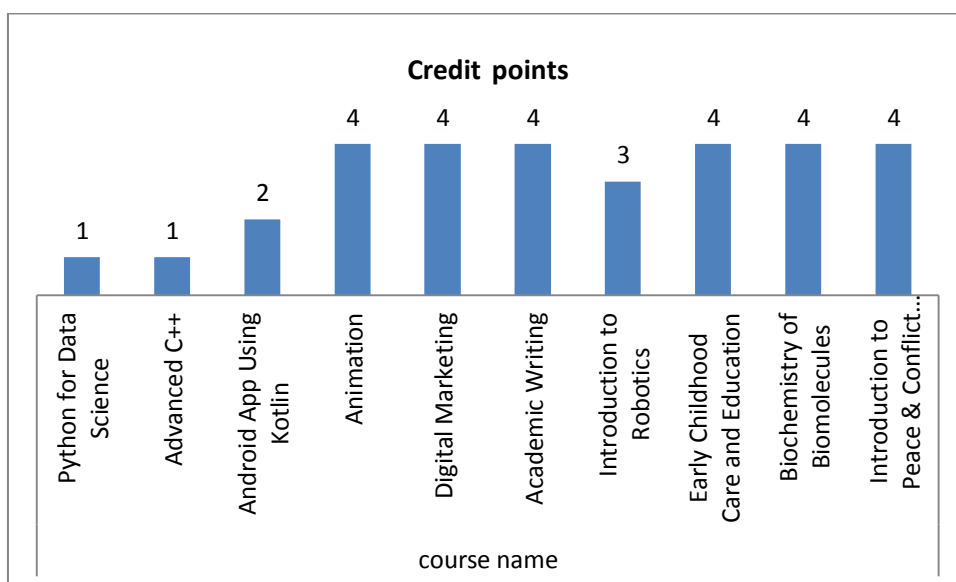
B. Courses according to the No. of Enrolment



C. Course offered for



D. credit points for each courses



5. CONCLUSION

As a developing nation India is committed to provide education to its all citizens. Keeping it in mind, India started the SWAYAM initiative. So it is necessary to know how much that initiative is successful and popular in providing educational necessities to the students, for whom that initiative was launched. SWAYAM is a free MOOC e-learning platform through which a large number of students are getting education. SWAYAM is being seen as an instrument for self-actualization providing opportunities for a lifelong learning.

SWAYAM is future of today's distance education system. It has made the education easily accessible to anyone around the globe. Definitely it will fulfill the equity and quality of education in India. However, there is a hope for its future since the younger generations are much competent and efficient in the use of digital media. And also it is very cost effective way of learning. We found in the study, the most popular courses on SWAYAM platform belongs to the computer science field. Most probably, 30% of the courses are based on computer knowledge, it shows the willingness of learners to learn about the computer technology whether it is Data science, animations or digital marketing. Study material is available in both of the languages i.e. English & Hindi. Learners are free to choose the language as per their convenience as the pre-recorded lectures are available in both of the language. One thing that I observed to write this review is that learning through SWAYAM, is very good initiative that started by the Government of India & it will be more beneficial for future generations.

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