Educational Multimedia Research Center

Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, M.P., India.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

What are MOOCs?

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC /muːk/) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the Web. It is usually a free web-based distance learning program that is designed for large numbers of geographically dispersed students. Generally, MOOCs are used for higher education and career advancement.

In addition to traditional course materials, such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, many MOOCs provide interactive courses with user forums or social media discussions to support community interactions among students, professors, and teaching assistants (TAs), as well as immediate feedback to quick quizzes and assignments and interactive learning modules.

MOOC certification levels normally fall into the general categories of:

- **Free.** These courses are completely free if one is only interested in learning the content. However, students still have the option to pay for an official certificate of completion at the end of the course.
- **Certificates.** Certificates for completing individual courses that have to be paid for according to the specific MOOC.
- **Micro credential.** Micro credential programs typically consist of three to six courses that are to be paid for. They are narrow in focus and provide a specific skill or competency.
- **University credit.** These Courses are university accredited and comparable to online courses at institutions that provide degrees. They are to be paid for just like university courses.
- **Online degree.** Online degree programs are equivalent to master's or continuing education degree programs at universities and offer comparable volume and depth of coursework. Online degree programs generally follow a traditional application and admissions process and are to be paid for according to the rates determined.
- **Corporate training.** Corporate training MOOCs are deployed on an enterprise level. This pricing option is typically structured as a per-user cost for access.

What is SWAYAM Platform
SWAYAM is a programme initiated by the Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of the Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality, through MOOCs.

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 objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.

This is done through a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the MOOCs courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have participated in preparing these courses.

Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners, however learners wanting a SWAYAM certificate should register for the final proctored exams that come at a fee and attend in-person at designated centres on specified dates. Eligibility for the certificate is announced on the course page and learners get certificates only if this criteria is matched. Universities/colleges approving credit transfer for these courses can use the marks/certificate obtained in these courses for the same.

EMRC, Indore and SWAYAM?
EMRC Indore is a production centre which creates and conducts some of the courses hosted on SWAYAM. The list of the courses offered can be found here.

https://swayam.gov.in/CEC

https://ugcmoocs.inflibnet.ac.in/