



## SCRIPT OF TALK

TITLE: **What is a MOOC?**

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NARRATION:

Hi!! Welcome to this course MOOC on MOOCs. We'll start off with what is a mooc. You already know what a mooc is. You are experiencing a mooc, you registered for a mooc and you got into the course website and you're looking at a video that's what a mooc is. That's what a mooc is. It is all about videos but let's see what the dictionary says the Oxford dictionary which is not the Oxford Dictionary but it's a collection of adjacent dictionaries. It says mooc is a noun and is supposed to be a course of study made available over the internet without charge to a very large number of people. The Wikipedia is more descriptive it says it's an online course aimed at unlimited participation. An open-access via the web in addition to the traditional course materials such as videos readings and problem sets. Moocs provide interactive user forums that helped build a community for students, professors and teaching assistance those who participate in the course. This part is actually very important it's not just about lecture materials which you can see in videos but it's also about interactions that happen between the various stakeholders the term itself was coined in 2008 by Dave Cormier and Brian Alexander to describe what George Siemens and Stephen Downes have done while teaching a course called "Connectivism and Connected Knowledge" they had about 25 students registered for the course in the campus but another 2000 plus students who are not in the campus they're not register for credit and they were participating in the course over the web so this is what's called a Mooc. How the term came into being? Now, who is doing Mooc? The whole world is doing Mooc. It's often called tsunami in the space of education. It is shaken up universities its created huge amount of excitement in the pedagogical space. Now, people are talking about thanks to Moocs what a good base to teach how do I learn and so on and so forth but if you look at the

early studies that have been done on now the kind of people who are registered for Moocs and participating in moocs. The majority are men in the range. The age group 25 to 30 and interestingly they already have a degree in some subject so they're not pursuing moocs to learn something as credit for the university, for a university degree but basically to learn. Now, here is a small picture which shows that if you look at how Moocs are running.

A large number of students register for the course but only if percentage of have them actually come to the course attend classes if I can use the term they view the course material so only about 60-70 percent 30 percent register but don't come and amongst those who view the course. People who actually explore the content that is at least 50% of the content is watched that is even a smaller number and finally those who take the exam and get certify if, that term can be used is a very small percentage compared to the set of registered students. Apparently, that number is between 5 and 10 percent. So, course completion rates are very very low .They are single-digit almost but a large number of them are actually browsing the content that means they're looking at the material that has been put up and specifically they have come to learn from some aspects of the course and they have got what they came for and go away. They are not interested in the certificate. So, we call them browsers that's a very large percentage of the registered students. Interestingly, there are also people who go and see a few videos but then they sit for the exam they don't see all the videos let us say, because they basically want to test whether they know what is considered important in that area because they have already picked up some material on their own.

Another observation is those courses which are paid courses. Some of the online courses are not free you have to pay a registration fee or a certification fee or special courses which means advance level courses or on very narrow topics their completion rates seems to be high. I have a reference here which you can check. Now, who are the big players in Moocs these are the big three edX. Is the consortium of MIT and Harvard and now many other universities have joined to offer courses under open edX banner. Coursera the company which is sponsored by Stanford faculty and so is Udacity. So, these are the three leading players in the moocs space offering

what we call it the ex moocs. We will see what a ex moocs are in a way while. Are these moocs any good? Yes, they are huge number of people are doing Moocs, the whole world is doing Moocs. Anybody can learn anything anywhere from the best teachers in the world from the authorities in the world at their convenient time. It is nothing like classrooms were you have to go at a particular point of time. So, this is a huge huge take away. This is another example of what Thomas Friedman calls that the world is flat how the internet has flattened the world and created opportunities and equality amongst the whole world population I want to close this lecture by a quote. Sir John Daniel who was CEO, Ex-CEO of the Commonwealth of learning which I think is very appropriate captures the essence of what moocs are doing. Open education broke open the iron triangle of access cost and quality that has constrained education through history and had created the insidious assumption, still prevalent today but in education you cannot have quality without exclusivity. Today, I'm able to deliver quality education without excluding anybody, anywhere in the world that's what a Mooc is.

thank you