

MOOC on MOOCs

Speaker: Dr. V. Balaji

Narration

History

Hello!! My name is Balaji, I work for the Commonwealth of learning which is one of the organization of this mooc on moocs. We are today going to talk about the history of the mooc I used the term the mooc because it's a new and a fast emerging phenomenon. I thought we should first take a look at a view on what is a mooc? Let's go back to a previous lecture where mooc the typology was discussed one point that was made there is very relevant even for this talk namely that every letter in this acronym mooc is a negotiable one and you would have seen a very nice poster there and please recall that and keeping that in view we will discuss while discussing the history of mooc we will discuss two groups of terms one group is open course the other group is an online course and why do we get that open course has a longer history open was defined originally as something easier to access and or with nil or reduced barrier that was how it was defined and it was also there was an implication about democratization and is largely up laid to higher education in other words open courses were meant to democratize higher education that was the original idea and this idea was the driving force behind the creation of the Open University in the United Kingdom which became the premier I mean which is one of the best universities in the world today and which was the first Open University and following that today we have several open universities and our by latest estimate there are about 60 of them all over the world and will open courses that open universities have certain characteristics that have a bearing on the mooc is that they all have very distinct pedagogy or the period of over forty years the Open University paradigm has created a very distinct teaching and a very specific way to deliver learning and they also follow a very specific instructional design philosophy and this instructional design as the term came into existence much later but the Open University's have been following that philosophy looking at the self-directed learner that's also very important because we are not looking at learners who are either in the middle of a classroom are in a connected sense. We're looking at learners who are self-directed and they've been working with postal services for a long time to deliver are the learning services and subsequently with broadcast media especially television and the radio and there is a continuation from there to modern-day mooc. That's what we're going to see and also let's remember that most open

universities in the world are in the public sector. Very few are really a part of the for-profit private sector the other term is the online course now the online course originated almost two decades back one could say the interactive online courses originated almost two decades back most important for us to understand in online courses that at some stage the learner must connect to a network which means the learner must have an access device which could be a computer or a phone but must use that to connect to a network the online course is dependent on them and its often part of as supplementary learning paradigm you know it supplements an existing class or a class room experience. Online courses mostly are not open courses this is one point that we need to always remember that a lot of online courses even when they are open they are open mostly for browsing any other thing like a service please is always there is always the cost associated with that in other words its free to browse and pay to use that's one way of understanding a online course. There are very large numbers of players who will offer online courses some are small some are very large and some have a very long history for example the very world-famous Carnegie Mellon University in the United States started to open learning initiative which is probably the longest running online course system there are many other open educational resources but this is the longest running open learning course system the other one is Alison.com which is kind of a for-profit social enterprise they derive their revenue primarily from advertising but they offered the materials for free. There are many in China about which we'll be talking about in this course at a later time and India has this very substantial publicly-funded NPTEL program which has been offering very large number of course and the word massive is important when we are discussing mooc massive means these are brought together. This term brings the open courses and online courses together and what you find is that this term was kind in the year 2008 it through in a course at the University of Manitoba in Canada. This is very important because the term done what is needed in Canada and the people who actually find the Cormier and Alexander. They coined it in the context of course organized by Siemens and Downes about which you have heard already. and this was an innovation in teaching the skill was very very important. There were close to 2003 learners in this particular course in this particular mooc but mooc became mainstream a little later to be precise it became more mainstream towards the close of the Year 2011 when a group of professors at stanford university one of them very well known is Prof Sebastian Thrun they organize to course on artificial intelligence which had a lot of learners we can look at the number something like 100000 as a

good number but they had even more than that the world-famous MIT started its own program along with Harvard call the edX which has been running since 2012 again their first scores attracted hundreds of thousands of learners coursera which is one of the big players launched in 2012 the Udacity based on Professor Dhruns understanding was launched in the 2012 and Udacity today declares that they're focused more on professional training less on higher education. The summon substances that mooc mainstream media or stature arose from the fact that hundreds of thousands of people could attend a single course and that attracted a lot of media attention which continues to this minute one could say for example the New York Times called 2012 the year of the MOOC which is a very big thing to be done that way but New York time did that the London economist has been featuring mooc very very frequently on two occasions they have featured very large set of analysis. One of the years 2013 called the attack of the moocs the other is creative destruction I mean again a short feature on mooc which was published in June 2014 and moocs had been expecting globally like for example FutureLearn in United Kingdom which is anchored at the Open University is one example. They started in the year 2013 Iversity in Germany is also very very important players in this France launched its own public university called the fun I mean its France University Numerique (FUN) then Veduca in Brazil is also a public effort to offer moocs in Portuguese language which is A very successful one the very world famous Tsinghua university along with the consortium of universities in China has been offering moocs under the name Xuetaangx and NPTEL in India offer its own open course recently and Australia has its open to study but more importantly in terms of human development interests again a big news was the MOOC on Dementia and it was covered in the magazine worlds very prestigious the journal Nature which had a very high completion rate 39 percent probably the highest in the world reported for a mooc of that size and the mooc on mobiles for development has also attracted a lot of international attention and in fact was offered by the same two institutions that are offering the current course so to conclude what do we have to say when it comes to a conclusion one as the look as an acronym is highly open to interpretation and the concept of mooc has a linkage to open and distance learning mooc started in higher education that's the year 2011but it is spreading to Professional Training & Development as of now starting from 2013 and as of now its spreading further.