

MOOC on MOOC



Who are the Learners in a MOOC?

Based on U Penn and MIT MOOCs



Dr. Venkataraman Balaji
September 2014

Two questions

- Who are the learners?
- What is their motivation?

Two studies in 2014

On U Pennsylvania Coursera MOOC participants

- ▣ 32 MOOC sessions, 24 courses, one-fifth of Coursera

http://www.educationalliance.org/sites/default/files/the_mooc_phenomenon.pdf

MOOC on MOOC

Two Studies in 2014

On The MIT course that gave MOOC its fame:

- ▣ 6.002x with about 150 000 joiners

<http://tll.mit.edu/sites/default/files/library/LINC%20'13.pdf>

MOOC on MOOC

Geographic Distribution of Learners: U Penn on Coursera

Two-thirds from High Income Countries

About 16% from BRICS

About 20% from other developing countries

MOOC on MOOC

Educational Attainment of Learners

Almost 80%

have at least a Bachelor's degree

About 45%

have a degree higher than Bachelor's

MOOC on MOOC

Demographics of Learners

About 40% are Young (below 30 years of age)

- More young learners from BRICS+ Developing countries

More than half are Male (57%)

- 67% are Males if BRICS and Developing countries are considered

Almost two-thirds are employed (62%)

MOOC on MOOC

Why do they come?

“Curiosity, just for fun”

About half the learners on MOOCs

“Gaining skills to do my job better”

Another half

MOOC on MOOC

It Depends Also on the Topic

Social Sciences and Business

Bigger motivation is to do a job better

Humanities

Curiosity

Social Sciences and Business

More people from Developing Countries here

MOOC on MOOC

Geographic Distribution of Learners, MIT 6.002x



MOOC on MOOC

MIT 6.002x

There are some interesting differences:

- **Learners with Higher Degrees (PhD) did better**

- **High School and College degrees: no difference**

MOOC on MOOC

MIT 6.002x

More than half: gain in knowledge was motivation

About a fourth: personal challenge to excel

Offline Collaboration with another 6.002x student led to higher performance

MOOC on MOOC

A Trend Perhaps?

- MOOC learners are typically young males
- If they are from developing countries, gaining skills and knowledge is a key motivation