

Awareness of MOOC-Swayam Among Library and Information Science Professionals: A Survey

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ABSTRACT

This study highlights the awareness of MOOC-Swayam among Library and Information Science Professionals. Library and Information Science professionals are using online resources to seek information for their various purpose and emerging trends and technologies are regularly adapting in libraries and library and information science education. Swayam platform provide a great opportunity of e- learning. It is not only LIS professionals but also to all professionals, students to learning new trends and technologies. The results show that most of the LIS professionals are interested in Swayam and most of them are enrol for the LIS courses available in it and some of them completed the course and got the certificate of it. Almost all teaching process in Swayam are most interesting. The fact that more respondents ranked 5th indicates that swayam is more useful.

Keywords: MOOCs, SWAYAM, E- Learning, LIS, LIS Professionals

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1. Introduction

With the advent of the Information Communication Technology, changed the nature of educational system scenario. ICT play an important role in making learning more effective, efficient and entertaining. Honourable Prime Minister has visualized for the transformation through Digital India project. Digital learning is learning through technology. It is beyond the traditional classroom teaching. It gives the freedom to both the teachers and students to choose their place and time for their learning. In this age of digital learning, the **Massive Open Online Course** (MOOC) platform is rapidly gaining popularity in India.

MOOCs is an online education system whose main objective is to provide free education to as many citizens as possible. According to the traditional teaching method, study books, books are available but they are in digital form (Video Lectures, E-Books etc.). MOOCs are a form of extra-curricular learning that has emerged from new research. MOOCs were introduced in 2006 but were widely used in education in 2012. Currently, some MOOCs offer open access, allowing students and teachers to manage information resources or knowledge sources according to their needs. So some MOOC education systems offer an alternative to the study sequence they create. MOOCs originated from the Open Education Resources (OER) movement. "Connectivism and Connective Knowledge (CCK08)" was launched in 2008 by Dave Cormier, University of Prince Edward.

Wikipedia defined the MOOC as a massive open online course is an online course aimed at unrestricted participation and open access via the internet web. In addition to traditional course materials such as filmed lectures, reading and problem sets, many MOOC provide interactive user forums to support community interaction between students, professors and teaching assistants (TAs).

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) The swayam initiative was set up by the Indian Ministry of Human Resources and Development. The three main objectives behind this were education for all, participation of all and high quality education. The swayam program offers a variety of activities ranging from schooling to 9th standard and postgraduate

courses. Students and others participating in the swayam activity can complete the course at any time, from anywhere, for free. The syllabus developed by swayam has been developed by experts in related fields in India and includes more than 1000 experts. There are four main parts to this course: (1) video lecture (2) specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed (3) self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and (4) an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts. Thus, MOOCs have been facilitated through swayam. Swayam has been created to make high quality education available by making good use of technology.

The nine National Coordinators have been appointed. They are: AICTE (All India council for Technical education), CEC (Consortium for Educational Communication), IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University), IIMB (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore), NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling), NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research), NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), UGC (University Grants Commission).

2. Objective of the study

- To define the MOOC concept.
- To study the awareness of Swayam among LIS professionals.
- To know the popularity of Swayam.
- To study the enrollment status of LIS professionals in Swayam.
- To know the status of LIS professionals to complete the course.
- To know the most interesting teaching process of Swayam.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of Swayam of rural and urban LIS professionals.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of Swayam into different age group.

3. Methodology

An online survey was conducted about awareness of Swayam among LIS professionals. A structured questionnaire was used in this survey. The questionnaire was created using Google Forms. The questionnaire link was distributed from social media platforms like WhatsApp. For this, social media platforms were chosen because LIS professionals are mostly connected to each other on social media and get more response in less time. The survey was conducted in January 2021 and A total of 74 LIS professionals responded.

4. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the online survey method has been used. A google form questionnaire link was distributed only on WhatsApp groups of LIS professionals in the areas of Mumbai, Konkan, Kolhapur, Pune and Nashik in Maharashtra state, but received very few number of responses.

5. Results and analysis

Awareness of MOOC- Swayam among LIS professionals. The study distributed online questionnaires to professionals related to the college library and LIS sector and received 74 responses for data analysis.

5.1 Gender wise analysis:

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	42	56.8
Female	32	43.2
Total	74	100

Table 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents

Analysis of the data in Table 1 shows that out of 74 respondents, the maximum number of respondents i.e. out of the total respondents 56.8% are males and 43.2% are females.

5.2 Designation wise analysis of respondents:

Designation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Librarian/ College Librarian	72	97.2
Assistant Librarian	1	1.4
Technical Assistant	1	1.4
Total	74	100

Table 2: Designation wise analysis of respondents

Table 2 shows that out of a total of 74 respondents, 97.2% are librarian's / college librarians, 1.4% are assistant libraries and 1.4% are technical assistants.

5.3 Area of Workplace:

The question was asked to know which area your workplace belongs to. It was aimed to find out whether there is any significant difference between of awareness of Swayam of rural and urban area.

Location	Respondent
Rural	39 (52.7%)
Urban	35 (47.3%)
Total	74(100%)

Table 3: Location of workplace

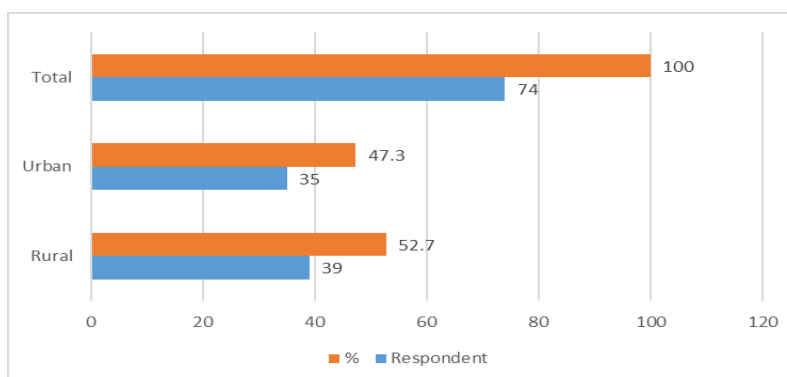


Fig. 1: Location of workplace

Table 3 shows that out of a total of 74 respondents, 39 (52.7%) LIS professionals work in rural areas and 35 (47.3%) in urban areas.

5.4 Age wise distribution of respondent:

The question was asked to know which age group do you belong to. It was aimed to find out whether there is any significant difference between of awareness of Swayam among different age group.

Age group	Respondents
between 20-30 yrs	5 (6.8%)
between 30-40 yrs	27 (36.5%)
between 40-50 yrs	32 (43.2%)
between 50-60 yrs	10 (13.5%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 4: Age wise distribution of respondent

Table 4 shows that out of 74 respondents, the highest number of 32 (43.2%) professionals are in the age group of 40-50 years. Then 27 (36.5%) are in the age group of 30-40.

5.5 Do you know about MOOCs (Massive open online courses)?

Response	No of Respondents
Yes	67 (90.5%)

No	7 (9.5)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 5: Awareness about MOOCs

The table 5 result show that out of 74 respondents 67 (90.5%) respondents are aware about MOOCs. Most of the respondents may have studied MOOCs in their course or some of them may have participated in MOOCs.

5.6 Have you heard about SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds)?

Response	No of Respondents
Yes	70 (94.6%)
No	4 (5.4%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 6: Awareness about Swayam

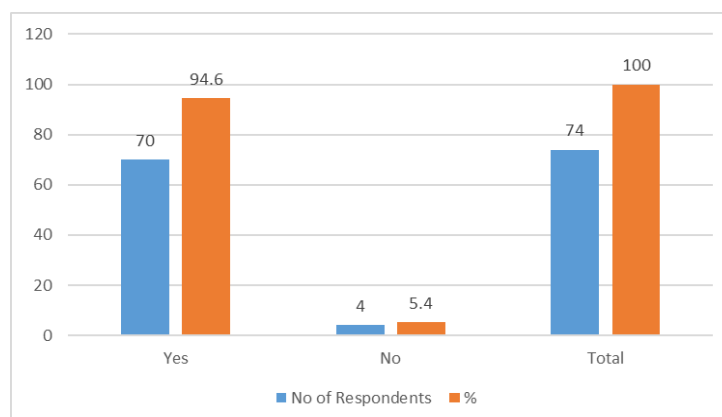


Fig. 2: Awareness about Swayam

Table 6 shows that almost 70 (94.6%) LIS professionals have heard or known about Swayam. It seems that the e-learning project started by the Government of India through Swayam has become more popular.

5.7 Register in Swayam:

The question was asked to know whether you are register in Swayam.

Response	No of Respondents
Yes	57 (77%)
No	17 (23%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 7: Register in Swayam

Table 7 shows that out of 74 respondents, about 70 (94.6%) of the 74 delegates have heard about themselves. But only 57 (77%) LIS professionals are registered on the Swayam portal. Thus, only 57 (81.4%) LIS professionals registered on Swayam and 23 (18.6%) respondents knew about Swayam but did not register on it.

5.8 Course enrolled in Swayam:

The question was asked whether you have enrolled any course into Swayam?

Response	No of Respondents
Yes	49 (66.2%)
No	25 (33.8%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 8: Course enrolled in Swayam

From Table 8 it appears that 25 (33.8%) respondents did not enrolled any course of Swayam. 49 (66.2%) respondents reported the course from the Swayam platform. Therefore, enrolling a course on the Swayam platform is the first step to completing the Swayam course.

5.9 Completing the course from the platform Swayam:

Any one of you have you completed Swayam course? and has he been given a Swayam certificate? such a question was asked.

Response	No of Respondents
Yes	29 (39.2%)
No	45 (60.8%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 9: Status of course completion

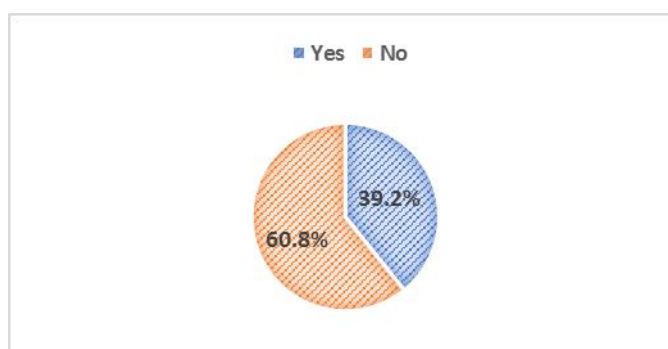


Fig. 3: Status of course completion

The table 9 show that only 29 (39.2%) LIS professionals completed course of Swayam and got the certificate. 45 (60.8%) respondents not completed the course.

5.10 Status of age group and area wise:

Age group	Number of respondents completing the course and getting the certificate	Area of workplace	
		Rural	Urban
between 20-30 yrs	3	3	0
between 30-40 yrs	8	8	0
between 40-50 yrs	16	6	10
between 50-60 yrs	2	0	2
Total	29	17	12
Percentage (%)	(39.2%)	(58.6%)	(41.4%)

Table 10: Status of age group and area wise

The table 10 shows that out of 74 respondents, 29 (39.2%) completed the Swayam course and got the certificate. Of these, 17 (58.6%) were in rural areas and 12 (41.4%) were in urban areas. It appears that there is no difference in awareness of Swayam among LIS professionals in rural and urban areas and also no difference in awareness of Swayam among different age groups.

5.11 Which teaching process is most interesting in Swayam?

Teaching Process	Number	Percentage (%)
Video Lectures	57	77
Self-Assessments	44	59.5
Specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded or printed	52	70.3
An online discussion forum for clearing doubts	35	47.3

Table 11: Most interesting teaching process in Swayam

There are four types of teaching methods used in Swayam. Of the 74 respondents 57 (77%) preferred the video lecture teaching process. After that, 44 (59.5%) respondents liked the self-assessment process. About 27 (36.4%) respondents liked all of Swayam teaching process.

5.12 Ranking of Swayam:

The question was asked to know how much you rate Swayam? rate (5 to 1) usefulness of Swayam. More rank means more usefulness.

Ranking	No of Respondents
Rank 5	38 (51.4%)
Rank 4	25 (33.8%)
Rank 3	9 (12.2%)
Rank 2	1 (1.3%)
Rank 1	1 (1.3%)
Total	74 (100%)

Table 12: Ranking of Swayam

As shown in the table above, 38 (51.4%) respondents ranked 5th which indicates that Swayam is more useful. This shows that the Swayam platform has become very popular for e-learning.

5.13 Whether you are suggesting the faculty members and students about Swayam course?

Response	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	66	89.2
No	8	10.8
Total	74	100

Table 13: Suggest about Swayam course

Table 13 show that, out of all respondents 66 (89.2%) LIS professionals are suggesting about the Swayam courses to faculty members and students as a part of reference service.

6. Finding and Suggestion

1. The 90.5% LIS professionals know about MOOCs as most of the respondents have studied MOOCs in their syllabus.
2. Almost 94.6% LIS professionals have aware about Swayam.
3. The out of 74 respondents, 39 (52.7%) LIS professionals work in rural areas and 35 (47.3%) in urban areas. It appears that there is no difference in awareness of Swayam among LIS professionals in rural and urban areas.
4. The highest number of 32 (43.2%) professionals are in the age group of 40-50 years. Then 27 (36.5%) are in the age group of 30-40. It appears that there is no difference in awareness of Swayam among different age groups.
5. The about 70 (94.6%) of the 74 delegates have heard about Swayam. But only 57 (77%) LIS professionals are registered on the Swayam portal. First of all, the LIS professional needs to register on the swayam portal.
6. The enrolling a course on the Swayam platform is the first step to completing the Swayam course. 25 (33.8%) respondents did not enroled any course of Swayam. First of all, LIS professionals need to enrol the course from swayam portal.
7. Only 29 (39.2%) LIS professionals completed course of Swayam and got the certificate. It is useful for educational purposes in the service.
8. Almost all teaching process in Swayam are most interesting.
9. 38 (51.4%) respondents ranked 5th which indicates that Swayam is more useful.
10. As a part of reference service out of all respondents 66 (89.2%) LIS professionals are suggesting about the Swayam courses to faculty members and students.

7. Conclusions

The MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) education system is a boon to modern teaching methods. Through every element of the society can make their life successful by getting this higher education. Swayam is an education system based on the MOOC

system developed by the Indian Ministry of Human Resources and Development and is useful to all of us. As MOOC is an online education system, it is also saving a lot of government money on education. MOOC education system and activities like swayam created from it are very useful to take any country towards literacy.

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