MOOCs in Sri Lankan higher education system: Exploring students’ perspective in a developing country

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MOOCs in Sri Lankan higher education system: Exploring students’ perspective in a developing country
J. Young, "Udacity Official Declares MOOCs ‘Dead’ (Though the Company Still Offers Them)," EdSurge, 12 October 2017.
• ~10 different popular MOOC platforms and ~2000 courses offered through MOOCs

• Despite the concerned low-level completion rates, universities invest on MOOCs expecting to be benefited to students around the world

• Many research try to understand what are the reasons to drop outs

• Majority of the research reflect from US/ EU - Developed world

Background
Table 1: Estimated enrollment and worldwide proportions of registrants in Top 10 countries of origin for registrants for 18 HarvardX courses as of September 8, 2013, sorted most to least registered; country registration percentage as the percentage of all HarvardX students that registered for HarvardX MOOC; country registrants as a fraction of the country’s population, in \( \frac{1}{100\%} \); country registrants as a fraction of English speakers, in \( \frac{1}{100\%} \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Reg. %</th>
<th>Reg. / Pop.</th>
<th>( \frac{1}{100%} )</th>
<th>R. / Eng. P.</th>
<th>( \frac{1}{100%} )</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N. America</td>
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<td>1.03</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</table>

MOOC student usage as registration to population (Nesterko, et al., 2013).
Background

Acknowledge Abu Mostafa, India
https://pythonandr.com/tag/mooc/
A new study by University of Washington researchers shows developing world learners use MOOCs very differently than their developed world counterparts.

Although developing countries have their own problems of MOOC, 49% of the users complete with certificates and this percentage increased to 70% when the participants are employed.

A survey carried out with 1800 users who took MOOCs and 2250 non user of MOOCs in age 18-35 aged group in Philippines, Colombia and South Africa.

It has found 80% user of MOOCs have at least completed 1 course.

A little less than 50% student has a college degree and 25% said they have completed high school.

The study resonate the high numbers may due to cited reasons as gaining skills to perform better in their job (61%), preparing for additional education (39%), and obtaining professional certification (37%)

Garrido, Koepke, Mena, & Felipe, 2016
• Low participation rate was thought to be due to various complicated conditions,
• Lack of access to internet and digital technology,
• Cultural and language barriers
• Poor computer skills
• Lack of awareness of this newly introduced concept may be considered to be reasons
• Infrastructure limitations

(Liyanagunawardena, William, & Adams, The impact and reach of MOOCs: A developing countries’ perspective, 2014)
Are Sri Lankan Students aware of MOOCs or any Open Education?

What benefits have they achieved from MOOCs?

What problems do they encounter in MOOCs?

How might we address those problems?

Students who are not aware of MOOCs, what might be the reason?
Research Method

Instrument / Semi Structured Questions

Would you know if MOOCs explain as Coursera, edX, Udacity, futurelearn etc..

Demographic data
Do you know MOOCs

No

What do you know about online learning? And what do you think about it?

Yes

Now, that you know MOOCs are massive open online and platforms are Coursera etc

Knowing MOOCs, Have you enrolled to any courses in MOOCs?

No

Knowing MOOCs what's stopping from enrolling?

Yes

Have you completed any course?

No

What are the platforms Share likes and dislikes / experience

Yes

Why could not complete courses?
Research Method

Sampling and Data Collection

~ 15 State Universities
~ 13 Non state Institutions
Data Collection

17 Institutions
22 Agents
1023 subjects with
Instrument
10 subjects with Semi structured interview
Are Sri Lankan Students aware of MOOCs or any Open Education?

42%

Would you know if MOOCs explain as Coursera edX

51%

What do you know about online education?

- Do it yourself
- Recognition for online
- Not Popular
Results

Are Sri Lankan Students aware of MOOCs or any Open Education?

Have you enrolled to courses in MOOCs? 423
- 51%

Have you completed the course?
- 41%

What platforms do you enroll?
- Coursera / edX /Udemy 72%
- Futurelearn / iversity
Results

Why have not you completed the course?

- It’s not free, some curses have to pay after first 2 weeks
- Lack of time
- Do not need to complete as looking for exactly bits and pieces
- Assignments consume time and that time allocation has no immediate reward
Knowing MOOCs why not enroll?

- Not enough data credits – Broadband is expensive
- No device of my own, must rely on labs in the university
- Not enough coverage to my boarding place
- Did not think it is necessary to do
- I'm not a Online person
Results

What benefits have they achieved from MOOCs?

- Specific knowledge, latest information about subjects
- Internship in companies

Networking
Meeting new people
Exchanging ideas
Results

What problems do they encounter in MOOCs?

- Faculty involvement in encouraging MOOCs
- Facilities / Infrastructure
- Time commitments / Motivations
- Support from environments within MOOC and outside of MOOC as in real classroom
How might we address those problems?

- Awareness of use of OER / MOOC is not the only way
- Academics support to incorporate MOOC content and discussions and engagement in class
- Campus spots facilitating MOOCs/ Library
- Value and recognition for those who participate in MOOCs
Current Issues of University System in Sri Lanka

1. Low enrolment in higher education comparatively the enrolment rate in MIC while demand for higher education increasing rapidly.

2. Un-utilizing of existing resources.

3. Investment to be streamlined and the capacity and interest of non-state sector for investing in higher education has to be treated.

4. Differences between out put of Graduates and degree programmes with job market.

5. Degree programmes have not incorporated with essential skills development mechanisms.

6. Too much time taken to produce a graduates at State Universities.

7. The less contribution to the economic development by transferring knowledge through new innovations and ideas as well as researches.

Acknowledge https://www.slideshare.net/YuereshNadishan/els-presentation-75941491
University Strikes - Student, Academic, Non-Academic
https://opensignal.com/networks/sri-lanka/dialog-coverage
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http://mulya.lk/expenses/internet
Questions