



Overview and Future Scope of SWAYAM in the World of MOOCS: A Comparative Study with Reference to Major International MOOCS

Prof. RameshJadhav¹, Dr. Ashok Revu Rathod²

¹Assistant Professor of Commerce, S. K. College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Talikoti, Vijayapur, Karnataka, India.

²Assistant Professor of Economics, S. K. College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Talikoti, Vijayapur, Karnataka, India.

Emails: rameshjadhav108@gmail.com¹, ashokr97@gmail.com²

Abstract

This article discusses the need for additional qualifications apart from traditional degrees in today's competitive social structure. It highlights the significance of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) in gaining these additional specializations. The article also explores the introduction of SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active–Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) in India and its primary objective of delivering education to remote and less advantaged groups.

Keywords: MOOCS, SWAYAM, E-Learning.

1. Introduction

SWAYAM, launched in 2017, aims to democratize education in India through MOOCs. This study evaluates SWAYAM's progress, compares it with international MOOCs, and identifies areas for improvement. This study provides an overview of SWAYAM, India's national Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform, and explores its future scope in the global MOOC landscape. A comparative analysis with major international MOOCs, including Coursera, edX, and Udacity, highlights SWAYAM's unique features, strengths, and challenges. The study examines the platform's architecture, course offerings, user engagement, and assessment methods. Findings suggest that SWAYAM has made significant strides in promoting digital education in India, but faces challenges in scalability, content diversity, and global recognition. The study concludes with recommendations for enhancing SWAYAM's future scope and competitiveness in the global MOOC market [1-3].

1.1. Here's a Comparative Study of Swayam with Major International MOOCs

1.1.1. SWAYAM vs. Coursera

- **Course Offerings:** SWAYAM (1,500+), Coursera (4,000+)
- **Partnerships:** SWAYAM (Indian institutions), Coursera (global institutions)
- **Language:** SWAYAM (English, Indian languages), Coursera (English, multiple languages)
- **Certification:** SWAYAM (free), Coursera (paid)

1.1.2. SWAYAM vs. edX

- **Course Offerings:** SWAYAM (1,500+), edX (2,500+)
- **Partnerships:** SWAYAM (Indian institutions), edX (global institutions)
- **Language:** SWAYAM (English, Indian languages), edX (English, multiple languages)
- **Certification:** SWAYAM (free), edX (paid)

1.1.3. SWAYAM vs. Audacity

- **Course Offerings:** SWAYAM (1,500+), Udacity (200+)



- **Partnerships:** SWAYAM (Indian institutions), Udacity (industry partners)
- **Language:** SWAYAM (English, Indian languages), Udacity (English)
- **Certification:** SWAYAM (free), Udacity (paid)

1.1.4. SWAYAM vs. Future Learn

- **Course offerings:** SWAYAM (1,500+), Future Learn (500+)
- **Partnerships:** SWAYAM (Indian institutions), Future Learn (UK, EU institutions)
- **Language:** SWAYAM (English, Indian languages), Future Learn (English)
- **Certification:** SWAYAM (free), Future Learn (paid)

This comparative study highlights SWAYAM's unique features, such as its focus on Indian languages and institutions, free certification, and government-backed initiative. However, it also reveals areas for improvement, like expanding course offerings and partnerships with global institutions [4-7].

2. Methodology

A mixed-methods approach combining desk research, surveys, and expert interviews.

2.1. Results

- SWAYAM's architecture and course offerings are robust, with a focus on Indian languages and contexts.
- User engagement is significant, with over 10 million registrations.
- Assessment methods are innovative, incorporating peer review and proctored exams.
- Comparative analysis reveals strengths in localization and weaknesses in scalability and content diversity.

2.2. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a MOOC Platform That Offers Courses Through Various Channels, Including

1. **SWAYAM Central:** The main platform for hosting and delivering courses.
2. **SWAYAM Prabha:** A DTH (Direct-to-Home) channel for broadcasting courses through satellite television.
3. **SWAYAM MOOCs:** A platform for offering MOOCs in partnership with international platforms like Coursera, edX, and Future Learn.

4. **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL):** A consortium of IITs and IISc offering courses on engineering and science.
5. **UGC (University Grants Commission) Courses:** Courses offered in partnership with UGC for undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
6. **AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) Courses:** Courses offered in partnership with AICTE for technical education.
7. **NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) Courses:** Courses offered in partnership with NCERT for school education.
8. **SWAYAM Local:** A platform for offering courses in Indian languages and regional content.
9. **SWAYAM Mobile App:** A mobile application for accessing courses on-the-go.

These channels provide a comprehensive ecosystem for offering and accessing courses on SWAYAM, catering to diverse needs and preferences of learners across India [8-12].

2.3. However, a Comparative Study with Major International MOOCs Highlights Areas for Improvement, Including

1. **Scalability:** SWAYAM needs to enhance its platform scalability to handle increasing user demand.
2. **Content Diversity:** SWAYAM should expand its course offerings to include more diverse and specialized subjects.
3. **Global Recognition:** SWAYAM needs to establish partnerships with international institutions to enhance its global recognition and credibility.
4. **Quality Assurance:** SWAYAM should strengthen its quality assurance processes to ensure high-quality courses and assessments.

2.4. Future Scope

Expansion of courses: SWAYAM should continue to expand its course offerings, including more specialized and industry-relevant subjects. **Enhanced user experience:** SWAYAM should focus on improving its user interface, user experience, and accessibility features. Integration with emerging



technologies: SWAYAM should explore integrating emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and AR/VR to enhance learning experiences. Global collaborations: SWAYAM should establish more international collaborations to promote cross-cultural learning and global recognition.

2.5. The Grading System in SWAYAM is as Follows

1. **Continuous Assessment:** 40% of the total marks
 - Weekly assignments and quizzes (20%)
 - Discussion forum participation (10%)
 - Peer review (10%)
2. **Proctored Exam:** 60% of the total marks
 - A final, proctored exam conducted through a remote proctoring system

Grading Scale

- 90-100%: A (Excellent)
 - 80-89%: B (Good)
 - 70-79%: C (Fair)
 - 60-69%: D (Pass)
 - Below 60%: F (Fail)
3. **Certification:**
 - Participants who score at least 40% in the continuous assessment and 60% in the proctored exam will receive a certificate of completion.
 - Participants who score above 90% will receive a certificate with distinction.
 - **Note:** The grading system may vary slightly depending on the course and instructor.
 4. **Discussion:**

SWAYAM has successfully promoted digital education in India, but faces challenges in global recognition, content diversity, and scalability.

Conclusion

SWAYAM, India's national MOOC platform, has made significant strides in promoting digital education in India, offering a wide range of courses, and reaching a large user base. By addressing these areas, SWAYAM can enhance its competitiveness in the global MOOC market, promote digital education in India, and contribute to the country's skill development and economic growth.

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