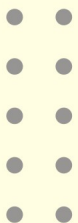


Innovative Technology and Applications for **Sustainable Library Services**



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“Awareness and Usability of SWAYAM Courses by Library and Information Science Professionals of Mumbai and Thane District Region”

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to examine the awareness of SWAYAM among library and information science professionals. Data collected from colleges of thane districts library and information science professionals. Awareness of MOOCs-SWAYAM Inventory was developed and validated by the researcher. 104 library and information science professionals have responded to the questionnaire. The data collected were put into appropriate statistical analysis. The result revealed that awareness and usability of MOOCs- SWAYAM by library and information science professionals is not adequate.

Introduction

With the advent of advance technology there have been great revolution in the delivery of teaching & learning process. With this education has grown from traditional to distance, open and now an online. As a mode of education reaching more patrons in a effective and efficient manner. Today there are many sources of education but most recent & current one those who receive immense attention worldwide that is MOOC-SWAYAM courses. MOOC-SWAYAM courses are the future of the lifelong learning. It is relatively new trend in the pedagogy of education. It is only way to keep up to date that are taking place in every walk of the life due to the advent of ICT. MOOC-SWAYAM provide massive participation and open access via online mode. An only condition is you have a smart phone or Computer system with Internet connections. In 2012 MOOCs famous in education field but it was introduced by Dave Cornier in 2008. An Indian MOOC platform that is “Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring minds” (SWAYAM) launched in 2016 and famous in Indian Scenario. Many universities adopt the method of SWAYAM and gives credits to the learners who complete the syllabus related courses on SWAYAM plat form. SWAYAM based on four quadrants of MOOCs Video lecture, PDF Documents, Assessments and Discussion Forum. SWAYAM is an online platform where ‘n’ number of participants can register themselves from any corner of the India and World. They can also deliver and access via the web. All contents of the platform are free to use where as some of the developers charged fee for certificates. It is Open to all without any restriction like gender bias, qualification, age, place etc.

Relevance

Many MOOC courses platform available before the Indigenous platform like Courseware, Khan Academy, edx, Udacity offering free online courses but Indian learners hard to adopt the language and content of the platform. Under the Digital India initiative government of India create a basic structure platform for the citizens of the country that is SWAYAM. Government makes available the courses in regional languages also. This study indicates the awareness, perception and the reasons of professionals why they are enrolling on the SWAYAM platform.

MOOCs in Indian Scenario

In Indian scenario the first steps on the way of MOOCs by IGNOU to initiating the National Digital Repository i.e., “eGyankosh” in Oct 2005 and publicly launched on June 9 2008, to store, index,

distribute, share and preserve the digital learning resources developed by Open and Distance learning Institutions of the Country. It is developed by IGNOU. <https://egyankosh.ac.in/>.

Another platform was introduced in Oct 2006 by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India is “**SAKSHAT**” as a part of National Mission on education through ICT. The portal inaugurated by former president Dr. A.P.L. Abdul Kalam with the vision of “lifelong learning for students, teachers and those in employment or in pursuit of knowledge free of cost to them and accessing the electronic contents in the form of e-books, e-journals, digital repository and digital library, interact with the faculties via blogging, online chat, and discussion forum. <https://www.education.gov.in/technology-enabled-learning-1>

In 2013 MHRD launched “**e-PGPathshala**” which provide e-learning platform and maintained by INFLIBNET. On this platform PG courses curricula E-contents available in the form of Audio and Video. Its aim to updating the knowledge of the learners and given education to all who were not able to enter the formal education. <https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>

Teach anything to any one at anywhere, IIT Kanpur developed the “**mooKIT**” platform for their students in 2012. mooKIT is an easy for developing and including the content for the students and by the students. It is MOOC Management system targeted to the learners.

The revolutionary design comes in to action that is digital India in 2016 the MHRD, Government of India announces a portal for MOOCs called “**SWAYAM**” (Study webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). UGC also announced that all Universities in India to make necessary amendments in the examination reform so that learners may deposit 20% credits undergoing through SWAYAM.

Aims of the Study

This study aims to calculate the awareness and usability of SWAYAM courses by Library professionals.

Statement of Problems /Objectives of the Study

- To find out the awareness of SWAYAM among library and information science professionals.
- To find out the enrollment on SWAYAM by LIS Professionals
- To Study the usability of SWAYAM Courses by LIS professionals. To find out the problem faced by the LIS professionals.

Operational Definitions

MOOC: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are such online courses which are developed as per the pedagogy stated herein and following the four-quadrant approach.

SWAYAM: “SWAYAM platform” means an Information Technology platform developed and made functional by the Government of India in the Ministry of Education, for the purpose of offering online learning courses.

‘SWAYAM platform’ is an IT platform developed and made functional by the Ministry of Human Resource Development of Government of India for the purpose of offering online learning courses on the MOOCs pattern.

Awareness: Awareness means “knowledge or perception of a situation or fact”

Usability: Usability means “the degree to which something is able or fit to be used”

Scope of the study

Study was conducted on library professionals of Thane districts who had enrolled on yet to enrolled on the SWAYAM indigenous MOOC portal. Nearly 150 questionnaires circulated for the study.

Methodology

For the study researcher used online survey method for collecting the data. For collecting the data structured base questionnaire used and distributed among the library and information science professionals

of the Thane districts. Questionnaire was created using google form and link of it distributed by social media like what's apps because LIS professionals are well connected to each other through this and gives response in less time. Total 104 questionnaires received from LIS professionals. Data collected for the year of Jan- Dec 2022. MS-Excel for the analysis of data to present the statistics including tables, percentages, and graphical representation to provide the picture of awareness and usability of SWAYAM Courses among the Library and Information Science Professionals.

Related Review of Literature

(Bhagat, Supriya and Raju, Rohan 2017). (Panda, Siba Prasad; Mahapatra, R.K. and Saibabu, K. 2019). Authors of this papers explore the SWAYAM Indian MOOC Platform. It has become a valuable and cost-free platform. Authors explore the SWAYAM platform its features, policies, procedures, programmes, associated institutions. It explores to new fields or training in specified skill. It will be improving acceptability and creditability of Indian MOOC platform.

(Shaikh, Shahin Altaf 2017) and (Sivakumar, R. 2019). These papers said that MOOC-SWAYAM is a new trend of lifelong learning and examine the status of it among the students and teacher, students and teacher are less aware about MOOC. Students and Teachers use blogging, YouTube, what's apps platform groups for sharing the learning things and clarify it. Study shows that MOOC is less popular among them and perception about MOOC was negative. If guided properly about the MOOC Courses and their advantages they must be starting to use MOOC.

(Samanta, Anuva 2018). Comparative study done by the author between Education and LIS courses available on SWAYAM platform from 2016 to June 2018. Paper also shows that the Courses and their enrolment increases year by year. Platform have Certificate, Diploma and Degree type of courses. Study helps to making a policy in the platform for the availability of the best content.

(Kumar, Vinodh B; Dhanpal, A and Tharmar, K. 2019). In this paper comparative study done by the authors between 10 top major subjects, top 5 institutions those launch more courses and top five faculty members who created and delivered the courses on the platform. It is found that 15 major subjects contributed 1556 online courses in between them most of the courses contributed by Engineering subjects. Study also suggest that more and more students should enroll the SWAYAM platform and get benefited from it.

(Basnode, Sadanand 2019) and (Majumder, Chiranjit 2019). Paper deal with the Government of Indian MOOC Initiative, SWAYAM. Paper studied the challenges arises in the LIS field. It also identified the barriers when it used like, language, free or paid, personal attention, time, government policy etc. Paper also gives the opportunities from it. Paper recommended that use the other languages for the courses along with English.

(Bhagyalakshmi, R. and Karthika, P. 2020), (Jeyakumari, K.; Balu, A. 2020) and (Shewale, Rahul 2021). The analysis of the studies revealed that the awareness and impact of the MOOC-SWAYAM platform on the students and teachers. There is need for improvement in the awareness of the MOOC-SWAYAM platform among the students and teachers. How-to use it benefits of it, requirement of it, cost, time and place free etc.

Data Analysis

Table 1 -Gender Wise Distribution

Sr. No.	Gender	Registration No.	Percentage
1	Male	43	41.34%
2	Female	61	58.65 %
	Total	104	100%

Table 1 describe the gender wise distribution of registration in SWAYAM platform. Female percentage was quite higher than the male that is 58.65% and Male is 41.34%. Female professionals are more eager to know something new.

Table 2 -Age Group Wise Distribution

Sr. No.	Age Group	Registration	Percentage
1	24-30	04	3.84%
2	30-40	25	25.03%
3	40-50	47	45.19%
4	50-60	27	25.96%
5	60+	01	0.96%
	Total	104	100%

From the above table 2 it shows that 40-50 age group professionals have 45.19% registration below 50-60 age groups have nearly 26% and 30-40 age groups have 25.03%. It clear that more experience professionals ready to learn new methods and techniques to update the knowledge.

Table3 - Designation Wise Registration

Sr. No.	Designation	Registration	Percentage
1	Librarian/College Librarian	74	71.15%
2	Library Attendant	09	8.65%
3	Assistant Librarian	07	6.73%
4	Library Assistant	06	5.76%
5	Library Clerk	04	3.84%
6	Asso. Prof .In LIS	02	1.92%
7	Prof. In LIS	01	0.96%
8	Dy. Librarian	01	0.96%
	Total	104	100%

From the collected data 71.15% professionals was librarian and 4% are in Teaching profession, other 25% are other supporting staff of the library and library profession. Librarians are more interested to know the new technique of education and get benefited from it.

Table4 –District wise registration

Sr. No.	District	Registration	Percentage
1	Mumbai	54	51.92%
2	Mumbai Suburban	28	28.92%
3	Thane	22	21.15%
	Total	104	100%

Data collected from the Mumbai region, Total 104 responses collated by the researcher out of it 51.92% responses from Mumbai district, 28.92% from Suburban of Mumbai and 21.15% from Thane district. Mumbai district professionals more restoration than other district of the study.

Table5–Awareness of SWAYAM

Sr. No.	Awareness	No. of participation	Percentage
1	Yes	88	84.62%
2	No	16	15.38%
	Total	104	100%

Table 5 reveled that out of 104 total 88 (84.62%) professionals aware about SWAYAM and its culture and it is positive sign for the study.

Table 6 - Registration on the SWAYAM platform

Sr. No.	Registration	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Yes	57	54.80%
2	No	31	29.80%
3	Blank	16	15.38%
	Total	104	100%

As mention in table 5 total 88 professionals aware but only 57 (54.80%) professionals register themselves on SWAYAM platform and 31 was not interested to register himself and 16 professionals are already not aware about the SWAYAM platform.

Table 7 Sources use for access the SWAYAM platform

Sr.No.	Sources use for use	No. of. Respondent	Percentage
1	Mobile App of SWAYAM Platform	13	12.5%
2	Website of SWAYAM plat form	54	51.92%
3	Blank	37	35.57%
	Total	104	100%

From table 7 total 54 professionals use SWAYAM platforms website for accessing the courses and 13 from mobile app and other 37 not interested to answer the question.

Table8 -Reason for enroll in the SWAYAM platform

Sr. No.	Enrolment reason	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Update the current knowledge on the topic	39	37.50%
2	Development in professional knowledge.	39	37.50%
3	Various Interestedtopics for learning	28	26.92%
4	Free for learning	25	24.03%
5	Learning to digital Mode	25	24.03%
6	Reach geographical boundaries	08	07.69%
7	For a certificate of a course	07	06.73%
8	Pay a nominal exam fee and qualify for the Exam and get the certificate of related course	07	06.73%
9	Could not be afforded to pursue a formal education.	02	01.92%
10	Blank	32	30.76%
	Total		100%

From the table 8 library professionals gives their opinion why they enroll the SWAYAM courses. 37.50% professionals enroll for “Update the current knowledge on the topic” and “Development in professional knowledge” respectively. Below that 26.92% for “various interested topics for learning.” Next of it “Free for learning” and “Learning to digital Mode” is 24.03% respectively. From the data we can say that library professionals interested to update their knowledge and also develop the professional knowledge of them.

Table 9 Enrolled or completed on the SWAYAM platform

Sr. No.	Enrolment of Courses	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	1 Courses	27	25.96%
2	2 Courses	12	11.53%
3	3 Courses	09	08.65%
4	4 Courses	05	04.80%
5	5 Courses	01	00.96%
6	6 Courses	03	02.88%
7	7 Courses	01	00.96%

8	8 Courses	02	01.92%
9	9 Courses	00	00.00%
10	10 Courses	02	01.92%
	Blank	42	40.38%
	Total	104	100%

From the table no 9 it described that 27 professional's enroller completed 01 course. Followed them 12 respondents enroll or complete 02 courses. 8 and 9 courses done by 2 respondents respectively. Whereas 09 professionals done 03 courses from the platform. There is no response for 9 courses done by anyone. 42 professionals not showing the interest to give the response to respective question or they are not interested to complete the courses from the SWAYAM platform.

Table 10 Categories of SWAYAM users

Sr. No.	User Category	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Active Participants=Regular and also participate in all activity of course.	26	25%
2	Drop In=Only enrolled in SWAYAM	17	16.34%
3	Passive Participants=Regular but does not Participate in assignment	13	12.50%
4	Observer=Irregular in course	06	05.76%
5	Blank	42	40.38%
	Total	104	100%

As study the usability of professionals, in table 10 which type of users they are described, 25% of professionals are Active participants they are regular accessing the platform and courses and done all the activity of it. 12.50% respondent professionals are Passive participants which are regular but do not participate in assignment. 05.76% respondent professionals are only observer they are regulating courses and 16.34% respondents are drop in category they can't show interest in the activity of courses.

Table 11 Attitude of Library Professionals on the usage of SWAYAM

Attitude of LIS professional	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Overall Response
Prefer to use Professional Development	31	34	3	1	0	Agree
Prefer to use Personal up- gradation	31	31	6	2	0	Strongly agree and agree both
Using SWAYAM to enhance efficiency	33	29	6	1	0	Strongly agree
To attend as an option for Refresher / Short term Courses.	25	31	10	1	0	agree
Using SWAYAM to Improve work	23	34	6	4	1	agree
User friendly	25	35	4	3	0	agree
To get certificate	19	32	10	3	3	agree

Table no 11 explore the attitude of professionals from strongly agree to strongly disagree. It provides consolidates the information about the attitudes of library professionals regarding the usage of SWAYAM, categorized into different aspects attitudes toward using SWAYAM is considered such as using it for professional development, personal up-gradation, enhancing efficiency, attending as an option for refresher/short-term courses, improving work, finding it user-friendly, and aiming to get certificates. It clears that professionals are agreed and strongly agree to the overall attitudes which are stated by the researcher.

Table 12-perceptions of use fulness of SWAYAM

Sr. No.	Perception of Use fulness	No. of Participation	Percentage
1	The course is useful for developing an Understanding of the profession	20	19.23%
2	SWAYAM courses enable to develop professional skill	19	18.26%
3	The language used in the text is simple	12	15.53%
4	Professional scan learns their own time and place Through SWAYAM Portal	10	09.61%
5	You will wish to join more MOOC Courses available on SWAYAM Portal	08	07.69%
6	An activity like assignment one comodule is Use full o reactive learning	04	03.84%
7	Abended learning approach of written text, video, lessons and learning exercises was Effective means for self-study	03	02.88%
8	Blank	31	29.80%
	Total		100%

Above table no 12 gives idea about the perception of usefulness of SWAYAM courses. 19% respondents said that it is useful for developing and understanding of the profession knowledge, belowthat18%saidthat SWAYAM courses enable to develop professional skill, 15% said that language used in is so simple and understanding to everyone, nearly 10% professional say that it is use on anytime and anywhere other perceptions like wish to join, blended learning and assignment have quite low responses. 30% of respondent not interested to give the answers of these particular questions.

Table 13 Beforecompleting SWAYAM course knowledge of subject

Sr. No.	Before Subject Knowledge	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	More than Basic	26	25%
2	Basic	24	23.07%
3	Just heard about the topic	14	13.46%
4	None	05	04.80%
5	Blank	35	33.65%
	Total	104	100%

Table14-AftercompletingSWAYAMcourse knowledge of subject

Sr.No.	After subject Knowledge	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Better understand the subject.	23	22.11%
2	Know more about the subject.	21	20.19%
3	Know a deep knowledge of the subject.	14	13.46%
4	Getting the best knowledge & Practice of the subject.	09	08.65 %
5	Blank	37	35.57%
	Total	104	100%

From the table no 13 and 14 it is clear that 65 % of respondent before the knowledge of the respective course subject was basic (23%), heard about the subject (13%) etc but after the completion of courses 65% of professionals know about the subject more than (20%) they have before like better (22%) and deep (13%), best(10%)understanding of the subject.

Table15-Satisfaction level of SWAYAM Courses

Sr. No.	Satisfaction of SWAYAM Materials	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Best	28	26.92%
2	More than best	18	17.30%
3	Good	14	13.46%
4	Moderate	07	6.73%
5	Low	01	00.96%
	Blank	35	33.65%
	Total	104	100%

From the data of table, no 15 shows that the usability of SWAYAM courses and its satisfaction level. 27% of respondents gives “best” satisfaction level 17% professionals gives “More than best” satisfaction level, 13% gives “good” satisfaction level, whereas 7% gives Moderate and only a 1% respondent not satisfied from it and 33% respondent not show interest to give satisfaction level of SWAYAM courses. It clearly shows that the Usability of SWAYAM Courses satisfied the respondent’s expectations highly.

Table16 -Reason for not enroll

Sr. No.	Reason for not enroll	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	I don’t know how to enroll	23	22.11%
2	Not Techno-savvy	10	9.61%
3	It takes so long time for complete of course	16	15.38%
4	Not interested in online learning	08	07.69%
5	Health Issue (Special Retina)	04	03.84%
6	Any other	05	04.80%
		66	63.46%

From the above table 16 it shows that 60% or more than those respondents not enroll themselves on the platform because of some reasons that is 22% not know to how to enroll, 9% not techno-savvy, 15% due to long period of courses, 7% not interested in online learning, 4% have health issue and some have time and other platform using.

Finding

1. Most of the female library science professional of Mumbai region use the SWAYAM platform for the betterment of the profession.
2. Mumbai was the highest SWAYAM platform using professionals.
3. The highest number of 47 (45.19%) professionals are in age group of 40-50 years.
4. Out of 104 responses 88 professionals heard about the SWAYAM but only 57 (64%) out of 88 registered or enroll themselves on the portal.
5. Out of 88 professionals 52% professionals use Website portal of SWAYAM to access the courses.
6. Most popular reason to enroll in SWAYAM is “Update the current knowledge on the topic” and “Development in professional knowledge” respectively.
7. 25% of professionals actively participated in SWAYAM Courses they are regularly attending the courses and solve the all assignments of courses.
8. Professionals are strongly agreeing to “Prefer to use Personal up-gradation” and “Using SWAYAM to enhance efficiency” attitudes.
9. Most popular perception among the professionals is “useful for developing and understanding of the profession”
10. 65% of professionals agree to they have increase in their knowledge after the completion of courses as compare to previous knowledge they had.

11. SWAYAM Courses average satisfaction level among professionals is “Best”.
12. 63% of professionals not enrol themselves on the SWAYAM platform.

Conclusion

SWAYAM is based on MOOC system. It is developed for the welfare for young and aspiring minds of the nation. The study found that professionals are eager to acquiring the knowledge through online courses platform like SWAYAM and develop their professional skill and use these skills in the profession for the development of profession. Need to have plan for more awareness programs for enrolment in SWAYAM platform.

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