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E-Learning Education through SWAYAM Online Courses: A Study

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Abstract

This paper examines the SWAYAM online courses offered in past, current and upcoming years. It is found from study that in past a good number of courses were offered. But, there is a decreasing trend in the growth of the courses. Majority of the courses (58.49%) were offered in engineering in the past whereas in current year, more number of online courses were offered in science disciplines (22.22%). Undergraduate and School level courses were offered mostly in the past and current. English was a dominating medium of instruction.

KEYWORDS: SWAYAM, Online, Learning Path

1. Introduction

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of education policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching, learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. Swayam seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. This is done through a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have participated in preparing these courses.

2. SWAYAM Course

Swayam courses are offered in 4 quadrants. They are

1. Video lecture
2. Specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed
3. Self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and
4. Online discussion forum for clearing the doubts.

Review of Literature

Nayek (2018) found that most of the professionals students are aware and interested in SWAYAM and LIS students are preferred video lectures. The LIS course contents are found less number than other courses in SWAYAM. Matliwala (2017) highlighted that sociological, geographical and political barriers in education can be overlooked by making MOOCs as parallel to formal education and people should be motivated those are involved in the MOOCs by proper planning. Sonkar (2017) explores the awareness, use, perceptions regarding E-PG Pathshala program. It also highlights the purposes, satisfaction, problems used by users. Pujar (2016) explains the concept of MOOC and opportunities offer by it to overcome the problem of lack of teachers, paucity of funds and limited infrastructures.

Research Methodology

The data for the study were extracted from SWAYAM website (<https://archive.swayam.gov.in/courses/public.>) The extracted data were exported to Ms-Excel for data analysis.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To find out SWAYAM online courses in various disciplines
2. To investigate Learning Path
3. To analysis medium of instruction of Swayam online course

3. SWAYAM Online Courses

Swayam online courses are offered in many disciplines. It enables the faculty members, students to study online course without affecting their regular works/jobs and courses. Table 1 shows the Swayam Online courses offered in various disciplines. The study highlights the courses offered in different stages namely Past, Current and Upcoming.

Table 1
SWAYAM Online Courses

S. No.	Domain/Discipline	Past	%	Current	%	Upcoming	%
1	Engineering	1157	58.49	2	3.17	2	20
2	Science	194	9.81	14	22.22	1	10
3	Arts and Recreation	110	5.56	2	3.17	1	10
4	Humanities	115	5.80	16	25.40	1	10
5	Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)	75	3.79	0	0	0	0
6	Education	68	3.44	1	1.59	1	10
7	Management	64	3.24	0	0	0	0
8	General	36	1.82	6	9.52	1	10

9	Library and Information Science	35	1.77	1	1.59	1	10
10	Mathematics	32	1.62	5	7.94	0	0
11	Language	30	1.52	5	7.94	0	0
12	Law	27	1.37	1	1.59	1	10
13	Commerce	23	1.16	8	12.70	0	0
14	Arts	9	0.46	2	3.17	0	0
15	Architecture and Planning	3	0.15	0	0	0	0
16	Open Design School	0	0	0	0	1	10
	Total	1978		63		10	
	%	96.44	100	3.07	100	0.49	100

3.1. SWAYAM - Past Course

It is found from Table 1 that more number of Swayam courses (past) were provided in Engineering (1157, 58.49%). It is followed by Science (194, 9.81%), Humanities (115, 5.80%) and Arts and Recreation (110, 5.50%). The courses offered in other disciplines range from 68-23 (1.16% to 3.44%). It is also noted that less number of courses were offered in other disciplines. Totally, it is shown that 1978 (96.44%) online courses were offered.

3.2. SWAYAM - Current Course

Table 1 shows the courses offered currently. In humanities, it is observed that 16 (25.40%) courses offered, which is highest among other disciplines. Next, 14 courses were offered in Science (22.22%). In Commerce, 8 (12.70%) were provided. It is also noticed that 6 (9.52%) courses were provided in general discipline.

3.3. SWAYAM-Upcoming Course

Swayam also provides information about upcoming online courses to enable to participate by the teachers, students and others. It is observed from Table 1 that 10 online courses are going to offer in the upcoming periods. When it is compare to past, current courses, the upcoming online courses are found less as of now. Totally, it is observed that 10 courses are scheduled till date. Out of 10, 2 (20%) courses would be offered in engineering and remaining 8(80%) courses would be offered in other disciplines.

4. SWAYAM-Learning Path

Swayam online courses are offered in various levels. Table 2 shows the learning path of the course.

Table 2
Swayam Learning Path

S.No.	Learning Path	Past	%	Current	%	Upcoming	%
1	Undergraduate	1007	51.22	1	1.49	0	0
2	Postgraduate	694	35.30	0	0.00	0	0
3	Certificate	124	6.31	9	13.43	1	100
4	School	123	6.26	57	85.07	0	0
5	Diploma	18	0.92	0	0.00	0	0
	Total	1966	100	67	100	1	100

4.1. SWAYAM-Past Course

During past course, majority of the courses (1007, 51.22%) were offered in undergraduate level and it is followed by post graduate grade (694, 35.30%). It is further observed that remaining courses were offered at various levels such as certificate (124, 6.31%), school (123, 6.26%) and diploma (18, 0.92%).

4.2. SWAYAM-Current Course

Table 2 shows that majority of the courses are offered at school level (57, 85.07%) and followed by certificate level (9, 13.43%).

4.3. SWAYAM - Upcoming course

It is observed from Table 2 that certificate (1, 100%) level of course is being scheduled in upcoming course.

5. SWAYAM - Language

Swayam course is offered in multiple languages in order to encourage the participants to attend the courses.

Table 3
SWAYAM-Course Language

S.No.	Language	Past	%	Current	%	Upcoming	%
1	English	1195	98.19	58	86.57	2	100%
2	Hindi	21	1.73	9	13.43	0	0
3	Bengali	1	0.08	0	0.00	0	0
	Total	1217	100	67	100	2	100%

5.1. SWAYAM - Past Course

It is found from Table 3 that English (1195, 98.19%) was highly used language to offer online course by Swayam. Hindi was second medium in the swayam course. In Hindi, (21,

1.73%) of the courses were offered and in Bengali (1, 0.08) course was offered. In total, 1217 courses were offered in three languages.

5.2. SWAYAM-Current Course

During the current courses, it is observed that (58, 86.57%) Swayam online course were offered, followed by 9 (13.43%) were offered in Hindi and No course was provided in Bengali during current Course.

5.3. SWAYAM - Upcoming Course

It is observed from Table 3 that only 2 courses are scheduled and these courses would be offered in English (100%) language only.

6. SWAYAM-Online Course - Major Findings

1. The courses offered in engineering disciplines are higher than other disciplines.
2. There is a vast gap between these courses in respect of its quantity.
3. Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) was provided. It is useful for Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for the staff members in the Colleges and Universities. It also enables to attend the course without affecting their regular official works.
4. English Language is a most dominating medium of instruction.
5. There is a decreasing trend in the growth of Swayam courses

Conclusion

Swayam course is a boon for the teachers, students who are interested in online education. The number of courses conducted should be increased in subsequent years also. The tests shall be conducted immediately when the course is in progress. There should be an adequate awareness about the courses and it should be ensured among teachers and learners. Therefore, the demand for the courses would be increased every year.

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