Awareness of Swayam Programme among B.Ed. Students and Their Faculties

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Abstract

The present study was carried to know the awareness of SWAYAM among B.Ed. students and faculty. A sample of 200 respondents (150 B.Ed. students and 50 faculties) was taken to respond a Google form Questionnaire. The result shows that most of the respondents are unaware about SWAYAM and very less of them are registered for the courses available in it and the paper concludes with the suggestion that more efforts should be made to aware B.Ed. students and their faculties about SWAYAM by which they will get facilitated with new practices of teaching and related technologies.

KEYWORDS: Awareness, B.Ed., SWAYAM, e-learning, faculty, educational technology, ICT, EdTech.

Introduction

Educational Technology (EdTech)

Educational Technology is any device, tool or concept which facilitates teaching and learning with projectors, scanner, computers, printers and other technological resources that motivates students to learn better. An abacus with its sliding beads for counting and math work in ancient times of education is as much a form of EdTech as is a modern computer in the classroom today. If in traditional teaching, teachers' uses some sort of technology to teach, then it is a form of EdTech.

Today, Teachers and students get easy access to education by using digital platforms with the help of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), ODL (Open Distance Learning).They can do e-learning, m-learning or distance learning. Electronic learning or e-learning is the use of computers with the internet for learning purposes. M-learning or mobile learning is the use of mobile phones and tablets with internet for learning. Distance learning is the learning via the internet across geographic distances, utilizes both m-learning and e-learning.

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a form of MOOCs which is accessible for all with free registration. SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India, aimed to achieve the three objectives of Education Policy i.e., access, equity and quality. The mission of this effort is to develop the best teaching learning resources which is accessible to all, including the most disadvantaged and seeks to bridge the digital gap for students who have remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the education system. **It** offered best quality content of **c**ourses like Engineering, Science, Humanities, Management, Language, Mathematics, Arts and Recreation, Commerce, General, Library, Education that are taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation which is ensured by nine **National Coordinators**

that are All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), University Grants Commission (UGC), Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB), National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR). This platform is launched by Mr. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji on August 15, 2017. The courses hosted on SWAYAM are divided into **four quadrants** i.e.Video lecture, e-Content i.e. reading material that can be downloaded/printed which includes many examples that are related to general life, Self-assessment tests and an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts of students.

Need of EdTech for learners

EdTech helps in making learning better, effective and interesting. It is necessary for greater achievement and to attract learners to learn in better way than the traditional learning.

Need of EdTech for teachers

To integrate new information and communication technologies into teaching programs, training must be given to the teachers, professors, technical and administrative staff otherwise the lack of technical skills of maintaining the functionality of computers confused teachers to integrate ICT in the classroom. This is reported by UNESCO (2005). Park et al. (2009) said that educational technology assists in high-achievement of students and encourage enrolment in science. Educational leaders were responsible for the quality and instruction of online programs needed to engage in professional development, and experiment with online learning environments, infrastructures, and technologies said by Reid (2013). To make teaching attractive, effective, interesting and informative teachers should know about EdTech and its uses in teaching and learning process.

 Need of the study

Faculty are the building blocks of our country. They play a very crucial role in the development of our nation. For the development, faculties should be up-to-dated and for this, they should know about the modern techniques of teaching. They should know the new ways of teaching and learning and make easy access of education at anytime, anywhere. The faculty who knows about new ways and modern technologies of teaching, e-learning platforms, MOOCs, SWAYAM can teach in more effective, informative and interesting ways. It is also necessary for their professional development. As, B.Ed. programme give birth to the teachers of nation, so, that the B.Ed. faculties and their students should know about the modern technologies and e-learning programmes. Therefore, this study was conducted to know the awareness of B.Ed. students and faculties about SWAYAM.

Research Questions

The research questions for the study are:

(1) Have B.Ed. faculties heard about SWAYAM?
(2) Have B.Ed. students heard about SWAYAM?
(3) Have B.Ed. faculties registered for any courses in SWAYAM?
(4) Have B.Ed. students registered for any courses in SWAYAM?
(5) Which quadrant is most interesting in SWAYAM for B.Ed. faculties?
(6) Which quadrant is most interesting in SWAYAM for B.Ed. students?

Limitations of the study

Due to lack of time only five B.Ed. colleges of Delhi were randomly selected for the study.

Methodology

A survey was conducted among B.Ed. students and faculties about the awareness of SWAYAM following a structured Google form questionnaire which is filled by total 200 respondents among which 30 was B.Ed. students and 10 was faculty from each B.Ed. college.

Discussion and Result

The Questionnaire had five following questions:

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

❖ **B.Ed. Faculties response:**

The study showed that 47% faculties have heard about SWAYAM.

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that there was no adequate awareness about SWAYAM among B.Ed. Faculties.

❖ **B.Ed. Students response:**

The study showed that only 23% B.Ed. students have heard about SWAYAM.

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that there was no adequate awareness about SWAYAM among B.Ed. Students.

2. Have you registered for any courses in SWAYAM?

❖ **B.Ed. Faculties response:**

The study showed that only 13% B.Ed. faculties have registered in courses on SWAYAM.

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that very few B.Ed. Faculties were registered in courses available in SWAYAM.

❖ **B.Ed. Students response:**

The study showed that only 2% B.Ed. students have registered in courses on SWAYAM.

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that very few B.Ed. Students were registered in courses available in SWAYAM.
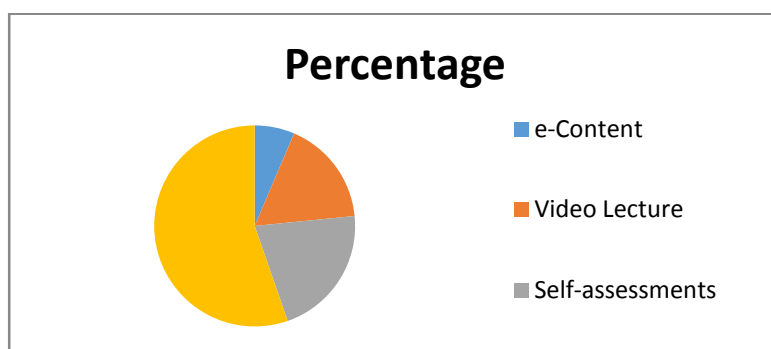
3. Which quadrant (Video lecture, e-Content, Self-assessment tests and an online discussion forum) **is most interesting in SWAYAM?**

❖ **B.Ed. Faculties response:**

The findings of the study showed in following table:

Table: Most interesting quadrant in SWAYAM

Teaching Process	Percentage (%)
e-Content	3
Video Lectures	8
Self-Assessments	10
An online discussion forum for clearing doubts	26

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that most of the B.Ed. Faculties were interested in an online discussion forum for clearing doubts SWAYAM.
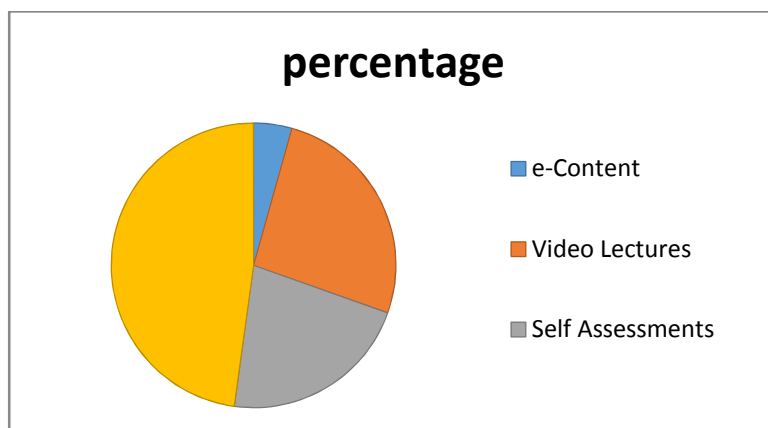
❖ **B.Ed. students response:**

The findings of the study showed in following table:.

Table: Most interesting quadrant in SWAYAM

Table: Most interesting effective teaching process in SWAYAM

Teaching Process	Percentage (%)
e-Content	1
Video Lectures	6
Self-Assessments	5
An online discussion forum for clearing doubts	11

Therefore, according to findings researcher can say that most of the B.Ed. Students were interested in an online discussion forum for clearing doubts SWAYAM.

Conclusion

This study gives an idea about awareness of SWAYAM among B.Ed. students and faculties. SWAYAM, a platform of e-Learning, will provide a great opportunity to Indian students to learn without fearing from failure. The results of this study revealed that most of the B.Ed. students and faculty are unaware about SWAYAM, very few of them have registered in SWAYAM and online discussion quadrant is most liked by them. The study reported that more awareness is required. Government should promote SWAYAM through advertises on media like Radio and TV channels, social networking sites and other platforms so that it reaches to each and every student at every corner of India and B.Ed. faculties should also upgrade and develop their technological knowledge and get benefitted with SWAYAM courses .

Suggestions for improving awareness of SWAYAM:

❖ SWAYAM will prove as a good platform to learn and gain knowledge if it reaches to every student at every corner of India. Hence, Government of India should do more for its awareness like advertise SWAYAM on Radio, TV channels, news-papers etc.

❖ An initiative has to bring forth for creating awareness among students and faculties in every B.Ed. College by various schemes. So that everyone get benefit from the available courses.

❖ There should be no registration process for just seeing the courses details and syllabus as it is time consuming but when B.Ed. faculties and students want to use its content then it can demand for registration first.

❖ The search button for courses in SWAYAM should have more keywords so that it will become more user-friendly.

❖ A kind of seminar or workshop should be organised for every B.Ed. colleges' faculties in Delhi by the related authorities in which their attendance and active participation is necessary so that they become aware about SWAYAM and its features; and also make aware their students about it.

❖ In B.Ed. colleges ICT should not limited to a theoretical part. It should be done in daily practice of B.Ed. course syllabus in which SWAYAM will play a great role.

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