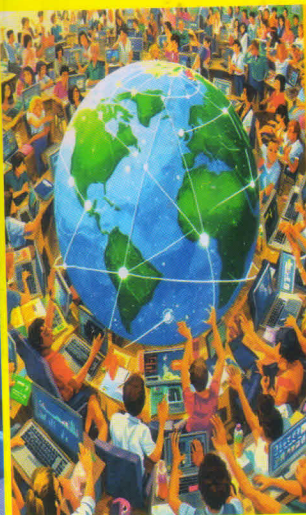
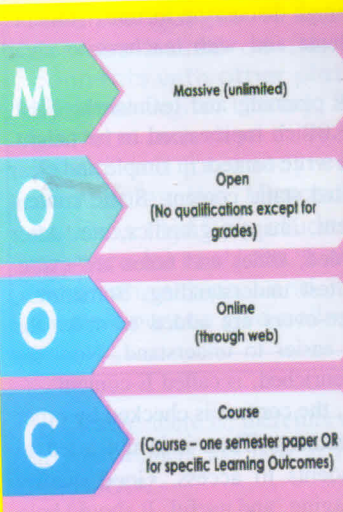


# THE SELF-LEARNING REVOLUTION IN INDIA

## From MOOCs to Smart MOOCs

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MOOCs are like big classrooms on the internet where lots of people can learn together.

Source: created using Canva and AI image generator in Canva

**I**NDIA'S education system is changing fast, thanks to new technologies. Online learning through MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) has become very popular, enabling many students learn from anywhere. Now, a newer version called Smart MOOCs is making learning even better. Smart MOOCs use tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, and machine learning to deliver personalised lessons tailored to each student's individual needs. They make learning more fun, easier to understand, and better for building skills for future jobs. Government programmes like SWAYAM and NEP-2020 support these changes, aiming to make education more flexible, inclusive, and ready for the future.

### A New Era in Indian Education

India is a country with one of the largest and youngest populations (more than 54% of our population is below 25 years of age) in the world. Education plays an important role in shaping the future of both our youth and nation. For a long time, the traditional approach to learning in schools and colleges was prevalent. Teachers would stand in front of the class, explain topics, students would take notes, and prepare for exams. This teacher-centric "one-size-fits-all" system worked for many years, but the world has changed now, mainly because of technological advancements — and so must our education system.

In today's fast-changing world, especially with the rapid development of technology, education is no longer limited to the four walls of a classroom. It is becoming more flexible,

more student-friendly, and more focused on the future rather than on exams. One of the biggest changes we are witnessing is the rise of self-learning, where students take responsibility for their own education using online platforms and tools. At the heart of this change are two powerful ideas: MOOCs and Smart MOOCs.

### What are MOOCs?

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are online courses that anyone can join from anywhere in the world, often without paying anything. However, certification, if needed, is provided at a nominal charge. They are called "massive" because thousands, or even millions, of students can take these courses at the same time. "Open" means they are available to everyone, and no pre-qualifications are required unless you want to obtain grades/credits.

In India, the government has launched several platforms to promote MOOCs. Some of the most well-known platforms are:

- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) and SWAYAM Plus (for Industry Delivered Courses) — created by the Government of India.
- NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) — a joint initiative of IITs and IISc.
- And many other international platforms like Coursera.

These platforms offer courses in a wide range of subjects — engineering, medicine, business, psychology, art, music, law, languages, and more. Whether you're a college student