

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND ICT

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Week-06

Lecture-29

Module-29: SWAYAM

Hello dear learners, welcome to the SWAYAM-NPTEL course on Educational Technology and ICT. I am your course coordinator, Dr. Sarita Anand, from the Department of Education, Vinaya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India. Today, we will talk about Module 29 on SWAYAM. This is Lecture 29, and before discussing the topic on SWAYAM, we will review the concepts covered. In the previous lecture, we covered smart classrooms.

Now, let's start with SWAYAM. SWAYAM stands for Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. SWAYAM is actually a massive open online course platform. The SWAYAM portal is an initiative of the Government of India, providing free online education to learners across the country. It also aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure access to quality education for anyone, anytime, and anywhere especially for those who lack access to traditional learning resources. However, these days, it is not limited to people without resources but also includes those who want to empower themselves through learning. So, the acronym SWAYAM stands for Study Webs, as I have already mentioned. It is an integrated acronym. This online learning platform is designed to provide massive open online courses from various educational institutions.

Now, the mission and objectives of Swayam. The main objective of Swayam is to provide accessible, equitable, and high-quality education to learners through technology. The first objective is inclusive education, ensuring that students from remote areas and underprivileged backgrounds can access quality education with the help of SWAYAM. The second one is lifelong learning. Support continuous education for professionals and students.

Teachers of higher education institutions, like me, and learners, like you, can avail the resources and facilities of Swayam by joining the course. Bridging the skill gap is another objective of Swayam MOOCs, which provides courses in vocational skills, professional development, and higher education. The next objective is to ensure effective learning. It offers free education with an option for a nominal fee to obtain certification. As you all know, certification is important, but if you are not interested in certification, you can register and access the course content freely. For certification, you have to pay a nominal fee. In later stages, I will show how cost-effective learning works, as a teacher educator, by utilizing the content provided by SWAYAM for my teaching-learning process and disseminating knowledge to my students. I will show you that in the last slide.

The fifth objective is digital empowerment: Reduce the dependence and technological or traditional classroom both this empowers the teachers and the learners to promote the self-paced learning. So, it can be utilized in the traditional classes also in our technological data-based classes which we are organizing in online classes. So, the launch and development initiated by Government of India, Ministry of Education and it was launched on 9th July 2017 by the Government of India. Developed by AICTE, All India Council for Technical Education and UGC, University Grant Commission, NCERT and NIOS for school level courses, and IIT, IIMs and other premier institutions for higher education courses.

Many institutions collaborated with each other and made this Swayam MOOCs concept happen. So now Swayam is redesigned to align with the India's National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes the digital education. evolution and growth of the SWAYAM in before 2017 definitely pre-2017 there was online courses concept india experimented with the various digital education initiatives like NPTEL which course you are pursuing right now which was focused on engineering courses later on, humanities and social sciences also added like right now I am providing my course here in this platform of NPTEL.

In 2017, SWAM was officially launched as a single unified platform for online courses across disciplines. Earlier mooKit and NPTEL were separate identity and now they are under the umbrella of SWAYAM (2018 to 2020) the government made SWAYAM courses mandatory for the universities to recognize as credit based learning in COVID-19 pandemic period from 2020 and 2021, a massive rise in enrollment was observed as educational institutions shifted to online learning and more acceptance increased towards the online education and after 2022 and till present, Integration of SWAYAM courses with

credit transfer policies in universities, expanding to skill-based learning and programs and global accessibility is there for the Swayam courses. Now, why are MOOCs of India called SWAYAM?

This is the question many times students ask, ma'am: why is this name SWAYAM? So, our government is very much interested in giving the name, naamkaran, to any project. Whatever project they are launching, they give a name to that child. That project is the child. So, SWAYAM is an acronym I have already mentioned that reflects the mission and the purpose.

So, the meaning behind Swayam is that it comes from the Sanskrit word 'self.' It aligns with the concept of self-paced and self-reliant learning. It represents self-motivated education where learners take charge of their own learning journey. The acronym highlights the active and engaging nature of digital education in India. Why the name SWAYAM for Indian MOOCs? So, I have prepared a table for you that you can go through to understand the self-learning focus, accessibility, inclusion, government initiative, national identity integration, and I have given the logic for how and why we should call Indian MOOCs as SWAYAM. So, you can go through it and see how it is different from other MOOCs at the international or global level. Unlike global MOOCs, SWAYAM focuses on courses developed by Indian institutions like IITs, IIMs, UGC, AICTE, NCERT, and NIOS for schools. It provides free courses with an option for certification at a nominal fee. Remember, these courses are fully free. If you are interested only to learn, not for the certification, you can go through it. You can freely join it, but this facility is not available in any private or international level MOOCs. Recognized by Indian universities for credit transfer under UGC regulation. It provides the platforms to covering the school level, undergraduate, postgraduate and professional courses. Like it is providing earlier the ARPIT courses were there.

Then FDPs, diploma, certificates etc. are there in this platform. So, it follows a four-quadrant approach that includes the video lectures, which I have prepared and providing to you all. The e-content or the reading materials, the self-assessment test and the discussion forums. If you are interested to develop the Swayam MOOCs courses, you have to follow these four norms which are called four quadrant approach of the Swayam.

So, what are these four-quadrant approach? We will go one by one. SWAYAM follows the four-quadrant approach and I have tried to design it in a new way, also it is

with the help of AI. These four quadrants are video lectures, engaging visual content delivered by expert educators or subject matter expert will be there.

Reading materials, whatever PPTs I am preparing that is provided you in PDF format and comprehensive text may be provided, self-assessment test, weekly assessment test are being provided to you all and the last one is discussion forum and you can put your question, your queries, your Confusions here in this discussion forum and we as a content provider coordinator, we try to reply timely. If we are stuck somewhere, we are not getting the time. We definitely try to manage to give the responses in time. so these were the four-quadrant now we will go one by one we know that the e tutorials or the video lectures are the most important part of these uh four quadrant approach where the experts deliver the uh content uh in video lectures and these video lectures are designed to be engaging self-explanatory and conceptually clear that's why whatever

Content we are going to provide, we make it, we put it in the PPT and give it to you with the delivery of the video, also after completing this video, we provide it in a PDF format. So, what are the features of these? video lectures it should be high quality video lectures by professors or from the premier institutions and the animation simulation visual aids for better conceptual understanding we can utilize these facilities available in multiple languages to enhance the accessibility.

So, these are the features for the e-tutorials. So, video lecture helps the students to learn by their own pace. You can revise it, replay it and you can try to understand the concept delivered by the experts. The second one is e-content. The second quadrant is the e-content.

E-content includes maybe the textbook in PDF format, PDF notes, articles, presentations, etc. This will be the e-content. And these digital lectures in the form of PDFs with references and downloadable PDFs are part of e-content. It means the e-content will provide you with explanations that complement the video lectures which we are providing to you all as learners. And it supports self-pacing and self-referencing.

Reliance learning with structured content. You can revise that content. And the third one is self-assessment. The third quadrant is self-assessment, which includes weekly quizzes and assignments. Those who are not running in CBT mode are given assignments.

You have to complete the task. In time, prepare the presentation or the recording, etc. Whatever the nature of the course, you will get the assignment here. In our course, we are providing weekly assessments in the form of quizzes. So MCQs, short answer

questions, and different assignments can be provided here in self-assessment section of the quadrant and also we can give the instant feedback system also for the betterment of the learners as well as the course. Then the fourth quadrant is the discussion forum and you all are utilizing this discussion forum where the learners can interact with the instructors, the peers and the subject expert and whatever is their query on the discussion board, coordinator and their teaching assistant can reply and peer-to-peer learning is also there. This is the forum which provides the whole support system for the learners. So, we can say that these four-quadrant approach of the SWAYAM ensures the online learning is not limited to just the video lectures but the different other aspects also.

By incorporating e-tutorials, e-content, self-assessment tools and discussion forum, SWAYAM makes learning flexible and effective. This model enhances the quality and accessibility of education in India, making it a powerful tool for self-learning. And now we will talk about the need and importance of SWAYAM. The affordable learning is provided by SWAYAM, which is free access to education with an option for paid certification, which I have already mentioned. So, this is the biggest need of the people, the learners, those who are interested to learn, but they cannot afford the expensive schooling or higher education.

So, this is the need of the day. The shortage of teachers, many times there is shortage in schools or colleges, the teacher shortage. So, it ensures the learners from rural areas or the backward areas to get access to the experts lectures from India's top institutions. So, skill development gap, it fulfills the help the students and professionals acquire job-oriented skills. Expanding digital learning.

It supports the online and blended learning models, aligning with the Digital India mission. Quality education. Courses are designed by the top faculties from IITs and IIMs at central universities like INI. So the quality of education provided by SWAYAM seems to be of good quality. And flexible learning.

It enables self-paced learning for students and professionals. Bridging the urban and rural divide, it ensures access to higher education in remote areas and integration with higher education. Many universities allow students to earn credits through SWAYAM courses. Now, these courses are directly linked with your ABC account. For the learners, I hope when you registered for the course, you mentioned your ABC account because when you complete your certification, your certificate will directly enter your ABC account.

Now, very shortly, I will mention the national coordinators. Because whenever we talk about the functioning of SWAYAM, there are at present 10 national coordinators of SWAYAM. Each is responsible for developing and delivering high-quality online courses for different educational levels and disciplines. These coordinators ensure SWAYAM provides structured learning materials for schools, undergraduate, postgraduate, teachers, and professionals.

So, one by one, I will tell the names, but I will not go into detail because I will take you to the website of SWAM, and there we can go through these coordinators. So, AICTE is focusing on diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, and technical education. By its name, it is shown here. Skill-based education is promoted by AICTE, and they are providing courses in engineering, management, innovation, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies like AI and IoT. The target audience of AICTE is M. Tech. or B.Tech. students and also working professionals.

The second one is NPTEL, which you are pursuing. NPTEL is the National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning. It provides courses for undergraduate and postgraduate engineering and science courses. And now, social sciences and humanities courses, like educational technology and ICT, are offered by our institution on the NPTEL platform. So, a joint initiative by the IITs and IISCs, the Indian Institutes of Technology and Science. This is a collaborative effort. It covers computer science, electrical, mechanical, civil, electronics, chemical engineering, etc. Basically, this is for the sciences, B.Tech. M.Tech. students, and their faculties. But now, we, the teachers and students from the social sciences and humanities, are also getting the chance to

offer our courses at NPTEL platform. Now the UGC, UGC is providing UGPG courses, non-technical subjects include humanities, social sciences and commerce and arts and general elective and core curriculum courses for university students and the target audience of this are BA, BSc, BCom, MA, MSc, MCom students. The CEC, Consortium for Educational Communication, this is providing the UG education in non-technical subjects, provide multimedia-based educational content and they cover the liberal arts, mass communication, business studies, history and political science, etc. And the target audience is UG students in humanities, commerce and social sciences. Then NITTR, this NITTR is also a very important course provider, coordinator of the SWAYAM.

They providing teacher training for technical and vocational education. They develop the courses for the faculty members, for polytechnics, engineering colleges and

skill development institutions. It covers the pedagogical techniques, digital teaching tools and technical subject specific teaching and the target audience for them are engineering college teachers, polytechnic instructors and vocational trainers. Then NCERT, we all know that NCERT is for the school level course content creation. Basically, they are preparing for 9 to 12 students for mathematics, science, social science and languages.

And the school students at secondary and higher secondary level are the target audience. The NIOS is for open schooling. By name, you can understand the National Institute of Open Schooling. And they are providing the content for the vocational courses and dropouts and the adult learners so it provides the secondary education 9 to 10 and senior secondary 11th -12th level courses and then it offers the skill-based training handicrafts agriculture computer literacy and business management target audience for them are school dropouts remember school dropouts adult learners and vocational trainers so now

The eighth one is the eighth coordinator, IGNU, well known. IGNU is Indira Gandhi National Open University. Higher education and lifelong learning are the focus courses. It focuses on distance learning for UG and PG courses. It offers courses in social sciences, law, library science, rural development, and management.

Its target audience is UG and PG students in open education mode. Adult learners and working professionals. IIMB, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, provides courses in management and business sectors, including humanities, social sciences, commerce, and arts. They offer general elective and core curriculum papers, targeting B.A., BSc, BCom, MA, MSc, and MCom students.

The tenth one is INI. This is the latest national coordinator, providing undergraduate and postgraduate courses. They also offer courses in business planning, startups, management, and financial literacy. This INI currently includes only two institutions: BHU and Aligarh Muslim University. I have prepared this summary table for you all. You can go through this summary table and now understand the concept of SWAYAM certification.

I want to show you something special. You can go through it. This is my certificate, my first certificate when I have given the examination of SWAYAM in March 2019. So, my goal is to show you the certificates that right now I am sitting in front of you as an instructor or the subject matter expert or the coordinator. But I am a good learner also and you can also pursue the certification also.

From the so I am and you can benefit Benefited by this because I have got this course for api scoring by completing this course You can see here. This is the NPTEL online certification once I was learner designing learner centric MOOCs This was the course and this course was from the very famous Garhwal University and semantics academic writing course and then we have completed the ARPIT course. The first one was the ARPIT course, annual refresher program. And this was done by me from IGNOU and these were the course in 2022 I have completed. I will suggest you all that register for the examination in two courses, one in first half and second one in second half. And then you can give questions. Two examinations in one day. This is the example of that certificate.

First half and second half same day and I have completed. I am a good learner. So, 83% and 75% marks were there. And this certificate is the latest certificate.

These two certificates which I had completed earlier in this last year 2024 were 73%. And this one is the highest mark 94% in virtual reality course. I had completed above two courses are from IGNOU and this one is also from IGNOU. So, if you are interested to complete the course, definitely you can go for the certification. But definitely there are some limitations also.

Every technical aspects are having their digital device divide low completion rates. So I am having this problem. Two thousand people are registered in my course, but only three and I think three hundred fifty people have registered for the examination till now. So this is the low completion rates is there. Many language barriers are there.

Non-English people, non-English speakers are there. They do not understand it. That's why they do not complete it. Lack of practical learning many times. Hands-on trainings are lab-based.

Trainings are required which are lacking here on Swayam platform. And awareness issue. This is the biggest issue that many people like students and teachers both are not aware or unaware regarding the benefit of recognition of the Swayam courses. That's why I have practically shown you my own certificate, seven certification I have got from the Swayam starting with the ARPIT, one ARPIT, one FDP, two, three PG courses and recently I also that all are PG courses, I think.

Then the SWAYAM mobile screenshot which I have kept for your motivation that there is SWAYAM app application is there. You can download it in your daily use for going through the course content. This is a screenshot of my mobile and here you can see that in

my courses section there is upcoming or ongoing courses and completed section. where you can see it is showing 226 courses I have completed it means I have not given all the examination but for the sake of learning my self learning for mentorship to the my to the different batches of the students I had registered myself for the different courses and till now 226 courses I am enrolled and whenever i want to fetch the course content i can go through it because i am registered with these courses and you can see here the upcoming courses 45 courses are running right now which i am already registered so i will suggest you that go through these swam courses for your better learning and if you are not going to Complete the course, but if you are registered, then definitely you can benefit from the archived courses. So, whenever you need the course content, you can go through it. You can open your mobile app and access the course. If I want to see the course content, I can fetch it.

I can share it with my students. So, this is the benefit of SWAYAM: all kinds of course contents are freely available. Now, we will visit the SWAYAM website for further details. Just scroll down on the SWAYAM website. Okay, let's go through the SWAYAM website. Now it's opening. It will take a little time to open, maybe due to internet issues. Now it's open.

Yes, I have already signed in. So, my name is showing here. This is SWAYAM's webpage, and you can go through it. I know if you are pursuing this course, you are definitely aware. These are the names of the SWAYAM coordinators.

This is the INI. INI is very new to the SWAM platform and only two institutions are there. This is the menu bar and you can go through about the SWAM, all courses, national coordinators, local chapters. Local chapter is for NPTEL and the SWAYAM+. So, here if you go to the national coordinators, it will show by the coordinators course.

So, I am not going to open it, but I will request you all that please go through it. if you have started watching my videos definitely you are already going through but not only you try to learn but you train or disseminate the message knowledge to your neighbors your peers or anybody who can be benefited with the help of this swam platform because these platforms are providing so many information knowledge system to the local people and the learners needy learners who can not afford the highly cost-effective education system so I will request you all go through the national coordinators I had mentioned the name of the INI so you can see here the only Two institutions are there till now, the Institute of National

Importance. So, Visva-Bharati, our institution is also under the INI, but we have offered our course on NPTEL.

Later stages, maybe we can, other people from Viswabharti can offer here. You can see the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and the Banaras Hindu University. These are the two institutions offering their courses at INI on SWAYAM platform. So this is the website of SWAM and you scroll through, go through it. How to search?

You all know if you are pursuing this course. You can go through by the name of the course coordinators or by the name of your instructor. course mode, duration, exam date, etc. Whatever is your filter like you do the shopping time then definitely here also filters are available. You can go through, give the name and you can choose the subject as per the topic your interest here is the catalog you can choose it or you if you know the title then you can write the course title here like educational technology and ICT if you will mention then that course will come so that's it for today for this lecture on SWAYAM I hope you will Try to learn more regarding the Swayam for yourself and also disseminate the knowledge towards others. We can conclude that the name of Swayam is not just an acronym, but also a philosophy of self-learning and self-reliance, which aligns with the India's vision of digital India and education for all systems. It ensures that the students, professionals and the lifelong learners have equal access to quality education regardless of their location or background. SWAYAM has the potential to transform higher education, skill training and lifelong learning in India.

With continuous improvements, it can bridge the educational gap and support India's vision for a digitally empowered society. The 10 national coordinators of SWAYAM ensure that the learners from all educational backgrounds can benefit from free, high-quality digital education. These courses help students, teachers, entrepreneurs and the professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills contributing to India's digital education mission. And these are the references for the reading. You can go through it and learn many new things from these resources given in the reference.

Keep learning. Thank you.