

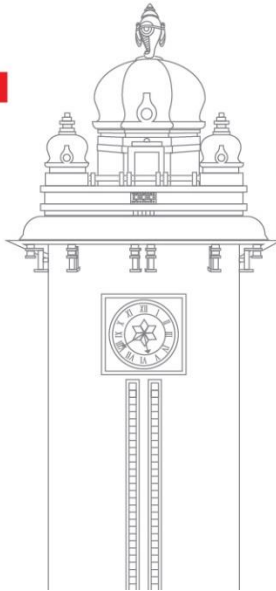
Report on MOOC @ University of Kerala



Announcing

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

@ University of Kerala
Online, Open, Free and Globally Available



First course on

Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations

- 6 lectures, 6 MCQ Tests, 1 assignment, e-discussions
- **Pre-requisite:** Anyone already familiar with making PowerPoint presentations
- **Course instructor:**
Professor, Achuthsankar S. Nair

This course will uncover techniques to make a multi-media presentation with optimal viewability, ergonomics, aesthetics, and enjoyment. It will give opportunity to critically review some sample presentations and finally make one

Sign up at:

www.keralauniversity.ac.in/mooc

MOOC
MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE



The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
University of Kerala
2017

Report on MOOC @ University of Kerala



The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
University of Kerala
2017

A Report on the first MOOC – “Making Powerful Multimedia Presentation “@ University of Kerala

1. Introduction

Technology has evolved to form an integral part in our culture and this in turn creates great impact in the field of higher education. Information and communication technologies have created innovative ways of teaching. Further, the technological revolution is breaking the bounds of traditional class room campus system. Web platforms envisage a new era of education with unlimited participation. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) is one such initiative aimed at unlocking knowledge through online courses MOOC has silently entered our Higher education sector. Many students of higher education sign up for courses offered through world-class Universities over platforms such as Coursera, Edx etc and some have even moved closer to receiving micro and nano degrees by accumulating credits from these. Courses of diverse variety are available online, starting from "Being Happy" to "Death". While students may sign up for subject related courses, laymen have wide variety to choose from including magic, soft skills, foreign languages, gardening and cooking.



Figure1: Screen Shot of courses on “The Science of Happiness”

2. Swayam MOOC

In India, the central Govt has created a platform christened Swayam through which MOOC courses are offered and students can sign up for the courses and transfer the credit to their University programmes. These platforms encourage students globally to engage themselves in learning with their peers. Video lectures are fast becoming a de facto standard to deliver instruction, the interactive forums further help to build the understanding through synergic effect. The UGC regulations in this regard have been implemented in University of Kerala, though it is not known if any student has utilized the opportunity.

3. Relevance of UoK MOOC

Many successful courses in international platforms are of short duration and not meant to be a part of academic certification. SWAYAM has a suite of courses, each of which caters to syllabi of Degree programmes and involve online listening of dozens of hours of lectures. This is what makes the initiative of University of Kerala different. It has run a certificate course on "Making Powerful Multimedia Presentation" involving six 6-minute lectures and 4 quizzes and 2 assignments. . The course ran successfully from May 2nd to June 5th 2017. The course promotion was done using facebook and other social medias. The course instructor was Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, HoD, Department of Computational Biology & Bioinformatics, University of Kerala. The course was assisted by Dr. Biji C. L., Research and Teaching Associate, Department of Computational Biology & Bioinformatics.



Figure 1: Screen shot of promo video on “Making Powerful Multimedia Presentation”

4. Participants attracted by the first MOOC

Out of the 303 person who took the course in the first go, 8 were from UAE, 3 each from Kuwait and Malaysia, 2 from USA and 1 from Madagascar, Canada, Sweden, Australia. Among registrants from India, about 90% are from Kerala. The rest includes Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh, Orissa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. 82 students bagged course completion certificate.



Figure 2: Country-wise distribution of MOOC registrants



Figure 3: State -wise distribution of Indian MOOC registrants

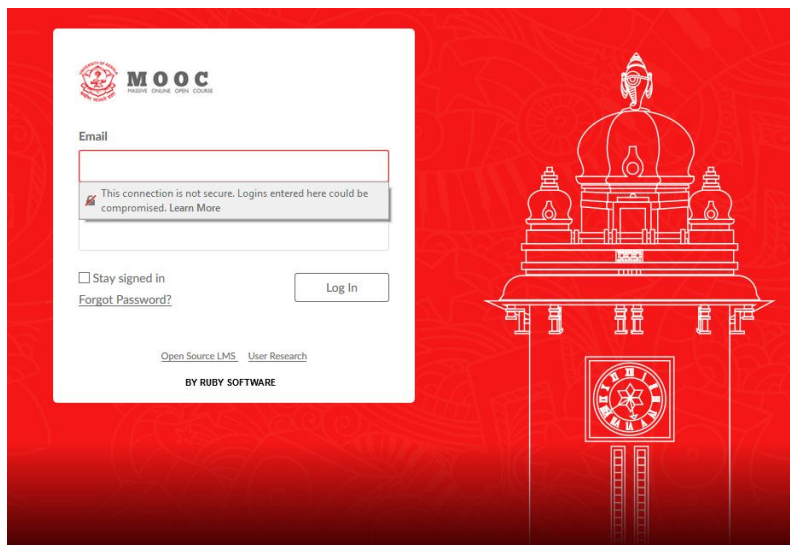


Figure 4: Screen shot of MOOC Login page



Home

Grades

Discussions

▼ Week 1

- Lecture : Introduction | View
- Assignment: Make your story board | Score at least 3.0

Figure 6: Screen shot of week 1 modules

Assignment: Make your story board

Deadline May 15 by 11:59pm **Points** 5 **Submitting** a file upload


"Develop your story board for your chosen topic"

Please refer to the lecture/edited script. You are required to select a topic of your choice, preferably a general topic, and prepare a "story board" for it. You may prepare it in an editor or simply use pen and paper then scan the matter. You can directly upload the scanned matter using file upload option.

Figure 7: Screen shot of assignment of week 1




Figure 8: Screen shot of Video Lecture 1




Lakshmi A K

May 11, 2017




Quiz is the assignment for Week 2 whereas the last date for Week 1 assignment (story board) has been extended to 15th May.



Biji C.L.

May 11, 2017



Dear Lakshmi,

You are correct. Some of the registrants joined late as there was some confusion in course invitation mail. Hence for all the deadline is relaxed!

Figure 9: Screen shot of discussion during the course

6. Sample MOOC online message drafts

Invitation to join in the course message

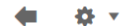
Hi,
 Welcome to the Mooc on Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations
 from the University of Kerala

Weekly progress message



Biji C.L., advparvathykr@gmail.com
 Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations

May 17, 2017 at 9:47am



Greetings from University of Kerala MOOC team,
 Hope you all are enjoying the week 3 course. Thank you for all feedback shared which helped us to stand corrected with a few software bugs! We have started grading your assignment. We received around 140 received , we urge others to submit the assignment as we have relaxed the deadline ! All are requested to keep in track of their progress . You may review the progress by following the below link <http://52.24.240.144/>

Course coming to an end message



Biji C.L., Smitha Sabu
Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations

June 22, 2017 at 2:16pm

Dear MOOC Students,

The MOOC course is coming to a close with most of you having submitted your assignments. You will soon be receiving your certificate online.

I wish to hear from you about your critical as well as positive feedback about the course so that it can be strengthened and improved in future. Please mail me directly at sankar.achuth@gmail.com

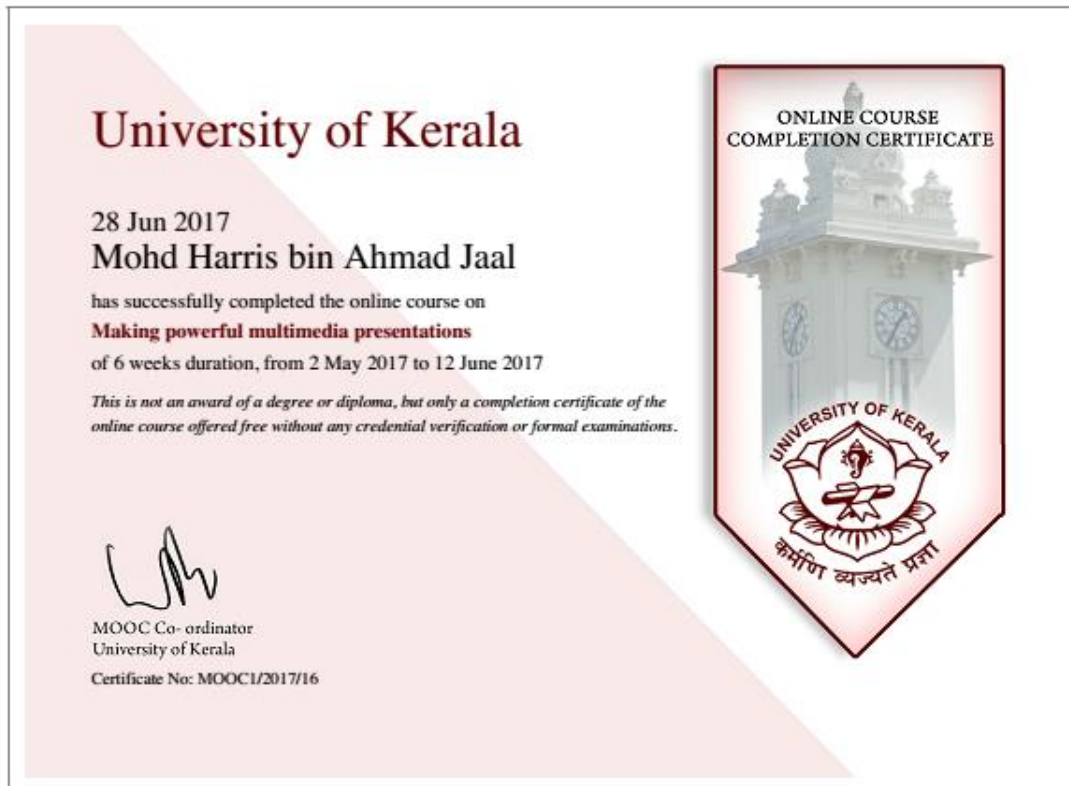
My own observation is that "What is a story board ", as I explained in lecture 1, was not clear and resulted in misunderstood responses for assignment 1. I will be addressing this in next course run.

I am sharing with all of you a power point I made during the course <https://sites.google.com/view/moockerala/sample-ppt> . This was used for a presentation in New Delhi last week. Please note that you cannot fully understand the matter of this presentation, since only my speech will complete the communication. However you can take a look it generally and reflect.

All the best!

Prof. Achuthsankar S. Nair

7. MOOC Certificate



8. Course Feedback

8.1. Raji N R <rajinr@nish.ac.in> wrote:

It is really exciting to know that Kerala University has started offering Massive Open Online Courses. I have registered for the first course and is eagerly waiting for it to start. MOOC is a part of NISH culture and we have kept an hour in our course time table for it. For staff it is mandatory to complete at least one in a year. The staff and students depends mainly on Coursera and Edx . At NISH we made an attempt to make a MOOC on Basics of Indian Sign Language and it was launched last year. NISH is conducting three courses exclusively for deaf students –BSc (Computer Science), BFA and BCom. If the MOOC offered by Kerala University can include transcripts and subtitles it will be very useful for our students. Also I would like to bring your kind attention to some points noted in the MOOC page MOOC is Massive Open Online Course not Massive Online Open course. I am not sure the reverse is accepted or standard. An online MOOC course from University of Kerala, India= also looks odd as MOOC itself has Online and Course in it.

8.2. Radhika Sreedhar <radhikasreedhar1999@gmail.com> wrote:

At the outset itself I would like to congratulate the entire team behind this MOOC programme. It is indeed a real chore along with your other academic responsibilities. In the era of MOOC, where world's leading educational institutions are reaching global students at a click away..our own UoK also has marked a milestone in its pedagogic journey. But I wonder whether the classes begun little prematurely ie, before setting up the technological arrangements. Because many times I received hoax mails and irrelevant communication. The major issue I would like to highlight is proper communication. It is better to send group mails to all learners every Monday reg. each week's class and marks of previous weeks assignment. Unfortunately no active discussion forum was there as it is the crux of MOOC courses. Several messages I sent but responded only once. I feel your canvas platform as least student friendly. It is high time to streamline and setup a learner friendly platform for the upcoming courses. And a loosely structured outline is not desirable. Another area which require critical evaluation is the assignments. Most of the assignments were confusing. Because responses sounds alike and lack of proper feedback. Then about the topic. It was very much worthy. I am sure each learner will prepare tactful, intelligent and innovative slides hereafter. Though it seems simple classes orient me to many new information. Awaiting for many more fruitful sessions from UoK. Thank you..once again... For me it is a dream come true to learn from you dear Achuthshankar sir....

8.3. Shaji Erath <shajigeology@gmail.com> wrote:

At the outset let congratulate you for designing and conducting such a wonderful MOOC course in the University platform for the first time. I fully enjoyed the

six week course and eagerly listening to your lucid lectures and attending to the well designed assignments etc. So thrilled to see the grading. As you mentioned, I could not completely follow the storyboard lecture. May be my mistake. But the course was outstanding. I should rate it one of the best MOOC courses. This is a real boost for the University and will increase the visibility of the University. This can be taken as model for the other faculties of the University to start MOOC. I take this opportunity to congratulate you for conducting the course brilliantly in spite of your busy schedule. Thanks a lot. Expecting more good courses from you. Dr Biji, as course instructor, did a commendable job and is much appreciated. She deserves a special mention

8.4. Bindu Ayoor <bindhuayoor@gmail.com> wrote:

About the MOOC course- Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations . It was exactly what I was looking for and now I feel much more confident in making power point presentations (PPTs). I have learned new tips and tricks to make the presentation perfect and strong & the course gave more comfortable feeling to make a PPT in an effective way. It was very easy to follow all the lectures and assignments. In addition, the directions were very easy to understand. In the last message, you pointed out that the first lecture about storyboard preparation was somewhat confusing. I don't think so. It was a clear lecture for me. However, I got 'D' grade in the assignment. That was purely because of my fault and I missed the date to resubmit the assignment.

Overall evaluation

1. The given course objective was very clear.
2. The assignments were appropriate for the course and they were provided an appropriate balance between instructions and practices.
3. All the lectures followed by the quiz sections provided the opportunity to practice the information we have learned from the lectures.
4. The teacher was effective in communicating the content of the course
5. Certainly, I will recommend this course to other students

One suggestion/request - It is going to be great if the coordinators could summarize and share the main points obtained from the Assignment_ Critical Review of Given presentation from all students in to a single file.

Thank you so much for this very effective online course and thank you so much for all the team members and Kerala University

9. University Order

**UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
(Abstract)**

IQAC- Starting of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)- Provisional Advance – Sanctioned – orders issued.

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

U.O. No. IQAC/311/2016

Thiruvananthapuram, dt 1.7.2016

Read: 1. Minutes of the Meeting of IQA Council dt. 17.8.2015 and 30.5.2016
2. Finance Endorsement No. 1270/Finance I/dt 20.6.2016.

ORDER

The IQA Council met on 17.8.2015 approved the proposal for the Starting of Massive Open Online Course and the council met on 30.5.2016 resolved to authorise the Director, IQAC to implement the decision of the council to start the MOOC. The Director, IQAC has requested to sanction an amount of Rs. 1 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) as Provisional advance for the starting of the Course.

Finance endorsed the payment of Rs. 1 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) to the Director IQAC as Provisional advance.

Sanction has, therefore, been accorded by the Vice- Chancellor to implement the decision of the IQA Council to start the Massive Open Online Course in the University. Sanction has also been accorded to pay an amount of Rs. 1 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) to Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, Director, IQAC as provisional advance to meet the expenditure in connection with the starting of the course. The Expenditure shall be met from the Head of Account part I, NP-MH-63-Miscellaneous 8/5979-IQAC of the Current year Budget of the University.

Orders are issued accordingly.

To:

1. The Director, IQAC
2. PSs to VC/PVC
3. PAs to Registrar/FO/CE/DP & D
4. Ad F II Section for necessary action
5. Audit/Finance I Sn
6. Stock file.

Sd/-

K. Unnikrishnan Nair
Joint Registrar (Acad)
For Registrar

Forwarded/ by order

Section Officer

10. The Hindu article



KU joins the MOOC bandwagon

Tremendous response to online course introduced by university

Tremendous response to online course introduced by university

Keeping pace with the trend of web-based learning in higher education, the University of Kerala has successfully undertaken its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

The varsity's MOOC certificate course on 'Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations' received over 1,000 applications. Anticipating technical glitches considering that it is its initial attempt, the university restricted registration to 304 learners in the first batch.

The certificate course involved six six-minute lectures, four quizzes and two assignments. Among the online learners were eight from the United Arab Emirates, three each from Kuwait and Malaysia, two from the U.S., and one each from Madagascar, Canada, Sweden and Australia. Besides registrants from Kerala, there were those from other States, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, New Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

Vice Chancellor P.K. Radhakrishnan held the view that the varsity's MOOC programme is a landmark in the use of Information and Communication Technology to extend education. "Our present course is a pilot course. We now wish to ask all our teachers to consider offering MOOC. We will choose both student-oriented and general topics that are suited for the masses," he said.

"The whole exercise was immensely satisfying," said Achuthsankar S. Nair, Professor and Head, Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, who was the instructor for the course. He added that barring a few technical flaws, the course was undertaken in a fairly smooth manner. Those who completed the course in early June have begun to receive their certificates.

While efforts are under way to run the course for a second batch of around 600 candidates, the Department of Arabic is learnt to have expressed interest in running another certificate course on Communicative Arabic.

Dr. Nair pointed out that MOOCs had emerged as a popular medium globally to disseminate knowledge, with many establishments offering certificates free of charge. They are also viewed as essential among the outreach initiatives of universities. Somehow, the universities in Kerala have lagged behind others in latching on to the opportunity.

The varsity had previously made efforts to offer a course of Sanskrit through the popular online education platform 'Coursera'. However, the technical requirements for conducting the programme proved to be difficult.