

AWARENESS AND UTILISATION OF SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) PORTAL AMONG ENGINEERING STUDENTS OF SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI: A STUDY

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Abstract

The study discussed about the awareness and utilisation and SWAYAM portal among Engineering Students of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. The questionnaire method is used to gather information from participants. An online questionnaire was designed for this purpose and circulated to 82 students. 78 responses received out of 82 total. The overall user response rate 95.%. The information is presented in the form of tables and evaluated using a basic measurement process. The results found that all are aware and utilising the portal and 71(91.02%) respondents agreed that there is an impact of SWAYAM on their study and research.

Keywords: SWAYAM, MOOC, Sri Venkateswara University, Engineering, Tirupati

INTRODUCTION

SWAYAM MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) Platform was technologically advanced by AICTE in 2016 to enable hosting of online courses which could be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time free of cost to attain three fundamental principles of Education Policy viz. access, equity and quality by covering School/Vocational, Under-Graduate, Post Graduate, Engineering and Other Professional Courses. The courses accessible on SWAYAM are in 4 quadrants like video lectures, predominantly prepared learning material which can be either downloaded or printed, self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and an online discussion forum through which one can get clarification regarding the course and contents. Appropriate steps have been taken to improve the learning experience by using audio-video and multimedia and state of the art pedagogy/ technology.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE Sivakumar (2019)¹ conducted a study on the awareness of MOOCs – SWAYAM among Student - Teachers. The data were collected a sample of 100 Student - Teachers from the Annamalai University and fed into appropriate statistical analysis. The author found that awareness of MOOCs -SWAYAM among Student - Teachers is not satisfactory.

Rupali (2020)² revealed low awareness of SWAYAM MOOCs among Commerce students although a positive attitude towards learning through SWAYAM MOOCs is observed. The reasons were lack of ability to learn ICT skills, lack of classroom teaching and one to one

contact with educators was also perceived as a constraint in learning through MOOCs. The study concluded that there is a need to motivate students to adopt MOOCs as a learning resource. The collaboration should be made among Government, all national coordinators of SWAYAM, Universities and also Industry Academia interactions to promote acceptability of certification provided by SWAYAM in job market

Subaveerapandiyan & Fakruddin (2020)³ conducted a survey on the Awareness and usage of SWAYAM course among library and information science students with the objectives of to take the best teaching and learning resources to all with no costs, to find out the awareness and usage of SWAYAM courses among Library and Information science students, survey method of research used. The results show that majority respondents are aware of SWAYAM course, through their teachers. 74.73 percent of respondents replied that their university is providing orientation programme on SWAYAM. Half of the respondents prefer Word file format for submitting their assignment. More than 82 percent of respondents are spending 1 to 3 hours for SWAYAM course. Half of the respondents are agreed SWAYAM courses help to gain new knowledge and supports life-long learning. Further, the result reveals that the numbers of students continue their enrolled courses and only less number were discontinued due to some reasons

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the awareness of SWAYAM courses among students
- To assess the number of students enrolled in SWAYAM Portal
- To know the impact of SWAYAM courses on their study
- To know the reasons for the discontinuing the courses

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire method is used to gather information from participants. An online questionnaire was designed for this purpose and circulated to 82 students. 78 responses received out of 82 total. The overall user response rate 95.%. The information is presented in the form of tables and evaluated using a basic measurement process.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The current study focuses on Awareness and Utilisation of SWAYAM Portal among Engineering Students of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

Data Analysis

Table :1 Gender wise distribution

Gender	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	44	56.41%
Female	34	43.58%
Total	78	100%

Table 1 depicts that Male respondents are 44 (56.41%) and Female respondents are 34 (43.58%) participated in the study.

Table 2: Awareness on SWAYAM PORTAL

Gender	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	44	56.41%
Female	34	43.58%
Total	78	100%

Table – 2 shows that 78(100%) respondents are aware of the portal

Table 3: Persons inspired to join Online courses

Gender	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Teachers	58	74.35%
Friends	11	14.10%
Social Media	06	7.6%
Self-knowledge	03	3.8%
Total	78	100%

Table -3 depicts that 58(74.35%) respondents inspired to join online courses from teachers, 11(14.10%) from friends, 06(7.6%) and 03(3.8%) inspired from self knowledge.

Table 4: Devices used to attend classes

Devices	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Smartphone	62	79.48%
Laptop	09	11.53%
Desktop	06	7.69%
Total	78	100%

It is evident from Table 4 that 62 (79.48%) respondents used smart phones for attending online courses; followed by 09(11.53%) used laptops and 06(7.69%) used desktops.

Table 5: Purpose of joining Courses

Purpose	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Academic	48	61.53%
Self interest	14	17.94%
To update the knowledge	16	20.51%
Total	78	100%

It is evident from Table 5 that 48(61.53%) respondents joined the online course for the academic purpose; 16(20.51%) joined to update the knowledge and 14(17.94%) joined on their self interest.

Table 6: Participation in Discussion Forums

Participation in Discussion Forums	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Regularly	10	12.82%
Frequently	06	7.69%
Never	62	79.48%
Total	78	100%

It is evident from table- 6 that 62(79.48%) respondents replied that the respondents never participated in the discussion forums; whereas 10(12.82%) participated regularly and 06(7.69%) respondents replied that they are participated in the discussion forums frequently.

Table : 7: Type of source used for completing the assignments

Formats	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Print Sources	10	12.82%
Electronic Sources	06	7.69%
Both	62	79.48%
Total	78	100%

It is evident from table- 7 that 62(79.48%) respondents used the both print and electronic sources; whereas 10(12.82%) used print sources and 06(7.69%) respondents used electronic sources only.

Table 8: File Formats used for submitting the assignments

Formats	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Word document	12	15.38%
PDF	57	73.07%
PPT	09	11.53%
Total	78	100%

Table-8 depicts that 57(73.07%) respondents are submitting in PDF format; whereas 12(15.38%) in word document and 09(11.53%) are submitting the assignments in PPT.

Table 9: Satisfaction with the course content

Satisfaction levels	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Information is relevant	25	32.05%
Right Combination of theory and Practical classes	44	56.41%
Logic and sequence of topics are appropriate	09	11.53%
Total	78	100%

Table -9 shows that 44(56.41%) respondents are satisfied with the combination of theory and practical classes; whereas 25(32.05%) with the relevant information and 09(11.53%) respondents are satisfied with appropriate logic and sequence of topics.

Table – 10: Impact of SWAYAM on Study and Research

Impact	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	71	91.02%
No	07	10.25%
Total	78	100%

Table:10 depicts those 71(91.02%) respondents agreed that there is an impact of SWAYAM on their study and research; whereas 07(10.25%) respondents disagreed in terms of impact of SWAYAM.

Table: 11 Minimum Courses completed in SWAYAM Portal

No. of Courses	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
2 -3	71	91.02%
3 -4	07	10.25%
Total	78	100%

Table – 11 shows that the 71(91.02%) respondents completed 2 to 3 courses in three years and 7(10.25%) respondents completed 3 to 4 courses.

Table 12: Reasons for discontinuing one or two courses

Reasons	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Lack of time	12	15.38%
Heavy work routine	57	73.07%
Lack of technical knowledge	09	11.53%
Total	78	100%

Table -12 shows that 57(73.07%) respondents are discontinued the courses and 12(15.38%) for lack of time and 09 (11.53%) respondents are discontinued the courses. The respondents discontinued one or two courses only for the above reasons

Table 13: Participation in the Orientation program conducted by the University on SWAYAM

Orientation	No.of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	71	91.02%
Not attended	07	10.25%
Total	78	100%

Table -13 depicts those 71(91.02%) respondents replied that they participated in the orientation program and 7(10.25%) replied negatively.

Conclusion

SWAYAM is developing for the welfare of the young minds that has the right to access the learning sources and to enrich their skills in the required field with no cost. The results found from the survey taken on the programme SWAYAM has its positive way of producing and bringing out young talented mind to society. The result showed that the respondents have interest towards acquiring the knowledge through online courses because it saves their time and they can listen to classes at any time. The learning resources can be viewed many times, until the respondents understand the subject. The learners prefer to complete courses which provides them with certificates.

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