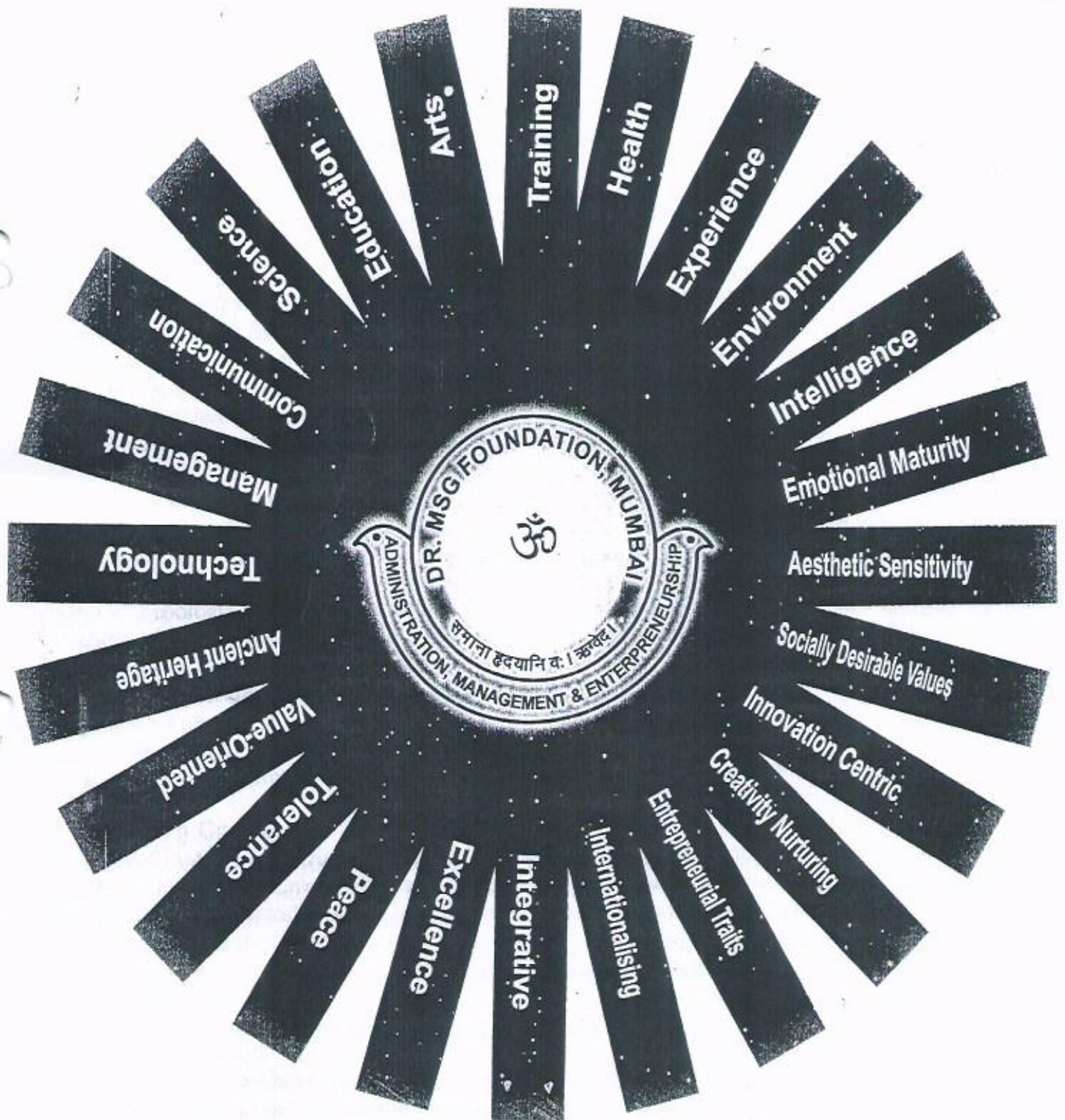


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SWAYAM : A Step Towards Shikshit Bharat Unnat Bharat

Dr. Meenakshi Rathi

"SWAYAM Mentor" and IQAC Coordinator,
RNC Arts, JDB Commerce, NSC Science College Nashik Road, Nashik

There can be no alternative for traditional classroom teaching as a student will be able to understand in a better way if taught face-to-face. Also in case of doubts, he/she can get them cleared immediately on the spot. But twenty first century students learn in a global classroom and not necessarily within four walls. They are more inclined to find information by accessing the Internet through mobile phones and computers, or chatting with friends on a social networking site. With the advent of Internet and World Wide Web (www), the access to information has become very easy and the entire world is moving towards digitization. To blend academics and pedagogy with powerful, innovative digital devices and with a view to provide access to the best quality learning resources across the country, the project "Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" (SWAYAM) has been started. The Hon'ble President of India Dr. Pranab Mukharji on 9th July, 2017 launched the SWAYAM platform, which can be reached at "<http://swayam.gov.in>". Swayam seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have heretofore remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the main stream of the knowledge economy. At present about 1550+ MOOCs courses are listed on SWAYAM of which 800+ courses are already delivered. About 34 Lakhs students have enrolled in these courses.

Swayam is a path-breaking, free online e-learning programme initiated by the Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of education policy viz access, equity and quality. SWAYAM provides an integrated platform and portal for online courses using information and communication Technology covering high school till all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that more and more students can avail the benefits from learning material through ICT. SWAYAM MOOCs platform is world's largest online free E-Learning platform. MOOCs have teacher-student groups where MOOC coordinator/teacher interacts with the learner. A learner can earn certificate/credit on successful completion of MOOCs course on SWAYAM. The acronym of MOOCs stands for

Massive – Large enrolment numbers

Open - No mandatory qualifications – Open to all

Online – Fully online

Course - Structured course content

The basic philosophy of MOOCs is 3A's i.e., Anytime, Anyone, Anywhere.

Learning Courses :

SWAYAM is an instrument for self-actualization providing opportunities for a life-long learning. SWAYAM presents unique educational opportunity to expand the horizons of knowledge. Professors and faculties of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, central universities will offer online courses to citizens of India. Here learner can choose from hundreds of courses, virtually every course that is taught at the university / college / school level and these shall be offered by best of the teachers in India and elsewhere.

The courses hosted on SWAYAM are in 4 quadrants –

1. video lecture
2. specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed
3. self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes
4. an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts.

Steps have been taken to enrich the learning experience by using audio-video and multi-media and

state of the art pedagogy / technology.

Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners, however students wanting certifications shall be registered, shall be offered a certificate on successful completion of the course, with a little fee. Courses available on SWAYAM are of two types credit courses and non-credit courses. Credit Course shall mean a course which is taught for at least one semester as a part of a PG Programme in Indian Universities. Non-Credit Course shall include courses like awareness programme, continuing education programme or of specific skill set as independent course, which are not part of any set curriculum.

Pacing of Courses :

The pacing of a course refers to how course teams run the course, and how learners can interact with the course material. Courses available on SWAYAM are either Scheduled driven Courses or self paced Courses.

Scheduled driven courses are instructor- paced, they follow a set schedule that the instructor sets. The course team sets specific due dates for assignments and exams, and one has to complete the course within a defined time period, such as eight or twelve weeks. Course materials become available at specific times as the course progresses. In most scheduled courses, certificates are generated within two weeks of the end of the course.

Self-paced courses contain assignments without due dates. You can progress through the course at your own speed. Self-paced courses do not follow a set schedule. Course materials are completely available as soon as the course begins. Assignments and exams do not have start or due dates. The course shows indicators for graded assignments, but not due dates. You can complete assignments and exams at your own pace, as long as you complete all course work before the course ends.

National MOOCs Coordinators :

In order to ensure best quality, content are produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed.

National MOOCs Coordinator	Sectors
University Grants Commission (UGC)	Non-Technology Post Graduate Degree Programs
NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning)	Technical/Engineering UG & PG degree programs
Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC)	Non-Technology Under Graduate degree programs.
IGNOU (The Indira Gandhi National Open University)	Diplomas and Certificates
NCERT (The National Council of Educational Research and Training)	School Education from Class 9 th to 12 th .
NIOS (The National Institute of Open Schooling)	School Education from Class 9 th to 12 th .
IIM Bangalore (The Indian Institutes of Management)	Management programs.

Notification of Courses :

SWAYAM to notify courses on June 1 & Nov. 1, every year.

Credit Transfer :

Step by step procedure to be adopted by Universities for adopting MOOCs on SWAYAM. No University shall refuse any student for credit mobility for courses earned through MOOCs.

Online Refresher and orientation course for teachers teaching in Higher Education Institutions at under-graduate and post-graduate level as MOOC are also organised on SWAYAM platform. As per MHRD, this will be treated equivalent to face-to-face Refresher Course **as required under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of UGC.**

The SWAYAM android application is designed for students to consume all SWAYAM content anywhere, anytime and anywhere. One can download SWAYAM applications from popular app stores.

References:

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5. "Free online course on Swayam by Faculties and Universities from: NPTEL, UGC, CEC, NCERT, NIOS, IGNOU & IIMB". swayam.gov.in. Retrieved 2017-07-06