Designing Learner-Centric MOOCs
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Lecture 02
Learner Expectation

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[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] So that was going to be my second question that let's now think of ourselves as MOOC learners.

[Prof. Sahana Murthy] As in learners who are enrolled in a MOOC.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] What are our expectations? What comes to mind when you think of yourself as a learner in a MOOC.

[Prof. Sahana Murthy] First time or…?

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] First time or any time. So I am just... because that is what we expect the focus question discussion to be about.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] So I can talk about my course. So my learners have repeatedly...

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] Are you talking as an instructor or as a learner?

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] As a learner.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] As a learner. You are the learner.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] Yes, I am a learner.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] And what is your understanding of a MOOC and what are your expectations?

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] My first and the foremost interest especially in learning animation is a structured delivery of content, of information. Bits and pieces of various parts of animation are available.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] Right.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] And I am the one who has to curate it.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] Correct.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] And I get a dead end after a point that if I learn...

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] So somebody has done the curation.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] If somebody has done the curation for me and tells me a cohesive story is what I am looking for because of two reasons: one, it is not available, second it is very expensive.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] Right.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] If I go to a face to face class of animation course, it is very expensive, and there is no guarantee that I will still be satisfied with that story.

[Prof. Sahana Murthy] So, as a learner, a pure learner, my expectation or rather the reason MOOCs are attractive is the access to the variety of knowledge because especially, when the platform edX or whoever curates not just at a single course level but assembles all courses in art history, education, science and all.

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] For me, actually it is the flexibility part of it, you know where you can do it at your own pace, you can look at it, you have a week to actually look at the content and do the assignment. That is the most attractive part and also that the fact that there are courses on topics which I would normally not get access to. So, that flexibility in timing and flexibility in choice of courses.

[Prof. Sahana Murthy] Yeah, so I have gone to a MOOC platform as a learner from two perspectives. I mean with two goals in mind. Most of the times it's like I know that here these are some experts in the field and I am also a king in that field so I want to hear what they all have to say about it so that's why I go. I just browse, I explore. I don't have a specific goal in mind; it's mostly browsing and exploration. Something has caught my interest, I look at it. I may not complete a course then but if it's interesting enough I do it. There was only once where I had to quickly educate myself on usability. I didn't know much about it but all my students… I had to give them advice on usability. So I said, ok I need to pick up this knowledge. So I went and looked at who is teaching a course on usability, not full, but I want a course on usability now. I found one by I think University of Michigan or something. It didn't matter who taught it, but it's the topics seemed relevant, I enrolled and I did it.

[Dr. Jayakrishnan] So, I like the idea of flexibility and I like the idea of access to different knowledge pieces which I am not, I do not have. But for me what works in a MOOC is more of talking with other people who are taking that course. I mean see each of them are coming from a different context and they apply the same knowledge in various ways and those pieces of knowledge… So, for example so I took another course on technology, different technology tools for blended learning. That was where I got a list of tools that several people use for the same purpose. I mean those are the kind of information that I generally look for in a course when it is offered in a MOOC.

[Dr. Sameer Sahasrabudhe] So it is a combination of choice and curation

[Prof. Sridhar Iyer] Choice, curation and interaction. For him it is interaction. Right?