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A Cautious Thought on Impact of Open Education Platforms (OEP) on Future of Academic Libraries

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Abstract: *OEPs are making waves around the world, presenting both opportunities and threats to the existing higher education system. They show how powerful technology can be used to educate the masses. Their increase can be attributed to the fact that the facilities of universities can no longer meet the demand for higher education, which is expected to grow further in the coming years. OEP aims to equip individuals with a very specific set of skills and knowledge. There are different views regarding OEP. While discussing OEP the other stakeholders like libraries are overlooked. The literature states there are opportunities for librarians under OEP but few things in other ways. The paper takes an overview of OEP and the role of libraries. This is the right time to think about inclusion of libraries in OEP when it is at infancy stage; otherwise there is a fear of getting out of sight of such stakeholders after a few years.*

Keywords: *Open Education Platform (OEP), Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Libraries, Role of Libraries*

1. Introduction

The traditional face-to-face, chalk-and-talk model of higher education in India is giving way to the online learning paradigm. In India, higher education (HE) has grown astronomically in the previous few decades in terms of accessibility, equity, and inclusivity. The emphasis in recent years has been on fostering quality and improving employability. At least since the 1990s, pedagogical methods have been developed to extend learning outside of the traditional classroom, and at that time the correspondence course first appeared. While the online era of higher education is slowly gaining momentum and growing exponentially in recent years, certain policy reforms can bring a high percentage of the online footprint. Despite these facilities, higher education in India is not available to more than 6 percent of the young population. To meet the growing demand for higher education, the number of distance learning programs is increasing in India. Despite strict regulations from the Distance Education Council (DEC), the effectiveness of this medium has not yet been achieved. Meanwhile, the digitalization of India has brought about a wave of change. People have been urged to transition to a digital mode of communication, access, and service delivery on e-platforms by government efforts like the National Knowledge Commission, Digital India, and others. The notion of Open Education Platforms (OEP), which the Indian higher education sector is also dealing with, has emerged as a result of the considerable changes in how technology is used in online education.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) along with the HRD (Human Resource Development) Ministry has launched the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) program in India for higher secondary, bachelors and masters degrees and even some of the private players are playing big role in it (Joshi, 2020). A wide range of topics that may or may not be addressed during regular college courses are covered. Without a doubt, OEP's