



Report on Online Faculty Development Programme

"Strengthening Certificate Courses through MOOCs and SWAYAM: A New NAAC Perspective"

Day & Date: 30.09.2026 Wednesday

Venue: IQAC

Time: 11:30AM-12.30PM

Resource Person:

The programme was conducted by **Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Rudravaram, Professor, Department of Statistics, Pondicherry University**, who served as the resource person. With his academic expertise and experience in higher education, he provided valuable insights into the effective utilisation of MOOCs and SWAYAM for academic enrichment and quality enhancement.

OBJECTIVE:

Creating awareness among faculty members about the growing importance of **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** and **SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)** in contemporary higher education.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The **Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)** organised a **Faculty Development Programme (FDP)** on the topic **"Strengthening Certificate Courses through MOOCs and SWAYAM: A New NAAC Perspective"**. The programme also focused on exploring how online learning platforms can be effectively integrated with institutional certificate courses to

strengthen academic quality, skill development and continuous learning opportunities for students.

Proceedings of the Programme

The session began with an introduction to the significance of online and blended learning in higher education. The resource person explained the changing educational landscape and highlighted the need for institutions to provide students with opportunities beyond conventional classroom-based learning.

Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Rudravaram elaborated on the concept of **MOOCs** and their role in providing flexible, accessible and learner-centred educational opportunities. He explained how MOOCs enable students to access courses offered by reputed institutions and experts, thereby broadening their knowledge and exposing them to emerging areas of study.

Special emphasis was placed on the **SWAYAM platform**, its academic relevance and its potential to support students in acquiring additional knowledge and skills. The resource person explained how faculty members can identify suitable SWAYAM courses and MOOCs and encourage students to participate in them as part of their academic and professional development.

Integration with Certificate Courses

A major focus of the programme was the **strengthening of institutional certificate courses through MOOCs and SWAYAM**. The resource person explained that certificate courses can be made more meaningful and outcome-oriented by integrating relevant online learning components.

Faculty members were encouraged to:

- Identify relevant MOOCs and SWAYAM courses aligned with their subjects.
- Integrate online learning resources with existing certificate courses.
- Encourage students to undertake recognised online courses for additional certification.
- Use digital learning resources to supplement classroom teaching.
- Promote self-directed and continuous learning among students.
- Develop certificate courses that address current industry, academic and employability requirements.
- Maintain appropriate documentation and evidence of student participation and completion.

NAAC Perspective

The programme also highlighted the relevance of MOOCs, SWAYAM and certificate courses from the perspective of **NAAC-based quality enhancement and institutional development**. Faculty members were made aware that structured online learning initiatives can contribute to a culture of continuous learning, skill enhancement, innovation and academic enrichment within the institution.

The resource person emphasised the importance of **proper planning, implementation, documentation and outcome assessment** of certificate courses. He explained that institutions

should maintain appropriate records such as course outlines, student enrolment details, participation records, completion certificates, assessment methods, photographs and feedback. Such systematic documentation can help institutions demonstrate their quality initiatives during academic and accreditation processes.

Learning Outcomes

The FDP provided faculty members with a better understanding of:

1. The concept and significance of MOOCs in higher education.
2. The role and academic potential of the SWAYAM platform.
3. The importance of integrating online courses with institutional certificate programmes.
4. Methods for identifying relevant MOOCs and SWAYAM courses for students.
5. The role of digital learning in enhancing students' knowledge and employability skills.
6. The importance of continuous and self-directed learning.
7. Documentation and outcome assessment of certificate courses.
8. The relevance of online learning initiatives to institutional quality enhancement and the NAAC perspective.

Interaction with Faculty Members



The session also provided an opportunity for faculty members to interact with the resource person and clarify their queries regarding the selection, implementation and integration of MOOCs and SWAYAM courses. The discussions helped faculty members gain practical insights into designing more effective certificate courses and encouraging students to make productive use of online learning platforms.

Outcomes

The programme significantly enhanced the awareness of faculty members regarding the role of **MOOCs and SWAYAM in modern higher education**. It encouraged faculty to explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning and to provide students with additional opportunities for academic and skill development.

The FDP also reinforced the importance of moving towards a **blended and learner-centred educational environment**, where classroom instruction is complemented by quality digital resources and recognised online courses. The programme encouraged the faculty to consider the integration of suitable MOOCs and SWAYAM courses into future certificate programmes and academic activities.