

THE FUTURE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION: MOOC (MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE)

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Abstract

Rapid population growth that experienced at the end of the twentieth century and still being experienced all over the world and correspondingly the inadequacy of classical teaching-learning (education-training) activities and methods, has given rise to new searches in the field of education-training. In recent years, the developments made in radio, television, computer, internet, satellite, fibre optic etc. information technologies has affected the operation of education activities and made a contribution to the development of new education-training methods. One of the reflections of this development is 'MOOC' (Massive Open Online Course), of which Turkish equivalent is 'Kitlesele Açık Çevrimiçi Kurs' that was started to be used in 2008 and become prevalent gradually. MOOC is comprised of online courses that let unlimited user access freely via internet. MOOC courses also include user forums, which is used by students and academicians for providing interaction among themselves, besides videos, problems, questionnaires, visuals. MOOCs make the education in the same standard and quality being realized unlimitedly all over the world.

A great deal of leading universities in the whole world such as MIT, Harvard, Berkeley, Texas, CalTech are giving lectures through MOOC 'Open Source Server' companies like Coursera, Udacity, edX and Khan Academy. Just the Coursera named company is giving education service to 12.800.760 people by providing 1029 different course opportunities with 119 agreed universities as of May-2015. When these numbers are taken into consideration MOOC use in education will increase further and even they will reach such a position that it may take the place of higher education thanks to the agreements among universities and new developments in web technologies in the following years, to our knowledge.

The objective of this study is to introduce the developments realized in MOOC field all over the world shortly and respond the question about to what extent the MOOCs will take place in education in the near future. This study is essential for contributing to discussions, which are still in progress, in MOOC subject and setting light to education and training tendencies in the future.

Key Words: Education-training, the Future of the Education, Kitlesele Açık Çevrimiçi Kurs, MOOC, Massive Open Online Course, Online Education.