

Study on the Strategy of University Teachers' Development in the Context of MOOCs

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Keywords: MOOC, University Teachers, Professional Development.

Abstract. MOOC has a great impact on the traditional Higher Education of China. Under such circumstances of MOOCs, university teachers should take this opportunity, explore new teaching method and shift their roles with MOOC as a platform in order to keep up with the teaching development. So, from the perspective of MOOC, this paper aims to analyze its influence on teachers' role, establish new teachers' role and put forward the strategies concerning university teachers' professional development.

Introduction

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) has a great effect on today's classroom teaching. It diversifies teaching styles, improves the teacher-student interaction and makes learning experience more flexible. Today, classroom teaching at universities still follows very traditional pattern, with teachers' lectures at its core, so the teaching method is rather monotonous. With the development and popularity of MOOCs, university teachers face great challenges. In this case, how to take this challenge has become a hot issue in education, which motivates our interest of study.

Influence of MOOC on University Teachers' Professional Development

MOOC VS. Challenges

Improve Professionalism and Innovation. MOOC is a technology transformation and innovation, which calls on teachers to shift their conventional teaching philosophy and improve comprehensive qualities in order to be innovative teachers. Firstly, from traditional perspective, teachers mainly play the role of imparting knowledge and moderating the teaching process. In contrast, under the context of MOOC, there are great changes in teaching mode and style at universities, which requires teaching staff to take charge of designing courseware and developing resources. On the one hand, traditional teaching does not suffice to meet students' need. So teachers must come up with unique teaching to arouse students' learning desire. On the other hand, with the rapid development of Internet, students have easy access to abundant information, which indicates that teachers no longer have the privilege to get exposed to information. That is to say, teachers do not merely transmit knowledge, but more importantly, they need to develop and provide learning resources with their rich experience, broad knowledge and advantageous learning ability. Secondly, as a new course pattern, MOOC brings challenges to teachers. To put it more specifically, teachers are encouraged to participate in MOOC, change their established teaching notion and behavior in order to be innovators and researchers. Thirdly, MOOC provides students with a platform for autonomous learning, so teachers should explore how to encourage teamwork, exploratory learning and autonomous learning. Besides, it is important to instruct students to utilize online learning resources, arouse their desire to pursue knowledge and fulfill the task of autonomous learning.

Enhance Self-Cultivation. MOOC contributes to fragment learning. With more and more time confetti, fragment resources and media available, students are more likely to keep their study interest, but they fail to construct knowledge system independently. In this case, teachers can be

good organizers and guides to lead students in previewing lessons before class, reflecting on the lectures after class and constructing the complete knowledge system. Meanwhile, MOOC demands students' self-discipline and self-supervision. By use of MOOC, teachers can help students to foster good study habits, grasp effective learning method and cultivate their metacognitive skill.

Next, MOOC, based on Internet, makes online learning possible. So the study environment is diverse and open, and a sea of information is accessible. Faced with the cultural differences and some negative values, students sometimes can't distinguish right from wrong and find it hard to deal with the abundance of information. Thus, teachers should act as ethical educators to help students form the correct values, as well as positive outlook on the world and life.

In addition, it is true that free courses are available on MOOC platform, but it is undeniable that such virtual classroom lacks moral or ethical education. Therefore, teachers should play the part of transmitting moral values and emphasize on the education of values and rationalism. In other words, teachers should lead by example and be the role models for students.

Update Education Concept, become Cooperator and Prompter. In MOOC age, university teachers are no longer authoritative knowledge initiator, but take the role of learning guide before class as well as course organizer. As stated in *Learn to survive*, "a teacher's duty lies more and more in inspiring students' thinking instead of imparting knowledge. Besides his formal duty, he should be an advisor, a participant in exchanging ideas and a man who helps to find the conflicting ideas instead of telling the truth directly." [1] It is important for a teacher to spark students' enthusiasm, trigger their motives for learning and facilitate teacher-student as well as student-student interaction, which aims to direct students in their personalized, autonomous, cooperative and exploratory learning. In the learning process, students can have a sense of satisfaction and enjoyment. To transform into the role of prompter, teachers have to take initiative themselves, get immersed in classroom atmosphere and be active participants in interaction. In order to create liberal and harmonious classroom atmosphere, teachers need to design interesting and flexible activities, trust students and integrate their attitude, feelings, values, knowledge and expertise into the interactive learning activities.

MOOC VS. Teachers' Opportunities

Realize Teachers' Professional Development. With the rising of learning society, university teachers must cultivate their life-long learning ability to improve themselves and make breakthrough so as not to be eliminated by the new age. MOOC is characterized by free sharing, efficient and convenient learning anytime anywhere, so it transcends the conventional time-space limits, offers an array of worthwhile and informative courses, and hence, support teachers to realize their professional development. In this way, teachers are able to broaden their mind and keep updated with the latest international educational theory, which is sure to improve their teaching and academic level. In the meantime, MOOC requires teachers to change their traditional notion, strengthen moral cultivation and deepen professional knowledge. While MOOC can intensify the competition between teachers, it also provides more opportunities for teachers to develop more quickly.

Help to Build Two-Way Teacher-Student Relationship. It is more rewarding and meaningful if teaching and learning can promote each other and improve together[2]. In traditional teaching, teachers are responsible for teaching and students' duty is to learn, which is a one-way activity. To put it the other way, teaching and learning are separated and can't be reciprocal. MOOC changes this mode and shifts the classroom teaching from teacher-centered to student-centered, with an emphasis on students' experiential learning and autonomy. On the one hand, students can make use of abundant MOOC resources autonomously and get well-prepared for academic research and sharing ideas at class. Teachers can get informed of students' academic performance by way of quiz, observation, raising questions and inquiry, etc. Meanwhile, teachers can gain insights and reflect on their own teaching. On the other hand, new technological tools have to be proficiently mastered, but some old teachers are not familiar with information technology. In this case, they can learn from students modestly and this contributes to a harmonious and equal teacher-student relationship.

Help to Reform Teaching Method. In the first place, in the context of MOOCs, there are two main teaching patterns: mixed teaching and flipped teaching, which provides new way and ideas to reform the teaching approach, promote innovation and better offline teaching content. Meanwhile, teachers can combine online teaching to implement offline auxiliary teaching and develop the so-called “double-teacher teaching.” Next, teachers can make use of MOOC to broaden teaching content and offer diversified learning resources so as to combine online and offline teaching. As a result, students can raise their awareness of innovation and foster their autonomous, cooperative learning. Last, students can set goals and decide on what to learn according to their specific condition.

Strategies of Teachers’ Professional Development in MOOC Age

Further Understand MOOC and Change Educational Philosophy

In the MOOC context, university teachers change their role from imparting knowledge purely to organizing, directing and participating in study activities. This role shift is undoubtedly a challenge to every teacher. Therefore, on the one hand, universities should organize systematic study for teachers to better understand MOOC and the importance of shifting role while on the other hand, teachers need to strengthen theoretical learning and communicate more with famous scholars and fellow teachers. A clear and comprehensive knowledge about MOOC has a great and far-reaching impact on teachers. In addition, teacher should establish the student-oriented philosophy of serving students and try to keep pace with the times.

Play Voluntary Role in MOOC

Reshaping and transforming roles are indispensable. To achieve this goal, teachers, first of all, need to appreciate the value of MOOC, take initiative in MOOC and explore new teaching mode via team cooperation. In the second place, teachers need to adjust their roles properly in case that conflicts may arise due to the fact that teachers may not be compatible with their new role at the beginning[3]. The role of teachers is multiple and linked with the times. With the coming of MOOC, higher education is affected and teachers face new and more demands, one of which is role shift. How to adjust the role effectively is crucial to teachers’ role shift. Under such circumstances, teachers need to redefine their role and through learning from other fellow teachers, students as well as society, they can grow a strong desire for life-long learning and self- improvement. Only by continuous learning, can teachers have new ideas and updated notion in order to conform to the development.

Get Prepared for Change and Improve Comprehensive Qualities

MOOC puts more requirement on teachers’ comprehensive qualities. Specifically speaking, teachers should have the following 6 core abilities: using teaching technology, analyzing teaching content and constructing resources, managing teaching activities, teaching asynchronous management, testing research and creating teaching environment [4]. Additionally, other abilities are also necessary, such as mastering new information technology and educational technology, innovation, teaching research, to name only a few. To meet the requirement of this new situation, teachers should try to improve comprehensive qualities by such activities as participating in MOOC actively, communicating more with fellow teachers, continuing education and visiting some famous schools and so on. Only by improving research ability, can teachers be qualified to design courses and develop resources so as to become researchers and innovators. Only by strengthening moral cultivation, can teachers be qualified guides and ethical models for students. Only with better creativity and organization skill, can teachers become prompters. In a word, teachers should endeavor to promote their comprehensive abilities and fulfill the task of reshaping and transforming their role.

Conclusion

MOOC is the educational innovation in Internet Age. It brings dramatic changes and far-reaching impact on higher education. It inspires teachers to contemplate how to implement teaching and learning, how to reform teaching method and improve teaching and how to better play a part. As the major force of educational reform and development, teachers need to have a correct understanding of MOOC, know its features, merits and demerits, as well as its influence on higher education.

MOOC is still at the stage of developing, so it is desirable for teachers to take this opportunity, face challenges with courage, and carry out educational innovation. In order to build our own MOOC with Chinese characteristics and promote its development in China, teachers at universities and colleges should keep learning continuously, update ideas and improve comprehensive abilities.

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