Can MOOCs solve Africa’s educational challenges

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Education Challenges in Africa

■ Quantity

❖ Low % of the youth access to education
  ■ Around 6% for higher education
  ■ Growing youth population (>1 B by 2050, highest worldwide)

❖ Cost of education vs GDP, Culture

■ Quality

❖ Shortage of qualified teachers

❖ Limited resources (ICT devices & access, energy, funding)
  ■ Limited access to new (education) technologies
  ■ Limited Research, Limited number of teachers
Education Challenges in Africa

- Economic and social impact (unequal chances to access to education, small middle class)
  - Private higher education: fast growing education sector
Literacy rate by age group between 2010 and 2015
UNIT OF MEASURE [Percentage], SEX [Total], AGE [15 and over]

- **Eastern Asia**: 96.37%
- **Developed regions**: 99.17%
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 64.44%
- **Latin America and Caribbean**: 93.23%

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-lit-lr-age_group
Illiterate population by age group between 2010 and 2015
UNIT OF MEASURE [Number of persons], SEX [Total], AGE [15 and over]

Sub-Saharan Africa

Developed regions

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-lit-illit_pop-age_group
Expenditure on education as % of GDP (from government sources) between 2009 and 2014

Educational Category [Total], Level of Education [Tertiary education]

You have selected too many countries to display in a chart. Switch to the table to view your selection.

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-fin-total-gdp_total#slideoutsearch
Expenditure on education as % of total government expenditure (all sectors) between 2009 and 2014
EDUCATION CATEGORY [Total], LEVEL OF EDUCATION [Total]

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-fin-total-edu_exp_r_gov_exp
MOOCs

- Massive open online course
  - Online, distance education
  - High participation
  - Open access usually using Internet
  - Introduced in 2006 but grew in 2012

- Course Material
  - Taped lectures, readings, assignments
  - Interactive forums to support community interactions among students and instructors
Approach

- Models Open License vs Close license
  - Open License vs Close license (content, structure)
  - Free vs paid
    - Certificates

- Popular Mooc Platforms
  - Coursera
  - Udacity
  - Tedx
Moocs in Education in Africa

- Target Higher education
  - But already low enrollment in higher education (6%)

- Association with degree
  - No often structured curriculum
  - Online degrees (often from western univ), courses on MOOCs platform are costly
  - May require good internet access
    - Most schools in Africa do not have broadband access
    - Teachers may not be ICT-skilled
  - As implemented, Moocs will likely have marginal impact on the number of educated youth in Africa
Moocs in Education in Africa

Can Mooc Increase the quality of education?

- Many courses targeting fundamentals and applied
- Target also business, offer course certificate
- Can provide material for teachers in Africa as well as students
- Courses are kept up to date
- Can help improve quality of higher education in Africa
  - Curriculum sharing with other universities
Conclusion

- As implemented, Moocs will likely have marginal impact on the number of educated youth in Africa.
- Can help improve quality of higher education in Africa.
- Some Requirements:
  - Investment in the internet accessibility for schools
  - Teachers training
  - Extend platforms to high schools
  - PPP
  - New models most appropriate for African Context are needed:
    - Offline material
    - Hubs and instructors on site
    - Acceptable by businesses
Thank You!

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