You, too, can run a MOOC

Ravi Murugesan
INASP Associate
ravi@uwalumni.com

ICT4D Conference, Hyderabad
15 May 2017
AuthorAID research writing online course

Increase in enrolment over time

- 2011: 30
- 2012: 40
- 2013: 50
- 2014: 250
- 2015: 1700
- 2016: 3000
- 2017: 4300

Research and knowledge at the heart of development
What’s a MOOC?

• Massive open online course
• What does ‘open’ mean?
• Fad? Hype? Threat? Opportunity?
AuthorAID course participant from Zimbabwe
What’s (possibly) new

• Off-the-shelf open source platform: Moodle
• Consistency and predictability in course offerings
• Guest facilitators
What’s interesting

• 50% to 60% completion rate
• Insights from learning analytics
• Handover of course to partner universities
What’s unusual

• A MOOC approach specifically for developing countries
• Low investment in educational technology
• Only 2 to 3 staff members involved in MOOC delivery
Course participant from Somalia

“After finishing my daily work, I remain to office at least 30 minutes to read and accomplish all quizzes.”
Some challenges

• Getting feedback from non-completers
• Improving the outcomes of peer assessment activities
• Reaching more researchers in fragile states
Some success factors

• Moodle + Moodle expertise
• Activity-based course design
• Facilitation and moderation
Further information

‘A MOOC approach for training researchers in developing countries’


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