



Mentoring with MOOCs Complementing K-12 Education

***Education is not preparation for life.
Education is life itself - John Dewey***

***Education is the most powerful weapon
that you can use to change the world – Nelson Mandela***

What are MOOCs

MOOCs - Massive Open Online Courses

They differ from traditional online classes

- Feature informal video presentations of five to 15 minutes by top professors on various subjects
- Frequent pauses for non-graded quizzes
- Instant feedback on the chunk of material just discussed

Most MOOCs are FREE

College Level MOOCs offered by

- Stanford University in the fall of 2011
- Udacity, was co-founded by Stanford University professor
- edX (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University)
- Coursera, raised about \$65 million in venture capital.

K-12 MOOCs offered by

- Khan Academy (Formed in 2008 by Salman Khan from MIT and Harvard)
- Class-Central
- Getting Smart
- <http://www.moocs.co/K-12/>

Khan Academy

- Interactive exercises and real-time data on student performance
- Lets students, their teachers and their parents gauge their progress
- Short videos and immediate-feedback quizzes
- Implements a form of mastery learning that is otherwise difficult to manage with a group.
- Grants from Google and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 6 million users in 216 countries per month
- 20,000+ close-captioned videos on to its website
- Pilot programs in a number of U.S. schools.

Sneha Programs

Phase I >> Sneha Care Home (SCH)

- Residential program for HIV-positive children in rural India
- Over 150 children, between the ages of 4 to 13 in the program.
- Most of these children have lost their parent(s), are ostracized by their families and communities
- The focus is on building confidence and self-esteem while inculcating morals and ethics.
- Shining Star School is SCH's academic program.

Phase II >> Snehagram

- Adolescents infected with HIV
- There over 50 children, between the ages of 13 to 18 in the program.
- Special learning assistance for their secondary and higher secondary level of education under the National Open School (NIOS) system.
- The part-time teachers / mentors provide guidance and assistance in classroom settings.

LFL Model @Snehagram

Learn for Life Foundation (LFL) (www.learnforlifefoundation.org) is a registered US non-profit organization founded by the Thekkethala Family

LFL's education model harnesses the power of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and government sponsored online K-12 school curriculums and local mentors to help children who cannot access public school systems, receive a high school education and complete their graduation requirements.

LFL has been a primary sponsor of Snehagram's residential program for HIV infected children since 2013.

The Learn for Life Center at Snehagram is powered by solar panels and equipped with refurbished laptops donated by local companies

Over 45 students have completed the secondary and senior secondary certifications administered by the Government of India

- Several have enrolled at local universities
- Some have found employment at Call Centers

Harnessing MOOCs

Traditional Classroom dynamic

- Not all students at the “same level”
- Not all students learning at the “same speed”
- Teacher teaching at one speed
- Students getting a C pass on to next level without fully understanding the material from previous level

The growing importance of STEM

- Bio-tech, Genetics, Data Science, AI, Machine Learning, Blockchain, Computer Programming
- Difficult to attract qualified teachers
- Lack of qualified mentors at home

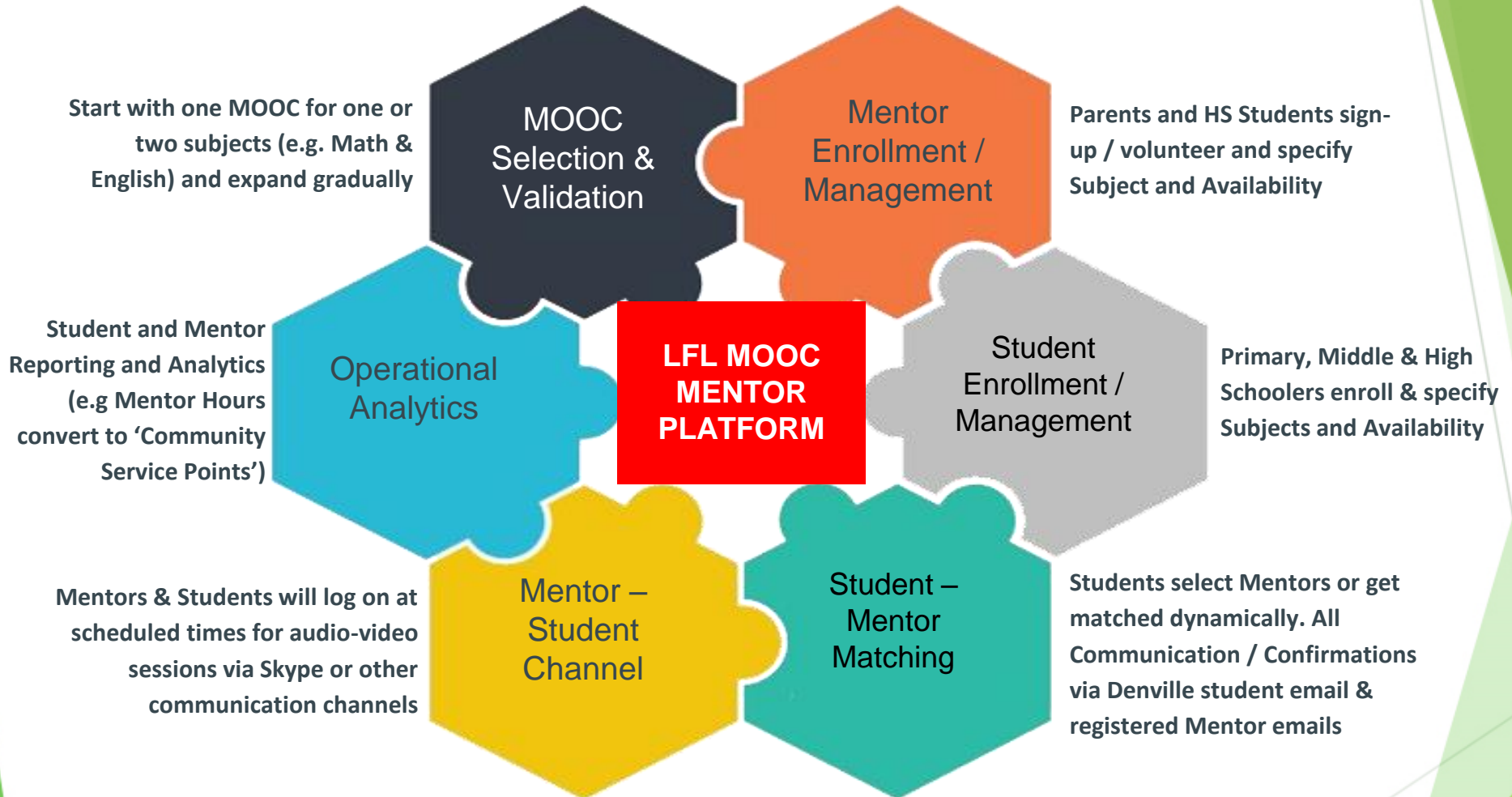
MOOCs Complement Classroom Education

- Enable high schools to offer electives that their budgets can't support
- Expand access to higher-level courses which typically would be under-enrolled and canceled at the high school level.
- There is essentially no incremental cost

Khan Academy Model

- “Flipped Classroom” where teachers assign a video for homework, then work on related problems in class the next day.
- Students watch videos and work on exercises at their own pace.

LFL Model : Mentoring w MOOCs



**The LFL Platform will be integrated seamlessly into the Denville Student Portal
All Platform Management costs will be funded by LFL Grants**

Next Steps

- *Follow up Discussion to determine approach that best fits our community of teachers, parents and students*
- *Trial “Soft Launch” with a small group of Friends and Family to test all the modules for several weeks*
- *Observations & Recommendations for changes*
- *Integration with Denville Student Portal*
- *Live Trial during Summer of 2019*
- *Full launch for 2019-20 Academic Year*

References

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