

Need for Holistic Planning by IQAC in the New Framework

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Abstract: Education plays a very significant role in the national development. Higher education empowers the nation by enhancement of skills, knowledge and enrichment of human potentials. Higher education focuses on improving the quality of education. The higher education institution aims to overcome the global issues and challenges such as gender, environment protection, health, resources, population control etc. The accreditation of higher education institution is needed to enhance quality. NAAC assesses the contribution of Higher Education institution at university, state, national and international level. NAAC makes it possible for the holistic development of the institution. Internal Quality Assurance Cell plays an important role in promoting and sustaining quality. Internal Quality Assurance cell has to ensure continuous improvement of all the components of the institution. IQAC has to assure all the stakeholders the accountability of the institution for its own quality. Holistic planning by IQAC can promote sustainable development, human rights, environment consciousness, human values, gender equality, national integration and wellbeing of humanity.

Keywords: higher education, NAAC, accreditation, accountability, stakeholders, IQAC, holistic planning, sustainable development, wellbeing.

Education plays a very significant role in the national development. Education is a change agent. United Nations in September 2015 formed 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One of the goals is quality education for sustainable development. This goal aims to give the learners quality and easily accessible education and learning opportunities. To achieve this goal there is a need to promote safe, inclusive and effective learning environment.

Higher education empowers the nation by enhancement of skills, knowledge and enrichment of human potentials. In today's globalized and competitive world there is a great demand for good quality education. Higher education focus on improving the quality of education and campus life. It contributes to India's economy so the nation depends on education especially higher education. It imparts knowledge and wisdom. It follows the democratic principles. It also aims to inculcate love for higher values of life and train the learners for good leadership. The higher education institution aims to overcome the global issues and challenges such as gender, environment protection, health, resources, population control etc.

The accreditation of higher education institution is needed to enhance quality. It is required to create good academic ambience in higher education institution. This can be done by empowerment of the faculty and making teaching learning process qualitative. This can also be done by providing research culture. Experts expect the higher education institution to update itself considering important aspects like quality, self-evaluation, innovation, promotion and sustainable development. NAAC assesses the contribution of Higher Education institution at university, state, international level. It makes higher education institution to take initiatives to contribute to the national development. It also expects higher education institution to develop abilities, skills of students. NAAC expects higher education institution to take efforts to improve human values and hone various skills.

It is obligatory for higher education institution to go for the process of assessment and accreditation. NAAC makes it possible for the holistic development of the institution. It makes the education Institutions to plan and prepare for it accordingly. It also makes institutions to take initiatives for quality enhancement. For this NAAC requires the higher education Institutions to undergo internal and external assessment first.

The internal assessment lets the education Institution to study the Institution from various perspectives. It studies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and challenges. Quality enhancement is a continuous process. It is expected that the education Institution should undertake journey towards perfection and try for quality improvement. The external evaluation done by NAAC facilitates the education Institution and throws light on various aspects where there is a scope for improvement.

To strengthen higher education institution the formation of internal Quality Assurance Cell is very much important. Internal Quality Assurance Cell plays very significant role to improve quality culture as it is the quality management system. It focuses on the continuous improvement of the institution. IQAC of the education institution always tries to adhere to its Vision and Mission statement and takes specific initiatives to improve the quality of it.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell plays an important role in promoting and sustaining quality. Quality of the institution is considered as the focal point. It has to consider the national and international standards at the time of internal assessment. To

achieve this there is a need of holistic planning for the institutional development and quality improvement. For the holistic development of students, society, the nation and the universe. The institution has to plan accordingly considering SWOT analysis of the Institution. To ensure quality various colleges committees and associations have to be formed. The working of these committees and associations have to be supervised and evaluated by IQAC and head of the institution. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to contribute to quality enhancement of the institution so that institution can improve its standard.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell has to plan by taking into account 7 Criteria of NAAC. NAAC framework requires the holistic planning. It will develop the institution in a systematic and appropriate way. It is the need to form criteria wise committees. The main aspects of the seven criteria have to be studied thoroughly because institution is evaluated and assessed on the basis of these aspects. For holistic planning the IQAC has to consider the requirements and needs of learners, teaching and non-teaching staff society, the nation and the universe. In a way the planning has to be inclusive. Holistic planning and its implementation will enable the institution to set its Benchmarks. It will also make it possible for education institution to move towards quality improvement. Good performance of the institution creates good social image. Quality of the institution and the role it is playing is assessed by NAAC.

As far as criteria 1 Curricular Aspects is concerned it expects curricular planning and its effective implementation. Apart from curricular delivery there is need of planning to introduce and run add on courses, certificate courses and value added courses for the students. These courses will hone their employability skills. The courses will develop soft skills, study skills, life skills of the students. Efforts have to be taken to sensitize students to cross-cutting issues like gender, environment, human values, sustainability etc.

Criteria 2 Teaching, Learning and Evaluation considers students from various background. It also considers them as far as their abilities are concerned. In a way activities for slow learners and advanced learners have to be planned. Training to teachers regarding teaching methodology has to be planned. Faculty empowerment has to be plan so that ICT skills of the teachers will get enhanced to make teaching-learning process very interesting and interactive. Proper planning can measure the Learning outcomes. Planning has to be done regarding the professional development of the staff so that we can get qualitative performance and learning outcomes of the students.

Criteria 3 Research, Innovation and Extension throws light on the research culture of the institution. Research committee has to be formed. IQAC should promote research culture on the campus. It should strengthen the Research Committee. The Research Committee has to take initiatives to impart knowledge of research methodology, a research paper its citation index, impact factor, registration of patents, grants. It has to organise IPR workshop. It has to encourage the teachers to undertake projects. It can encourage teachers to get research grants and recognition as PhD supervisor. Research committee can provide infrastructural facilities so that there will be a good number of publications in the national and international recognised journals. Good research always contributes to humane welfare.

Criteria 4 Infrastructure and Learning Resources throws light on the facilities provided by the institution to the learners. Higher education institution should provide good academic ambience for the overall development of all. IQAC has to plan the policies so that the higher education institution can provide all necessary and adequate physical facilities, ICT infrastructure, library infrastructure to the learners for their holistic development. This will enable the students to get varied learning experiences. This will also improve the quality of teaching-learning process. Department of sports has to be empowered. It should provide indoor and outdoor games facilities so that students can be physically and mentally healthy and fit. Arts Association has to plan cultural activities and enable the students to unleash their potentials.

Criteria 5 Student Support and Progression takes into account the programs which enable overall development of students. Functioning of the workshop committee is very important. Workshop Committee is expected to organize workshop on capacity building and skill enhancement. Such workshops will develop various facets of students' personality and equip them with skills to groom their personality. Such skilled learners can develop the nation. The institution has to form students' grievance cell, anti-ragging cell and Internal Complaints Committee robust. IQAC can monitor the functioning of such committees. The proper functioning of the committee will let the learners to feel safe and stress free. Alumni engagement and involvement in the institution is very much required for quality improvement. The financial and other support services of the alumni can help the institution to step towards benchmarking.

To fulfil the requirements of Criteria 6 Governance, Leadership and Management, the institution has to prepare perspective plan and look for implementation of e-governance. Faculty Development Committee can conduct the programmes for the professional development of the faculty. IQAC also suggests the committee to plan vigorously regarding welfare measures for students, teaching and non-teaching Staff. IQAC can also suggest to make the MoU's functional. The role of IQAC is very important for institutionalising the quality assurance.

To fulfil the requirements of criteria 7 Institutional Values and Best Practices a very well and systematic planning is needed. IQAC has to plan to promote gender equality. It can suggest to Yuvati Sabha to conduct activities to create gender-just society. Internal Quality Assurance cell can suggest to adopt environment-friendly practices to Environment Committee such as energy conservation, rainwater harvesting, waste management, green practices etc. There should be a planning to facilitate the differently-abled and provide them facilities required. It can plan to inculcate human values and professional ethics. There should be a proper planning taking into account the institution, its social responsibility for the upliftment and empowerment of the society.

For the holistic planning of the institution internal Quality Assurance Cell has to ensure quality enhancement. It is very much important and needed to strengthen the teaching-learning process, provide good infrastructural facilities, to inculcate human values, to organize curricular, co-curricular, extracurricular and extension activities. IQAC can plan these activities by conducting meetings, having discussions, proper and systematic planning, its effective implementation, assessment and evaluation, documentation etc. IQAC has to suggest the institution to go for various types of audit such as academic audit, administrative audit, financial audit, gender audit, green audit etc. SWOT analysis of the institution improves its quality profile. Internal Quality Assurance cell has to ensure continuous improvement of all the components of the institution. IQAC has to assure all the stakeholders the accountability of the institution for its own quality. Holistic planning by IQAC can promote sustainable development, human rights, environment consciousness, human values, Gender equality, national integration and wellbeing of humanity.

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