

Role of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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Abstract -

Never before has there been as much intense discussion about quality and excellence these days. 'Evaluation to ensure quality' has been widely discussed around the world since the late 20th century. This whole movement can be seen as encouraging an 'evaluation culture'. In India, this movement took concrete shape only in the last decade of the last century, when the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) (in 1994) was established. Some other evaluation organizations also came into existence in the government sector for the evaluation of higher education institutions and programs.

The objective of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council is to examine the quality and specialties of higher education in India through a combination of self-assessment and external quality assessment. Many institutions have voluntarily adopted the evaluation of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and have proudly displayed their accreditation status. There are some institutes that have expressed apprehensions about the evaluation of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. For an in-depth understanding of the complex process of external quality assessment, it would be useful to analytically examine the motivational components of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council for the intuitive demand for evaluation, while on the other hand the factors that discourage such evaluation be understood. The objective of this research paper is to study the role of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in quality assessment in higher education.

Keywords: National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Evaluation, Accreditation,

Data Collection Method Used For Research:

Data for the research paper has collected from newspaper, books, magazines, reports, and websites

The Objective of Research:

- 1) To study the role of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in quality assessment in higher education.
- 2) To know about Accreditation, Assessment, and SSR
- 3) To searching the information about the current situation of NAAC Accreditation
- 4) To give suggestions for College preparation for NAAC based on information by the conclusion of the study.

Introduction:

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council have come a long way in the last 26 years emerging from initial difficulties. There has been an increased understanding of the council's evaluations. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council is well aware that it has much to do to achieve its goal. For this, the council will have to resolve three major issues. The first is that the council is yet to evaluate a large number of institutions. By the end of 2022, appropriate arrangements will have to be developed to complete the evaluation of all higher education institutions. For this purpose, we have to develop multi-dimensional policies.

The second is that continuous improvement in the means of evaluation is necessary. The limitations of the means we use to evaluate the performance of a complex system are highlighted by the fact that it is quantitatively evaluable and qualitatively unable to combine visible components under a single model. Appropriate evaluations are essential to improve this situation. It has been rightly saying, "If you cannot evaluate something, you cannot understand it; if you cannot understand something, you cannot control it; if you cannot control something, you cannot improve it." In quality assessment, we have to continually focus on two questions whether we are evaluating the right things and whether we can evaluate them correctly. Have been The National Assessment and Accreditation Council is continually improving its tools.

Third, the collaborative partner team has an important role in the evaluation process, which includes assessments. The support team is the public forum of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. The decision of the members of this team is the basis of evaluation and accreditation. Choosing the right partners as assessors and ensuring the requisite business skills to carry out the work are challenging tasks. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council is aware of human limitations and endeavors to continuously provide professional information to the evaluators so that this work can be completed without bias and appropriate and acceptable decisions can be given.

Role of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in Quality Assessment in Higher Education:

To improve the quality of higher education, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body of the University Grants Commission, studies the educational quality of universities and colleges. Excuses will no longer be allowed in grading and evaluation, as by the year 2022, all universities and colleges in the country have been mandated to take NAAC Accreditation. Grants will not be given to poor quality higher education institutions.

Evaluation and certification in higher education through a transparent and knowledgeable external review process are effective means of quality assurance, which helps students exchange in institutions in India and abroad. That is why by the year 2022, all the universities and colleges of the country have been made mandatory to take the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Accreditation. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has targeted to give NAAC Accreditation status to all universities and colleges by 2022. Under this, UGC has also written letters to universities. It says that they should pay special attention to education, including a number of students, filling of teachers' posts, to take NAAC Accreditation.

The guidelines and guidelines issued by the UGC to universities and higher education institutions also include the terms and conditions of NAAC Accreditation. Under this, all institutions are required to take NAAC Accreditation with a minimum score of 2.5 by 2022. According to the letter, large universities will play a mentor role for smaller universities and colleges in the process. To become a mentor, it is necessary to have a score of 3.26 or more in the NAAC Accreditation. They will help small universities and colleges to take NAAC Accreditation. In return, the University Grants Commission (UGC) will also help them up to Rs. 30 lakh.

What is Accreditation?

Evaluation and accreditation are basically used to understand the quality of any educational institution. In fact, this assessment determines the level to which any educational institution or university is meeting the quality standards set by a certification agency. All self-funded and aided colleges will be evaluated only through NAAC. The team of experts of NAAC performs the institution in educational processes, the course selection and implementation, teaching-learning and evaluation and student results, research work, and publication of faculty members, infrastructure and resources status, organization, administration, economic condition, and students. Services etc. will check on a total of seven points to see if the colleges fall within the parameters. Based on the report of the experts of the NAAC team, the concerned university or college will be given A-Excellent, B-Good, C- Satisfactory, or D-Unsatisfactory grade. On this basis, they will get the benefit of grants or aid. In the event of unsatisfactory grades, he will be outside this scope.

How is the NAAC Assessment?

NAAC assesses the quality of universities and colleges on various grounds. NAAC grades on the basis of resources and performance. It is an advantage for colleges to get grants from UGC. Colleges that have completed three years of their establishment or have completed two batches of degree courses can apply for NAAC assessment. First, the university or college sends a letter of intent (LOI) to NAAC. It then applies for IEQA (Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment) on the prescribed proforma. After getting the consent of NAAC on this, within six months, the college has to send a self-study report which mentions all the details related to the educational, financial, and administrative activities of the college. NAAC's 'Peer Team' then inspects the college based on a self-study report and assigns grades.

Information to be given in SSR:

The self-study report that the college produces can be divided into two parts. The first involves basic amenities and the second involves educational activities. In the basic structure, information about the profile of the college, financial support, status of accreditation, location, courses, and departments conducted, the educational cost is required. Educational activities include college vision, self-funded courses, fees, semesters, annual or part-time courses, courses started in five years, syllabus revision, project work, parent, system of feedback from students or academics, admission process, qualifying marks, Academic working day, position of posts, student-teacher ratio, teacher qualification, faculty development program, remedial and bridge course, research work, research publication, NCC /NSS, etc. activities, library and attendance status of teachers and students in it, books Type and a number of students, the dropout rate of students, financial support for students, co-educational activities, examination results, selection in

competitive exams, administration, and leadership capacity, etc.

Assessment and accreditation are basically used to understand the 'quality status' of any educational institution. In fact, this assessment determines the level to which any educational institution or university certification agency meets the quality standards set by the certification agency. These criteria are as follows - Performance of the institution in educational processes, the course selection, and implementation, teaching-learning and evaluation and results of students, research work and publication of faculty members, the status of basic facilities and resources, organization, administration, economic condition, and Student services, etc.

In pursuance of the Action Plan of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru, for performance evaluation, evaluation, and accreditation, and quality up-gradation of institutions of higher education, NAAC proposes that each accredited institution establish an Internal Security Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a quality subsistence measure. Since quality enhancement is a continuous process, IQAC will become a part of an institute's system and work towards enhancing the quality and realizing the goals of livelihood. The main function of IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent, and catalytic improvement in the performance of institutions. IQAC will make an important and meaningful contribution to the post-accreditation phase of institutions. During the post- accreditation period, IQAC will disseminate the efforts and measures of an institution towards academic excellence.

IQAC will have the following functions:

- Development and application of quality benchmarks/ parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the university.
- Facilitate the creation of a learner-centered environment conducive to quality education and faculty maturity to adopt the knowledge and technology required for participatory teaching and learning processes;
- Arrangement of feedback from students, parents and other stakeholders on quality- related institutional processes;
- Dissemination of information on various quality standards of higher education; Organization of inter-institutional workshops, seminars on quality related topics and promotion of quality circles;
- Development and maintenance of institutional databases through MIS aimed at maintaining / enhancing institutional quality;
- Preparation of annual quality assurance report (AQAR) of the university based on NAAC guidelines and criteria
- Any other assignment by the Vice Chancellor.

Benefit:

- Ensuring increased levels of clarity and focus in institutional functioning to enhance quality;
- Ensure internalization of quality culture;
- Ensuring growth and coordination between the various activities of the institution and institutionalizing good practices;
- Provide a sound basis for decision-making to improve institutional functioning;

What is the situation now?

According to statistics, 350 universities and 30,000 colleges in the country do not have NAAC Accreditation. These universities and colleges have not even applied for it. Whereas, under international standards, all accreditation is mandatory for all institutions to

participate in the ranking. Till now UGC used to grading higher education institutions. Therefore, in order to provide better facilities in the university at the country level, it has been decided to do grading from NAAC.

Educational quality will improve:

Higher education got a boost in the country. But the quality of education could not be promoted. All the foreign educational institutions are going to knock in the country soon, so in comparison, we will be lagging behind them. Compared to the international level, UGC has formed an institution that will set the standard of education at the same level in schools here. UGC grant will not give a grant to any self-funded and aided college which will not meet these norms of NAAC till 2022. The educational quality will improve significantly when this system is implemented in higher education.

Benefits of National Assessment and Accreditation Council evaluation:

The following are the reasons behind the adoption of the evaluation of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council by the institutions:

- This leads to the recognition of the excellent achievements of institutions.
- Institutions get an opportunity to understand their potential and limitations, which motivates them towards self-improvement.
- The image of the institutions is exposed and they get an opportunity to attract students from remote areas.

- Institutions get international recognition and ensure their students enroll in foreign universities.
- There are incentives from the government and other funding agencies.
- Some state governments insist on this.
- This assessment has been considered as a precondition for achieving autonomous/equivalent university status and for granting other types of recognition or permanent affiliation by the University Grants Commission or affiliated universities.

Reasons for not assessing the National Assessment and Accreditation Council by educational institutions:

Some doubts and apprehensions expressed about the evaluation of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council are as follows:

- Fear of being unknown.
- Fear of getting low grades and fear of not achieving the desired accreditation level.
- Lack of enthusiasm in the management committee and staff to take up preparatory work (submission of institutional data in self-study report).
- The notion that evaluation is a costly process.
- Recognition that there is no subsequent benefit from the assessment.
- Objections about the external evaluation of quality.
- Objections about the credibility and credibility of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council methodology and procedures.
- The belief that this process is not currently mandatory and can be ignored.

Conclusion:

Some other concerns and new issues may arise in new situations. More important than these concerns is our attitude towards our activities. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council believe that quality needs to be nurtured rather than controlled. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council may focus more on the nurturing and continuous evaluation of internal quality assurance in higher education institutions than on focusing on time-bound assessment activities in the future. It is equally important to understand that external quality assessment is a symbolic process and not a mandatory or determinative one.

Suggestions:

- 1) The college should have its own vision and purpose and it should be displayed at important places of the college.
- 2) There should be an improvement in the online library, reading room for students, toilet for women teachers, common room of girls, department room, canteen, parking, computer lab, etc.
- 3) Every teacher should have the knowledge, a teaching plan, monthly learning report, tutorials and additional classes, student feedback, use of IT technology, basic computer education for all students, etc.
- 4) The college should have its own sports programs, NCC / NSS activities, Alumni Council, Parent-Teacher Association, Career Counseling Cell, Student Problem Solving Cell, etc.
- 5) Prepare a proper document of all educational, co-scholastic activities and achievements, which can be placed before NAAC.

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