

A Critical Analysis of Accreditation in Higher Education Institutions in India

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Abstract:-

Education plays a vital role in the development of any nation. Higher education is a powerful instrument for creating knowledge and information based society. The mission education is to educate, train, and undertake research activities and service to the community. Higher education is nothing but production and dissemination of knowledge. Recently the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) have revised the Assessment and Accreditation Process launched in July 2017 and AQAR filling modified on February 2020. The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will now be assessed with the new process of online submission has started from 9th November 2017. The new process has an explicit shift making it ICT enabled, objective, new initiative of institution.

Since the process is going to be implemented first time, many institutes are facing many queries to comply with the mandatory requirements of NAAC. The Research paper attempts to address the above issue and provide a glance of the Revised and Accreditation to be conducted thereby guiding the institutes to apply for NAAC at an ease.

Keywords:-

NAAC, Assessment, Accreditation, Framework

I. INTRODUCTION

Education plays a vital role in the development of any nation. It constitutes the backbone of a country as it produces the human force, which plays the most determining role in the advancement of a nation and in the progress of civilization. Education is one that provides the thrust in getting ahead and building up a powerful democratic society. The development of any country depends mostly upon its growth of education. Progress of any country is possible only when its citizens are dynamic, resourceful, enterprising, and responsible. Therefore, higher education is considered as an important instrument for bringing about social, economic, political, and technological progress of any country particularly for a developing country like India. The scope and demand for higher education is increasing day by day and the more important mission of higher education is the creation of intellects by providing world-class education for promotion of global standards in the Institutions of Higher Education. With the changing trends in higher education and New Education Policy introduced by the Central Government, with change in the reforms and rapidly transforming global education scenario, NAAC has embarked on revising the Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) methodology. Accordingly the Revised Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) Framework was launched in July 2017 and modified the policy decision. Let us take a glance of the revised process

II. REVISED ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK:

The Revised process is an explicit paradigm shift from earlier process making it ICT enabled, objective, transparent, scalable and robust. The shift is: □ from qualitative peer judgment to data based quantitative indicator evaluation with increased objectivity and transparency towards extensive use of ICT confirming scalability and robustness in terms of simplification of the process drastic reduction in nu of the report, visit days, and so on In terms of boosting benchmarking as quality improvement tool. This has been attempted through comparison of NAAC indicators with other international QA frameworks. Introducing pre-qualifier for as 30% of system generated score. Introducing System Generated Scores with combination of online evaluation (about 70%) and peer judgment (about 30%) in introducing the element of validation of data in providing appropriate metrics, weightages and benchmarks to universities, autonomous colleges and affiliated/constituent colleges in revising several metrics to bring in enhanced participation of students and alumni in the assessment process.

Accreditation is one of the major ways in which the higher education community sets expectations for quality and how government and the public define and communicate the overriding public interest in higher education. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meet levels of quality. The primary purpose of accreditation is to ensure that your program fulfills the basic role of providing you with an education. Accreditation may be summarized as a process, based on professional judgment, for evaluating whether or not an educational Institution or programme meets specified standards of educational quality. Its primary purpose is to assure prospective students and public that graduates of an Institution, conducting various programmes, have achieved a minimum level of competence in their chosen fields of study, thus serving as a form of consumer protection. In many countries, accreditation is the legal responsibility of ministry of education or other governmental agencies. The National Assessment and Accreditation of autonomous institution of the University Grants

Commission (UGC) with its prime agenda to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning in the country. The UGC have mandated that all colleges should complete the process of asse accreditation. The NAAC has been established in the year 1994 is headquartered at Bangalore. Need of accreditation Accreditation of educational Institutions/programmes is a global practice and its need has been felt by various developing and developed countries for one or more of the following purposes.

Funding decisions.

State recognition of qualification/ certification of professionals

Accountability of Institutions to stakeholders

Encouraging self-improvement initiatives by Institutions

Quality assurance of educational programme

III. ROLE OF ACCREDITATION

Encouraging quality improvement initiatives by Institutions. Verifying that an institution or program meets established standards. Assisting potential students in identifying acceptable institutions. Promoting necessary changes, innovations and reforms in all aspects of the institutions for working for the above purpose. Helping to identify institutions and programs the investment of public and private funds Encouraging self-evaluation and accountability in higher education. Creating goals for self-improvement of weaker programs and stimulating a general raising of standards among educational institutions. Involving the faculty and staff comprehensively in institutional evaluation and planning. Establishing criteria for professional certification and licensure and for upgrading courses offering such preparation

Confidence and assurance on quality to various stakeholders including students. Assessing, and evaluating the standards and quality of the education

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION

Assessment and Accreditation is market-driven and has an international focus. It assesses the characteristics of an Institution and its programmes against a set of criteria established. Contributes to the significant improvement of the Institutions involved in the accreditation process. Assessment and Accreditation is the tool in reaching this objective. Accreditation process quantifies the strengths, weaknesses in the processes adopted by the institution and provides directions and opportunities for future growth. Accredited institutions may be preferred by funding agencies for releasing grants for research as well as expansion etc. It provides a quality seal or label that differentiates the institutions from its peers at the national level. This leads to a widespread recognition and greater appreciation of the brand name of Institutions and motivates the Institutions to strive for more.' It helps the accredited institutions for quality sustenance and quality enhancement activities by setting up of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in each of the Colleges and Universities.

Benefits of assessment and accreditation by NAAC

Benefits to Institutions

To know its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities through an informed review process.

To initiate innovative and modern methods of pedagogy.

Intra and inter-institutional interactions. To realize their academic objectives. Helps the Institution in securing necessary funds from funding agencies for releasing grants for research as well as expansion etc. Improves student enrolment both in terms of quality and quantity Helps create sound and challenging academic environment in the Institution Facilitates global recognition of degrees and mobility of graduates and professionals Continuous Improvement Ensure heightened level of clarity and focuses on institutional functioning towards quality enhancement Ensure internalization of the quality culture. Ensure enhancement and coordination among various activities of the institution and institutionalize all good practices. Provide a sound basis for decision-making to improve institutional functioning. Act as a dynamic system for quality changes in HEIs. Build an organized methodology of documentation and internal communication. Help colleges and universities achieve positive student learning outcomes. Stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality in teaching learning and research in higher education institutions. Encourages self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy, and innovations in higher Education. Helps to undertake quality-related research studies, consultancy, and training programmes. Collaboration with other stakeholders of higher education for quality evaluation, promotion, and sustenance. Helps to Contribute to National Development.

Criteria for Assessment NAAC has identified the following seven criteria to serve as the basis of its assessment procedures:

1. Curricular Aspects
2. Teaching-Learning and Evaluation
3. Research, Innovations and Extension
4. Infrastructure and Learning Resources
5. Student Support and Progression
6. Governance, Leadership and Management
7. Institutional Values and Best Practices

Benefits to Students

- This process has benefitted to students studying in NAAC accredited Institutions can be assured that they will receive education which is a balance between high academic quality and professional relevance and that the needs of the corporate world are well integrated into programmes, activities and processes.
- This process signifies that he has entered the portals of an Institution, which has the essential and desirable features of quality professional education.
- This process will enhances employability of graduates.
- Financial aid is available only to students who enroll at a college, university, or other institution of higher learning that has been accredited by an accreditation organization

Benefits to Employers

- This process of Accreditation assures potential employers that students come from a programme where the content and quality have been evaluated, satisfying established standards.
- It also signifies that the students passing out have acquired competence based on well-established technical inputs.
- Employers look for reliable information on the quality of education offered to the potential recruits.

Benefits to faculty

- Motivates faculty to participate actively in academic and related Institutional / departmental activities
- The production of qualified human resources.

Benefits to Parents

It signifies that their ward goes through a teaching-learning environment as per accepted good practices.

Benefits to Alumni

It reassures alumni that they are products of an institute with a higher standing in terms of learning.

Benefits to Country

Accreditation helps in gaining confidence of stakeholders and in giving a strong message that as a country, our technical manpower is of international standards and can be very useful in enhancing the global mobility for our technical manpower. Contributes to social and economic development of the country by producing high quality technical human resource. Role in human resource development and capacity building of individuals, to cater to the needs of the economy, society and the country as a whole, thereby contributing to the development of the Nation

Catalyst for international accreditations

Due to accreditation from NAAC, the Institution's systems and procedures are aligned with the Institution's Mission and Vision. All essential prerequisites for international accreditation are included in the accreditation process of NAAC. Therefore, NAAC acts as a catalyst for the Institutions planning to acquire International Accreditation.

V. CONCLUSION

Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow, equipping individuals and societies with the skills, perspectives knowledge, and values to live and work in sustainable manner. The higher education system in India has developed in a noteworthy way, particularly in the Post-independence period, to become one of the prime systems of its kind in the world. It has been used as a reliable tool to build a knowledge-based information society. The main aim of Higher education is to contribute to

the development and improvement of society as a whole in the sustainable manner. It also aims at meeting the needs of all sectors of human activity. New developments in higher education require a major transformation in the accreditation process. The overriding public interest of the present century is promoting accountability for moving to excellent quality and performance. In order to survive in the competitive world of globalization, all higher education institutions should pay special attention to quality in higher education. NAAC has taken a number of steps to promote the quality of Indian higher education. NAAC's assessment has made great attempts in bringing about quality culture among the Higher Educational Institutions of India. Quality is the major life giving force in the Institutions of higher education. Without quality, higher education is of no use to anyone. In the recent past, there has been a mushroom growth of higher educational institutions with sub-standard quality of education. However, after NAAC's inception, there has been a massive change in the total scenario of higher education. NAAC's assessment has brought about quality development in the colleges. There has been major improvement in the academic and non-academic activities of the college.

VI. REFERENCE

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