

Need For Holistic Planning By IQAC In The New Framework.

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Abstract:-

The internal quality assurance cell (IQAC) in any institution is a significant administrative body responsible for all quality matters. It is the prime responsibility of IQAC to initiate, plan and supervise various activities which are necessary to increase the quality of the education imparted in institutions and colleges. The role of IQAC in maintaining quality standards in teaching, learning and evaluation becomes crucial and the present research is therefore undertaken on a smaller scale to determine the exact status and functioning of IQAC and its outcome. Hence there is a need for holistic planning by IQAC in the new framework.

INTRODUCTION

The Third General Assembly of the United Nations primarily concerned with bolstering international peace and preserving freedom, equality of rights and dignity of everyone everywhere adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948. This visionary document is a torch bearer of equality and justice for nations across the globe. In case of education its Article 26 states that “Everyone has the right to education and education shall be free, at least to elementary and fundamental stages”. In the case of higher education, it states that “Technical and professional education shall be made available and higher education shall be accessible on the basis of merit”. It further emphasizes “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. It shall promote understanding tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups and shall further the activities of United Nations for the maintenance of peace (UDHR,2015:54)

Our global economy has to be transferred from an industrial to an information based system in which lifelong learning and innovation are central for success. Learning environments that reflect and support information based system, defined as student centered learning environments focus on and support the principles and activities.

With the beginning of new millennium, there is an unprecedented demand for numerous modifications in the area of higher education, moreover an increased awareness of its significance for the developments in all the directions, so that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has developed guidelines and tools for enhancing quality for different levels of higher education institutions and for its sustenance it is possible to continuously attempt for excellence by organizing Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

What is IQAC

The internal quality assurance mechanism of the institution may be called “Internal Quality Assurance Cell”. The IQAC is meant for planning, guiding and monitoring Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Enhancement (QE) activities of the college.

Aim of IQAC

To develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.

To promote measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices.

Role of IQAC

- Ensuring the adequacy, maintenance and proper allocation of support structure and services.
- Ensuring timely, efficient and progressive performance of academic administrative and financial tasks.
- The relevance and quality of academic and research programmes.
- Equitable access to and affordability of academic programmes for various sections of society.
- Optimization and integration of modern methods of teaching and learning.
- The credibility of evaluation procedures.
- Sharing of research findings and networking with other institutions in India and abroad.

- Development and application of quality benchmarks or parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the institution.
- Dissemination of information on various quality parameters of higher education.
- Acting as a nodal agency of institution for coordinating quality related activities, including adoption and dissemination of best practices.
- Development of Quality culture in the institution.
- Preparation of the Annual Quality Assurance Report as per guidelines and parameters of NAAC to be submitted to NAAC.
- Facilitating the creation of a learner centric environment conducive to quality education and technology for participatory teaching and learning processes.
- Arrangement for feedback response from students, parents and other stakeholders on quality related institutional processes.

Quality Assurance is a byproduct of ongoing efforts to define the objectives of an institution, to have a work plan to achieve them. The devotion and commitment to improvement rather than mere institutional control is the basis for devising procedures and instruments for assuring quality. The right balance between the health and growth of an institution needs to be struck. The IQAC has to ensure that whatever is done in the institution for “Education” is done efficiently and effectively with high standards. IQAC have major role and support for the units and mechanisms. The operational features and functions discussed so far are broad based to facilitate institutions towards academic excellence. In order to do this the IQAC will have to plan according to new framework.

Composition of the IQAC

The composition of the IQAC should be as follows

- Chairperson – Head of the Institution.
- Teachers to represent all levels (3 to 8)
- One member from the Management.
- The senior Administrative Officer.
- One nominee each from the local society/trust, students and Alumni.
- One nominee each from the employer.
- One of the senior teachers as the coordinator of the IQAC.

The composition of the IQAC will depend on the size and complexity of the institution and accordingly.

Need for holistic planning by IQAC

The IQAC will become a vital part of the Institution’s quality assurance system and work towards ensuring quality enhancement and sustenance. The prime task of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the overall performance of its institution. For this, during the post accreditation period, institutions need to channelize their efforts towards promoting holistic academic excellence. Hence the need for holistic planning by IQAC in new framework also.

1. For clarity and focus in the institutions for Quality Enhancement

There should be clarity in institutions that what it want to achieve, where it want to achieve, where it want to be and like wise focus on the action what it need to do.

2. For Internalization of quality culture

There should be everybody in the institutions not just quality controllers, is responsible for quality. A central feature of institution is that each employee is responsible to ensure the quality of their own work. In the quality culture there is no need to check final output. Indeed to do so, is to shift responsibility away from those involved at each stage.

3. For enhancement and coordination among various units

If in the institution there is more than one unit then there should be coordination among all the units and activities of the institution and institutionalizing all good practices.

4. For providing a sound basis for decision making

For improving the functions of the institutions there should be sound basis of decision making. No doubts and no queries system should be applied at the time of decision making.

5. For Quality changes

Good quality of education is one that provides all learners with capabilities they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies and enhance individual well being and for this purpose there should be the perfect planning, that means acting as a dynamic system for quality change.

6. For building a sound methodology

There should be a sound methodology for documentation and internal communication. Proper documentation shape up the details of the work to be done and grant everyone access to the essential information. While internal communications have a strong impact and influence on employees. Therefore communications departments can connect people within and outside the institution to create great success.

Quality assurance is a by product of the ongoing efforts of an institution to define its objectives and chalk out a work plan to achieve them and also specify the checks and balances to evaluate the degree to which each of the tasks is fulfilled. Hence, devotion and commitment to improvement rather than mere institutional control is the basis for devising procedures and instruments for assuring quality. The IQAC has to ensure that whatever is done in the institution for higher education is done efficiently and effectively. In order to this the IQAC will have to first establish procedures and modalities to collect data and information on the various aspects of the functioning of the institution.

The IQAC coordinator has a major role in implementing these functions. The IQAC may derive support from the already existing units and mechanism that contribute to the functions listed above.

The (AQAR) Annual Quality Assurance Report may be a part of the Annual Report. It shall be approved by the statutory body of the Higher Education Links Scheme (HELs) which will also monitor the quality enhancement measures undertaken by the IQAC. The IQAC may create its exclusive window tab on its institutional website for keeping the documents pertaining to NAAC. Peer team reports, AQAR and certificate of accreditation. It shall regularly upload report on its activities and host the AQAR as well.