

A Critical Analysis of Significance of NAAC in Higher Education

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Abstract:-

NAAC is an organization, which evaluates and certifies Higher Educational Institutes in India under the University Grants Commission. It examines some important aspects like the standard of quality of education, faculty, research, infrastructure, etc. In India only NAAC accredited universities are eligible for UGC grants. This paper is all about studying the significance of NAAC in higher education.

Keywords:-

Higher education, NAAC

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian higher education system is one of the largest in the World. It is predicated that during the tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07), there will be a tremendous pressure of numbers on this system. It is also predicted that many additional students will be enrolling higher education institutions in the country. There are also new challenges of management and regulation being faced by these institutions, which require serious attention.

India is achieving economic success and modernization. It is approaching high-tech industries, such as IT and Biotechnology, to fasten the nation to prosperity. Currently, Indian higher education system has many favourable factors to its advantage. India has a large higher education sector, the third largest in the world. It uses English as a main language of higher education and research and has a long academic tradition. The fact that State Government, rather than Central Government, are responsible for higher education, creates a rather cumbersome structure, but the system allows for a diversity of policies and approaches.

II. OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the concept of NAAC
- 2) To judge the significance of NAAC in higher education
- 3) To provide valid suggestions

III. NAAC

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous organization that was established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in the year 1994.

It exists because of recommendations of the National Policy in Education (1986) which laid special emphasis on upgrading the quality of higher education in India. To address the issues of quality, the National Policy on Education (1986) and the Plan of Action (POA-1992) advocated the establishment of an independent national accreditation body. Its main function is to assess and accredit all higher education institutions of our country. It must make sure that a particular institute meets all the requirements.

It is a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education comprising of over 120 different national agencies involved in Assessment, Accreditation and Academic Audit.

The basic requirement for NAAC accreditation is as given below

- The university/college must be recognized and approved by UGC.
- An adequate number of students should enrol for a full-time course.
- The university must be in India.

NAAC Accreditation Process

The procedure to get NAAC accreditation is per below

- Higher Education Institute (HEI) Registration on the NAAC website.
- Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) submission.
- Self-Study Report (SSR) submission.
- NAAC then proceeds to take a Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) and Data Validation & Verification (DVV) process for Pre-Qualification Evaluation
- NAAC publishes the institute's grades.

- **NAAC Parameters**

The seven criteria used for NAAC accreditation are given below

- Curricular Aspects
- Governance, Leadership, and Management
- Infrastructure and Learning Resources
- Institutional Values & Best Practices
- Research, Consultancy, and Extensions
- Student Support and Progression
- Teaching & Learning, Evaluation

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF NAAC IN HIGHER EDUCATION

1. IQAC funds from UGC: Quality is primarily the responsibility of higher education itself. Each institution has established Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to ensure a quality culture at the institutional level. Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) is to be submitted annually to NAAC. UGC is funding the College for establishment of IQAC with rupees three (3.00) lakhs and Universities with rupees five (5.00) lakhs.

2. To achieve excellence for enhancing the competencies and potentiality of the Institutions to the highest level of standards. Colleges must apply for the UGC schemes like the "Universities with Potential for Excellence" (UPE) Universities of Excellence (UoE) Status, applying institutions should have Accreditation by NAAC with Grade "A".

3. Further Colleges with Potential for Excellence" (CPE) are also judged by decided by the UGC with respect to the NAAC Accreditation status either "B" or "A". Only such of the colleges which are accredited with 'A' grade with more than 3.5 CGPA are eligible for consideration as College of Excellence (CE) under the Scheme.

4. Many policy decisions such as UGC Autonomous College Status, continuation of Autonomy by UGC (NAAC/NBA certificate, whether college has been accredited by NAAC/NBA, mention the rating) are taken under NAAC. Hence quality of higher education has improved by leaps and bounce.

5. Deemed universities are established because of NAAC accreditation.

6. All Institution of Higher Learning will have to compulsorily undergo the accreditation from an accrediting agency. Hence their quality has improved.

7. The IQAC of college are running 365 days for the overall development of institutes.

8. More than 26 states have established State Level Quality Assurance Cells (SLQAC), in turn those states have conducted more than 400 workshops in their jurisdiction.

9. Many seminars and conferences are arranged because of funding of NAAC.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Accreditation plays a critical role in the institutional overall improvement, enhancing its societal image and status. NAAC has made aware institute about its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges. It was found that Many Institutions have updated the curriculum and started innovative and modern methods of teaching for their students. NAAC gives the institution a direction and identity with accountability and enhanced credibility.

Based on above study, it is recommended that the NAAC accreditation must be taken seriously. Also, the accountability must be fixed according to the report of the NAAC. The NAAC must take up all its activity at a rapid speed.

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