

# Need of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Assessment in Higher Education

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## *Abstract:-*

Higher education plays vital role for the development of society as well as nation. Higher education system of India is one of the comprehensive programs in the world. Higher education program of India has been expanded into several universities, technicians, research centers, etc. throughout the country to produce and disseminate information that is aimed at providing the easiest access to higher education. New challenges facing the education system in the country cannot be met without the complete completion of the institution of management of higher education institutions. There is an urgent need to improve the quality of higher educational institutions. Improving the quality and achieving excellence in teaching, examination, and extension is the greatest challenge faced by all higher educational institutions today. Accreditation is a body established by the University Grants Commission of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. For India today, quality in higher education is a main priority. NAAC assessment can judge the quality of a college or a university, and it is has led to the academic upliftment and qualitative up gradation in the colleges.

## *Keywords:-*

Higher Education, NAAC, Accreditation, Assessment, UGC, Institution.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Higher education plays vital role for deep knowledge and understanding in order to develop learners in new borders of knowledge in different ways of life. It enables the student's ability to ask and seek the truth and to analyze current issues. It improves the individual's intellectual capacity within a small technology and provides a broader view of the world around it [1, 2]. Higher education is often understood by combining teaching, research and expansion. However, exporting to higher education has contributed to the need for accountability and transparency while facing global education challenges. As the demand for quality education increases, there is a growing demand for quality assurance for international universities where there is increased mobility of students, faculty, programmes and higher education institutions in global context. Quality assurance can be a driver for higher education institutions to achieve excellence in higher education [3].

Accreditation is one of most important ways in which the higher education community sets expectations for quality and how public and the government define and communicate the overriding public interest in higher education. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education given by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. The main 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 meets specified standards of educational quality. Its main 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 [4].

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an 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 made compulsory that all Universities and Colleges should complete the process of assessment and accreditation. The process of assessment and accreditation has created a tremendous momentum among the academia on issues pertaining to quality and this has largely been due to the successful partnership between NAAC and the State governments. Quality sustenance and quality enhancement are the two key words reverberating in most institutions of higher learning in the country. While the initial phase of the transformation focused on

creating phase is now more focused on creating institutions of the future. Also the issue of Colleges and Universities being adequately prepared for academic life from the perspective of students takes on more importance [5-7].

### Need of Accreditation

Accreditation of educational Institutions such as Universities and Colleges is a global practice and its need has been felt by many developed countries for one or more of the following purposes

- Funding decisions
- Quality assurance of educational programme/Institution
- Accountability of Institutions to stakeholders
- Encouraging self-improvement initiatives by Institutions
- State recognition of qualification/ certification of professionals

### Role of Accreditation

- To verify that an institution meets the established standards
- To encourage quality improvement initiatives by educational Institutions
- To identify acceptable institutions by potential students
- Promoting necessary changes, innovations and reforms in all aspects of the institutions working for the above purpose  
To involve the faculty members and staff actively in institutional evaluation and planning
- 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
- Establishing criteria for professional certification and licensure and for upgrading courses offering such preparation
- Confidence and assurance on quality to various stakeholders including students.
- Monitoring, assessing, and evaluating the standards and quality of the education

### Significance of Assessment and Accreditation

- It assesses the characteristics of an Institution and its programmes against a set of criteria established.
- Accreditation process identifies the strengths, weaknesses of the institution and provides directions and opportunities for future growth.
- It contributes significant improvement of the Institutions involved in the accreditation process.
- Assessment and Accreditation is the only way in reaching this objective.
- Accredited institutions may be preferred by funding agencies for releasing grants for research as well as expansion etc.
- It provides a quality label that differentiates the institutions from other at the national level. This leads to a recognition and greater appreciation of Institutions and motivates the Institutions to strive for more'

## II. BENEFITS OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION BY NAAC

### Benefits to Institutions

- To know strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of institution through an informed review process.
- To initiate innovative and modern methods of pedagogy.
- Intra and inter-institutional interactions.
- To create challenging and sound academic environment in the Institution
- To realize their academic objectives
- Helps to improve students enrolment both in terms of quality and quantity
- It helps the Institution in securing necessary funds from funding agencies for research as well as expansion etc.
- Facilitates global recognition of degrees and mobility of graduates and professionals
- Ensure heightened level of clarity and focuses on institutional functioning towards quality enhancement
- Provides a sound basis for making- decision to improve institutional functioning.
- Ensure enhancement and coordination among various activities of the institution and institutionalize all good practices.

**Act as a dynamic system for quality changes in HEIs.**

- Build an organized methodology of documentation and internal communication.
- Helps to Contribute to National Development.
- Helps Colleges and Universities achieve positive student learning outcomes.
- Helps to 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.

**Benefits to faculty**

- Motivates faculty members for the active participation in academic and research activities.
- For the emerging out of qualified human resources.

**Benefits to Students**

- 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.
- Financial grant is available only those students of higher learning institution that has been accredited by an accreditation organization
- It signifies that he has entered the portals of an Institution, which has the desirable features of quality professional education.
- Enhances employability of students.

**Benefits to the Public**

- It provides reliable information to the society on quality of education offered.
- Accredited remark represents the commitment of the Universities, Colleges and other other learning Institution to quality and continuous improvement.
- Benefits to Industry and Infrastructure Providers.
- It helps to identify the skills, knowledge and quality of Institutional capabilities.

**Benefits to Employers**

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

**Benefits to Alumni**

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

**Benefits to Parents**

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

**Benefits to Country**

Accreditation helps to improve confidence of stakeholders and in giving a strong message that as a country, our technical manpower is of international standards and can be useful in enhancing the global mobility for our technical manpower. It helps to the social and economic development of the country by producing high quality human resources.

**III. CONCLUSION**

Higher education quality in our country is at cross roads, at one end there is high demand for access to higher education and on the other quality in higher education is questioned. To survive in this globalized extremely competitive world, all higher education institutions have to play special attention to quality in higher education. Number of steps has taken by NAAC to promote the quality in higher education through self-assessment, best practice benchmarking, peer review, brainstorming etc. Quality higher education is one of the essential requirement for the national development. In the recent past there has been a mushroom growth of higher

educational institutions with sub-standard quality of education. After NAAC inception, there has been a extreme change in the total scenario of higher education. NAAC assessment has brought about quality development in the Universities and colleges. There has been major improvement in the academic and non-academic activities of the educational institutions.

#### IV. REFERENCES

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