

# Role of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in quality enhancement in higher education

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In pursuance of the National Action Plan of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, for performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation and quality up-gradation of institutions of higher education, the NAAC proposes that every accredited institution establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a post-accreditation quality sustenance measure. Since quality enhancement is a continuous process, the IQAC will become a part of an institution's system and work towards realizing the goals of quality enhancement and sustenance. The prime task of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the performance of institutions. The IQAC will make a significant and meaningful contribution in the post-accreditation phase of institutions. During the post-accreditation period, the IQAC will channelize the efforts and measures of an institution towards academic excellence. This particular paper aims at to analyse the impact of IQAC over the performance of professional education system. This is an attempt to explore whether it influences the quality of professional education which could meet the growing needs of modern industries.

**Keywords:** NAAC, IQAC, Professional Education, Modern industries, Quality

## I. INTRODUCTION

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has established the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an autonomous body, under section 12(ccc) of its Act in September 1994. The main aim of NAAC is to monitor standards of the higher educational institutions. Most of the colleges of India have undergone the NAAC accreditation and colleges have formed the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to maintain the momentum of quality consciousness. The IQAC should have an appropriate structure and flexibility to meet the diverse needs of the stakeholders. The IQAC is a body which looks after the planning, and monitoring of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Enhancement (QE) activities of the institution. The IQAC in an institution is established based on the well-defined parameters and guidelines provided by NAAC. The participation and proactive involvement of every member in the institution defines the efficiency of college administration. In the present paper, we introduce the concept of IQAC as the backbone of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for the perfect coordination between the different committees and the administration of the institution. The IQAC should become a driving force for the upbringing of quality by intervention strategies to remove deficiencies

## II. STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF IQAC

### 2.1 Goals of IQAC

- 1) To establish a quality system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action plan to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.
- 2) To foster measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internationalization of quality culture and institutionalization of most excellent practices.

### 2.2 Functions of IQAC

- 1) Development and execution of quality benchmarks/parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the Institution.
- 2) Acting as a nodal agency of the College for quality related activities, including adoption and implementation of best practices.
- 3) Strengthening of Quality Culture in the College.
- 4) Ensure intensification and amalgamation among the various activities of the College and institutionalize best practices.
- 5) Optimization and amalgamation of modern methods of teaching, learning and continuous assessment.
- 6) Organization of inter and intra college seminars, workshops on quality related themes and promotion of quality culture.
- 7) To Build an organized methodology for documentation

- 8) Collection and analysis of feedback responses from students, parents and other stakeholders on college processes
- 9) Facilitating the creation of a student- centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty blossoming to acquire the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process.
- 10) Propagation of information on various quality parameters of higher education.
- 11) Provide a sound basis for decision-making to revamp college functioning.
- 12) Preparation of the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) and timely submission of the AQAR and such other reports to NAAC based on the quality parameters. The IQAC Co-Ordinator and team plays a leading role to achieve these functions. The IQAC may team up with the existing committees for the same. The main objective behind these functions is to facilitate institutions towards quality education and to reach the specific needs of the students so that they can sustain in the competitive system. Of the various programmed / activities at college leading to quality improvement and internal communication.

### III. ROLE OF IQAC IN ENSURING QUALITY ENHANCEMENT OF HEIS

Quality is primarily the responsibility of higher education itself, although the government has a special responsibility regarding quality assurance in many countries it is the institution that is responsibility for providing and ensuring quality. IQAC is the totally of systems, resources and information devoted to setting up, maintaining and improving the overall quality and standards of an institution. Thus, if quality is required to be assured we need a structured quality assurance mechanism that makes it possible to monitor, improve and evaluate quality. Therefore, each and every institution will have to build its own IQAC keeping certain objectives in mind namely monitoring, evaluation quality assurance for specific activities and instruments for quality assurance.

### IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING IQAC MORE DYNAMIC AND AGILE

1. Display the mission of the institute.
2. Feedback forms from students about quality of the institution.
3. A two-member research advisory committee can be constituted to guide for research projects.
4. Formation for quality circles
5. The Head of an institution should create an atmosphere of cooperative partnership in achieving quality.
6. IQAC must be made statutory apex body similar to local management committee (LMC).
7. The awareness towards quality and excellence must be taken into consideration rather than the position of the person in the seniority list for being selected as a coordinator.
8. IQAC Meetings should be regularly conducted at least thrice in an academic year and whose proceedings should be properly recorded and seriously implemented as well as monitored.
9. IQAC must go through SWOT analysis as a periodic activity and evolve the mechanism which is made routinised by the Principal and coordinator by assigning duties to the stakeholders.
10. Accountability of each stakeholder is to be made mandatory and proper credit is given to the good quality work

### IV. CONCLUSION

The role of IQAC for the quality enhancement in higher education is very instrumental and distinct in bringing about so many positive changes in and around the college premises. The leaders like principal and coordinator of IQAC should work on the guidelines of IQAC with proper realization of the democratic role of IQAC and accountability of their own role. Moreover, The IQAC can create a very good academic atmosphere in the premises so that the quality of education is maintained and enhanced time to time.

### V. REFERENCES

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