

NAAC Assessment: A Boost for Higher Education

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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 and vision of higher education is to educate, train, and undertake research activities and service to the community. Therefore, the higher education is to be the best on both quantity and quality improving the quality and achieving excellence in teaching, examination, research, and extension is the greatest challenge faced by all Higher Educational Institutions today. No educational institution can progress without quality. Accreditation is a body established by the University Grants Commission of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. This paper makes a systematic brief review of study of the measures taken by NAAC to stimulate the academic environment for enhancement of quality of teaching-learning and research in H.E. Institutions. And, to understand the level of awareness and improvements in many aspects of such higher education Institutions.

Keywords: NAAC Accreditation, Higher Education (H.E.)

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of higher education in institutions is immense and complex as education is the backbone of a country. A wide range of challenges and opportunities are emerging, with many political, economic and social issues. Most significant are the challenges associated with shifting perspectives of knowledge itself, which are strongly influencing the important task and the responsibility of universities in society. The most important thing that should be taken care of is to provide higher education without affecting the quality of education. In such an environment, it is necessary to have an effective and efficient quality assurance mechanism in the country. To maintain the quality of the higher education in institutions, the National Policy Mission proposes the Accreditation unit. Based on this, University Grants Commission (UGC), under section 12 CCC of the UGC Act (Act 3 of 1956), established the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an Autonomous Institution on 16 September 1994 with registered Office at Bangalore. The prime aim of NAAC is to Assess and Accredit institutions and universities of higher learning with an objective of helping them to work continuously to improve the quality of education, to empower higher learning and to maximize their resources, opportunities and capabilities.

II. NEED OF ACCREDITATION

Educational system in any country cannot flourish without quality of higher education. Need of Accreditation of educational Institutions has been felt by various developing and developed countries for one or more of the following purposes.

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

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
- Helping to identify institutions and programs for the investment of public and private funds
- Encouraging self-evaluation and accountability in higher education
- Involving the faculty and staff in institutional evaluation and planning

- Establishing criteria for professional certification
- Monitoring, assessing, and evaluating the standards and quality of the education

Significance of Assessment and Accreditation

- 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.
- 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 to the needs of the corporate world.
- Student becomes competent in various fields to achieve his goals due to good academic environment.
- Many companies, as part of their campus recruiting programs, only look at 'A' graded colleges. An accreditation, consequently, increases the number of companies coming on campus, thereby increasing the diversity of career opportunities available to students.
- Motivates faculty to participate actively in academic and related Institutional / departmental activities
- The production of qualified human resources.
- Benefits to Industry and all stakeholders as institution has quality education.
- Reflects identity of quality education having potential, skills and knowledge.
- Parents will know that their ward pursues excellent teaching and learning environment helpful for his/her bright future. .
- Alumni association can establish a link between the alumni, staff, and students of the Institute.
- 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.
- Contributes to social and economic development of the country by producing high quality technical human resource.

III. CONCLUSION

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. 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. There has been major improvement in the academic and non-academic activities of the college.

IV. REFERENCES

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