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## **ROLE OF INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL IN PROMOTION OF QUALITY CULTURE IN COLLEGES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) is the requirement of any institutions which aims to have an upliftment of quality on a continuous basis. The word quality is defined as a continuous improvement within the institution and also achievement of the benchmark established by the regulating agencies. Growth, Progress and High Achievements are the results of Quality improvement in the organization.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) makes it mandatory for all the Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) in India to have a IQAC after the first accreditation of the institution by NAAC. Some Institutions have it much before the NAAC. It is always better for any HEI to have a functional IQAC. The mandate to constitute IQAC is mentioned by the UGC and MHRD.

IQAC plays a very significant role in preparation for the NAAC cycles and also for the submission of Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) to NAAC. The IQAC is responsible for development of rules for working of the various committees and also define best quality practices in institution. IQAC guides the all seven criterion committees with regard to maintenance of the record.

The College organizes various activities during each academic year and it is work of IQAC to maintain the documentation and prepare a consolidated report in order to submit to NAAC and other regulatory authorities. In this regard, the paper tries to explain the work of IQAC in promotion of the quality culture in the Colleges. The paper concludes that functional IQAC brings quality culture in the Colleges due to systematic planning and timely execution.

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**Keywords:** *Quality, Assurance, Report and Upliftment of Colleges*

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) makes it compulsory for all the Colleges in India to have an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) after the first cycle of NAAC. The step is to make the management, faculty, students, parents and other stake holders aware about the concept of quality in Higher Education. The focus on quality is not something new in the field of Higher Education. The improvement of quality is long discussed issue and solutions in this regard too many.

Every College wants to provide quality education without any doubt and therefore all the stakeholders are focusing on improvement of quality and sustenance of quality. Many experts and academicians may provide many solutions, but the fact remains that quality improvement in not a matter of a day, week or year, it's a continuous process.

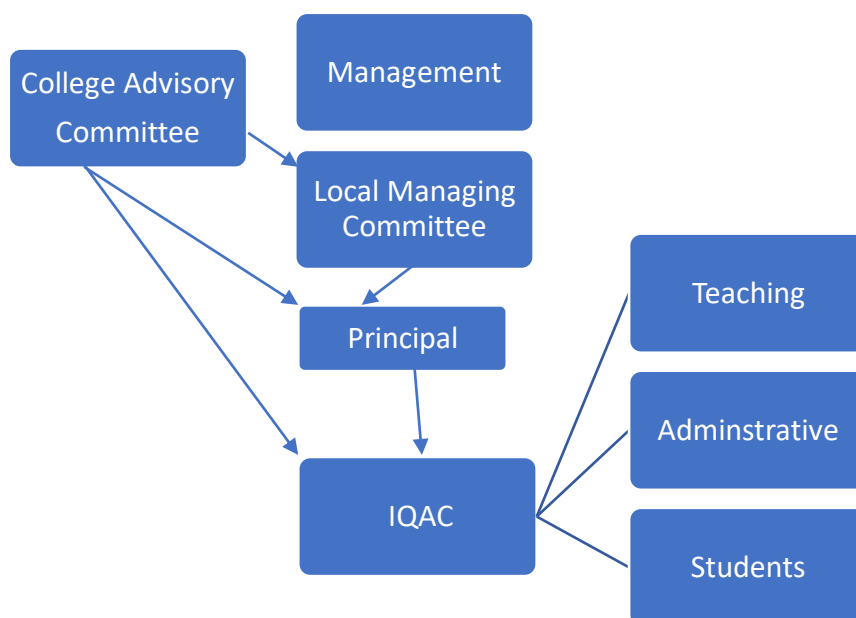
This continuous process requires a permanent cell in the College which will be referred to as Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). The cell works with the mandate mentioned below

1. To develop a system for continuous improvement in the academic and administrative performance.
2. To promote quality enhancement through institutionalization and best practices.
3. To act as the documentation and record-keeping cell of the College
4. To develop quality parameters and benchmark in the College.
5. To encourage learner centric environment in the College
6. To collect feedback from various stakeholders on quality related institutional issues.

7. Dissemination of Information on various quality parameters.
8. Preparation of AQAR and nodal agency for coordinating quality-related activities.

Apart from the above points there are so many which are to be handled as per the need and stage of the College in the process of continuous quality improvement in accordance with the benchmark of NAAC guidelines. The place of IQAC in the College can be explained with the exhibit mentioned below

**Exhibit-01**



**Source: Authors Compilation**

The above exhibit explains the role of IQAC in functioning of a college as each and every stakeholder is connected with the IQAC. The cell plays a key role in collecting information from the stakeholders and also provides the same to Management for decision making process. The cell receives information from the College Advisory and Local Managing Committees and the same are provided to faculty and administrative staff and students for quality improvements.

The below mentioned are some of the important functions of the IQAC in the Colleges.

1. To invite proposals for conduct of academic/curricular/extra-curricular activities from the departments.
2. To design formats for the proposal and activity reports.
3. To study the proposal invited and its financial implications.
4. To organize workshops/seminar on quality improvement.
5. To maintain record of the activities and provide inputs for AQAR
6. To monitor the teaching learning process and make it more learner centric.
7. To invite applications for Career Advancement Scheme
8. To process the applications and invite panel for promotion of the staff
9. To obtain feedback from the stakeholders with regard to improvement
10. To supervise and review the quality improvement measures through continuous follow-up

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the College works with only aim to bring quality culture in the College. The areas which the cell tries to focus on, in the College are mentioned below

1. Curriculum Aspects
2. Workshops/Symposiums.
3. Conferences/Seminars
4. College Charter (time bound services)
5. Transparent Admission process
6. Recruitment and Promotions as per UGC guidelines
7. Periodic Meetings with stakeholders.
8. Identification of the best practices
9. Institutional Distinctiveness
10. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
11. Industry-Academia Linkage
12. College-Community Linkage
13. Student Support and Progression
14. Research and Publication Ethics
15. Code of Conduct for Faculty
16. Implementation of Quality Initiatives
17. Value Education
18. Additional Certification.
19. Study Circle
20. Mentoring/Counseling

The above list of items is only the view points on which the IQAC of the College should work on continuous basis.

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## 2. CONCLUSION

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell is the one which promotes quality culture in the College by monitoring the activities mentioned above. The cell has become an integral part of the College and has become important in order to make sure that the College is on road to success.

## REFERENCE

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- [2] IQAC manual, [www.naac.gov.in](http://www.naac.gov.in)