



Benefits and Impact of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on HEIs in India

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ABSTRACT

The Highest performing education systems are those that combine equity with quality. They give all children opportunities for a good quality education. This report presents policy recommendations for education systems to help all children succeed in their schooling. It looks into system level and school level policies to promote equity and quality. It also provides evidence on how to support disadvantaged students and schools, as improving opportunities for them benefits education system and societies as a whole. NAAC similarly encourages HEIs to adopt new policies and quality improvement in higher education institutes and encourages best practices for increasing quality in higher education. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an organization that assess and accredits Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India. It is an autonomous body of University Grant Commission (UGC), headquartered in Bangalore, with prime agenda of to assess and accredit institutions of higher education system and improve the quality of teaching learning evaluation and research NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) likewise provides financial assistance to the accredited HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) for seminars, conferences and workshops.

Keywords: Teaching learning evaluation, Education, Quality Assurance, Society

Introduction:

In an era of global economic recession, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are experiencing severe pressure from budget reduction. As a result, they have been forced to develop more competitive ways in order to tap on resources and capabilities stemming from contemporary rapid technological and organisational changes. Thus, quality management issues have drawn the interest of academics and practitioners in order to build a sustainable competitive advantage battling against economic recession (Altbach et al., 2009). Nowadays, Greek economic arduous position triggered off downsizing and cost reduction at unprecedented levels in the public sector, forewarning a similar orientation of retrenchment of higher education. Hence, resource scarcity and decline will guide inevitably to the corrosion of institutional effectiveness accompanied with lack of innovation, rigidity, dissatisfaction, conflict, reduced quality and turnover, unless HEIs adapt to the vulnerable environmental conditions and fiscal recession (Cameron & Smart, 1998). Almost six years ago, a reform act was initiated for the adoption of necessary metrics and processes in order to assure the quality of services provided by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Greece. This national quality assurance (QA) system aims at improving transparency, comparability and accountability of the Greek higher education system, fostering quality culture throughout the HEIs. Teaching and administrative staff as well as students are expected to be the main participants and contributors in this process. Evidence from other countries have shown that the introduction of an assessment system, QA procedures, and long range planning leading to cultural change has met the opposition and resistance of the majority of HEIs' stakeholders (Morley, 2003; Van Damme, (2002). The success of the quality management systems' change and the necessary transition in quality culture of HEIs depends on the ability of academic leaders to handle crisis and to build a strategy supportive culture with the contribution of all participants.

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- How to describe the 'excellence in higher education'?
- Which models/frameworks are being used globally to assess the quality and excellence in higher education?
- What is accreditation and how it is beneficial to the HEIs?
- Identify the major areas where accreditation is impactful to the HEIs?

The current study is significant to HEIs planning for accreditation or re-accreditation of their institution / programme. This paper explains the linkage between the meaning of excellence and how accreditation may help to achieve the same via briefing its benefits and impact on business growth (enrollments/admissions, reputation, stakeholders' satisfaction), strategic planning (internationalization, employment), academic excellence (quality of faculty/curriculum and learning outcomes) and research & innovation.

FUNCTIONS OF NAAC:

- Assessing and Accrediting Institutions/ Departments/ Programmes
- Evolving appropriate instruments of accreditation and fine tuning them whenever necessary.
- Preparing in-house pre-visit documents for the perusal of assessors.
- Co-coordinating the 'on-site' visit to its effective completion.
- To organize promotional activities related to quality in higher education, and Assessment & Accreditation, which include the following:
- Develop pre- and post-accreditation strategies
- Organize Seminars/Workshops/ Conferences to share and discuss education quality-related issues.
- Provide guidance to institutions for preparing their Self-study Reports (SSRs)
- Partner with stakeholders for promoting A/A
- Promote the establishment of Quality Assurance units
- Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC)
- State level Quality Assurance Co-ordination Committee (SLQACC)
- State Quality Assurance Cell (SQAC) Establish collaborations with other National and International professional Agencies of A/A 3.

BENEFITS OF NAAC ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Helps the institution to know its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges through an informed review
- Categorizes internal areas of planning and resource allocation • Enhances collegiality on the campus.
- Outcome of the process provides the funding agencies with objective and systematic database for performance based funding
- Initiates institution into innovative and modern methods of pedagogy
- Gives the institution a new sense of direction and identity
- Provides the society with reliable information on the quality of education offered by the institution

CONCLUSION:

With the aid of NAAC accreditation, we learn about the current state of institutions and their merits and demerits, which motivates institutions to solve problems. NAAC plays a significant role in the overall development of institutions and improving the quality of higher education. In addition to identifying internal planning and resource allocation areas, it assists the institution in understanding its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. It also improves campus collegiality and interpersonal relationships. For the benefit of the students, numerous institutions have updated the curriculum and implemented cutting-edge pedagogical approaches. The institution gains increased credibility and a stronger sense of accountability after gaining accreditation. The most important instrument for the Indian higher education system's development is continuous monitoring.

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