

ROLE OF NAAC IN ENSURING QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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“Education according to Indian tradition is not merely a means of earning a living; nor is it only a nursery of thought or a school for citizenship. It is initialization into the life of spirit and training of human souls in the pursuit of truth and the practice of virtue” – Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

Abstract

NAAC is an autonomous institution established by the UGC with the prime agenda of assessing and accrediting institutions of higher learning with all objective of helping them to work continuously to improve the quality of education. The purpose of this research paper is to focus upon the role of NAAC in ensuring the quality in defining the element of Higher Education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives. This paper makes a systematic study of the measures taken by NAAC to stimulate the Academic environment for promotion of quality of teaching-learning and research in H.E. Institutions. And also to understand the level of awareness and improvements in many aspects of such H.E. Institutions post NAAC accreditation It is important to encourage self evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in the Higher Education and undertake quality related research studies, consultancy and training programs and also collaborate with other stake holders of Higher Education for quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance.. In this context NAAC insists for the quality and excellence in its vision of every Higher Education institution and advocates the Best practices, benchmarking approach for quality enhancement in Higher Education.

Introduction

Education constitutes the backbone of a country as it produces the human force which plays the most determining role in the advancement of a nation and also in the progress of civilization. Education is one that provides the thrust in getting ahead and building up a powerful democratic society. Therefore, higher education is considered as an important instrument for bringing about social, economic, political and technological progress. The scope and demand for higher education is increasing day by day and the most important mission of higher education is the creation of intellects by providing world class education for promotion of global standards in the Institutions of Higher Education. The most important factor that should be taken care of is to provide higher education without compromising on the quality of education.

Key words: NAAC Accreditation, Higher Education, efficiency

Need and Significance of the study

Educational system in any country cannot flourish without quality and higher education is no exception to it. With the mushroom growth of the Higher Educational Institutions no doubt quality has degraded. Since NAAC's assessment can judge the quality of a college or a university, it is expected that NAAC's assessment will lead to the academic upliftment and qualitative up gradation in the colleges. In order to find out whether NAAC's assessment to these colleges have brought about academic as well as qualitative up gradation, the investigator took an interest to study the impact of NAAC's Assessment and Accreditation on the academic as well as qualitative development of some of the accredited Colleges

Statement of the Problem

Quality of Higher Education plays a vital role in the students' career and employability. **The present state of affairs with respect to quality in Higher Education is Pathetic and deteriorating. Thus this study is undertaken,** to ascertain the Role of NAAC in Ensuring quality in Higher Education

Objectives of the study

- To know the quality of Higher Education Institutions before NAAC Accreditation
- To know the quality of Higher Education Institutions Post NAAC Accreditation
- To measure the Impact of NAAC Accreditation on the quality of Higher Education
- To suggest remedial actions

Methodology of research

- **Type of research**

The study is analytical and descriptive in nature

- **Sources of data collection**

Both primary and secondary data have been used. Primary data were collected through questionnaires and secondary data were relied upon journals, magazines, and websites.

- **Sampling technique**

Convenient sampling technique has been used to collect the data

- **Sample size**

The opinion of 50 faculties from various Higher Education Institutions that are NAAC Accredited has been considered

Scope of the study

The scope of the study is restricted to Bangalore city and also to the NAAC accredited Colleges in Bangalore city

Limitations

Time and resource constraint

Tools of analysis

Percentage analysis has been used to analyze the data

Analysis and interpretation of data

Table1: Demographic profile of respondents

Particulars	Independent Variables	Frequency	percentage
Gender	Male	26	52%
	Female	24	48%
Qualification	P.G	16	32%
	M.Phil	08	16%
	Ph.D	22	44%
	NET/SLET	04	08%
Designation	Lecturer	06	12%
	Assistant professor	22	44%
	Associate professor	14	28%
	Professor	04	08%
	H.O.D/ Director	04	08%
Stream	Commerce/management	34	68%
	Science/technology	08	16%
	Humanities/ languages	08	16%
Age	25-35	12	24%
	36-45	16	32%
	46-55	18	36%
	Above 55	04	08%

Table 2: variables measuring Role of NAAC in Ensuring Quality in Higher Education

Sl.no	variables	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	NAAC Accreditation has improved Teaching efficiency in your Institution	08 (16%)	32 (64%)	06 (12%)	04 (08%)	00 (0%)
2	NAAC Accreditation has improved Quality of Examination activities in your Institution	20 (40%)	18 (36%)	06 (12%)	06 (12%)	00 (0%)
3	Best Practices in your institution has seen an improvement due to NAAC Accreditation	18 (36%)	24 (48%)	04 (08%)	00 (0%)	04 (08%)
4	Research Activities has gained much Importance post NAAC Accreditation	22 (44%)	18 (36%)	10 (20%)	00 (0%)	00 (0%)
5	There has been tremendous improvement in results in your institution post NAAC Accreditation	14 (28%)	14 (28%)	16 (32%)	06 (12%)	00 (0%)
6	Students progression has been improved due to NAAC Accreditation	12 (24%)	24 (48%)	06 (12%)	06 (12%)	02 (04%)
7	NAAC Accreditation has been effective in all aspects for your institution	12 (24%)	16 (32%)	14 (28%)	08 (16%)	00 (0%)
8	Students in your institution are aware of NAAC Accreditation and its Importance	06 (12%)	06 (12%)	33 (66%)	05 (10%)	00 (0%)
9	Management of your institution are aware of NAAC Accreditation and its Importance	38 (76%)	12 (24%)	00 (0%)	00 (0%)	00 (0%)
10	There is due Awareness among Faculty members about NAAC Accreditation	15 (30%)	05 (10%)	20 (40%)	10 (20%)	00 (0%)
11	Non-teaching staff are aware of NAAC Accreditation	15 (30%)	10 (20%)	25 (50%)	00 (0%)	00 (0%)

12	Parents are aware of NAAC Accreditation and its Importance	06 (12%)	08 (16%)	24 (48%)	12 (24%)	00 (0%)
13	There has been a paradigm shift in infrastructural facilities in your institution post NAAC Accreditation	22 (44%)	12 (24%)	12 (24%)	04 (08%)	00 (0%)
14	NAAC Accredited Colleges are more successful in Admissions	18 (36%)	14 (28%)	14 (28%)	04 (08%)	00 (0%)
15	Your institution pays much importance to students' Placement post NAAC Accreditation	12 (24%)	8 (16%)	26 (52%)	04 (08%)	02 (04%)

Findings

Findings based on the demographic profile

- Majority (52%) of respondents are Male
- Majority (44%) of respondents are Doctorates
- Majority (44%) of respondents are Assistant Professors
- Majority (68%) of respondents are Commerce and Management faculty
- Majority (36%) of respondents falls under the age group of 46-55

Findings based on profile of Institutions

- All the institutions surveyed are NAAC Accredited
- Majority (60%) of the institutions have NAAC Accreditation at A grade
- Majority (55%) of the institutions have completed minimum TWO cycles of Accreditation

Findings based on Role of NAAC in ensuring quality in Higher Education

- Majority (80%) of the respondents say that teaching efficiency at their Institution has improved post NAAC Accreditation
- 76% of the respondents feel that NAAC Accreditation has improved the Efficiency of examination activities in their Institution
- 84% of the respondents Agree that Best Practices in their institution have improved post NAAC Accreditation
- According to 80% of the respondents, Research activities has gained much importance post NAAC Accreditation
- 44% of the respondents are Undecided about the improvement in results in their institutions after NAAC Accreditation
- 72% of the respondents agree that students progression has increased after NAAC Accreditation
- 56% of the respondents feel that NAAC Accreditation has been effective in all aspects for their institution
- Majority 76% of the respondents feel that Students of their institution have no due awareness about NAAC Accreditation
- All respondents are of the opinion that the Management of their Institution has due awareness about NAAC Accreditation and its importance
- 60% of the respondents are undecided about Faculty members of their institution having due awareness about NAAC Accreditation and its importance
- 50% of the respondents feel Non-teaching staff of their institution are acquainted with due knowledge about NAAC Accreditation
- 72% of the respondents feel that Parents are unaware about NAAC Accreditation its Importance and also its impact on their ward's quality education
- 68% of the respondents feel that the Infrastructural facilities at their institution have seen a paradigm shift post NAAC Accreditation
- Majority 64% of the respondents agree that NAAC Accredited Colleges are successful in Admissions
- 60% of the respondents are undecided about their institution paying much importance towards Placements of their students post NAAC Accreditation

Suggestions

The following suggestions might help in improving further the role of NAAC in ensuring quality in Higher Education

- Students must be encouraged to climb the ladder of Higher Education from U.G to P.G, P.G to M.Phil, M.Phil to Ph. D
- Some of the institutions take up NAAC Accreditation only for the sake of grade, and accordingly records are developed. This issue has to be addressed
- Parents and students are to be sensitized about the awareness of NAAC Accreditation and quality Higher Education
- Most of the libraries still lack the updated books and the latest journals and magazines, this has to be addressed seriously to ensure quality in Higher Education
- The institutions should design the curriculum in collaboration with industry experts to enhance employability
- To wrap-up the subjects the industry expert has to be appointed

Conclusion

To conclude I would say that NAAC accreditation is playing a major role in Ensuring Quality in Higher Educational Institutions and colleges with NAAC Accreditation should not Aim at just getting Higher Grades, but should Aim at Quality Education in Real sense .which would in turn help in building a strong, qualified and highly motivated young TEAM INDIA that can assist in Nation Building.

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Primary data was collected through Questionnaires from the Faculty members of Various NAAC Accredited Institutions.