

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

(NAAC sponsored workshop held at Dibrugarh University)

Topic of the workshop

**“ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS (HEIS): ITS PRACTICALITIES AND NEEDS.”**

Held on – 28th and 29th January, 2015)



By

**Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Dibrugarh University
Dibrugarh, Assam.**

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INTRODUCTION :

Higher Education is the backbone of any society. The Indian Higher Education System is in a constant stage of change and flux due to the increasing needs of expanding access to higher education, impact of technology on the delivery of education, increasing private participation and the impact of globalization. The globalization and liberalization has been influencing the Indian Higher Education system for the last 10-15 years. In this scenario, in order to compete nationally and internationally, the higher education institutions must strive to sustain the quality which is desirable for its various stakeholders. The ‘quality’ in higher education means that the educational process is such that it ensures the students achieve their goals and thereby satisfy the needs of the society and help in national development.

The quality movement in the Indian higher education scenario, particularly the efforts of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in setting up National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was a huge step in the right direction towards achieving excellence irrespective of the higher education institutions across India. NAAC assessment lays focus on the institutional developments with reference to three aspects: Quality initiative, Quality sustenance and Quality enhancement. The overall quality assurance framework of NAAC thus focuses on the values and desirable practices of HEIs and incorporates the core elements of quality assurance i.e. internal and external assessment for continuous improvement. While assessment is an overall institutional concern, i.e. the Institution as a whole, as reflected in the various standards for accreditation, its primary focus is the teaching-learning experience. To the greatest extent possible, therefore, the institution should describe those achievements. The Assessment and Accreditation process of NAAC, which involves a combination of self evaluation and external peer evaluation implicitly or explicitly, is concerned with looking at the development aspects of the HEIs in the context of quality.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop is to familiarize the IQAC Coordinators/faculty members of the non-accreditation colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University with the NAAC methodology and procedures of accreditation of higher education institutions. The workshop aims to create an awareness and understanding of quality, and quality assurance in higher education as a necessary ingredient to regional and national development. It will also try to motivate the non-accredited colleges of Dibrugarh University to participate in the accreditation process in order to be partner in the journey towards achieving academic excellence for the HEIs of Assam.

THRUST AREAS / SUB-THEMES

- Assessment and Accreditation Procedure of NAAC for non-accredited Colleges.
- Sustaining Quality in Higher Education.
- Quality Assurance through Evaluation, Assessment and Accreditation.
- Benefits of NAAC Accreditation.

- Health practices for promotion Research, Consultancy and Extension activities in higher education institutions.
- Issues, concerns and New Directions in HEIs in Assam from the perspectives of Quality Assurance.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

It is expected that the workshop would result in an understanding of various issues pertaining to the assessment and accreditation procedure of NAAC. The workshop would try to orient the stakeholders the importance of accreditation and the benefits accrued to it for sustaining quality education in HEIs.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants would comprise the Principals of Colleges, IQAC Coordinators of Colleges, and interested teachers, etc.

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A two-day workshop titled **“ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS): ITS PRACTICALITIES AND NEEDS.”** Was organized by the IQAC, Dibrugarh University on 28th and 29th January, 2015. The workshop was attended by the 63 participants from various colleges. The workshop was organized in various thematic sessions in dealing with specific theme, which were as follows :

Theme 1 : “Assessment and Accreditation Procedure of NAAC for Colleges (non-accredited)” followed by question hour and discussion.

Theme 2 : “Benefits of NAAC Accreditation” followed by question hour and discussion.

Theme 3 : “Issues, Concerns and New Directions in HEIs in Assam from the perspectives of Quality Assurance.

Theme 4 : Healthy practices for promotion Research, Consultancy and Extension activities in higher education institutions.

Theme 5 : Sustaining Quality in Higher Education.

Theme 6 : Quality Assurance through Evaluation, Assessment and Accreditation.

The workshop started with the welcome address by the Director IQAC. Prof. A.K. Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor D.U., inaugurated the workshop through video conference followed by his keynote address. Prof. Buragohain stressed on enhancing adaptability, creativity and quality in higher education in order to create human resources. He also emphasized that India’s demographic dividend could be possible only by imparting quality education to the huge cohort of the youth of India. He also stressed on the need of NAAC assessment and accreditation in Colleges and Universities and concluded his speech with profound contribution so far by the NAAC in the quality journey in higher

education in India. Dr. B.S. Ponmudiraj, Deputy Advisor to the NAAC, narrated the import and essence of the NAAC assessment and accreditation in the inaugural session and explicitly enunciated to the audience 'what', 'why' and 'how' of NAAC accreditation and of quality in education. The first technical session was given by Dr. B.S. Ponmudiraj on the topic titled 'Assessment and Accreditation Procedure of NAAC for non-accredited Colleges' and it was followed by a question hour and discourse on the topic. In the second session of the first day was addressed by Dr. K.G. Bhattacharyya, Professor of Chemistry, Gauhati University and the topic was 'Issues, Concerns and New Directions in HEIs in Assam from the perspectives of Quality Assurance'. The lecture was also followed by question hours and discussion on the very issues.

Day 2 began with the technical session addressed by Dr. Rupam Saikia, Director College Development Council, Dibrugarh University and the topic was 'Healthy practices for promotion Research, Consultancy and Extension activities in higher education institutions.' Lecture was followed by a disquisition in the question hour. Second lecture was delivered by Dr. Pranjal Bezborah, Professor, Department of Commerce and Dean of Commerce and Management, DU. He delivered on 'Sustaining Quality in Higher Education', followed by interactive session. The lecture before the conclusion of the workshop was delivered by Dr. Jugen Kalita.

The workshop ended with the Roadmap session chaired jointly by Prof. (Mrs.) A. Rajkonwar and Prof. (Ms.) J.G. Handique, DU.

Recommendations(s) / Suggestion(s) / Action Point (s)

A good few recommendations that emerged from the workshop go as follows :

- Synergy of activities by college, universities and NAAC is the need of the our.
- Colleges and universities are to be in constant touch with the NAAC.
- UGC and NAAC observations / suggestions / recommendations are to be complied with.
- Synergy to be developed between IQAC (College and University) and Continuous Evaluation for Quality and Excellence (CEQE).
- Continuous SWOT analysis in colleges and universities to be made mandatory.
- Academic and Administrative Audit (AAA) in colleges and universities is a must.
- Establishment of monitoring system in teaching-learning process.
- The evaluation (continuous and comprehensive) mechanism of the students needs to be reviewed and developed.
- Curriculum development should be a continuous process. Stress would be given on Inquiry – oriented syllabi blended with skill-based and vocation electives. Interdisciplinary elective be provided to make CBCS effective.

- Need to innovate methods of teaching-learning process and to renovate the old ones. Speakers and participants opined that there is a mismatch between subject and pedagogy. Subjects specific pedagogy demands scientific base.
- A common academic calendar for State universities has to be made in order to sharing and transferring credits among Universities which run CBCS system.
- Integration of schools, colleges and universities is a must to reap the benefit of quality education.
- Formulating a course by adopting a course file containing timetable, syllabus, synopsis, assignments, learning objective and their outcomes.
- Students be encouraged and assessed by assigning various tasks such as critically analyzing a given topic, book reviewing and project writing, etc.
- School system in university be introduced.
- Writing of textbooks that are in sync with the imperatives and needs of the semester system is a must. And inventory needs to be created.
- Initiatives for teacher training be taken.
- Students feedback and faculty evaluation be made compulsory in colleges and universities.
- Establish a system to monitor the activities, functions and achievements of the institution in continuous manner (IQAC to be empowered).
- Speakers and participants felt that there is a need to bridge the communication gap between the universities and the Governments for better functioning of the education system.

The workshop concluded expects of:

Colleges and universities

- Encourage contact between students and faculty,
- Develop reciprocity and cooperation among students,
- Encourage active learning,
- Give prompt feedback,
- Emphasize high expectations, and
- Respect diverse talents and ways of learning.

Non-accredited Colleges but affiliated to Dibrugarh University are requested to go hand-in-hand with NAAC and get assessed and accredited as soon as possible. IQAC, Dibrugarh University shall extend every support and help needed by the colleges for assessment process.

(S.C. Kakaty)
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