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NAAC ACCREDITATION: CHALLENGES FOR RURAL & TRIBAL COLLEGES

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ABSTRACT

The article highlighted on the procedure of Assessment & Accreditation by NAAC and elaborated the challenges, difficulties faced by Rural & Tribal Colleges for Assessment & Accreditation.

Today academicians, student support and staff are striving hard towards continued quality enhancement. NAAC is constantly involved in quality assessment of universities and colleges and in grading them. Due to initiative taken by UGC, institutions of higher learning have come to realize the benefits of NAAC for improving the quality of higher education.

KEYWORDS: Assessment, Accreditation, NAAC, Rural and Tribal Colleges.

INTRODUCTION:

Quality in higher education has become the prime agenda of



countries worldwide. NAAC play a significant role in improving quality in higher education institution.

NAAC- the National Assessment and Accreditation Council is an autonomous body established by UGC- University Grants Commission of India in 1994 to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. It is the outcome of the recommendations of the National Policy in Education 1986 that laid special emphasis on upholding the quality of higher education in India. The accreditation activity is gaining force in our country as people and educational institutions

have come to realize that quality enhancement is essential for the institution and the country.

Assessment is an evaluation of performance of the institution. A values framework is the set of principles or standards, based on which the assessment is done. The framework of assessment is expected to serve the divergent requirements of stakeholders in education. It should help policy makers to make meaningful judgments about public institution.

Methodology of NAAC assessment & accreditation

NAAC follows a following-stages for assessment &

accreditation process:

1. The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to submit the Letter of Intent (LOI) only after uploading the Self-Study Report (SSR) on the institutional website.

2. The Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment (IEQA) to be submitted within one week of acceptance of LOI.

3. The institution will submit the SSR within two weeks of acceptance of LOI/IEQA.

4. The on-site visit of the peer team for validation of the self-study report and for recommending the assessment outcome to the NAAC.

5. The final decision by the Executive Committee of the NAAC.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

(Rao, 2011), discussed in his article on "Need for Quality Assessment of Higher Education" about the need for quality

assessment and highlighted the role of students, staff and management to create and academic ambience to sustain and enhance the quality and excellence in higher education.

(Syamalamba, 2008), The study of "Minority Degree College Libraries in Andhra Pradesh: A Study with Special Reference to NAAC Standards" This study reveals that in accordance with NAAC standards, libraries should establish, promote, maintain, and evaluate range of quality services that support the colleges, mission and goals.

(Singh, 2012), the article has attempted to survey most of available literature related to perception of different academics about the NAAC. The perception mainly deals with three aspects which are on-site visit, peer team and overall methodology of the NAAC.

(Jagatap, 2012), Conducted survey on "Effect of NAAC on Development of Senior College Libraries" and conclude that there is a good effect of NAAC on the Development of college Libraries.

CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL AND TRIBAL COLLEGES

Government of Maharashtra has issued GR regarding the NAAC is mandatory for every college and universities. If the colleges and universities fail to do the same salary grants and affiliation from university will be discontinued. The state directorate of higher education has set a deadline for colleges. But the colleges have to overcome several hardships to get the NAAC certification. The main objective of Assessment & Accreditation is that every institute should follow the quality in every aspect like teaching learning; research etc, upon the teacher's quality of publication, alumni, management, teaching learning and infrastructure of the college & assessment is done on above aspects. There are lots of challenges faced by rural and tribal colleges to prepare and face the NAAC's Assessment.

Some of difficulties highlighted belows.

1. Research Oriented Teachers: - Rural and tribal colleges has a problem of less number of qualified and research oriented teachers.
2. Electricity Problem: - In rural and tribal area most of time electricity is not available.
3. Internet: - Some of rural and tribal colleges have internet connectivity but the range and the speed of the internet is very slow.
4. ICT Awareness: - The number of faculties and staff members has less knowledge about ICT information and communication technology.
5. Language Barriers: - Tribal students have Marathi and English language problems. They are very fear about English language.
6. Basic Infrastructure: - Rural and tribal colleges face the problem of basic infrastructure. They don't have adequate library and sports facility for students.
7. Transportation: - Transportation is very big problem in rural and tribal area. Number of student comes to college with walk or bicycle.
8. Students Time in campus: - Students coming from villages can not stay for long time in campus, go back to help their parents in farming for livelihood and fail to respond departmental and college activities.
9. Higher Education: - It is very difficult to promote the students for Higher Education and competitive exam MPSC and UPSC examination.
10. Cooperation and Support: - There is very less support and cooperation from faculty and Non-teaching staff for Assessment and Accreditation of NAAC, number of staff think that it is only responsibility of NAAC steering committee to prepare all the things related to NAAC.
11. Fund / Finance: - Government of Maharashtra stopped non-salary grants; hence the infrastructural developments of college are not possible in rural and tribal colleges.
12. Fear About NAAC: - I personally feel that number of colleges fear about NAAC Assessment & Accreditation and due to less quality of teaching and other activities relating to students.
13. Procedure of Assessment & Fees: - NAAC has one procedure/ parameters for Assessment and Accreditation of all colleges, there is no discrimination in rural, tribal and urban colleges. The procedure is equal to all colleges. The NAAC has set the questionnaire and ask answers that are called SSR –Self Study Report. NAAC has charged more than Lakh fees for Assessment and Accreditation. It is very difficult to rural and tribal colleges to manage fee for Assessment and Accreditation. If the institutions fails in eligibility which is conducted online by NAAC fees of the LIO i.e. more than 25000/- not refundable and the institution has to reapply for the same after six month with again fees.

CONCLUSION

There are above and another problems in rural and tribal colleges, so it is difficult to face NAAC accreditation and assessment. It is important for the colleges to go for the NAAC accreditation to achieve the quality of education. But with shortage of funds, employees and facilities, an accreditation seems to be a far-fetched dream

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