



UGC-NAAC AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON QUALITY ASSESSMENT & ACCREDITATION

15th October 2018

REPORT

The one day workshop was organized by UGC and NAAC in association with University of Kerala on 15th October 2018 with following objectives:

- to create awareness among non-accredited Higher Education Institutions on the relevance and methodology for accreditation
- to develop a right perspective on UGC and NAAC mandate for quality enhancement and sustenance
- to support internal quality initiative of IQAC.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam at a function in which Prof. S.C.Sharma, Director, NAAC presided. Dr. M. S. Shyamsundar, Adviser, NAAC made an introduction to the programme. While Prof. C.Ganesh, Professor-in-charge of Vice Chancellor, welcomed the gathering, Dr. G. Srinivas, Joint Secretary and Head, UGC, Bangalore, proposed the vote of thanks. In the inaugural address, the Hon'ble Governor expressed happiness in the initiatives of NAAC as well as UGC is promoting quality through the accreditation process.



India has one of the most dynamic and large education systems in higher learning with about 45, 000 colleges and 800 universities. Since 1990, there has been a phenomenal growth and expansion of institutions and quality came to be a matter of concern. Historically India was a hub for Global education when we had great institutions which attracted scholars from different parts of our country and abroad, the Hon'ble Governor said. However, down the Line we lost ground on quality parameters and we now face the challenging task of competing with globally rated institutions in terms of excellence and quality benchmarks. In our efforts to enhance Gross Enrolment ratio in higher learning , we launched upon a massive horizontal growth model , which to some extent was inevitable for a country like India, but know we are in the phase of consolidation and delivery for which Quality is a must and accountability to stakeholders stands out as the benchmark for achievements, Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam added in his inaugural address.

Prof S.C Sharma, Director NAAC, in his presidential address expressed happiness at the interest shown by colleges in the accreditation process and assured NAAC support on all interventions that promote quality for HEIs.

The NAAC Director and NAAC team had an interactive session with the Syndicate members about the policy initiatives and accreditation concerns of the university.

TECHNICAL SESSION I: ACCREDITATION OUTCOMES INTO POLICY PLANNING

Dr.G.Srinivas, Joint Secretary and Head, UGC spoke on accreditation outcome into policy planning. In his introductory remark he spoke of the complex and diverse nature of Indian Higher Education Institutions. The four policy pillars of Higher Education Institutions are :

- Relevance
- Access
- Equity
- Quality

He explained the need for accreditation and concerns relating to the same specifically when it gets related to funding, better quality standards and global trends in Higher Education. The benefits of assessment and accreditation were explained. The interventions for accreditation as strategic tools were discussed along with the shifting parameters. The various scheme supporting initiatives were referred to and the steps to be taken by colleges for timely accreditation were discussed in the backdrop of UGC quality mandate.



TECHNICAL SESSION II: RELEVANCE OF ACCREDITATION

Dr.M.S.Shyamsundar, Adviser, NAAC spoke on the relevance of Assessment and Accreditation. He presented the relevance of Quality assurance, need for SWOT and a comprehensive database for documentation. He stressed the fact that UGC stipulates accreditation for finding and stated that there was a need to adhere to quality benchmarks. The quality benchmark for autonomous institution, deemed-to-be university and university were different and need to be seen separately. Mr.Shyamsundar explained the objectives and function of IQAC and the benchmarks associated thereto. Certain best practices were also discussed.



TECHNICAL SESSION III: IIQA AND THE REVISED ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

Dr. Shyam Singh Inda, Assistant Adviser, NAAC spoke on Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA). He addressed his session with an introduction to the revised assessment and accreditation framework highlighting the fact that it was ICT enabled, objective and transparent. The shift was from qualitative to quantitative indicators. The process of data validation & verification (DVV) and the metrics introduced for the same were briefly introduced. He touched upon the changes introduced in the revised accreditation framework. The list of documents required and the process involved for accreditation of colleges were explained by Mr. Shyam Singh.



TECHNICAL SESSION IV: INSTITUTIONAL PREPARATIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SSR SUBMISSION

Dr.Vinita Sahu, Assistant Adviser, NAAC commenced her session with an introduction to Revised Assessment and Accreditation Process. The pre-qualifier for peer team visit, system generated scenes, defect validation and verification DVV and enhanced participation of students and alumni in the assessment process were discussed. The process flow chart for accreditation framework was explained. She spoke about the preparations to be made before, during and after SSR submission in various phases. The stages included

1. Institution information for quality assessment (IIQA)
2. SSR submission (metric data and optional metric selection) + Non applicable Metrics
3. Data validation and verification DVV
4. Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS)
5. Prequalification
6. Peer team Visit
7. Assessment outcome

It was important to maintain deadlines in every stage of accreditation process. The seven criteria which are considered as a basis for assessment were explained with key indicators under each criteria and the weightage thereto. Her session was filled with demonstration on how colleges could pursue the accreditation process. All throughout, she consistently mentioned efforts to promote clarity on metrics developed and the use of template for the same. She also explained the guidelines to institutions to opt out of non-applicable metrics.



TECHNICAL SESSION V: ACCREDITATION IN UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED COLLEGES

Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, IQAC Director, University of Kerala made a presentation on the functions of IQACs in colleges. He presented the relevance of quality and the need to have a systems approach in promoting quality standards. All the functions of the IQAC need to support continuous assessment of internal processes so as to build up quality standards.



TECHNICAL SESSION VI: ALIGNING INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE WITH ACCREDITATION

The last technical session was on 'Aligning institutional perspective with accreditation' where Dr.M.P.Rajan presented various measures which colleges could adopt in order to meet NAAC criteria for accreditation and in securing better grades



The final session was an open house where delegates from various colleges raised their questions and sought clarification on issues relating to accreditation, reaccreditation, UGC mandate, filing of SSR, SSS and so on.



The workshop concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants and a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, workshop coordinator.

Altogether, 164 delegates representing 119 colleges of the universities in Kerala participated

The inaugural session was also attended by statutory officers, members of the Syndicate, Deans, School Directors and teachers of the University.

We place on record our sincere thanks to UGC and NAAC for giving us an opportunity to be the host for the workshop and for their wholehearted support and involvement in the same.

Compiled by IQAC, University of Kerala.