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# IMPACT OF NAAC ON ASSESMENT AND EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Dr. R. B. Deshmukh

**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Robert Frost.**

## Introduction

The Indian higher education system has legacy of the Britisher's, and it is experiencing unprecedented growth during the latter half of the twentieth century. At the time of independence, in 1947., there were only 21 universities and 500 colleges in the country, which has increased to 1018[1] out of which there are 54 central universities, 441 state universities, 126 deemed universities and 397 private universities and 12957 [2] colleges under 2(f) & 12 (B) now Although the increase in the number of higher education institutions, student enrolment and consequent expenditure seem to be impressive, their impact becomes nullified due to growing population and the higher education system caters to only 27.1% [3] of the relevant age group.

The higher education system in the country had developed rapidly since independence: institutions had proliferated with fancy programmes and substandard facilities, leading to a dilution of standards. For about last five decades, a vast majority of the higher educational institutions in the country had no benchmarks for quality. Quality assurance was an unheard concept. Colleges and universities mushroomed everywhere. What mattered was only numbers ?

## Core values

Identifying the need to expand the system of higher education, impact of technology on educational delivery, increasing private participation in higher education and the impact of globalization as the drivers of change in Indian higher education, the NAAC has frequently changed the process and methods of Assessment and Accreditation.

The re-accreditation framework and its five core values reflect this [3] :

1. Relating to National Development,
2. Fostering Global Competencies among Students.
3. Inculcating the Value System,
4. Promoting the Use of Technology
5. Quest for Excellence[4]

The re-accreditation considers how the quality initiatives triggered by the first assessment in HEIs have been sustained during the accredited period. Due place will also be given to quality enhancement made during the period. The efforts taken by the HEI in post-accreditation period are considered.

**Impact of NAAC**

Institutions in all aspects of their functioning have felt the impact. Academic, administrative, teaching-learning and evaluation, vision, mission and objectives, many good practices were inserted in NAAC manuals. Due to all such things, there is a positive impact on the HEIs[5].

**1. Self-evaluation by individual & institution**

The impact of the NAAC through the evaluation and accreditation on individual and institution is perceptible, realistic, perpetual and therefore, worth considerable. In fact, the evaluation and accreditation through the NAAC helped all the stakeholders particularly the Institutions and individuals who are directly involved in the teaching-learning process and in the administration of institutions to know and understand its strengths, weakness, opportunities through an informed review and thus make self-evaluation. Thus self-evaluation became a natural and continuous activity due to the NAAC.

**2. Impact on Teachers Role - Teacher's Role in the fast-changing world**

The NAAC through its evaluation and accreditation of HEIs assigned teachers role in improving quality and excellence in higher education. Teacher's accountability became central in evaluation of Teachers roles due to the NAAC. A teacher's role covers up Teaching, Research, Extension activities, Evaluation, etc. In short, the NAAC gave a vision to teacher for the development of students unto this last.

- Students' Academic Development.
- Accountability
- Professional Development.

- Research and Publication output.
- Social Responsibility
- Teacher in the Digital
- Techno Savvy
- Info Savvy
- A Need of an Hour to integrate Teacher Education with Digital Technology.

### 3. Awareness among the Stakeholders of Higher Education

Due to higher education, stakeholders are aware regarding the teaching-learning and evaluation. Based on the NAAC grading, the funding agencies will provide the funds through different agencies like UGC, AICTE, ICSSR, ICMR etc. Most worth considerable thing is that the NAAC created awareness among the most important stakeholders that is the student's community by highlighting the rights and duties of students though the student's charter.

- Students
- Teachers
- Managements
- Parents
- Alumni
- Industries
- Policy Makers
- Regulating & Funding Agencies
- Society Local to Globe

In short, the process of NAAC Accreditation and re-accreditation, society how the institutions provided the quality of education.

### 4. Impact on Teaching Learning Method

The NAAC brought revolutionary and fertile changes in the teaching-learning methods by initiating various innovative methodologies It also replaced traditional concepts of teacher, blackboard-chock piece- lecturing method by virtual classroom concept.

## 5. Managements Role

Management of the HEI is the most influential stakeholder of education. With increasing awareness and impact of NAAC, the management became aware about the timely NAAC A&A. It started voluntarily promoting the institutions for various aspects of education such as providing budgets for infrastructure augmentation, maintenance, increasing the use of Information and Communication Technology, purchasing of books and online journals etc. It promoted organization of conferences, workshops, seminars for teaching and non-teaching staff members in offline and online modes.

For increasing the participation of teachers in research, innovation and extension, more thrust was given. Through Governing Council, CDC and IQAC, there were positive discussions and decisions on various academic events. The Best practices in the institutions were promoted. Various audits like financial audits, academic and administrative audit, green audit, energy audits etc. were given due considerations.

The management's role in college social responsibility enhanced due to NAAC guidance through manuals.

**Benefits of Accreditation**[6]

- The HEI knows its place in national and international academic scenario
- The HEI can know its SWOC analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges) through an informed review process.
- Gave institutions a new sense of direction and identity.
- To identify internal areas of planning and allocation of financial and non-financial resources.
- Increasing the campus placements.
- Enhancing the funding agencies and their objectives are fulfilled.
- Improvements in Teaching, Learning and Evaluation methodology
- Parents and students can rely on the NAAC grading for their academic decisions.
- Employers and placement agencies can trust the information on various quality parameters given on institutional website, Self-Study Report (SSR), Peer team reports etc.

## Conclusion

The establishment of NAAC in 1994 was not welcome by majority of HEI. However, with the passage of time, it has been proved that there was a need of the assessment and accreditation agencies like NAAC. At present the leading HEI have completed their third and fourth cycles and are marching towards the fifth cycle. Each cycle transformed the HEIs in changing their perspectives towards the higher education. The stakeholders like parents, students, teachers, non-teaching staff, management, funding agencies, the government etc. trust NAAC grading.

Of course, there are many lacunas in the process, methodology and grading criterions. However, NAAC is constantly evolving them through stakeholders' feedback. The relationship between NAAC grading and funding cannot be justified for all HEIs as they are not on level playing field. Rural and urban divide, discriminative use of ICT, funding differences etc. cannot be ignored.

Due to the presence of NAAC, many HEIs reframed their vision, mission, objectives, strategic plans etc. Many were not knowing the importance of Alumni engagement, society obligations, extension activities, research orientation etc. At least they became familiar with these academic terms.

The core values of NAAC draw the attention of the stakeholders towards the national development, Local to global and vice-versa thinking, importance of value education, promoting the use of Information and Communication technology in changing era etc. Each HEI, however, small it may be should at least have their perspective changed as per the need of the times. This is not an easy task. It needs time, money and efforts on the part of each stakeholder of higher education.

In conclusion, NAAC has impacted the higher education sector, the stakeholders, the funding pattern, the Teaching-learning-evaluation, research and other criterions.

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**End Notes**

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1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_India last seen on 12 March, 2022

2 https://www.ugc.ac.in/recog_College.aspx last seen on 12 March, 2022

3 University Manual- 20.6.13.docx

4 http://www.naac.gov.in/images/docs/Manuals/Revised-University-Manual_1.pdf last seen on 13 March, 2022

5 https://tejas.tcarts.in/pdf/june16_impactofnaac.pdf last seen on 13 March, 2022

6 http://www.beeduconnect.com/advantages-of-naac-accreditation/ last seen on 14 March, 2022