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A STUDY OF IQAC IN ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



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ABSTRACT

The UGC has formed National Assessment & Accreditation Committee for the enhancement of quality of Higher Education in the Nation. The primary objective of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent & catalytic action to improve the academic and administrative performance in the college i.e. quality of Higher Education. NAAC was established in 1994 in response to recommendations of National Policy in Education (1986). This policy was to "address the issues of deterioration in quality of education", and the Plan of Action (POA-1992) laid out strategic plans for the policies including the establishment of an independent national accreditation body. Consequently, the NAAC was established in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore. After a long and rigorous efforts taken by NAAC till the end of this year more than 35% college had not accredited by the institutions.

Still there is a question that whether the IQAC formed at college and university level has become successful in enhancing the quality of higher education.

KEYWORDS :National Assessment , Accreditation Committee ,Higher Education , catalytic action .

INTRODUCTION :

Higher Education is always criticized



by industrialist, experts & society, saying that whatever the degree-holders the colleges are producing is not upto the standard & as per need of industry & society. It is also said that the degree is not suitable neither for their livelihood nor for their employment. That is why quality of higher education is always criticized by these people.

In this study an attempt has been made to find out to what extend the IQAC helps the college in improving the quality of higher education.

The UGC with the support of HRD ministry for addressing the issues of quality, the National Policy on Education (1986) and the Plan of Action (POA-1992) advocated the establishment of an

independent national accreditation body. Consequently, the NAAC was established in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore.

The important objectives of the IQAC are as follows.

- To arrange for periodic assessment and accreditation of departments, faculty in college
- To stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality of teaching-learning and research in higher education institutions;
- To encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations of faculties in higher education;
- To undertake quality-related research studies, consultancy and training programmes etc.
- To collaborate with other stakeholders of higher education for quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- ✦ To study the importance of IQAC in higher education
- ✦ To study the procedure & criterion of quality of higher education.
- ✦ To find out the parameters used for measuring quality of higher education.
- ✦ To find out whether IQAC has help to enhance quality of higher education.
- ✦ To make recommendations to enhance the quality of higher education.

HYPOTHESIS:

Quality of Higher education enhanced due to IQAC and NAAC at the college level.

METHODOLOGY:

This study is mostly related to the traditional colleges i.e. Arts, Commerce & Science. The researcher has collected information by preparing questionnaire by the Principals, IQAC coordinators & students engaged in higher education. The researcher has framed 10 questions for each respondent regarding 7 criterions given by NAAC which is related to quality of higher education which is as follows.

1. Curricular Aspects
2. Teaching-Learning and Evaluation
3. Research, Consultancy and Extension
4. Infrastructure and Learning Resources
5. Student Support and Progression
6. Governance, Leadership and Management
7. Innovations and Best Practices

The researcher has get filled questionnaire from coordinators, principals & students. The study is mostly based on primary data, which is given by the respondents.

Sample Size:

| Particulars | Principal | Coordinators | Student | Total |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Rural | 2 | 2 | 20 | 24 |
| Urban | 3 | 3 | 30 | 36 |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 50 | 60 |

The college and students selected on the basis reaccréditation of college, i.e. those colleges have selected, which are implementing IQAC for last 10 years. The separate structured questionnaires were prepared for principal, co-ordinator & students. Fifteen questions were asked regarding organization, constitutions, benefits and impact of IQAC on higher education. The college & principals are selected from rural & urban areas also.

The researcher has set questionnaire regarding the following quality measures:

1. Rise in infrastructure
2. Rise in number of students
3. Increase in self supporting course
4. fee of the college
5. Result of the college i.e. first class, distinction etc.
6. Attendance rate of the students
7. Growth in research activities
8. Growth in extension activities
9. Activities relating to personality development

Researcher has analyzed the data considering the above important parameters of quality education,

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

1. 80% coordinators of IQAC and principals stated that number of self financing course were increased due to NAAC accreditation.
2. 50% Principals agreed that NAAC helped to increase the revenue of the college.
3. 90% NAAC Coordinators and data collected from the colleges shows that there was no any drastic change in result of the college.
4. Collected data also states that there was no any increase in attendant rate of the student in the class room.
5. Collected data also shows that the number of Ph.D and M.Phil faculties were increased by 60%.
6. The feed back taken from the student state that students are not aware about the NAAC accreditation and quality of education.
7. 80% NAAC Coordinators and Principals agreed that NAAC accreditation helps to enhance the quality of higher education. At the same time 50% students are not agreed with this statement.
8. 80% student also stated that NAAC accreditation helped to increase in extension activities like cultural programmes, debating, seminars and conferences of students.
9. 100% NAAC Coordinators and Principals opined that NAAC accreditation helped to increase the infrastructure of the college i.e. class rooms, auditorium, Gymkhana facilities etc.
10. Most of the respondent i.e. Coordinators, Principals and student opined that there is no increase in number of students and admission because of NAAC accreditation.

FINDINGS:

1. NAAC helped to increase in self financing courses of colleges to make them self sufficient. Indirectly, it has reduced the burden of the Grants of the State Governments.
2. NAAC accreditation does not helped to increased the attendance of students.
3. It has helped to increase the research culture among the faculty members.
4. It helped to increase the extension activities like NSS, NCC, Study tours, Trails, Industrial Visits etc

which has benefited to students overall personality development.

5. According to Principals and NAAC Coordinators, quality of higher education has been enhanced due to NAAC assessment. However students were not aware of the quality education.

6. NAAC helped to increase in the revenue of the college and fees of concerned courses because of hike in fee.

7. The results of colleges particularly number of distinctions and first class students not increased.

8. There is increase in number of faculties' involvement in Minor and Major Research Projects.

CONCLUSION:

The key conclusion of the study is that no doubt, IQAC & NAAC has helped colleges & university to improve their infrastructure like building, classrooms, furniture, departments, audio-visual aids & other facilities. This also helps to teacher & principal to make aware about the higher education. The students are not much benefited due to NAAC accreditation & IQAC in the college. The main thing is that, through the grade of the college is improved from 'B' to 'A', the result of the college remain unchanged. Most of the students are not aware of what is NAAC accreditation, reaccreditation etc. It was also observed that while seeking admission in most of the college the students do not consider the grade of the college whether it is B grade or A grade. There is no change in the strength of the college due to change in the grade from B to A. It seems that whatever be the grade of the college there will be no impact on the strength & results of the college.

NAAC accreditation & reaccreditation helps to improve the infrastructure of college. Due to NAAC the teachers are now aware about Extension & Research Activities in the colleges & drastically the number the enrollment to M.Phil. & Ph.D. degree has been increased. The participation of teachers are increased in Minor & Major Research Projects due to NAAC & IQAC. Still it was found that the quality of Higher education is not increased as expected by NAAC.

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