NAAC flooded with accreditation pleas

Manohar Pradeep Gehani
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NEW DELHI: Top universities and institutions of the country are making a beeline to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Institutions of higher learning like Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, Anna University, Chennai, Indian Institute of Science and National Law School from Bangalore, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Assam University, Silchar among 2,978 others have sent their letter of intention (LoI) to the accreditation agency between January 19, 2013 to December 19, 2013.

Under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), it has become mandatory for government run higher education institutions to get accreditation to receive funding. Major part of the funding of government higher education institutions has been taken over by RUSA from University Grants Commission last year.

This is the highest number of LoIs received by NAAC, as earlier the agency used to get anything around 800 requests annually. Region wise the highest number of applications are from east and northeast, while in as a state Bihar has the largest number of participations.

"Yes, there has been an unprecedented rush of LoIs for this cycle of accreditation process. One of the reasons could be because accreditation has been made mandatory and also linked to funding under RUSA’s provision. But it is not mandatory for all accreditations to be done by NAAC as there are plans for multiple accreditation agencies in the country," said director, NAAC, professor AN Rai.

With increased applications, according to Rai, "The first priority is to strengthen the headquarter in Bangalore and then decentralise the process of college level accreditation process. The headquarters will deal with the university level accreditation and training of assessors. We are planning five regional offices, the first to start in North and will operate from DU. The regional centres will be responsible for the assessment process - right from receiving the LoI to Institution Eligibility Qualification Assessment, followed by self study report to visit by the expert. Only the final approval of the grading will be done in Bangalore by the executive committee."

Speaking about the trends of application, Rai said: "We presumed that number of applications from the northeast, but are pleasantly surprised as we got a healthy 100 applications. Moreover, east and northeast combined have the largest number of LoIs, which is 826.

Following Bihar (280) in terms of states with largest applications are Madhya Pradesh (278), Tamil Nadu (258), Karnataka (217) and Rajasthan (193). Nine universities and nine colleges have applied from Delhi.

Apart from the above mentioned names, other major universities and institutions include Defense Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, Ambedkar University, Delhi, Madurai Kamrak University, Madurai, Velloe Institute of Technology, Vellore, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai, DY Patil University, Mumbai, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and Manipur University, Imphal.
133 eligible varsities yet to apply for accreditation

179 universities accredited till December 2013

K.C. Deepika

BANGALORE: Even though the number of educational institutions queuing up for accreditation before the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) saw a huge increase in 2013 after the University Grants Commission (UGC) made accreditation mandatory to be eligible for funding, 133 universities of the total 651 in the country are yet to apply.

Though 209 universities in the country are not eligible for accreditation for various reasons — some being newly established while others are accredited by other agencies — the issue of the 133 eligible universities not applying for accreditation has become a cause for concern for NAAC, its director A.N. Rai said.

A total of 2,978 institutions (121 universities and 2,857 colleges) applied for accreditation between January 19 and December 19, 2013. Region-wise, east and northeast had the highest number of applicants (826), followed by north (744), west (728) and south (680).

"Of the 651 universities, 209 are not eligible as of now; 45 are agricultural universities and 16 are open or distance education universities."

NAAC director A.N. Rai

More than 100 are deemed universities and cases pertaining to 39 of them are in courts, due to which we have to maintain the status quo," he explained. Till December 2013, 179 universities had been accredited.

Another grey area is that of educational institutions that do not come under the purview of the education system. While the recently concluded All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) by the Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD) revealed that there were 35,539 colleges in India, there could be several more that may not have been affiliated to a university, Prof. Rai said.

As a majority of them were private institutions that do not take grants from the UGC, they find it unnecessary to be accredited or seek affiliation. "We cannot say to what extent this problem exists, but it is suspected that there are a sizeable number of such colleges. The ambivalence is advantageous for them as otherwise, they will be exposed. The State administrations should take the onus of identifying such colleges," he said.

More agencies?

The MHRD was planning to increase the number of accreditation agencies, which could also include private agencies, Prof. Rai revealed. The proposal to establish regional centres of NAAC would depend on this as the government would want to expand the council based on the demand, he added.
Express News Service

Bangalore: A year after the University Grants Commission (UGC) made it mandatory for all higher education institutions to get accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has seen a nearly three-fold increase in the number of applications from such institutions compared to previous years.

Speaking to Express, Prof A N Rai, director of NAAC said, "Between January 19 and December 19, 2013, a total of 2,978 institutions from across India have approached us for accreditation. It is really a big increase," he declared.

In early 2013, the UGC made it mandatory for all higher education institutions to get NAAC accreditation. "NAAC accreditation and the subsequent grades given will be considered while releasing grants," said a senior official from the State Higher Education Department.

Before the UGC made accreditation mandatory, the NAAC used to, on average, assess about 800 institutions in a year.

"We can see the jump in number of institutions approaching after January 2013. Up to December 2012, the number was between 50 and 200," Prof Rai added.

THE PROCESS EXPLAINED

Institutions must first send a letter of intent to NAAC. In the next step, the institutions must face a institutional eligibility for quality assessment (IEQA) when a panel of experts will assess the institutions. IEQA will provide information about basic infrastructure, quality of teaching, courses offered and overview of results. According to officials, the institutions that do not have proper infrastructure will get rejected at this level.
Code of Conduct for
Higher Edn Institutions

Express News Service

**Bangalore**: Education institutions which provide false information about their accreditation, infrastructure and fee structure will be penalised by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The NAAC is formulating a code of conduct to prevent institutions from misleading the public. “We have developed ten different codes of conduct. But NAAC has no authority over institutions. So, we are forwarding the same to the University Grants Commission (UGC),” said A N Rai, Director, NAAC. He said the instructions aim at controlling bogus institutions.

A source in the NAAC said some institutions manipulate their accreditation. “Though institutions have B or C grade, they claim to have an A or A+ rating. There are some which have not renewed accreditation and still continue with the old status, the source added. Accreditations will be withdrawn if institutions are found violating the code, a source in the NAAC said. Criminal cases will be filed against erring institutes apart from penalties, he warned.

NAAC is a national body which assesses and accredits higher education institutions across the country. As per a UGC direction, it is mandatory for all institutions to have an accreditation. The accreditation should be renewed every five years.
NAAC introduces letter grading

'It enhances credibility of assessment process'

Chitra V. Ramani

BANGALORE: As part of its 11th plan, the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) has developed and implemented a new assessment and accreditation methodology. The new methodology, introduced on April 1, 2007, was developed based on extensive discussions with all stakeholders of higher education.

Speaking to The Hindu about the benefits of the new methodology, V.S. Prasad, director, NAAC, said that it was framed to ensure continuous and need-based improvements in the instruments of assessment and accreditation. "Until March 2007, NAAC was following a nine-point grading system. The new methodology is known as the three-letter grading system."

Prof. Prasad said with the new methodology, grading was more reliable and objective. It enhanced the credibility and reliability of the assessment process and helped NAAC assess a large number of institutions effectively in a short period of time. "The new methodology is a collective thinking of the academia across the country. We (NAAC) held many discussions with the stakeholders before arriving at a particular pattern," he said.

In the nine-point scale, the numerical scores were converted to letter grades by maintaining the raw score at the base. It had finer interval levels of 5 per cent for each grade level. "This small percentage difference is difficult to establish and the relative evaluation is not always exact, which was evident from the high standard deviation. This made interpretation of the final grade difficult."

Prof. Prasad said to arrive at the three-letter grading system, NAAC had to identify critical areas and fine tune the criteria, key aspects and development of assessment indicators as guidelines. "All this ensures more accuracy in assessment of institutions under the new methodology. The assessment is also less subjective," he said.

He said the letter grades — A (very good), B (good) and C (satisfactory) — were given starting at the lower level of measurement and for the aggregated grade points after applying the relevant weightage at the key aspect and criteria levels.

"The new system has several advantages. First, there is a 15-point range. It has a wider scope for normalising the scores, extreme biases (if any) are minimised and relative evaluations are more exact because of reduction in the standard deviation," he said.

Prof. Prasad said that developing a new methodology was a huge task. "We are constantly trying to learn from experience and improve assessment and accreditation instruments continuously. The new methodology will enable the assessors to measure the quality of institutions in a better perspective and the adjudication will focus on the right things."
'What's your college score?'

BY VJESH KAMATH
DH News Service

Bangalore: "What is your college score?"
"My college score is 2.87. What about yours?"
"Well, it's 3.41, my college is better than yours!"

Such a conversation between students may not be far off. Now, get ready to be tagged along with the "scores" of your college.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the national quality assurance agency established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to assess and accredit higher education institutions, has proposed a new methodology to make assessment more focussed, rigorous and objective.

In simple terms, colleges will be assessed with a score card ranging between 0.01 to 4.00 (a total of 400 points) and the present nine-point grading system (grade A++ to C) will be done away with.

The officials point out that under the new proposal each college can have fine-tuned score instead of a generalised grade, making it easier for students to choose between colleges.

Individual scores in each of the stipulated seven parameters will also help in better judgement of the facilities available in the institutions.

The review of the system has been based on field experience, feedback from eminent experts and all stakeholders of higher education.

Under the new system, the first stage will be a preliminary assessment of the institution to identify the institution's potential for undergoing the accreditation process.

Institutions will have to provide organisational profile and some quantitative information. National Assessment and Accreditation Council will then provide feedback to the applicants regarding specific improvements, if any. In the second stage, institutions will have to prepare detailed self-study report based on the guidelines prepared by National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

Assessments will be based on the following seven parameters: Curricular aspects, teaching-learning and evaluation, research, consultancy and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, students support and progression, governance and leadership and innovative practices.

A matrix has been prepared providing weightage for each of the parameters. The cumulative grade point average of an institution (CGPA) is calculated from all the seven criterion-wise aggregate grade points. As per the UGC mandate, assessment and accreditation of institutions and universities by NAAC will get priority during release of grants.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council has so far accredited 3,085 institutions (129 universities and 2,956 colleges). On completion of five years, these institutions will have to apply under the new system.
NAAC plans to network colleges nationwide

Rasheed Kappan

BANGALORE: Quality assurance in higher education institutions would mean little if not monitored constantly. To ensure that quality is a round-the-clock, round-the-year “live” concept, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) now wants to link up colleges and universities nationwide through the EDUSAT satellite.

“We want to give guidance on quality improvement through live connectivity from right here in the NAAC office,” NAAC Director V.S. Prasad told The Hindu.

Programmes would be beamed from a hi-tech studio at NAAC’s ultra-modern campus at Nagarabhatti here. The facility would start functioning in six months, opening a new chapter in quality control.

Once the EDUSAT-NAAC network kicks off, the council would bring in quality and higher education experts from across the world to the NAAC office to beam the programmes live. “Besides, the colleges and universities could also talk to one another through this facility,” Mr. Prasad said.

The project will include the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which will provide the EDUSAT channel, and the State Government.

The Government’s Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) had pioneered satellite connectivity in the State, by linking up its affiliated engineering colleges through an EDUSAT channel.

With satellite connectivity, NAAC hopes to help accredited colleges improve the activities of their Internal Quality Assurance Cells. The cell is a key element of NAAC’s assessment and accreditation process. “We want to be of some use as a knowledge provider,” Dr. Prasad said.

With research on quality assessment getting greater attention at NAAC, the proposed network is expected to help the council disseminate new findings quickly to the colleges. About 20,000 sq ft of the one lakh sq ft built-up area at the new NAAC campus is exclusively devoted to a Quality Resource Centre. The studio for the satellite network will be part of this centre.

NAAC has so far accredited 140 of the 300-plus universities in the country. It has also assessed and rated 3,496 general degree colleges. UGC now considers NAAC accreditation an additional parameter to confer autonomy and Potential for Excellence status to higher education institutions.

In Karnataka, NAAC has accredited eight universities and 468 colleges. While Bangalore University and Karnataka University have been granted five-star rating, the University of Mysore has been reassigned with an A + rating. Gulbarga and Mangalore varsities have four-star ratings, while Kuvempu University has got a three-star. Manipal University with a B + and Kannada University with a B ++ are the other two varsities.
Tool kits to raise teaching standard

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: In an initiative to enhance the quality of teachers' education, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), in association with Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), Canada, has released a tool kit for capacity-building of teachers.

Experts from 14 Commonwealth nations are here for a five-day meet to chalk out a universal model of quality assurance in higher education. NAAC director V S Prasad said the tool kit has been designed to assure internal quality assurance of teachers in education institutions.

"The kit comprises of three documents — an introduction to quality Assurance in higher education, quality indicators for teachers' education, and an anthology of best practices in the field," said Prasad.

"Singapore has an excellent system in place for teachers' education, but other Commonwealth countries in Asia and Africa are struggling to evolve quality assurances. Hence, as an exercise to compile best practices to standardize quality in the sector, the tool kit has been developed," said John Daniel, CEO and president, CoL.

He said open-schooling or teacher education through distance education is also being seen as an important tool for poverty reduction.

Foreign universities must be allowed to enter higher education, but effective checks and balances should be in place, said Daniel. "South Africa is the case in point. Its strict regimented structure ensures a level playing field for local and foreign universities. We have to evolve enabling systems with effective regulations to avoid anomalies like fake degree certificate or unethical practices in higher education," he added.

CoL has 53 countries under its banner and collaborates with governmental agencies to ensure quality assurance in higher education.

tolblt.reporter@timesgroup.com
Most colleges fare badly in NAAC test

In Voluntary Exercise, Only Four Colleges Get A Grade

Shruthi Balakrishna | TNN

Bangalore: Colleges in Karnataka are not making the mark, according to the new grading system. In the past year, none of the ten colleges assessed and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) got the A grade. While seven managed B grade, the rest got C.

According to NAAC, of the 148 colleges accredited in Karnataka from Jan 1, 2005 to March 31, 2007, only four got A grade, that's 2.7%. While 51 colleges got B, 38 got B+, 22 got B++. The remaining were awarded C, C+ and C++.


This was designed to overcome some limitations of the earlier methodology, and enhance rigour, reliability and validity. NAAC had also said this enabled it to conduct assessment of large numbers of institutions effectively in a short time.

Across the country, last year 107 colleges were accredited, of which 10 were awarded A grade, 77 colleges got B and the remaining C.

NAAC acting director Prof. Ravichandra Reddy told Sunday Times of India that currently the process of assessment and accreditation is voluntary. He also said the new methodology was introduced after consulting stakeholders.

"The methodology was put on the NAAC website and the responses were considered before the methodology was fine-tuned to reduce inter-examiner differences. This methodology was to measure quality in a judicious manner," he said.

He said that of the number of colleges available in Karnataka, a majority of government colleges and aided colleges have come forward for assessment. "So, unaided private colleges have not come forward. One reason is financial expenditure. Another is they are probably yet to fulfil the seven criteria of the new methodology," he said.
MoU signed: NAAC to grade dental colleges

By Shruthi Balakrishna
DH News Service

BANGALORE: Dental Council of India (DCI) has signed a MoU with National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) recently. According to the agreement, all the colleges affiliated to DCI will be assessed and accredited by NAAC.

DCI has made it mandatory for all its colleges to get the accreditation from NAAC. The DCI has also sent circulars to all its colleges asking them to come forward for the process of assessment and accreditation within the stipulated period.

DCI President Dr Anil Kohli said that this decision was taken in order to enhance the quality of dental educational institutions in the country. He said that there are about 268 dental colleges in India, of these, 43 colleges are in Karnataka. “Assessment process has already commenced. Around 10 dental colleges have been assessed by NAAC,” he said. The advantage of being assessed by NAAC, according to him, is that it will help the students to choose better colleges as each college would be awarded grades after the assessment.

The assessment is based on new methodology designed by NAAC, which includes seven assessment criteria. They are: curricular aspects; teaching-learning and evaluation; research, consultancy and extension; infrastructure and learning; student support and progression; governance and leadership and innovative practices. Each criterion will have key aspects, and weightages are provided for each key aspect. The weightages vary for university, autonomous colleges and affiliated or constituent colleges.

At the end of the assessment, colleges would be awarded letter grade – A, B, C and D based on the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). The CGPA is based on four point scale. The colleges which are rated below or equal to 1.50 will be given ‘D’ grade meaning not accredited. The colleges rated anywhere from 1.51 to 2 will be awarded ‘C’ grade meaning the college is ‘satisfactory.’ If the colleges falls anywhere between 2.01 and 3 points then the college is considered ‘good.’ The colleges awarded above 3 points is considered to be ‘very good’ institution.

NAAC Director Prof V S Prasad said that assessment will be done for colleges which have completed five years since the time of establishment or with a record of at least 2 batches of students having completed their degree programmes. He also said that NAAC assessment will be considered as one of the parameters by DCI for enhancing the intake for various courses. “An Internal Quality Assurance Cell will be set up in each college with an objective to provide guidance on improving quality,” he said.

Some colleges like R V Dental College has already taken initiative by applying for assessment even before it was made mandatory by DCI. Principal of the college Dr Nagesh said that college has applied and NAAC have sent preliminary forms.

KLE Dental College Principal Dr Prakash S Tandur said that last year the college had applied for NAAC accreditation but failed to satisfy the demands of the NAAC including infrastructure and faculty.
AAC Accreditation for Quality Education

Dr. Farooq Ahmad Peer on the role of AAC in assessing and ensuring quality education in colleges and universities with specific reference to J&K State

The President, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Peer, in his address to the gathering, said that education is a basic human right and plays an essential role in society. He emphasized the importance of AAC in ensuring quality education in colleges and universities.

He further added that the AAC Accreditation plays a vital role in determining the quality of education. The AAC Accreditation process ensures that colleges and universities meet the set standards of education. It also helps in the improvement of the quality of education by encouraging colleges and universities to adopt best practices and continuously improve their education system.

The AAC Accreditation process involves a comprehensive evaluation of the institution. The evaluation includes the assessment of the institutional infrastructure, staff qualifications, and student outcomes. The AAC Accreditation is a voluntary process, and colleges and universities can choose to participate in it.

The AAC Accreditation process has several stages. The first stage involves the submission of a self-study report by the college or university. The second stage involves the visit of the AAC Accreditation team to the college or university to conduct an on-site review.

The AAC Accreditation is a crucial mechanism to ensure the quality of education. It helps in the identification of areas that need improvement and provides a framework for continuous improvement. The AAC Accreditation process is an important tool for colleges and universities to enhance their quality of education and attract students from all over the world.

AAC Accreditation for Quality Education

Dr. Farooq Ahmad Peer on the role of AAC in assessing and ensuring quality education in colleges and universities with specific reference to J&K State
Rating rigidities
A better way on college upgrades

The University Grants Commission says the rating of universities and all colleges by its assessment arm, the NAAC, should become mandatory. Mr. Xavier Alphonse, UGC member, said last week the move was needed to enable institutions to improve. We agree that quality rating is a good thing to enable users of the services provided to make better informed choices. Yet, we have grave doubts about the UGC itself doing this job, the way it is constituted. It happens to be among the most bureaucratic of agencies in India, with a questionable record of performance. And the idea of the same agency in charge of approvals, rating and finances is not at all healthy. A higher education regulator should be as free from government interference as possible, which the UGC isn’t. It needs to set the minimum standards that institutions should fulfill to get government approval. But rating on excellence should be entrusted to professional agencies licensed for the purpose, not the same body that approves them the money to function.

The argument for compulsion fades away when you have institutes competing for rating from a body or bodies which are respected in this regard; the only compulsion should be on prominent disclosure of the fact of choosing to be rated or not. We’ve made this point before in these columns, as in the case of places like the Indian School of Business, which have a worldwide reputation despite choosing not to be accredited or rated by the state agencies here. Their refusal is, in fact, linked to the sort of regulations stipulated here, heavy on outlays and micro-detail, instead of academic outcomes. That is part of the problem: the problem of stagnation in academic and physical standards among colleges in India is due to too little competition to do better in the UGC-run system on matters like syllabi, methods of teaching, faculty pay and the like.

Rating is, in other words, needed. But the exercise needs to be a credible one, which gives a good incentive to upgrade and experiment, the way a well-run enterprise keeps trying to think of ways to create more customer satisfaction. The UGC or whatever other state agency sets standards and monitors itself needs to do this; this cannot come by making it more of a behemoth. Allowing others to do the rating of how well it is doing the job of monitoring is one way to see this sort of change. Use the need for credible rating to get more competition in the education sector.
Now, assess education institutes from their NAAC ‘marks sheet’

Shruthi Balakrishna | TNN

Bangalore: Soon, colleges might sport their vital statistics — for example, a name board that reads: NAAC accredited, Grade A, 3.4. This is because National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has proposed that colleges display the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) on the board. Also, the CGPA must be displayed in advertisements and letterheads.

It’s a move to help students and parents evaluate the quality of a college as assessed by NAAC. Colleges or institutions are given CGPA — accreditation or re-accreditation — by NAAC under the new methodology. “Institutions will be assessed using the new methodology. They will be awarded A, B or C grades. As colleges may get the same grade, it might be difficult for student to gauge the college’s quality. But if the colleges display their CGPA, then it will be easier for the students to choose,” said S. Ravichandra Reddy, NAAC acting director.

The new methodology was introduced in April last year. Institutions were awarded either of the four grades — A, B, C and D, which stand for very good, good, satisfactory and unsatisfactory, respectively. Grades A, B, C will be awarded to accredited institutions.

The CGPA is awarded to the institution based on a four-point scale. If an institution has an A grade, then its point scale is between 3.01 and 4. Similarly, for B grade, it’s between 2.01 and 3.00; for C, it’s between 1.51 and 2.00; and for D, it’s less than 1.50.

The proposal will be placed before the Executive Council (EC) for approval. If accepted, it will be mandatory for institutions accredited and re-accredited under the new methodology to showcase the CGPA along with the grade.

If the proposal is accepted, 39 colleges are accredited by NAAC under the new methodology to display CGPA. Of these, nine colleges are from Karnataka. Nine institutes have been re-accredited using the new methodology. Of these, three are universities and six are colleges.
Democratisation of education need of the hour: UGC chief

RECOGNITION: Representatives of various educational institutions at the award ceremony of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in Bangalore on Sunday.

PHOTO: SAMPATH KUMAR G.P.

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: Underlining the need to democratis the education system in the country, Chairman (in-charge) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Ved Prakash here on Sunday called upon educational institutions that have the potential to identify inadequacies and carry out interventions in support of extricating the country from poverty.

Speaking at the award ceremony of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), he said the need of the hour was to create a mechanism that imparted same quality of education to a child in Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra and the metros.

“We have to be fair and just to our children, as education is the only means of human empowerment,” he said.

Enrolment ratio

He regretted that the enrolment ratio of higher education in the country was dismal. Though there were over 553 universities and 31,000 colleges in the country (there were 20 universities and 553 colleges at Independence), the higher education enrolment ratio was only 17 per cent as against the world average of 27 per cent.

“The nation has a long way to go to catch up with the education enrolment ratio of developed countries,” he said.

The creation of few islands of excellence in education would not help in bringing about the desired transformation in society. “The need of the hour is to stretch beyond comfort zone,” Mr. Prakash said.

Skilled workforce needed

The challenge was to create a large skilled workforce for meeting the local and global needs, and to meet that enormous investment, the highest level of commitment was needed.

Observing that an educational institution could not grow in isolation, he said that excellence could be achieved only through connecting to schools. There was a need to open up, as most educational institutions were working in closed circles. It was necessary to connect with society, sister institutions, NGOs working in the field and the government to make institutions of higher education happening places, Mr. Prakash said.

Presiding over the function, Chairman of the Executive Committee of NAAC Govardhan Mehta disclosed that NAAC was developing a new methodology for the assessment and accrediting of educational institutions with inputs from stakeholders that would be in place by March 2012.

He regretted that of the 760 colleges that had been selected for the award, representatives of only 400-plus institutions had come to receive the certificates.

“NAAC will not send certificates to the institutions through post in future and it is a must for the heads of institutions to come and collect the same, as they have to understand for what they are getting the certificates,” Mr. Mehta added.
ನಾವು ಪ್ರಾಂಕ್ರಮಣ ನಷ್ಟವನ್ನು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರತೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸುವ ಕ್ರಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ನಾವು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ನಾವು) ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ, 'ನಾವು' ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ನಾವು) ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ನಾವು' ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ನಾವು) ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ನಾವು' ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ನಾವು) ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ನಾವು' ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ನಾವು) ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.
UGC’s thrust on higher education for 12th Five Year Plan

by Sharad Povanna

Bangalore: With the 12th Five Year Plan only a year away, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has its task cut out. But with ambitions plans chalked out for the improvement of higher education, it seems poised to meet the expectations.

"I have constituted five committees," Ved Prakash, chairman of UGC said, adding that the UGC would be entrusted with the task of revisiting existing schemes and programmes and identifying the constraints. It will then come up with new programmes that can be integrated into the new Five Year Plan, that is to come into effect on April 1, 2012.

Prakash said that private colleges on the 10th Five Year Plan, he said the UGC was already preparing itself for the new offerings. "There are four new Bills -- the Foreign Universities Bill, Unfair Practices Bill, National Regulatory Authority and Accreditation Bill and the Education Tribunal Bill -- in the Parliament," he said. "The Higher Education and Research Bill is yet to be introduced," he added.

One of the biggest challenges before the UGC is expansion," Prakash said. "At this time, it had to increase the number of universities, colleges and Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, he said. "We are ensuring increased participation rates by girls, students from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, minority communities and Physically Handicapped, he said. "The UGC did not want a repeat of the 11th Plan, where they lost two years only to prepare the Plan. He said the UGC was well on course for the 12th Plan.

"We have to increase the intake of universities and will have to give additional financial assistance," he added. Prakash added that they would also have to look around for profit areas and where there are inadequate higher education institutions.

"In such places, we have to set up new institutions," he said and added, "The Government of India has proposed to set up 1,543 public institutions which is unprecedented." Adding that they would also have to take on board private players, he said there should be a "harmonious coexistence of public-private partnerships (PPP). He said there were many quality educational institutions that were set up by private bodies. "We have to take people who are affluent on board and be modest for the good of the country," he said.
NAAC plans India education index

The UGC plans to make assessment and accreditation of all universities and colleges mandatory. This plan has been mentioned in the 11th Planning Commission document.

Bangalore: National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)-plans to develop India Education Index (IEI) for ranking institutes based on academic, research performance and other parameters, according to University Grants Commission chairman Sukhadeo Thorat.

“The outcome of IEI will help in international comparison of institutes,” he said at the ‘NAAC Accreditation Awards’ ceremony here on Sunday. “The UGC will set up assessment cells in universities,” he added. The cells will prepare annual reports and discuss their status.

Out of the 20,000 colleges in the country, 6,000 are supported by UGC, that enables the institutions to get grants. And out of 270 state universities, 167 are supported by UGC.

According to him, there is a need to expand higher education. “We need to support the non-12B status institutions. There needs to be programme development for these institutions to enable these institutions to get grants for strengthening infrastructure and education,” he said.

Thorat pointed out that human resource is one of the major component for quality of higher education system.

As a national quality assurance agency, NAAC has assessed and accredited more than 147 universities and 3,807 colleges. Chairman executive committee NAAC Prof. Govardhan Mehta said that this award ceremony is a step in the right direction to associate all stake holders of higher education in the quality enhancement process and co-operate in the NAAC’s vision and task of ensuring quality.

On the occasion, around 69 institutions representing 18 states were given the accreditation certificates.
40 p.c. teachers’ posts in universities vacant

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Recruitment of teachers has been neglected by many educational institutions in the country, which has affected the progress of higher education, said Sukhdeo Thorat, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Speaking at the NAAC Accreditation Award Ceremony organised by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), here on Sunday, Prof. Thorat said that the UGC’s Chadha Committee had found that close to 40 per cent of the sanctioned teachers’ posts in universities and 50 per cent in colleges were vacant. "Teachers are not treated with dignity. We hope to remedy the wrong with the new salary scale, which is equivalent to that drawn by the IAS cadre. The Government has also approved this new scale," he said.

He also said that UGC was working on eligibility criteria for recruitment of qualified teachers. "UGC has also written to the respective State Governments to take immediate action to fill the vacant posts."

Prof. Thorat said that NAAC accreditation may soon be made mandatory for all educational institutions. "UGC grants will be available to institutions to set up quality assessment cells. All institutions must set up the cells and send quality assessment reports annually to NAAC," he added.

Representatives of 197 universities and colleges that had been accredited by NAAC after April 2007 were present at the award ceremony. Eighteen institutions from the State, including Bangalore University and Karnatak University, participated.

Accreditation

As on January 2009, NAAC has assessed and accredited more than 147 universities and 3,807 colleges in the country.

"As a national quality assurance agency, NAAC had been assessing quality concerns in the higher education sector," Goverdhan Mehta, chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC, told presspersons here on Saturday.

"In its 15 years of experience, NAAC has been able to collect a wealth of data and experience. There has been an unprecedented expansion in higher education sector in our country and we are gearing to assess the institutions without loosing our objective and rigour."

Dr. Mehta said that the need of the hour was to have a single accreditation agency. "Management, medical and engineering institutions have separate assessment agencies. Ultimately, all these agencies are bound by commitment to improve quality of institutions. The Government has been mulling over the issue and there may be a single window accreditation agency in the country," he added.
The new rating methodology
A look at NAAC’s evaluation criteria

B.KRISHNAMURTHY

India is one of the largest higher education systems in the world, having more than 400 universities, 18,000 colleges and an enrollment of 11 million students.

The present enrollment is eight per cent which is low compared with to the world average of 23 per cent. The 11th Five Year Plan aims at raising it to 15 per cent at the end of the Plan.

Today we are in the era of quality and excellence. Educational institutions are voluntarily assessing their quality through the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and are proudly exhibiting their accreditation status. NAAC has redesigned its methodology in the changing higher education scenario.

The new methodology came into effect from April 1, 2007. It is on the lines of the internationally accepted system i.e. the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). It is applicable for accreditation, re-assessment and re-accreditation of HEIs.

What is CGPA?
The CGPA refers to the weighted mean value of all the grade points earned by the institution for its quality parameters. The instrument for assessment and accreditation has been designed with seven criteria as quality parameters with criterion-wise key aspects. There are 36 key aspects and each is further differentiated into assessment indicators to be used as guidelines/probes by assessors to capture the micro-level quality pointers.

The key aspects under each criterion have their own weightages according to the relative importance of the said key aspect in the context of the type of institution. There are specified differential weightages according to the type of institution (community, autonomous).

Weightage
The summarized total grade points of all the key aspects under each criterion will be calculated with appropriate weightages based on the above points. The summary of all these weighted scores is divided by the total weightage i.e. 1000, the sum obtained will be the final institutional quality level on a four point scale.

The new methodology modified the nomenclature of the VI Criteria as Grievance & leadership, Criteria VII as Innovative Practices.

It introduced differential weightages for different type of institutions. More weightage (45 per cent) was given to affiliated college on teaching-learning evaluation and research, consultancy and extension by university (20 per cent).

The best practices in each criteria is included in all the first six criterions. Qualitative measurements are converted to grade points. The relative evaluation would be more exact, due to reductions in variations and standard deviations.

NAAC has planned to complete the first cycle of assessment of HEIs by the end of 11th Plan. It is a challenging task requiring a good number of peers as assessors.

It must take into consideration the founding and development of the institution, as well as the geographical area i.e. whether the college is situated in a rural or urban area.

A monitoring body can be set up to ensure the running of institutions according to the given criteria.