Making Accreditation Attractive

NAAC Director, A N Rai on his plans to reinvent the council

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Accreditation is the need of the hour yet only about one fourth of Indian colleges had signed up for it till a recent rule made it mandatory. EDU takes a look at three important areas that may help NAAC reinvent itself....

Wanted: A New Avatar of NAAC

By: Charu Bahri
Design by Pradeep G Nar
NO

one can deny the usefulness of a credible, independent opinion on the quality of education imparted by colleges across the country. “Mapping the education sector’s topography gives students and their parents a universal metric for all institutes, one that compares them across specialties,” says N Chandramouli, CEO of TRA, a brand intelligence company.

The criticism

In July 2014, it was decided that NAAC would snap ties with the UGC, thus ending the commission’s two-decade-long supremacy. In his speech, NAAC’s former director general, Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh, had said, “The regulator and the assessor cannot be the same body; they must be two independent entities. How can we assess a college if we are part of the team that assesses it?”

The question marks

However, the fact that only 189 out of 35538 colleges across India have been accredited by NAAC in 1998, has come under criticism. For instance, Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh had said, “The result of the assessment is not only an indicator of the quality of education of a college, but it is also a good benchmark. It is a measure of teaching quality and the academic achievement of the students.”

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Source: UGC Publication “Higher Education in India: A Profile” June 2014, with NAAC Director A. N. P. Nair
Q & A

AMAR NATH RAI, NAAC DIRECTOR

What do you consider as some of NAAC’s最大 achievements across its journey so far?

The concept of higher education has significantly evolved over the past 60 years, and NAAC has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of higher education in India. The organization has successfully carried out its mandate to improve the quality of higher education institutions through rigorous assessment and accreditation processes.

What are NAAC’s biggest challenges in steering a course forward?

Staff shortage has been a significant challenge, yet the organization has managed to attract and retain a skilled workforce. It has also faced challenges in scaling up its operations due to limited resources.

Despite being voluntary until 2013, NAAC has completed 7529 assessments and accreditations.

- What is your forecast for the future?

Staff shortages are expected to remain a challenge, but NAAC has plans to enhance its outreach and engagement with institutions.

- What is NAAC’s mission?

NAAC’s mission is to improve the quality of higher education institutions through assessment, accreditation, and continuous improvement initiatives.

- What are your aims for the future?

NAAC aims to expand its reach to more institutions and enhance the quality of its services.

- What is your strategy to ensure the success of NAAC?

NAAC’s strategy includes promoting a culture of self-assessment among institutions and engaging stakeholders in the process.

- What role does NAAC play in higher education?

NAAC plays a crucial role in setting standards, assessing institutions, and providing feedback to improve the quality of higher education.

- What advice would you give to future leaders in higher education?

Emphasize the importance of self-assessment, continuous improvement, and stakeholder engagement.

Get Quality Conscious To Help Reinvent NAAC

NAAC Director Dr. Amar Nath Rai talks about NAAC’s achievements, hurdles, and the way forward.