Report on Assessors Orientation Programme for Women (AOP for Women on 20th September, 2018)

Over the last two decades the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been striving to bring higher educational institutions (HEIs) of India at par with the International Quality standards on all frontiers in higher education (HE) and knowledge development. That is to uplift HEIs in the country as well as to make the young minds competent to meet the challenges at the global level. With this in view, the NAAC has set up the continuum of the quest for excellence that could pave way for result oriented changes and tremendous growth in HEIs during the above period.

In the above background, it was imperative for NAAC to organise periodically the Assessors Orientation Programmes (AOP) with a view to equip and update them capable of evaluating performance of HEIs efficiently and effectively. In order to promote gender parity among the assessors and as a measure to increase the enrolment of Women Assessors in the Revised Accreditation Framework the maiden Assessors Orientation Program for women was organised by NAAC on 20th September 2018 in Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanksirt Vidyapeetha, New Delhi - 110016. The program comprised of 50 Women participants representing various categories such as Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Professors and Principals from various disciplines representing various parts of India. Dr. K. Sudha Rao, Former Vice-Chancellor, KSOU, Mysore and eminent education expert was resource person. The AOP was also graced by the presence of Dr. Pratibha Jolly, Principal Miranda House University College for Women, Patel Chest Marg, New Delhi who is also the member of Executive Council, NAAC as the president.
Dr. Prathiba Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the distinguished guests and the esteemed participants to the Assessors’ Orientation Programme (AOP). In her welcome address, emphasised the importance of Assessors in the process and touched upon effects of Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF).

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC introduced the Guests and gave brief programme agenda of the AOP. He emphasised on the learning of Assessors to adapt to ICT and to know the insights of RAF.
The participants introduced themselves followed by the inaugural address of Prof. K. Sudha Rao, Former Vice-Chancellor, KSOU, Mysore spoke on Role of an Assessor for Assessment and Accreditation of HEIs. She briefed on the professional etiquettes from attire to attitudes of an Assessor, in specific to gender and briefed on the dos’ and don’ts as an Assessors.

Dr. Pratibha Jolly, Principal Miranda House University College for Women in her presidential remarks highlighted the significance of AOP on the and expressed her deep concern over the quality of HEIs in India. She elucidated the challenges that our country is facing today in preparing and grooming our students to be self sufficient to face the global competences. She also emphasised the relevance of IT skills for assessors as the module of assessors in RAF is soon to be integrated with ICT. She also congratulated NAAC for having taken efforts to establish gender parity in the Assessors.
Session II began with the lecture of Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Adviser, NAAC on Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) - An Overview. In her lecture, she briefed the entire process flow of RAF and the difference between RAF and previous methodology of Assessment and self study report on submission by HEIs.

She also emphasised on ICT enabled services done by NAAC for submission and evaluation of the Self-study Report.

Session III began with Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser NAAC Delhi lecture. She spoke on the topic “DVV, SSS and ICT framework of RAF”. Dr. Singh highlighted the concept of third party data verification and validation, the requirements for Institution and process of validation by external agency. She also explained regarding pre-qualifier, changes in the seven criteria, key indicators, SSR, Student Satisfaction Survey, fee structure, bench marks etc. The modality of online Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), the demonstration of upcoming Assessor module was done and features of online portal for assessors were discussed in her session.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser of NAAC in Session IV presented lecture on-site Visit and Logistics, and the changes introduced Logistics and Peer-team Visit of RAF.
In Session V, Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser NAAC, spoke on Process flow for the Peer Team Members, in which he outlined on the roles and responsibilities of Peer Team members. He also explained about Contact, Well in advance, last moment changes, Consent and Confirmation details. He also explained on the onsite visit and logistic arrangements to be done by them as well as the college.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser of NAAC in Session VI presented lecture on “Report Writing and Accreditation Outcome” and “Introduction to Group Activity”
He said explained the report style to be adopted which NAAC has and need to be written lucidly and also spoke on the Do’s and Don’ts of Good Report writing. He also highlighted the technical aspects of the grading and report which need to be matched so that the parity of the grading will be maintained. The report and peer review score sheet should be signed by all the persons he said. He gave useful tips to all the assessors that need to be kept in mind at the time finalizing the grading.

The same was followed by group activity. The 50 participants were divided into seven groups to deliberate on the SSR sent to them as study material. The group I prepared the Peer Team Report of Criteria one, and group two of Criteria 2 and the like. The same was presented in Session VII to consolidate the same.

Session VIII was the open Forum chaired by of Dr. K. Sudha Rao, where various doubts and apprehensions raised by the participants were answered.
**Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey**, Vice Chancellor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi was also present on the occasion and wished all the participants and shared his view about on site visit.

Session IX was the Vote of thanks that was delivered by Dr. Mohit Tiwari who profoundly thanked the involvement of NAAC and the host institution Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanksirt Vidyapeetha, New Delhi for successfully organising the event.
The **Assessors Orientation Programme for Women** is coordinated by Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Adviser and Dr. Mohit Tiwari, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.

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