Summary

Sambalpur University is accredited with “A” grade by NAAC during the 2nd cycle and planning for the 3rd cycle. The Govt. of Odisha has also advised the University to train and motivate the personnel of different affiliated colleges for NAAC accreditation which is helpful for improving the quality of education in the state. With this backdrop a one day Awareness workshop on Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was held on September 25, 2019 at the seminar hall of the Physics Department, Sambalpur University (SU), Odisha. It was organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and NAAC committee, Sambalpur University. It was sponsored by NAAC, Bengaluru. Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru, Dr.RuchiTripathi, Asst. Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru and Prof. Sasikant Dash, Principal, Tagore Govt. Arts and Science college, Puducherry were the domain experts.

The Inaugural function was presided over by Prof. A.K. Das Mohapatra, Chairman P.G. Council who discussed on the role of higher education in improving the human capital and the role of NAAC in this direction objective of the programme to sensitise the colleges and P.G. Departments. Prof. Biswajit Satpathy, Convenor NAAC Committee, said “as per the revised framework, the colleges are now required to keep all the records up-to-date as NAAC requires colleges to upload the record of development along with supporting documents on its online portal for transparent monitoring”. Prof. D.P. Ojha, Director IQAC discussed the importance of IQAC cell. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Behera, Director, College Development Council, discussed the thrust of Government Odisha on bringing Colleges under NAAC ranking. Dr. S.K. Pattanayak, Deputy Coordinator NAAC Committee, offered the vote of thanks. Dr.Hirak Kumar Chakraborty, Assistant Coordinator NAAC Committee managed the whole process of the awareness programme.

Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru, Dr.RuchiTripathi, Asst. Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru and Prof.Sasikant Dash, Principal, Tagore Govt. Arts and Science College, Puducherry enlightened the participants on the revised framework of NAAC assessment and accreditation process.

Background:

NAAC accreditation is very essential for promoting quality education at graduation and post-graduation levels. The UGC regulation has made NAAC accreditation mandatory to foster and encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in the higher education institutions so that a high level of quality can be achieved in teaching, learning and research. The colleges under Sambalpur University are distributed in varied geographical setup of the western part of Odisha covering 11 districts (entire area of 10 districts viz. Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh districts with Athmalik subdivision of Angul district). Many
colleges are located in very remote and economically backward areas. As this region has diverse resources, human resource development is imperative to utilize the resources optimally and the growth of educational institutions imparting higher education is most essential for the development of the Human resource. Therefore, the need to sensitize the colleges under Sambalpur University to go for NAAC accreditation was felt. Realizing this, Sambalpur University, which has over 235 affiliated colleges and 26 P.G. Departments in diverse streams, proposed to bring awareness among them about establishing and putting in place the quality initiatives in all their endeavours. NAAC supported the idea of its Awareness Programme on Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) for 43 Colleges and 13 P.G. Departments under SU, which was conducted on February 25, September, 2019 at SU Campus with financial support and other collaborative efforts from NAAC, Bengaluru.

Although the University has a system of Academic Audit of the institutions conducted every year, yet achieving a nationally acceptable accreditation as an indicator of quality systems is very important for revealing its standard to its stakeholders including the government. Accreditation is beneficial to all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Students, Employers, Faculty, Parents, Alumni, Country, etc. NAAC plays a vital role in the assessment of quality of education matching with the internationally known best practices.

Participants Profile:

The programme was attended by 105 participants mostly the Principals and NAAC coordinator of 50 colleges. These colleges are a mix of both Govt. owned and Self Financing institutions offering variety of programmes at Undergraduate and Post-Graduate Level in Arts, Social Science and Science. Some of these institutions are non-Accredited, some are in the process of submitting their proposals, and some are accredited and planning for the 2nd cycle of NAAC Accreditation. The heads and NAAC coordinator of 13 P.G. Departments of the University as well as the NAAC committee members of Sambalpur University also participated in the workshop.

Technical Sessions

The workshop was divided into three sessions namely Inaugural, Technical Session I and Technical Session II. The technical sessions in the programme were conducted by highly experienced Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru, Dr.RuchiTripathi, Asst. Advisor, ICT NAAC, Bengaluru and Prof. Sasikant Dash, Principal, Tagore Govt. Arts and Science College, Puducherry.

Technical Session I:

Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath discussed in details on NAAC Revised Assessment and Accreditation Framework (RAF). He, covered the aspects like List of documents required to be uploaded, Queries related to IIQA, SSR with dedicated Help Desk, IIQA Application Process, Changes Introduced in RAF, Preparation needed before during and after A & A process Stages, SSR Submission process and readiness, Newly introduced Key Indicators and Distribution of Metrics and Key Indicators across Criteria. He elaborated on the Curricular aspects viz. Curriculum Planning and Implementation, Academic Flexibility, Curriculum Enrichment, Feedback System; Teaching-Learning and Evaluation criteria viz. Student Enrolment and Profile, Catering to Student Diversity, Teaching -Learning Process,
Teacher Profile and Quality, Evaluation Process and Reforms, Student Performance and Learning Outcomes, Student Satisfaction Survey; Research, Innovation and Extension aspects viz. Resource Mobilization for Research, Innovation Ecosystem, Research Publications and Awards, Extension Activities and Collaborations; Infrastructure and Learning Resources viz. Physical facilities, Library as a Learning Resource, IT Infrastructure, Maintenance of Campus Infrastructure. He further discussed on Student Support and Progression, Institutional Values and Best Practices, QIF metric and DVP report. Importance of contributions for Made in India, Swachha Bharat, Digital India, Make in India, Startup India ventures were also included in his discussion.


*The Technical Session-I* was followed by Lunch Break.

**Technical Session II:**

Prof. Sasikant Dash discussed about the role of Principals in making the colleges. He said that the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) should be created as a first step and all the required data should be provided to the IQAC by the stakeholders. He further advised that inter- and intra-committee meetings should be held regularly. He also stressed upon the relevance of Gandhian Philosophy in enhancing the Quality of an Educational institute. He discussed on discipline and cleanliness indicators. He also addressed on the roles of NSS and NCC in enhancing the importance of the colleges.

Both the sessions were run in interactive mode. The queries were duly answered by all the technical speakers to the satisfaction of the participants.

The awareness programme ended with vote of thanks offered by Dr. Hirak Kumar Chakraborty to the participants, higher authorities, committee members and the resource persons.

**Benefits Achieved**

The initiative of the IQAC and NAAC Committee of SU and NAAC, Bengaluru for organizing the Awareness Programme was highly appreciated by all the participants. It clarified them about various issues, problems and difficulties faced by institutions, the benefits of NAAC accreditation, the methodology of assessment, students satisfaction survey, the data collection, DVV process and its validation, role of third party in various processes of assessment, fee payable, time and process of applying for NAAC accreditation etc. All the participants showed their commitment for quality enhancement and sustenance in their institutions.

Prof. Biswajit Satpathy  
Convenor-NAAC Committee  
Sambalpur University
Photo Gallery: Awareness Programme on RAF NAAC Dated: 25.09.2019

Entrance of the Venue: Department of Physics, Sambalpur University

Seminar Hall, Department of Physics, Sambalpur University

The Awareness programme begins with lighting in front of Goddess Samaleswari by the Guests

Dr. Hirak Kumar Chakraborty, Asst. Coordinator NAAC Committee managing the process of the awareness programme

Glimpses from the Inaugural Session

Participants present during the Inaugural Session
Prof. Biswajit Satpathy, Convenor NAAC Committee: Addressing on the importance of the Awareness Program and Introducing the guests

Prof. Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Chairman P.G. Council: Addressing as Chief Guest on the importance of the Awareness Program

Prof. Sasikant Dash, Principal Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry: Addressing during Inaugural Session

Prof. Amiya Kumar Dash, Advisor ICT NAAC, Bengaluru: Addressing during Inaugural Session

Dr. Ruchi Tripathy, Assistant Advisor ICT NAAC, Bengaluru: Addressing during Inaugural Session

Prof. D.P. Ojha, Director IQAC, Sambalpur University: Addressing during Inaugural Session

Prof. Pradipta Kumar Behera, Director College Development Council: Addressing during Inaugural Session

Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Pattanayak, Deputy Director, NAAC Committee: Offering vote of thanks
Glimpses from the Technical Session

Prof. Amiya Kumar Dash, Advisor ICT NAAC, Bengaluru, Discussing about the Key Criteria and their weightage

Dr. Ruchi Tripathy, Assistant Advisor ICT NAAC, Bengaluru, Discussing about the Grade Calculation methodology

Prof. Sasikant Dash, Principal Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry Discussing about the Role of Principals and IQAC Coordinators

Participants present in the Awareness programme