GET THAT GRADE

A good accreditation from them can prove to be a big game changer for any institute, such is the value that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has always had.

SPEEDS IN INDIA ON A PERPETUAL BUFFER

See a report by broadband speed analysis firm Ookla, India's mobile broadband speed is slower than that of our neighbours Pakistan and Bangladesh. No wonder the buffering symbol just won't leave us alone!

LESSONS FROM THE CANTEEN

Check out our all new green-lime, back-bench column from Ram Mohan Papaty, about what you will learn from college, but probably not in class! [MORE]

FACTOR IT IN

How much weightage do you give NAAC grades while applying to an institute? Tweet to us @express_edex
Every college in India is thirsty for a NAAC grade because getting that coveted golden star is the pathway to greater grants, educational status and pull. NAAC's Director S C Sharma walks us through how NAAC has evolved in its 25 years of existence.

That uncanny ‘NAAC’ for great education

The room in your college that has a board proclaiming it’s the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is almost with universally high-active. It’s a place where the future of the nation is at stake. And the NAAC is in the room, making sure that the quality of education is maintained and improved.

Over the years, NAAC has evolved into a robust and effective accreditation body, and it has played a crucial role in shaping the educational landscape of India. The journey of NAAC from its inception to its current position is a testament to its commitment to improving the quality of education in the country.

NAAC has been functioning well since it was started 25 years ago and it has slowly picked up. From my reading of the [redacted] it is a body that is functioning as an independent body. The regulatory bodies like UGC, the accreditation bodies will work with the regulatory bodies, but the NAAC will function independently.

Will enforcement not be a matter of concern if the regulatory bodies work with the regulatory bodies in a manner where institutions are found lacking? NAAC functions like a Lokayukta, a regulatory body, independently and autonomously and such is the need for such oversight. The government has to have a system to ensure that NAAC is not only doing an assessment and accreditation, but it will only give the benchmark for quality in higher education.

There have been times when desiring colleges may not have the know-how to make their case before NAAC. What happens then? In such cases, NAAC makes it an effort to go to these colleges, make the acquaintance and eradicate their thoughts and see to it that they are brought into the ambit of NAAC. Some of my senior colleagues have gone 36 times to the North East in bringing colleges into the ambit of NAAC.

How much of a role do you foresee for quality assessors in the future? The next 25 years should see the college being away of this kind of grading. Institutions should either be accredited or not. If a college is not accredited, it plays a crucial role in improving the quality of education.

In conclusion, the evolution of NAAC reflects the country's commitment to improving the quality of education. NAAC's role in the future will be to ensure that colleges and universities maintain and improve their standards, and that the country's educational system remains competitive and effective.