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F30(36)SPD/RUSA/NAAC/2018/322

Date: 16 August 2021

The Principal,
All Govt. Colleges,
Rajasthan

Sub: Establishment of Internal Assurance Quality Cell (IQAC) in the College

Dear Madam/ Sir,

The overall quality of higher education is the main concern in policy framing and for that it has been made mandatory to obtain accreditation of all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to improve quality. Ministry of Education, Govt. of India has also stated that grants under RUSA scheme will be given to accredited institutions only.

The establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) by every Higher Education Institution is a major step in pushing long-term quality standards. It can promote and determine quality related activities and issues through various programmes and activities for all the stakeholders of the institution.

IQAC in any institution is a significant administrative body that is responsible for all quality matters. It is the prime responsibility of IQAC to initiate, plan and supervise various activities that are necessary to increase the quality of the education imparted in an institution or college. **IQAC is the think tank of the organisation to make the organisation a better place**

In pursuance for performance evaluation, assessment & accreditation & quality up-gradation of institutions of higher education, all Govt. Colleges are hereby directed to mandatorily establish (if not already established) an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a quality sustenance measure. Establishment of IQAC should be done and the same should be reported to the respective District Nodal College (nominated as per DLQAC scheme document) latest by 20-08-2021

Enclosed: a) NAAC guidelines on establishment of IQAC


16/08/2021
(Sandesh Nayak), IAS
Chairman SLQAC

State Project Director (RUSA) &
Commissioner, College Education

F30(36)SPD/RUSA/NAAC/2018/322

Date: 16 August 2021

Copy for information & necessary action:

1. Website In charge CCE, for uploading on circulars


(Dr. Vimallesh Soni)
Member Secretary SLQAC &
Joint Director (RUSA)

Guidelines for the Creation of the
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
and Submission of Annual Quality
Assurance Report (AQAR) by Accredited
Institutions

(AQAR format in line with the revised manual of
Affiliated/Constituent Colleges)
(with effect from the academic year 2020-21)



राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

P. O. Box. No. 1075, Opp: NLSIU, Nagarbhavi, **Bengaluru - 560 072**India

NAAC

VISION

To make quality the defining element of higher education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives.

MISSION

- ☞ To arrange for periodic assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education or units thereof, or specific academic programmes or projects;*
- ☞ To stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality of teaching-learning and research in higher education institutions;*
- ☞ To encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in higher education;*
- ☞ To undertake quality-related research studies, consultancy and training programmes, and*
- ☞ To collaborate with other stakeholders of higher education for quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance.*

Value Framework

To promote the following core values among the HEIs of the country:

- Contributing to National Development*
- Fostering Global Competencies among Students*
- Inculcating a Value System among Students*
- Promoting the Use of Technology*
- Quest for Excellence*

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P. O. Box. No. 1075, Nagarbhavi,

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National Assessment and Accreditation Council

Date: 10th July 2020

**Academic Year 2019-2020
(Considering COVID 19 pandemic)**

For the academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 depending on the spread and intensity of the Pandemic, the academic schedules will differ from State to State or University to University, NAAC shall relax the condition making flexible and open-ended provisions for deciding the academic years. Through this institutions will be permitted to make the submissions as and when they complete the academic year.

Further for those who have already submitted their applications, in view of the pandemic situation NAAC shall extend the time for submitting the data including the academic year 2019-2020 within three months from the Government notification to resume the normal academic activities and completion of the conduct of examinations and other academic processes by the Higher Education Institution.

**Sd-
Director, NAAC**

***Guidelines for the Creation of the
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
and Submission of Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR)
in Accredited Institutions***

Introduction

In pursuance of its action plan for performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation and quality upgradation of institutions of higher education, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru proposes that every accredited institution should establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a quality sustenance measure. Since quality enhancement is a continuous process, the IQAC will become a vital part of the institution's quality assurance system and work towards ensuring quality enhancement and sustenance. The prime task of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the overall performance of its institution. For this, during the post-accreditation period, institutions need to channelize their efforts towards promoting holistic academic excellence including the implementation of peer team's recommendations.

The guidelines provided in the following pages will facilitate the institution in the creation and operation of the IQAC. The establishment of the IQAC is the first step towards institutionalization and internalization of quality enhancement initiatives. Its success depends on its sense of belongingness and participation in all the activities of the institution. It will not be yet another hierarchical structure or a record-keeping unit of the institution but will be a facilitative and participative unit of the institution. It has the potential to become a vehicle for ushering in quality enhancement through its planned and interventionist strategies to remove deficiencies and enhance quality, as in Quality Circles in industries.

IQAC – Vision

To promote quality culture as the prime concern of Higher Education Institutions through institutionalizing and internalizing all the quality-enhancing and sustaining initiatives taken with internal and external support.

Objective

The primary aim of the IQAC is

- To develop a mechanism to promote conscious, consistent and catalytic action plans to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.
- To promote institutional quality enhancement and sustenance through the internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of the best practices.

Strategies

IQAC shall evolve a mechanism and procedures for

- a) Ensuring timely, efficient and progressive performance of academic, administrative and financial units;
- b) Adoption of relevant and quality academic and research programmes;
- c) Ensuring equitable access to and affordability of academic programmes for various sections of the society;
- d) Optimization and integration of modern methods of teaching and learning;
- e) Ensuring credible assessment and evaluation processes;
- f) Ensuring the proper allocation, adequacy and maintenance of support structure and services;
- g) Sharing of research findings and networking with other institutions in India and abroad.

Functions

- a) Development and application of quality benchmarks;
- b) Setting parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the institution;
- c) Facilitating the creation of a learner-centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty development to adopt the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process;
- d) Collection and analysis of feedback from all the stakeholders on quality-related institutional processes;
- d) Dissemination of information on various quality parameters to all the stakeholders;
- e) Organization of intra- and inter-institutional workshops and seminars on quality- related themes and promotion of quality circles;
- f) Documentation of various programmes/activities leading to quality improvement;
- g) Acting as a nodal agency of the institution for coordinating quality-related activities, including adoption and dissemination of the best practices;
- h) Development and maintenance of institutional database through MIS for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing institutional quality;
- i) Periodical conduct of Academic and Administrative Audits along with their follow-up activities; and
- j) Preparation and submission of the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) as per the guidelines and parameters of NAAC.

Benefits

IQAC will facilitate / contribute to

- a) Ensuring clarity and focus in the institution's march towards quality enhancement;
- b) Ensuring internalization of quality culture;
- b) Ensuring enhancement and coordination among the various units and activities of the institution and institutionalizing all good practices;
- c) Providing a sound basis for decision-making to improve institutional functioning;
- d) Acting as a dynamic system for quality changes in HEIs; and
- e) Building a sound methodology for documentation and internal communication.

Composition of the IQAC

The IQAC should be constituted in every institution under the chairpersonship of the Head of the Institution with heads of key academic and administrative units and a few teachers and a few distinguished educationists and representatives of the local management and stakeholders as members.

The composition of the IQAC should be as follows:

1. Chairperson: Head of the Institution
2. Teachers to represent all levels (Assistant Professor and Associate Professor) (Three to eight)
3. One member from the Management
4. The senior administrative officer (Office Superintendent/Manager)
5. One nominee each from the Local Society/Trust, Students and Alumni
6. One nominee each from the Employer/Industrialists/Stakeholders
7. One of the senior teachers as the Coordinator of the IQAC

The composition of the IQAC will depend on the size and complexity of the institution and accordingly the representation of teachers may vary. The IQAC helps the institution in planning and monitoring quality-related activities. It ensures the various stakeholders' and beneficiaries' cross-sectional participation in the institution's quality-enhancement activities. The guidelines given here are only indicative and will help the institutions in their quality-sustenance activities.

The membership of the nominated members shall be for a period of two years. The IQAC should meet at least once in every quarter. The quorum for the meeting shall be two-thirds of the total number of members. The Agenda, Minutes and Action Taken Reports are to be documented and maintained electronically in a retrievable format.

While selecting these members, several precautions need to be taken. A few of them are listed below:

- ♦ It is advisable to choose persons from different backgrounds who have earned respect for their integrity and excellence in their teaching and research. Moreover, they should be aware of the ground realities of the institutional environment. They should be known for their commitment to improving the quality of teaching and learning.
- ♦ It is advisable to change the Coordinator every two/three years to usher in new thoughts and activities in the institution.
- ♦ It would be appropriate to choose senior administrators and persons in charge of institutional services such as library, computer centre, estate office, student welfare, administration, academic tasks, examination and planning and development.
- ♦ The management representative should be aware of the institution's objectives, strengths and limitations, and should be committed to its improvement. The local Society/Trust representatives should be of a high social standing and should have made significant contributions to society and to education, in particular.

The Role of the Coordinator

The role of the Coordinator of the IQAC is crucial in ensuring the effective functioning of all the members. The IQAC Coordinator may be a senior and competent person with rich experience and exposure to quality aspects. He/ She may be a full-time functionary or a senior academician/administrator entrusted with additional responsibility as the IQAC Coordinator. Secretarial assistance should be ensured by the administration. It is essential that the coordinator has a sound knowledge of computers and data management.

Operational Features of the IQAC

Quality assurance is a by-product of the ongoing efforts of an institution to define its objectives and chalk out a work plan to achieve them and also specify the checks and balances to evaluate the degree to which each of the tasks is fulfilled. Hence devotion and commitment to improvement rather than mere institutional control is the basis for devising procedures and instruments for assuring quality. The IQAC has to ensure that whatever is done in the institution for higher education is done efficiently and effectively. In order to do this, the IQAC will have to first establish procedures and modalities to collect data and information on the various aspects of the functioning of the institution. The IQAC Coordinator has a major role in implementing these functions. The IQAC may derive support from the already existing units and mechanism that contribute to the functions listed above.

Institutions are requested to submit the AQAR every year and the submission should start after one year from the date of accreditation. A functional IQAC and timely submission of the AQAR are the minimum institutional requirements to go in for the second, third and subsequent cycles of accreditation. During the institutional visit, the NAAC peer team will interact with the IQAC to know about its functioning, progress, and the quality sustenance initiatives undertaken by it.

The AQAR may be part of the Annual Report. It shall be approved by the statutory body/bodies of the HEIs (such as the Syndicate/Governing Council/Executive Council/Board of Management) which will also monitor the quality enhancement measures undertaken by the IQAC.

The IQAC may create its exclusive window tab on its institutional website for keeping the documents pertaining to NAAC, Peer Team Reports, AQAR, and Certificate of Accreditation. It shall regularly upload/report on its activities and host the AQAR as well.

Revised Accreditation Framework

NAAC launched the Revised Accreditation Framework in July 2017 and hence the AQAR format also was modified in tune with the new methodology. The tools and parameters in the new AQAR format have been designed in such a way that the preparation of the AQAR would facilitate the HEI's SSR preparation for the upcoming cycle of accreditation. It is hoped that new AQAR format would facilitate Higher Education Institutions in creating a good database at the institutional level for enhancing a culture of excellence.

As per the Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF), NAAC-accredited institutions need to submit the AQAR online. Henceforth, HEIs need not submit the printed/hard copy of the AQAR to NAAC. The login ID for the online submission of the AQAR will be the e-mail ID used for the Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA). The AQAR of the preceding year should be submitted to NAAC before 31st December every year. When institutions submit the AQAR online, they will receive an automated response from the NAAC portal.

Mandatory Submission of AQAR by IQAC

The Executive Committee of NAAC has decided that with effect from 16th September 2016 regular submission of the AQAR is mandatory for the second and subsequent cycles of accreditation.

The following are the prerequisites for the submission of AQAR for all Higher Education Institutions opting for the second and subsequent cycles of Assessment and Accreditation:

- The institution should have a functional IQAC.
- The minutes of IQAC meeting(s) and compliance to the decisions taken should be uploaded on the institutional website.
- The institution should have uploaded the AQAR on its institutional website for access to all its stakeholders.

Note: The terms and abbreviations used in the AQAR are in accordance with the respective NAAC manuals. Please refer to the glossary for the meaning of specific terms and abbreviations used in the AQAR.