

The Role of IQAC in Sustaining Quality of Institutes of Higher Education

Prof. Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. Candidate

=====

Abstract

The establishment of IQAC in the institutes of higher education by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been brought many substantial changes in the colleges, universities and institutes of higher education. IQAC is being very instrumental in bringing about so many positive changes in the institutes of higher educations. The NAAC has led down some guiding principles to establish IQAC and how should it function in the premises of the universities/ institutions. Now every university/institute of higher education is having IQAC actively functioning in its premises for last ten years or so. The role of IQAC has proven as quite significant in all these years to create a kind of positive change in the overall functioning of the colleges/universities. This paper is an attempt to take look into the matter as to how and in what ways IQAC functions and brings quality in the overall development of institutes of higher education and to find out the role of IQAC in terms of quality assurance, sustaining in regard with all the core elements. This paper will also state some of the observations of functioning of the IQAC in the colleges.

Key Words:: IQAC, NAAC, Quality sustaining, revised guidelines of IQAC, Function of IQAC, Academic activities, administration of college/institute, Conducive atmosphere, Role of IQAC etc.

Introduction

The quality requires constant efforts so that it is maintained and sustained thoroughly. As Foster rightly says ‘Quality is never an accident’ rather it requires ‘high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilful execution’ so quality is not come to us accidentally rather it requires a constant efforts for an individual or an institute. Therefore in terms of enhancing and

sustaining quality in higher education, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been making constant efforts by introducing new concepts, guiding principles and some measures of developing quality in the institutes of higher learning.

Indian Higher Education and Establishment of NAAC

The Indian system of higher education has always been undergone so many changes and tackled with challenges since independence. There were so many challenges to which our educational system has responded positively during all these years. One of such substantial changes came in the form of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) which was established by the UGC at Bangalore in 1994 in India to ensure and enhance the quality of Indian higher education. As suggested in guiding principles that the functions of NAAC incorporate -performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation and quality up gradation of institutions of higher education. And the prime objective of the accreditation process is to develop a quality conscious system in higher education institutions where excellence, relevance to market needs and participation by all stake holders are ensured

NAAC and Introduction of IQAC in Colleges/Institutes of Higher Education

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore has introduced Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to all the college and institutions as a post-accreditation quality sustenance measure. As quality enhancement is a continuous process, the IQAC has to become an integral part of the institution's system and needs to work towards fulfilment of the goals i.e. quality enhancement and sustenance in almost all the core elements. The major concern of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious and consistent improvement in the overall performance of institution. This is expected from IQAC in any university or an institution.

The Revised Guidelines of IQAC

The revised guidelines of IQAC are devised by the NAAC and aims, strategies and functions which are expected from the IQAC to be followed in the university/institute are as follow:

Aims

- To develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.
- To promote measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices.

Strategies

IQAC shall evolve mechanisms and procedures for

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

Some of the Functions Expected of the IQAC

- a) Development and application of quality benchmarks/parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the institution;
- b) Facilitating the creation of a learner-centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty maturation to adopt the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process;
- c) Arrangement for feedback response from students, parents and other stakeholders on quality-related institutional processes;
- d) Dissemination of information on various quality parameters of higher education;

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 16:11 November 2016

Prof. Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. Candidate

The Role of IQAC in Sustaining Quality of Institutes of Higher Education

- e) Organization of inter and intra institutional workshops, seminars on quality related themes and promotion of quality circles;
- f) Documentation of the 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 best practices;
- h) Development and maintenance of institutional database through MIS for the purpose of maintaining /enhancing the institutional quality;
- i) Development of Quality Culture in the institution;
- j) Preparation of the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) as per guidelines and parameters of NAAC, to be submitted to NAAC.

(Revised Guidelines of NAAC, 2013, p.3-4)

Are the Guidelines of IQAC Followed?

Are the guidelines of IQAC followed? Is the quality sustained and ensured? What are the measures taken? What are the difficulties in deploying all these? How to maintain quality in higher education institutes with help of IQAC? These are some of the questions we need to discuss in the light of this paper.

Since there is a good awareness in regard to quality enhancement in higher education institutes, the guidelines are followed and IQAC is quite functioning in almost all the institutes. However, there is a lot of scope for improvement. Though the guidelines followed, IQAC is functioning, but there are hardly few institutions where quality has become a habit and efforts are taken continuously.

How SIQAC Work Effectively?

The role of IQAC can be very instrumental in the overall development of the college/institute. The Principal, being the chairman of IQAC, the co-ordinator of IQAC and its members should be able to create a conducive atmosphere in terms of core elements stated by NAAC like –teaching and learning, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, teachers’

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 16:11 November 2016

Prof. Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. Candidate

The Role of IQAC in Sustaining Quality of Institutes of Higher Education

academic and professional development, research and consultancy, students' supportive services etc. The principal / Head of the institute and the co-ordinator of IQAC should chalk out a plan at the beginning of academic year and try to implement as effectively as possible. The IQAC should see to it that how maximum number of teachers shall participate in National and International conferences and other research activities and trainings. The IQAC should also make constant efforts in terms of providing students supportive services properly to the students of the college and also see to it that how maximum number of students takes part in all these students' supportive services.

The IQAC should play a key role in planning, monitoring and evaluating the academic activities of the college/institution. The IQAC should devise an academic calendar at the beginning of academic year by considering the academic plan of the affiliating university. Generally the academic calendar should incorporate teaching and practical schedule, examination slots, guest lectures, tours and excursion, day celebration and observations, local programmes and institutional programme, industrial visit, co-curricular and extra-curricular and cultural activities/programmes and research activities. Moreover, IQAC shall also conduct regular meetings of the faculty members and the staff to evaluate and monitor the academic plan time to time during the year. If this is followed with serious thought and change and modify certain things whenever and wherever needed. Then the IQAC of that particular college/institute can able to create a very good atmosphere in the college premises.

The role of IQAC can also be instrumental in bringing about some positive change in the administration of the college/institute. The IQAC should also arrange some orientation sessions for administrative staff and other supportive staff of the college so that a sense of responsibility can be created among the administrative staff and other supportive staff. The IQAC should also see to it that the administrative work is decentralize and students and staff friendly sop that a very good atmosphere can be created and a good will can be established about the college among the students and naturally it will lead to the society. Another crucial thing is that IQAC shall also involve other stake-holders like management, alumni and parent teacher association members and industrial officials.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 16:11 November 2016

Prof. Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. Candidate

The Role of IQAC in Sustaining Quality of Institutes of Higher Education

Conclusion

Thus, the role of IQAC is very instrumental in bringing about so many positive changes in and around the college premises. Moreover, IQAC can create a very good academic atmosphere in the premises so that the quality is maintained and enhanced time to time.

References

Hegde G. and , B. S. Ponmudiraj. 2013. Guidelines for the Creation of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Submission of Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) in Accredited Institutions. Retrieved from <http://www.naac.gov.in/AQAR.asp>, p.3-4.

Foster, W.A. Quotes retrieved from:
http://thinkexist.com/quotation/quality_is_never_an_accident-it_is_always_the/226780.html



Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SLET., Ph.D. Candidate
Assistant Professor in English &
Research Scholar
S. P. Pune University
Ganeshkhind
Pune 411007
Maharashtra
India
sandipnikam59@rediffmail.com

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 16:11 November 2016

Prof. Sandip J. Nikam, M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. Candidate
The Role of IQAC in Sustaining Quality of Institutes of Higher Education