



# Best Practices – A Sine Qua Non For Higher Education

**Dr. Diptansu Bhusan Pati**, Faculty in Education, Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751007, Odisha, India

**Dr. Minati Mohanty (Rted.)**, Ex-Associate Professor, Salipur Autonomous College, Salipur, Cuttack, State:-Odisha, Pin:-754203, Odisha, India

## ABSTRACT

Higher education is the index of the nation and mirror of development of education of the people. The Quality of a nation depends on the Quality of its Citizen in turn depends on the Quality of education imparted in the educational institutions. As home is the ideal center of heaven with the love and affection, Care and share, support of kith and kin, family and friends as a temple can be the Ideal Centre of devotion or place of worship with the support of Cooperation of priest, trustees and devotees so also an educational institution can be ideal centre of excellence with evolving a lot of good practices and activities by the teachers, employees, students, parents and public as the immediate stakeholders. Hence, the paper has intended to highlight the different critical parameters of best practices as Identified accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the process of initiating and elevating such practices which will not only develop healthy and Conductive climate inside the campus but also lead to a positive impact on the regular functioning of the institution so as to manifest the credibility and cheerful life of a college or university

[Key words - Higher education, Quality education, best practices, NAAC Centre of excellence]

## I. INTRODUCTION

Best Practices in general are the long cherished dream of an educational institution. It is aptly said that practice makes man perfect “Any practice internally initiated, emulated and continuously practiced lead to elevate and cater positive impact on the regular functioning of the institution can be commonly called as the best practices

In Common Practice, best practices are the most efficient course of action. It is the best way of Practice to achieve the objective of an institution and used as benchmark and reflect the credibility and cheerful life of an institution.

In nutshell, best Practices are a set of ideas represent the most efficient Course of action.

- Finding and using the best ways of working to achieve the objectives and used as benchmark.

- Recording of practices/documentation is a means of Quality improvement.
- adding value to human Life and support main cause of an institution through quality education
- a Source/means to perform social responsibility
- completely student oriented and needful to society
- Positive impact in the assessment and accreditation Practice in early grade for an educational institution

Thus best Practices are a source to perform social responsibility and creates conducive environment among stakeholders and society. Moreover it is the use of technology in transforming the organizational climate of the college from grass root level.

## **II. NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF IN HIGHER EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES**

Due to mushrooming growth of higher education Institutions in the Preceding decades the University grants Commission (UGC) and the government of India have suggested to establish a sister organisation NAAC to assess the quality of the Institution conforming a grade so as to avail the grant and other feasible assistance to an educational institution. Best Practices has been introduced as one of the criteria of NAAC for the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions. It supports the stakeholders for the all round development of an institutions in addition to teaching, learning and evaluation. As per the old approach on the former criteria, the NAAC has provided 100 points in the overall assessment process that means formerly accreditation was carried out 100 percent approved by NAAC who were imported orientation training in dealing with stakeholders (students, teachers and management) through SWOT analysis and SMART action plan.

Accordingly the peer-team activated the Stakeholders to strengthen the strengths and weaken the weakness. As such many institutions had the chance of improving Grade in subsequent cycles of accreditation. There are varieties of best practices carried out in institution as per their innovation.

But today NAAC has introduced best practices as a scientific approach to empower the stakeholders to transform the educational institution to centre of excellence for Quality improvement.

Best Practices is a benchmark approach to Quality management with Quality sustenance and Quality enhancement. It reflects the credibility and cheerfulness of the educational institution by instituting scientific approach to the issues of society, adds value to human life and boost up the educational environment.

## **III. NAAC CRITERIA-WISE BEST PRACTICES**

NAAC has identified the best practices of an educational institution as per the following

Criteria:-

- Curricular aspects
- Teaching Learning & Evaluation
- Research, Innovation and Extension
- Infrastructure & Learning Resources
- Student support & Progression
- Governance, Leadership and Management

- Institutional Values and Best Practices

#### **IV. BEST PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF CURRICULAR PRACTICES**

A best practice varies from one institution to other institutions so far as best practices in curricular aspect is concerned. The following Curricular enrichment practices may be undertaken

- Statutory provision in changing the Composition of Board of studies 30% of external experts.
- Consulting the stakeholders (student, alumni parents, industry and social organization) while preparing the curriculum
- Academic linkage with national and international Universities for introducing choice based curriculum in different degree programmes
- Introduce new courses as per global needs Science viz Bio-informatics, Bio-medical science, Neuro sciences, Molecular Biology, Comparative sociology, intellectual property rights, cyber criteria's, information security etc. at the PG Diploma level.

#### **V. BEST PRACTICES IN TEACHING, LEARNING, AND EVALUATION**

- introduce e-learning modules to support CBCS Pattern
- Installing learning technology review of the student's needs and content availability involving faculty from top to down.
- using appropriate content from other region of the nation
- introduce student feedback mechanism for transactional methodologies
- Formation of a Committee of teachers from all departments to optimize the resources and talents in preparing curriculum context, Model Question papers for each course.
- Determine the assessment procedure and prepare Common time table.

#### **VI. BEST PRACTISES IN RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND EXTENSION.**

- Project should be conducted on contemporary Problems (Street Children, slum workers in the marginalized sector, slum dwellers, women victims, sexual harassment etc.)
- Departmental semester should be conducted on diversified curriculum Cafeteria model offer Job - oriented and Skill based Courses.
- Introduce extension activities through outreach programme to serve the society and thereby take the college community.
- As regard to the Innovation, value added course (VAC), inter disciplinary courses outside the classroom hours viz: problem serve culture, Diary farming, Computer, Graphics, astronomy online Classes for college and University Students for Curriculum enrichment provide funding to the institution.

#### **VII. INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES AS BEST PRACTICES**

Digitalization of education as the best practice is needed to expand the infrastructure and information communication technology based education is the learning resources provide access to large masses of students and arouse interest in learning process, develop abilities for employment research and to be competent in an emerging globalized world, ICT based education can change the nation to a knowledge

society. The use of e-learning provides universal access, quality and equality in the country. It enables connectivity and access of content, content generation, mentoring, testing, certification and encourage talents provides e-book and e-journals etc. it provides quick evaluation process a high impact brand for e-Journals and provide incentive- based payment for publishing high quality research papers (peer reviewed). It empowers teachers with digital literacy and competent and comfortable in using digital mode of teaching and develop multilingual content for the learner. It develops a strong inventory of digital learning in education and administration for improving teachers training and course curriculum. It develops content delivery through EDUSAT in various languages.

### VIII. BEST PRACTICES IN STUDENT AND PROGRESSION.

The Student (new comer) feels uncomfortable and inconvenient to accommodate into the new environment of the College. Hence the College is required to initiate an induction meeting to generate safe and secure environment, sustain interest for retention and develop friendly relation with student. The meeting will provide a glimpse about college activities viz: Course Advisory Committee, Class Attendance for all Ist year students, faculty learning committer examination timing, first year excellence observance of college foundation Day, National Days, Celebration of Ganesh and Saraswati Puja, Cultural activities, Athletic organization of social activities, literary activities etc.

### IX. BEST PRACTICES IN GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT.

The College has to initiate some important activities and provide some techniques to implement the same as best practice to improve quality of the institution.

Tips of Activities	Techniques of implementing
Student Retention Strategy	A group of Advisory bodies meet individually or in groups with 1 <sup>st</sup> year students within two weeks of 1 <sup>st</sup> month.
Mandatory class Attendance policy	Report Students who miss the classes were taken two classes continuously
Student Retention programme	Build a relationship with faculty and use resource with time management Skill
Learning Community	Build a sense of Academic and social community
Support services	Take care of poor's, low income background students though scholarship provisions
Examination Timing –	maximum unit test and term end major test
Observance of National Day and festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity about intuitional Identity and mission.</li> <li>• Direct involvement of an institution and faculty develop integration among student and staff</li> </ul>
Social activities (NSS, Red cross, NCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impart knowledge on social justice and ensures quality</li> <li>• Get ample knowledge on social, cultural and economic environment</li> <li>• Test realities at local and national level</li> <li>• Provide first-hand knowledge on various social values</li> <li>• Develop fellow feelings, national understandings and unity</li> <li>• Inculcate personality development through service</li> </ul>

## X. BEST PRACTICES IN MAINTAINING INSTITUTIONAL VALUES

The college has to imitate some activities on social and moral values for quality management as follows:

- Creation of a corpus fund subscribed by the well-to-do students community, teachers and employees, well placed alumni, local businessman, groups of institutions and corporate have to provide access, study material to the poor needy students
- The internal quality assessment cell (IQAC) has to constitute a committee of dedicated selfless facilities and staff, nominee and secretary from faculties and a treasure from Non-teaching staff.
- Open a saving bank account and operate jointly by the secretary and an accountant for a minimum monthly subscription
- Invite application from genuine poor and talented students for payment of any financial assistance.
- Create a book bank to be donated voluntarily by the person, faculty and staff, stakeholders, businessman, NGOs
- Motivate publishers, reading book store to donate book, specimen and copies of books
- Maintain registration of books, names and donors
- Money credited to the corpus fund, goods donated deposit in different books.
- Maintain separate inventory of an goods and materials received in the shape of donation from NGO, almunis, students staff, local business men, and other stakeholders and monitoring these by a team of auditors of IQAC
- Transmission of book bank shall be duly audited by internal auditors
- Review of the activities twice annually through IQAC with ensure efficiency and transparency

## CONCLUSIONS

Best practices are real blessings for the poor folk. It provides financial and emotional feedback to pursue higher studies. It enables them to complete their studies get jobs and settle in the society. Best practices give a message that giving is a sacred human virtue, gains both morally and spiritually to get peace and divine blessings. The power of mercy is an act of God himself. The quality of mercy blesses him that gives and to him that takes. However best practices will enhance the quality of an institution and accelerate the spirit of sympathy, fellow feeling, generosity and reestablish the faith “All for one” and “one for all”.

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