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Study On NAAC Assessment And Accreditation Of Government Provincialized Colleges Of Dhemaji District Of Assam

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Abstract: The Indian higher education system has experienced different regulatory mechanisms since past decades. One of the prime organisations to ensure the quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India has been NAAC. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assesses the performance of Higher Education Institutions in India on different parameters like teaching and learning, innovation, infrastructure, research culture, governance, student support etc. In this study an effort is made to analyse the NAAC status of government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University.

Keywords: NAAC assessment, accreditation, Government provincialized colleges, Dhemaji, Assam

Introduction

The Indian higher education system has experienced different regulatory mechanisms since past decades. One of the prime organisations to ensure the quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India has been NAAC. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India in 1994. The NAAC is responsible for the accreditation of higher education institutions in India, which includes colleges and universities. The primary objective of NAAC is to promote and improve the quality of higher education in India. It does this by assessing and accrediting institutions based on their academic excellence, infrastructure, teaching-learning processes, research, and extension activities. The NAAC also promotes innovations and best practices in higher education institutions by providing them with feedback and recommendations for improvement.

The NAAC began its operations in 1994 with the accreditation of five colleges in Bangalore. Over the years, the NAAC has evolved and expanded its scope of work, and today it is recognized as the premier accreditation body for higher education institutions in India. The NAAC accreditation process involves a comprehensive evaluation of an institution based on various parameters. These parameters include curriculum design and delivery, teaching-learning and evaluation, research, innovations and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, governance, leadership, and management, and institutional values and best practices.

The NAAC has been instrumental in driving quality improvements in higher education institutions in India. It has created a culture of quality consciousness and accountability among institutions and has helped them to benchmark themselves against national and international standards. The NAAC has also helped to promote transparency and accountability in the higher education sector by providing credible information to stakeholders. NAAC has played a significant role in the growth and development of higher education in India. Its efforts have led to the improvement of the quality of education in the country, and it continues to work towards promoting excellence in higher education institutions.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognised institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution. NAAC evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial wellbeing and student services. (Chowdhury, 2024)

Quality in higher education is a conceptual term, which is very difficult to comprehend. This can only be measured through valid and reliable benchmarks. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is a premier agency in India to assess and accredit the quality levels in the Higher Education Institutions (HEI). It works under the Ministry of Education, Government of India and evaluate the quality performance of HEIs using well-defined benchmarks. There are many types of HEIs in the country like Universities, Colleges, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, etc., which are producing graduates every year. But the most important for any HEI is to mould a good human resource for the country with high ethical values to compete in the global challenging environment and they should be accountable for the social, economic, and technical development of the nation (Ravikumar, Sasmitarani and Rath, 2021)

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with headquarters in Bangalore to assess and accredit higher education institutions (HEIs) in India. Its objectives are to evaluate and accredit institutions of higher learning, enhance the quality of teaching, learning, and research, and offer financial support for workshops, conferences, and seminars. India is regarded as one of the biggest college and university systems in the entire globe, and fixing today's problems would require competent administration of these kinds of institutions. The purpose of the National Academic Accreditation Council (NAAC) is to ensure that higher education is of a high caliber. This was the driving force behind the NAAC's creation. Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are evaluated and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an independent organization created by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The socioeconomic and cultural growth of any country is greatly influenced by higher education. With an increase in both the number of educational institutions and learners enrolled in various programs, higher education in India has grown significantly in recent years. (Gautam, 2024).

Keeping these in view the study on NAAC accreditation status of government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University is conducted as such type of study has not been conducted in this proposed area.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the NAAC accreditation status of Government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University

Research Methodology

Descriptive research method is followed to conduct the study. Data are collected from websites of 14 government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University. One hundred seventyfive (175) colleges are affiliated to Dibrugarh University. Out of 175 colleges 98 colleges are government provincialized. In this study 14 government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji

district of Assam are considered. Information required for the study is collected from Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) and Self-Study Report (SSR) of the colleges.

Analysis of Data

Data collected from websites of 98 colleges are evaluated and analyzed to find the results. The data is processed using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). In this study the figures are converted to percentages and tabulated. Descriptive statistics viz mean is used to analyse the CGPA of the colleges.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of the study focuses only on the accreditation status of Government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district affiliated to Dibrugarh University. However, government provincialized colleges of other district of Assam affiliated to Dibrugarh University are excluded from the study

NAAC Criteria for evaluation of Affiliated Colleges

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution of University Grants Commission (UGC) which assesses the performance of Higher Education Institutions in India. NAAC evaluates the performance on multiple parameters in order to establish quality standards for the Higher Education Institutions (Singh et al, 2021). The HEIs need to apply with NAAC for getting the accreditation. The performance of institutions is evaluated on seven different criteria. Table 1 shows the detailed weightage of each criteria on which the working of Undergraduate and Post Graduate colleges is assessed. The institutions are graded under four different categories such as “A”, “B”, “C” and “D”. Table 2 shows the range of Institutional Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) as given by NAAC for the purpose of accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

Table 1
Criteria for evaluation of affiliated/constituent colleges given by NAAC

Criteria	Affiliated/constituent colleges	
	UG	PG
1. Curricular Aspects	100	100
2. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation	350	350
3. Research, innovations and extension	110	120
4. Infrastructure and Learning Resources	100	100
5. Student support and progression	140	130
6. Governance, Leadership and Management	100	100
7. Institutional values and best practices	100	100
Total score	1000	1000

Source: <http://naac.gov.in/index.php/en/>

Table 2
Range of institutional CGPA of NAAC

Range of Institutional CGPA	Letter Grade	Status
3.51-4.00	A++	Accredited
3.26-3.50	A+	Accredited
3.01-3.25	A	Accredited
2.76-3.00	B++	Accredited
2.51-2.75	B+	Accredited
2.01-2.50	B	Accredited
1.51-2.00	C	Accredited
≤1.50	D	Non-Accredited

Source: <http://naac.gov.in/index.php/en/>

Table 3

NAAC status of Government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district of Assam

Source: Author's compilation

As shown in table 3 three colleges of Dhemaji district have completed third cycle of NAAC assessment. Moridhal college has the highest NAAC CGPA of 3.12 as compared to CGPA of other colleges

Serial No.	Name of the College	Cycle of assessment	Grade	CGPA	Year of assessment
1	Dhemaji College	1 st Cycle	N/A	N/A	2004
		2 nd Cycle	B+	2.70	2012
		3 rd Cycle	B++	2.77	2023
2	Dhemaji Commerce college	1 st Cycle	C++	67.20	2004
		2 nd Cycle	B	2.15	N/A
3	Gogamukh College	1 st Cycle	C++	N/A	2004
		2 nd Cycle	B	2.51	2015
4	Machkhowa Degree College	1 st Cycle	B	2.40	2023
5	Moridhal College	1 st Cycle	C++	66.05	2005
		2 nd Cycle	B	2.54	2015
		3 rd Cycle	A	3.12	2024
6	MurkongSelek College	1 st Cycle	C++	66	2005
		2 nd Cycle	C	1.91	2015
7	Purbanchal College	1 st Cycle	B	2.02	2016
8	Silapathar College	1 st Cycle	B	72.0	2005
		2 nd Cycle	B+	2.62	2015
		3 rd Cycle	B++	2.98	2023
9	Silapathar Town College	1 st Cycle	B++	N/A	2023
10	Silapathar Science college	1 st Cycle	B+	2.70	2023
11	Simen chapori College	1 st Cycle	B+	2.60	2023
12	Sisiborgaon College	1 st cycle	B++	2.93	2023
13	Dhemaji Girls' College	1 st Cycle	B	2.21	2021
14	Jonai Girls' College	1 st Cycle	B	2.14	2022

of the district. Three colleges of the district are in the stage of second cycle of assessment. Eight colleges merely have completed the first cycle of assessment. The gap of assessment period of the colleges exceeds the NAAC required period of five years.

Table 4
Mean NAAC CGPA of colleges of Dhemaji district

CGPA Range	No. of Colleges
3.51-4.00	0
3.26-3.50	0
3.01-3,25	1 (7.14%)
2.76-3.00	4 (28.57%)
2.51-2.75	2 (14.29%)
2.01-2.50	6 (42.86%)
1.51-2.00	1 (7.14%)
Total Colleges	14 (100%)

Mean NAAC CGPA of colleges =2.51

As shown in table 4.the mean NAAC CGPA of government provincialized colleges of Dhemaji district is 2.51 which indicates that colleges of the district are in the range of B+ grad

Findings of the Study

From the observation of the study it is apparent that the information of AQAR and SSR is not completely displayed in college website. In this regard the name of colleges like Dhemaji College, Dhemaji Commerce College and Silapathar Town College may be mentioned. The NAAC period of assessment and accreditation exceeds almost all of the colleges of the district. Only three colleges of the district have completed the third cycle of assessment. Except these three colleges, other colleges have merely completed the first cycle and second cycle. The mean of NAAC CGPA of the colleges is just above the average.

Conclusion

Colleges of the district should adhere to the guideline of the NAAC and try to involve in the assessment process in proper duration of time as fixed by NAAC. The colleges which are in first and second cycle may plan to assess their institutions in time phased manner. The IQAC of the colleges of the district should make proper plan in seven criterion of NAAC in more systematic and inclusive way so that securing good grade become easy for the colleges.

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