



## Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions

Boda Srinivasa Rao, Lecturer, Department of English, Sir CRR (Autonomous) College, Eluru - 534007

**Abstract:** *I would like to come to the point i.e my selected subtheme: "Assessment And Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions" which should play a prominent role in promoting excellence in Higher Education. The U.G.C has started the National Assessment And Accreditation council (NAAC) to promote standards of learning in higher educational institutions in the country. It has divided the country into several regions including certain number of states to the region. These Regional Centers of NAAC visit the higher educational institutions, assess the institutions and the standards followed by them, finally arrive at a conclusion to award the institution with a grade like A, A+, A++, B, B+ etc., Once the NAAC accredited an institution with a grade, it will be in honor for a period of 5 years. Along with other things, the U.G.C will also consider This Grade, while sanctioning certain projects/ courses or financial assistance to the educational institutions.*

**Key words:** *educational institutions, Excellence, NAAC, U.G.C*

### Introduction:

The main Theme of the seminar itself poses several questions as to the Excellence and the need of its Promotion in Various Aspects of Life. The Development of Higher Education, being a part of various aspects of life, the excellence in it and the need of promoting it poses a very good number of questions. It is highly regrettable to pose the questions as to the Excellence in Various Aspects of Life even after nearly seven decades of the So Called Independence! At this Juncture, it is the minimum courtesy on our part, being the teachers of Higher Education, to remember the departed visionary of, the constitution and its implementation, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar !

"If the government, one who executes the things, is good at heart and mind, even if the constitution is bad, the results will be good, if the government is not good at mind and heart, even if the constitution

is good and great, the results will be bad" ! After having seen the murders of several intellectuals and threats posed to some intellectuals, being a teacher of High Education, I feel sincerely that the need of the day is promoting excellence in Higher Education, (along with various steps to be taken to prevent the fall of excellence in ethical standards of the country) and strict implementation of it to get its fruits even to the common man.

### Theme:

I would like to come to the point i.e my selected subtheme: "Assessment And Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions" which should play a prominent role in promoting excellence in Higher Education. The U.G.C has started the National Assessment And Accreditation council (NAAC) to promote standards of learning in higher educational institutions in the country. It has divided the country into several regions including certain number of



states to the region. These Regional Centers of NAAC visit the higher educational institutions, assess the institutions and the standards followed by them, finally arrive at a conclusion to award the institution with a grade like A, A+, A++, B, B+ etc., Once the NAAC accredited an institution with a grade, it will be in honor for a period of 5 years. Along with other things, the U.G.C will also consider This Grade, while sanctioning certain projects/ courses or financial assistance to the educational institutions. What happens actually is unpardonable! Do the colleges accredited at 'A' level have the standards assessed by the NAAC? It is a Million Dollar Question! The NAAC has several principles to follow to achieve certain targets in the accredited Colleges. For instance, I would put before you the following principles set by the NAAC :

If we come to examine these principles, let us take the first i.e., Democracy. Do we find democracy in the colleges accredited at 'A'/ more than that?

Principals of these colleges don't have a vision as to how the college

There is no question of a Dispensary; of course they are temporarily arranged to mislead the NAAC. Coming to the Library Facilities: there are buildings and books to some extent only, even these are not scientifically arranged to meet the needs of the students. What about Games and Sports; one can see the playground, but the ground is not busy with the students practicing games and sports regularly. The ground will be busy on Sundays and holidays filled with general public entertaining themselves with the CRICKET only. The P.Ds are seen in the playground only at the time of selections for competitions / tournaments.

administration should be and the steps they have to take to establish standards during their tenure. They believe only in Monarchism and drive away the spirit of democracy in almost all aspects of administration. Transparency is not seen anywhere! These values in turn are reflected in the attitude and practice of the lecturers and finally students learn monarchism and no democracy, they do things unilaterally giving no space for Transparency. There is no place for recording any kind of grievance from the students! But grievance cells appear in the campus at the time of NAAC'S visit. Coming to the grievance of girl –students and students of S.C, S.T, B.C. and Minorities are to be looked after by the so called God!.

Canteen facilities are just a namesake: poorer sections of the society started looking at education as a means of settlement financially, as a result more poor people have entered into the higher education. The canteens in the colleges do not cater to the needs of these students!

In spite of all these things prevailing, these colleges are assessed and accredited at 'A' / more than that for every five years! Coming to the Management Aspect : Government colleges are directly under the supervision of the government. We can see that rules and regulations are followed here at least to some extent. What about the Aided Colleges which are under the control of the Private Management? These colleges do have Registered Societies with General and Governing bodies.

To Speak about the aided Colleges and their Managements; One must have Courage, Conduct, Commitment and finally the Caste and Currency to support



one in case of threat. Nobody can expect a lecturer to have all these characteristics who has joined the service with Ideals, Courage, Conduct and Commitment only! The Managements are dominated by one of the Upper castes which are financially so sound, nobody dares even to look at them, let alone find fault with them!

The truth prevailed in these colleges of Managements will be revealed only through the examination of the RECORDS. The Records clearly show the Monarchism prevailed: from the enrolment of the Members into the General Body of the college to the Financial Activity carried in the college.

There are lectures' organizations, students' organizations, political parties, N.G.Os and M.L.As and M.Ps etc; Nobody dares to speak against the Managements and finally the PRESS, which telecasts 'Breaking News' on several things from time to time and also CONDUCTS PUBLIC OPINION POLL, too cannot raise its voice!

The NAAC do not know or it cannot see THIS REALITY! It just assesses and accredits at 'A'/more than that! This is how there is no democracy & transparency, how can you think of "Student Centeredness?" you don't find Academic Atmosphere in all these institutions. But one can see physical growth in the form of Buildings, Infrastructure etc., and it is also seen that there are a good number of M.Phils, P.hds and a record, of conducted Seminars, Workshops, attended seminars, presented papers and winning of Awards and Rewards too, is maintained!

But what is the use of these things practically? Colleges are assessed and accredited with a good grade, like wise

identified as C.P.Es and get more funds. Employees are benefited financially in the form of acquiring qualification for C.A.S. and further advantages. Do these centers of higher education cultivate and nurture any academic values which are finally reflected in the society?

The most unfortunate thing is that there are IQACS in these colleges whose function is to see the QUALITY is maintained in all aspects of the administration and values. We do know, how they are in practice?

Autonomous status also comes under the process of assessment and accreditation. The very spirit behind giving autonomy is defeated. In fact autonomy is meant for improving standards, but do we find any such thing practically? The records are built up and everything is alright at physical level but what about the actual results (not the percentage of pass of students) behind all this financial investment? Yet! colleges are assessed and accredited at 'A', 'A+', 'A ++' etc., for every five years.

So, after having observed This Entire Scene, we can see that there is no promotion of excellence in higher educational institutions! but a systematic farce has been running!. That's why it was recommended recently that the U.G.C itself be abolished.

To conclude, here are my suggestions that NAAC should follow to promote excellence in higher educational institutions:

The NAAC is to restructure its outlook in assessing and accrediting the colleges:

1. The principals of these colleges must be oriented from time to time as to the values of Democracy, Transparency and Student centeredness and strict



Action is to be taken against those who violate these values. NAAC should examine whether values are maintained or not before assessment and accreditation.

2. Separate meetings are to be held with the students to see the standards they have gained practically! And to know the actual felicities available to them!

3. Special meetings are to be held with the students belong to S.C., S.T., B.C and Minority categories to find out the atmosphere created in these colleges for their growth to compete with the students belong to the other categories.

4. Similar meetings are to be held with the staff belong to the categories mentioned above to assure them that their rights are preserved.

5. All the societies of the aided institutions are to be abolished and fresh societies are to be started with philanthropists from various social categories [because many of the castes, these days, are in a position to contribute for the cause of education] of the society and strict measures are to be taken to see that there is no domination by one caste or the government should bring them into their direct control With a

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single Motto :Bringing the higher education within the reach of the poorer sections which started entering the higher education just now!

6. The RTIA is to be implemented in its spirit to see that transparency prevails at every stage. The NAAC has to examine this!

7. Voluntary bodies are to be encouraged from the public to function as checks on the colleges and periodical check ups are to be conducted by the committees of subject experts to confirm whether there is any substantial academic growth in the learners.

8. Last but not the least is that the government should change its outlook of washing off its hands by encouraging the private sector in the field of higher education and it should increase the budgetary allocation substantially to higher education, Because it is the higher education which opens the avenues to enlarge and expand the knowledge and the subsequent fruits of it to reach the common man. And it is also the higher education which should bring out the Real Leaders and the Real administrators of whom the country is in dire need even after nearly seven Decades of the so called Independence.

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