

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

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Abstract

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) plays an important role in promoting and assuring the quality of higher education in India. Established in 1994 by the University Grants Commission (UGC), NAAC assesses and accredits higher education institutions based on defined quality parameters. Its assessment process seeks to evaluate institutional performance across multiple dimensions, including curricular aspects, teaching and learning, research and innovation, infrastructure and learning resources, student support, governance and leadership, and institutional values and best practices. This paper examines the role and significance of NAAC in developing a culture of quality assurance and continuous improvement among higher education institutions. Accreditation encourages institutions to undertake systematic self-evaluation, identify areas requiring improvement, strengthen academic and administrative practices, and enhance accountability towards students and other stakeholders. The NAAC framework also provides institutions with an opportunity to document their achievements and institutional practices through structured quality-assurance mechanisms. At the same time, the accreditation process may involve challenges related to documentation, institutional preparedness, resource availability, and the effective implementation of quality-improvement measures. The study highlights the importance of accreditation as an instrument for strengthening institutional effectiveness, transparency, academic standards, and stakeholder confidence. It further emphasizes that NAAC accreditation should be viewed not merely as an assessment exercise but as a continuous process of institutional development and quality enhancement. Overall, NAAC contributes significantly to the systematic pursuit of excellence and quality improvement in Indian higher education.

Keywords: NAAC, Higher Education, Accreditation, Quality Assurance, Institutional Assessment, UGC, Quality Enhancement, Academic Standards, Continuous Improvement, Educational Governance.