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Research, Innovations and Extension in SSR: An Investigatory approach

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Abstract – The life of the individuals and the nation cannot be uplifted without Quality Higher Education. With the sole objective of giving a helping hand to the Institutions to improve the Quality of Higher Education, NAAC has designed the seven criterion system for the assessment and accreditation procedure. This research paper deals with III Criterion of NAAC out of the seven criteria i.e. Research, Innovations and Extension. This criterion seeks information on the policies, practices and outcomes of the Institutions with reference to Research, Consultancy and Extension. In this criterion 25% of weight age has been provided to University, 15% to autonomous colleges and 12% to affiliated colleges. It throws light on the efforts and strengths of Education to promote a research culture. HEIs initiatives and planning of research and extension activities are important to make a mark. Quality of research, collaborations and consultancy in research and approaches to research are the three key areas highlighted and emphasized in this paper.

Keywords: NAAC, Criterion III, Research, Innovation and Consultancy.

I. Introduction

Higher Education is the backbone of any society. It is the Quality of Higher Education that decides the quality of Human Resources in the Country. The Higher Education sector ensures Quality of the educational process with the help of Accreditation agencies established for the purpose. The main agency which accredits Universities and Colleges in General education is the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) established by UGC in 1994 with headquarters at Bangalore. NAAC has categorized the Higher Education Institutions into three major types and assigned different weight ages to assess them on structured criteria. The primary objective of Criteria III of NAAC A & A process is to promote the designed core values among the HEIs of the country: Contributing to National Development, Fostering Global Competencies among Students, and Inculcating a Value System among Students. This paper describes the major points related to Criteria III (1-5).

II. Methodology

NAAC has divided HEI into three categories for accreditation purposes i.e. University, Autonomous and Affiliated Colleges .Higher Education Institutions include college and university teaching departments for students' and the platform to attain higher educational qualifications. Higher Education imparts in-depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. This is recognized as one of the critical elements of National Development. It is a powerful tool to build knowledge based society. The quality of higher education plays a vital role in the overall development of the Nation. In India, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) assesses and accredits Institutes of Higher Education.

III. Discussion

The criterion-wise differential weightages for the three types of Higher Education Institutions are detailed in the Table 1.

Table1: Criteria and Weightage for University, Autonomous and Affiliated Colleges

| Criteria | Indicators | Required KI for University | Required KI for Autonomous College | Required KI for Affiliated College |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Criteria 1 | Curricular Aspects | 150 (15%) | 150 (15%) | 100 (10%) |
| Criteria 2 | Teaching-learning & Evaluation | 200 (20%) | 300 (30%) | 350 (35%) |
| Criteria 3 | Research, Innovations & Extension | 250 (25%) | 150 (15%) | 120 (12%) |
| Criteria 4 | Infrastructure & Learning Resources | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) |
| Criteria 5 | Student Support & Progression | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) | 130 (13%) |
| Criteria 6 | Governance, Leadership & Management | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) |
| Criteria 7 | Institutional Values & Best Practices | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) | 100 (10%) |

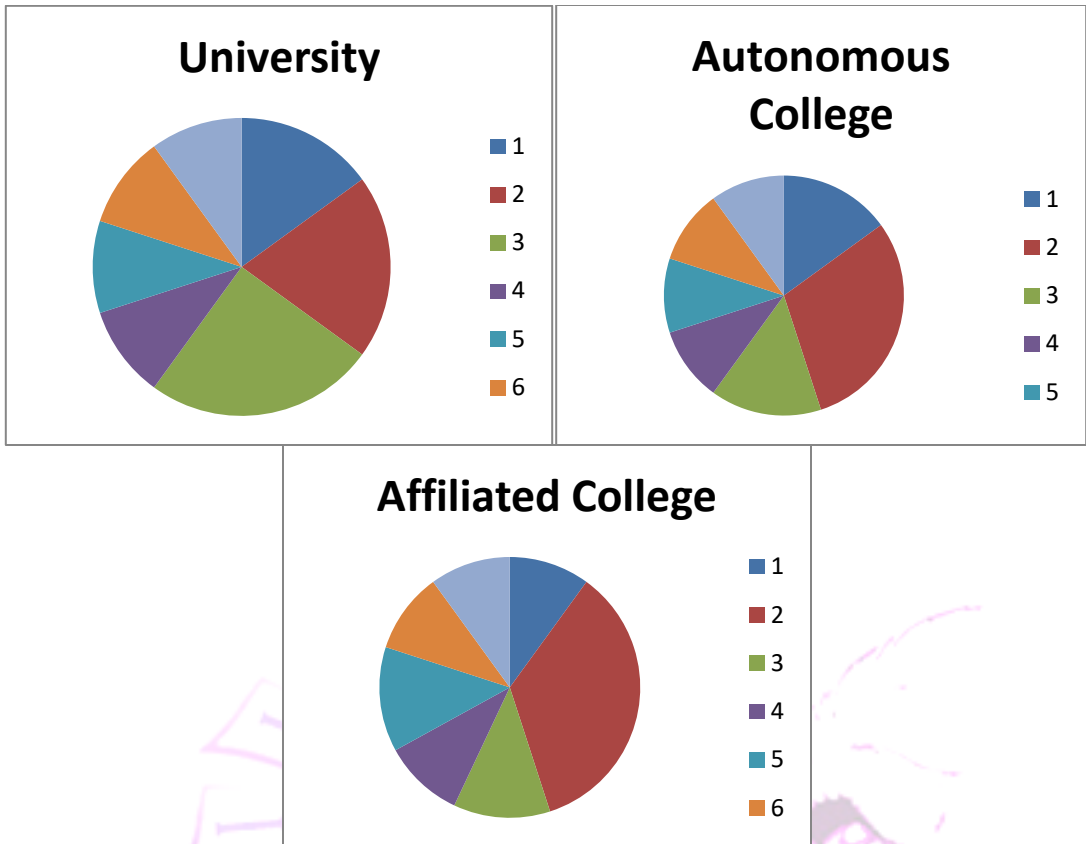
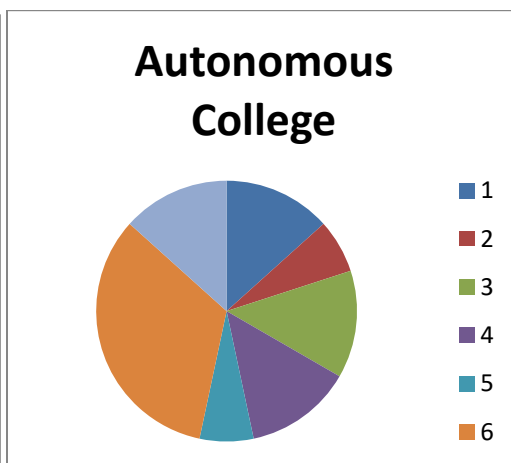
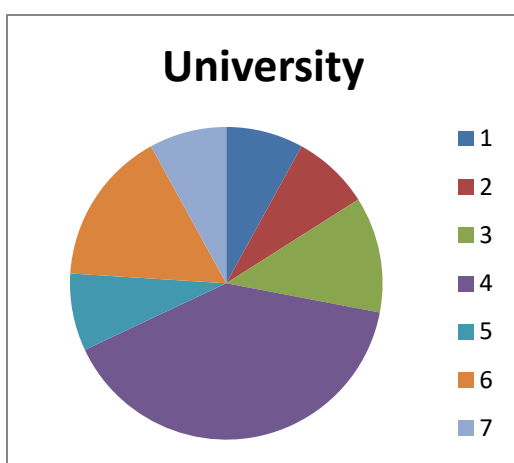


Figure 1. Pie- Chart showing Weightages of Seven Criteria

Criterion III is further divided into seven ‘Key Aspects’. These are as - Promotion of Research and Facilities, Resource Mobilization for Research, Innovation Ecosystem, Research Publications and Awards, Consultancy, Extension Activities and Collaboration. This is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Key Indicators of Criteria 3

| S.N. | Key Indicators (KIs) | Universities | Autonomous Colleges | Affiliated/Constituent Colleges | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | UG | PG |
| 3.1 | Promotion of Research and Facilities | 20 | 20 | NA | NA |
| 3.2 | Resource Mobilization for Research | 20 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| 3.3 | Innovation Ecosystem | 30 | 20 | NA | 10 |
| 3.4 | Research Publications and Awards | 100 | 20 | 15 | 25 |
| 3.5 | Consultancy | 20 | 10 | NA | NA |
| 3.6 | Extension Activities | 40 | 50 | 60 | 50 |
| 3.7 | Collaboration | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| III | Total | 250 | 150 | 110 | 120 |



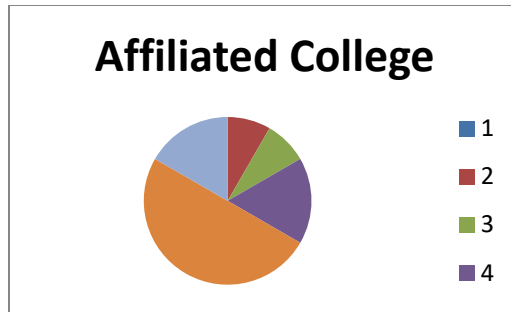


Figure 2. Pie- Chart showing Weightages of Key Indicators of Criteria III

Data Templates:

Data templates are one of the major part of filling SSR, AQAR etc. The HEI must note that the data filled in the template should not only be correct but these should also be in the identical format as required. Failing this, it creates a definite DVV process which may lead to rejection or revision of AQAR or SSR whatever is the case. The A&A process of NAAC is a dynamic process which keeps on changing these format so the HEI should check the NAAC website before filling it. The latest Data Templates required for criteria III are as –

3.1.1 Grants received from Government and non-governmental agencies for research projects / endowments in the institution during the year (INR in Lakhs)

3.1.2 Number of teachers recognized as research guides (latest completed academic year)

3.1.3 Number of departments having Research projects funded by government and non-government agencies during the year

3.2.2 Number of workshops/seminars conducted on Research Methodology, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and entrepreneurship during the year

3.3.1 Number of Ph.Ds. registered per eligible teacher during the year

3.3.2 Number of research papers per teachers in the Journals notified on UGC website during the year

3.3.3 Number of books and chapters in edited volumes/books published and papers

published in national/ international conference proceedings per teacher during year

3.4.2 Number of awards and recognitions received for extension activities from government/ government recognized bodies during the year

3.4.3 Number of extension and outreach Programmes conducted by the institution through NSS/ NCC/ Red Cross/ YRC etc., (including the programmes such as Swachh Bharat, AIDS awareness, Gender issues etc.) and/or those organized in collaboration with industry, community and NGOs during the year

3.4.4 Number of students participating in extension activities at 3.4.3. above during

3.5.1 Number of Collaborative activities for research, Faculty exchange, Student exchange/ internship during the year

3.5.2 Number of functional MoUs with institutions, other universities, industries, corporate houses etc. during the year

IV. Recommendations

Promotion of Research

- Departmental Research Committee (DRC) should be constituted at all HEI including affiliated colleges
- Promoting research work by guiding M. Phil and Ph. D students for dissertation and researches.
- Also at undergraduate and postgraduate level projects should be given to students, to introduce them with the research work.
- Research is to be promoted through seminars and workshops organized at local, national and international levels.
- Through publications also promotions of research can be done at the Department.
- There should be a provision of Academic leave for promotion of research work

outside the department.

- For promoting research through seminars, workshops and other activities, time to time adjustments in teaching schedule should be made at the Department.
- For promoting research, teachers should be provided with the seed money by funding agencies.
- All faculty members with Ph. D are to be engaged in research work.
- Few projects where students of all streams can be engaged rather should be engaged can be - Implementation of Right to Education., Attitude towards Women (girls) Education, Study of Environmental Awareness, Awareness Regarding Women's Rights, Socio-Economic Survey, Study of Enrolment and dropout rate in the villages where open air session is organized, Water resources studies, NEP 2020, Chemicals and Industries, Fertilizers and Organic forming, Faunal and Floral studies etc.

Research and Publication Output

- There should be an ethical committee in all the Departments of HEI who should take care of all aspects including plagiarism and malfunctioning.
- Multiple Choice Question (MCQs) in Research & Development should be developed at the Departments.
- Statistics analysis of all research work is to be carried out in all the Departments.
- Instructional manual should be developed for all practical's in Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Sociology, Psychology, Language, Grammar etc.
- Print material such as lesson plans, charts, flash cards, Power point presentation Transparencies, Non-print material such as models, charts and computer assisted learning material should be prepared by faculty members and the students.
- Emphasis should be given on the creation of online material

Consultancy

- All the departments should find areas for consultancy in Research Methodology, Life Skills, Gender Sensitization, SPSS and Guidance and Counselling etc.
- Consultancy Services are to be provided through memberships in different committees and National Bodies like UGC, NAAC, NCTE, MHRD, IGNOU, ICSSR etc.
- All the Departments can develop Review Committee, Evaluation Boards, Board of Studies, Admission Committee, Research Committees etc through which they provide Consultancy Services to the Community.
- HEI may provide consultancy services to the schools, department of Education from where no consultancy fee is charged. It will not only generate revenue for the institution but it will surely generate ethical revenue which is priceless.

Innovations & Extension Activities

- Students should be encouraged to participate in Extension Activities through awareness programmes, field visits, participation in seminars/ workshops/extension lectures, field projects and school experience.
- Some activities are to be organized in collaboration with NSS, Blood Relief Association and Association for Mentally Handicapped.
- Computer Awareness programme and advanced IT training can be organized for students and staff.
- Workshops on “Models of Teaching” can be organized where models should be enforced to concentrate on the mastery of skills based on Behaviour Modification.
- Health Awareness Programmes should be organized for people of slum areas with the help of health professionals. This will be helpful in providing free health checkups, Diet plans and specially making the people aware about Hygiene, Pre-

marriage Counseling, Clean India drive, Local to vocal, AIDS awareness, population education, blood donation camp, COVID awareness etc. and thus discharging its obligation to the community.

- Computer Awareness Programme, Health and Career guidance should be given to children of rural areas.

Collaborations

- Academic linkage with different apex bodies like IGNOU, MPBOU, Kota Open University etc. can be developed at any HEI level.
- The HEI particularly colleges can develop linkages with NCTE, NCERT, NAAC and SIERT which is responsible for maintaining the quality of teacher education imparted by the college.
- Collaboration with other colleges can be ensured by sending both faculty and students in the seminars, workshops and conferences organized by these colleges. HEI can also invite the faculty members of other colleges for some extension lectures. Senior faculty members go as resource persons for some activities in other HEI.
- Tree Plantation, IT training, skill development programs, tourism development program, disaster management program, water purification and management etc. can be done in collaboration with local administration, NGO and other organizations.

V. Conclusion

The III criterion of NAAC seeks information on the policies, practices and outcomes of the institution with reference to Research, Innovations and Extension. The description provided here can be used for extending facilities and making efforts to promote a research culture and serving the community through research and extension activities, which is a social responsibility and a core value to be demonstrated by HEI.

VI. References

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