Short Communication

Impact of NAAC Guidelines on Academic Libraries and their Services

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Higher education is pursuing an education at the degree, post-graduation or doctorate level. Indians as a community have always been keen in academic pursuit[1]. The oldest university of India, Taxila or Takshashila dates back to 800 B.C. There are records of almost 10,500 students and scholars and almost 2000 teachers associated with Taxila. There were traces of almost 68 subjects like philosophy, astronomy, state-craft, law, plants and herbs, medicines and surgery (Taksha Institute, n.d.) Nalanda University is also one of the ancient universities in the world which dates back to the 6th Century B.C. Nalanda was the seat of Buddhist traditions and a monastic centre.

India's central and state governments funded public institutions and private funded institution to upgrade its infrastructure and provide accessibility. On the other hand India's higher education system is expanding quickly and offers a wide variety of programmes through numerous institutions and colleges[2].

Table No. 1 Current Status of Indian Higher Education Institution as per AISHE 2020-21

Total No of Universities	1113
No of Colleges	43796
No. of Stand Alone Institutions	11296
Total No of Students	4.14 Crore
No. of teachers	15.5 Laksh
Gross Enrolment Ratio	27.3
Gender Pairty Index	1.05
Pupil Teacher Ratio	24

UGC has established the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an autonomous body in September 1994 to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country. It is an outcome of the recommendations of the National Policy in Education (1986) which laid special emphasis on upholding the quality of higher education in India. To address the issues of quality, the National Policy on Education (1986) and the Plan of action (POA-1992) advocated the establishment of an independent national accreditation body. The NAAC is an autonomous institute of the UGC established in 1994 at Bangalore. It enhancement in standards cannot come about only by accreditation from outside, once in five years. The libraries being part and parcel of the institutions of higher learning can perform key role in the improvement of quality of teaching, learning, research and extension activities.

Table No 2 Total Number of Accreditations (Status on 19/05/2023)

	First Cycle	Second Cycle	Third Cycle	Fourth Cycle	Fifth Cycle	Number of Accreditations
Universities	430	240	118	32	---	**820**
Colleges	9257	4235	1713	295	1	**15501**
Total	**9687**	**4475**	**1831**	**327**	**1**	**16321**

Vision of NAAC

To make quality the defining element of higher education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives

The mission of the NAAC:

- To arrange for periodic assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education or units thereof or specific academic programmes or projects.
- To stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality in teaching-learning and research in higher education institutions.

- To encourage self- evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in higher education.
- To undertake quality related research studies, consultancy and training programmers.
- To collaborate with other stakeholders of higher education for quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance.

Quality indicator framework (QIF)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has succeeded in promoting quality as a defining element of higher education institutions in the country through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, the quality of higher education institutions is multi-dimensional. Thus, NAAC uses seven main criteria for evaluating the quality of higher education institutions in the country.

The seven important criteria used by the NAAC are:

1 Curricular Aspects

2 Teaching-Learning and EvaluationResearch,

3 Innovations and Extension

4 Infrastructure and Learning Resources

5 Student Support and Progression Governance,

6 Leadership and Management Institutional Values and

7 Best Practices among these.

(Library is automated using Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), Subscription to e-resources, amount spent in purchase of books, journals, per day usage of library, **Criteria.** The NAAC has recognized the

Library as a Learning Resource:

The library holdings in terms of books, journals and other learning importance of library and information services in higher education institutions very well and they evaluate the quality of the learning resource centre as part of the assessment of the quality of higher education institutions in the country.

materials and technology-aided learning mechanisms which enable students to

acquire information, knowledge and skills required for their study programmes. A recent development in the field due to availability of digital means, the functioning of the library has undergone a drastic change. Automation of library using the ILMS, use of e-journals and books, providing remote access to e-resources in the library have become a matter of necessity.

Recently, the NAAC had issued a set of '**Guide lines on Quality Indicators in Library and Information Services**' to **improve the quality of the learning resource centre in affiliated/constituent colleges and Universities in India**. All these show that, the quality of library and information services offered in higher education institutions is a serious matter and the authorities and the library and information professionals in higher education institutions must consider it seriously.

Management of Library and Information Services

The primary goal of the library at connected institutions is to support the academic courses provided. As such, the library may develop its collection and services in order to better meet the needs of its users. By preparing themselves to respond positively to the following questions, the libraries of the connected institutions may strengthen their performance.

- Does the library function on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to facilitate use by students and faculty?
- Does the library have extended and appropriate working hours before/after the class hours?
- Does the college have a Library Advisory Committee? If yes, what is the role of the library committee?
- Are the qualifications, experience and pay of the Librarian on par with that of the academic staff and as per government/UGC norms?
- Has the librarian attended/participated in orientation/refresher courses and workshops/seminars (national/regional)?

.Collection and Services Provided to Users

The library is required to provide varied, authoritative and up-to-date resources that support its mission fulfil the needs of its users. Resources may be

- Does the library have separate premises of its own? Does it contain minimum infrastructure facilities such as utilities, staff area, reading hall, periodicals section, circulation counter, service area, Information Display, etc.?
- What is the ratio of the seating capacity to the users (students and faculty)?
- Is the Generator facility extended to the library?
- What are the measures for overall maintenance and cleanliness of the library?
- Does the library have computers and Internet facilities?
- Are the library functions automated? If yes, are they fully/partially automated?
- What are the financial/funding sources other than the state, central and UGC grants?
- Is there any defined policy for collection development, stock verification, promotion and training of library staff?

provided in a variety of formats including hard and print copy, online text/ images and other media. A library needs to have the quantity of resources as prescribed by

the government, AICTE, UGC and other governing bodies. The collection of a library may answer the following for

maintaining the quality of resources as per NAAC guidelines.

Table No. 3 Collection of Documents as per NAAC Guidelines

S. No.	Name of Document	Category of Document
1.	Books	Text books
		Reference books
2.	Current Journals	Indian,
		Foreign
		Peer Reviewed Journals
3.	Back Volumes of Journals	
4.	Magazines	
5.	E-Information Resources	
6.	CD's/ DVD's	
7.	Databases	
8.	Online journals	
9.	Special collection	Competitive Examinations
		Braille materials
		Rare Collection
10.	AV Materials	
11.	Book Bank	

b. Ratio of the Library Books to the Number of Students Enrolled Services.

The library has a key role in supporting the academic activities of the institutions by establishing, maintaining and promoting library and information services, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The library offers a wide range of services from reference to electronic information services. **College libraries may answer the following basic questions for ensuring appropriate services to the academic community**.
Does the library provide the basic services? As per given below.

Extent of the Use of Services

Performance evaluation of college libraries needs to be carried out at regular intervals in order to sustain and enhance their quality. Normally, the evaluation can be made on the compilation of use statistics. The following parameters would help in assessing the extent of use of the library and its services.

- Resource sharing/ Inter Library Loan
- Bibliographic compilation
- Photocopy and printing services
- Circulation services
- Clipping services
- Reference/referral services
- Information display and notification services
- User orientation/ information literacy
- Internet and digital resources availability
- Any others.

- Number of services delivered per capita per month.
- Average number of the users who visited or documents consulted per month.
- Average number of books issued /returned per day.
- Number of reference enquiries (user) on an average per month.

Display of Academic Information:

- Information literacy programmers
- Organizing competitions annually
- Display newspaper clipping periodically on the notice board
- instituting annual best user award for students
- providing internet facilities for different user group

- Employment Information/ Career Services
- Display new arrivals and circulate a list to the academic departments
- Computerization of library with suitable digital software
- Compiling student/teacher attendance statistics and locating the same on the notice board.

References

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2. Ancient Universities That Flourished Across Ancient India. Retrieved from: https://detechter.com/8-ancient-universities-that-flourished-across-ancient-india/