

## ROLE OF NAAC IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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### ABSTRACT:

*The Quality indicators framed for library in the NAAC accreditation process have provided guidelines for improving the quality of work of the entire library. The whole process is user centric and provisions and management of the services and facilities and its usage gives good scores. At the same time there is a scope for innovative techniques. Hence NAAC will make all developing of academic libraries.*

*This paper indicates in college libraries such as quality identified, utilization of library services, management, ICT, best practices are studied in detail with reference from DPR NAAC second and third cycle institution, web site.*

**KEYWORDS:** NAAC accreditation, Higher Education, college library improvement, Quality library.

### INTRODUCTION:

The world is becoming a global village today. To compete with world, higher education having nationally comparable and internationally acceptable standards has become essential in India. In this competitive world quality has become a pass word. The skill and well informed citizens can contribute to the value addition to its performance and service. Therefore quality concern in education is also necessary.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an organisation body established by the University Grants Commission(UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education Institutions (HEIs) in India. It is an outcome of the recommendations of the It is an autonomous body in September National Polity in Education (1986) which laid special emphasis on upholding the quality of higher education in India. NAAC was established in 1994 with its headquarterd in Bangalore. It has been instilling a thrust of value awareness among higher educational insititutions, aspire for constant enhancement.

This is NAAC which strives for quality and excellence in higher education and advocates for enhancing the role of library and information services in improving academic environment, Management and Administration Library.

#### **NEED FOR THE STUDY:**

As per UGC guideline the colleges libraries need to have facilitate that promote effective and interactive access & use of Information resources for all users. In the area of physical facilities, the libraries need to offer safe, comfortable, well lighted, clean space, with adequate and appropriate seating arrangement to ensure effective use of the library's resources including digital resources, also college libraries are requires to consider study space needs, while allocating the seating space with special attention being paid to reserve collection.

The libraries need to prepare well framed rules & guidelines with regard hours of access, circulation policies and other regulation to offer better service to users.

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

Institutional accreditation that the NAAC does, the assessment of a library, a vital sub element is a key step that incorporate itself with the overall evaluation library is hub of support for the entire range of academic activities on educational campus.

All this plays up the need for scientific evaluation of library so that its role as the centre piece of academic development is protected and enhanced by the performance of library facility and services based on NAAC parameters.

#### **STATUS OF THE LIBRARY IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS**

All units of the institution are categorized under seven heads or criteria by the NAAC are :

- Curricular Aspects,
- Teaching-learning and Evaluation,
- Research, Consultancy and Extension, Infrastructure and Learning Resources,
- Student Support and Progression.
- Organization and Management
- Healthy Practices.I

Each of these criterions is allotted with scores. Library is one unit under fourth criterions of Infrastructure and Learning Resources. In this heading physical facilities like building, library, playground, hostel, canteen computer, laboratory health care centre and other common facilities are

examined. From total 100 marks reserved for this criterion 35 marks have been allotted for the library alone thereby underlining its role as a major support system for learning. As a important component of the educational organization library encourages students to make progress in their academic and co-curricular endeavours. It is a place for self-study and self-growth. It supplements classroom teaching and provides a platform where students can develop their potential capacities by using library resources and services.

In other words library supports learning, teaching and research processes in the institution. In the recent past, significant developments have been reported in library and information services because of internet and web resources. Information is wrapped in various forms; ICT has influenced traditional set up. In colleges curriculum is updated, new courses are introduced and self-financing courses have occupied a respectable position in the colleges. Colleges library has to keep up to these challenges by updating its collection and services. All these development in the institutional environment plus developments in ICT , and emergence of new media in information world has forced libraries to change their role and shoulder newer responsibilities. Hence the accreditation process has focused on library.

#### **BEST PRACTICES:**

If we look at the history of higher education in India we find that Radhakrishnan (1948) and Kothari (1964) commission Reports have already recognized the role of libraries in higher education. They had recommended the need of a first class library for the college and universities. Moreover UGC Library Committee Report (1965) headed by Dr. S.R. Rangnathan provided firm base to academic libraries.

INFLIBNET since its inception in 1989 has been providing financial support to the academic libraries to automate library operations. Today INFLIBNET claims that it has supported more than 150 universities for library automation. It is hoped that within a decade almost all the universities will have library automation. However our journey towards college libraries is long, and shall take time to cover all the colleges of the country. National Knowledge Commission Report (2007) also realized the significance or the role of different types of libraries.

#### **NAAC AND BEST PRACTICES:**

UGC created a higher education body (whose job is to assess the quality of university and college institutions) in 1994 in Bangalore on the recommendation of National Policy of Education (NPE) in 1986. This is NAAC which strives for quality and advocates for enhancing the role of

library and information services in improving academic environment.

Document prepared by NAAC for “Best Practice in Academic Libraries Says: “Best Practice may be innovative and be a philosophy, Policy, Strategy, program, process or practice that solves a problem or create new opportunities and positively impact on organizations. “NAAC developed a set of best practices followed in academic libraries and presented under the following four broad areas:

1. Management and administration of Library.
2. Collection and Services.
3. Extent of User Services
4. Use of Technology.

#### **UTILIZATION OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES:**

To check the utilization of the available services, various details about the working hours of the library are noted.

Facilities like computers and internet connectivity, reprographic service, status of library automation, open access systems, number of books issued daily, fine etc are the key questions.

Various services are listed in the guidelines like circulation, clipping, bibliographic services etc. Inter library loan service, user orientation and information literacy programs are to be explained. Services used are evaluated through different data like average no. of books circulated, no. of reference queries received, no. of student visiting library, no. of teachers visiting library, display of new arrivals, awareness services etc.

#### **QUALITY INDICATORS FOR THE LIBRARIES:**

The details relates to the library users, services offered, facilities, collection, rules, budget, usage of services, extension activities etc. and every students and teachers are the party in complying with it.

Hence maintenance of daily record needs serious attention. Library rules and the awareness among the users combined with alertness on the part of the library staff becomes the major requirements. It is true that libraries largely support learning, teaching and research processes in institutions.

The set of questions framed for the library focuses on library infrastructure, collection, management and services. Extension activities and best practices are also covered. This can be explained in more details by dividing these questions into different heading.

**ADVANTAGES:**

1. Library is focused and all library functions get streamlined.
2. It supports library demand for new facilities.
3. The recommendations made in the committee's report acts as a roadmap for planning its future activities.
4. It calls for attention by the higher authorities.
5. Library also gets status at par with other departments in the institutions.
6. It encourages use of technology,

**CONCLUSIONS:**

NAAC's main aim is to uphold the quality of higher education in the country and it requires a lot of hard work. As earlier, we said the library is the heart of any institution and it should be properly managed. Institutions / organizations/universities should provide infrastructure facilities to their libraries regularly so that they can perform their duties/services properly. NAAC has given several guidelines to improve the library. At last, we can say that NAAC really improves the services of higher education.

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