

# IQAC: The Backbone for the Development of HEIs

Anita K. Sanap<sup>1</sup>, Jigna Machhi<sup>2</sup>, Kailas K. Sanap<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Chemistry, S.S.R. College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Sayli Road, Silvassa, UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, India.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Chemistry, N. B. Mehta Science College, Bordi, Taluka-Dahanu, District- Palghar, Maharashtra, India.

**Abstract:** *The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with the prime agenda of monitoring standards of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). "Quality Status" of an institution is related to the educational processes and outcomes, covering the curriculum, teaching-learning, evaluation, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organization, governance, financial well-being and student service. Therefore, every accredited institution should establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a post accreditation quality sustenance measure for achieving the goals of academic excellence and ensuring quality higher education in India. The main motif of IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the performance of the institution and to make significant and meaningful contribution to enhance the academic and administrative performance of the institution. So, the IQAC needs to establish systematic procedure to collect data and information by using the probes on the different parameters. The IQAC should therefore become a structure for ensuring the Standard.*

**Keywords:** NAAC, Quality Assurance, Quality Enhancement, IQAC, Higher Education

## 1. Introduction

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has established the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an autonomous body, under section 12(ccc) of its Act in September 1994. The main aim of NAAC is to monitor standards of the higher educational institutions. Most of the colleges of India have undergone the NAAC accreditation and colleges have formed the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to maintain the momentum of quality consciousness. The IQAC should have an appropriate structure and flexibility to meet the diverse needs of the stakeholders. The IQAC is a body which looks after the planning, and monitoring of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Enhancement (QE) activities of the institution. The IQAC in an institution is established based on the well-defined parameters and guidelines provided by NAAC. The participation and proactive involvement of every member in the institution defines the efficiency of college administration. In the present paper, we introduce the concept of IQAC as the backbone of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for the perfect coordination between the different committees and the administration of the institution. The IQAC should become a driving force for the upbringing of quality by intervention strategies to remove deficiencies and enhance quality.

## 2. Structure and Composition of IQAC

IQAC should be formulated as per the guidelines of NAAC, with some necessary specific modifications. The Principal of college should be the chairman of the IQAC team. He / She may be assisted by a Coordinator who should be a senior faculty member. The five senior teachers, one senior administrative official, and two external experts on Quality Management/ Industry/Local Community should be nominated by the Principal of the College in consultation with the academic Committee of a College. Teacher representatives to be selected should be proactive, highly

qualified and quality conscious, enthusiastic members. The membership of such nominated member's should be for a period of two years. The IQAC should meet at least once in a quarter and two-third of the total number of members should be present for the IQAC meeting. The agenda, minutes and action taken reports should be documented with official signatures and maintained electronically in a retrievable format for future reference as and when required.

### 2.1 Goals of IQAC

- 1) To establish a quality system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action plan to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.
- 2) To foster measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internationalization of quality culture and institutionalization of most excellent practices.

### 2.2 Functions of IQAC

- 1) Development and execution of quality benchmarks/parameters for various academic and administrative activities of the institution.
- 2) Acting as a nodal agency of the College for quality-related activities, including adoption and implementation of best practices.
- 3) Strengthening of Quality Culture in the College.
- 4) Ensure intensification and amalgamation among the various activities of the College and institutionalize best practices.
- 5) Optimization and amalgamation of modern methods of teaching, learning and continuous assessment.
- 6) Organization of inter and intra college seminars, workshops on quality related themes and promotion of quality culture.
- 7) To Build an organized methodology for documentation of the various programmed / activities at college leading to quality improvement and internal communication.

Volume 8 Issue 7, July 2019

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

- 8) Collection and analysis of feedback responses from students, parents and other stakeholders on college processes
- 9) Facilitating the creation of a student-centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty blossoming to acquire the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process.
- 10) Propagation of information on various quality parameters of higher education.
- 11) Provide a sound basis for decision-making to revamp college functioning.
- 12) Preparation of the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) and timely submission of the AQAR and such other reports to NAAC based on the quality parameters.

The IQAC Co-Ordinator and team plays a leading role to achieve these functions. The IQAC may team up with the existing committees for the same. The main objective behind these functions is to facilitate institutions towards quality education and to reach the specific needs of the students so that they can sustain in the competitive system.

### 3. Role of IQAC in Ensuring Quality Enhancement of HEIs

Quality may be explained with context to perfection, exquisiteness, and competencies for work, consistency and sustenance. Quality therefore defines the aims and objectives of education. The quality of knowledge in a society depends upon the quality of education it provides. The primary responsibility of higher education institution is to ensure that quality education is provided to the learners. IQAC is wholly dedicated to cope up with all the requirements of systems, resources and information for maintaining the overall quality and standards of an institution. Thus, each and every institution should have an IQAC for monitoring, evaluation of quality assurance for specific activities and overall development of institution.

### 4. Suggestions for Making IQAC More Dynamic and Agile

- 1) IQAC must be made statutory apex body similar to College Development committee (CDC).
- 2) The Head of an institution should create an atmosphere of cooperative partnership to acquire good quality culture.
- 3) The awareness towards quality and eminence must be taken into consideration rather than the position of the person in the seniority list for being selected as a Co-ordinator.
- 4) Regular feedback forms should be taken from students about quality of the institution.
- 5) In the research advisory committee, two expert members can be included for providing research guidance.
- 6) Skill based programmed should be introduced to improve quality circles.
- 7) In an academic year there should be at least three IQAC

Meetings and whose proceedings should be properly recorded and seriously implemented as well as monitored.

- 8) IQAC must work out the SWOT analysis as a periodic activity and try to establish the mechanism which is implemented by the Principal and coordinator by assigning duties to the committee members.
- 9) Responsibility of each committee member should be made mandatory and proper credit should be given for the good quality work.
- 10) Proper provision should be made if someone ignore and neglects his/her duties.

### 5. Conclusion

The role of IQAC for the quality enhancement in higher education is very instrumental and distinct in bringing about so many positive changes in and around the college premises. The leaders like principal and coordinator of IQAC should work on the guidelines of IQAC with proper realization of the democratic role of IQAC and accountability of their own role. Moreover, The IQAC can create a very good academic atmosphere in the premises so that the quality of education is maintained and enhanced time to time.

### References

- [1] XII PLAN GUIDELINES FOR Establishment and Monitoring of the Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) in Colleges.
- [2] D. G. Sawant, "role of IQAC in marinating standards in teaching, learning and evaluation," Pacific Science Review B: Humanities and Social Sciences (2), pp. 66-69, 2016.
- [3] M. Menon, K. Rama, T.K.S. Lakshmi, V. D. Bhat. "Quality Indicators for Teacher Education" NAAC Bangalore, 2006.
- [4] M. I. P. Barrioa, A. C. Escamillaa, M. N. González Garcíaa, E. M. Fernández, P. R. Garcíaa, "Influence of assessment in the teaching-learning process in the higher education" Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences (176), pp. 458 – 465, 2015.