

## Recent Framework of NAAC for Assessment and Accreditation of Affiliated Colleges

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**H**igher education is a medium to build value-based, culture based, knowledge based, modern and peaceful society which help the nation to become a super power in the globe. It contributes to the growth of nation by means of knowledge and skills manpower. India's higher education system is the third largest across the globe, after the United States of America and China. Indian higher education institutes (HEIs) have to play essential role to enhance the quality of education and to promote nation values. It is expected that Higher education institute should provide skill based education and train student in wide range of academic and professional disciplines through fundamental and applied research. HEIs play a vital role in the society in fulfilling social, economic, educational and scientific developments.

In India, as on 2019, 48 Central University, 399 State Universities, 126 Deemed Universities, 334 Private Universities institutes under the state Act, 94 institutes of National importance and 40000 colleges established and imparting higher education at under graduate and post-graduate level. This expansion of the higher education system slowly declines the quality of higher education in India.

The Government of India has set up various autonomous bodies and framework such as NAAC, NBA, NRF, NIRF etc., that rate higher education institutions on quality parameters on the basis of best international practices and national rating, ranking and affiliating institutions. The details of such bodies as under:

- (1) NAAC was established in 1994 by UGC for quality assurance of HEIs
- (2) National Board of Accreditation (NBA) was established in 2004 by All India Council of Technical Education, for periodic evaluations of technical institutions.
- (3) National Ranking Framework (NRF) was set up by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development

for ranking of India Universities in world University Ranking National.

- (4) National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) came into existence in 2015 with an objective to relatively rank higher education institution on yearly basis.
- (5) Times Higher education (THE) for ranking or research – led institutions in word ranking Universities.

In this article an attempt has been made to understand the new process of assessment and accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation council (NAAC) which can help the higher education institutes for its ranking and rating by NAAC. The present framework of assessment and accreditation provides the quality keys based on parameters such as core values of the institution, National Contribution, fostering global competencies, Inculcating value system, promoting use of ICT and Quest for excellence. The rating and ranking of higher education institutions is of interest to all stakeholders particularly institutions because (i) they will get funds from University Grants Commission, Rashtriya Uchchastar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and other bodies (ii) Only accredited institution with very good rating are considered for conferring autonomous status (iii) No new programs, courses or division are granted to non-accredited institution Accreditation process has been periodically revised for quality assurance.

NAAC has revised Accreditation framework for HEIs in July 2017 which involves three stage process. In the past, verification and validation was fully off-line and in revised framework it is 70 % online and 30 % offline. The three stage process includes:

- (i) Uploading of Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) and Self Study Report (SSR)
- (ii) Verification and Validation of Documents and Data (DVV) and Outcome Report and online Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS)
- (iii) Acceptance & Conferment of Accreditation status.

70 % online process is quite difficult for traditional institutions in general and in particular for institution from rural setup. Revised framework is more significant for number of reasons. It involves :

- (i) Extensive use of ICT,
- (ii) Online submission of IIQA, SSR and documents.
- (iii) Shifted from 100 % qualitative peer judgement to data based quantitative indicator evaluation
- (iv) Third party e-valuation of data
- (v) Online direct student feedback on Teaching and Learning, and
- (vi) System generated grade score

**Documents required for submission of IIQA:**

Institutions planning for Accreditation shall obtain institutional login Id from the NAAC portal [www.naac.gov.in](http://www.naac.gov.in) . The documents required are for IIQA submission:

- (i) All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) registration certificate
- (ii) Self Declaration regarding programs and courses
- (iii) University Affiliation letter for current academic year for all programs/courses
- (iv) UGC recognition letter and
- (v) Registration fee: DD (of Rs.25000/-+ GST as applicable) in favor of Director NAAC, Bangalore.

**Documents for Self Study Report:** Qualitative and Quantitative documents are needed for submission of SSR. The list of documents/templates required is listed in the NAAC manual and standard operating procedure (SOP) is also available on the NAAC website. Every claim made by the institution will be verified and validated by NAAC.

**NAAC Time-lines:** Accreditation starts with submission of IIQA. If IIQA is rejected for whatever reason institution will be intimates of the reasons and will get two more chances to follow upon any additional fees. On acceptance of IIQA, Institution must upload SSR and necessary documents online within 45 days. No extension of timeline is allowed failure to upload SSR within 45 days will make the accepted IIQA invalid and fees paid forfeited. Therefore the SSR and required documents must be kept ready for uploading along with IIQA.

**Self Study Report:**

Institution shall prepare a Self Study Report based on seven criteria that represent the core functions and activities of a HEI. In the revised framework not only the academic and administrative aspects of institutional functioning but also the emerging issues

have been included. The seven Criteria to serve as basis for assessment of HEIs are:

- 1. Curricular Aspects
- 2. Teaching-Learning and Evaluation
- 3. Research, Innovations and Extension
- 4. Infrastructure and Learning Resources
- 5. Student Support and Progression
- 6. Governance, Leadership and Management
- 7. Institutional Values and Best Practices

**Claim and Validation:**

For affiliating colleges there are only 31 Key Indicators made up of 35 Qualitative Metrics (Q<sub>1</sub>M) and 58 Quantitative Metrics (Q<sub>n</sub>M). Each of 93 Metrics is assigned a weight for arriving at weighted score for determining the Grade point. The 35 Qualitative Metrics will be validated by Peer Team during its visit and 58 Quantitative Metrics will be e-validated. For the purpose of e-verification, supporting documents are to be submitted online.

The details of Qualitative Metrics (QM) Qualitative Metrics, Key Indicators and weights are given in the following table:

Criteria	Key Indicators (KIs)	No. of KIs	Affiliated/ Constituent Colleges	
			UG	PG
1. Curricular Aspects	1.1 *(U)Curriculum Design and Development	04	NA	NA
	1.1. *(A) Curricular Planning and Implementation		20	20
	1.2 Academic Flexibility		30	30
	1.3 Curriculum Enrichment		30	30
	1.4 Feedback System		20	20
	<b>Total</b>		<b>04</b>	<b>100</b>
2. Teaching-Learning and Evaluation	2.1 Student Enrolment and Profile	07	40	40
	2.2 Catering to Student Diversity		50	50
	2.3 Teaching-Learning Process		50	50
	2.4 Teacher Profile and Quality		60	60
	2.5 Evaluation Process and Reforms		30	30
	2.6 Student		60	60

	Performance and Learning Outcomes			
	2.7 Student satisfaction Survey		<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>3. Research, Innovation and Extension</b>	3.1 Promotion of Research and Facilities	<b>07</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
	3.2 Resource Mobilization for Research		<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
	3.3 Innovation Ecosystem		<b>NA</b>	<b>10</b>
	3.4 Research Publications and Awards		<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>
	3.5 Consultancy		<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
	3.6 Extension Activities		<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>
	3.7 Collaboration		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>4. Infrastructure and Learning Resources</b>	4.1 Physical Facilities	<b>04</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	4.2 Library as a Learning Resource		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
	4.3 IT Infrastructure		<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	4.4 Maintenance of Campus Infrastructure		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>5. Student Support and Progression</b>	5.1 Student Support	<b>04</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
	5.2 Student Progression		<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>
	5.3 Student Participation and Activities		<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>
	5.4 Alumni Engagement		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

	<b>Total</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>6. Governance, Leadership and Management</b>	6.1 Institutional Vision and Leadership	<b>05</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
	6.2 Strategy Development and Deployment		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
	6.3 Faculty Empowerment Strategies		<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	6.4 Financial Management and Resource Mobilization		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
	6.5 Internal Quality Assurance System		<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>7. Institutional Values and Best Practices</b>	7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities	<b>03</b>	<b>50</b>
7.2 Best Practices			<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness			<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>03</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			<b>1000 *</b>	

\* In case of HEIs who exercise to opt for the weightage of ≤ 3% of Non Applicable Metrics, the total score will vary accordingly.

**References:**

- (1) University News, 57 (48), Dec-02-08,2019
- (2) University News, 57 (49), Dec-09-15,2019
- (3) University News, 57 (46), Nov-18-24,2019
- (4) NAAC Document, Manual for Self Study Report for Affiliation/ constituent colleges updated 04/02/2020.