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NAAC FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

India is far away from the goal of universal literacy, even after 70 years of its independence. India's higher education system is producing millions of graduates without the quality of higher education in the country. However, on a positive note, India is engaged in the use of higher education as a powerful tool to build knowledge and skill-based information society of the 21st Century. Indian professionals are considered among the best in the world and are in great demand. This signifies the inherent strength of the Indian educational system. Therefore, accreditation plays an important role in higher education to assure quality education in India. Keeping in perspective the rapid changes taking place in the society, higher education should possess various qualities like inculcation of confidence and ability to take responsibility and prepare students to be effective within the circumstances of their lives and work. It promotes the pursuit of excellence in development and application of knowledge and skills. Therefore the Government should take certain appropriate policy measures to improve the education system. India is one of the fastest developing countries of the world. Hence, we need an educational system that is modern, liberal and can adapt to the changing needs of a changing society. It is also helpful for our nation to cop up with changing economy and changing world. Therefore, every educational institute should be assessed and accredited by NAAC for quality sustenance and quality enhancement in higher education.

Introduction

"The aim of education is gaining knowledge, not of facts, but of values", William S. Burroughs. Development of any nation depends on the quality of human resources. Good human resource is produced through quality education. Education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual issues. It also contributes towards the development through knowledge and skills.

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Historical Background

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Special Issue

A.V. Education Society's

January 2021

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NAAC Sponsored One Day Online National Level Conference on "Revised Assessment and Accreditation"

Framework of NAAC: An Approach" Organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Smt. Sushiladevi Deshmukh Senior College, Latur Maharashtra. India

Indexed: ICI, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu, IBI, IIFC, DRJI, The CiteFactor, COSMOS



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Education in India dates back to its early civilization time where teaching and learning process revolved around the 'Gurukul System'. It was a residential concept wherein the students were educated under the guidance of a "Guru" in different areas of religion, philosophy and science. The initial education system in India gradually got obscured due to subsequent invasions and disorder in the country.

A major change in the design of higher education was brought by the European rulers. The British established the formal system of higher education focused on languages, literature, history, and philosophy. These learning centers were focused on generating English speaking working class people for the British administrative services, army and trade. The British model of University system continued to expand across India. It leads to a rising number of higher learning institutes by 1947.

Present Scenario

The higher education system in India grew rapidly after independence. By 2019, there are 39931 Colleges, 993 Universities and 10725 Stand Alone Institutions, according to the latest report on the All-India Survey on Higher Education. It has the enrollment around ten per cent of the eligible age group in higher education. The number of institutions in India is four times more than the number of institutions both in the United States and the entire Europe.

India is moving towards economic success and modernization. Currently, Indian higher education system has many favourable factors to its advantage. India has a large higher education sector, the third largest in the world. It uses English as a principal language of higher education and research. Academic liberty is appreciated and there are a small number of high-quality institutions that can form the foundation of quality education. The State Government and educational institutions are responsible for quality higher education.

In India, the weakness clearly outweighs the strengths. India universities educate approximately 10 per cent of its youths in higher education. Even though, none of its universities occupy a good position at the top globally. A few of the best universities have some excellent departments and centres. There are a few institutes of outstanding undergraduate colleges.

UGC recently released a report describing the current scenario of the Indian Higher Education System. It shows that despite the growing numbers of colleges and enrollments, it is not adequate enough to cater to the educational needs of the increasing young population.

NAAC is an accreditation body. It works under the University Grants Commission of India. UGC approves a College or University whereas NAAC accredits the programs offered in the University or institute to attain the quality of higher education.

Measures to Improve the Quality of Higher Education

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January 2021

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One of the most efficient ways of tackling the problem of poor educational quality is by sharing the resources between private and public colleges. It is important to remember that and quality of education is directly linked to the resources available. Therefore it is important for the government to improve the resource allocation and research attitude to bring about distative changes in the field of education. To enable the higher education sector to take on the emerging competition from various world class universities, there is a possibility of * sosen the hold of the government over the higher educational institutions. Therefore the Government should undertake the improvement measures in research, extension, curricular, co-curricular, social and student activities to improve the quality of higher education.

Methods of Teaching and Use of ICT

The new technologies offer vast opportunities for progress in all walks of life. The focus should not be on installing hardware but creating new, high-quality content such as intelligent teaching systems and tools. It will help students to improve basic skills like reading, writing and mathematics. It also develops content in multiple Indian languages. Free high-speed internet connections and ICT facilities can be provided to all colleges through a simple scheme by which the government.

Making the Curriculum Dynamic

The curriculum in higher education is outdated in most cases. It is stale, dogmatic and teaches things that the world has moved on with. The curriculum needs to be progressive in nature to use improved, innovative and updated curriculum for Students. They need to be given the option of doing multiple courses. The spirit of curriculum should be projects-driven, research-driven and not exams-driven. The teachers should inform about SWAYAM courses and other online courses to the students.

Digital Libraries

The university and college libraries have a very good collection of books, but they are all in mess. A library must be online and helpful to the faculty and students for serious study. It helps to Indian universities to concentrate more on providing quality education. Instituting this notion in the education system will be of great help as anyone will be able to access the books and required study materials from anywhere with amazing effortlessness. Moreover, the E-libraries can be updated swiftly with new material and books.

The Power of Alumni

One of the most appreciated potentials in Indian education system is the power of the Alumni. But a few top institutes, the concept of Alumni networking is existent. Once we launch a sincere network for the alumni to contribute in terms of money or academic expertise, it helps to improve the quality of higher education.

Conclusion

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Keeping in perspective the rapid changes taking place in the society, higher education should possess various qualities like inculcation of confidence and ability to take responsibility and prepare students to be effective within the circumstances of their lives and work. It promotes the pursuit of excellence in development and application of knowledge and skills. Therefore the Government should take certain appropriate policy measures to improve the education system. India is one of the fastest developing countries of the world. Hence, we need an educational system that is modern, liberal and can adapt to the changing needs of a changing society. It is also helpful for our nation to cop up with changing economy and changing world.

Therefore, every educational institute should be assessed and accredited by NAAC for quality sustenance and quality enhancement in higher education.

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