

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NAAC SPONSORED NATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON TEACHING,
LEARNING AND RESEARCH IN THE
PERSPECTIVE OF NAAC RAF**

NAAC

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL**
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Karnataka, India



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**BISHOP MOORE
COLLEGE**

MAVELIKARA, KERALA, INDIA

Affiliated to the University of Kerala

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC and SAAC

Ranked in top 100 colleges in India in NIRF 2018, 2020 and 2021

Placed in Performer Band in ARIIA Ranking 2021

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INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS: WAY TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

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Abstract

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), is a regulator for the academic institutions in the country. It is an agency which provides a Grade to a Higher Education Institution after a self-assessment, data validation and verification and also visit of the peer team to the institution. In India NAAC grade is considered and linked with the benchmark of quality in Higher Education. It is also considered as a key indicator for the recognition of the institution being considered for funding by the majority of the Government and Non-Government Institutions. It is an accreditation which is valid for 5 years and therefore the Higher Education Institutions are working on the forefronts of Quality Sustenance and Quality Improvement. The NAAC tries to evaluate the institution based on seven criterions, using the qualitative and quantitative data. The overall improvement in the institutions working is the motto. Each Criterion is dedicated to one pillar of the Higher Education Institution (HEI). The first one looks at Curriculum Aspects, followed by teaching and learning, research and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, students support and progression, management, governance and leadership and Innovation and Best practices. Each Criterion has its own importance and no criteria can be considered as important in comparison to the other. All have assigned weightage on the type of the HEI. Each Criteria looks at the progress and development of the student in the institution in its unique way. In all seven criteria the student remains the focus. But, along with the student, in criterion seven of NAAC there is a point of Institutional Distinctiveness. This point can be an effective way to Achieve Academic and Social Connect with the Community. In this context, the paper suggests ways by which the HEI can reach the locality by way of establishment of academic and social connection with the society and community. The Paper concludes that any institution can go far in reaching to the locality instead of being an island in the locality. Institutional Distinctiveness signifies becoming an institution for the locality for the wellbeing of the society and nation.

Introduction

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), is a regulator for the academic institutions in the country. The NAAC is considered as a key indicator for the recognition of the institution being considered for funding by the majority of the Government and Non-Government Institutions. It an accreditation which is valid for 5 years and therefore the Higher Education Institutions are working on the forefronts of Quality Sustenance and Quality Improvement It is an agency which provides a Grade to a Higher Education Institution after a self-assessment, data validation and verification and also visit of the peer team to the institution. In India, NAAC grade is considered and linked with the benchmark of quality in Higher Education. The NAAC tries to evaluate the institution based on seven criterions, using the qualitative and quantitative data. The overall improvement in the institutions working is the motto. Each Criterion is dedicated to one pillar of the Higher Education Institution (HEI). The first one looks at Curriculum Aspects, followed by teaching and learning, research and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, students support and progression, management, governance and leadership and Innovation and Best practices.

Among all the Seven Criteria, the seventh criteria have a focus on institutions' role in being different among the other Higher Education Institutions in India. The criterion has a special focus on innovations done by the institution and also the best practices which the Institutions

adopt. There are more than 10 metrics which are to be filled and the data to be filled is mostly qualitative in nature. One such metric speaks about Institutional Distinctiveness.

The Institutional Distinctiveness can be achieved with the point like

- The Higher Education Institution being a Study Centre or Exam Centre for the coaching or conduct of examination of Professional/Government Exams on the campus.
- To develop a nursery of plant saplings and distribute saplings among the students and stakeholders of the locality in order to achieve the goal of Green Campus and Green Community
- To engage with Panchayat/Municipal institutions and collaborate with local self Govt to organize the socio-economic survey of the locality and introduce skill-oriented courses to benefit the students and stakeholders of the Community.
- To work for preservation of the Traditional Knowledge in the local area and also to document the knowledge for the information of the next generation.
- To become a Centre of the village/ city where the information with regard to the Central Government and State Government schemes are available and assistance to apply for the scheme is provided.
- To organize financial literacy camp and investment planning camp for the students and stakeholders in the Higher Education Institution.
- To encourage and support the local artist in the locality and also help the Non-Government Organization in planning and implementation of activities in collaboration with the Higher Education Institutions.
- To organize courses about disaster and traffic management for the community and also students along with universal values, peace and brotherhood.

The above points are some key indicators of Distinctiveness of the Higher Education Institution.

Conclusion

The Distinctiveness of Educational Institution can be achieved with the help of the engagement with the community and involvement with the locality. The Distinctiveness point can be very effective in making the institution reach the locality and not becoming an island in the place where the institution has its campus. Along with imparting education, the institution should also work with regard to the community connect and development of students who are having sound knowledge of the local issues. The step can go a long way in nation building.

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