

## An Analysis on Manipulation and Forgery of data to get better grades in NAAC assessment in Rural HEIs of Assam

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**ABSTRACT:** In India at present without NAAC assessment, it is impossible to get grants as well as affiliation. Not only every HEI has to participate in this process but also have to get better grade otherwise the future of that HEI is dark in every aspect. To fulfil this process, the HEIs have to follow 7 criteria of NAAC SSR (Self-study Report). The criteria consist of different prospect for overall development of an educational institution. Though those criteria are mostly applicable in urban areas, it is difficult to implement because of lack of resources, unavailability of technology and many more. Though, there have plenty of opportunities to develop but the traditional work culture which faculties love to hold on making it difficult to create a progressive environment. It also hampers to fulfil every criteria of NAAC resulted in forgery and manipulation of data to hide the lack of values. In this paper, an attempt has been made to discuss about the problems that have in the rural and backward colleges in Assam and how it is affecting to create a transparent educational environment.

**Keywords:** HEIs of India, Rural Assam, Existing problems, NAAC Criteria

### Introduction

National Assessment and Accreditation Council shortly NAAC is an essential body of India's academic structure in higher education. It plays a vital role in the development and growth of the academic institutions all over India. Moreover, its involvement made the Indian educational system more effective and pushed the stillness of education system to a new dimension. After a period of 5 years, a NAAC peer team visit a particular institute where they asses and on the basis of the performance of the institution the peer team accredit the institution. The process of this assessment and accreditation is a long process where three steps must follow to get the accreditation. But in this process the authenticity is become an issue because there have various problems in the ground level to begin with which is not only unethical but also pollute the whole academic system. The NAAC was established in the last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main motive of the set up is to build a more effective education system which helped to develop an advance country. Therefore to fulfil this goal the NAAC peer team visits each HEIs of India in every 5 years. But before the visit, the institutions were asked to fill up SSR, an organised data based question which filled up by the institution. On the basis of this SSR, they visit the institution and crossed check if the authenticity has maintained or not. Apart from that day also

go through all the audit of financial accountability of the college accounts. This assessment in every aspect is a blessing for the system. But the criteria which have in the SSR and provided to fill up by the institution are a problem in its own. Moreover, when on the basis of this performance, the institutions get fund to develop their infrastructure; the chances are high that data must be manipulated to get a higher grade.

### Objective

1. Analyse the reason behind the condition of higher education in backward areas and obligation to get better grades in NAAC assessment led to the unethical measures took by the institution.
2. Discuss the loopholes that have in the educational institutions that failed to fit in the current educational trend and the failure to do the same by the HEIs in backward areas.

### Methodology

In writing this paper mainly focuses has on secondary data which collected from E-library or digital library. Moreover, visits have been made to a number of rural colleges of Assam for observation. As the topic is totally new though NAAC assessment was conducting from two decades but at current time without accreditation a college is not considered eligible to get grant, therefore this study is totally based on secondary sources. Moreover to fulfil the objective, secondary data and interviews are appropriate approach. This is also the popular method used by the previous researcher in this matter. As there have not enough sources to rely on an attempt has been also made to go through every criteria in depth to understand what NAAC actually demand from the HEIs.

### Discussion

The Problem which have in the rural institutions-

1. Problems in CBCS system and results- The way they (Central Govt./ UGC) introduced CBCS system may be it was for those institutions where extensive number of subjects. But it is not applicable in any way where there have no options to select for choice based credit system.
2. Too much meeting that disturbs regular classes- In a meeting/discussion based system; it is very difficult to maintain a continuous class room interaction. The head of the institutions are informed to seat for meeting every now and then which affects the regular classes.
3. Enrolment for the sack of community- Every year when the time of admission comes, apart from the regular capacity of seats, the rural HEIs has to extend the seat capacity, because the community demand and basically comes for protest. Though, the education should be for all, but it hampered the other students and whole institution became a chaos ground. Because, the students who admitted with a very poor percentage, neither come to attend the classes nor promoted to next semester. It appeared to be wastage of energy and resources in the same time. As data shows every year only 20% of students qualified who have some skills to work on actual field.
4. The Faulty system of Evaluation- Evaluation is now-a-days being a tradition which teachers has to follow, but without an outcome because state universities don't like to display a large number of disqualified students because of various reason. Because of that reason, every year

a large number of students though get the degrees, but in reality they failed to perform their skills. This became the one of the cause of large number of educated unemployed.

5. Unavailability of ICT in each classroom- Absence of ICT in every class which hamper the progress in this ICT based age. Rather it stands as some kind of special room only for occasional use. These days where without ICT, it is become so difficult to deliver lecture. But the unavailability of ICT somehow makes students lack to be more skilled and restrain to be up to date.
6. Teachers are not aware of the criteria in depth- It was only during the time of NAAC visit everyone started to prepare the data which quite confusing because the faculties do not get proper training or orientation for the very beginning to prepare accordingly.
7. Visions are not up to date- Visions are an idea about the coming years and it should be a clear idea what the institution is going to do in coming years.
8. Absence of Strategic plan- There should be a plan in every 5 years that where the institution wants to head out. But that is totally absent rather the institutions follow an outdated method of traditional lecture delivery and evaluation without any application of progressive ideas.

### **Forgery conducted by the institutions**

#### CRITERIA 1- Curriculum Design

Under the state universities in Assam there have no option to develop a separate curriculum in under graduate colleges. For that reason it cannot be acceptable if some institution shows data regarding new curriculum addition which tried to show by institution in recent day.

#### CRITERIA 2-Student satisfactory survey

Student satisfactory survey is one of the important turning points for a college in regard to grade. But it can be seen that there have errors so many errors as most of the students of rural areas do not receive high speed internet connectivity which led to the failure of receiving the feedback form. Along with that the institutions in most of cases tried to manipulate that response by brainwashing the students to provide a positive response rather than a genuine one. Sometimes the faculties send that student feedback instead of students to get a better grade.

#### CRITERIA-3- Research Publication

The tendency of teachers to publish paper for the sack of promotion can be seen. The idea to publish a paper with a proper survey and authentic research is very less. That led to last minute publication of books or journal without proper research which do not contribute to the society anyway.

#### CRITERIA 4- IT facility in Library

The use of new infrastructure for a special day is much more appreciated rather than to use those facilities on a regular basis. The lethargy in work culture reflects here. During the time of NAAC visit, it has been showed as students regularly visits IT facilities with fake registers and data.

#### CRITERIA 5- Student Progression

Because of high demand from the side of local communities the HEIs has to give admission to large number of students with a very poor academic records which led to drop outs as well as poor results.

It is difficult to display that result in NAAC reports though it is not the fault of the institutions. However, the institutions tried to hide the actual result and try to show as better as it can be made.

#### CRITERIA 6- Vision and Strategy development

The traditional way of the HEIs somehow is stopping to involve and inspire to be a part of the new academic trends which reflects in their old agendas of vision and absence of strategic plan. Though for the sack of SSR they elaborately write vision and mission by in real field it merely a piece of paper.

#### CRITERIA 7- Best Practices

Extension activities, Outreach activities, MOU, community development and many more are part of best practices. This is the most manipulated criteria because it can be simply done by manipulating the community to support them for the single day specially the day of visit.

**Conclusion-** By this analysis the problems which have in the HEIs of Assam in backward areas, can be assumed are serious. The problems which led to another unethical approach is another concern. By this research, an attempt has been made to display that without solving the all ready existing problem, the obligation to fulfil NAAC criteria is kind of impossible and if this continues then it will be difficult to set up a more progressive education system in Assam as well as in backward areas of India.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts to declare.

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