

**“Reflection of Core Values in Institutional
Activities.”**

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Reflection of Core Values in Institutional Activities

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Abstract:

Higher education system in India is facing many challenges and is undergoing significant changes. Due to the increasing privatisation, impact of globalization and technological improvement, HE in India has necessitated some marked changes in the Indian HE scenario. These changes and the consequent shift in values have made NAAC to introduce the core values for its accreditation framework. NAAC has provided certain broad outlines in its methodology regarding the ways in which these core values can be effectively imparted in every institution. Yet the activities expected at the ground stage need to be described. The present paper explains how the guidelines given by NAAC can be effectively identified from the list of activities carried out in colleges, while preparing for the reaccreditation process.

Introduction:

Higher education is not just about the higher level of educational structure in the country. Higher education is seen as a process of preparing the students which are counted as “products” to be absorbed in the labour market. Higher education is preparation for qualified scientists and researchers who would continuously develop the frontiers of knowledge. Higher education is an efficient management of teaching-learning provisions by improving the quality of teaching. Higher education is an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individual through a flexible, continuing education mode.

Higher education includes college and university teaching-learning via which students’ progress to attain higher educational qualification along with better skills and best values. It develops the student’s ability to question and seek truth and makes him/her competent to critique on contemporary issues. It broadens the intellectual powers of the individual within a narrow specialization by knowing *more and more* about *less and less*, and also gives him/her a wider perspective of the world around.

For India today, quality in higher education is a key priority. And this must be achieved keeping in mind the issues of relevance, costs, equity and international standards. Rapid expansion in the developing world is changing the profile of higher education globally. Quality assurance systems will also have to meet this criterion of being fit for purpose at minimum cost to society. They can best do so by helping institutions evolve quality specific mechanisms aiming towards a culture of quality. This implies that the major challenge for quality assurance in the present scenario is capacity building at all levels. Hence, higher education system in India is facing many challenges and are undergoing significant changes from time to time. Feeling this need of expansion, the impact of technology on the educational transactions, the increasing private participation in higher education and the impact of globalization, the system of higher education in India have necessitated such marked changes in the Indian higher education scenario. These changes and the consequent shift in values have been taken into cognizance by NAAC while formulating the following core values for its accreditation framework.

NAAC as a Premier National Quality Assurance Agency established by the UGC to assess and accredit higher education institutions of the country, after accrediting First cycle of accreditation, realized the need of reframing the assessment process of accreditation, based on its

field experience, feedback from eminent experts and all stakeholders of higher education. The modifications include identification of Key Aspects under each criterion and appropriate Assessment Indicators under each Key Aspect, Key aspect-wise and Assessment indicator-wise differential weightages and a shift in Grading pattern to 4 grades. While assessing the performance of variety of HEIs, benchmarking the quality as a whole of HE, considering the expectations from the educational field to produce more quality product, NAAC couldnot forget the values of education since antient Indian time. Hence NAAC has designed a value frame work for it's A/A process, to promote the following core values among the HEIs of the country:

- Contributing to National Development
- Fostering Global Competencies among Students
- Inculcating a Value System among Students
- Promoting the Use of Technology
- Quest for Excellence

While undergoing reaccreditation process, it is highly essential to get clear idea of these core values, as these form the base for the A/A process. NAAC in its new methodology, asks direct questions on core values only twice in the format for preparation of SSR. But, the peer team is supposed to find the reflection of these core values in every activity of the institution. NAAC expertise have provided certain broad outlines in its methodology regarding the ways in which these core values can be effectively imparted in every institution in one or the other way. Criterion wise evaluative reports should have emphasis on these core values. There is a wide scope to do so while enlisting the best practices.

➤ **Contributing to National Development:** Contributing to National Development has been a goal of Indian HE. This core value is reflected in different activities in Colleges which exhibit its capacity to adapt to changes; pursue the goals and objectives; its role in human resource development and capacity building of individuals; cater to the needs of the economy, society and the country; serving the cause of social justice, ensuring equity, and increasing access to higher education are a few ways by which HEIs can contribute to the National Development. These can be exhibited in various activities as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of core value	Activities
1	Capacity to adapt to changes	Revised vision mission statement New academic programmes ICT enabled TLE Responsiveness to feedback mechanism Updating of libraries Curriculum modifications Admission reforms Computers to all departments, Office and library automation Examination reforms Effective implementation of semester system Modified curricula Renovations in infrastructure Introducing new mechanisms by IQAC

2	Human resource development	Frame work of academic and administrative committees Data collection mechanism Enriched extension programmes Widened Social network
3	Capacity building of individuals	Awareness programmes Training programmes to students and staff Soft skill development programmes Entrepreneurship development programmes Add-on/need based courses under COP
4	Cater to the needs of the economy, society and the country	Scholarships and awards Community development programmes Consultancy programmes
5	Social justice, Ensuring equity,	Gender audit Gender sensitization awareness programmes Remedial coaching Reservation policy
6	Increasing access	Admission reforms Institutional website Internet facility Infrastructural facilities

➤ **Fostering Global Competencies among Students:** NAAC examines the role of HEIs in preparing the competent students to meet internationally acceptable standards in HE, to face the global requirements successfully. This requires that the HEIs be innovative, creative and entrepreneurial in their approach, to ensure skill development amongst the students. For this, HEIs may collaborate with industries, neighbourhood agencies/bodies and foster a closer relationship between the “world of skilled work” and the “world of competent-learning”. These can be exhibited in various activities as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of core value	Activities
1	Skill development of students	Personality development programmes Training programmes to students and staff Soft skill development programmes Entrepreneurship development programmes Add-on/need based courses under COP
2	Internationally acceptable standards	MIS Institutional website Interactive TL method Application of ICT
3	Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial in their approach,	Professional courses Distance education center Innovative practices experimented
4	Collaborations with industries, network with the neighbourhood agencies/bodies	Collaborations with industries Network with society for extension activities Faculty exchange programmes Lead College activities

5	Closer relationship between the “world of skilled work” and the “world of competent-learning”.	Agro-meet activity Talks from imminent personalities
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➤ **Inculcating a Value System among Students: Desirable and appropriate values** commensurate with social, cultural, economic and environmental realities, at the local, national and universal levels; universal values like truth and righteousness; values aimed at cooperation and mutual understanding, have to be inculcated at the higher education institutions, through appropriate learning experiences and opportunities. These can be exhibited in various activities as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of core value	Activities
1	Inculcating the desirable value systems	Value based programmes Personality development programmes
2	Values commensurate with social, cultural, economic and environmental realities at the local, national and universal levels	Introduction of environmental science as compulsory subject Project and field work Patriotic activities
3	Inculcating the core universal values like truth and righteousness	Felicitation of students for honest behavior Putting role models in the form of guest speakers.
4	Cooperation and mutual understanding,	Team work by faculty and students Working committees

➤ **Promoting the Use of Technology:** Application of Using modern tools and technological innovations, Technological advancement and innovations in educational transactions, use of ICT for resource sharing and networking, documentation and data management, have a great impact on academic development as well as administration. Conscious efforts are needed to invest in hardware, and to orient the faculty. Electronic data management and having institutional websites to provide ready information to stakeholders, are desirable steps in this direction. These can be exhibited in various activities as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of core value	Activities
1	Using modern tools and technological innovations	Computers to all departments Sophisticated instruments in the laboratories
2	Technological advancement and innovations in educational transactions	Audiovisual aids e-notes Subscription to e-journals Library automation
3	Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Institutional websites e-governance minimum response time in office work

4	ICT-enabled administrative processes	Office automation Ready and relevant information to stakeholders Electronic data management systems (MIS) Electronic resources for the use of the students and the campus community
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➤ **Quest for Excellence:** The process of development of HEIs into centres of excellence, by establishment of the IQAC, effective SWOT analysis mechanism, thereby doing all they do with excellence, aiming at benchmarking level and above shows the quest for excellence. This can be exhibited in various activities as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of core value	Activities
1	Quest for Excellence'	Webinar Multimedia lectures Video conferencing e-notes e-journals Establishment of the Steering Committee Identification of the strengths and weaknesses from accreditation report Proposals to UGC and other agencies Reforms and feedback mechanism etc.

Conclusion:

While preparing for the reaccreditation process, every institution has to take care to exhibit the different activities such that the proper reflection of the core values expected by NAAC will be visible from the report. And, the institutions should plan the activities accordingly in the post reaccreditation phase.

References:

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