IQAC: Benchmarking Excellence

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1. INTRODUCTION: Quality Matters

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort." ~ John Ruskin

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor." ~ Vince Lombardi

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Establishment of IQAC by every accredited institution as a post-accreditation measure is the first step towards internalization and institutionalization.

2. IQAC: SMART GOALS

- The primary aim of the IQAC is to develop system for conscious, consistent and catalytic action to improve the academic and administrative performance of the institution.

- IQAC is to keep the institution abreast of and abuzz with quality sustenance activities on a wide gamut of pertinent issues.

- IQAC is to generate good practices, ideas, planning, implementing and measuring the outcome of academic and administrative performance of the institution.

3. Functions: Challenges and Opportunities

Some of the functions expected of the IQAC are:

- Development and application of quality benchmarks / parameters for the various academic and administrative activities of the institution

- Dissemination of information on the various quality parameters of higher education

- Organization of workshops, seminars on quality related themes and promotion of quality circles

- Documentation of the various programmes / activities leading to quality improvement

- Preparation of the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) to be submitted to NAAC based on the quality parameters.

4. Strategies: Institutionalize Quality initiatives

IQAC shall evolve mechanism and procedures for:

- Ensuring timely, efficient and progressive performance of academic, administrative and financial tasks.

- Optimization and integration of modern methods of teaching, learning and evaluation

- Ensuring the adequacy, maintenance and functioning of the support structure.

5. IQAC Activities: Explore New Frontiers

- Planning of IQAC through democratic methods

- Organizational Arrangements in Internal Quality Assurance Cell
- Newsletter of IQAC: Quality Initiatives and Endeavours
- State of the Art Laboratories.
- Departmental interactions with IQAC and its impact.
- Research and Development Cell
- Annual Internal Quality Audit (Academic Audit).
- Training and Research Centre – Entrepreneurship
- ICT as Teaching-learning Process
- IQAC – Tapping Innovative ideas of Faculty
- Computer Training Programme for Non-teaching staff
- Non-Teaching Staff Training – TQM Initiative
- Role of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in Faculty Enrichment
- Term-wise teaching plan and research activities.
- Training of Non-teaching Staff for Automation Process
- Participatory Learning
- Thrust for Knowledge: 'JIGYASA'
- Soft Skills / Employability Skills
- Mentoring / Tutor-ward System
- Student Orientation Activities
- Students Participation in Decision Making
- Feedback Power: A System of Multi-cornered Feedback
- The Training and Placement Cell
- Students as Important Stakeholders in Quality Initiatives

6. Benefits: Change for the better

IQAC will facilitate / contribute:

- To a heightened level of clarity and focus in institutional functioning towards quality enhancement and facilitate internalization of the quality culture.
- To the enhancement and integration among the various activities of the institution and institutionalize many good practices
- To provide a sound basis for decision-making to improve institutional functioning
- To act as a change agent in the institution
- To better internal communication

Quality pursuit becomes a natural phenomenon rather than an enforced work culture. In this context the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) assumes importance as an endogenous system defining the quality culture of an institution.

All the stakeholders of an institution should promote and encourage the activities of the IQAC in order to make the institution a Centre of Excellence.

7. Conclusion: Develop Quality Culture

1. Quality upgradation is not a onetime phenomenon. Quest for excellence is a continuous and perennial pursuit.

2. IQAC Activities to internalize and institutionalize quality benchmarking.

3. NAAC is triggering a 'Quality Culture' among the various constituents of the HEI, as well as enhancing the awareness of Institutional Quality Assurance with all stakeholders.

"We are what we repeatedly do; excellence then is not an act, but a habit." ~ Aristotle

"A quality education has the power to transform societies in a single generation, provide children with the protection they need from the hazards of poverty, labor exploitation and disease, and given them the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their full potential." — [Audrey Hepburn](#)

Education is the panacea of all the evils in the society. ~ Swami Vivekananda

Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached. ~ Swami Vivekananda