Quality assurance: What role for governments?

PROFESSOR N.V. VARGHESE
DIRECTOR
CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION (CPRHE/NUEPA)
NEW DELHI
Indian HE system showed symptoms of revival in the present century – fast expanding system

India entered a stage of massification of HE in this century

The private sector contributes to more than 60 per cent of the enrolment

Massification of enrolment and diversification of providers and multiplicity of regulators make quality assurance a challenging task
## Massification of HE in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universities and national institutions</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deemed universities</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private universities</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges</td>
<td>35,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolment in millions</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER (%)</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiplicity of regulators

- University Grants Commission
- All India Council for Technical Education
- Distance Education Council
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- Bar Council of India
- National Council for Teacher Education
- Rehabilitation Council of India
- Medical Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India
- Indian Nursing Council, Central Council of Homeopathy
- Dental Council of India, Central Council of Indian Medicine

The regulatory bodies have their own EQA agencies
Accreditation in India

- The regulatory bodies have their own accreditation agencies
- The most common and widely relied on is NAAC established by the UGC
- It is an autonomous body funded by the UGC
NAAC model of assessment: the four phases

- Nationally evolved criteria for assessment
- Self-study by the institution
- Peer team visit
- Final decision by the EC of NAAC
The new methodology introduced in 2007

- Separate steps for affiliated, constituent colleges and universities and autonomous colleges
- The affiliated colleges should apply to seek the status of “Institutional eligibility for quality assurance” (IEQA)
- After assessment, NAAC decides on the IEQA status within six months
- If the answer is no they re-apply after one year
- If the answer is yes, they follow the usual steps
Criteria for assessment: seven criteria

- Curricular aspects
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Research, consultancy and evaluation
- Infrastructure and learning resources
- Student support and progression
- Governance and leadership
- Innovative practices
The accreditation process

- The institution prepares a self-study report consisting of data and critical self-analysis
- The NAAC constitutes a peer team and visits the institutions to ascertain the “pattern of evidences” for claims made in the self-study
- The scores are prepared by the team and sent confidentially to NAAC
- The EC of NAAC decides the accreditation
NAAC grading of institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGPA</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Performance description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.01 - 4.00</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.01 – 3.00</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.51 – 2.00</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1.50</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Validity of accreditation

- Accreditation is valid for 5 Years
- All accredited institutions have to apply for re-accreditation after 5 years
- All accredited institutions should have established Internal quality assurance cells (IQAC)
- IQAC submits to NAAC an annual QA report - a self-reviewed progress report
## Status of accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total institutions</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accredited so far by NAAC</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>5664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation valid as of December 2014</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>3248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions that need to apply for reaccreditation</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>2416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Only few institutions approach NAAC for accreditation

Of the accredited institutions 49% are state universities, 41% deemed to be universities, 7% Central universities and 3% private universities

The established universities do not take accreditation seriously since it does not affect their status or funding

The private universities are new and not yet time to get accredited
Most institutions get an A or B.
No institution gets C.
Many institutions are getting a score of D (unsatisfactory)
There are no governmental pressure to provide higher score for any university
Autonomy and the role of government

- NAAC was established as an autonomous body
- It is funded by the UGC which itself is autonomous
- The NAAC Governing Body is chaired by UGC chairperson
- NAAC does not seem to be suffering from funding difficulties
- The government intervention is rather limited
Autonomy and the role of government

- The autonomy enjoyed by the NAAC can also be partly due to the fact that accreditation is taken lightly by many.
- The interest in Accreditation is increasing due to RUSA (Higher education enhancement programme).
- RUSA is a centrally sponsored programme.
- It insists institutions to be accredited to get funds.
- These efforts may be seen as incentives to approach accreditation agencies.
Challenges

- How to carry out accreditation if all institutions approach NAAC?
- Need to strengthen professional capacity of NAAC
- The need for regional and state level NAAC centres
- What incentives to be provided to bring more institutions under accreditation
- Some state higher education councils (SHECs) have already shown initiatives to accredit state level institutions
- Move from institutional to programme accreditation
- There is a need for more state intervention to encourage institutions to accredit but at the same time the state need to keep away from the process and decisions on accreditation