

# A Study on Coimbatore Based Technical Institutions Best Practices on Quality Enhancement and Naac Accreditation

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## **ABSTRACT**

Higher Education plays a vital role in shaping the social, cultural and economic development of any country. Post globalization, privatization and liberalization, Indian higher education has witnessed significant growth, with rise of Institution especially by private players, students' enrollment and different programmes. An immediate need aroused to ensure the requisite quality of education in these higher educational institutions and also to take Indian Higher Educational Institutions as globally ranking Institutions. In this regard, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was setup in 1994 by University Grants Commission (UGC) with the objective of promoting Quality in Indian higher education. NAAC has been working through a frame work of assessment and accreditation of institutions with specific parameters evaluation and awarding grades based on their performance. Out of 1000 points evaluation, NAAC has provided 100 points to Criteria VII for Institutional values and Best Practices parameters. NAAC has also created, developed and published a series of various institutions best practices including series of case studies. These best practices are the agents of change for any educational institution quality enhancement and its environment as well. This paper aims to provide an over view of best practices adopted by technical institutions of Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) in their quality assessment and accreditation. It will also discuss these institutions best practices, their NAAC grading and its effect towards institutions quality performance and environment.

**Keywords:** NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council), UGC (University Grants Commission), HEIs (Higher Educational Institutions), IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell), AQAR (Annual Quality Assurance Report), SSR (Self Study Report).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognized institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution. NAAC was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC) with its Head Quarters in Bengaluru. NAAC accreditation focuses on improving the quality parameter of education. Unlike the traditional educational system, NAAC aims to improve the overall development of students by helping them inculcate skills & knowledge through their academic activity. The main objective of NAAC is, to make quality the defining element of higher education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives. The

assessment by NAAC primarily focuses on three aspects while evaluating an institution a) Quality initiative, b) Quality sustenance c) Quality enhancement. In the just outgoing system NAAC has seven criteria of assessment of total 1000 points. NAAC has provided 100 points under the separate Criteria Number VII, under the heading “Institutional values and Best Practices”. Here Institutions have to describe at least two best practices as per NAAC format which include Title of the practice, Objective of the practice, the context, the Practice, Evidence of success and Problems encountered and resource required. This criteria deals with best practices itself and hence separate write-up is necessary. In the newly introduced binary system NAAC provided ten criteria assessment of total 68 matrix. The new assessment deals with input, process and output based approach, hence a separate criteria or matrix especially not describes under the heading “Institutional values and Best Practices”.

### **2.1 Objectives of Study:**

1. To study the different best practices of NAAC accredited colleges in Coimbatore.
2. To find out the role and impact of best practices on Quality enhancement,
3. To compare various best practices and their relevance on NAAC score
4. To examine the impact of best practices towards enhancement of Environment and Social welfare.

### **2.2 Limitations:**

The study was undertaken only by the use data collected from respective institutions website portal and NAAC website portal.

### **2.3 Importance of Best Practices Criteria with respect to Quality Assessment and Accreditation:**

- A Best Practice is defined as practice that paves the way for improving existing functions and assisting in the effective implementation or use of a process.
- NAAC uses the best practices as a benchmark to assess and review the performance of higher educational institutions. These practices set high standards of performance, encouraging HEIs to seek self-improvement. Institutions have to be meticulous and work hard to draft and successfully implement their best practices to get NAAC accreditation.
- NAAC consider these best practices are significant, and vital tool, which can boost the educational atmosphere and could instill the scientific approach to issues or problem of society. Conclusively, best practices are the agents of positive change for particular educational institution and society as well.
- According to NAAC best practices are quality enhancing academic, administrative and infrastructural strategies adopted by highly accredited institutions of higher learning in the present instance. Best practices are those which add value to human life and support the main cause of an institution.
- As per NAAC format the two best practices must be selected every year and the same to be successfully implemented by the institution needs to elaborate under the heads in their Annual Quality Assurance Report. Title of the practice, Objectives of the practice, the context of Practice, Evidence of success and Problems encountered and resourced required.

### **2.4 Bench mark for best practices**

Those practices which add commendable value to an institution may be considered as benchmarks of best practices. In other words, institutional excellence is the aggregate of best practices followed in different areas of institutional performance. The aim and intent of the best practices bench marking can be summarized as follows:

- Understanding the fundamentals that lead to success
- Focus on continual improvement efforts, and
- Close the gap between existing practice and that of best-in-class institutions.

### 2.5 Stages of Best Practices Application

Generally application of best practices depends upon on ability to adapt of five-stage strategy:

- Identification of best practices
- Implementation of best practices
- Institutionalization of best practices
- Internalization of best practices
- Dissemination of best practices

The identification of best practices depends on many variables such as institutional goals, pedagogic requirements, global concerns, local contexts, nature of learners, competencies of staff, infrastructure facilities and governance requirements. All these should be kept in mind and by seeking answers for the under mentioned questions accordingly the best practices can be identified.

- How well can better perform when compared to others?
- How good do we want to be?
- Who is doing it the best? How do they do it?
- How can we adapt what they do to our institution?
- How can we be better than the best?

Implementation of best practices strategies includes planning, resource mobilization, capacity building, monitoring, and evaluation. The implementation approach focuses more on performance than on promises. Institutionalization is the process of making the best practices an integral part of institutional working.

Internalization refers to make things a part of one's nature by conscious learning and assimilation. Internalization of best practices means making excellence an integral part of one's habit and nature.

The NAAC is advocating for every institution to establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell, with one of the functions of recording and dissemination of best practices followed by that institution. The recording of practices is also a means of quality improvement.

### 2.6 Methodology for Presentation of Best Practices on NAAC Accreditation

- Title of the Practice
- Objective of the Practice
- The Context
- The Practice
- Evidence of Success
- Problems Encountered and Resources Required

### 2.7 Impact of best practices on NAAC Accreditation:

Best practices are supposed to be any practices that have been in existence for at least 3 years. It should be one internally evolved and made a positive impact on the regular functioning of the institution. These are not prescribed but evolved and innovative in their approach and functioning. These practices may be in respect of teaching-learning, office practices, maintenance and upkeep of things or dealing with human being or money matters. How the best practice resolved some difficulty or brought greater ease in working should be highlighted. The relevancy of 'best practices with the institutional context functioning is to be highlighted. Even though best practices are awarded with 30 points, institutions are

able to score maximum points on this criteria by successfully implementing and demonstrating their best practices more efficiently and effectively. In turn successful implementation these best practices certainly will improve institutions teaching and learning process and also friendly environment in the institution campus. Some of the expected impacts of the best practices are summarized as follows:

- Enhances institutional image and reputation
- Enhances students enrollment
- Enhances research and development
- Encourages sustainable development
- Encourages care on society and environment
- Encourages better teaching and learning process
- Facilities usage of green energy
- Enhances employability of students
- Encourages green and environmentally friend campus

### **3.0 Best Practices followed by Technical Institutions of Coimbatore**

#### **3.1 Importance of Coimbatore city w.r.t engineering education**

Coimbatore has always been popular for its industrial potential, as a travel destination, and as a bustling city that holds a lot of promises. But it also attract a mass number of brilliant minds from all over the country due to the fact that it is home to some of the best engineering colleges and it is the fact that it has a dynamic environment that encourages innovation and development. Coimbatore's development into a center for engineering education is not just a temporary trend; for every student who is about to determine their future, it's a dream coming true. The various reasons to look deeper into what allures these young minds into this city, keep on reading are.

- Infrastructure and education quality
- Countless courses and Specialization.
- Strong industry connect
- Placement possibilities
- Supportive academic setting
- Adoption of best practices and institutional distinctiveness
- A city that greets students

Coimbatore not only educates young minds; it gives you opportunities to change outlook on life. It gives a learning environment that is supportive, industry connections, a lifestyle that fosters both personal and professional progress, and an atmosphere that equips for global problems. This city is becoming a real hub for engineering education, with the best engineering colleges in Coimbatore leading the way for the upcoming generation of engineers. To demonstrate their excellence in Quality driven culture all most all the engineering educational institutions in Coimbatore have under gone NAAC assessment and accreditation process and got better grading.

#### **3.2 Best practices and NAAC grading of Coimbatore based Engineering Institutions**

Coimbatore based technical institutions best practices are compiled from their web-site / SSR document and tabulated as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Best Practices adopted	NAAC Grade
1	SNS College of Technology, Coimbatore - 641035	(i) Activity based student centric teaching learning – Case study videos, demonstration and out bound trainings. (ii) Creation of an Eco-system for Quality research and innovation.	A++
2	SNS College of Engineering, Coimbatore - 641107	(i) Industry based curriculum (ii) Case based learning	A
3	Adithya Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641107	(i) Adithya learning management system. (ii) Skill Development training	A+
4	Sri Ranganathar Institute of Engineering. & Technology, Coimbatore - 641110	(i) Product development and Patent registration (ii) Mentor – Mentee system	A+
5	PPG Institute of Technology, Coimbatore – 641035.	(i) Community engagement using service learning model (ii) TPACK (Technology, Pedagogy and Content knowledge model)	A
6	Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore - 641035	(i) Protosem (Prototype semester) (ii) The Huddle – Forum for senior leadership meet.	A++
7	RVS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 641402	(i) Enhancement of teaching – learning methods with modern teaching aids (ii) Skill based training	A+
8	Tamil Nadu College of Engineering, Coimbatore - 641659	(i) Awards and scholarships to recognize and celebrate outstanding students (ii) Thulir Club – Nurturing of disabled students	A
9	Sri Sai Ranganathan Engineering College, Coimbatore - 641109	(i) Industrial collaboration for students career development (ii) SSIEC Community Engaged education	NA
10	Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 641008	(i) Industry Partnered curriculum and teaching and learning process. (ii) Clean green campus	A
11	Sri Krishna College of Technology, Coimbatore – 641042.	(i) Interactive smart board (ii) Online certificate course	A
12	KPR Institute of	(i) Industry oriented curriculum design and	A

	Engineering, Coimbatore – 641407.	teaching – learning process. (ii) Sustainable green campus	
13	Sri Sakthi Engineering College, Coimbatore - 641104	(i) ROVAN library module and students support module (ii) Institutional automation system (ROVAN ERP)	B++
14	Dr NGP Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641048	(i) Industry Alliances and Partnership through AICTE sponsored IIPC – Centre of Excellence, Industry powered centers and MoUs	A+
15	Dhaanish Ahamed Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641105	(i) Industrial training prgrammes (ii) Enhancement of skills	NA
16	PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore – 641004.	(i) Enabling, enriching and enduring research culture in the company (ii) Empowering Engineering student’s employability competencies.	A
17	PSG Institute of Technology and applied research, Coimbatore – 641062.	(i) Micro teaching for effective teaching and learning (ii) Industry – Academia Conclave as an initiative for symbiotic growth	A+
18	Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641007	(i) Research promotion (ii) Carrier Prospects	A
19	Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College, Coimbatore - 641022	(i) Research and problems solving with interdisciplinary approach (ii) Enhancing employability skills	A
20	Hindustan College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 641032	(i) Digital learning (ii) Scholarships for empowerment	A++
21	Nehru Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore – 641105	(i) Student council (ii) Nehru Corporate placements and Industry relations	A
22	Government College of Technology, Coimbatore – 641013.	(i) Experimental learning and Practical approach in teaching and learning process.	A
23	Karpagam College of Engineering, Coimbatore – 641032.	(i) 360° feed back (ii) Academic and administrative audit	A
24	Sri Eshwar College of Engineering, Coimbatore -	(i) Training and Placements (ii) ED Matrix - learning Management System –	A

	641202	A Product of Sri Eshwar	
25	Hindustan Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641032	(i) Inculcating the spirit of Innovation and research among faculties and students for a progressive technological growth (ii) Positive motivation to teaching staff, non-teaching staff and students through conferment of awards for performance excellence in various categories.	A
26	Kalaingar Karunanidhi Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641402	(i) Inclusive & Persistent student feedback system (ii) Training and Placement	A
27	JCT College of Engineering, Coimbatore - 641105	(i) Integrated Academic Management System (IAMS) (ii) Skill development through sponsored laboratories	B++
28	Karpagam Institute of Technology, Coimbatore – 641105.	(i) Career Development strategies and Placement initiatives (ii) Cross functional learning through club activities	A++
29	Park College Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 641659	(i) Student mentoring program – Enhancing academic performance and wellbeing (ii) Empowering students through skill development training	A+
30	Kathir College of Engineering, Coimbatore - 641062.	(i) Tech enabled teaching and learning for performance assessment of individual students (ii) Generating public visibility, curiosity and goodwill for the Institution by conducting events open to the public on free of charge	A+
31	Easa College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore – 641105.	(i) Enriching knowledge through club activities (ii) Execution of green initiatives.	A
32	CMS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 641032	(i) Developing the knowledge of students through value added courses (ii) Inculcate social welfare in students by NSS	A
33	United Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641020	(i) Enhancing employability skills through effective placement cell activities (ii) Go Green and Eco friendly initiatives	A+
34	Janson Institute of Technology, Coimbatore - 641659	(i) Flipped class room to enhance students learning (ii) Case studies	A

35	Christ The King Engineering College, Coimbatore - 64	(i) Community Engagement and Social responsibility initiatives (ii) Wall of Love – Transforming Generosity into sustainability	A
36	INFO Institute of Engineering, Coimbatore - 641107	(i) Free ships / Fees Concession (ii) INFO LMS – IIE MOODLE (Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment)	B++

Note: NA - Not Available.

#### 4.0 DISCUSSION:

Every Higher Educational Institutions in India must obtain NAAC accreditation to show their brand value and facilities to the entire stakeholder especially to their customer’s viz. students and parents. If the institution is accredited by NAAC and received with higher grading leads to directly and indirectly benefits for student and parents especially during students admission process to choose Quality excellent institutions. Very carefully identified, implemented, Institutionalized and disseminated best practices of higher educational institution have definite impact during NAAC assessment especially during NAAC peer team visit for securing maximum marks in the seventh criteria, which will directly help to achieve highest score on overall assessment. Majority of the Coimbatore based technical institutions have identified and implemented excellent and novel practices as their institution’s best practices viz., Free ships, Flipped class room, Green initiatives execution, Community engagement, Knowledge through club activities, 360<sup>0</sup> feedback, Academic and administrative audit, interactive smart board classes, Industry based curriculum, Case based learning, mentor and mentee system, prototype semester, Students empowerment through skills enrichment etc. are helped to achieve highest quality improvement and their institutional growth. Sincere and dedicative application of well identified best practices are the one of the prime reason for success and sustenance of technical institutions functioning at Coimbatore region and also their best practices are role model for other upcoming educational institution for their quality enhancement and success.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSION:

NAAC has played an important role in enhancing and sustaining quality of higher education in India. The accreditation process has extensively has helped higher educational institutions to identify their strengths and weakness, accordingly take correct measures. The impact of Best practices in NAAC accreditation process has been significant on higher educational institutions quality enhancement, especially for increase in students’ intake due to special scholarships / financial assistance by the institutions, better employability, skills enhancement, better teaching and learning process and to safe guard environment through green energy and green campus initiatives. It should be appreciated that the Coimbatore based technical institutions have adopted systematic and dedicative approach towards Identification, implementation, Institutionalization and dissemination of whatever best practices followed at their end. In view of the above, most of the Coimbatore based technical institutions have accredited with better grading (A and above). Higher scoring in criteria 7 (Institutional values and Best Practices parameters), which is one of the prime factor and helped for Coimbatore based technical institutions to enhance overall scoring and to get higher grading during NAAC assessment and accreditation process.



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