

Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions of Golaghat District of Assam

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Abstract

The higher educational institutions of India have been confronting the challenges of quality and sustenance in the recent decades. These institutions are regulated by the autonomous body. This autonomous body is NAAC. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assesses the performance of Higher Education Institutions in India on different parameters like teaching and learning, innovation, infrastructure, research culture, governance, student support etc. In this study an effort is made to analyse the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions of Golaghat district of Assam.

Keywords: Assessment, Accreditation, Higher Educational Institutions, Golaghat District, Assam

1. Introduction

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognised institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution. NAAC evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching- learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial wellbeing and student services. (Chowdhury, 2024)

Quality in higher education is a conceptual term, which is very difficult to comprehend. This can only be measured through valid and reliable benchmarks. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is a premier agency in India to assess and accredit the quality levels in the Higher Education Institutions (HEI). It works under the Ministry of Education, Government of India and evaluate the quality performance of HEIs using well- defined benchmarks. There are many types of HEIs in the country like Universities, Colleges, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, etc., which are producing graduates every year. But the most important for any HEI is to mould a good human resource for the country with high ethical values to compete in the global challenging environment and they should be accountable for the social, economic, and technical development of the nation (Ravikumar, Sasmitarani and Rath, 2021)

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with headquarters in Bangalore to assess and accredit higher education institutions (HEIs) in India. Its objectives are to evaluate and accredit institutions of higher learning, enhance the quality of teaching, learning, and research, and offer financial support for

workshops, conferences, and seminars. India is regarded as one of the biggest college and university systems in the entire globe, and fixing today's problems would require competent administration of these kinds of institutions. The purpose of the National Academic Accreditation Council (NAAC) is to ensure that higher education is of a high caliber. This was the driving force behind the NAAC's creation. Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are evaluated and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an independent organization created by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The socioeconomic and cultural growth of any country is greatly influenced by higher education. With an increase in both the number of educational institutions and learners enrolled in various programs, higher education in India has grown significantly in recent years. (Gautam, 2024). Keeping these in view the study on assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions of Golaghat district of Assam is conducted as such type of study has not been conducted in this proposed area.

2. Objectives of the Study

To know the NAAC assessment and accreditation scenario of colleges of Golaghat district of Assam.

3. Study Methodology

Descriptive research method is followed to conduct the study. There are twelve government provincialized colleges in Glaghat district and data are collected from websites of twelve colleges of Golaghat district. Information required for the study is collected from Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) and Self-Study Report (SSR) of the colleges.

4. Analysis of Data

Data collected from websites of twelve colleges are evaluated and analyzed to find the results. The data is processed using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). In this study the figures are converted to percentages and tabulated. Descriptive statistics viz mean is used to analyse the CGPA of the colleges.

5. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of the study focuses only on the accreditation status of Government provincialized colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University. However, professional colleges i.e. Law, B.Ed., Engineering, Management, etc. are excluded from the study.

6. NAAC Criteria for Evaluation of Affiliated Colleges

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution of University Grants Commission (UGC) which assesses the performance of Higher Education Institutions in India. NAAC evaluates the performance on multiple parameters in order to establish quality standards for the Higher Education Institutions (Singh et al,2021). The HEIs need to apply with NAAC for getting the accreditation. The performance of institutions is evaluated on seven different criteria. Table 1 shows the detailed weightage of each criteria on which the working of Undergraduate and Post Graduate colleges is assessed. The institutions are graded under four different categories such as "A", "B", "C" and "D". Table 2 shows the range of Institutional Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) as given by NAAC for the purpose of accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

Table 1 Criteria for evaluation of affiliated/constituent colleges given by NAAC

Criteria	Affiliated/constituent colleges	
	UG	PG
1.Curricular Aspects	100	100
2.Teaching, Learning and Evaluation	350	350
3.Research, innovations and extension	110	120
4.Infrastructure and Learning Resources	100	100
5.Student support and progression	140	130
6.Governance, Leadership and Management	100	100
7.Institutional values and best practices	100	100
Total score	1000	1000

Source: <http://naac.gov.in/index.php/en/>

Table 2 Range of institutional CGPA of NAAC

Range of Institutional CGPA	Letter Grade	Status
3.51-4.00	A++	Accredited
3.26-3.50	A+	Accredited
3.01-3.25	A	Accredited
2.76-3.00	B++	Accredited
2.51-2.75	B+	Accredited
2.01-2.50	B	Accredited
1.51-2.00	C	Accredited
<=1.50	D	Non-Accredited

Source: <http://naac.gov.in/index.php/en/>

7. Assessment and accreditation scenario of colleges of Golaghat district of Assam

The assessment and accreditation scenario of colleges of Golaghat district is displayed in Table 3 as Follows.

Table 3 Assessment and accreditation scenario of colleges of Golaghat district of Assam

Sl. No.	Name of the college	Cycle of NAAC assessment	Grade	CGPA	Year of assessment
1	Borpathar College	First Cycle	B	2.33	2023
2	CNB College, Bokakhat	First Cycle	B+	2.74	2022
3	DKD College	First Cycle	N/A	N/A	2004
		Second Cycle	B	2.73	2011
		Third Cycle	A+	3.37	2023
4	DR College	First Cycle	B++	2.69	2004

		Second Cycle	A	3.11	2011
		Third Cycle	A	3.05	2022
5	Furkating College	First Cycle	C++	65.75	2004
		Second Cycle	B	2.63	2011
		Third Cycle	B++	2.76	2016
		Fourth Cycle	A+	3.36	2022
6	Golaghat Commerce College	First Cycle	B+	75.25	2004
		Second Cycle	B	2.80	2012
		Third Cycle	A	3.17	2022
7	HPB Girls' College	First Cycle	B	N/A	2003
		Second Cycle	B	2.71	2012
		Third Cycle	A	3.20	2022
8	JDSG College	First Cycle	B	70.60	2004
		Second Cycle	B	2.78	2012
		Third Cycle	B	2.11	2019
9	Joya Gogoi College	First Cycle	C+	63.0	2004
		Second Cycle	B	2.28	2011
		Third Cycle	D	1.49	2021
10	Kamarbandha College	First Cycle	B+	2.61	2023
		First Cycle	C++	N/A	2004
11	Kamargaon College	Second Cycle	B	2.19	2011
		Third Cycle	B+	2.53	2019
12		First Cycle	B	70.90	2004
	Sarupathar College	Second Cycle	C	1.98	2021

As shown in Table 3 Seven colleges of Golaghat district have completed the third cycle of NAAC assessment. Five colleges viz, DKD college, DR College, Golaghat Commerce College, HPB Girls' College and Furkating College have been accredited by NAAC with A grade. Sarupathar College has completed its second cycle of NAAC assessment and accreditation in the year 2021 and obtained C grade. Furkating College of Golaghat District has completed its fourth cycle of NAAC assessment in the year 2022 with A+ grade (3.36 CGPA).

Table 4 The CGPA of NAAC Accredited Colleges of Golaghat District

CGPA	Number of Colleges
3.51-4.00	0
3.26-3.50	2(16.67%)
3.01-3.25	3(25%)
2.76-3.00	0
2.51-2.75	3(25%)
2.01-2.50	2(16.67%)
1.51-2.00	2(16.67%)
Total Colleges	12(100%)
Mean CGPA of colleges	2.67

Source: Author's computation

From table 4 it is apparent that Mean NAAC CGPA of colleges of Golaghat district is 2.67 which reflects the B+ grade on an average for the colleges of the district.

Findings of the Study

From the study it is found that majority of colleges of Golaghat district have completed the third cycle of NAAC assessment and accreditation. The re-accreditation of colleges of the district succeeds the NAAC period of five years except the Furkating College. Furkating College has participated in assessment and accreditation process in regular and effective manner and the college has secured the highest CGPA in their 4th cycle of NAAC assessment and accreditation in the year 2022. The first cycle NAAC CGPA information of DKD College, HPB Girls' college and Kamargaon colleges are not displayed in their AQARs. Mean NAAC CGPA of colleges of Golaghat district is 2.67.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- Colleges having lower NAAC CGPA grade should follow the strategy of 'A' grade accredited Colleges like DKD College, DR College, Furkating College, Golaghat Commerce College and HPB Gils' College.
- Colleges should follow the guidelines of NAAC re-accreditation specially the gap of NAAC assessment period. In this regard the Government provincialized college should follow the example of Furkating College.
- The colleges should follow up action for re-accreditation of NAAC in regular manner. The colleges which are in first and second cycle of NAAC should proceed for further cycle of NAAC assessment.
- Colleges should undergo a complete review process of their Institution while preparing for getting accreditation.

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