



## Quality Assurance in Indian Higher Education – Relevance of Naac's Criterias and Methodologies to Higher Education System

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### Abstract

Indian Higher Education System is the 3rd Largest System globally, Expansion of higher education sector is imperative. India has traveled a long distance. Institutions as against 30 odd colleges which we used to have in 1950-51, today we have more than 20,000 odd colleges as against 20 universities we have more than 500 university awarding degrees, which include all type of institutions state, private, open, deemed to be university, and institutions of national importance. The challenge therefore is to ensure the quality within the framework of acceptability by its stakeholders along with the expansion. So the real concern is who is going to address the issues of quality?. These are issues that needs to be addressed, debated and taken forward.

To address the issue of Quality in Indian Higher Education, the National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) and the Programme of Action (PoA, 1992) by Government of India, spelt out strategic plans for the policies, and advocated the establishment of an independent National Accreditation Body. Consequently, the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** was established in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore. So far, NAAC has accredited **159 Universities and 4197 Colleges as on 4th September, 2010 across India**, This however includes Re-accredited institutions in the second cycle also. This clearly shows that many institutions are now aware of the importance of Quality factors and the NAAC's Process of Assessment and Accreditation.

This paper focuses on the Indian Higher Education System Canvas, NAAC's Value Frame work, Core Criteria's Adopted, Assessment Methodologies, Grading Pattern, On-site Visit and Its role in bringing the different States Onboard with respect to Quality and encouraging the institutions to embrace the Quality as the defining element.