

Awareness workshop on
“Quality assurance, accreditation and use of ICT for transparent and efficient system”
(April 26, 2013)

The UGC's mandate includes determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities and also framing regulations on minimum standards of education.

To monitor standards of the higher educational institutions it has established the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an autonomous body, under section 12 (ccc) of its Act in September 1994. NAAC is entrusted with the task of performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation of Universities and Colleges in the Country. The philosophy of NAAC is ameliorative and enabling rather than punitive or judgmental, so that all constituencies of institutions of higher learning are empowered to maximize their resources, opportunities and capabilities.

To ensure the objectives of quality improvement, UGC has also made the accreditation by NAAC mandatory through its regulation (Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education Institution) 2012 dated January 19, 2013. The future grants and recognition of higher education institutions now depend on the accreditation from the NAAC. This accreditation activity has to be coordinated through Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the institution. The UP State Higher Education council (UPSHEC) has also created a web portal for quarterly update of the information about the institutions by IQAC for establishing quality culture by self appraisal and upkeep of documentation of the records of activity online.

One major component of the quality assurance is transparency and automation of the various processes. In addition to that the use of web portals, internet and use of computers in handling the large data, has increased the role of Information and communication technology (ICT) in the management of various activities of higher education institutions like admission, examination etc. The high degree of coherence in the management of the student related data between university and colleges is the need of hour.

Therefore this present workshop was aimed at better interaction between colleges and university, creating awareness for the establishment of IQAC and its functioning and motivating the colleges for timely NAAC accreditation.

The inaugural session was presided by Prof. A. K. Sengupta and Dr. R. K. Chaturvedi of UP State Higher education council was chief guest. Prof. Sengupta indicated

about the better coordination between government and Higher Education institutions for the healthy growth of the education system at this level. Dr. R. K. Chaturvedi emphasised on the quick response of the colleges and university for the speedy NAAC accreditation of colleges.

Principals of around 72 affiliated colleges along with their IQAC coordinators participated in the workshop. The colleges were also given their username and passwords for accessing the UPSHEC web portal for uploading their information.

Dr. Rajiv Manohar, Director IQAC, University of Lucknow has told that imparting quality education in all the higher education institutions affiliated to Lucknow University is the prime responsibility of the IQAC cell. In his presentation he briefed the participants' on the methods and means of accreditation. Experts' views were shared by Prof. Aqil Ahmad controller of examinations, Lucknow University for the automation of exam system. UPSHEC web portal manager briefed the IQAC coordinators about the process of uploading the information on the UPSHEC web portal. Dr. Atul Srivastava Astt. Incharge, LU Computer centre and DTP shared his views about speedy and properly formatted transfer of data for creating transparent and efficient system. The conference ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Ajai Prakash.

