



Criterion VII of NAAC-SSR Institutional Values and Best Practices: A theoretical Investigation

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Abstract : We act with integrity and honesty in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards. Respect, Responsibility. Discovery, Excellence, Community approach is the few points which are responsible for the institutional development. Personnel core values like adventurous, authenticity, commitment, compassion, concern for others, consistency, courage and dependability are designed and developed in human being over the year process of learning. The major role of higher education also lies there and it is the responsibility of HEI to provide such atmosphere in the campus so that students can learn these from other stakeholders. The criteria 7 of NAAC are designed to judge the Institutional Values, distinctiveness and Best Practices of the HEI. This paper is designed to describe all these in a significant way.

Index terms: NAAC Criterion 7, Best Practice, Green Audit and Institutional Distinctiveness.

I Introduction

It is necessary to recollect that 'education' includes 'literacy', but it is not confined to skill alone. The meaning and purpose of 'sustainable development' also require some elaboration. The Stockholm Conference in 1972 had the effect of initiating worldwide participation and partnership in creating the needed awareness to preserve the environment from further damage. The Declaration stated: "To defend and improve the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind, a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of worldwide economic and social development." The focus of Criterion 7 in NAAC accreditation is captured in the following Key Indicators i.e. Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities, Best Practices and Institutional Distinctiveness, Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

The institution organizes gender equity promotion programmes. The institution displays sensitivity to issues like climate change and environmental issues. It adopts environment friendly practices and takes necessary actions such as – energy conservation, rain water harvesting, waste recycling (solid/liquid waste management, e-waste management), carbon neutral, green practices etc. The institution facilitates the differently abled (Divyangjan friendliness), effective dealing of location advantages and disadvantages (situations), explicit concern for human values and professional ethics etc. In other words, the concerns for social responsibilities as well as the values held by the institution are explicit in its regular activities.

Best Practices

Any practice or practices that the institution has internally evolved and used during the last few years leading to positive impact on the regular functioning of the institution can be identified as "best practice/s". These are not any activity prescribed by some authority. At some point in time the institution evolves some innovation or a change in some aspect of functioning. This practice is relevant mainly within the institution at a given point in time. It could be in respect of teaching learning, office practices, and maintenance and up keep of things or dealing with human beings or money matters. But adopting that practice has resolved the difficulty or has brought in greater ease in working in that aspect. In brief, these '*best practices*' are relevant within the institutional context and may pertain to either academic or administrative or organizational aspects of institutional functioning. Institutional Distinctiveness, every institution would like to be recognized for certain of its attributes which make it '*distinct*', or, one of its kinds. Such attributes characterize the institution and are reflected in all its activities in focus and practice (1-4).

II Methodology

NAAC has divided HEI into three categories for accreditation purposes i.e. University, Autonomous and Affiliated Colleges. The criterion-wise differential weightages for the three types of Higher Education Institutions have been described. Criterion 7 is further divided into three 'Key Aspects'. The weightage of all these is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Key Indicators of Criteria 7

S.N.	Key Indicators (KIs)	Universities	Autonomous Colleges	Affiliated/Constituent Colleges
7.1	Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities	50	50	50
7.2	Best Practices	30	30	30
7.3	Institutional Distinctiveness	20	20	20
VII	Total	100	100	100

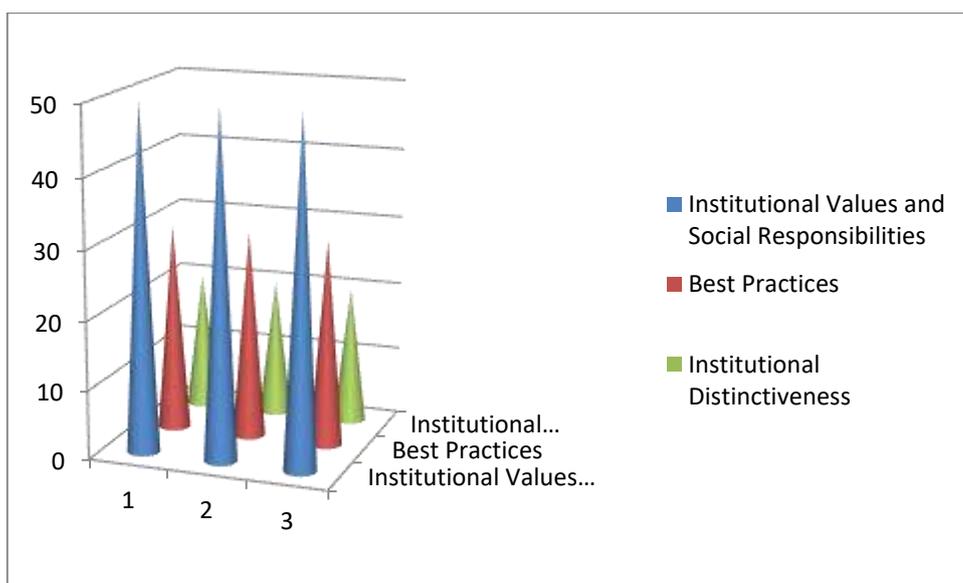


Figure 1. Bar Graph showing Weightages of Key Indicators of Criteria VII

Both qualitative and quantitative metrics are of following types for criteria 7

Key Indicator- 7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

Gender Equity

7.1.1: Number of gender equity promotion Programmes organized by the institution during the last five years

Environmental Consciousness and Sustainability

7.1.2: Institution shows gender sensitivity in providing facilities such as:

Environmental Consciousness and Sustainability

7.1.3 Facilities for alternate sources of energy and energy conservation measures

7.1.4: Percentage of annual power requirements met through LED bulbs

7.1.5: Waste Management steps

7.1.6: Rain water harvesting structures and utilization in the campus

7.1.7: Green Practices

7.1.8: Average percentage expenditure on green initiatives and waste management excluding salary component during the last five years Differently abled (Divyangjan) friendliness

7.1.9: Resources available in the institution

7.1.10: Number of Specific initiatives to address vocational advantages and disadvantages

7.1.11: Number of initiatives taken to engage with and contribute to local community

7.1.12: Code of conduct handbook exists for students, teachers, governing body, and administration including Vice Chancellor / Director / Principal /Officials and support staff

7.1.13: Display of core values in the institution and on its website

7.1.14: The institution plans and organizes appropriate activities to increase consciousness about national identities and symbols; Fundamental Duties and Rights of Indian citizens and other constitutional obligations

7.1.15: The institution offers a course on Human Values and professional ethics

7.1.16: The institution functioning is as per professional code of prescribed / suggested by statutory bodies / regulatory authorities for different professions

7.1.17: Number of activities conducted for promotion of universal values (Truth, Righteous conduct, Love, Non-Violence and peace); national values, human values, national integration, communal harmony and social cohesion as well as for observance of fundamental duties

7.1.18: Institution organizes national festivals and birth / death anniversaries of the great Indian personalities

7.1.19: The institution maintains complete transparency in its financial, academic, administrative and auxiliary functions

Key Indicator- 7.2 Best Practices

7.2.1: Describe at least two institutional best practices

Key Indicator- 7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1: Describe/Explain the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust

III Discussions

1. Institution shows gender sensitivity in providing facilities such as: Safety and Security, Counseling and Common Room. The gender sensitization can be done by various other means such as – regular health check up, demonstrative health policy, conduction of women conferences, seminars and symposium, organization of students workshop inside and outside to HEI. 2. Annual power requirement met by renewable energy sources (in KWH) is calculated by the formula

$$\frac{\text{Annual Power requirement met by renewable energy sources}}{\text{Annual power requirement}} \times 100$$

Similarly Percentage of annual power requirements met through LED bulbs is also calculated by the formula

$$\frac{\text{Annual power requirement met through LED bulbs}}{\text{Annual power requirement}} \times 100$$

3. Average percentage expenditure on green initiatives and waste management excluding salary component is calculated by Percentage per year =

$$\frac{\text{Total Expenditure on green initiatives and waste management excluding salary component}}{\text{Annual expenditure excluding salary component of the institution}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Average percentage} = \frac{\sum \text{Percentage per year}}{5}$$

4. The Waste Management steps include - Solid waste management, Liquid waste management and E-waste management. Among the Green Practices using Bicycles and Public Transport by the students, faculty and staff members is counted. Further presence of Pedestrian friendly roads is also caters this need. Plastic-free campus, paperless office, Green landscaping with trees and plants, laboratory waste management system, waste to wealth, air pollution checker, Cottrell precipitator, water harvesting system, dripping system, check dam constructions, efforts for carbon neutrality and Green compost plant are important components of Green campus. All of this is governed by the Green Auditing. The HEI should conduct Green auditing as per described procedure every year (5).

5. Sensitivity towards differently abled persons is measured by the Resources available in the institution viz Physical facilities, Provision for lift, Ramp / Rails, Braille Software/facilities, Rest Rooms, Scribes for examination and Special skill development for differently able students.

6. The HEI should have designed and displayed Code of conduct handbook exists for students, teachers, governing body, administration including Vice Chancellor / Director / Principal /Officials and support staff. Similarly an Academic calendar should be there with clear vision of the institution plans and organizes appropriate activities to increase consciousness about national identities and symbols; Fundamental Duties and Rights of Indian citizens and other constitutional obligations. Annual audit including the Green audit should be an integral part of complete transparency in its financial, academic, administrative and auxiliary functions.

7. Two important Key Indicators are Best practices and Institutional Distinctiveness. Both should be described in a proper format. The institute preaches through practice the ways to internalize and adapt practices of positive impact for the progress of HEIs. They are broadly categorized as: Promotion of Research Eco-system and Adaptability with Changing Needs

A designed format for the best practice is given as (6) –

- Title of the Practice
- Objectives of the Practice
- The Context
- The Practice
- Evidence of Success (Photographs of different stages are to be attached)
- Problems Encountered and Resources Required
- Notes (Optional)

The HEI should be committed to social welfare and understands the importance of social participation in the success of any venture. The region under the HEI jurisdiction if found as socially and economically heterogeneous with differentiable and financially distressed population. The institution may go to involve all stakeholders in its activities and try to become a key player in improving the academic, socio-economic and intellectual condition of the region. Such institutional distinctiveness has to be the administrative and academic activities, implemented inclusive policies and practices to facilitate access to education and help the livelihood of the people of this region. A general description of discussion is given in figure 2.



IV Recommendations

- Green Auditing should be performed by an audit committee comprised of Internal and External members.
- Solar energy, wind energy and other renewable energy should be used as maximum as possible.
- Core values should be displayed at several places in the form of a poster and should be in routine of all stakeholders of HEI.
- Best practices should not be an ordinary practice it should be unique and should be the consequence of at least five years perpetual practice.
- Institutional distinctiveness should be authenticated with data, photographs and other evidences.

V Conclusion

The 7th criterion of NAAC seeks information on the Institutional Values, distinctiveness, core values, environmental concern and Best Practices. It also reflects the vision and thoughts of HEI towards the Green Auditing which not only refers to energy and environmental concerns of the HEI but also provide deep sense and transparency aspects in the day to day working of HEI. It also reflects the core values, ethics and culture of all stakeholders of the HEI.

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