

6. ACCREDITATION

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, three of our courses have undergone the process of Accreditation. The process was carried out by the eminent Professors nominated by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). These Professors have been working in Premier Institutes like IISc- Bangalore, IIT-Chennai, ISM-Dhanbad, BEC-Kolkata, NIT-Trichi and NIT-Nagpur. They completed the process under the Chairmanship of an eminent Professor from IIT-Mumbai.

The process of accreditation is a rigorous process which makes an assessment of several parameters like:

- i) Quality of teaching,
- ii) Expertise of faculty,
- iii) Evaluation of teachers,
- iv) Quantum and level of research work,
- v) Quality of students and their opinion about the Institute,
- vi) Performance of students in the University and other competitive examinations,
- vii) campus placement,
- viii) standard of infrastructure and
- ix) Availability of facilities such as hostel, library, internet, medical, sports, transportation, banking, postal etc.

Impressed by the complete process, I personally feel that every teacher should know about "Accreditation". With this sincere intention I am presenting in this paper some of the salient features of the Accreditation process.

PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION - ITS GENESIS

AICTE was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1987. Its main function is proper planning and supervision for appropriate development of the technical education system in our country.

Empowered by the provision of clause 10 (U) of the AICTE Act, a National Board of Accreditation had been set up by AICTE in 1994.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF NBA (1)

1. The National Board of Accreditation evaluates programs ranging from Diploma to P.G. level studies.
2. The responsibility of NBA is to develop a quality driven system of technical education. Excellence, Relevance to market needs and satisfaction of all stakeholders are considered to be of prime importance.
3. The technical education system in India should produce engineering graduates who would match with the best in the world.

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MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES:

The National Board of Accreditation has developed a mechanism to assess and ensure the quality of education for individual programs in engineering and other branches of knowledge which fall under the purview of the AICTE.

The various elements of engineering institute include

- i) Administrative Structure
- ii) Academic System
- iii) Physical Infrastructure
- iv) Human Resource and
- v) Other Support Systems

The NBA has identified some important parameters based on which it does carry out the assessment of any program.

Broadly, the evaluation is based on a 1000 point scale.

Parameters and weightage : (U.G. Course)

i) Organization and Governance	...	80
ii) Financial Resources, Allocation and utilization	...	70
iii) Physical Resources (Central Facilities)	...	50
iv) Human Resources : Faculty & Staff	...	200
v) Human Resources : Students	...	100
vi) Teaching Learning processes	...	350
vii) Supplementary Processes	...	50
viii) R&D and Interaction efforts	...	100
TOTAL		1000

IN BRIEF ABOUT THE EVALUATION

- i) *Eligibility criteria for applying for*

Accreditation of any program :

Minimum two batches should be out.

The NBA committee during its visit identifies the strengths and weaknesses and awards weightages against each of the previously identified parameter.

- ii) *Criteria for getting accreditation for a particular program :*

- A) Minimum 50% score in each of the following heads:

i. Human Resource: Faculty & Staff : 100/200.

ii. Human Resources : students : 50/100

iii) Teaching Learning Process : 175/300

Thus the minimum score in the above heads must be 325/650, then only the committee considers the program worthy of accreditation.

- B) Total score on 1000 point scale

i. Score less than 650 or score upto 649:

Not ripe for accreditation ... Rejected case.

- ii. Score in the range of 650 to 749 :

Accreditation of the program for 3 years. The program needs renewal after 3 years.

- iii. Score in the range of 750 and above :

Accreditation for 5 years. The program needs renewal after 5 years.

REMARKS

- (i) Institutes which have excellent infrastructure, proper staff student ratio (1:15) , proper cadre ratio : (P : AP : L :: 1: 2 :6), produce excellent results, have high job placement, conduct research of International standard, publish research papers in National & International Journals, do industrial consultancy,

produce students who qualify in exams like GATE, CAT, GRE, GMAT, UPSC – Civil services, UPSC – Engineering services and are culturally strong and have very good public acceptance normally score more than 750 and get accreditation for five years.

- (ii) The other institutes should be happy if they get accreditation for 3 years in spite of deficiencies in some areas.

The process of Accreditation is depicted in the **flow chart**. Readers may please take a close look at it.

The entire accreditation process has objectivity, uniformity and transparency. It is now necessary to assure that the system itself is substantially equivalent to similar international accreditation systems adopted globally.

Engineering is a global profession. Transnational and multinational organizations employ engineers from different parts of the world. These employable engineers should have acceptance in the countries where they are needed to function. This requirement has resulted in the need to evolve mechanism for mutual recognition of U.G. Degrees and resulted finally into the formation of "WASHINGTON ACCORD".

WASHINGTON ACCORD (2)

In 1989, the representatives of Accreditation Committees of *USA, Canada, U.K., Ireland, Australia and New Zealand* signed an agreement which is known as "Washington Accord". This agreement recognizes 'Substantial Equivalence' of the Accreditation System of the applicant country. *Hong Kong, South Africa and Japan* became the members of Washington Accord. Initially, the Accord permits 'Provisional Membership' and after passage of 2 to 3 years of satisfactory performance, the full membership is accorded.

Normally, the Accord meets twice in a year, each time in different member country. The two meetings are scheduled during January and June.

Realizing the necessity of establishing the global credibility to the process of accreditation adopted by it, the AICTE had applied for the membership of the Washington Accord at their meeting in New Zealand in June 2003. On receipt of application from AICTE, the Accord had formed a committee. The constituent members were from Canada, the U.K. and Australia. The committee visited AICTE in Jan. 2005. It carried out its task. The next meeting was scheduled in June 2005 in Hongkong. The signatories met there. The AICTE was granted 'Provisional Membership' of the Accord after that meeting. Thus, from June 2005, India is provisional member of the Washington Accord.

At present there are 17 countries which are the members of the Washington Accord. (*Australia, Canada, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, UK, USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, India, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka*).

BENEFITS ARISING OUT OF ACCREDITATION

- i) Branding of the Institute is one of the biggest benefits. Programs in not more than 400 Institutes out of 1520 are accredited at present. Table No. 1 shows the status of Accreditation on All India Basis.
- ii) Credibility of the Institute is established.
- iii) Stakeholders are confident about the Institute.
- iv) Public acceptance increases.
- v) The Institute goes on global map since India is included in the Washington Accord. Students passing out from an Institute of which the particular course is

accredited, their U.G. Degree/P.G. Degree is treated at par with the Degree of other member countries for the purposes of employment. Aspirants are not required to pass any other qualifying exam. in the country (out of 17) they desire to work as Engineers.

- vi) There is a limit to the sanctioned intake (max. 420) in an unaccredited institute. AICTE can grant permission to increase the sanctioned intake beyond 420 in case of an accredited institute.
- vii) Accreditation is a pre-condition for transformation of an Institute from Affiliated Institute to the Autonomous Institute if the accredited institute satisfies the other prescribed norms for grant of Autonomous status.
- viii) Accredited Institutes are considered eligible by the AICTE for the award of grants for various projects under different schemes including 'MODROB'.

CONCLUSION

- i) Engineering programs which are accredited by the NBA, generate a pool of young persons who can succeed in

global competition. Hence more Institutes should get their programs accredited.

- ii) Sound knowledge of English, proven capability in the area of Information Technology, excellent track record of Indian entrepreneurs are some of our strengths. These strengths can be maintained only through quality driven systems.
- iii) Appropriate curriculum, qualified faculty and hard working students can strengthen our system further. Hence proper attention needs to be paid to these influencing factors in the process of maintaining the quality of engineering education.

REFERENCES

1. www.aicte.er.in (chapter on NBA).
2. Dr. V.N. Gupchup. Towards Quality Engineering Education: The Journal of Engineering Education, April 2005.

Table No. 1 : Status of Accreditation By N.B.A

Region	Name of the state	No. of Colleges	No. of colleges Accredited **
Central	Madhya Pradesh	85	18
	Chhattisgarh	17	03
	Gujrat	43	10
Eastern	Mizoram	--	--
	Sikkim	01	--
	Orissa	48	10
	West Bengal	62	17
	Tripura	02	--
	Meghalaya	01	--
	Arunachal Pradesh	01	01
	Assam	06	01
	Manipur	01	--
	Jharkhand	10	03
North West	Chandigarh	06	--
	Haryana	46	13
	J & K	06	--
	New Delhi	16	01
	Punjab	47	10
	Rajasthan	49	02
	Himachal Pradesh	06	01
North	Bihar	09	--
	Uttar Pradesh	118	29
	Uttaranchal	14	05
South West	Andhra Pradesh	281	38
	Pondicherry	05	03
	Tamil Nadu	247	87
	Karnataka	126	43
	Kerala	94	13
Western	Maharashtra	170	63
	Goa	03	02
	TOTAL	1520	373

- ** i) Accreditation is given to the courses and not to the Institute. All courses conducted by the Institute may not be accredited.
- i) Colleges conducting U.G. & P.G. Engg. Degree courses have been counted.
- iii) Accreditation granted to the Institutes conducting MBA, MCA, PGDM, Pharmacy & Diploma Courses has not been taken into account which are 173 in number.

