

ACADEMIC AUDIT FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION**Dr. B. V. Sudha**

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Abstract

An academic audit is an integral part of the dynamics of higher education and its regulation in many countries that aspire to achieve excellence and international standing. The fundamental purpose of quality assurance process is to provide the stakeholders with information about the research and education.

Key words: Academic audit, Higher education, Quality assurance, Research

Introduction

The academic quality management has put in the place an institute wise wide academic quality management framework together evidence based information on the quality of its programme and to encourage a culture of continuous self improvement to self reflection of processes and best practices of programme offices and academic institution through academic audit. Universities and colleges are responsible for managing the academic standard and quality of their awards.

An audit takes into account the following:

Whether the research activities and programmes being implemented have been authorised by the concerned authorities (in the case of a university set-up — have the programmes been approved by the university, UGC, academic council, the board of management, and so on). Whether the research activities and programmes are being conducted in a manner geared to accomplish the objectives intended by the authorities. Whether the research activities and programmes are efficiently and effectively serving the purpose intended by the authorities. Whether the research activities and programmes being conducted and funds expended in compliance with the applicable laws. Are adequate operating, administrative procedures and practices, systems, etc. in place? Are the needs of the various stakeholders such as students,

parents, employers, statutory authorities, society and the top management or the trustees satisfied?

The advantages of an academic audit are manifold. Some of these are given below:

For students: It helps the students for quality aspects and for the success of a student's career in the field of research.

For teachers: It helps in inculcating the spirit of research, boosting up their profile and contributing in vast research area which is an ultimate demand of government from higher education.

For the society: It ensures the need of research work in each and every field of life.

The following six template covers strategic working and planning for the academic audit for the quality management in the higher education.

Programme policy and planning

Academic Institute programme policy and planning support the creation of information for review processes. Academic Institution's mission statement identifies its values, philosophy and vision of what the academic institute is doing and how they align to the strategic vision of mission. These values are also used to guide decisions making about academic standards like knowledge, skills, attitude and achievements expected of students in the subject discipline based on international benchmark and standard and national needs academic institute set clearly what outcome they want for their students, teaching methods to employ to achieve those outcomes and the type of assessment tasks and expectation that will effectively demonstrate the intended outcome.

Academic programme:

Values, knowledge and skills attributes of a beginning teacher have been defined in the pre-service programme outcome framework. It must also be the responsibility of academic institute to ensure that they contribute towards the achievement of these attributes to the extent they contribute to the programme objectives (constructive alignment).

Student support and development:

Here, the academic institute reflects and report on how students experience the courses offered, gaining insight into their academic and personal development. What they like and do not like about various instructional approaches, student-staff interaction, factors that facilitate or hinder learning and the nature of assessments and feedback in fostering their learning.

Learning environment:

The quality of the teaching and learning environment form an important part of the academic audit. It is influenced by the academic environment, physical and social learning resources that facilitate student learning. Learning support resources includes libraries, laboratories and specialist equipment's or activities, teaching space, counselling and consultation for students in need of such support.

Academic staff management and developments:

It focuses on the establishment of policies for appointment, appraisal, development and promotions of staff and leadership and how these policies are effectively implemented at the academic institute level to reflect changing circumstances.

This also includes faculty research involvements, their impact through publication, implementation of results and overall improvement of teaching of courses. The report on research also inform the institute on academic institute faculty success in securing funding, team work, impact and standing of faculty and academic institute relative to international peers.

Strategic Alignment and Constitutional Improvements:

Development implementation and results of plans and strategies of the academic institution form an important focus of this section. In a continuous review process, the results and information here are used to shape and strengthen the curricula and strategies of the academic institution to enhance student learning. This includes future plans and recommendations, contributions to community.

References

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