

Best Practices with NAAC in College Libraries of Nalbari District, Assam

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Abstract

The twenty first century creates a new environment for education in general and higher education in particular. The progress of any country is strongly linked with the quality of education. However, with mushrooming of educational institutions in all parts of the country and several types of economic activities dominating the landscape, the issue of quality has now assumed a critical dimension. College libraries play an indispensable role in the dissemination of information of knowledge, they should be in a position to provide effective teaching learning information support to its user's communities. Libraries are one of the important components of the assessment through which an impact on the accreditation of the institute is related. To meet the end user's demands effectively, they need to identify and adopt good practices. NAAC has decided to identify the set of best practices in Library and Information Services, with the help of a few case presentations from few selected libraries of the accredited Universities and Colleges. This paper shows a clear picture about the developments of college libraries of Nalbari district(Assam) after NAAC's evaluation. It gives the status of best practices followed by the surveyed libraries.

Keywords: NAAC, College Library, Quality in Education

1. Introduction

Colleges form the integral part of Higher education and libraries in colleges are the primary source for learning process. The college library is a connecting link between teaching and learning as well as place which supplement its resources what is beyond scope of class room. College libraries play an important role in the educational history of both the students as well as the faculty members. It serves the user by providing specific information to the user. But how far the college libraries are success in implementing their goals into its reality is a big question. There must be some agency to have a proper vigilance on the functioning of college

libraries and also to suggest certain measures to rectify the emerging needs, and for this kind of purpose NAAC was established for maintaining quality education of the institutions.

Till 2010 NAAC has accredited 20,000 colleges and more than 450 Universities in India. The total no. of colleges affiliated to various universities in N.E. is 594. Assam the epicenter of Higher Education has the highest number of colleges (230). More than 200 colleges are accredited by NAAC in Assam (till July 2011).

2. NAAC and Best Practices

For College libraries NAAC (www.naac.gov.in) has developed the following set of best practices:



- 1) Computerization of library with standard software.
- 2) Inclusion of sufficient information about the library in the college prospectus.
- 3) Compiling student / teacher statistics.
- 4) Displaying newspaper clippings and a clipping file maintained periodically.
- 5) Career/employment information services.
- 6) Internet facility to different groups.
- 7) Information literacy programmes.
- 8) Suggestion Box
- 9) Displaying New Arrivals.
- 10) Instituting Annual Best use Award for students.
- 11) Organizing Competitions annually.

3. NAAC in Higher Education with Special Reference to College Libraries

The twenty first century creates a new environment for education in general and higher education in particular. While evaluating the individual constituent of a college, NAAC has realized the importance of the "College Libraries" which were formerly known as the store house of books and the librarians as the custodian of documents. After finalizing the accreditation NAAC provides a report on the evaluated institutions, where NAAC has focused extremely to the pathetic conditions of the College Libraries which were ignored by most of the college authority. In the final report, NAAC provides the appreciation on the strength of the colleges as well as suggestion on the weakness of the colleges where college library has been kept in the focal point. With that most of the colleges in India started to develop their libraries by appointing the full- time professionally qualified librarian with other staffs. After NAAC's initiation Library

environment has an in-depth effect on everyone who comes within its periphery and has a large impact on an organization's performance.

4. Statement of the Problem

The objective of the study is to address the questions that arise after NAAC's assessment and accreditation to the college libraries like whether the infrastructure, services, facilities, learning resources etc. are being compatible with changing learning environment.

5. Scope of the Study

The area covered under study is limited to the college libraries of Nalbari district affiliated all under Gauhati University. The selected college libraries have different types of disciplines mainly Arts, Science & Commerce. Out of the six colleges, five colleges provide education to both male and female while one college imparts education only to the female community.

6. Aims and Objectives of the Study

The study was carried out to achieve the following objectives.

- 1) To assess the progress of the college libraries of Nalbari District after NAAC's assessment.
- 2) To examine the implementation of the guidelines imparted by NAAC in the college libraries of Nalbari District.
- 3) To study the present scenario of the selected college libraries of Nalbari District.
- 4) To study the outcome of the NAAC's assessment and accreditation for the college libraries of Nalbari district.

7. Methodology

In order to study the assign topic keeping the above scope and objectives in mind , the methodology and technique applied are survey method, questionnaire technique etc. To collect the necessary information two types of questionnaires are prepared i. e. librarian and user questionnaire

8. Librarians' Questionnaire Analyses

Sl No	Name of the Colleges	Name of the Library	Year of establishment	Year of accreditation	Grade obtained	Suggestion By NAAC
1	Barbhag College	Barbhag College Library	1964	2004	B+	Internet connectivity, Collection development, automation, maintain hygienic atmosphere etc.
2	Kamrup College	Kamrup college Library	1966	2004	B+	Staff should be increased, Automation, reference collection should be increased, Internet connectivity, procurement of standard furniture etc.
3	MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya	MNC BM Library	1979	2004	B++	Internet connectivity, increase in reference collection, Automation, Enlargement of reading room, procurement of e-document etc.
4	Nalbari College	Tralokya Nath Goswami Library	1945	2004	B+	Computerization, Collection development, Internet connectivity, Open access etc.
5	Nalbari Commerce College	Nalbari Commerce College Library	1979	2004	C+	Computerization, Collection development, appointment of more staff, library building extension, Internet connectivity etc.
6	Tihu College	Central Library	1963	2003	B+	Preservation of document, library building extension, infrastructure should be developed in the fields of Automation,

Table 1: College Libraries of Nalbari District under study

From the Table 1 it is seen that Nalbari College is the oldest college in the Nalbari district. All the colleges are accredited for a single time i.e. in 2003 & 2004. NAAC has suggested to all the six libraries to initiate library automation with other basic requirements.

9. College libraries before NAAC's Assessment

SINo.	Areas	Tihu College	Nalbari College	MNC College	Nalbari Commerce College	Kamrup College	Barbhag College
1	Automation	N	N	N	N	N	N
2.	Services						
	OPAC	N	N	N	N	N	N
	N-List	N	N	N	N	N	N
	ILL	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Internet	N	N	N	N	N	N
3	Section						
	Reference section	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	Book Bank	N	N	N	N	N	N
4	Collections	28,256	INP	17,000	5,000	22,261	INP
5	Reading room facility	limited	limited	limited	limited	limited	limited
6	Photocopying facility	N	N	N	N	N	N
7	Drinking water facility	N	N	N	N	N	N

Table2: College Library scenario before NAAC visit

Table 2 reveals that before NAAC's assessment all the college libraries were performing their services traditionally. No college libraries had introduced the automation process, OPAC, ILL, internet facility, book bank section, photocopying and drinking water facility to its users.

10. Services

Sl. No	Name of the Colleges	Circulation	Reference	Reprography	ILL	CAS	Bibliography	Orientation	Display of current Arrivals	N-list
1	Barbhag College	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
2	Nalbari Commerce College	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
3	Kamrup College	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	MNC College	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
5	Nalbari College	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
6	Tihu College	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 3: Present services provided by the College Libraries

Out of nine services which have been selected for the survey it is found that no libraries have provided cent percent services. All the six libraries provide Circulation, Reference & Reprography services. ILL is still not been provided by any college libraries.

11. Collection Development

SL No	Name of the Colleges	2008	2009	2010	Increase in Collection in 2009 (%)	Increase in Collection in 2010 (%)
1	Barbhag College	INP	INP	28,755	-	-
2	Kamrup College	24,991	25,243	26,153	1	3.6
3	MNC College	26,949	28,399	30,148	5.3	6.1
4	Nalbari College	18,260	20,490	25,490	12.2	24.4
5	Nalbari Commerce College	5,190	6,863	7,270	32	5.4
6	Tihu College	31,105	32,974	33,028	6	0.1

Table 4: Status of Collection Development from 2008-2010

INP=information not provided

Table 4 reveals that the collections of the college libraries of Nalbari district are increasing gradually each year. Kamrup college library has the highest number of collections followed by MNC college library.

12. Development after NAAC's Assessment

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Area of developments	Barbhag College	Nalbari Commerce College	Kamrup College	MNC College	Nalbari College	Tihu College
Computerization	Y (P)	Y (P)	Y (P)	Y (P)	N	Y (P)
Internet facility	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
N-LIST facility	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Infrastructural development	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Separate reading room	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Well-organized furniture	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Efficient seating capacity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Collection development	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Increase in no. of journals	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
OPAC facility	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
LAN connectivity	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Network version of SOUL	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Table 5: Major areas of development after NAAC's Assessment

P-Partially

Table 5 reveals that after NAAC's assessment the college libraries of Nalbari District are improving gradually in terms of their various infrastructural developments. 83.33% of libraries have partially started the computerization, OPAC, etc. After assessment the libraries have connected their library with LAN, Internet connectivity and started to provide N-LIST facility to the students.

13. Automation

Automation of college libraries is one of the important aspects where NAAC gives much emphasis.

Sl. No	Name of the Colleges	Status of automation	No. of computers used	Internet Connectivity	Software used	Total holdings	Total no. of records in database
1	Barbhag College	Partially automated	5	Y	SOUL 2.0	28,710	15,000 (52.24%)
2	Nalbari Commerce College	Very initial stage	1	Y	SOUL 2.0	7,270	1,000 (13.75%)
3	Kamrup College	Initial stage	2	Y	SOUL 2.0	26,083	4300+ (16.48%)
4	MNC College	Partially automated	4	N	SOUL 1.0	30,123	20,000+ (66.39%)
5	Nalbari College	N	1	N	-	25,490	..
6	Tihu College	Partially automated	2	N	SOUL 2.0	32,930	26,000 (78.90%)

Table 6: Automation Status of Surveyed Libraries

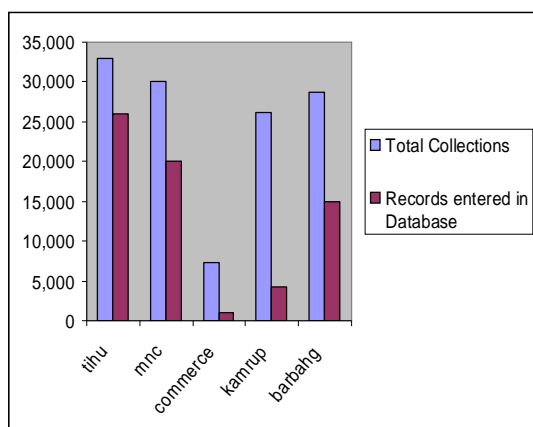


Figure 1: Status of Records Entered in the Databases

Table 6 shows that except Nalbari college library all the other college libraries have started the process of Automation with SOUL software developed by INFLIBNET (An IUC of UGC). Tihu college library (78.90%) is highest in ranking of entering the records in the databases followed by MNC (66.39%) and then followed by Barbhag college library (52.4%).

Sl No	Name of the Colleges	Cat	Cir.	Acq.	OPAC	S.Control.	Budget	Adm.
1	Barbhag College	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
2	Kamrup College	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
3	MNC College	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
4	Nalbari College	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
5	Nalbari Commerce College	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
6	Tihu College	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N

Table 7: Library Activities Covered under Automation (House-Keeping Operation)

From the Table 7 it is seen that except Nalbari college library all the remaining five college libraries have started the automated cataloguing and OPAC facility. MNC college library has started the automated circulation recently. No college libraries have still started the automated acquisition, serial control, maintenance of budget and the administration process as per the modules present in SOUL software.

14. Library Building

Sl. No	Name of the Colleges	Separate library building	Special Reading Room	Area of Library building	Extension of Library Building
1	Barbhag College	Y	N	150mtr X 50 met.	Y
2	Kamrup College	Y	Y	1206 X 50 ft.	Y
3	MNC College	Y	N	4000 Sq. ft.	Y
4	Nalbari College	Y	N	2200 Sq.ft	N
5	Nalbari Commerce College	Y	N	2000 Sq. ft.	Y
6	Tihu College	N	N	24000 Sq.ft.	N

Table 8: Status of Library building of surveyed Libraries

From Table 8 it is seen that MNC college library has the largest area of library building. Five libraries (83.33%) have separate library building. At present only Kamrup college library has provided the separate reading room facility to its users. Four college libraries (66.66%) have already extended the library building.

15. User Questionnaires Analyses

For collecting the users views all total 180 questionnaires were distributed among the users of the six colleges of Nalbari district randomly and the number of responses received were 158 including both teachers and students. In this part users' views are analyzed in the different areas according to the college wise.

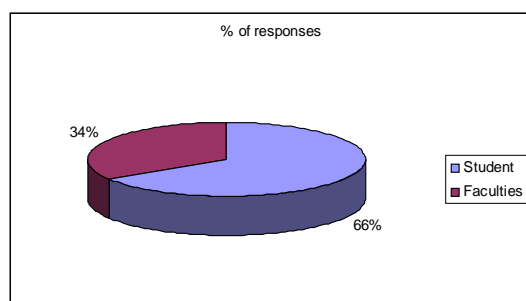


Figure 2: Shows Category wise User's response

15.1 Users Views on NAAC impact on College Libraries

Users have given their views regarding the development of libraries. From user survey it is seen that maximum users are of the view that libraries have been developed much after NAAC Visits

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Sl No	Name of Colleges	Improved	Partially Improved	Not at all	Total No=158
1	Barbhag College	20 (71.42%)	7 (25%)	1 (3.57%)	28
2	Kamrup College	19 (67.83%)	6 (21.42%)	3 (10.71%)	28
3	MNC College	21 (72.41%)	7 (24.13%)	1 (3.44%)	29
4	Nalbari College	15 (62.5%)	6 (25%)	3 (12.5%)	24
5	Nalbari Commerce College	14 (60.86%)	5 (21.73%)	4 (17.39%)	23
6	Tihu College	17 (65.38%)	7 (26.92%)	2 (7.69%)	26

Table 9: Users view on NAAC's Impact on Libraries

15.2 Infrastructure

Sl. No	Name of the Colleges	Satisfied	Partially satisfied	Unsatisfied	Total N=158
1	Barbhag College	11 (39.28%)	14 (50%)	3 (10.71%)	28
2	Kamrup College	12 (42.85%)	13 (46.42%)	3 (10.71%)	28
3	MNC College	15 (51.72%)	11 (37.93%)	3 (10.34%)	29
4	Nalbari College	7 (29.16%)	8 (33.33%)	9 (37.5%)	24
5	Nalbari Commerce College	8 (34.78%)	9 (39.13%)	6 (26.08%)	23
6	Tihu College	10 (38.46%)	9 (73.07%)	7 (26.92%)	26

Table 10: Infrastructure of the Library

Table 10 reveals that users have responded differently about the infrastructure of the libraries. 39.28% users of Barbhag College, 34.78% of Nalbari Commerce College, 42.85% of Kamrup College, 51.72% of MNC Girl's college, 29.16% of Nalbari College and 38.46% of Tihu college library are satisfied with the present infrastructure of their library. Moreover, 50% users of Barbhag College, 39.3% of Nalbari Commerce College, 46.42% of Kamrup College, 37.93% of MNC Girl's College, 33.33% of Nalbari College and 73.07%

of Tihu College library are partially satisfied. And, 10.71% users of Barbhag College, 26.08% of Nalbari Commerce College, 10.71% of Kamrup College, 10.34% of MNC Girl's College, 37.5% of Nalbari College and 26.92% of Tihu College library are unsatisfied with the present infrastructure of their library.

15.3 Timings of the College Libraries

Before the involvement of NAAC all the six libraries did not pay much attention in this area. NAAC in their guideline for the college libraries have distinctly mentioned on the opening and closing hours of the library.

Sl No	Name of the Colleges	Satisfied	Partially Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Total No=158
1	Barbhag College	14 (50%)	10 (37.71%)	4 (14.28%)	28
2	Kamrup College	13 (46.42%)	11 (39.28%)	4 (14.28%)	28
3	MNC College	15 (51.72%)	10 (34.48%)	4 (13.79%)	29
4	Nalbari College	10 (41.66%)	9 (37.5%)	5 (20.83%)	24
5	Nalbari Commerce College	8 (34.78%)	12 (52.17%)	3 (13.04%)	23
6	Tihu College	12 (46.15%)	9 (34.61%)	5 (19.23%)	26

Table 11: Users views on Timing of the Libraries

15.4 Findings

- 1) From the survey it is found that (Table 3) gradually the college libraries of Nalbari district have started to provide more innovative services after NAAC's accreditation.
- 2) It is also found that except one college library all the remaining five libraries have started the process of automation
- 3) Except Tihu College library all the other College libraries have separate library Building.

Moreover Kamrup college library have a unique facility for having a special reading room for the teachers (Table 8)

- 4) From the users survey it reveals that (Table 9)) out of 158 respondents, 67.08% are agreed fully of the development of libraries with NAAC's evaluation, 24.05% have partially agreed and 8.86% have not agreed.
- 5) It is also found from the user survey (Table 10) that 39.87% users have satisfied with the present infrastructure of the libraries, whereas 24.05% of users are partially satisfied and 8.86% of users are not at all satisfied with the present infrastructure of the libraries.

15.5 Suggestions

Here some of the points we have mentioned for the libraries in order to improve further:

- 1) The library should provide the minimum reading standard to the users with internet facility as recommended by the NAAC team.
- 2) Total holdings of the library should be converted into machine readable form. Process of automation should be completed as early as possible OPAC terminals should be made available so that the users need not to spend much time in searching the documents.
- 3) Vacant posts of the librarians along with other personnel's must be filled as soon as possible with professionally qualified persons.
- 4) The students should be made aware about accessibility of e-resources under N-LIST.

16. Conclusion

The study reveals that College libraries of Nalbari district have achieved remarkable upliftments due to NAAC's assessment but it cannot be termed as satisfactory development. These libraries still need a lot of infrastructural development to provide a quality based services to its clientele. Moreover rapid developments in the IT has brought a tremendous scope for these libraries to modernize their services for which college authorities should realize the need and importance of their respective libraries and should always be ready to provide the congenial administrative support to their librarian so that he/she can come forward willingly to re-organize the library services with the changing environment. Because of NAAC's scrutiny in College Libraries, they try to develop their libraries in an efficient way and able to get attention from both the College authority and College community. With NAAC assessment most of the college has started to develop their libraries but still a number of colleges have not realized the importance of libraries due to lack of professionalism ethics and also scarcity of fund. NAAC is an accreditation agency where its limitation of power is only up to the assessment but college library and their authority should take the development of library as a serious matter not only from NAAC point of view but also from service point of view.

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