

# Library as a Learning Resource: A Study Based on NAAC SSR Submitted by Different Colleges in Assam

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*The primary goal of NAAC is to ensure the quality of higher education institutions in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion, and sustainability initiatives. Accreditation status defines the improvement of an institution. It is mandatory for all colleges and universities to be accredited, which takes place once every five years. The NAAC assessment process takes place in three stages: the self-study report (SSR), the student satisfaction survey (SSS), and the peer team report. An institution should prepare the SSR-self-study report prior to visiting the NAAC peer team. The self study report is divided into seven criteria, which cover all aspects of higher education in India. The study is prepared to analyse the SSR submitted by different college libraries in Assam from the year 2020 to 2022. Data was gathered from the NAAC and the respective college websites. The results of the study have revealed that only one college, out of eighteen colleges, has acquired the highest grade of A+, while nine colleges, out of eighteen colleges have acquired B grade. Again, eleven colleges out of eighteen have been found partially automated, while six colleges out of eighteen have been found fully automated. According to the study, college authorities should facilitate modern technologies in libraries by providing a variety of information sources, both print and online, to increase usage of library among the user community.*

## **Introduction**

NAAC stands for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, which was established in the year 1994. It is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit higher educational institutions in the country. The headquarter of NAAC is situated at Bangalore. NAAC has become an important part of the higher education system to highlight the qualitative aspects of an institution. The NAAC accreditation process of an institution is conducted once every five years. An institution has to prepare the SSR-Self Study Report before the NAAC Peer Team visit. The SSR is divided into 07 criteria, which cover all the aspects of HEI. The seven criteria consist of several key indicators (KIs), which are divided into qualitative and quantitative metrics. Qualitative metrics require descriptive answers to the questions, whereas quantitative metrics need facts and figures and statistical data in the response section. Irrespective of the metric, the HEI is expected to upload supporting documents, web links, reports, geo-tagged photos, etc. based on the instructions given in the SSR.

The SSR is divided into seven criteria such as curricular aspects, teaching learning and evaluation, research, innovations and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, governance, leadership and management, and institutional values and best practices. Among the seven

criteria of NAAC, criteria four relates to infrastructure and learning resources, where the library plays a significant role in the entire accreditation process. In criteria four, key indicator 4.2 carries the library as a learning resource. The key indicator 4.2 covers four questions, out of which 4.2.1 is a qualitative metric (QIM) and 4.2.2, 4.2.3, and 4.2.4 are quantitative metrics (QnM). The four questions of 4.2 key indicator cover library is automated using the Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), Institution has access to the different types of e-resources, average annual expenditure for the purchase of books/e-books and subscription to journals/e-journals during the last five years, and the percentage per day usage of the library by teachers and students (footfalls and login data for online access). The present paper will analyze the key indicator 4.2-library as a learning resource based on the NAAC SSR submitted by different degree colleges in Assam.

## **2. Objectives of the Study**

The study has adopted the following objectives:

- ❖ To identify the accreditation grade acquired by the different colleges after visiting the NAAC Peer Team.
- ❖ To identify the automation status of different college libraries in Assam.
- ❖ To identify the availability of e-resources in different college libraries in Assam.
- ❖ To explore the average annual expenditure on the purchase of books as well as subscription to journals during the last five years.
- ❖ To explore the use of libraries by teachers and students of different college libraries in Assam during the last academic year.

## **3. Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study has focused on the degree college libraries, which are imparting general education in Assam. The current study excludes colleges that provide education other than general education. The colleges which have submitted the SSR but not able to know the status of accreditation from the NAAC and respective college websites are also excluded from the study.

## **4. Research Methodology**

The study covered the colleges which have submitted the SSR for the purpose of NAAC accreditation from the year 2020 to 2022 and those colleges which have been awarded an accreditation grade after visiting the NAAC Peer Team. It is an internet based survey. The data is collected from the NAAC website and the respective college websites. The SSR of different colleges has been downloaded both from the NAAC website and the respective college websites. Based on the criteria of submission of SSR from 2020 to 2022,

a total of eighteen colleges have been identified for conducting the present study. The data obtained from the SSR question is classified, analyzed, tabulated, and logically interpreted.

## 5. Result and Discussion

### 5.1 Colleges covered under the study: The following colleges have identified for the present study-

**Table 1: Colleges identified for the study**

S.No	Name of the College	SSR Submission Year	Cycle of accreditation	Website
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College, Charaideo.	2nd November 2020	1st	www.borhatcollege.org
2	Bihpuria College, Lakhimpur	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	2nd	www.bihpuriacollege.edu.in
3	Biswanath College, Biswanath Chariali	April 2021	3rd	www.biswanathcollege.in
4	Cachar College, Cachar	17th May 2021	2nd	www.cacharcollege.ac.in
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce, Jorhat	March 2022	3rd	www.ckbcc.org
6	Furkating College, Golaghat	13th August 2021	4th	www.furkatingcollege.edu.in
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College, Golaghat	13th January 2022	3rd	www.hpbgirlscollege.edu.in
8	Jorhat College, Jorhat	4th February 2020	3rd	www.jorhatcollege.org
9	Joya Gogoi College, Golaghat	29th February 2020	3rd	www.joyagogoicollege.org
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College, Sonitpur	5th March 2021	2nd	www.lokdcollege.in
11	Margherita College, Tinsukia	19th February 2020	3rd	www.margheritacollege.in
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Charaideo	24th March 2020	1st	www.moranmahilamahavidyalaya.com
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya, Kamrup(M)	29th December 2021	1st	www.narangian-chalikhmahavidyalaya.ac.in
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Kamrup(M)	13th April 2021	3rd	www.pgmdharapur.ac.in
15	Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, Kamrup(M)	January 2020	3rd	www.pragjyotishcollege.ac.in
16	Sarupathar College, Golaghat	8th February 2020	2nd	www.sarupatharcollege.org
17	The Nazira College, Sivasagar	11th April 2021	3rd	www.naziracollege.in
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College, Sonitpur	19th February 2020	3rd	www.thbcollege.com

## 5.2 Accreditation Grade acquired by different colleges

**Table 2: Accreditation grade acquired by colleges**

S.No	Name of the College	Grade & Score
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College	B (2.4)
2	Bihpuria College	B (2.37)
3	Biswanath College	B (2.19)
4	Cachar College	B (2.33)
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce	B++ (2.89)
6	Furkating College	A+ (3.36)
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College	A (3.2)
8	Jorhat College	B++ (2.77)
9	Joya Gogoi College	B (2.28)
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	B+ (2.53)
11	Margherita College	C (1.84)
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya	B (2.34)
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	B (2.16)
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	B+ (2.54)
15	Pragjyotish College, Guwahati	B (2.44)
16	Sarupathar College	C (1.98)
17	The Nazira College	B+ (2.71)
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College	B (2.26)

**Table 3: Summaries of grade acquired (N=18)**

S.No	Accreditation Grade	Response	Percentage
1	A	1	5.6
2	A+	1	5.6
3	B	9	50.0
4	B+	3	16.7
5	B++	2	11.1
6	C	2	11.1

Table-3 shows that among the 18 colleges, the highest 9 (50.0%) colleges have acquired B accreditation grade, while 3 (16.7%) colleges have acquired grade B+, and each of 2 (11.1%) colleges has acquired B++ and C accreditation grade respectively. Again, each of 1(5.6%) colleges has acquired A, and A+ accreditation grade respectively.

### 5.3 Automation Status of the college libraries

Key indicator 4.2 carried library is automated using Integrated Library Management System (ILMS). The status of automation of different colleges based on the SSR has been mentioned below.

**Table 4: Automation Status of the college libraries**

S.No	Name of the College	Automation Status	ILMS	Year of Automation
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	x
2	Bihpuria College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2017
3	Biswanath College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2016
4	Cachar College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2008
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2008
6	Furkating College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2010
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College	Automated	SOUL 2.0	2016
8	Jorhat College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2011
9	Joya Gogoi College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2011
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2016
11	Margherita College	Fully automated	SOUL 2.0	x
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	x
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	Not automated	x	x
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	Fully automated	SOUL 2.0	2008
15	Pragjyotish College	Fully automated	SOUL 2.0	2019
16	Sarupathar College	Partially automated	SOUL 2.0	2012
17	The Nazira College	Fully automated	SOUL 2.0	2008
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College	Fully automated	SOUL 2.0	x

**Table 5: Summaries of Automation Status (N=18)**

S.No	Accreditation Grade	Response	Percentage
1	Fully automated	6	33.3
2	Partially automated	11	61.1
3	Not automated	1	5.6

Table-5 shows that among the 18 surveyed libraries, 11(61.2%) libraries are partially automated while 6(33.3%) libraries are fully automated. The least 1(5.6%) of libraries are found not automated.

#### 5.4. Access to e-resources by different college libraries

Key Indicator 4.2.2 carried as an institution has access to the following e-resources: 1. e-journals 2. E-ShodhSindhu 3. Shodhganga Membership 4. e-books 5. Databases 6. Remote access to e-resources. This is a quantitative metric where the respondent needs to provide whether the library has purchased e-journals and e-book packages, subscription or membership details of databases, and details about how the library is providing remote access to e-resources. The respondent has to mention the availability of e-resources in the library, and the responses should be in alphabetical order, i.e., A, B, C, D, and E, Where A indicates the availability of any four e-resources, B indicates any three, C indicates any two, D indicates any one, and E indicates none of the e-resources available in the library. Based on the data collected from the SSR has been presented in Table-6.

**Table 6: Access to E-Resources**

S.No	Name of the College	Responses
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College	D
2	Bihpuria College	C
3	Biswanath College	C
4	Cachar College	A
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce	B
6	Furkating College	B
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College	A
8	Jorhat College	E
9	Joya Gogoi College	D
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	C
11	Margherita College	C
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya	E
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	E
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	B
15	Pragjyotish College	C
16	Sarupathar College	E
17	The Nazira College	A
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College	C

**Table 7: Summaries of access to E-Resources**

S.No	Access to e-resources	Response	Percentage
1	A-any four	3	16.7
2	B-Any three	3	16.7
3	C-Any two	6	33.3
4	D-Any one	2	11.1
5	E- None	4	22.2

Table-7 shows that the highest 6(33.3%) libraries have availed of any two (C) e-resources, while 3(16.7%) libraries have accessed any four (A) and it is followed by any three (B) e-resources. Again, 4(22.2%) libraries have responded that they have not accessed (E) any e-resources.

### 5.5 Annual Expenditure

Key Indicator 4.2.3 carried an average annual expenditure for the purchase of books/ e-books and subscription to journals/e-journals during the last five years. This is a quantitative metric where the respondent needs to provide the annual expenditure made by the library in the last five years for purchasing books and journals. The average annual expenditure of different colleges based on the data collected from the SSR of the respective colleges is presented in Table-8.

**Table 8: Average annual expenditure**

S.No	Name of the College	Average annual expenditure
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College	1.45
2	Bihpuria College	0.98
3	Biswanath College	2.35
4	Cachar College	0.61
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce College	1.05
6	Furkating College, Golaghat	2.48
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College	4
8	Jorhat College	1.97
9	Joya Gogoi College	0.94
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	1.17
11	Margherita College	0.06
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya	0.71
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	1.96
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	7.05
15	Pragjyotish College	1.54
16	Sarupathar College	2.13
17	The Nazira College	2.1
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College	2.75

Table-8 shows that Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Kamrup (M) has carried the highest average annual expenditure of Rs. 7.05 lakhs while Margherita College shows the least average annual expenditure of Rs. 0.06 lakh.

**Table 9: Summaries on average annual expenditure**

S.No	Range of average annual expenditure(INR in Lakhs)	Response	Percentage
1	0-1.9	11	61.1
2	2.0-3.9	5	27.8
3	4.0-5.9	1	5.6
4	6.0-7.9	1	5.6

Table-9 shows that 11(61.1%) college libraries have carried an average annual expenditure ranging from 0.1-1.9 lakhs, followed by 5(27.8%) libraries carrying expenditure ranging from 2.0-3.9 lakhs. Again, 1 (5.6%) library had annual expenditures ranging from 6.0-7.9 lakhs, followed by 4.0-5.9 lakhs by 1 (5.6%) library.

#### 5.6 Usage of library by teachers and students:

Key Indicator 4.2.4 carried the percentage per day usage of the library by teachers and students (footfalls and login data for online access). This is also a quantitative metric where the respondent needs to provide the data related to the latest completed academic year. The number of users accessing the library physically as well as through e-access needs to be calculated. The data collected from the SSR is presented in Table 10.

**Table 10: Usage of library by the teachers and students**

S.No	Name of the College	Number of teachers and students using library per day	Percentage per day usage of library
1	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College	x	2.98
2	Bihpuria College	5	0.59
3	Biswanath College	232	8.49
4	Cachar College	15	0.68
5	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah Commerce College	12	1.37
6	Furkating College	120	22.64
7	Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College	104	9.63
8	Jorhat College	21	2.62
9	Joya Gogoi College	10	1.93
10	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	29	1.64

11	Margherita College	98	6.05
12	Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya	100	12.3
13	Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya	10	2.04
14	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	24	2.26
15	Pragjyotish College	20	0.68
16	Sarupathar College	39	10.69
17	The Nazira College	263	29.19
18	Tyagbir Hem Baruah College	102	5.89

Table 10 shows that The Nazira College (29.19%) has found the highest percentage of usage of the library, followed by Furcating College (22.64), Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya (12.3), Sarupathar College (10.69) and so on. Bihpuria College (0.59) has found the lowest percentage of usage of the library.

**Table 11: Summaries on percentage per day usage of library**

S.No	Percentage per day usage of library	Response	Percentage
1	0-9.9	14	77.8
2	10-19.9	2	11.1
3	20-29.9	2	11.1

Table 11 shows that 14(77.8%) college libraries have mentioned that their percentage of per day usage of the library is ranging from 0-9.9, while 2(11.1%) libraries has a percentage of per day usage of the library ranging from 20-29.9 and it is followed by 10-19.9.

## 6. Major Findings

- ❖ The study was conducted among the eighteen colleges which are imparting general education in Assam. It is found that the maximum number of colleges have acquired B accreditation status based on the data collected from the NAAC website. It is also found that very few colleges have acquired A, A+, and B++ accreditation status among the selected colleges.
- ❖ Library automation has been performing housekeeping operations in a library. There are different types of integrated library management software for libraries, but all the colleges in the study have been using SOUL 2.0 software for the management of their libraries. It found that among the eighteen surveyed libraries, more than half of the college libraries are partially automated, while few libraries are found fully automated.

- ❖ The use of e-resources in libraries has been exponentially increasing day by day. Now-a-days, most publishers have provided e-version facilities at a comfortable price, in addition to print versions. The study indicates that the maximum number of college libraries have used two types of electronic resource facilities, while few libraries have access to four types of electronic resources for their libraries. Again, one fourth of the libraries do not have access to any e-resources.
- ❖ The collection is the main element of the library, which makes the library strength. It should be kept up-to-date on a regular basis in order to increase the quantity and quality of the library. According to the results, very few college libraries have spent a maximum of four to eight lakhs on purchasing books and journals. More than half of libraries spend around 2 lakhs on purchasing books and journals.
- ❖ Majority of college libraries found that their percentage of per-day library usage ranges from 0-9.9, while very few college libraries responded that their percentage of per-day library usage ranges from 20-29.9, followed by 10-19.9.

## 7. Conclusion

The NAAC Accreditation policy helps in developing the college library infrastructure as well as upgrading it to convert the modern library system to provide a good standard of service to the user community. The findings of the study showed that the colleges whose grades are found low, their facilities and services are also found low based on the SSR, key indicator 4.2-Library as a learning resource. The maximum library is found to be a partially automated library system. Only a few libraries are found to be fully automated. The colleges whose libraries are fully automated have acquired a higher grade of NAAC accreditation. The access to e-resources in different college libraries is not found to be satisfactory. One of the major concerns of the study is that the use of libraries by students and teachers seems to be very low. The administration should provide modern facilities for the libraries with plenty of information sources both in print and online, with better ICT infrastructure to increase the usage of the library among the user community.

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