

# NAAC's new Provisional Accreditation to broaden the horizon

This will encourage new institutes to prepare a roadmap for quality education



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**N**ational Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC) has introduced a new guideline that allows new colleges and universities that have completed one academic year to apply for provisional accreditation. Till now, only those institutes that had completed at least six years or which had at least two batches of graduated students, could only apply for NAAC accreditation. The provision of Provisional Accreditation of Colleges (PAC), would be able to chalk out a roadmap to provide quality education. Speaking to *Education Times*, Anil Joseph Pinto, registrar, Christ University, Bangalore, says, "PAC is a progressive step undertaken by NAAC that will allow the newly set up institutes to prepare a roadmap for delivering quality education in the early stages. It will improve the institutes in Tier II and III cities that need attention. This will set the tone for transitioning the country's current undergrad collegiate system to higher benchmarks. Since about 70% HEIs are from the private sector, this provision would set in competitive zeal amongst colleges."

There are more than 40,000 HEIs across India and NAAC has only accredited about 4000-5000 institutions in the last 25 years. "Several government institutes avoid applying for accreditation as they have scarcity of teachers and unflattering infrastructure. However, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka have made efforts to improve the teacher ratio and infrastructure. In addition to this, having accreditation is not mandatory for issuing degrees due to which the government institutions are not motivated to apply

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for the accreditation," Pinto adds.

"As per NEP 2020, all the institutions have to become degree awarding institutions in the next 10-15 years and if they do not have accreditation, their degrees will not be valid. The problem with the current system of NAAC is that it does not have the bandwidth to accredit a large number of institutions and hence this process of provisional accreditation is a simple way to accredit as it would facilitate the entry of newly set up institutions into the accreditation process," says Pinto. Institutes that apply for PAC need to secure a minimum of 15 marks out of 40 by answering 10 quantitative and qualitative questions each.

Daviender Narang, director, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Ghaziabad, says, "As per NEP 2020, every HEI should receive NAAC accreditation and as of now it has accredited only 14,200 colleges. The existing system of NAAC is exhaustive as colleges have to submit a self-assessment report on seven parameters laid down by the NAAC." Being a time-consuming process, it takes about a year for any college to work upon fulfilling these seven parameters. "The PAC will ease the process for new institutes that will be evaluated on fewer parameters and will facilitate the entry of newly setup HEIs into the accreditation fold. After the completion of the first cycle of accreditation, every HEI has to submit an Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) yearly."