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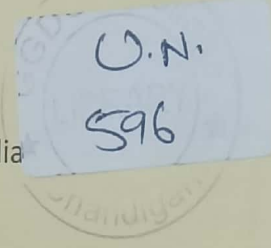
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Quality Sustenance Measures for Higher Education Institutions

Sandhya Tiwari* and A Ravinder Nath**

This article explores the critical importance of quality sustenance measures for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India, particularly in light of the transformative agenda set forth by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. As India aspires to become a global leader in higher education and a key provider of skilled manpower worldwide, maintaining and elevating academic standards has become an urgent priority. The authors discuss the evolving regulatory landscape, wherein bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) mandate institutional accreditation and emphasise alignment with global standards like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4. The article details how diverse institutional frameworks—including academic and administrative audits, mentoring, and the adoption of innovative best practices—are essential for benchmarking and sustaining quality across HEIs. It highlights the necessity for periodic review and monitoring of colleges by affiliating universities, pointing out that such processes not only prepare institutions for accreditation but also foster a culture of excellence. The piece underscores the significance of fulfilling multiple quality parameters, metrics, and criteria outlined by both national and international agencies, including AISHE, NAAC, NBA, and NIRF. Ultimately, the article presents quality assurance as a multidimensional, continuous process that involves all stakeholders. Its objectives include enhancing institutional performance, fostering a culture of best practices, and equipping faculty and staff to contribute effectively to institutional branding and progress. By adopting these measures, HEIs can ensure sustained improvement, global competitiveness, and alignment with national educational goals.

India is emerging as a global hub for higher educational activities and a feeder for skill-based man-power requirements of the world. With the launch of the new National Education Policy – 2020, Higher Education in India is expected to witness tremendous progress in academic standards and head for one of the top three areas of development. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has obligated all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to get accredited by 2024 as part of its quality mandate and also to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4. Over the years country has established various institutional structures to evolve certain benchmarks for ensuring quality at different levels of Higher Education (HE). India enjoys a well-developed, large and diverse higher education system covering general, professional, technical and vocational, in addition newly proposed liberal education under

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