



1-day National Workshop on  
**“Assessment and Accreditation Process of Open and Distance Learning  
Institutes in India”**

Organized by Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)

Venue: Seminar Room, NSOU

Date: 27 September 2019

## REPORT

The UGC is now monitoring the ODL system in India through Distance Education Bureau (DEB). Prior to DEB, the Distance Education Council (DEC) under IGNOU used to control/monitor the ODL system. In India the distance education programmes are conducted by open universities (single mode university) and Directorate of Distance Education (DDEs) under dual mode university. Currently there are 14 SOUs and 110 dual mode universities. The share of distance education in the GER is about 22-23%, which is very significant. Prior to APRIL 2019, the ODL institutes whether it is a open university or DDE was outside the ambit of NAAC. Considering the importance of ODL system in Indian context & to ensure the quality of education, the MHRD started the process of implementation for A & A of ODL Institutes in 2018 and accordingly constituted the National Task Force (NTF) under the chairmanship of Professor Nageswar Rao, the then Vice-Chancellor of Uttarakhand Open University in 2018.

In A & A process , the Self-Study Report (SSR) forms the backbone of the entire process of accreditation. The assessment process comprises three main components viz. submission of SSR, conducting Student Satisfaction Survey and Peer team visit. After a series of consultative meeting, expert group meetings under the NTF, the manual of self Study Report (SSR) has been finalised and published for the Open universities in April 2019. It is already in place. Being open university, NSOU has to be accredited by April 2020.



Since all the ODLIs specially the open universities (single mode) are new in this process lot of awareness and sensitization is required to comply with the requirements of NAAC. In this background, the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA), NSOU organized 1-day National Workshop on “Assessment and Accreditation Process of Open and Distance Learning Institutes in India” with an objective of detailed discussions and implications of the 130 metrics which include both qualitative and quantitative metrics. All the faculty member and non-academic staff attended the day long workshop. Professor Anirban Ghosh, Coordinator, NAAC Steering Committee, NSOU in his welcome address introduced all the experts and their role in finalization of the SSR manual of OUs. He also mentioned that being

the member of the NTF, Professor Sarkar and Professor Mohapatra played a major role in finalization two different criterion like Criterion I and Criterion III respectively. Professor Manjulika Srivastava is the instrumental who tool all the pain to collate all the data and gave a final shape of the Manual.

**Panel of Experts:**

Professor Srikant Mohapatra, Vice-Chancellor, Odisha State Open University  
Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University  
Professor Manjulika Srivastava, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, IGNOU  
Professor Bijayalaxmi Mishra, Director, Research Unit, IGNOU

In the inaugural session, Professor Mohapatra discussed the detailed process how the manual has been given a final shape to finalize the seven criteria keeping the parity with the regular university. Each and every criteria has been finalized through zonal meet with all the stakeholders and with the feedback received from different stakeholders, NAAC has released the final manual.

Professor S.S. Sarkar in his presidential address, reiterated that the OUs may face difficulties to produce the documents of earlier years like 2014-15 or so. He also pointed out that the OER/ MOOCs are the recent developments, so no credit may be claimed for earlier years. Professor Sarkar pointed out a very relevant issue on provision of “optout metrics” which has been provided to the regular universities.



In the technical session, Professor Srivastava and Professor Mishra dealt with the quantitative metrics one by one and how the OUs can fill the data in data metrics provided by the NAAC. They also gave stressed on the documentation. Without valid documents, no date can be filled up. They shared their experiences how difficulties they are facing to collect data and documents at their university. They requested all the members present the session to come forward and cooperate with the NAAC committee regarding the collection of data and documents because only data is not sufficient which must be supported by the relevant documents.

Professor Sirivastava in her presentation expressed that every OU must have properly constituted CIQA who will be responsible to carry out all the NAAC related activities.

In the post lunch session, the experts discussed on the qualitative metrics which are essay type having word limit from 500-1000 words. These QIMs will be verified by the peer team during their visit.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Ritu Mather, Convener, NAAC Steering Committee.