



Status of Accredited Colleges affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University in Meghalaya

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Citation: Elorine Kharkongor et al. (2024), Status of Accredited Colleges affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University in Meghalaya, *Educational Administration: Theory And Practice*, 30(4), 360 -363, Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i4.1472

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Education as an important factor towards the progress and development of the society, its quality is a great concern. Quality is a major concern in the whole system of education. The current understanding of quality education has been understood from the conceptual work undertaken through national and international initiatives to assess learning achievement. In order to meet the quality standard, institutions of higher learning have to go for quality assessment and evaluations. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) were established to evaluate institutions on the basis of specific parameters. In this study the researchers attempt to study the status of NAAC accredited colleges in the state of Meghalaya.

Keywords: NAAC, quality, higher education, Accredited higher educational institution (AHEI)

Introduction

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are the backbone of the society which produces intellectuals who contribute to the society in many ways. The role of the HEIs in building capable and responsible individuals for the society is emphasised for continuous qualitative improvement. Education as an important factor towards the progress and development of the society, its quality is a great concern. Quality is a major concern in the whole system of education. For assessing quality of every educational institution, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established in 1994 at Bangalore. The NAAC evaluates university and colleges, and on the basis of their parameter a particular grade is given to the college (Mahanta, 2022). The criteria of NAAC for evaluation of Higher Education are: 1. Curricular Aspects². Teaching-Learning and Evaluation³. Research, Innovation and Extension⁴. Infrastructure and Learning Resources⁵. Student Support and Progression⁶. Governance, Leadership and Management⁷. Institutional Values and Best practices. Based on the seven criteria, the educational institutions are being evaluated and a particular grade is given to the institution.

Likewise in Meghalaya, the higher education institution or the colleges have been assessed and accredited by NAAC on the basis of their fulfilment of the required condition, to be identified as an institution with quality. There are 83 number of colleges in Meghalaya that are affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU). Most colleges are in the urban districts of Meghalaya, however, there are also a number of rural colleges. In the present study, the researchers attempt to find the status of NAAC accredited colleges in the state of Meghalaya.

Objective of the Study:

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the number of accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya
2. To find out the management type of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya.
3. To find out the locale of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya.
4. The find out the accreditation cycle of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya.

5. The find out the accreditation grade of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya.

Methodology

In this study the descriptive study research design is used. The data were collected through the secondary sources which are available online, that is, through the college websites and the website of the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) to which the colleges are affiliated.

Result and Discussion

The result of the study are as follows:

Analysis of Objective 1 is shown below:

Table 1: Number of Accredited colleges that are affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya

Colleges	N (83)	Percentage (%)
Accredited Colleges	22	27%
Non-accredited Colleges	61	73%
Total	83	100%

Finding: The table shows 83 colleges affiliated to NEHU out of which only 22 affiliated institutions are assessed and accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and 61 have not been accredited by NAAC. The finding indicates that only 27% colleges are accredited and 73% are yet to be accredited. Thus, majority of the institutions are yet to be assessed and accredited.

Analysis of Objective 2 is shown below:

Table 2: Type of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya

Type of College Management	N (22)	Percentage (%)
Government	3	27%
Government Aided	19	73%
Private	-	-
Total	22	100%

Finding: From the data collected on the type of management of the accredited colleges affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University, only 3 government colleges are accredited out of 7 government colleges and only 19 government aided colleges are accredited. However, there are no private institution that have undergone NAAC accreditation and assessment yet. Thus, 27 % of the government colleges are accredited, while 73 % of the government aided colleges are accredited.

Analysis of Objective 3 is shown below:

Table 3: Locale of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya

Districts	Number of Affiliated College	Locale			
		Urban	%	Rural	%
East Khasi Hills	12	11	92%	1	8%
West Khasi Hills	1	1	100%	-	-
South West Khasi Hills	1	1	100%	-	-
Eastern West Khasi Hills	-	-	-	-	-
West Jaintia Hills	3	2	67%	1	33%
East Jaintia Hills	1	-	-	1	100%
Ri Bhoi	1	-	-	1	100%
East Garo Hills	-	-	-	-	-
North Garo Hills	1	-	-	1	100%
South Garo Hills	-	-	-	-	-
South West Garo Hills	-	-	-	-	-
West Garo Hills	2	2	100%	-	-

Findings: Meghalaya has 12 districts and the 83 institutions affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University are located all over the 12 districts of the state. Amongst the 22 accredited institution there are 12 institution in East Khasi hill district, 1 in West khasi Hills, 1 in South West Khasi Hills, 3 in West Jaintia Hills, 1 in East Jaintia Hills, 1 in Ri-Bhoi, 1 in North Garo Hills and 2 in West Garo Hills whereas in the Eastern West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills there are no accredited higher education institution (AHEI) yet although there are affiliated institution in these district. Thus, 92% of the institutions

are located in the urban area of East Khasi Hill and 8% of the institution is located in the rural area; in West Khasi Hill 100% is located in urban area; in South West Khasi Hill 100% is located in urban area; in West Jaintia Hill 67% are located in the urban area and 33% are located in the rural area; in East Jaintia Hill 100% is located in the rural area; in Ri-Bhoi District 100% of the institution is located in the rural area; in North Garo Hill 100% is located in rural area; in west Garo hill 100% of the institution is located in the urban area.

This finding indicates that there are maximum number of the accredited institution affiliated to North-Eastern Hill University in the East Khasi Hill District and that the maximum number of these accredited institution are located in the urban area.

Analysis of Objective 4 is shown below:

Table 4: Accreditation cycle of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya

Accredited Cycle	Accredited College (N=22)	Percentage (%)
Cycle 1	11	50%
Cycle 2	3	13.64%
Cycle 3	5	22.72%
Cycle 4	3	13.64%
Total	22	100%

Findings: The table indicate that there are 11 or 50% of the colleges that are accredited in Cycle 1; there are 3 or 13.64% that are accredited in Cycle 2; 5 or 22.72% that are accredited in Cycle 3; and 3 or 14% are in cycle 4. This shows that majority of institutions (50%) of the accredited affiliated institution are in Cycle 1.

Analysis of Objective 5 is shown below:

Table 5: Accreditation grade of the accredited colleges affiliated to NEHU in Meghalaya

Accredited Grade	Accredited College (N=22)	Percentage (%)
A++	-	-
A+	2	9%
A	1	5%
B++	2	9%
B+	4	18%
B	11	50%
C	2	9%
D	-	-
Total	22	100%

Finding: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has 8 grade and they are A++, A+, A, B++, B+, B, C and D, every institution after the NAAC assessment a grade is given to the institution according to the score obtained. From the total of 22 affiliated institutions accredited by NAAC there are no institution with A++ , 2 institution with A+ , 1 institution with A , 2 institution with B++, 4 institution with B+ , 11 institution with B grade and 2 institution with C and there are no institution with grade D. The finding in this study shows that a majority of the institution are in the B grade category

Discussion and Conclusion

Meghalaya has 83 numbers of colleges that helps in disseminating knowledge and help students of higher learning. However, very few i.e., only 22 have been assess and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. On analysis of the data collected through it is seen that 3 government educational institution have undergone accreditation and 19 are the government aided colleges and it is also seen that there are no private colleges which have been accredited by NAAC yet . The findings also indicate that the quality educational institution are concentrated more in the urban area of East Khasi Hills districts few district like the new district Eastern West Khasi Hills district, East Garo Hills District, South Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills District has no colleges that have been assess and accredited although there are affiliated institution in the district. Through this study it is seen that there is a need to enhance the quality of education in the state and there should be a push for educational institution to move toward provision of quality education.

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