UGC To Induct More Accreditation Agencies For HEIs

UGC, in a bid to enhance the accreditation capacity, has decided to allow more accreditation agencies to take up the activity of providing recognition to Higher Education Institutes. In this regard, UGC has also notified University Grants Commission (Recognition and Monitoring of Assessment & Accreditation Agencies) Regulations, 2018.

UGC will set up an Accreditation Advisory Council (AAC) for recognition of Assessment and Accrediting Agencies (AAAs) which will comprise 10 members who would recommend AAAs to the the commission for recognition.

AAC will lay down norms and processes for assessment and accreditation of academic quality in HEI(s) or of programme(s) including Technical Education Programmes conducted therein by AAAs.

Any Government or Semi-Government agency can submit application for recognition as AAA. The said agency must also be registered as a Company u/s 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or a society formed and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a Trust formed under the Indian Trusts Act 1882 or any other law for the time being in force.

The AAA, after recognition, will base their assessment on verifiable and objective criteria and follow the standards in respect of academic quality specified by the Commission.

After UGC recognition of AAAs, any Higher Education Institute applying for recognition will have to provide three choices for accreditation agencies at the time of submitting their application.

At present there are only two accreditation agencies - National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

Link: https://www.ndtv.com/education/ugc-to-induct-more-accreditation-agencies-for-heis-1905085

IITs, IIMs will be roped in for speedy assessment and accreditation of educational institutes:Prakash Javadekar

IITs and IIMs will be roped in for the speedy assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutes along with official agencies such as NAAC and NBA, Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Saturday.

While the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) will be expanded, the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) could also join hands and form an accreditation agency to expedite the process, he said.

At present, only 15 per cent of the higher educational institutes in the country are accredited.

"We have asked IITs and IIMs to come together and create an agency which we can use to expedite the process of accreditation," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of the 4th World Summit of Accreditation here.

He said accreditation from now onwards will be based on "learning outcome" and quality of education should be the key parameter for determining the standard of an institute.

The minister's comments came against the backdrop of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in August clearing a proposal to allow more accreditation agencies to come into the sphere of accreditation to enhance the existing capacity.

Speaking at the event, the minister said 80 per cent of the weightage for accreditation will be given on learning outcome and peer reviews, while the physical verification of the campus and infrastructure could be done through the use of satellites.

"An institute which maintains quality will only survive and those who fail to do so will be out of business," he said.

Higher Education Secretary R Subramanyam suggested that "no accreditation, no admission" should be taken up as a policy initiative from 2022-23 onwards in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "New India".

Meanwhile, speaking at a panel discussion on International Literacy Day, the minister said the government would be rolling out a scheme where school students can engage themselves in the literacy mission and provide education to people who are illiterates.

Illiteracy should be eliminated in four-five years. He rued the fact that even after 70 years of Independence, the country is still talking about basic literacy.

Link: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iits-iims-will-be-roped-in-for-speedy-assessment-and-accreditation-of-educational-institutes-prakash-javadekar/articleshow/65732503.cms

HRD considers introduction of 3 new professional courses

The Ministry of Human Resource Development on Monday said that the government is considering the prospect of introducing three professional courses to create more employment opportunities. The information released in a written reply by Minister of State (HRD) Upendra Kushwaha mentioned the three courses under consideration are B.A. (Professional), B.Sc. (Professional) and B.Com(Professional).

To further enhance the employability of graduate courses, the government has created a Community College programme to engage school dropouts and other youths. The programme will be offered in educational institutions falling under All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC).

The government said in a statement that this programme will help the secondary school dropouts to re-enter three-year courses based on appropriate credit system. Flexible in nature, the programme comprises 40% general and 60% Skill components.

B.Voc. is another course where vocational education is imparted in 85 trades of different industry sectors in the country. The offered degree is recognized by UGC. Courses from Levels 1 to 6 in the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) are offered in B.Voc courses.

The government is also providing short-term, industry relevant skill training to the youth under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY-TI). AICTE affiliated institutions will be offering these opportunities.

Apart from this, there are 63 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushal Kendras in the country that offer advanced skills of Levels 5 and above in the NSQF. These kendras work as Centers of Excellence in Skill Development in specialised areas.

Link: http://zeenews.india.com/india/hrd-considers-introduction-of-3-new-professional-courses-2128849.html

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