

Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mumbai in association with National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru, organized a two-day National Symposium on “Best Practices in Higher and Technical Educational Institutes” on April 28-29, 2022. Dr. S.C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, conveyed his best wishes for the symposium and expressed that “the topic of the Symposium is extremely relevant and very much the need of the hour. I hope it will provide an opportunity for discussion and knowledge dissemination” through his message communicated to the Institute.

Resource persons from Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nādu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Meghalaya, Gujarat presented their best practices, and this diversity has really enriched the symposium. Total of 200+ participants from different parts of country attended the Symposium.

Objectives

The Symposium aimed to create awareness about the best practices of various institutes across the nation which are graded A++ and A+ by NAAC, Bengaluru. The symposium also intended to facilitate a forum for identification of appropriate best practices for institutional development. The purpose of the symposium was to motivate participating institutes to design and develop impactful best practices and eventually, institutionalize and internalize the same.

Selection of best practices for the Symposium was based on diversified domains like academic, administrative, organizational, social, environmental and global outreach, practices with impactful evidence of success, type of Institute etc. We selected 5 Universities, 4 Autonomous Institutes and 4 Institutes affiliated to universities across India.

Brief Overview of Symposium

Prof. Varsha Bhosale, Vice Principal-VIT, initiated the proceedings of the Inaugural function by giving the introduction about the Institute. Dr. Sangeeta Joshi, Convenor of the Symposium, gave an overview of the objectives and outline of the symposium.

Dr. Suhas Pednekar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai presided as the Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony. Dr. Pednekar appreciated the initiative taken by Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mumbai for hosting this Symposium. In his thought-provoking address, he advised the Institutes to introspect on the various aspects while identifying the best practices.

On Day-1, Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru delivered a keynote speech on “Identification of Impactful Best Practices”. The keynote session was conveyed through a visually engaging and interactive presentation. Thereafter, Dr. Smita Shukla, Director, IQAC and Dr. Sangeeta Joshi, Director, IQAC presented the best practices of the host University i.e., University of Mumbai and the host Institute i.e., Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mumbai respectively. It was followed by presentations of best practices of the Universities wherein Dr. G.D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya and Dr. Prof. Raghu Raman, Dean, School of Business Director, IQAC, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu presented the best practices of their respective universities. Subsequently, Dr. Ajims P. Mohammed, Principal, MES Ponnai College, Malappuram, Kerala, Dr. Sanjaykumar S. Shah, Principal Shri U. P. Arts, Smt M. G. Panchal Science and Shri V. L. Shah Commerce College, Vijapur, Gujarat, North Gujarat University, Dr. M. Palaninatharaja, Principal Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, Tamil Nadu presented the best practices of the affiliated

Institutes. During the last session, i.e., audience interaction, participants expressed their views about the learnings from the sessions.

Day-2 commenced with the keynote speech of Prof [Dr] Jagannath Patil Adviser, NAAC India, Former Research Professor, NIAD QE, Tokyo, Japan on the topic titled "Benchmarking Best Practices in higher education: Accreditation perspective". This keynote presentation provided a global perspective on the concept of best practices benchmarking in higher education from accreditation viewpoint. It was followed by presentations by the autonomous Institutes. Dr. J. V. R. Ravindra, Principal, Vardhaman College of Engineering, Shamshabad, Telangana, Dr. A. V. Ratna Prasad, Principal, Veligapudi R. Siddharth College of Engineering, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Muralidhar S., Principal, BMS College of Engineering, Bengaluru, Karnataka presented their best practices in the session on autonomous Institutes.

Panel discussion on the topic titled "Institutionalization and Internalization of Best Practices" was conducted in the post lunch session. The following panellists including moderator participated in the discussion.

1. Dr. N. J. Pawar, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune
2. Dr. Rajesh Jalnekar, Director, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune
3. Dr. Vijay Joshi, Chief Consultant RUSA, Dept of Higher Education, Govt. of India
4. Dr Konijeti Rama Krishna, Professor & Dean, Quality, K. L. University, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
5. Dr. Sangeeta Joshi, Prof & Technical Advisor, Director IQAC, VIT, Mumbai (Moderator)

Key Takeaways from the Symposium

In the course of the Two-Day Symposium, there were many key insights shared by various resource persons. During the Valedictory Ceremony on 29th April, the Convener of the Symposium Dr. Sangeeta Joshi summed up the key takeaways, and outcomes from the Symposium for the benefit of the participants. The following are the key takeaways:

- When it comes to choosing best practices, success formula cannot be the same for all institutes. Each institute should decide what works best for it.
- It is necessary for institutes to introspect first and do SWOC analysis i.e. strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, strategically plan and then display outcome based system and best practices.
- Action with vision can change the world. It would benefit organizations to be "glocal" in nature. It would broaden the horizons if the vision, planning and strategizing is global and the implementation and action taken is local.
- Best practices need to be in alignment with the vision and mission of the institutes.
- Impact of the best practice has to be reflected in the institutional performance.
- Substantial time needs to be given for the best practices to nurture, mature and produce results with the expected outcomes. Incremental impact and growth need to be observed over the years.
- Benchmarking of performance parameter of the institute can be possible by comparison with the better performing institutes.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to NAAC Bengaluru for giving us the opportunity to organize the National Symposium on "Best Practices in Higher and Technical Educational Institutes". We have received excellent support

from NAAC officials at every stage, right from the inception till the successful execution of this Symposium. We sincerely appreciate the contribution of Dr. Suhas Pednekar, Hon. Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Advisor, NAAC Bengaluru, Dr. Leena Gahane, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Advisor, NAAC Bengaluru and every resource person for sparing their valuable time for this symposium.



Dr. Suhas Pednekar, VC,
University of Mumbai



Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant
Advisor, NAAC, Bengaluru



Dr. Jagannath Patil, Advisor,
NAAC, Bengaluru



Dr. Smita Shukla, IQAC Director,
University of Mumbai



Prof. G. D. Sharma, VC, University
of S&T, Meghalaya



Dr. Sangeeta Joshi, Director,
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Prof. Raghu Raman, Dean,
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Dr. A. V. Ratna Prasad, Principal,
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Dr. N. J. Pawar, Vice-Chancellor,
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Glimpse of Audience



Panel Discussion



Q&A with Audience.



Organizing Committee