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A Detailed Studyof Facilities and Barriers of Divyang Students in Higher Education Institutions with Special Reference to Latur, Maharashtra Dr. Kavita Biyani

Assistant Professor, Dayanand College of Commerce, Latur

Abstract

Today, National Assessment and Accrediatation Council (NAAC) are more aware about differently-abled people. The office of NAAC has legendary architecture modern and unique. The new office of NAAC is designed in such a way to suit the use of office for senior citizens and Divyang through two lifts. NAAC, while making assessment of Higher Education Institutions/ Universities, pays special attention to differently-abled (divyang) students and their facilities. They have included it in criterion II and VII. This research paper will specially focused on facilities and barriers of divyang students in higher education institutions of Marathwada Region.

Introduction

India has the largest and diverse education systems throughout world. As with the positive effect of Privatization, widespread expansion, will increased the autonomy and will results in the introduction of the Programs in new and well emerging areas which have improved the access to the higher education in India. With the same time, this will also led to widespread the concern on the quality and the relevance of higher education. To regulate & to address these concerns, the policy namely National Policy on Education in the year 1986 and the Program of the Action in the year 1992 was spelt out some strategic plans for the policies, was advocated for the establishment of an new independent policy namely, National accreditation agency. Consequently, the NAAC which stands for National Assessment and Accreditation Council which was established in the year 1994 as an autonomous institution of the UGC. NAAC accreditation is very significant for UG grants, the RUSA grants and for the financial aids. The mandate of the NAAC has reflected its integral part of the functioning of the Higher Education Institutions in India.

Today, National Assessment and Accrediatation Council (NAAC) are more aware about differently-abled people. The office of NAAC has legendary architecture modern and unique. The new office of NAAC is designed in such a way to suit the use of office for senior citizens and Divyang through two lifts. NAAC, while making assessment of Higher Education Institutions/ Universities, pays special attention to differently-abled (divyang) students and their facilities. They have included it in criterion II and VII.

NAAC Criterion II- Teaching-Learning-Evaluation. This criterion pertains to the efforts of an institution to engage students from different background and abilities. The efficiency of the techniques used to continuously evaluate the performance of teachers and students is also a major concern of this criterion. In this criterion 2.2 is related to honoring students diversity. It includes the question related to number and percentage of differently-abled students (Divyangjan) on rolls. Here, higher education institutions are expected to satisfy the needs of the students from background community and also from special categories i.e differently-abled students (Divyangjan).

NAAC Criterion VII- Institutional Values and Best Practices. This criterion awares us about social responsibilities of institution towards society. In 7.1, the institution must display sensitivity for differently-abled students. It also facilitates Divyangjan friendliness, human values, professional ethics etc.

Objectives of the Study

- 1) To study the facilities provided to divyang students by higher education institutions of Marathwada region.
- 2) To study the barriers which come across to divyang students while undertaking higher education in Marathwada region.

3)

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Hypothesis of the Study

- 1. Higher Education Institutions provide special facilities for enhancement of education of students with disabilities.
- 2. Disabled students have some barriers while undertaking higher education in Marathwada

Sr. No.	Name of Colleges	District	Facilities Provided to students with Disabilities (SWD)
1:::	Dayanand College of Commerce	Latur	Ramp, Rest Room, wheel chair, Waste Card (W.C.), Exam facility as per government rule
2	Dayanand Arts College	Latur	Ramp, Waste Card (W.C.), Exam facility as per government rule, direct entry facility in office (for office work)
3.	Shri. Kumarswami Mahavidyalya	Ausa, Latur	

region,

❖ Data Collection

There are two methods of data collection-primary data as well as secondary data.

- i) **Primary Data:**Primary data is collected by visiting the respective college and the information is obtained by discussion and dialogue with the administrative personnel of the institutions viz., Principal, Vice-principal, IQAC co-ordinator, office superidentent /Registrar of the college and other non-teaching and teaching members.
 - For Divyang Students—The researcher has prepared a separate questionnaire for divyang students and collected information by undertaking interviews personally and also through Whatsapp/Video calling/ Email.
- ii) Secondary Data—The secondary data is collected by referring various websites, journals, naac related books etc.

Sampling

In Latur district, three colleges are selected for the study. Two from urban region and one from rural region. They are as follows:

Latur District

- i) Dayanand College of Commerce, Latur
- ii) Dayanand College of Arts, Latur
- iii) Shri Kumarswami Mahavidyalya, Ausa

The researcher has also taken interviews of disabled students. The researcher has asked them about attending the college regularly, number of barriers for it and financial assistance benefits to them.

Analaysis of the Study

Table No. 1 Facilities Provided to SWDs in Latur District Source: Primary data collected from respective Colleges.

- i) Dayanand College of Commerce has provided facilities such as ramp, special rest room, wheel chair, Waste Card (W.C.), Exam facility as per government rule.
- ii) Dayanand College of Arts has the facilities such as ramp, Waste Card (W.C.), exam facility as per government rule, direct entry facility in office (for office work).
- iii) As there are no divyang students enrolled in the college, Shri Kumarswami Mahavidyalya, nothing facililty is provided.

* Barriers During the Study

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Interview of some disabled students are undertaken. Their views regarding the barriers and benefits in higher education are as follows:

Ajinkya Chivade, B.A., Dayanand College of Arts, Latur, 2018-19.

He has a low vision impairment student.

He told "As there is no audio of syallabus and regular subject books in library so there are many problems in reading books. He further says that "I am also interested in reading other books such as novels, autobiography of great leaders, story books etc. But again, due to unavailiability of audio systems or Braille lipee machines or book reader software, I cannot read books".

2) Bhanudas Mane, B.A., Dayanand College of Arts, Latur, 2017: He has impairment of legs. It was due to his accident. He said, "No barriers".

3) Prathvi Phawade, B.A., Dayanand College of Arts, Latur, 2019-20

She has impairment in hands and legs.

She said, "I cann't live in Latur due to my physical impairment. So I am doing up and down through buses from my village, Kanheri to Latur and attending regular classes of college. Many problems are created due to buses. Many times, buses are not available at right time. So, it is too much crowdy and hard to come to college." She expects from college to tackle such problems.

4) Deepak Makne, B.Com., Dayanand College of Commerce, 2020-21

He has impairment in his legs due to accident in his early childhood.

"He has attended the college regularly. All the facilities are provided by the college properly. So, there are no barriers."

5) Sayyad Rahim Dulebhai, B.Com., Dayanand College of Commerce, 2019-20 "He has attended the college regularly. All the facilities are provided by the college

properly. So, there are no barriers."

6) Pathan Shariff Buddhas, B.Com. Dayanand College of Commerce, 2020-21

His bones are very weak and his height is only 2 feet.

"He said he has attended college regularly. All the teachers and non-teaching members are co-operative. He had one hurdle that there are too much big benches, as his height is too much small, a can't sit on the benches properly, he had faced problems in seating and attending classes."

- Conclusions
- In urban region, maximum facilities are provided to divyang students by Dayanand College of Commerce and Dayanand College of Arts.
- ii) In rural region, as there are no divyang students, there is nothing facilities provided by Shri Kumarswami Mahavidyalaya.
- iii) Due to physical impairement of students with disabilities, many problems are created during up and down from native place to colleges for attending the college regularly.
- iv) To live nearby college is too much hard for students with disabilities. Residential problems are created as many colleges do not have their own hostels.
- v) The students with disabilities have problems in changing classrooms for attending regular college. Many divyang students have problems in seating in the classrooms due to their low height and weak bones.
- vi) Many colleges have provided braillel lipee machines. But, many students with disabilities do not have knowledge of using such machines.

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vii) Many blind students are undertaking higher education in Marathwada region. During the exam, writer problems are created. Their friends are not available as their exams are at the same time.

Suggestions

1) The college must take a step of initiative to make available buses or auto rickshaws or scooters or other two wheelers from native place of students with disabilities for attending college at right time.

2) Students with disabilities have many residential problems for attending college. The college must take a further step for them to make available proper residential facilities in the hostels or rooms nearby colleges. Because without providing basic facilities, none of the student will be fit to undertake further higher education.

3) If for all optional subjects, it is not possible for the colleges to undertake teaching learning activities in one classroom for students with diabilities, a helper or assistant must be provided in the college to make changes from one classroom to another classroom for attending optional subjects regularly.

4) The colleges must make available helpers or assistants to use the books in braillel lipee. Many students do not have the knowledge of using such machines.

5) The colleges must undertake workshops/seminars specially for students with disabilities to know the various facilities available for them and how to use such facilities

6) For low vision and blind students, the college must make available writers facility during the exam time, otherwise time is wasted. A proper planned well knowledgeable person must be available as writer

References:

- 1) www.naac.gov.in
- 2) Primary data is collected by visiting the college personally.

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