

Divyang Students Enrollment and Facilities in Higher Education with Special Reference to Marathwada Region, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Today, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is 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 Divyangs through two lifts. NAAC, while making assessment of Higher Education Institutions/ Universities, pays special attention to differently -abled (divyang) students and their facilities¹. They have included it in criterion II and VII.

Keywords: Differently-abled, Facilities provided to divyangjan, comparison of total number of average students and number of divyang students.

Introduction

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)².

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 etc³.

The research paper compares the total average strength of students and the number of divyang students enrolled in higher education of Marathwada region. The paper also includes the facilities provided by higher education institutions to differently-abled students. The author of the research paper has collected all the information data for minor research project, sanctioned by the university in January, 2020, titled “An Analytical study of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education Institutions in rural area of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra State.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study how much divyang students are enrolled in higher education institutions, rural area of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state.
2. To study the divyangjan facilities provided by higher education institutions, rural area of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state.

Hypothesis of the Study

1. There is less number of students with disabilities enrolled in higher education institutions in rural area
2. Higher Education Institutions provides less facilities to divyangjan in rural area.

Sampling

Five rural colleges of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state are selected for study. The names of colleges are as under-

1. Bahirji Smarak Mahavidyalya, Basmatnagar, Dist. Hingoli⁴
2. Lokmanya Mahavidyalya, Sonkhed, Dist. Nanded⁵
3. Navagan Arts & Commerce College, Parli-Vaijanath, Dist. Beed⁶
4. Shikshan Maharashi Dnyandeo Mohekar Mahavidyalaya, Kalamb, Dist. Osmanabad⁷
5. Indraraj Arts & Commerce College, Sillod, Dist. Aurangabad⁸

Data Collection

The researcher collects the data through both methods- primary and secondary. The researcher collects the primary data of divyang students by visiting the respective college. The secondary data is also collected through NAAC Manuals, google (internet) and books from library.

Period of the Study

The period of study for the purpose of research is of four years i.e. from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Limitation of the Study

1. The researcher has undertaken only arts and commerce faculties i.e. B.A. and B.Com for the purpose of research.
2. The colleges selected for the research study is from Marathwada region only.
3. The researcher depends upon the information provided by colleges of Marathwada region.

Analysis of the Study

The following table shows the average number of students and number of divyang students in the respective rural area colleges.

Table No. 1

Number of Divyang Students for the period from 2016-17 to 2019-20

Sr.No.	Name of Colleges	Class	Average Total Students	Total No. Divyang Students
1	Lokmanya Mahavidyalya,	B.A.	248	-
2	Indraraj Arts, Commerce & Science College	B.A	348	-
3	S.M.D.Mohekar Mahavidyalya	B.A	858	1
		B.Com	326	-
4	Navgan Arts & Commerce College	B.A	579	
		B.com	263	
5	Bahirji Smarak Mahavidyalya	B.A	664	1
		B.Com	410	

Source: primary data collected from respective college

In the table no. 1, there is only one divyang student each in S. M. D. Mohekar Mahavidyalya, Kalam, Dist. Osmanabad and Bahirji Smarak Mahavidyalya, Basmatnagar, Dist. Hingoli. Considering the total strength, there are very few students (only two SwDs) enrolled in higher education institutions in rural area of Marathwada region, Maharashtra state.

Now, the facilities provided by selected colleges of Marathwada region is displayed in table no. 2

Facilities Provided to Students with Disabilities (SWD)

Sr. No.	Name of Colleges	Facilities Provided to Students With Disabilities (SWD)
1	Lokmanya Mahavidyalya,	Ramp
2	Indraraj Arts, Commerce & Science College	---
3	S.M.D.Mohekar Mahavidyalya	Ramp
4	Navgan Arts & Commerce College	Ramp, waste cart. Exam facilities, direct admission facility and rest room
5	B.S. Mahavidyalya	Ramp, wheel chair, exam facility, library facility and personal attention to tackle problems

Source: Primary data collected from respective colleges

The table no. 2 displays various common facilities such as ramp, exam facility, admission facility etc provided to divyang students in every college selected under study. Nothing unique facility is provided by rural area colleges of Marathwada region. This is because of less number of divyang students enrolled in higher education institutions.

Conclusions

1. As the NAAC and government, every year asks about divyang students, colleges are aware about them.
2. There is very less enrollment of divyang students in higher education
3. All the colleges selected under study provides very less/minimum, specially in rural area of Marathwada region, Maharashtra state facilities to divyangjan..

Suggestions

1. The higher education institutions and government must take efforts to enroll more number of divyang students.
2. Every higher education institution /college must provide some more facilities such as wheel chair, Braille lip reading machine for blind and book reader computer software to divyang students as per their requirement.
3. Many divyang students are not aware about facilities provided by government and higher education institutions. A special campaign/programme must be arranged to dessiminate knowledgeable information of divyang students in colleges.

References:

NAAC Manual for Affiliated Colleges, July 2017, Page no. 12, para 2

naac.gov.in/images/docs/Publication/NAAC%Broucher%20January (Page no. 12)

Visited Bahirji Smarak Mahavidyalya, Basmatnagar, Dist. Hingoli

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www.naac.gov.in/images/docs/manuals (page no. 21)