

Post Graduate Students Perception towards Significance of Accreditation in the Private University: A Case study on Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur.

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Abstract: Any nation's progress depends heavily on education. Therefore, there is a premium on both higher education's quantity (increasing access) and quality (provided academic programmes' relevance and excellence). In India, numerous accreditation organisations have been established to assist volunteer institutions in evaluating their performance in relation to predetermined standards through reflection and a procedure that allows for institution participation. The goal of this study is to investigate and analyze the Students Awareness towards Significance of Accreditation in Private University. The data was collected using the convenience sampling method from 100 students at Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur through structured questionnaire with a five-value Likert-Scale ranging from 1 to 5. The scales used considering (1) Strongly Disagree (2) Disagree (3) Neutral (4) Agree (5) strongly Agree. The study reveals that the Post Graduate Students perception towards Significance of Accreditation in Private University is varying in nature.

Keywords: Post Graduate Students, Perception, Accreditation, Private University.

INTRODUCTION:

Both public and private institutions are a part of India's higher education system. Private universities receive the majority of its funding from various organisations and groups, whilst public universities are sponsored by the national government of India and the state governments. The University Grants Commission (UGC), which derives its authority from the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, is responsible for recognising universities in India. 15 professional councils are also created, each of which is in charge of a distinct aspect of accreditation and coordination. The UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 govern private universities in India. As Per the UGC legislation and these regulations, private universities are formed by an act of a local legislative assembly and listed by the UGC in the Gazette upon receiving the act. According to an Indian Supreme Court decision, the university must be recognised by the UGC in order to function. The UGC sends committees to inspect private universities in accordance with the 2003 norms, and then publishes a report on the inspections. The UGC publishes and regularly updates the lists of private universities. As of 4 March 2022, the UGC consolidated list of universities lists 403 private universities. The earliest date of notification is that of Sikkim Manipal University, 11 October 1995. Private universities were established in 24 of the 28 states of India and in none of the 8 union territories. Because it is recognized by numerous illustrious schools and organisations, accreditation needs to be given top consideration while choosing a degree programme. A degree that has been accredited is recognized for having satisfied specific educational standards that have been established by an accrediting authority. One can be guaranteed that their degree will be recognized by other renowned institutions, organisations, and companies if they choose an accredited degree. Higher education accreditation is a form of quality control procedure wherein the operations and services of post-secondary educational institutions or programmes are assessed by an outside authority to see if pertinent requirements are followed, and accredited status is then granted by the agency. Except for those established through a law of Parliament, all universities in India must be accredited since without it, no institution is permitted to provide degrees or use the name "university."

LITERATURE REVIEW:

(Eaton, 2012) studied that, Potential students' perceptions on education have altered over the past 10 years as a result of the globalization and multiculturalization of HEI. To provide a promising work prospect and satisfy the demands of employers in the global market, they are more focused on accreditation and quality standards. (Kourik et. al., 2011) The accreditation process is being driven by the pressing need for advocacy in HEI as a path to sustainability and improved performance. Prospective students frequently use accredited HEI to sort through the different university options. This demonstrates how important the accreditation process is to all parties involved with the university, including the students. "From the perspective of a prospective student, such validation is particularly crucial to assist the student in locating trustworthy schools and to offer assurance that the institutions will maintain and update materials on a regular basis." (Dicks & Taylor, 2005) emphasized that only students accepted to authorized universities will be eligible for "Federal financial help" in accordance with "The Higher Education Act of 1965." Accreditation also shows the significance of increased tuition fees charged by accredited Universities because it is associated to better learning results. (Sutan Emir Hidayat et.al 2018) conducted study to gauge how much University College of Bahrain (UCB) students understood about the significance of the university's accreditation procedure.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Research Instruments: A questionnaire with 10 variable statement using a 5 point Likert-type scale, where strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, Neutral=3 agree=4 and strongly agree=5.)

Sampling Technique, Size & Frame: 100 MBA I & II year Students from Sanjay Ghodawat University Kolhapur were selected with convenience sampling Method.

Data Collection:

A) Primary Data Collection: - The study includes both primary as well as secondary data collected from 100 post graduate students with convenience sampling method.

B) Secondary Data Collection: - The secondary information has been obtained from the books, websites, magazines, journals and newspapers to study the relevant aspects.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

SN.	VARIABLE STATEMENTS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Accreditation Strengths the University's image	6	14	8	54	18
2	Accreditation Processes measures efficiently the student's learning outcomes	7	12	6	49	26
3	Accredited universities give their graduates a better opportunity to succeed in the workplace	9	10	8	51	22
4	Accredited Universities give their graduates a better opportunity after graduation to find a job	11	16	12	45	16
5	Accreditation leads to continuous improvements of resources	8	13	8	47	24
6	Accreditation improves faculty competencies	10	15	4	52	19
7	Enrolled at accredited programs facilitates student's mobility among universities	14	18	13	39	16
8	Being accredited by an international western agency or regional agency adds more credibility to the University	8	11	10	50	21
9	Accreditation has value for money for universities	7	14	9	53	17
10	Accreditation generates an awareness of self-development	11	17	11	46	15

Major Findings:-

- From the table it shows that, 18 Students were strongly agree, 54 were agree, 8 were neutral, 14 were disagree and remaining 6 were strongly disagree. it means, majority of the students agreed that, Accreditation Strengths the University's image.
- From the table it shows that, 26 Students were strongly agree, 49 were agree, 6 were neutral, 12 were disagree and remaining 7 were strongly disagree. it reveals, majority of the students agreed that, Accreditation Processes measures efficiently the student's learning outcomes.
- From the table it shows that, 22 Students were strongly agree, 51 were agree, 8 were neutral, 10 were disagree and remaining 9 were strongly disagree. it analyze, majority of the students agreed that, Accredited universities give their graduates a better opportunity to succeed in the workplace.
- From the table it shows that, 16 Students were strongly agree, 45 were agree, 12 were neutral, 16 were disagree and remaining 11 were strongly disagree. it state that, majority of the students agreed on Accredited Universities give their graduates a better opportunity after graduation to find a job.
- From the table it shows that, 24 Students were strongly agree, 47 were agree, 8 were neutral, 13 were disagree and remaining 8 were strongly disagree. it referred that, majority of the students agreed upon Accreditation leads to continuous improvements of resources.
- From the table it shows that, 19 Students were strongly agree, 52 were agree, 4 were neutral, 15 were disagree and remaining 10 were strongly disagree. it reflect that, majority of the students agreed that, Accreditation improves faculty competencies .
- From the table it shows that, 16 Students were strongly agree, 39 were agree, 13 were neutral, 18 were disagree and remaining 14 were strongly disagree. It means, no clear perception of the students indicates the agreed or disagreed view towards Enrolled at accredited programs facilitates student's mobility among universities.

8. From the table it shows that, 21 Students were strongly agree, 50 were agree, 10 were neutral, 11 were disagree and remaining 8 were strongly disagree. It summaries that, majority of the students agreed on Being accredited by an international western agency or regional agency adds more credibility to the University.
9. From the table it shows that, 17 Students were strongly agree, 53 were agree, 9 were neutral, 14 were disagree and remaining 7 were strongly disagree. It indicate that, majority of the students agreed that, Accreditation has value for money for universities.
10. From the table it shows that, 15 Students were strongly agree, 46 were agree, 11 were neutral, 17 were disagree and remaining 11 were strongly disagree. It observed that, majority of the students agreed upon Accreditation generates an awareness of self-development.

CONCLUSION: The accreditation validates quality standards of the various courses that they have met stringent quality standards, providing the best of knowledge, skill and attitude, besides giving the students an extra edge over the others in the job market as potential employers accord more value to degrees from accredited programs secure in the knowledge that the candidate has been taught at an institution that has met and maintained strong quality measures aligned to industry. The study reveals that the Post Graduate Students perception towards Significance of Accreditation in Private University is varying in nature.

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