



UNIVERSITY OF RAJSHAHI

To attain excellence in teaching, learning, research and administration at the University of Rajshahi

Newsletter



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Dedicated To

Bangabandhu, the architect of Quality Higher Education in Bangladesh

Director's Message



The production, transmission and exploitation of knowledge are considered as the real wealth in a knowledge-based society. Higher

education institutions are unique in that they take part in all these process. The nature of knowledge always changes that imposes new requirements on academic systems. Quality assurance plays a vital role in Universities to address the generation of quality knowledge. Assurance of higher education quality requires engagement of all relevant stakeholders in facilitating improvement of the standard of education system that ensures students knowledge, skills as well as values to meet the needs of themselves, the industry and the country. In this pursuit the Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Universities took Quality Assurance (QA) Project to establish Institutional QA Cell in every University of Bangladesh. This project that ran until the end of 2018 was successful in promoting a quality culture and introducing the best practice in the Universities.

As a continuing process of quality assurance the UGC recommended the institutionalization of internal system of quality assurance at the

University of Rajshahi through the establishment of the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at the University level. The University of Rajshahi being fully aware of a high-quality learning experience for students immediately addressed the UGC's directive and established the IQAC.

The IQAC is expected to work closely with academic and administrative units across the University in maintaining internal as well as external quality assurance. In carrying out these responsibilities IQAC will facilitate the academic and administrative units of University of Rajshahi in program planning, development and review, and disseminate information and guidance on quality assurance through various means such as offering training and advice to faculty members and administrative staffs on the different processes. The IQAC is also responsible for ascertaining that the University's quality assurance policies and procedures are robust and effective in maintaining and monitoring the standards of its academic degrees and in supporting the enhancement of the students' learning experience.

Quality assurance is a team work and IQAC alone cannot implement it. The desired result of quality assurance at the University of Rajshahi can only be achieved through the effective participation of

all the stake holders.

I seek whole hearted and enthusiastic support from all.

Professor Abu Bakar Md. Ismail
Director, IQAC, RU

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Editors

Prof. Abu Bakar Md. Ismail
Prof. Md. Jahanur Rahman
Prof. Pranab Kumar Panday
Md. Ajmul Hoda

Compose and Design

Most. Ranu Khatun

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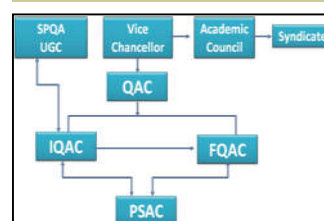
Rajshahi University Press

Background of IQAC

The government's 2010 National Education Policy (NEP) stipulated that a national accreditation council would be established to guarantee the quality of academic programs offered by the HEIs.

In anticipation of this, initiatives were taken to prepare universities to meet the requirements of accreditation. The UGC's own Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) initiated, supported and monitored the creation of institutional quality assurance cells (IQAC) in both public and private universities. The University of Rajshahi was included in the first phase of this initiative.

Relational Structure of IQA Bodies



Vision of IQAC

To attain excellence in teaching, learning, research and administration at the University of Rajshahi.

Mission of IQAC

To ensure the highest quality by continuous development of learning, teaching, research and administrative activities in the campus through regular monitoring of such activities in line with the indicators of quality assurance.

Establishment of IQAC at the University of Rajshahi

As part of the ongoing commitment of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh to enhance the quality of higher education in the country, Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) started its operation at the University of Rajshahi on the 1st January 2015 as a sub-project of the Quality Assurance (QA) project of UGC and ended its tenure on the 30th of June 2018. The University of Rajshahi was advised by the UGC through a

formal letter to integrate the existing IQAC into the University's revenue budget in order to make sure that this body could continue to ensuring institutional quality. Under these circumstances, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) was constituted on the 1st of July 2018 in accordance with the provision of the Statute, Ordinance and Regulations of the University of Rajshahi.



Stepping towards Accreditation: Sharing of Views

A programme entitled “Stepping towards Accreditation: Sharing of Views” was or-



ganised by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), the University of Rajshahi on the 6th of February, 2019 at 10.00 AM at Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Senate Bhavan. All Deans, Director of Institutes

and Chairman of Departments remained present in this programme.

Honourable Chairman of Accreditation Council of Bangladesh, Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Honourable Vice-Chancellor Professor M. Abdus Sobhan graced the occasion as the Special Guest. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (s) Professor Ananda Kumar Saha and Professor Chowdhury Md. Zakaria remained present as the Guests of Honour. The programme was presided over by the Abu Bakar Md. Ismail, Director of IQAC, RU. Professor Pranab Kumar Panday, Additional



Director, IQAC, RU facilitated the programme.

A Training Workshop on “Effective Teaching- Learning and Assessment”



The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the University of Rajshahi organized a training workshop on “Effective Teaching-Learning and Assessment” for all newly recruited faculty members of this university on the 24th April 2019 at Room No. 306-A, Syed Ismail Hossain Siraji Academic Building, RU.

Professor S.M. Kabir, Dept. of Marketing, R.U. was the key resource person of this training workshop.

This training workshop was being organized under the directive of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) of the University of Rajshahi with the overarching goal of enhancing the quality of teaching-learning

and assessment at this University. The training workshop intended to equip junior faculty members with the methods of modern teaching-learning and assessment that would



help them to cope with the new challenge of transformation in higher education. The following topics were discussed in this training workshop:

- ♦ Educational Domains & Teaching Learning
- ♦ Organizing Effective Teaching-Learning
- ♦ Innovative Teaching Learning Methods: SCTL, OBE, PBL & Case method
- ♦ Assessment of Student Performance
- ♦ Alignment of Teaching Learning & Assessment
- ♦ Rubrics for Assessment

All participants received a certificate of participation from the director of IQAC at the closing session of the workshop.

Training Workshops on Curriculum Design and Review



The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of University of Rajshahi organized day-long three training workshops on



“Curriculum Design and Review” during 28 to 30 April

2019. The training workshops were organized under the directive of the Quality Assur-



ance Committee (QAC) of the University of Rajshahi with the overarching goal of transforming the existing syllabuses into

the curriculum. The training workshops intended to equip members of Curriculum Design and Review (CDR) Committees of the respective Program Of-



fering Entities (PoEs) with the modern methods of curriculum design and review.



Opinion Exchange Meetings on Curriculum Design and Review

Four Opinion Exchange Meetings on Curriculum Design and Review (CDR) were organised by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), the University of Rajshahi on the 7,



16, 21 July and 03 October 2019, at the Conference Room of Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam Administration Building, RU. All PSAC Heads and CDR

Conveners of POEs remained present in those Meetings.



Those meetings were presided over by Abu Bakar Md. Ismail (Ph.D), Director of IQAC. Professor Dr. Md. Jahanur Rahman (Additional Director) delivered a presentation on "Overview of Outcome Based Curriculum" and Professor Pranab Kumar

Panday, Additional Director, IQAC, RU facilitated these meetings.



Participants of these meetings unanimously recommended the following issues:

1. Development of a common improvement plan having analyzed all the improvement plans of POEs for preparing a cumulative budget.

2. Circulation of a common format of curriculum
3. Holding of training sessions for all academic staff on Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Assessment
4. Development and updating of RU Web Page.
5. To allocate budget to implement the OBE based curriculum
6. To ensure minimum budget from RU to make OBE based curriculum

Foundation Training for Officers

Two trainings for Non-academic Staff titled "Foundation Training for Officers" were organised by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), University of Rajshahi on the 27 and 28 October, 2019 at the Conference Room No. 306A, Syed Ismail Hossain Siraji Academic Building, RU. All newly recruited section officers and assistant registrars attended these trainings. Among different issues, Office Management, Itemized Job Solution Cycle & Individual Responsibility, National Integrity Strategy (NIS) and Manner & Etiquette of the Officials were discussed in these trainings. Prof. M. Abdus Salam, Ex-Registrar, Rajshahi University and Md. Ziaul Haque, Deputy Director (Deputy Secretary), RPATC remained present as resource persons in these trainings.

The inaugural and certificate giving ceremony sessions of these trainings were presided over by the Abu Bakar Md. Ismail, Director of IQAC, RU. Professor Dr. Md. Jahanur Rahman attended



both training sessions. Professor Pranab Kumar Panday, Additional Director, IQAC, RU facilitated the both the sessions.

Seminar on Higher Education Quality Enhancement & IQAC



A Seminar on "Higher Education Quality Enhancement & IQAC" was organised by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), University of Rajshahi on the 17 October,

2019 at the Deans' Complex Conference Room of RU. All Deans, Director of Institutes, Chairman of Departments, Conveners of PSAC and CDR of all POEs remained present in this Seminar.

Honourable Member of UGC of Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Muhammad Alamgir attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (s) Professor Ananda Kumar Saha and Professor Chowdhury Md. Za-



karia graced the occasion as the Special Guests. Professor Abu Bakar Md. Ismail (Ph.D), director of IQAC, RU remained present as the Guest of Honour. The seminar was presided over by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Professor M. Abdus Sobhan. Professor Pranab Kumar Panday, Additional Director, IQAC, RU facilitated the seminar.

A Keynote was presented by the Professor Dr. Muhammad Alamgir while Professor Abu Bakar Md. Ismail offered a presentation on IQAC. Bishnu Mallic, Deputy Director, SPQA, UGC also delivered his speech in this seminar.

CONTACT US

Room No. 306 B & C
Syed Ismail Hossain Siraji
Academic Building
University of Rajshahi
Rajshahi-6205

Phone: 0721-711266
E-mail: iqac@ru.ac.bd

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Quality Assurance Committee (QAC)



QAC of the University of Rajshahi was formed for looking after the key issues of quality assurance and activities of the IQAC. During the reporting period two QAC meetings were held which were presided over by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor-Professor Abdus Sobhan. IQAC Additional Director Professor Pranab Kumar Panday acted as the Member Secretary of QAC meetings. Among others, the following decisions were taken unanimously in these meetings:



- Incorporation of members from Employer and Alumni in the curriculum committee of each POE.
- Transformation of content based syllabus into Outcome Based Curriculum (OBE)
- Finalization of the University of Rajshahi's Vision, Mission and Core Values.
- Digitization of all activities and documentation of each POE and all administrative offices.
- Introduction of Students' Feedback on each course in each programme.
- Finalization of the provision of providing lesson plan at the onset of commencement of courses.

Day Observation



Historic 7th March Observation



Observation of 66th Founding Anniversary of RU



Celebration of the 31st December of 2019



Distribution of kits for the 11th Convocation 2019