

The NAAC Experience

Santosh Kumar, *Spicer Adventist University*

It was August 2021; the lockdown was just lifted. People were moving towards normalcy, and things were getting in place. However, SOPs (Standard Operating Procedure) to restrict and limit the spread of the virus were still followed. The administration of Spicer Adventist University decided to take the University to another level amidst all possible challenges and limitations. Earlier, the University prepared for UGC, and it was time to prepare and submit an SSR (Self-study Report) to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). NAAC accreditation assesses the institute's quality in terms of education, research, facilities, teaching and learning, placement, and so on. After NAAC certification, the institution receives several benefits. Accreditation by the NAAC aids with internal planning. Additionally, it supports educational institutions in implementing cutting-edge teaching and learning methods to raise educational standards. In addition to assisting with resource allocation, it promotes planning, suggests areas for improvement, and provides relevant information to back up those decisions.

Hence, Spicer Adventist University engaged in preparing to submit SSR to NAAC for a better future of the university. The administrators had several meetings to finalize what is feasible to prepare for the SSR submission. Several internal teams were formed, tasks were shared, information and data were gathered, and decisions were made to execute the plan. To mentor the effort of the University, the administration decided to consult experts in NAAC processing, and therefore, a legal advisor and a senior consultant worked closely with the administration and the internal teams.

It has never been witnessed before a group of people working together to attain a common goal. Every academic and staff member volunteered to assist with the SSR report. It was decided to form a core team that would be responsible for gathering, arranging, and verifying all of the information collected from Spicer Adventist University departments. To ensure that everything goes according to plan, the core team has to work late at night on a few occasions. I was responsible for providing the reports for Criteria III because I was a core team member. Fortunately (Research and Innovation). I was able to see the power of unity and teamwork firsthand while working closely with the team member throughout the day and night.

Finally, in August, the final SSR report was submitted to NAAC. Several of us had unique experiences while preparing for NAAC submission, so I would like to share a few of them. Mr. Elvinson D., the University's administrative assistant, and System admin, explains that he was so engaged with statistical information that he was grading everything around him, even in his dreams. When asked about the challenges they encountered, one faculty member stated, "the experience was new, and the unpreparedness challenged them to learn various things that would be useful in the future."

"At the University, the process of preparing the NAAC SSR highlighted one of the institution's greatest assets, which is unity and togetherness," says the Vice-Chancellor. By assigning criteria based on their expert areas, all administrators, faculty, and staff were allocated their responsibilities. Everyone contributed their best, and as a result, we were able to complete the Self-Study Report (SSR) on time. The peer review team is scheduled to visit us soon." The registrar of the University concludes the

experience as “an attempt towards the right path.” He further says, “the university is moving in accordance with HEI, an attempt to prepare the SSR for NAAC will equip the institution to equip academic excellence and opportunities.” The HR office states, “Preparing for NAAC was a new learning experience for all who contributed towards the self-study. We faced difficulties and challenges, but we could overcome and rectify them. It was indeed a great experience for the Human Resource Department.”

It is evident that there were mixed feelings from the administrators, faculty, and staff during their preparation towards NAAC SSR. However, all can be thematically summarized, as I would conclude, “*exhausting but exciting*” and “*rigorous but rewarding*.” The institution's mission is to move forward, reward the community, and contribute to the nation that strongly advocates “*Sabke Saath, sabka Vikaas*” (Development of all).

