

SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN IQAC AND QUALITY EDUCATION: SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ON SDG-4



DAFFODIL INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DHAKA-BANGLADESH

June 2020

PRELUDE

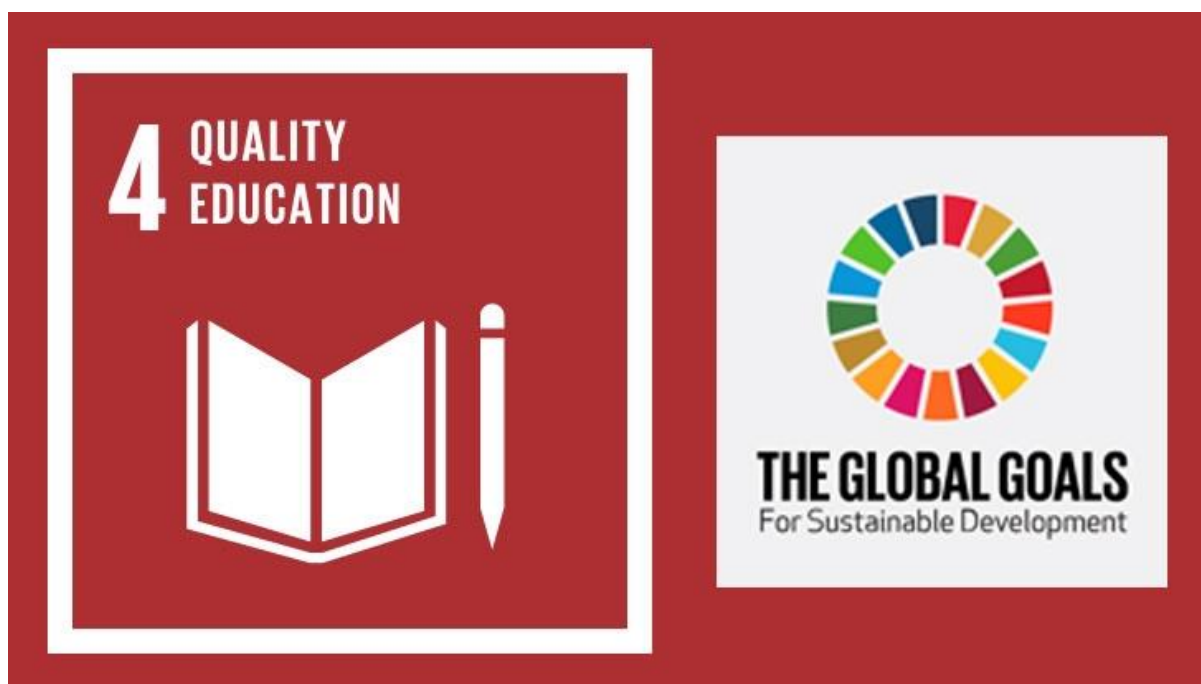
Universities have demonstrated to the world during the COVID-19 crisis why their expertise matters and why international collaboration in higher education is needed to solve the world's pressing challenges and 'quality in higher education' domain was also addressed.

Increase knowledge of potential strategies to meet the fourth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4), which strives for quality education.

During 2018, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) became integral part of Daffodil International University which had started as project from 2015-2018. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) is the implementing agency of the project (Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)). The project is jointly financed by the World Bank and Government of Bangladesh.

Under the activities of IQAC, DIU, following steps are being facilitated to complete:

1. Self-Assessment Process
2. External Peer Review Process
3. Post Self-Assessment Improvement Plan
4. Implementation Phase



QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) AREAS

Based on the following criteria, all SA Departments have completed the SA Exercise:

Criteria 1: Governance

Criteria 2: Curriculum Content Design & Review

Criteria-3: Student Admission, Progress and Achievements

Criteria 4: Physical Facilities

Criteria 5: Teaching - Learning and Assessment

Criteria 6: Student Support Services

Criteria 7: Staff and Facilities

Criteria 8: Research and Extension

Criteria 9: Process Management & Continuous Improvement

FORMATION OF IQAC AT DIU

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), DIU has started its journey during 14 June, 2015 through signing the performance contract with University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC).

1.1 General Objectives of the IQAC, DIU

- To ensure quality culture as the prime concern for DIU through institutionalizing and internalizing all the initiatives taken with internal and external support.
- To develop a sustainable quality assurance mechanism for providing quality education of international standards;
- To produce skilled graduates for the competitive jobs in the national and international job markets; and
- To make effective contribution in creating a knowledge-based society through research and development (R&D) activities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF IQAC, DIU

- To review existing teaching-learning practices and other relevant aspects of higher education (contents, assessment procedures, course outcomes, use of technology, program orientation, academic performance, availability of resource materials, co-curricular activities etc.), existing policies, and procedures at the program offering entity level for further improvement through enhancing managerial efficiency;
- To identify the areas of improvement, such as, contents, instructional materials, delivery methods, capacity building, achievement of the course goals, and use of technology, support services, policy making etc. and plan relevant activities to ensure quality;
- To take initiatives and conduct appropriate activities through training, workshops, seminars, conferences, facilities development, orientations, awareness and capacity building etc. focusing on employers' needs and demands and respond to the global trends on quality education;
- To guide and assist the program offering entities (departments and faculties) to improve course objectives, student-centered teaching-learning methods, knowledge and skills of students and coordinate all quality assurance activities of the university with a view to produce skilled graduates for global markets;
- To provide support to the departments for conducting Self-Assessment (SA), External Peer Review and implement quality culture at the department; and
- To conduct research on quality education and prepare the university to meet the external quality assurance assessment and accreditation requirements.

VALUE FRAMEWORK

- Fostering Global Competencies among Students
- Inculcating a Value System among Students
- Promoting the Use of Technology
- Quest for Excellence

BENEFITS

IQAC, DIU facilitates:

- Ensure heightened level of clarity and focus in institutional functioning towards quality enhancement;
- Ensure internalization of the quality culture
- Ensure enhancement and coordination among various activities of the institution and institutionalize all good practices
- Provide a sound basis for decision-making to improve institutional functioning
- Act as a dynamic system for quality changes in HEIs
- Build an organized methodology of documentation and internal communication.

SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS IQAC DELIVERS TOWARDS ENSURING QUALITY

- Development and application of quality benchmarks/parameters for various academic and administrative activities of DIU.
- Facilitating the creation of a learner-centric environment conducive to quality education and faculty maturation to adopt the required knowledge and technology for participatory teaching and learning process
- Arrangement for feedback response from students, faculty members and other stakeholders on quality-related institutional processes
- Dissemination of information on various quality parameters of higher education
- Organization of inter and intra institutional workshops, seminars on quality related themes and promotion of quality circles
- Documentation of the various programmes/activities leading to quality improvement.
- Acting as a nodal agency of the Institution for coordinating quality-related activities, including adoption and dissemination of best practices.
- Development of Quality Culture in the institution.
- Preparation of the semi-annual monitoring report (SAMR) and quarterly financial management report (QFMR) as per guidelines and parameters of Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh.

ROLE OF IQAC, DIU TOWARDS ACHIEVING SDG: 4

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

"...Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes. Progress has also been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa, ongoing armed conflict has seen an increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend. While Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest progress in primary school enrolment among all developing regions – from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 – large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

IQAC, DAFFODIL INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

IQAC, DIU aims at continuous enhancement and sustenance of quality in higher education. The quality assurance provides confidence to the stakeholders for developing competent graduates in an efficient and effective way.

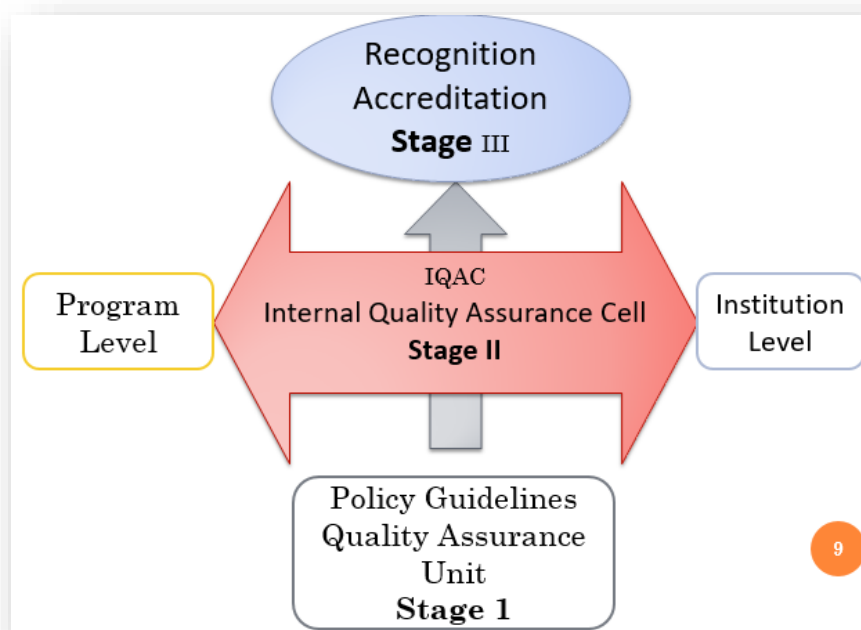
4.2.1 Establishment of QA Mechanism

- Institutionalization of IQAC
- Development of Qualifications Framework

4.2.2 Outcomes

- Establish Quality Culture
- Maintain Global Quality Label
- Internationalize HE

DIU QUALITY ASSURANCE MODEL



CASE IN POINT

1. Pedagogical Innovations and Pedagogy enhancement infrastructure
2. Continuous Professional learning/ Development
3. Research Excellence:
4. Multi-pronged, deep industry relationships/ partnership to build industry research model
5. Strong focus on international collaborations and interdisciplinary research
6. Develop institutional capabilities
7. Collaborations for Societal Impact

IQAC, DIU IN ACTION

Demonstration session on “Glimpses on DIU Blended Learning Center”

In presence of two distinguished members of Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC): Professor Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary, Member, Bangladesh Accreditation Council and Professor Dr. S M Kabir, Member, Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), DIU in association with HRDI, organized a special session on ‘Glimpses on DIU Blended Learning Center’ which was held on 22 July, 2020. These two dignitaries were invited to see the overall operation of DIU’s integrated online platform, ‘DIU Blended Learning Center’. During the pandemic (COVID 19), the higher education learning (with physical presence) becomes difficult and affected. But, DIU has managed very well to offer on-line (blended learning) to its student as DIU has almost decade experience in this domain.

Professor Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Vice Chancellor (in-charge), and Pro Vice Chancellor, Treasurer, Registrar, All Deans, Associate Deans, Heads, Associate

Heads, Conveners and Members of Self-Assessment Committee of each SA Departments, Director, Additional Director, IQAC, team IQAC, and students were present at the session. In his welcome speech, Professor Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Vice Chancellor (in-charge), and Pro Vice Chancellor has stressed on the importance and rationale of online/blended education system and also addressed the initiatives taken by DIU since long. After this, Senior Assistant Director, Mr. Khondker Mohammad Shah-Al-Mamun shared statistical representation on BLC.

Both the members of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) have appreciated highly on the initiative of DIU Blended Learning Center and cited DIU as pioneer in this arena. Members of BAC have greatly acknowledged the efforts and activities of IQAC, DIU for ensuring quality of higher education. They were impressed with such endeavor and continuous efforts during the pandemic and for the noteworthy technological innovation in higher education.

Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) Consultation Workshop on Rules of Accreditation, Accreditation Committee and Appeal



On 11 February, 2020, Director of IQAC, DIU has attended the BAC Consultation Workshop on Rules of Accreditation, Accreditation Committee and Appeal, organized by Bangladesh Accreditation Council to brainstorm the process of ensuring quality of teaching-learning environment before granting accreditation of any academic program.

**Workshop on 'Quality in Higher Education: Teaching Learning Perspective (Part 1)',
 conducted by an US Quality Expert**



IQAC, DIU invited Professor Dr. Quamrul H. Mazumder, P.E., Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan-Flint, USA to conduct the workshop on 'Quality in Higher Education: Teaching Learning Perspective'. After the welcome session, Professor Dr. Mazumder started his key presentation. In his presentation, he has talked on several issues and global practices on quality in higher education and teaching learning practices. In sharing his experiences, he has focused on diverse areas like importance of quality in higher education, assessment and criteria of quality, overview of the globalization of quality in higher education and different models of quality in higher education in different countries. Talking on policy, he addresses different policy models of quality in higher education. Apart from these, Professor Dr. Mazumder has provided a brief overview of student motivation in higher education, evaluation process of different techniques to motivate students to become active learners, relevant motivational theories, positive learning strategies, also analyzed teaching styles and how they can be applied to improve quality of education.

Webinar on Designing Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum and our Preparedness



IQAC, DIU organized a webinar on Designing Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum and our Preparedness during 24 October 2020 where Professor Dr. M. Mozahar Ali of Bangladesh Agricultural University was the lead facilitator.

Workshop on: “Compliance of Self-Assessment Process Flow”



A workshop on “Compliance of Self-Assessment Process Flow” was held on September 07, 2019 at Digital Class Room No. 201, Daffodil Tower of the Daffodil International University (DIU). It was organized by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of DIU. Professor Dr. M. Mozahar Ali, Former Director, Graduate Training Institute - Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh conducted this program as a key resource person. He has explained the importance and Compliance of Self-Assessment Process. Professor Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Honorable Vice Chancellor (Acting) of DIU was present in the workshop as the Chief Guest. The faculty members of nine (9) new Self-Assessment Departments under the flagship of IQAC, DIU, participated in the workshop. The workshop focused on developing the Compliance of Self-Assessment Process of Soft Skills, Curriculum, Syllabus, Course Calendar, Catalogue, Difference Level Outcome, Course Learning Outcome, Lesson Plan, Graduate Profile, Reflect on Teaching Quality and so on.

Discussion with Class Monitoring Committee: Post Analysis on Classroom Monitoring



Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), DIU organized an event, 'Discussion with Class Monitoring Committee: Post Analysis on Classroom Monitoring (Fall-2019)'. The programme aimed at sharing the experiences of committee members on class monitoring (conducted during Fall 2019) and to discuss on upcoming class monitoring of Spring 2020 and ten parameters were revisited as well to ensure a sustainable quality culture both inside and outside classrooms. Prof. Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Vice Chancellor (in-charge), DIU has also graced the occasion. Professor Dr. A.K.M. Fazlul Haque, Director, IQAC, DIU has facilitated the discussion and given a presentation to apprise the summary report on class monitoring. He urged to practice the mechanism with care and with diligence. Director, IQAC, DIU has also extended heartiest congratulations for accomplishing the outstanding tasks, by the class monitoring committee. As part of its continuation and to improve with more systematic organization of this mechanism (upcoming Semester), he has requested to start class monitoring for this semester, focusing more class coverage and with diligence in marking. Members of the committee have appreciated this initiative, taken by IQAC and shared their experiences, individually. In this semester, they will try to cover more classes for monitoring. Prof. Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Vice Chancellor (in-charge), DIU has stressed on its viability and necessity for ensuring quality education.

IQAC Director attended 9th WIEF Global Discourse on “4IR: Seizing Possibilities for The Future”

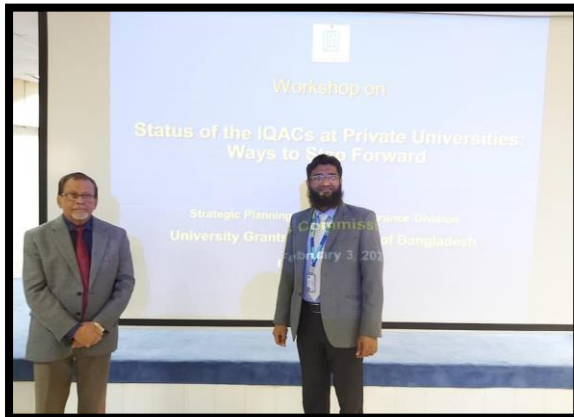
World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEF) organized 9th WIEF Global Discourse to identify the important social, economic, political and environmental trends that would shape the 4IR. As per invitation, Director, IQAC attended the 9th WIEF Global Discourse on “4IR: Seizing Possibilities for The Future” held at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on International Relation Affairs graced the program as the Chief Guest whereas Panel Speakers Prof. Dr. M. Shamsheer Ali, Professor Emeritus, Southeast University and Founder Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh, Dr. Hasan Shafi, Partner, A.T. Kearney, Inc., Malaysia. Datuk Dr. Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Malaysia, The Hon. FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty DSLJ Haji Abdul

Rahman, Director & Principal Architect, Eco Bumi Arkitek and Legislative Council Member, Brunei Darussalam, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Robi Axiata Limited, Bangladesh.



University Grants Commission (UGC) organized a Workshop on Status of the IQACs Private Universities: Ways to Step Forward

University Grants Commission (UGC) organized a Workshop on Status of the IQACs Private Universities: Ways to Step Forward where Vice Chancellor (Acting) and Director, IQAC, DIU attended. UGC Chairman, Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah came up with the remarks while speaking at a workshop titled 'Current Status of IQACs at Private University and Ways to Step Forward' at UGC auditorium in the capital as the chief guest.



He said the cooperation to this end will come up from both the sides. The industrial sector could take collaboration from the universities to solve their problems including its research activities. "Universities alone cannot ensure quality of higher education. Collaboration between universities and industries needs to be expanded in the regard," said the UGC chairman.

Calling upon the Vice-Chancellors of the country's universities in bringing the qualitative change in higher education, the UGC Chairman noted that no university has secured a place in world ranking which is unexpected. Therefore, the main challenge of UGC is to ensure quality tertiary education in universities.

Meeting of Executive Committee (EC), IQAC, DIU

On 13 July, 2019, Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Daffodil International University arranged the Executive Committee (of IQAC) meeting at the Conference Room, DT-4, Daffodil International University. Executive Committee OF IQAC, DIU works for the institutional oversight of the IQAC and oversee the activities of IQAC and

implementation of the quality assurance framework of the university. IQAC, DIU has invited all the members of the EC.



The meeting was presided over by the Pro Vice Chancellor, DIU, Professor Dr. S.M. Mahbub-Ul-Haque Majumder, and the Chairperson of the committee. The Director, IQAC, DIU presented the overall recent activities and future initiatives of IQAC through a power point presentation. At his presentation, different areas were covered like: Class Monitoring Mechanism; Course

diary; Briefing on 9 New SA Departments; Outcome of several Workshops; Orientation of SA Process Flow among 9 new SACs of IQAC of DIU; Exclusive report on IQAC visit at 12 SA Departments; InQAC; IQAC Annual Budget (Proposed) for the Financial Year 2019-2020 and finally shared the future Initiatives (Class feedback; Book compilation; policy implementation; quality research, training and development of teaching learning process). After his presentation, the committee discussed and addressed various related issues of IQAC activities for its smooth functioning to attain the objectives of assuring quality education at DIU as IQAC has been working on nine basic Quality Assurance (QA) areas. The committee has expressed their satisfaction towards the ongoing tasks, carried out by IQAC, DIU and advised in some areas, to facilitate the working process and for its better functioning.

IQAC Director & Research Director of DIU attended the workshop on "QS Masterclass on University Rankings & Ratings" at BUET



Director, IQAC and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, DIU, Prof. Dr. A. K. M. Fazlul Haque and Director, Research Division, Prof. Dr. Md. Kabirul Islam along with other distinguished participants and guests. A workshop titled "QS Masterclass on University Rankings & Ratings" was held during July 09, 2019 at 10.00 a.m. at the Council Bhaban of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ashwin Fernandez, Regional Director – Middle East, North Africa & South Asia, QS Quacquarelli Symonds, UK. Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has graced the occasion as Chief Guest, The programme was chaired

by Professor Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, World University of Bangladesh (WUB) has remained as special guest. As part of representation from Daffodil International University, Director of IQAC and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, DIU, Prof. Dr. A. K. M. Fazlul Haque and Director, Research Division, Prof. Dr. Md. Kabirul Islam have attended the workshop and exchanged their view on QS ranking and rating as well.