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THE TIMES OF INDIA

# 600 univs, 25,000 colleges are not accredited in India

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**New Delhi:** Possibility of poor grades is the reason behind non-participation of 22% of higher education institutions in the accreditation process of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) while 26% of institutions don't apply as they lack permanent faculty and 5.5% for not having a permanent head of the institution.

These are some of the findings of the accreditation survey conducted by NAAC. It said 72% of institutions are in the process of improving their quality and resources to apply for NAAC accreditation.

The government rolled out the revised accreditation framework in 2017, which came into effect in 2018 and has so far accredited 74 universities and 1,485 colleges. According to the HRD ministry sources, at present there are 600 unaccredited universities and 25,000 unaccredited colleges.

## Survey of non-accredited Higher Education Institutions

### BOTTLENECK

22% of the institutions felt that the possibility of getting lower grades is the reason for non participation in accreditation

72% of institutions responded that they are currently in the process of improving their quality and resources to apply for NAAC accreditation

13% of respondents said that unfamiliarity about NAAC accreditation procedure is a reason for their non-accreditation

3.6% respondents said that NAAC accreditation is not important to them

26% of the respondents said that they require more guidance to apply for NAAC accreditation

10% of the respondents said, they don't maintain the required documents which act as a deterrent to their participation

26% of the institutions responded that, not having permanent faculty is the reason for not applying to NAAC accreditation

5.5% of them said that not having permanent head of the institution is the reason for non-accreditation

Speaking to TOI, NAAC Director, Prof S C Sharma, said though the government has made accreditation mandatory, unless it is enforced it will take time for some institutions to come forward.

"NAAC accreditation is a diagnostic tool. It helps institutions to understand themselves and improve. A total of 13,399 institutions have been accredited since its inception in 1994," he said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Pvt hospital bills inflated by huge mark-ups, new items

## Niti Aayog Yet To React To Complaints

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What inflates Covid-19 treatment bills in private hospitals is much the same as what inflated bills in pre-Covid days — huge margins on diagnostics, consumables and medicines. What is new are inflated charges for protective gear and separate charges for bio waste disposal as if hospitals did not have hazardous bio waste disposal practices in place before Covid happened.

With many patients being admitted for 10-15 days, the costs add up and bills of Rs 4 lakh to Rs 16 lakh have grabbed headlines. In the case of consumables and medicines, the modus operandi is what was exposed by the National Phar-



Bills for Rs 4 lakh to Rs 16 lakh for 10-15 days hospitalisation have shocked many

maceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in 2018 — procuring at a fraction of the maximum retail price (MRP) but charging patients the MRP. Since the government did nothing to address the problem, it continues.

Common investigations like a liver function or kidney function test, which costs Rs 400-800 at best in independent labs, are being billed Rs 3,000-3,500. Similarly, procalcitonin, a test to check for bacterial infections, costs Rs 1,100-3,600 in an independent lab but can

cost an inpatient Rs 5,500 to over Rs 9,500. The pattern holds for tests, big or small. With each patient needing 3-5 covid tests, hospitals are charging the maximum allowed, Rs 4,500, though it has become evident that the actual cost could be less than half.

In the case of medicines, a telling example is that of meropenem, a high-end antibiotic. It is procured by hospitals for Rs 500-900 per gram and charged at the MRP of Rs 3,330 per gram with a patient requiring

two to three grams in a day, adding thousands to the bill each day. Just as NPPA uncovered in 2018, the margins taken by hospital on medicines can be as high as 500% and on consumables even higher than 1,000% in some cases.

While this is business as usual, Covid has added some new elements. "In the name of isolation, patients are being charged for first class single room or even for single deluxe room. Chest CTs are being insisted upon. Despite being stable, many are being put in ICUs where charges are significantly higher," said a senior consultant in a prominent hospital in Mumbai.

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMed) has written to the health ministry several times since 2018 seeking regulation of hospital margins on medical devices and consumables. The NPPA too had recommended rationalisation of margins. Niti Aayog was to look into the matter, but has done little so far.



## Testing labs at pvt medical colleges, ESIC hosps in 30 days

BENGALURU, DHNS

All private medical colleges and Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi have to set up the real-time polymerase chain reaction (RTPCR) labs within 30 days, Minister S Suresh



Suresh Kumar

Kumar, in charge of media briefings, said.

He said National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences will guide and coordinate between all these institutions, he said.

To increase the testing capacity to 10,000 tests per day, the RTPCR machines available with the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) and veterinary colleges will be relocated to ICMR-approved labs



**The real-time polymerase chain reaction machines will be relocated to ICMR-approved labs located in medical colleges and hospitals in the state. PTI FILE PHOTO**

located in medical colleges and hospitals.

The heads of these institutions will also depute their microbiologists and technicians working on these machines to the approved labs for training

and operating these machines, he added.

He said the University of Agricultural Sciences on the GKVK campus in Jakkur is lending its machine to the National Institute of Traditional Medicine in Belagavi. The Veterinary College in Hebbal is sending its machine to the Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences in Ballari, and Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences in Kalaburagi. The University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad is lending its machine to the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences in Hubballi.

The Karnataka Institute of DNA Research in Dharwad is giving its machine to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, and Institute of Agri-Biotechnology in Dharwad is sending its machine to Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, he explained.