

Need of Academic Audit In Higher Education

Dr. Moushumi Datta

*Associate Professor, Department of Geography,
Nagindas Khandwala College, Mumbai*

E-mail: moushumi@nkc.ac.in Mobile: 9833060056

Abstract

The Academic Audit is a peer review process including a self-study and a site visit by peers from outside the institution. The process is periodic and the auditing committees consist of members of the academic community who are external to the institutions being audited. The purpose of the academic audit is to evaluate the performance of the university and college departments, schools and the centers and appreciate their achievements and give suggestions for further improvement of the quality of teaching, research, administration, and curricular and extra-curricular activities. The main objectives of this research paper are to understand the importance, aims and principles of academic audit, to review the approaches, purpose and advantages of academic audit and to undertake a perception study about the awareness of Academic Audit among faculty of higher education institutions. A perception study was carried on among the faculty of higher education institutes to understand their awareness about academic audit. Convenient sampling was undertaken with a sample size of 50 from several colleges in the western suburbs of Mumbai. Majority of the respondents have completed 10 years in the institute they are serving and their age group ranges from 30 to 50 years. Out of the 50 respondents, 32 are females and 18 males. The results have been stored, processed and analyzed using MS-Excel v. 2016. Literature review has been undertaken from several online and offline secondary sources. From the perception survey it is clear that only few faculty members of the higher education institutes have awareness and understanding of academic audit and favour it. It is thereby important to increase awareness and understanding of the practice of academic audit by highlighting its importance and advantages to the faculty members. Workshops and seminars should be organized emphasizing the significance and need of academic audit.

Keywords: Academic Audit, Perception Study, Awareness

Introduction

The Academic Audit is a peer review process including a self-study and a site visit by peers from outside the institution. This process emphasizes self-reflection and self-improvement rather than compliance with predetermined standards. Auditing academic and research institutions are a common practice in many parts of the world today. The process is periodic and the auditing committees consist of members of the academic community who are *external* to the institutions being audited. Quality audit means checking the relevant systems and structures within an institution to support its key teaching mission. The process of academic audit involves three stages: self-study