



Credentials Evaluation Service

India

AICTE vs UGC: What is the Difference and Why Does IT Matter?

Presented at the 2017 TAICEP (The Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals) conference in Rome, Italy.

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This session looked at the governance and recognition of postsecondary qualifications in India, particularly with regard to engineering and business education.

Joint IERF-NOKUT Education Brief: Recognition of Postsecondary Qualifications in India^{'17}



Snapshot of Higher Education and Its Governance in India

Second Largest Educational System

India is on the path to becoming the largest educational system globally and is second only to China in terms of total enrollment. According to the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), India has...



Over
34 million
students



Nearly
800
universities



Nearly
40 thousand
colleges

National Bodies

Entity	Established	Responsibilities
University Grants Commission (UGC)	1945 <i>Originally founded as the University Grants Committee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises the government on establishment of new universities • Issues list of recognized universities as well as fake ones • Allocates funding • Maintains standards in higher education
Association of Indian Universities (AIU)	1925 <i>Originally founded as the Inter-University Board of India & Ceylon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishes <i>Universities Handbook</i> • Coordinates work of universities on national level • Provides equivalencies for foreign degrees in India • Also establishes equivalencies for non-university qualifications in India
All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees standards for technical and business education in India • Authorizes start of new schools and programs • Also approves continuation of existing schools on annual basis

Quality Assurance

Accrediting Body	NAAC	NBA
Full Name	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	National Board of Accreditation
Established	1994 by the UGC	1987 by AICTE
Scope	Institutional level (e.g., universities, affiliated colleges, etc.)	Programmatic level (technical & business education)
Criteria	7	9
Rating	A++, A+, A B++, B+, B C	Accredited Not Accredited
Term	Valid for 5 years	Valid for 5 years

Notes

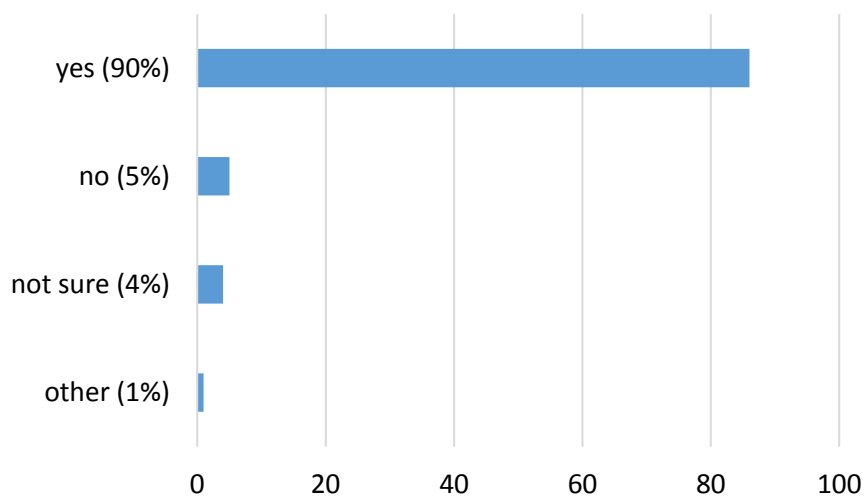
- In 2012, NAAC accreditation became mandatory. However, the sheer number of schools present a challenge. In 2016, only 26% of universities and 15% of colleges have achieved accreditation.
- In 2014, NBA accreditation also became mandatory. Similarly, the sheer number of schools present a challenge. However, NBA accreditation is required for: (1) colleges in technical and business education that are seeking autonomous status and (2) schools seeking equivalence of their Postgraduate Diplomas in Management (PGDMs) to MBAs by the AIU.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has proposed a merger of the UGC and AICTE to form the Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency (HEERA). This potential merger is regarded as a step toward removing the overlap in regulation between the two bodies and improving educational standards overall.
- The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are renowned providers of management education in India. While these 20 schools do not have degree-granting powers, their PGDMs are regarded by the AIU as equivalent to MBAs, both for purposes of further education and employment. Similarly, the Fellows of IIM are regarded as equivalent by the AIU to the PhD. Earlier this year (2017), a bill was cleared to grant the IIMs authority to award degrees.



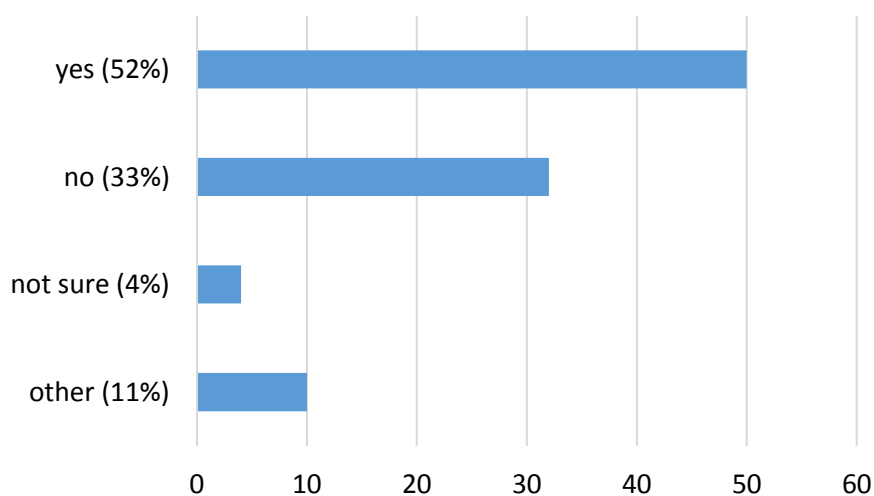
Online Survey Results on Recognition in India

The following results are from a poll taken on international admissions and evaluation practices with regard to the recognition of postsecondary qualifications. They were shared at the 2017 TAICEP conference. A link to the survey was originally posted on various online communities. While this is not a scientific study, the results reflect the policies of 96 institutions (with 67 based in the US, 14 in Canada, 12 in Europe & 3 other). While the bar graphs represent raw numbers, the percentages have also been referenced to the left in each one. We are grateful to the respondents of the survey.

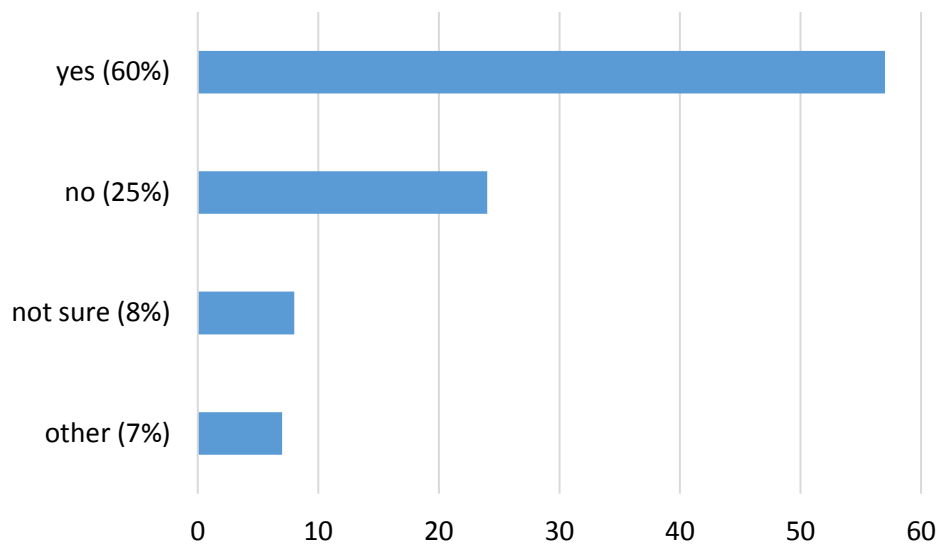
- 1) To determine acceptance of a postsecondary qualification from India, do you look for recognition by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**?



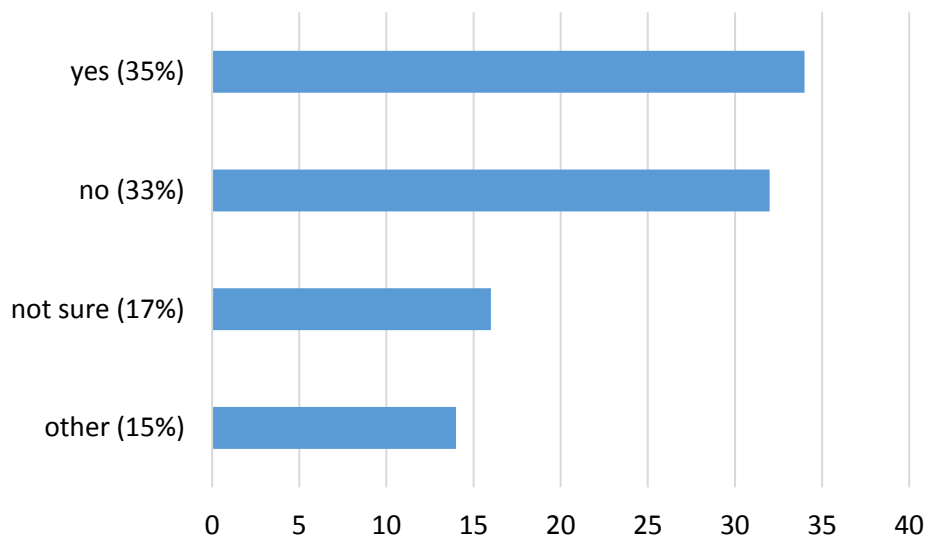
- 2) To determine acceptance of a postsecondary qualification from India, do you look for recognition by the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**?



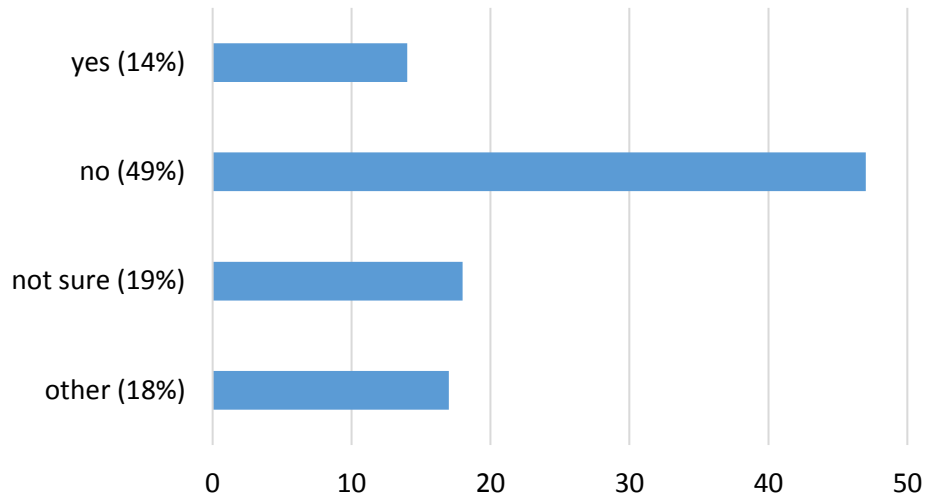
3) To determine acceptance of a postsecondary qualification from India, do you look for recognition by **the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, when they pertain to technical and management studies?



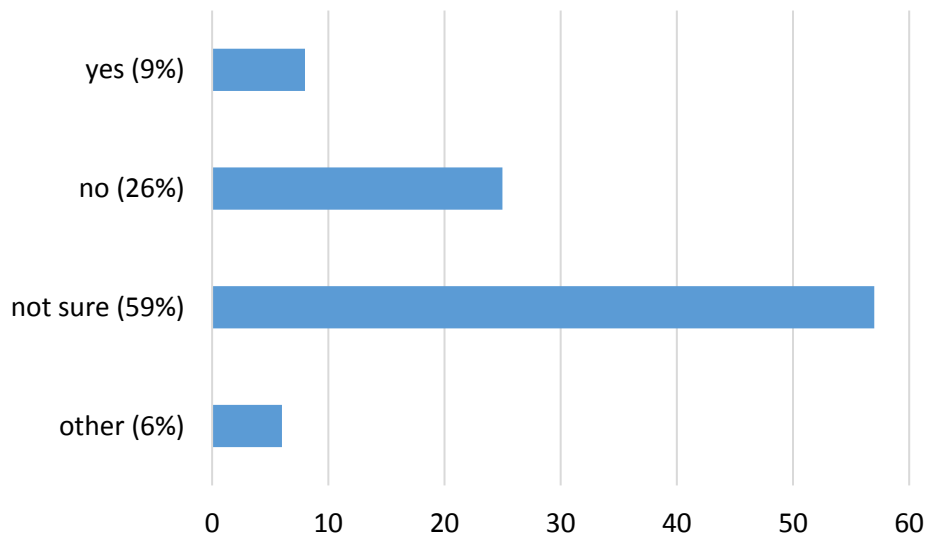
4) Do you recognize postsecondary qualifications offered at institutions that are not listed by the UGC or AICTE, but are recognized by a Ministry (e.g., Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Textiles...)?



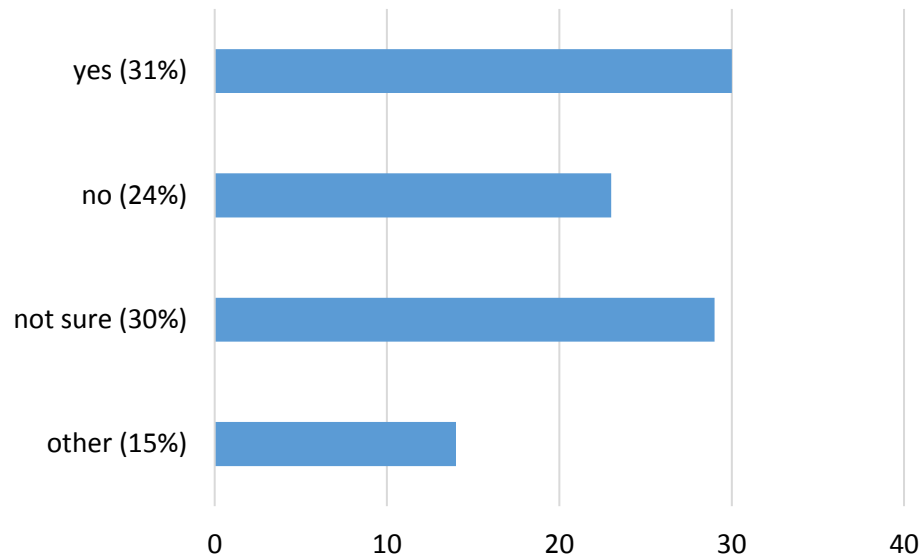
5) The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and central government of India regard the **Postgraduate Diploma in Management**, usually 2 years in length, from certain non-university higher education institutions as equivalent to the MBA for purposes of further education and employment. Do you regard these as equivalent to the MBA in your country as well?



6) The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and central government of India regard the **Fellow of IIM** from the Indian Institutes of Management as equivalent to the PhD for purposes of further education and employment. Do you regard these as equivalent to the PhD in your country as well?



7) Do you recognize Postgraduate Diplomas offered at institutions that are recognized by the AICTE but NOT by the UGC?



Respondents Who Marked “Other”

In the survey questions above, when “other” was marked, a number of respondents indicated that consideration would be dependent on the credential and that consideration may be given on a case-by-case basis. Other respondents indicated that recognition by such bodies as the NAAC or AICTE may be used as supporting information. Respondents who marked “other” also indicated that consideration may be given for course credits (units), but not for degree equivalencies.



Selected Portals & Lists of Approved Schools

UGC (as at 18 September 2017):

<https://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/Total%20list.pdf>

AICTE:

<http://www.facilities.aicte-india.org/dashboard/pages/angulardashboard.php#!/approved>

NAAC:

http://web5.kar.nic.in/naac_ec/NAAC_accrreditlist_pdf.aspx

NBA:

<http://www.nbaind.org/accreditation-status.aspx>



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