

# Automation and Networking of University Grants Commission's Academic Staff Colleges: A Feasibility Study

## Abstract

---

- Research problems** There are 66 Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs), established by University Grants Commission (UGC), imparting training to teachers-in-service. The scholarly information shared by the resource persons and generated by teacher participants during the training programmes in all 66 ASCs are of high value, to those who are unable to make it to the training centers. However, such resources were not accessible to the people. Moreover, the ASCs did not have any automated and networked platform to share the resources. Thus the feasibility study to make these resources accessible on the automated and networked platform was carried out.
- Methodology** This feasibility study was based on the literature review and the prior examination of websites of all the ASCs. It was aimed to find out the basic, intermediate and advanced technological features available on their respective websites. After finding significant gaps, the researcher proposed practicality or feasibility of implementing automation and networking (A&N) of the ASCs by proposing necessary models.
- Findings** It was found that the ASCs were not working in the automated and networked environment. Only 14% of the ASCs had given full-text access to the scholarly information shared by the resources persons in the ASCs. These findings indicated that the archiving of such information for wider use was not practiced by the ASCs.
- Feasibility study** Two 'hypothetical' models were proposed for the implementation of A&N of ASCs. In both the cases, UGC might fund a developer/agency to undertake the A&N project; UGC, NAAC, AIU, INFLIBNET and NIC would be roped in as observers; developer would devise a cloud based software for automating of house-keeping operations of the ASCs; developer would design and host a single portal; and this portal would be accessed by public and the staff of the ASCs with an login IDs and passwords.
- Recommendations** UGC and the concerned statutory bodies should have the vision and written policy to connect the ASCs on one single platform. In this view, the UGC can form a committee to find out the necessity and way to implement the A&N platform. The INFLIBNET or NIC can be roped in to devise a roadmap for A&N of the ASCs.
- Keywords** *Automation; Networking; Higher education; Academic Staff Colleges; Human Resource Development Centres; Technology; UGC*