

An Analysis of the Rankings of Aligarh Muslim University

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Abstract:

Ranking of the universities is new phenomena of 21th century. This has been doing to evaluate the performance and development of the higher educational institutions. There are numerous organizations which are doing rankings to the universities at the nation and international levels.

Aligarh Muslim University which is one the oldest universities of India have also been ranked by many organizations. These organizations have assigned various rankings to the university at India, Asia and BRICS levels. The study of the rankings of the university shows that the rankings are inconsistent. In one ranking the university has been ranked pretty well while in other not even considered for ranking.

This paper is meant to analysis the rankings of the university assigned by various organizations. This paper has taken various performance indicators into consideration on which rankings have been assigned to A.M.U. to assess the performance. What are those performance indicators where this university is strong and what are those performance indicators where this is weak? Numerous suggestions have been put forwarded to enhance the rankings of the university.

Key words: Higher Education; Ranking; Rating, A.M.U.; NAAC; UGC; MHRD; Times Higher Education; Performance Indicators; Citation

Introduction:

Ranking is an important emerging trend of Higher education in the 21th century around the world. The ranking have been getting relevance worldwide to determine the overall performance of the higher educational institutions in general and quality in particular. In some countries it has much importance while in some it has low level of acceptance. The increasing craze for the rankings in determining the performance by the students, employer and all other stakeholders, has alarmed the institutions of higher learning around the world. But this true that rankings have brought a positive change in higher education around the world. According to EUA Report on Rankings 2011 “On a more positive note, the arrival of global rankings over the last few years has focused considerable attention on higher education, and put the spotlight on universities that are increasingly being compared nationally and internationally .Rankings have certainly helped to foster greater accountability and increased pressure to improve management practices. They have encouraged the collection of more reliable data and in some countries have been used to argue for further investment in higher education”¹.

The phenomenon of ranking has emerged with the privatization and commercialization of education .Many reports have shown the degrading quality of the higher education which has discouraged the government to invest and expand. The rankings have brought more accountability and government interference in the institutions of higher education. In developed country where higher education is mostly in the hands of private institutions, the rankings have own meaning in determining the position of the institutions to sustain the academic freedom and to attract the students and employers. In India the ranking has been emerging important as the private higher educational institutions are expanding. According to FICCI Higher Education Summit (2011) the State Private

Universities (SPUs) has increased from 6 in 2005-06 to 94 in 2011, out of 130 Deemed Universities 73 are in private sectors and affiliated colleges from 5748 in 1990-91 to 31,324 in 2010-11 ². Many reports have questioned the quality of higher education of India which has made the government to look the matter of higher education in new perspectives.

In case of the institutions of higher education in India the systems of rankings and rating have been increasing. The University Grants Commission has made provision to rate the Universities by National Assessment and Accrediting Council (NACC) for funding. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed the institutions of higher education to get the rating of National Assessment and Accrediting Council (NAAC) to receive aid and grants. This rating is meant to determine the performance of the institutions of higher education and to regulate the quality of education of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). The new concept of autonomy is going to be based on 'quality education'. The quality of education is an emerging criteria for guarantee of 'autonomy' to the higher educational institutions. According to Report of the Committee constituted to evolve a comprehensive policy for Autonomy of central Educational Institutions (2011) submitted to MHRD states that "when institutions performed poorly, their autonomy gets threatened. In other words, good performance is itself a guarantor of autonomy of the higher educational institutions"³

In present time numerous agencies both in public and private sectors are assigning ranking to the institutions to higher education around the world. Among these rankings, the reputed in India are newsweeklies. According to Gupta (2010) "all the major newsweeklies (India Today, Outlook, The Week) rank our colleges, B-schools, engineering and medical colleges with poor (and poorly spelt out) methodologies, each pointing to a different conclusion"⁴ The important Rankings for the Best University in India is India Today-Nielsen Survey.

On global level, there are many reputed institutions which are assigning the rankings to the Institutions of higher education around the world. These are Shanghai Jio Tong University ranking is the first which started rankings in 2003 globally. The other Rankings are Times Higher Education world University Ranking (THE), The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), QS World University Rankings, Global Universities Ranking-Reitor, CHE University Ranking etc.

The number of ranked institutions is very low on global level. According to the EAU report on Rankings 2011 “first of all ,the league tables include roughly 1% to 3 % of universities (200-500 universities) out of approximately 17000 universities in the world”⁵.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) uses to rate the institutions of Higher education in India. The NAAC is an autonomous body of UGC. The NAAC has developed and implemented new methodology to assess and accredit the colleges and Universities of India. The assessment and accreditation of A.M.U. is under process.

Aligarh Muslim University is one of the oldest universities of India. It was founded in 1920 by Indian Muslims under Aligarh Movement which was started by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to spread modern education among Muslims of India. From the day of its inception this university has been considered important and remained in the list of the top Universities of India. In term of rankings, this university has been in top ten universities of India in most of the rankings .At Asia level, in ranking of Times Higher Education it secured 80th ranking and in group of BRICS it has better ranking of 50 among the top 100 universities. In ranking of the world this university has yet to find a place in league of 200 universities of the world. The Alig (students of A.M.U.) fraternity use to give much relevance to the rankings of the university in analysis of the performance of the administration and development of the university.

The present Vice-Chancellor has set a target to get top slot among the best universities of India. According to the vision statement issued by the university is to make AMU as number one University of India by 2017 and enlist her into club of 200 most prestigious institutions of the Higher education of the world .Numerous steps have been taken like reforming finance, academic and administration by the authority of the University to improve the standard. Infrastructure build up, vision, curriculum, information technology have been modernized and improved on the large scale. There are certain areas where university lacks far behind as compare to other universities. As a result the university rankings are inconsistent at the national and international levels.

Questions in consideration and purpose of Study:

In the light of above discussion, various questions have been raised to answer to analysis the rankings of the university. These questions are related to the various aspects of the rankings of the university directly or indirectly which have helped in understanding the various dimension of the performance indicators on which rankings have been assigned to the university. These questions are:

1. What is the status of the ranking of university assigned by the various agencies in India and the world?
2. What are the performance indicators used by the various rankings to the university?
3. What are the strong performance indicators and low performance indicators of A.M.U?
4. Is the university vision statement to get number one position in India achievable with present performance?
5. What steps should be taken to get the higher ranking for A.M.U. at national and international levels?

Rankings of A.M.U. by various Organizations at a glance:

On the basis of the questions, there is need to see the status of ranking assigned by the various national and international organizations to Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).Below is given the details of the rankings.

Rankings Assigned to Aligarh Muslim University by India Today-Nielson Survey at National Level

Year	Name of the Rankings	Number of the Universities Ranked	Ranking of Aligarh Muslim University (A.M.U.)
2010	India Today-Nielson Survey	50	16
2011	India Today-Nielson Survey	45	11
2012	India Today-Nielson Survey	50	05
2013	India Today-Nielson Survey	45	08
2014	India Today-Nielson Survey	45	06

Sources- India Today-Nielsen Survey ⁶

Rankings Assigned to A.M.U. by Times Higher Education (THE) at National and International Levels

year	Name of the Rankings	Number of the University ranked	Ranking of Aligarh Muslim University(A.M.U.)
2013	India's top 10 higher education institutions	10	09
2013-14	Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2014	100	80
2014	BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2014	100	50

Sources- THE World University Rankings ⁷

The rankings of AMU by various organizations show the inconsistency in the rankings status of AMU. This may be due

to the reasons of poor performance on numerous performance indicators and methodologies used by the agencies of rankings.

Analysis of the Performance Indicators of the Rankings in context to Aligarh Muslim University:

In determination of the rankings by the organizations, numerous performance indicators have been used. The agencies use to collect the information directly or indirectly from the university on the various aspects.

There is need to study the performance indicators in detail to analysis the rankings of AMU assigned by the various organizations. For the sake of better analysis, the performance indicators of only three rankings have been taken into consideration. One ranking has included A.M.U. at national and international levels, another at national level and one has not included her on any level. These rankings have been studied in detail with their performance indicators and methodologies.

1 THE World University Rankings: The times Higher Education (THE) World University rankings is international rankings .These have been started from the year 2004 with QS and continued to till 2009.From 2010, THE has been assigning rankings with Thomson Reuters. The methodology has been using by THE-TR is different from others on many grounds. The Times Higher Education uses 13 performance indicators which have been grouped into five areas in assigning the world rankings to the universities around the world. These five are Teaching, International Outlook, Industry Income, Research and citation.

AMU has been ranked 09 among 10 top higher institutions of India in 2013, 80th among the top 100 Asian Universities for 2013-14 and ranked 50 among the top 100 Universities in BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2014.

The performance indicators which have been taken into consideration in determining the ranking of AMU by Time Higher Education, UK in BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2014, are as follow

Performance Indicators Used by THE in determining rankings of A.M.U.in BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2014

Performance Indicators	Teaching (the learning environment)	International Outlook(staff, students and research)	Industry Income(innovation)	Research(volume, income and reputation)	Citation (research influence)	Total
Overall Score	30 percent	7.5 percent	2.5 percent	30 percent	30 percent	100
Score of AMU	38.5	19.0	28.2	11.3	33.8	
Score of A.M.U.						27.5

Source-Times Higher Education s

On the basis of the study of the performance indicators of ranking of AMU for BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2014, the strong areas of the university are Teaching and citation. The teaching faculty at A.M.U. is somehow better than other areas with highest score of 38.5.The citation shows that the research is better in comparison to international standard .As per data of Gupta (2010) A.M.U. stands on 7th position with 2522 publication output, average citation 1.86 per paper (c/p), 14.67 percentage of share of International collaboration papers and 32 H-Index .On the basis of p-Index, the Ranking of A.M.U. was 18.9

This is much lower than others both in term of quantity and quality. The score of A.M.U. in research of Times Higher Education (THE) rankings shows that the number of research is very low. As per the report of Hindustan (Hindi, dated 26-09-2014; p-8) A.M.U. has completed 274 researches in 2011,276 in 2012 and 295 in 2013 respectively. The Citation score 33.8 of THE shows that somehow, the quality of research is better.

The weak areas are International Outlook, Research and Industry Income. In area of international outlook the enhance

fee in terms of dollar has reduced the number of the international students in the university. As per the data for the session 2013-14 the number of the students is 301 from 24 countries ¹⁰. Most of students are from the developing countries where higher education system is very low as compare to India.

Due to locating far from industrial set up and Capital of both state and the country, A.M.U. students have less campus placement opportunities as compare to other top universities locating in the capital and Industrial hub. In present scenario the relationship between the university and Industry has been strengthening. According to available data about 50 companies visited A.M.U. and selected 515 students from April 2013 to May 2014 ¹¹.

One strange phenomenon of the university is that a large number of pass out of the university are working globally particularly in the Middle East countries. Thousands of the university alumni of A.M.U. are scattering in more than 100 countries around the world.

One of the possible reasons of low employment can be found in attitude of biasness of employer towards A.M.U. after partition of the country and in present times in the cases of terrorism. But due to higher achievement of the Alumni of the university and their constructive role in many countries along with globalization has changed the perception of the nation towards them. At present due to active placement cell, economic interest of India in Muslim countries and high quality of human power, the reputation of A.M.U. has been enhancing among the employers. Many reputed companies like Tata Consultancy Service, Vodafone, Wipro, IBM, Eureka Forbes, Thomson & Reuters, Asian Paints etc are recruiting students of the university. As per the available data about 50 companies recruited students from the university in campus placement.

2 India Today-Nielsen Survey Rankings: This survey was started for university in 2010 .Till now five surveys of university rankings have been released. In every ranking table

of India Today, A.M.U. has scored well and placed most of the times in top 15 best Universities of India. The latest best Ranking Universities 2014, A.M.U. got Sixth (06) ranks. The overall score of A.M.U. is 50.45. The Score in various performance indicators have been given below.

India Today-Nielsen Survey 2014; Score of A.M.U. in various Performance Indicators

Name of the University	Aligarh Muslim University	Name of the University	University of Delhi
Over All Rank	06(2014) 08(2013)	Over All Rank	1(2014) 1(2013)
Performance Indicators	Score	Performance Indicators	Score
Reputation	06	Reputation	1
Quality of Academic Input	05	Quality of Academic Input	1
Student Care	06	Student Care	1
Infrastructure	05	Infrastructure	1
Job prospects	06	Job prospects	1
Faculty	07	Faculty	1
Research Publication	05	Research Publication	1
Innovation and Governance	05	Innovation and Governance	1
Global Exposure	05	Global Exposure	1
Security Arrangements	07	Security Arrangements	1
Admission Procedure	07	Admission Procedure	1
Perceptual Ranking	06	Perceptual Ranking	1
Factual Ranking	11	Factual Ranking	16
Indexed to 100	50.45	Indexed to 100	100

Source-India Today-Nielsen Survey 2014 ¹²

On the basis of the analysis of the score of various performance indicators of India Today rankings, the status of A.M.U. is satisfactory but have to score by improving in most of the performance indicators. The university scored average in most of the performance indicators except faculty, Security Arrangement and Admission procedure where the score is much better. There should be higher score in Research Publication,

Infrastructure, Global Exposure and Innovation and Governance for A.M.U.

The vision that set by the university administration to make A.M.U. number one in India is difficult to achieve after comparing with other top performer universities of the country. The analysis of the overall score of Delhi University in various performance indicators shows that it is much ahead of A.M.U. The University of Delhi scored 100 percent in all performance indicators while A.M.U. scored fifty or just above that. The Index to 100 of DU is absolute while A.M.U. is just half of it. How A.M.U. would score 100 percent to be number one university of India is a matter of debate and concern?

3 QS World University Rankings: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is another Rankings assigning institution which assign rankings at national and international level. The QS started the world University rankings from 2004 with Times Higher Education (THE) and continued to 2009 but from 2010, the QS started own ranking of the Universities of the world at various levels like Asia, BRICS, World etc.

A. M. U .has not been figured in any rankings of QS either at BRICS, Asia or Global levels. The purpose of inclusion of QS rankings is to analyze the various performance indicators on which Qs assigned rankings to the universities of the world .Has A.M.U. potential to get rankings of QS? From India, among top 200 universities of QS, BRICS-2014 A.M.U. has not been figured. While other Universities like University of Delhi (rank-81) University of Calcutta (rank-50), University of Mumbai (rank-68) University of Madras (rank-76), Banaras Hindu University (rank-84), Manipal University (rank-85), University of Pune (rank-99), Punjab University (rank-141-150) and Pondicherry University (rank 151-200) ¹³ have been figured in rankings of QS.

A.M.U. has been placed on rank 06 in India Today-Nielsen Survey best 45 universities of India 2014.The ranking of A.M.U. is better than Punjab University which has been

placed on rank of 33. In QS BRICS-2014 rankings Punjab university has been placed in between 141-150 top Universities of BRICS. Below is given comparison between A.M.U. and Punjab University in India Today-Nielsen survey 2014 to find out the possibility of rankings of A.M.U. in QS rankings of World University.

Comparison of score of A.M.U. and Punjab University in India Today-Nielsen Survey 2014

Name of the University	Aligarh Muslim University	Name of the University	Punjab University
Over All Rank	06(2014) 08(2013)	Over All Rank	33(2014) No rank(2013)
Performance Indicators	Score	Parameters	Score
Reputation	06	Reputation	31
Quality of Academic Input	05	Quality of Academic Input	30
Student Care	06	Student Care	33
Infrastructure	05	Infrastructure	38
Job prospects	06	Job prospects	39
Faculty	07	Faculty	32
Research Publication	05	Research Publication	36
Innovation and Governance	05	Innovation and Governance	34
Global Exposure	05	Global Exposure	37
Security Arrangements	07	Security Arrangements	34
Admission Procedure	07	Admission Procedure	36
Perceptual Ranking	06	Perceptual Ranking	39
Factual Ranking	11	Factual Ranking	22
Indexed to 100	50.45	Indexed to 100	10.70

Source-India Today-Nielsen Survey 2014 ¹⁴

The comparison shows that A.M.U. could find a place in rankings table of QS for BRICS 2014. The performance indicators of QS as compare to India Today somehow are very

much identical. The performance indicators which have been used by QS are shown below.

QS University Rankings: BRICS – 2014; Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators	Weight age in Over All Score
Academic Reputation	30 percent
Employer Reputation	20 percent
Faculty/ student Ratio	20 percent
Staff with PhD	10 percent
Papers per Faculty	10 percent
Citations Per Paper	05 percent
International Faculty	2.5 percent
International Students	2.5 percent

Source-QS University Rankings, BRICS 2014₁₅

On the basis of the above performance indicators, A.M.U. certainly would get a rank among the top 200 institutions of higher education of the BRICS and Asia.

What should be done?

On the basis of analysis of the performance of A.M.U. by various organizations in terms of rankings at the national and International levels many shortcomings have been found. In the light of these shortcomings, the following steps should be taken by the University. These steps are:

1. There should be Faculty and Department wise collection of data on the basis of the performance indicators of various rankings.
2. Establishment of centralize data centre related to various aspects like students, staff, research paper, international faculty, students, placement etc.
3. Improvement in the quantity (very surprising fact about this university is that the teachers of the schools which are more than 400 in numbers have not right to pursue research but non-teaching staffs have the right to pursue research) and quality of the research in the university as the university got the lowest score (11.3)

- by Times Higher Education in the rankings for the universities of BRICS.
4. There is need of huge infrastructure build and induction of modern technology in class teaching, laborites, co-curricular activities, etc
 5. There is need to attract the foreign students and faculties to provide global exposure to the students on large scale.
 6. There should be exchange of the students and faculties on global level to provide the more opportunities and exposure by signing memorandum of understanding.
 7. There should be more opportunities to the teachers and students to attract the Industries for invest, buying patent rights, and sponsor various projects in the universities.
 8. Administrative and drafting skills development of the students, teachers and non-teaching staff to create more efficient working culture in the university.
 9. Establishment of the centers of creativity and social gathering points inside of the university campus to make the students and teachers more interactive.
 10. Alumni of the university should be attached with the university to enlist their help in the development of the University.
 11. There is need to reduce the fees of foreign students. The hostel facilities should be provided to them. There is no international hostel for foreign students .The administration of the university should negotiate with the centre and state to help in providing financial aid and land. The area which is adjacent to the gate of the university should be given to the university by the state government for girls' hostels while the central government should provide financial assistance.
 12. There is need to fix the accountability of the Departments and Faculties in pursuing and publishing research .Each department should be given task to

- pursue more research and projects given by the Industries and government.
13. There is need of strict the criteria to complete the research project and PhD on time. The Academic Council should have direct control in matter of PhD and research projects of the universities to time to time evaluation.
 14. There is need to ensure the quality of research. The establishment of Innovation Council is surely a right step for ensuring quality research. The teaching faculty should be encouraged to interact more frequently with international researcher and scholars. For this, there is need to organize international seminars, workshops etc which would international in reality not in name. There should be provision that every international seminar must have fifty percent scholars from international institutions of higher education.
 15. There is need to control admission of more and more students. There must be balance between admission and pass out at every level (department, Halls etc) of entry of the university. If there would not be balance between admission and pass out, then backlog would affect the quality of education. During current session 2014-15, more and more students were admitted by neglecting the balance at schools and senior secondary schools levels. The policy of admission through nomination without considering the ability of the students is a major drawback in quality control of education at A.M.U.
 16. There must be transparency in appointment of the teachers at every level. The talented and bright teachers should be given preference.

Conclusion:

Rankings of the institutions of higher education at national and international is new trend to assess the performance in recent times. With passage of the time, this trend would increase as

rankings have been considerable significant by the stakeholders of the higher education. Rankings have brought phenomenal change in the higher education of many countries all over the world. The rankings have been done only 1 to 3 percent of the universities of the world. The performance indicators that are used in rankings are not the same all over the world. The methodology which is important is also not the same all over the world. So, the rankings are also not at par with each other. Yet, it is playing important role in transforming higher education.

A.M.U. which is an old institution of higher education of India has been ranked by both national and international organizations. The analysis of rankings of A.M.U. has revealed that university ranking is inconsistent over the period of time in both national and international rankings. The analysis of the performance indicators of the rankings has revealed that there are some strong and weak areas of A.M.U. which is need to be worked out for better rankings .The non-figuring of A.M.U.in QS rankings shows the differences in the performance indicators and methodologies used all over the world.

In spite of the inconsistent ranking it has been found that A.M.U. performance is better than many other universities. It has got better rankings every time by finding herself among the top fifteen institutions of higher education of India.

Whether the university accepts the importance of rankings or not but to lead the institutions of higher education A.M.U. has to improve in every performance indicators use by the national and international rankings. The vision to get number one position by 2017 cannot be achieved without huge reform at various levels in the university.

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