



# Quality Assurance and Accreditation in MBA Programs: A Systematic Review of Emerging Trends and Frameworks

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## ABSTRACT

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Outcomes

Accreditation and quality assurance (QA) are crucial for the development and global competitiveness of MBA programs. This study systematically reviews trends, frameworks, and stakeholder perspectives on accreditation in MBA education. It aims to identify common QA practices, explore stakeholder roles, and examine how accreditation affects institutional performance and strategic priorities. The study analyzed 48 empirical and conceptual studies from Scopus-indexed sources using thematic analysis, focusing on five key areas: definitions and theories of quality, comparative accreditation models, stakeholder involvement in QA, challenges in autonomous institutions, and the impact of accreditation on performance indicators. Findings show that accreditation fosters both standardization and innovation, particularly in autonomous and non-Western institutions. Stakeholder perceptions significantly influence QA success, with collaboration and transparency enhancing legitimacy. Empirical evidence highlights a strong correlation between accreditation and improvements in graduate employability, student satisfaction, institutional governance, and market positioning. This review contributes to the discourse on business education quality, identifying gaps and recommending more inclusive and adaptive accreditation strategies for institutions, accrediting bodies, and policymakers to enhance educational outcomes and global relevance.

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## INTRODUCTION

Quality assurance (QA) and accreditation practices are essential in higher education globally, particularly within Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs, as they ensure institutions uphold established educational standards,

safeguarding the quality of education and enhancing institutional credibility (Baumgartner et al., 2020; Waller et al., 2020). Accreditation procedures foster institutional accountability and drive continuous improvement processes, facilitating clearer assessments of educational value by critical stakeholders, including employers and students (Park & Rhee, 2021; Okulova & Shakina, 2021). Contemporary QA frameworks have increasingly been aligned with international benchmarks, promoting consistent global educational standards and enabling institutions to compete effectively within the global educational marketplace (Mohamed et al., 2024; Pham et al., 2022).

Over recent decades, standards of quality assurance have significantly evolved in response to the rapidly changing landscape of higher education, shifting from compliance-based approaches toward outcome-based evaluations and heightened stakeholder satisfaction (Liu, 2020; Arianto et al., 2023). The widespread implementation of both internal and external quality assurance mechanisms underscores an emerging emphasis on transparency and active stakeholder engagement, indicative of a broader global movement toward performance-based educational evaluations (Ozeki et al., 2023; Rusdi et al., 2023).

The implementation of accreditation frameworks within MBA programs primarily aims to ensure consistent educational quality, promote continuous institutional improvement, and enhance accountability. Accreditation standards function as benchmarks to evaluate essential program components, including faculty qualifications, curricular relevance, and comprehensive student support services (Nguyen et al., 2021). Furthermore, accreditation actively encourages institutions to adopt a culture of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), prompting ongoing refinement of pedagogical approaches and educational outcomes in alignment with dynamic market demands (Ahmad & Qahmash, 2020). Globally recognized accreditation organizations such as AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS set rigorous standards that guide institutions toward developing and maintaining high-quality MBA programs, thus enhancing international recognition and competitive positioning (Vo et al., 2021; Sziegat, 2021).

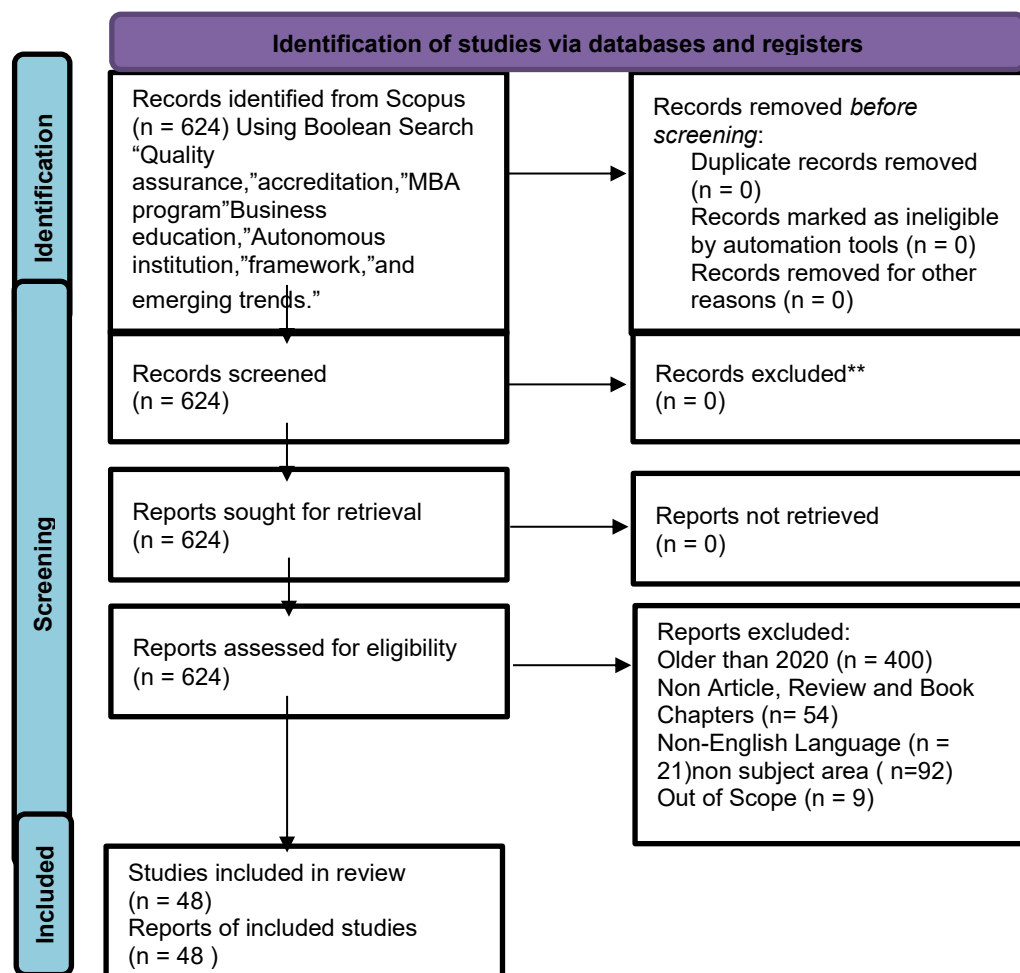
Institutions adopting recognized accreditation frameworks frequently encounter challenges, including substantial resource allocation, data management, curricular alignment, and intensive faculty training, while processes can be lengthy and administratively demanding (Garwe et al., 2024; Joyce, 2023). Nonetheless, accreditation provides strategic benefits validating quality, strengthening prestige, and supporting enrollment and funding prospects while fostering systematic improvement through structured evaluation frameworks (Borsetto & Saccon, 2022; Li et al., 2022). Autonomous business schools often differ from traditional institutions due to greater flexibility to innovate and respond quickly to accreditation feedback and market needs,

whereas traditional institutions may face bureaucratic constraints that limit adaptation (Nguyen et al., 2021; Lathifah et al., 2022; Talaat et al., 2023). In response to these contexts, this systematic literature review (SLR) synthesizes trends and frameworks in MBA QA and accreditation from 2015–2025, focusing on AACSB/AMBA/EQUIS and the context of autonomous business schools and higher education institutions.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The systematic literature review (SLR) employed a rigorous search strategy to identify studies on quality assurance and accreditation frameworks in MBA programs. Scopus was used as the primary database due to its broad coverage of peer-reviewed literature in business, management, and higher education. Search terms included “quality assurance,” “accreditation,” “MBA programs,” “business education,” “autonomous institutions,” “frameworks,” and “emerging trends.” The initial search returned 624 records; after excluding publications prior to 2020 (n = 400), non-article document types (n = 54), non-English items (n = 21), papers outside relevant subject areas (n = 92), and irrelevant articles (n = 9), a total of 48 articles were retained for in-depth analysis.

Prisma Framework Template



**Figure 1.** The PRISMA flow diagram detailing the screening and selection process of literature.

This review applied predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure relevance and currency. Included studies were peer-reviewed journal articles on quality assurance and accreditation in MBA programs, published 2020–2025, and written in English; studies published before 2020, non-article formats (e.g., editorials, book reviews, conference abstracts), non-English publications, and papers outside relevant subject areas or without clear thematic linkage were excluded.

Study selection used a two-stage screening process: title/abstract screening followed by full-text assessment against the criteria, consistent with systematic review best practices to enhance reliability and reduce bias (Pollock et al., 2021; Sabtu et al., 2023). Methodological rigor was evaluated using the CASP checklist (Platz, 2021), and reporting transparency was strengthened through adherence to PRISMA guidelines across identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion stages (Perry et al., 2021). Theoretical Framework/Background

#### Relevant Theories and Models

MBA quality assurance (QA) often applies TQM, SERVQUAL, and PDCA. TQM centers on continuous improvement and stakeholder engagement (Dwaikat, 2020; Jasti et al., 2021). SERVQUAL evaluates service-quality dimensions for improving the student experience, with adaptation for higher education (Manley et al., 2022). PDCA supports iterative planning, implementation, evaluation, and refinement in curriculum and teaching (Busahdiar et al., 2023).

MBA accreditation is mainly shaped by AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA. AACSB emphasizes mission alignment, resource management, faculty quality, and continuous improvement (Buresh, 2024; Quirós et al., 2022), while EQUIS/AMBA foreground international standards, curriculum relevance, and stakeholder engagement (Alkhaldi & Abdallah, 2021; Mahmood, 2021; Kemenade et al., 2020).

Historically, accreditation shifted from compliance to outcomes and continuous improvement since the 1980s (Sziegat, 2021), with global accreditors reinforcing rigor, research, market alignment, and accountability (Abdulrahman et al., 2021; Sziegat, 2021). Digital acceleration (notably during COVID-19) increased attention to adaptability and responsiveness in QA (Vishwakarma, 2025; Smith, 2025; Haughery et al., 2023), supporting more flexible, stakeholder-informed assessment (Hashish et al., 2025).

Key scholarship highlights leadership and stakeholder engagement for QA success (Nguyen et al., 2021), motivation as a pathway from accreditation effort to performance (Iqbal et al., 2023), and organization-wide effects on

structures and culture (Garwe et al., 2024). Ongoing debates question whether accreditation improves “real” quality or mainly drives compliance/reputation (Ramli et al., 2025; Enríquez et al., 2023), and whether cost, complexity, and rigidity restrict innovation—creating tension between rigor and flexibility (Anh & Trang, 2024; Kumar et al., 2025; Brooks et al., 2021).

**Table 1: Comparative Summary of Major Accreditation Frameworks**

Accreditation Body	Focus Areas	Key Strengths	Notable Criticisms
AACSB	Mission alignment, resource management, faculty qualifications, continuous improvement	Comprehensive, globally recognized standards, rigorous assessment	Cost-intensive, bureaucratic processes
EQUIS	Curricular relevance, international focus, stakeholder engagement	Strong international reputation, market alignment	Complex standards, high implementation cost
AMBA	Curricular rigor, student outcomes, global standards	Strong alumni network, global recognition	Potential rigidity in adapting curricula

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Emerging Trends in MBA Quality Assurance

Recent MBA quality assurance (QA) increasingly emphasizes technology-enabled, data-driven improvement, where digital platforms, analytics, and automation support evaluation and accreditation and reinforce continuous-improvement logics associated with TQM and PDCA. Service-quality assessment is advancing through instruments such as BSCHOOLQUAL, developed for autonomous business schools and potentially scalable for MBA contexts (Latha et al., 2025), consistent with ongoing service-quality monitoring emphasized in SERVQUAL-oriented work (Manley et al., 2022).

Evidence also shows that LMS analytics and digital assessment formats strengthen QA: information quality shapes perceived usefulness and satisfaction in LMS environments (Bećirović, 2024) and supports broader technology-enabled standards maintenance (Martinelli & Khairiah, 2024), while online innovations such as virtual poster symposia enhance engagement through feedback-based iteration (Weaver et al., 2022; Busahdiar et al., 2023). More objective monitoring is enabled by automated classroom text analysis and AI dashboards for real-time KPI tracking that can streamline accreditation and improve transparency (Liu & Cohen, 2021; Dwaikat, 2020; Shriwastava & Meri, 2024; Martinelli & Khairiah, 2024).

Beyond technology, emerging models stress outcomes and holistic drivers: data-driven quality loops integrating leadership and dialogue

(Håkansson & Adolfsson, 2022; Idris et al., 2020), graduate outcome analytics for curriculum refinement (Tao & Siththada, 2024), and links among leadership, HRM, well-being, and SDG-aligned benchmarks (Pagán Castaño et al., 2021; Rajesh et al., 2017; Uysal, 2023; Nguyen & Hua, 2023; Nguyen et al., 2021). Overall, innovation and analytics appear to strengthen transparency, accountability, and stakeholder responsiveness in MBA QA, while highlighting the need for further research on context-sensitive, AI-integrated frameworks.

**Table 2. Emerging Trends in MBA Quality Assurance**

Author(s)	Year	Trend Identified	Region/Country	Key Findings
Latha K. et al.	2025	Higher-order scale (BSCHOOLQUAL) for autonomous B-schools	India	Validated 5-factor instrument explaining 73.9 % of variance in service quality.
Bećirović S.	2024	Multiperspective LMS-success model (TAM3 + ISS)	Bosnia & Herz.	Information quality drives perceived usefulness & satisfaction.
Weaver E.M. et al.	2022	Virtual poster symposia as quality-assurance assessment	USA	Scaffolded online projects boosted engagement and skills.
Liu J. & Cohen J.	2021	Text-as-data classroom-observation automation	USA	Interactive instruction factor predicts positive value-added.
Shriwastava R. & Meri K.	2024	AI-driven dashboards for accreditation evidence	India	Real-time KPI tracking streamlines AACSB visits ( <i>citation forthcoming</i> )
Håkansson J. & Adolfsson C-H.	2022	Data-driven municipal quality loops	Sweden	LEA strategies—data, leadership, dialogue—tighten QA.
Tao F. & Siththada T.	2024	Graduate-outcome analytics in vocational MBAs	China	Five-component model; graduate & teaching quality dominate.
Pagán-Castaño E. et al.	2021	Leadership-well-being link in sustainable schools	Spain	HRM → well-being → performance mediation confirmed.
Rajesh M. et al.	2017	Open-education LMS alignment with SDGs	India	Policy integration critical for scalability.
Nguyen S.T.U. & Hua T.T.K.	2023	Cultural-communication competencies in ECE	Vietnam	Management focus and teacher expertise key drivers.

## Comparative Analysis of Accreditation Frameworks

MBA accreditation frameworks pursue the same objective assuring program quality but vary by governance logic, policy context, and the degree of standardization versus autonomy. While AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA provide dominant reference points, comparative studies show how regional systems adopt more centralized or decentralized/hybrid arrangements.

Centralization may strengthen accountability and consistency (Esper, 2024) and aligns with continuous-improvement rationales in TQM (Dwaikat, 2020; Jasti et al., 2021), whereas China’s archetypes illustrate multiple autonomy–control configurations under top-down policy (Zhu & Liu, 2023). Stakeholder and disciplinary logics can also shape accreditation priorities beyond managerial

considerations (Stensaker et al., 2020), consistent with stakeholder responsiveness in service-quality perspectives (Manley et al., 2022).

Across contexts, recurring issues include policy layering and iterative improvement (Krumsvik, 2022; Busahdiar et al., 2023), accountability design (Emami-Razavi et al., 2024; Quirós et al., 2022; Kemenade et al., 2020), balancing teaching–innovation missions (Mpofu et al., 2024; Idris et al., 2020), workforce/socio-economic alignment (Mukhammedov et al., 2024), and curriculum/faculty updating for global integration (Cao & Tran, 2024). Even outside business education, variation in regulatory scope remains instructive for MBA accreditation design (Levi et al., 2014).

Overall, centralized models can increase consistency but risk constraining flexibility, while decentralized/hybrid models may enable innovation yet create uneven standards (Esper, 2024; Zhu & Liu, 2023). Longitudinal comparative research is needed to clarify how these configurations affect institutional outcomes over time.

**Table 3. Comparative Analysis of Accreditation Frameworks**

Author(s)	Year	Frameworks Compared	Methodology	Findings/Conclusions
Levi B. et al.	2014	National Medical Association roles vs. ISO & CME standards	Global survey	NMAs mainly regulate CME; limited in QA metrics.
Esper T.	2024	SAWA 'quality-assurance' vs. decentralised democratic model	Colombia	Policy-history analysis shows gradual recentralisation.
Zhu Q. & Liu L.	2023	Bundling, trusteeship, network & expanded school-district models	China	Top-down policy produced four distinct QA archetypes.
Stensaker B. et al.	2020	Managerial vs. disciplinary vs. stakeholder logics	Norway	Disciplinary & stakeholder views outweigh managerial.
Krumsvik R.J.	2022	National PhD regulations vs. inter-institutional research school	Norway	New policies add compliance layers yet boost integration.
Emami-Razavi S.H. et al.	2024	Integrated health-education ministry QA vs. traditional	Iran survey	Accountability rated "moderate" across four domains.
Mpofu S. et al.	2024	Education 5.0 vs. earlier 3-pillar HE missions	Zimbabwe	Teaching/learning still dominates over innovation.
Mukh ammedov M. et al.	2024	Uzbekistan education-medical-migration incentives	Uzbekistan stats	Comprehensive HR-investment strategy essential.
Cao N.B. & Tran M.N.	2024	Defence-security curriculum vs. global-integration needs	Vietnam	Calls for curricular updates & faculty development.

## Stakeholder Perspectives in Quality Assurance

MBA QA is shaped by students, faculty, staff, administrators, employers, alumni, and accreditors; their expectations jointly determine how standards are implemented and improved (Kolomitro et al., 2022; Nguyen et al., 2021). Across studies, leadership, governance, and values repeatedly emerge as quality levers: strategicHRM can strengthen institutional culture in ways consistent with TQM (Gayathri et al., 2025; Idris et al., 2020), governance competence supports systematic execution aligned with PDCA (Urbani, 2020; Busahdiar et al., 2023),

and stakeholder perception gaps highlight the challenge of aligning managerial and disciplinary/stakeholder logics (Arriagada Hernández et al., 2024; Stensaker et al., 2020). Leadership and management direction predict performance and are reinforced as central quality drivers, including in value-based settings (Yuanyuan & Alias, 2025; Nguyen & Hua, 2023; Lateh et al., 2024).

Students' satisfaction is linked to content and system quality, supporting their role as active evaluators in QA (Bećirović, 2024; Kolomitro et al., 2022). Policy changes can shift resources and perceptions of fairness, strengthening the need for communication and engagement, while multi-stakeholder collaboration can produce robust QA outcomes (Fuseini, 2024; Sampe & Arifin, 2024; Gendelman et al., 2021).

Role expectations differ students provide actionable feedback (Ta et al., 2023), faculty align teaching/curricula with standards (Nguyen et al., 2021), administrators coordinate compliance and communication (Sampe & Arifin, 2024), employers/alumni prioritize industry alignment and employability (Silva & Vargas, 2021), and accreditors define benchmarks and accountability (Schellekens et al., 2022).

Stakeholder satisfaction depends on transparency, meaningful participation, and visible educational impact: unclear processes reduce trust (Garwe et al., 2024), engagement increases ownership (Martínez et al., 2021), and demonstrable improvements strengthen support (Giroto et al., 2023). Overall, clear communication and inclusive engagement enhance QA acceptance, while negative experiences can impede continuous improvement (El-Jardali, 2024).

**Table 4. Stakeholder Perspectives in Quality Assurance**

Author(s)	Year	Stakeholders Studied	Methodology	Key Outcomes
Gayathri R.K. et al.	2025	Admin & faculty in Indian B-schools	Mixed survey	Strategic HRM improves safety culture.
Urbani C.	2020	Italian preschool teachers	Self-assessment survey	Governance competences valued over teamwork.
Arriagada-Hernández C. et al.	2024	Principals vs. teachers (Chile)	Quantitative comparative	Managers rate professional competencies higher.
Yuanyuan X. & Alias B.S.	2025	Private secondary-school teachers	Structured questionnaire	Principal instructional leadership strongly predicts performance.
Lateh A. et al.	2024	Experts on Islamic-school governance	Qualitative Delphi	Ikhlas, Amaanah & Adalah underpin policies.
Bećirović S.	2024	University students	SEM survey	Content & system quality drive satisfaction.
Nguyen S.T.U. & Hua T.T.K.	2023	EM kindergarten staff	Mixed	Management direction most influential.
Fuseini I.	2024	Policy documents & stakeholders	Doc-analysis	FSHS policy reallocates funds from basic education.
Gendelman R. et al.	2021	Faculty, residents, students in AMC	Case study	Multi-pronged PCMH training achieved Level-3 status.

## Quality Assurance in Autonomous MBA Programs

Autonomous MBA programs must balance flexibility with academic rigor while meeting external accountability demands (Table 4). Resource constraints can weaken teaching quality, faculty recruitment, and accreditation evidence, motivating tailored internal metrics such as BSCHOOLQUAL for ongoing, evidence-based improvement (Ta et al., 2023; Asadzandi et al., 2022; Latha et al., 2025) (Table 5).

QA is often shaped by tensions between managerial and disciplinary logics and by added burdens from national policy compliance, making alignment with disciplinary cultures and integration into academic workflows essential (Stensaker et al., 2020; Krumsvik, 2022). Equity and legitimacy also matter: embedding gender/social-justice indicators and value-based governance (e.g., transparent, merit-based, inclusive policies) can strengthen QA credibility (Mpofu et al., 2024; Lateh et al., 2024).

Technology and broader mandates are expanding QA. AI-enabled monitoring/forecasting and structural innovations (e.g., interdisciplinary complexes) can enhance responsiveness and capability, while integrating **USR** (community engagement, ethical governance, sustainability) may improve legitimacy and societal impact (Zalizko et al., 2024; Belogurov et al., 2020; Cabanzo et al., 2024). Agile stakeholder engagement—especially with industry—can improve curriculum relevance and co-ownership, but effective QA still requires evidence-based decision-making, adequate infrastructure, and supportive learning environments (Mohamed et al., 2024; Emami Razavi et al., 2024; Tao & Siththada, 2024).

Overall, best practice points to bespoke QA systems, lifecycle stakeholder engagement, equity/inclusion integration, and digital tools (AI/LMS) for real-time feedback, with success hinging on leadership, policy alignment, and sustained capacity investment (Nguyen et al., 2021).

**Table 5. Quality Assurance in Autonomous MBA/HE Programs**

Author(s)	Year	Institution Type	Challenges Identified		Recommended Practices
Latha K. et al.	2025	Autonomous B-schools	Need for bespoke QA metric	Adopt BSCHOOLQUAL 5-factor model.	

Tao F. & Siththada T.	2024	Vocational colleges	Hardware & social support gaps	Focus on teaching quality drivers.
Stensaker B. et al.	2020	Norwegian study-program level	Managerial vs. disciplinary tension	Align QA with disciplinary cultures.
Krumsvik R.J.	2022	Inter-institutional research school	Policy-compliance burden	Deepen programme integration.
Mpofu S. et al.	2024	Zimbabwean HEIs	Neglect of equity agendas	Embed gender equality in QA.
Emami-Razavi S.H. et al.	2024	Integrated health-education ministry	Moderate social accountability	Enhance evidence-based decision making.
Lateh A. et al.	2024	Private Islamic schools	Fairness in promotions & welfare	Implement 12 PMDG-inspired strategies.
Belogurov A.Yu. et al.	2020	Russian education districts	Risk of science-education gaps	Create scientific-educational complexes.
Cabanzo C. et al.	2024	Latin-American universities	Poor synergy extension-USR	Integrate USR in QA frameworks.
Zalizko V.D. et al.	2024	Ukrainian post-war recovery	AI-driven security indicators	Deploy IIS-GPT 3 forecasting tool.

## Impact of Accreditation on Institutional Performance

Accreditation is widely viewed as a key driver of institutional performance in MBA programs, influencing student outcomes, employability, staff performance, equity, and reputation (Tables 5–6). By requiring compliance with defined standards, accreditation can catalyze improvements in governance and educational practice that strengthen student achievement and perceived program value (Albaroudi et al., 2023; Widjatmaka et al., 2022), while also supporting employability through closer alignment with employer expectations in business education (Silvestre et al., 2023).

A consistent pathway is leadership and capability development. Leadership and innovation can mediate the relationship between HRM practices and teacher performance, reinforcing the role of accreditation criteria that emphasize leadership development and innovative teaching (Pagán Castaño et al., 2021). Empirical evidence also shows a very strong association between instructional leadership and job performance (Yuanyuan & Alias, 2025). In parallel, accreditation-related enhancement of learning infrastructure can strengthen system performance: LMS success is strongly predicted by user satisfaction ( $\beta = 0.62$ ), indicating the importance of content/system quality and digital readiness (Bećirović, 2024).

Accreditation may also shape policy and system-level outcomes. Policy reforms linked to accreditation agendas (e.g., scholarships and workforce localization) can support enrollment and human capital development (Hazaimah et al., 2023). Accreditation frameworks that embed equity considerations may help uplift underperforming institutions through targeted support and network-based QA models that promote more balanced development (Håkansson & Adolfsson, 2022; Zhu & Liu, 2023). However, impacts are not uniformly positive: reallocating limited budgets to meet accreditation requirements can reduce learning outcomes, illustrating unintended consequences in resource-constrained contexts (Fuseini, 2024).

Employability is reinforced when accreditation drives curriculum quality and graduate readiness. Graduate quality can be the strongest employability driver in outcome analytics, supporting accreditation incentives to strengthen curriculum design and practical skill development (Tao & Siththada, 2024; Kumar et al., 2022). Beyond institutions, accreditation-driven human capital investment may correlate with broader economic outcomes, including GDP growth, suggesting potential macro-level spillovers (Mukhammedov et al., 2024).

Finally, accountability measurement remains contested. Scorecard evidence shows gaps between quantitative and qualitative accountability dimensions, indicating a need for accreditation systems to balance metrics-based evaluation with contextual judgment (Emami Razavi et al., 2024). Overall, the literature supports the hypothesis that accreditation can enhance institutional performance through leadership strengthening, policy alignment, digital and pedagogical improvement, equity-oriented support, and employability gains—yet effects depend on context, capacity, funding, and stakeholder engagement.

Policy and practice implications include investing in leadership and technology, ensuring contextual funding support, and designing accreditation frameworks that are inclusive, flexible, and responsive to institutional diversity.

**Table 6. Impact of Accreditation on Institutional Performance**

Author(s)	Year	Performance Indicators	Methodology	Correlation/Findings
Pagán-Castaño E. et al.	2021	Teacher well-being & performance	SEM	Leadership & innovation mediate HRM → performance.
Hazaimah S.A. et al.	2023	Policy reforms → human-capital KPIs	Mixed	Scholarships & Qatarisation boosted enrolment
Håkansson J. & Adolfsson C-H.	2022	Equity in outcomes	Qualitative case	Close LEA coupling uplifts low-performing schools.
Fuseini I.	2024	Budget re-allocation impact	Mixed doc-analysis	Reduced basic-ed resources hurt learning.
Yuanyuan X. & Alias B.S.	2025	Teacher job performance	Correlational	$r = 0.974$ between leadership & performance.
Bećirović S.	2024	System success index	SEM	User satisfaction → LMS success $\beta = 0.62$ .
Tao F. & Siththada T.	2024	Graduate employability	EFA	Graduate-quality factor highest weight.
Emami-Razavi S.H. et al.	2024	Accountability scorecard	Survey	Quantitative vs. qualitative gaps evident.
Mukhammedov M. et al.	2024	Economic sustainability index	Comparative	Human-capital investment correlates with GDP.
Zhu Q. & Liu L.	2023	Balanced development metrics	Policy review	Network model improved equity KPIs.

## CONCLUSION

This systematic review explored the evolving landscape of quality assurance (QA) and accreditation frameworks in MBA programs globally. Drawing from 48 studies, the findings highlight key themes related to the conceptualization of quality, comparative analysis of accreditation standards, stakeholder perspectives, challenges in autonomous institutions, and the impact of accreditation on institutional performance. The research confirms that accreditation mechanisms significantly influence MBA program outcomes, including student satisfaction, employability, and institutional reputation. Moreover, accreditation fosters innovation in curriculum design, enhances governance structures, and drives continuous improvement.

One of the core contributions of this study lies in its comparative analysis of accreditation models across geographical and institutional contexts, revealing both convergence in global standards and divergence in contextual adaptations. The study also emphasized the dynamic role of stakeholders students, faculty, administrators, employers, and accreditors in shaping and sustaining QA

practices. Furthermore, it underscored the agility of autonomous institutions in crafting bespoke QA frameworks aligned with their missions and limitations.

By integrating findings with institutional theory and stakeholder theory, the study demonstrates how accreditation processes serve both as legitimizing forces and as drivers of strategic alignment within higher education. The evidence suggests that accreditation contributes not only to educational quality but also to broader institutional effectiveness.

This research advances the scholarly understanding of QA in business education and offers practical implications for policymakers, accreditation agencies, and institutional leaders. Future research should focus on longitudinal analyses of post-accreditation performance, the role of digital technologies in QA, and the integration of sustainability and inclusivity into accreditation standards.

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