

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
A MULTI-CAMPUS PUBLIC FUNDED RESEARCH UNIVERSITY CREATING
HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE NATION

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was established in 1936 as Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work; and aimed to create human service professionals to work with and enable people overcome poverty, deprivation and unemployment. Today, the institute keeps this vision alive through its extensive teaching, research, policy support, and field action programmes. TISS has received a consistently high appreciation for academic excellence and is counted amongst the best universities in the country. The 3rd cycle of assessment by NAAC rated TISS with a score of 3.89/4.00; the second highest score amongst all universities accredited by the NAAC thus far; and improving on the previous cycle score.

TISS is a centrally funded public university, and the Government of India provides the Institute's Plan and Maintenance Grants. It operates from four campuses located in Mumbai and Tuljapur in Maharashtra, Guwahati and Hyderabad; and has expanded its education, training and outreach activities in several states through its centres at Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chennai, Ladakh, Nagaland, New Delhi, Raipur, Ranchi, and Thiruvananthapuram. It has over 4500 students on roll; with nearly one-fifth being Doctoral Scholars.

TISS continues to produce committed high quality human service professionals in a range of social and human development sectors: health, mental health, social epidemiology, clinical psychology; education and vocational skill development; human resources management, media and cultural studies, rural and urban development, livelihoods and social entrepreneurship, climate change, disaster management, regulatory governance, focused work on women, children, adolescents, youth, aged; disability studies; etc.

As an institution offering education in inter-disciplinary areas of Social Sciences, our curriculum strives to enable our students to understand the pulse of society and chart change processes that create appropriate solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our times; and become skilled social sector professionals capable of working with the Government, Corporates, and Civil Society. TISS is engaged in knowledge creation that is fundamental to understanding ways of achieving inclusive sustainable development, Health, water and sanitation, education, skill development, peace building, and national security. At any given point in time TISS faculty is working on over 500 research initiatives. TISS has collaborative research

and student exchange programs with over 100 universities and institutions across the world, in addition to being member of several university networks – Himalayan Universities Consortium, Erasmus Mundus Partnership, Global Labour University, BRICS Network University, McDonnell International Scholars Academy and others.

As a result of its historical commitment to national development, Institute works closely with the government: State Governments and almost all Central Ministries. For instance, when the Government of Maharashtra created Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) in Mumbai and looked for a temporary home to launch its teaching programs, TISS offered its Mumbai campus even though it was over-deployed. In August 2015, the 1st batch started classes.

The TISS has regular training and capacity building programmes for government officials including the following: senior IAS, IPS and IFoS officers, State Service Officers, Prison Administrators, Railway Service probationers, and Indian Forest Service Probationers.

In the last two decades, social sector programmes have expanded without commensurate growth in skilled personnel. Implementation of MGNREGA, NRLM, SAGY, Child protection, Elderly care, Tribal development and other central and state government programmes require thousands of professionals at various levels. TISS is uniquely located to contribute to this process. The blend of academic knowledge and practice skills enables us to design scores of annual training and capacity building programmes for government, industry, and non-government welfare and development professionals. Simultaneously, grassroots personnel are trained in skills such as financial and digital literacy, participatory programme planning, evaluation and management.

The institute has worked with the police and judicial systems on various capacities. National courts have invited the institute faculty to serve as Amicus Curiae in several critical cases; and directed that TISS create knowledge bases, institutions or procedures. For instance, the Mumbai High Court asked TISS to investigate the causes of farmers' suicides in Maharashtra in 2005. In 2015, the Allahabad High Court directed the Government of Uttar Pradesh to seek support of TISS to develop an institutional framework to secure safety of women and children. In the same year, 2015, the Supreme Court directed TISS to develop Standard Operating Procedure to trace missing children.

TISS plays various strategic roles in its work with Government projects of critical national importance: knowledge generation, capacity building, policy development,

innovation and demonstration, programme design and implementation, organisational development and restructuring, and evaluation, review and research.

A recent significant contribution is towards the skill building goals of the government. TISS is providing support to the establishment of vocational education institutions for the Governments of Maharashtra and Nagaland; and provides skill building knowledge partnership for youth in universities in various parts of the country. It works with MHRD in strengthening State Government Funded Universities and Colleges under the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abiyan (RUSA); and school education through the Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX) aimed at strengthening school education in four States, as part of collaboration between Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA, Tata Trust and TISS.

Some other important, ongoing engagements with Central and State Governments are mentioned below:

1. Higher Education Leadership Academy to create strong and imaginative leadership for Higher Education System
2. School of Vocational Education, established at the request of MHRD with funding from AICTE, to demonstrate engagement of universities in Skill Development
3. Restructuring of CAPART, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
4. Restructuring of Maulana Azad Educational Foundations, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India
5. Restructuring of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad
6. MGNREGA support (GoI and State Governments)
7. Development of the Panchayat Devolution Report, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
8. Knowledge Partner of Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship (PMRDF)
9. Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojna focused on making SAGY work through multi-stakeholder engagement
10. Special Cells in Delhi and N-E States to address violence against women
11. Gender Equity Mapping of Ministries of Government of India
12. Capacity Building of elected women panchayat leaders in the country
13. Reports on Status of Women in North – Eastern States
14. Standard Operating Procedure for Missing Children
15. Capacity Building of HIV counselors for the National AIDS Control Program through Saksham supported by The Global Fund
16. Implementation of the counseling program for drug resistant TB patients under RNTCP in Mumbai for the Mumbai District TB Control Society supported by The Global Fund
17. National study on Human Trafficking
18. Global Adult Tobacco Study (GATS2)

19. Support to establishment of the Skill Development University in Maharashtra and Nagaland
20. Plan for creation of Prime Minister Skill Development Fellowship (PMSDF) program
21. National University Students Skill Development Program; Pilot in 10 Universities
22. Knowledge partner to skill youth in 100 colleges in Andhra Pradesh
23. Partnership with District Administration of Osmanabad for prevention of farmers' suicide; strengthening Farmers Groups;

At present TISS offers 50 post-graduate programmes ranging from Social Entrepreneurship, Public Policy, Social Work, Public Health, Health & Hospital Administration, Mental Health, Livelihood Innovation, Gender, Disaster Management, Urban Planning and Management, Water and Energy Resources Planning and Management, Human Resources Management & Labour Relations, Education, Rural Development, and Social Entrepreneurship. TISS also offers integrated M. Phil. – Ph. D. program on all these areas.

Our aim has been to provide socially relevant education that feeds into government policies in various public service sectors; such as nutrition, prisons, skill building and micro-business enterprise, shelter homes and welfare institutions, and disaster relief. With an innovative curriculum TISS education stays relevant in the highly competitive higher education sector in an increasingly globalised world. A consistent effort is to develop the skills relevant in the new economy that can strengthen government initiatives in the social sector.

The growing number of students graduating from the TISS every year is evidence of its unique role in the field of higher education today. The institute attracts some of the brightest students from across the country. TISS has excellent credibility for its cutting-edge academic programmes; known for its capacity to equip its graduate students in research, field-action, and management; as well as working with various groups and institutions. Being an intellectually vibrant, diverse, socially conscientious university, it responds to different forms of natural and human made disasters and conflicts through its student and faculty.

TISS emphasises employability, and all its students secure placement through the campus prior to graduation. Our graduates work with industries, government ministries / departments, civil society bodies, research settings, NGOs, and bilateral and multilateral organisations. Increasing number of our graduates also join All India Civil Services. In order to enhance employability of graduates from other universities across the country, TISS in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs has devised and offering National University Students Skill Development Programme

A key focus of our curriculum is the emphasis on fieldwork for students to gain experience in the working world. Our post graduate teaching programs involve a strong field work component that interfaces with classroom teaching; where students spend two days a week in concurrent field work. And at the end of every semester, they do internships in industries, government department, hospitals, schools, custodial and protection homes; in rural, tribal and urban contexts working with people, institutions and processes. Through this combination of classroom teaching and fieldwork, students share and analyse knowledge in discussions in the class rooms, meetings and conferences; and develop empathy for the people they work with.

The institute has extensive, inclusive and participatory student support mechanisms to achieve high academic standards irrespective of their economic and social backgrounds. It follows the Reservation Policy (15%, 7.5% and 27% reservation to SC, ST and OBC students, supernumerary quota is given for personnel of armed forces and their dependents, Kashmiri migrants, Persons with Disability); education is almost free for SC and ST students; and the retention of students from disadvantaged communities is almost 100%. Some key student services that the TISS provides include counselling services, universal health insurance along with in-house health facility, yoga services, and scholarship for all needy general category students.

TISS has zero tolerance policy to any form of discrimination. All mandated policies and mechanisms are institutionalized and fully operational: Social Protection Office, Committee Against Sexual Harassment, RTI framework, Grievances Redressal Committee with a retired judge as an Ombudsman, Representation of students in School Boards, Academic Council and all other statutory bodies.

TISS believes in and strives for a strong Nation State capable of ensuring dignified existence of all people, particularly the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised sections of the population. Over the years, TISS has consistently built important bridges between vulnerable communities and all branches of the government to generate alignment on national development goals that secures the welfare of all people. As an academic institution of high caliber, it is not aligned to any ideology; but in true academic tradition, introduces all grand theories and perspectives to students.

Students of the Institute come from diverse social, economic, geographical and cultural backgrounds across the campuses. The Institute provides space for the expression of plural ideologies, without favouring any one; as long as such debates contribute to, rather than detract from academic performance. Any process that

may affect academic environment is sternly dealt with by designated statutory bodies.

The Institute is a national asset, and the integrity of its academic environment is essential to realise our common goal of inclusive and sustainable development. We invite all stakeholders to visit our campuses to understand its unique contribution to the nation through its teaching, research, field-action and outreach services; to celebrate the humanism and respect that members of this multi-cultural university community share with each other and those in the wider community.



S Parasuraman, Director, March 5, 2016