

'TOWARDS BUILDING A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY WITH ITS TEACHING, RESEARCH AND FIELD ACTION PROGRAMMES'

"The overall thrust of the institute's teaching, research and field action agenda continues to be on impacting social policies, programmes and ground-level action for the betterment of society. As a community-engaged university, the institute's vision is to create socially relevant knowledge and to transfer that knowledge through the various teaching programmes and field action projects with the goal of empowering students to build social science theories and find actionable solutions for people's problems."

Prof. Shalini Bharat, acting director, **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (TISS)**



The seeds of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences popularly known as TISS were sown during the great depression of the 1930s. The prevalent unemployment, poverty and distress caused

the house of Tatas to think about the need to create social work professionals to address these challenges. Maybe, the interaction between visionaries like Swami Vivekananda with Jamsetji Tata during their voyage by ship created an idea for such an institution of higher learning then. Soon after Indian Institute of Science, which was set up in 1909, TISS was set up in 1936.

Jamsetji Tata saw philanthropy as a way of nation building long before the Rockefeller Trust, the Andrew Carnegie Trust, the Ford Foundation, and even the Lord Leverhulme Trust came into being in the 1900s. Sir Jamsetji Tata and his son, Sir Dorabji Tata, believed that the real purpose of industry was to go beyond the creation of wealth, to the building of a new society through the proper allocation of wealth.

It was also during this period, an American missionary, Clifford Manshardt, pioneered several urban community programmes in the chawls of Nagpada (Mumbai). In the 1920s, his initiatives were supported by Sir Dorabji Tata. It was during this time that the idea of an Institute for social work took root. It was from this vision that the Tata Institute of Social Sciences was born in the year 1936.

As an Institution of learning and research in the field of humanities and social sciences, TISS has: -

04 - Campuses (Mumbai, Tuljapur, Guwahati and Hyderabad)
21 - Schools with 45 - Centres



ACHIEVEMENTS

The work of TISS has impacted several governmental policies and programmes. For instance, the work of TISS has contributed to the new legislation (2013), abolishing manual scavenging; the 2013 Right to Food Act, etc.

Similarly, another policy level change is TISS Field Action Project — CHILDLINE — initiated in 1996 as an experimental project. CHILDLINE has now become a nationwide emergency helpline for children in distress (1098).

- 05** - Independent Centres
- 04** - Independent Resource Centres
- 03** - Off-Campus Independent Centres (Nagaland, Patna and Chennai)

Academics

TISS has a legacy of 82 years of transformative education for addressing critical social issues that India has grappled with historically. TISS has been at the forefront of reimagining futures, creating a pool of skilled human service professionals equipped to face the socio-economic challenges of India. TISS has never limited itself to the mandate of a conventional university and has rather worked for the promotion of sustainable, equitable and participatory development, social welfare and justice.

All academic programmes at TISS have a compulsory component of fieldwork/ field placement/ internship or active engagement with direct communities, NGOs/ governmental organizations and industry.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has awarded a 5-star rating for the 3rd

consecutive cycle to TISS, with a score of 3.89 out of 4.00 (Feb 2016), the highest score among universities currently accredited.

Campus Life

TISS has one of the most vibrant and active student communities in the country. Maintaining tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and gender plurality is an essential cornerstone of student life at TISS.

Impact

Most teaching programmes started by TISS are the first of their kind in India; and long-standing ones like Social Work have been seen as model programmes that have been replicated across India and other neighbouring countries.

TISS is one of the few universities that is closely working with countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka to help them develop the curricula and expertise to float inter-disciplinary Social Work/ Social Sciences programmes.

ALUMNI SPEAK



"My head was bombarded with thoughts that can't be written easily. I was searching for a word, phrase or sentence to explain. This is what I came up with:

One can take painful pleasure from this environment
You are academically challenged, but supported
You learn to question and seek answers
Limited time, but more to do
There are people around, but rarely with free time
Pleasure comes when you feel yourself different from before
Steel in appearance and soft in depth
Powerful in behaviour and having high stamina in decision making
This is a place for you and a different you
If you want to take pleasure from pain
If you want to challenge your comfort zone
And if you are willing to experience different life
Then TISS is the place
I changed; You may also
Be the different one."

- **Ms. Rohina Zaffari**, Afghanistan
(M. A. in Social Work with Children and Families)