



Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Course on “Secular Ethics for Higher Education” launched

His Holiness The Dalai Lama delivers the Inaugural Lecture

Mumbai, August 14, 2017:

A unique course on “Secular Ethics for Higher Education” was launched by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, under whose guidance the course was developed at the Convention Centre of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

Highlighting the key values of compassion, humanity, respect and justice for all in his inaugural address, His Holiness said:

With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world”.

The course on Secular Ethics for Higher Education aims to provide a common foundation for multi-cultural diversity based on universal values of dignity and equity. It encourages praxis, based on the commonality of humanity and the ability to source this in the self and in the other to foster interdependence and well-being. This course focuses on transformation at the micro, mezo and macro levels, by embodying universal values individually and collectively.

This course on Secular Ethics will foster critical thinking and an inquiring mind; embodied understanding through praxis to find solutions that are equitable and sustainable for issues that concern us as individuals and communities; and sources universal values for creating alternatives, solving problems and generating results. The course recognises that to be effective, there must be coherence between universal values, intelligence, action and results.

In the midst of a plethora of courses offered in different universities on personal development, this course remains unique because it integrates three essential components of learning for students to be effective change makers for tomorrow. This course fosters critical thinking and an inquiring mind; embodied understanding through praxis to find solutions that are equitable and sustainable for issues that concern us as individuals and communities; and sources universal values for creating alternatives, solving problems and generating results.

This course will be offered to all Master’s students, and M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars. It will involve 30 hours of teaching and 60 hours of practice. The course begins on August 19, 2017. The course primer was also released on this occasion.

NOTES:

1. About Tata Institute of Social Sciences

The contribution of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) towards societal development has been exemplary in the last seventy five years of its existence. The TISS is an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to the changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge through its teaching programmes, research and advocacy initiatives. TISS seeks to promote and protect dignity, equality and social justice for all, and aims at facilitating the development of committed and competent professionals for research, teaching and practice, undertaking research, developing and disseminating knowledge, as well as reaching out to the community at the local, national and international level. For more details, please see <http://www.tiss.edu/>

2. About the Authors of the course primer for “Secular Ethics for Higher Education”

Dr. Monica Sharma is a Tata Chair Visiting Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Trained as a physician and an epidemiologist, she worked for the United Nations from 1988 to 2010. As Director of Leadership and Capacity Development at the UN, UNDP and UNICEF, she designed and facilitated implementation of programs for whole systems transformation and leadership development world-wide.

Dr. Srilatha Juvva is a trained social worker and is deeply interested in transforming the narrative of mental illness and disability from that of stigma and being diminished to one that includes and exercises one's full potential. She is Professor in the Centre for Disability Studies and Action at the School of Social Work, TISS Mumbai. Dr. Juvva cares about manifesting full potential, dignity and justice of self and people.

Mr. Sudarshan Rodriguez is an environment and disaster management professional and engages with issues from multiple perspectives and a holistic frame that is ethical and just for both the people and the planet. His training and experience is in the field of environment covering dimensions in science, social science, economics, policy and law. He currently leads a few Field Action Projects at the Director's Office, TISS, including the Social and Ecological Stewardship Programme.

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