TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
EXPANSION WITH RELEVANCE

Our Chief Guest for the 73rd Convocation, Prof. Madhava Menon; Chairperson of the Governing Board, Mr. S. Ramadorai; Members of the Governing Board and Academic Council; Distinguished Guests, Alumni, Students, Staff and Faculty:

I am pleased to present Annual Report 2012-2013 on the occasion of 73rd Annual Convocation of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

I. Teaching Programmes

TISS’s dedication to foster human service professionals, teachers and researchers in a range of Social and Human Development Sectors, through its Schools, Centres and Campuses continued through the past year; with Tuljapur, Guwahati and Hyderabad introducing several new masters programmes. These programmes address key emerging areas of knowledge, focussing on a range of disciplinary and multi-disciplinary work including: Livelihoods & Entrepreneurship; Climate Change and Sustainability Studies; Environment, Ecology, and Sustainable Development; and Rural Development and Governance.

Legal mechanims are effective instruments to empower marginalised and impoverished people, realise fundamental human rights, and ensure social justice. To pursue TISS mission of contributing to creation of a just and equitable society, the School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance was established in June 2012. It has developed a one-year tri-semester Master of Laws (LLM) in Access to Justice; to develop greater capacity in the law graduates to deliver basic quality legal services to the marginalised and poor people; and to develop a community of peoples’ lawyers to work to enhance access to justice for the vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Basic entitlements and services – water, health care, education, energy, transportation, road networks, communication and others – are being privatised. Regulatory authority who have a key role in ensuring fair competition, value to people and access and use to the poor and marginalised, is still evolving and existing ones suffer from acute lack of professional competency. To foster professionals with integrity to work in the regulatory sector, the School of Habitat Studies has developed two master’s programmes (i) Regulatory Governance and (ii) Water Policy and Governance.

Two programmes in Applied Psychology were initiated – Counseling Psychology and Clinical Psychology by the Centre for Human Ecology; with curricula that integrate cutting-edge models about context creating conditions that undermines peoples’ ability realise their full potential and find ways of creatively addressing their environments.
The Centre for Library and Information Management Studies (CLIMS) of the Central Library will introduce Master of Library and Information Science from June 2013, in addition to the Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Library and Information Management (PGDLIM) being offered since 2009. With the addition of new faculty members CLIMS is strengthening its Ph. D. programme in Library and Information Science.

The Guwahati campus is expanding its Social Work programme by introducing the following specialisations: (i) Community Organisation & Development Practices; (ii) Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship; (iii) Counseling; (iv) Public Health; and (v) Labour Studies and Social Security.

The Hyderabad Campus will introduce two new masters programmes in 2013: (i) Public Policy; and (ii) Education. This is in addition to the Rural Development and Governance programme introduced in June 2012.

During the academic year 2012-13, Tuljapur, Guwahati and Hyderabad Campuses introduced an integrated five-year Master’s Programme comprising a three-year undergraduate programme (B.A. Social Sciences) that synergises Social Science blended with Science, their generative and rigorous critical thinking aspects for well-being. Each of the three campuses admitted 60 students to the B.A. Social Science programme.

In order to ensure sustainable use of natural resources, and quality of peoples’ access to water and sanitation in rural and urban areas TISS has developed a diploma programme in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in collaboration with UNICEF and Government of Maharashtra and offered from Tuljapur campus.

II. Research and Policy Action

Research

During 2012–2013, a total of 179 research projects were ongoing at the Institute. Current research work address a range of social, economic, political, environmental and development issues of fundamental importance to the people and the nation.

The body of research include exploring changing expression of people’s agency; urban and rural transformation; enhancing education quality in all levels of education; gender and violence; casual labour force and decent work; health sector and access to health care; water, energy and regulatory governance; climate change and sustainable development; theoritical and methodological advancement in study of society and specific groups. The research agenda is consistently expanding in both theoretical and applied aspects of society, economy and state.

Making Quality Education Accessible For All: Baseline Study of the School Scenario in various States for the implementation of RtE; Understanding collaborations between university and school systems to enhance quality of education; Inclusion of children from under privileged families in private unaided schools under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009; The Educational Status -achievements and challenges - of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh; Educational Status of Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra; Experiences of caste discrimination - A comparative study of the Dalit Community in India and UK.
A task force constituted by MHRD with TISS faculty as members is developing comprehensive framework for recognising Teacher education institutions. TISS is also working with Union Ministry of Human Resource Development to undertake an innovative programme that will revamp the higher education sector in the country. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) aims to cover 316 states public universities and 13,024 colleges across the country.

**Gender:** Gender and violence continue to concern India’s development, particularly violence in the domestic spheres. The path breaking initiative of the Mumbai Police and TISS in the 1980s to establish a mechanism to address violence against women is now being implemented across the country. Faculty and students from Special Cell for Violence against women, Advanced Centre for Women’s Studies, and the School of Social Work are engaged in research and action to alter societal attitude towards women and work, violence against women and exploration of power and powerlessness; and Assessment of forms of violence against SCs, STs, and Women.

**Changing Paradigm of Access to Health Care:** In the area of health, a number of schools and centres are exploring various facets of addressing HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and nature of access to quality health care; Diagnostic and Treatment Practices with Respect to Multiple Drug Resistant TB among Chest Physicians in Mumbai; interlinkages between Migration, Poverty and Access to Healthcare.

**Criminology and Justice:** Continuing to advocate for the rights of people marginalised by the criminal and justice systems, a study on the Socio-Economic Profile and Rehabilitation Needs of the Muslim Community in Prisons in Maharashtra was commissioned by the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission in 2011; and is ongoing.

Prayas is a member of the Justice Dharmadhikari Committee on Prevention of Atrocities Against Women, set up by the Government of Maharashtra to suggest changes in laws and policies to promote justice.

**Decentralised Rural Development Planning:** The institute has created substantial knowledge base and expertise in the area decentralised planning at the panchayat and district level. Its recent work “Planning for Inclusive Development - Preparation of Ahmednagar Vision 2020” is much appreciated. Similarly, the development mechanisms evolved through the process of preparing village, panchayat and council level development plan for Leh District, Ladakh, has been foundational in understanding local level planning and implementation of welfare and development plans; so that people can exercise their agency in rural development and planning, particularly in contested areas. The institute is also studying how 73rd amendment and PESA are understood and operationalised on the ground.

**Protecting and Promoting Livelihoods and Casual Labour:** The 66th round of National Sample Survey for the period 2009-10 concluded that the ranks of casual labour rose from 129.7 million to 151.3 million. Some of the key studies focus on the changing reality of these workers: Worker’s health and Rights in Hazardous Industries in India; Livelihoods of Street Vendors in India; Home-based workers in Mumbai, Nashik and Solapur: Enhancing food security for the working poor; assessment of organisations working with gender and livelihood rights of women ragpickers in Mumbai; documenting good practices in overcoming poverty and deprivations; understanding linkages between forced Migration and poverty.
Mumbai Municipal Corporation and TISS are working on a framework that safeguard livelihoods of street vendors and rights of residents for uncluttered environment.

**Mapping Ecosystems:** Currently, basic research is underway to develop approach and methodology for Cumulative Impact Assessment of development interventions; and being tested in three different ecosystems – Pondicherry Coast; Mumbra in Kutch and Bhagirathi River. TISS, along with PondyCAN and supported by the Bombay Natural History Society has started work on a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for coastal development in India. A beta version of collective work (in progress) and report was released and presented at the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biodiversity in Hyderabad on 19th Oct 2012 at an event entitled ‘Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Coastal Area Management’.

**Securing Dignified Life for the Elderly:** The changing demographic landscape, particularly the number of aged, pose multifaceted developmental challenges. In this context, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), in a long-term collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, and the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi have launched a project titled ‘Building a Knowledge Base on Population Ageing in India’ on issues of ageing in India through a series of policy and programmatic studies; to generate working papers, policy briefs for advocacy, to ensure access to basic entitlements and various social security schemes.

The Institute is a knowledge partner to the Pension Parishad, a conglomerate of civil society activists advocating for Universal Pension and better social security for all senior citizens; and as part of this mandate is producing training manuals, tool kits, and information packages.

**Beggary and Destitution:** Koshish has been instrumental in setting up government-appointed committees to repeal the archaic and anti-poor beggary prevention laws in Maharashtra, Bihar and Delhi; and ensure legal mechanisms to take care of the destitute and create basic services for the homeless. Koshish is an important member of the Pension Parishad, a national alliance of civil society organisations fighting for the strengthening of social security schemes for the poor and the marginalised.

**Publications**

I am happy to inform significant increase in publications. In 2012–2013, TISS faculty produced 228 publications as peer reviewed journal articles in some of the most renowned journals; chapters in books; authored/edited volumes published by reputed publishers. This is in addition to over research 200 reports produced during the year. The flagship publication of the Institute, *The Indian Journal of Social Work* (IJSW), completed its 73rd year of uninterrupted publishing in 2011. This year, the IJSW brought out 3 general issues, while a special issue on ‘Outcome Budgeting in Maharashtra’ is getting readied for print.

**III. Action Projects**

In response to contemporary challenges of the current context including disasters and conflicts, TISS has undertaken several action projects. In response to disasters and conflicts, TISS is undertaking action in Assam and Marathwada. To respond to rural challenges, the Institute is consolidating its Fellowship Programme. And it is continuing its ongoing work with vulnerable groups including Koshish.
**Addressing Conflict in Assam:** The Guwahati Campus along with faculty and students from Jamsetji Tata Centre for Disaster Management and Doctors For You have been addressing human dimensions of ethnic violence in The Bodo area in western Assam that has experienced conflict on three different occasions in the 1990s; and flaring up at various points in the 2000s. The June 2012 episode affected lives of large number of people from three districts (Dhubri, Gossaigaon and Kokrajhar), who were pushed to refugee camps. From July 2012, a large contingent of TISS team was deployed in response with (i) social work professionals engaged in assessment of needs, provision of relief and psychosocial support, setting up child care centers and addressing nutritional issues, and building capacities of ASHA, ANM and AWW workers; (ii) medical doctors providing preventive and emergency health care; (iii) engineers and architects supporting people to develop temporary shelters. From November 2012, work in the camps and with families who have returned to their villages started; to listen to them, start reconstructing communities and villages, identifying needs for support; and taking froward the peace-building initiatives.

**Drought Affected Areas in Marathwada:** The Marathwada region of Maharashtra is facing acute drought conditions this year. Students and faculty of Tuljapur campus are working with district administration and people’s groups with financial support from Tata Motors, Rotary Club of Pune, Pashan and Rotarians from other clubs, and other individual donors to provide essential support, drinking water for people, and water and fodder for cattle to 300,000 people in different hamlets in 110 villages in Osmanabad district. Tuljapur campus is also involved in awareness creation on water conservation and watershed development in Barshi, Mangalvedha and Sangola blocks; and has started relief work in Vaijapur and Gangapur Blocks in Osmanabad and Aurangabad districts, predominantly inhabited by nomadic and de-notified tribes and dalits.

**Fellowships for Rural Transformation:** Given the rapid changes that are currently occuring in rural and urban regions, there is urgent need to knit safety nets on the ground level, so as to facilitate micro-level planning and implementation of development programmes; ensure basic rights and entitlements for people (education, health, food security, pensions); promote and protect people livelihoods and employment; and ensure equal access to capital and market resources.

For the past 5 years, TISS has in the last 5 years deployed around 350 highly skilled and committed young professionals to work at the village and the district levels with communities and link people with programmes and resources; particularly in districts and villages that show regressive development indicators such as the IAP districts; in collaboration with and financial support from Tata Trusts, UNICEF, UNDP, Ministry of Rural Development (GoI), IDBI, and individual donors. Recruitments for 50 fellowships from among those graduating today to work with people in various parts of the country are underway now.

The Rural Transformation Fellows, Master’s students, M. Phil. and Ph. D. scholars and a number of faculty members are involved in generation of knowledge of sustainable and replicable models of livelihoods, entrepreneurship and empowerment; linkages between agriculture and nutrition; impact of NREGA and PDS on nutritional status of women and children; and peoples’efforts to overcome poverty and vulnerability.

**TANDA:** The initiative to empower Nomadic and De-notified tribal groups (TANDA), especially youth and women to realuse their rights and entitlements, has expanded to 1500 families in 20 areas of Greater Mumbai. The project has also organised a para-legal training course on Rationing and Food Security, attended by seventy trainees from different slum
communities including fifteen DNT youth; and established India’s first NT-DNT women’s organisation known as VAJRA.

**Transforming 'M' (East) Ward:** This path-breaking initiative of the Institute aims at transforming the M(East) Ward — an administrative ward of Mumbai — characterised by the lowest human development index in the city, into a more habitable and developed ward with better human development indicators. It is designed to bring in measurable outcomes in the areas of child health, education and livelihoods. Launched in 2011–12, this initiative began with a comprehensive study of the Ward through the involvement of the Institute’s faculty, students and staff.

**Enabling Empowerment of Women and Addressing Livelihoods: TISS’s Engagement with National Rural Livelihood Mission in Maharashtra and Chattisgarh:** TISS is the knowledge partner for Maharashtra and Chattisgarh Rural Livelihood Mission Programmes. The Institute has been tasked to strengthen and augment the capacity of SRLM for the: Preparation of State Poverty Diagnostics; Design of key strategies for poverty reduction (in the areas of social inclusion, institution and human capacity building, financial inclusion, economic inclusion, access to entitlements and public services, innovations and social entrepreneurship development, partnerships, knowledge management and communication and monitoring and evaluation); Design of key strategies for poverty reduction in tribal community through livelihood management, access to resources and entitlements; provision for employment opportunity for tribal youth of the community; preparation of State Perspective and Implementation Plan (SPIP) and Annual Action Plans (AAPs); training and capacity building of professional staff of SRLM including development of training manuals /modules and design of specific courses /management development programmes; identification of innovative ideas, innovators, social entrepreneurs, in-house models and best practitioners with potential for mainstreaming in SRLM and a framework to promote such innovations; developing a framework for identification and use of NGOs as partners with SRLM; deployment and use of young professionals; Conduct of development research, studies, documentation of home grown models and practices, monitoring, MIS and evaluation support to SRLM.

**Tarasha: A Rehabilitation Project for Women Living with Mental Illness:** “Tarasha” (which means sculpted/chiselled in Hindi) was initiated in June 2012 as a community-based rehabilitation model for women recovering from mental illness. Tarasha seeks to focus on economic independence and empowerment in order to facilitate the process of breaking the cycle of unemployment, poverty, marginalisation and increasing disability.

**Chunauti:** Project Chunauti emerged out of a sense of responsibility and concern for the deeply marginalised group of disabled children. International instruments, Constitutional guarantees, laws and schemes notwithstanding, disabled children continue to be among the most exploited and neglected demographic in the country. Chunauti attempts to create a model of care and protection for children who are not only mentally and/or physically challenged, but also exploited, abused and neglected.

Due to the fact that the children in this project were rescued from situations of abuse and exploitation, various stakeholders are involved. Chunauti is a partnership between Children’s Aid Society’s Mentally Deficient Children’s (MDC) Home, Mankhurd; High Court Committee; Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD); the Judiciary; Mazagaon Docks Limited; and TISS.
Transformation of the National Service Scheme into National Service and Skill Development Scheme: TISS is undertaking a pilot project to reposition the NSS as the National Service and Skill Development Scheme (NSSDS) starting in the academic year 2013 in 9 universities for a period of 3 years. The focus of the pilot is on rural universities with the aim of enabling students to gain employable skills while undertaking community work that brings about sustainable social change.

IV. In Gratitude

TISS has always received unfailing support and encouragement from the various ministries of the Government of India, the University Grants Commission, the Government of Maharashtra and other public agencies for which we are most grateful. We thank Tata Trusts, Azim Premji Foundation, UNICEF, UNDP, Ford Foundation for continued support.

TISS faculty and staff based in Mumbai, Tuljapur, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, Delhi have done outstanding work in strengthening teaching, research, training and outreach programmes. The institute acknowledges their dedication and contribution to making lives of people better.

I thank members of the Facilitation Committee, School Boards, Academic Council and Governing Board for the academic and governance guidance. I thank the external experts in the faculty and staff selection committees, School Boards, Academic Council and Governing Board for their guidance and time. I thank all the Deans, Chairpersons of School Centres and Independent Centres and their offices; Dean, Social Protection Office, Gender Amity Committee, Dean and Staff of the Office of Students Affairs, Counsellors and Medical Officers, Students’ Union office bearers, and the Staff of the Day Care Centre for making learning and living on the campus peaceful, productive and enjoyable. The Deputy Registrars, Assistant Registrars, staff of the administrative divisions (Academic, Personnel and Administration, Finance and Accounts, Infrastructure Planning and Development, Facilities Management, Hostel, Guest House and Maintenance), Secretariats of Schools and Independent Centres, Publications Unit, Library and Media group, and the Director’s Secretariat and Professional staff attached to it — have worked very hard to provide responsive, transparent and accountable governance. We thank Architects Mr. Rusi Khambhata and Ms. Anjali Parekh, Financial Advisor Mr. S.N. Batliwala, Statutory Auditor Mr. Vinay Balse, Income Tax Consultant Mr. Anil Sathe, and Legal Advisor Mr. M.R. Phal, and Project Management Consultants Tata Housing Development Corporation.

We place on record the dedicated work of senior management team—Deputy Directors Professors Lina Kashyap, Neela Dabir, Lakshmi Lingam, Prof. Virginius Xaxa and Dean Prof. Peppin, and the Registrar Prof. Neela Dabir—in managing constituent campuses and programmes across the country.

The Institute has always had an enlightened and involved Governing Board. We thank Chairperson Mr. Ramadorai and other members for their contribution to the governance of the institute.
V. 73rd Convocation of TISS:

Today, Two Hundred and Twenty Three students of Master of Arts Degree;
Thirty Five students of the Master of Health Administration Degree;
Forty Three students of the Master of Hospital Administration degree;
Twenty Six students of the Master of Public Health in Social Epidemiology degree;
Twenty Seven students of the Master of Public Health in Health Policy, Economics and Finance degree and
Forty Nine students of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work with specialisation in Rural Development,

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am privileged to commend to you the Annual Report of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and call on Mr. S. Ramadorai, Chairperson of the Governing Board to award the degrees and prizes for the Academic Year 2012–2013.

S. Parasuraman
Director
10th May 2013