RESIDENTIAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND PRACTICE:
STRENGTHENING SOCIAL DEFENCE

Date: 22nd – 24th March, 2013

Venue: Board Room, Malti and Jal Naoroji Campus, TISS, Mumbai – 400088

Sponsored By –
National Institute of Social Defence
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Government of India

Organised By-
Koshish, Field Action Project
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Mumbai
FOREWORD

Over the years, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has amassed an extensive experience base in the field of Criminal Justice system and Social Development especially on the issues related to poverty, marginalization, beggary & destitution. Through its field action projects (FAPs) and fieldwork placements, TISS has been involved in interventions at multiple levels; with the police, in various welfare institutions, and more recently, directly with the homeless populace and Beggar's Homes. TISSs engagement with displacement and shelter issues is also longstanding.

In order to consolidate and build on its existing work related to destitution and homelessness, TISS initiated a field action project (FAP) on destitution, named ‘Koshish’ in August 2006. This initiative has been addressing the crisis of beggary, destitution and homelessness in an integrated manner, combining elements of service delivery, rights approaches and advocacy, with the government and other stakeholders for the repeal of the present Beggary Prevention Legislation.

Since August 2006, Koshish has been working towards ensuring justice and rehabilitation for homeless and destitute persons in Beggary and has gained ample experience and understanding that is used constructively to engage with broader advocacy and model-building work. We started in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra. In 2009 we extended our work to Delhi where we collaborated with Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Government. In 2012, we initiated work in Patna, Bihar and continue to consistently engage with the Government of Bihar there.

The governments have been earnest and sincere in coming together to provide rehabilitation measures for people into begging. There is an acknowledgement that destitution must be de-criminalized and state's response has to be more inclusive and caring, addresssing various vulnerabilities of these groups. Such a perspective is inherently convergent with the zeal and orientation with which Koshish operates.
INTRODUCTION

The National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and Koshish - Field Action Project, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai came together to organize a three-day residential training workshop on “Social Work Education and Practice: Strengthening Social Defence” from 22 – 24th March, 2013 to discuss and deliberate various aspects involved in Social Defence. Within the field of Social Defence, the focus was specifically around the issues of Child Protection, Beggary & Destitution, Addiction and elderly. It was a diverse group of students, research scholars, field practitioners, Young Fellows, Social Work Faculty, Social Sciences Faculty, Professional Social Workers, Government officers and Activists that came together as participants for the Workshop. At the end of the workshop we were able to identify the possibilities of working together with academic institutions and civil society organizations, sharing experiences, strengthening students' engagement with Social Defence and created a platform that could facilitate the learning and growth of the ideas that students have and indicate commitment to work.
ORGANIZING PARTNERS:

NISD - The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is an Apex Institution under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The Institute primarily undertakes training, research and documentation in the field of Care of the Elderly, Drug Abuse Prevention, Child Protection, Prison Reforms and Beggary Prevention etc. NISD organizes training programmes/workshops for State government officials, Police Personnel and non-government organizations concerned with issues dealt by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

In its pursuit to meet the defined objectives, NISD networks and links with concerned department at different states in order to broad base its activities and expand through its programmes. These training programs have reached out to some important functionaries of Government, Police and NGO's and sensitized them about discharge of their responsibility towards Social Defence.

KOSHISH (TISS) - Tata Institute of Social Sciences is known widely for its contribution in the field of education and trainings of students, government officials and non-government functionaries in the areas of protection of rights of various disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Koshish, started in 2006, is a TISS program working on the issues of Urban Poverty, especially Homelessness and Destitution. Presently, Koshish works in Delhi, Mumbai and Patna.

This initiative aims to address the crisis of beggary, destitution and homelessness in an integrated manner, combining elements of service delivery and rights approaches through a combination of measures pitched at the varying levels of providing support for basic and immediate needs as well as for the development of meaningful policy.

PARTICIPANTS: The three-day residential workshop was organized for Social Work Professionals, Educators, Research Scholars, Field Practitioners and young students. These are the people who are either engaged or contribute to the process of preparing the youth who would practice Social Work education. The idea was to acknowledge the role that Social Work education plays in areas of Social Defence and come together to explore ways to strengthen this further.
RATIONALE FOR THE WORKSHOP

Various groups like elderly, women, children and those in begging form a population that needs support and protection by the state. Already vulnerable due to their social and political context, these groups get further marginalized due to the societal or legal framework that exists in the country. Legislations like Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 and the gaps within the Criminal Justice system or the perceptions regarding addiction add on to the vulnerability of these groups. As a response to this vulnerability, certain interventions have evolved but these are not enough. Also, there is not enough pressure to establish co-relation between state's response to the vulnerability of these populations and further marginalization of those very groups.

There is an evident gap between what is required to respond to the issues faced by these groups and what is brought in as resources for intervention. While we are sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups and do make an effort, there are various limitations faced, be it the complexity of the issue, mobilization of the groups or the support available to deliver the program. It has been answered to an extent, by the civil society organizations. However, while it is easier to develop programs, it is extremely difficult to sustain those efforts if continuous and committed pool of people with mission and passion is not created.

These are not the regular groups and thus require special treatment to be able to get mainstreamed. Social Work education and training in the field plays a certain role in getting through the challenges and allows one to venture into areas/ groups that most would generally prefer to stay away from. These are the populations that are largely seen as unproductive and difficult to work with. Not many interventions have been attempted with these group. Experience has been that these groups need an extended period of support, when compared to any other community as the capacity to adjust is lesser, opportunities are fewer and abuse has been far more devastating and traumatizing.

However, certain youth led interventions like Koshish, TANDA etc. have been successful in creating a strong foundation, be it in terms of developing a feasible intervention model or advocacy. These programs have clearly demonstrated how effective intervention can be achieved. They have shown that if serious and constant efforts are made with adequate individual planning after assessing one’s background, strength and personality, chances for stable rehabilitation grow manifold.

Given the depressive environment that most of these groups are pushed to and also the abusive background that most of these groups come from, it becomes critical to break the sadness and hopelessness. Programs that are being used as reference for this workshop have designs that facilitated client’s social skills and repair the emotional strains that he or she may have suffered.
This helps them to experience a positive environment in which they could express themselves, leading to more stable and effective protection/rehabilitation.

It is in the same spirit that Koshish- Field Action Project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized a three-day workshop on “Social Work Education and Practice: Strengthening Social Defence” to discuss and deliberate on these and related issues. The workshop was highly illuminating and engaging towards concrete steps being taken by the government and civil society to work together towards the rights of these vulnerable populations.
OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The theme for the workshop was 'Social Work Education and Practice: Strengthening Social Defence' and aimed to discuss and deliberate various aspects in providing Social Defence for the vulnerable populations. Within the field of Social Defence, the focus was specifically around the issues of Child Protection, Beggary & Destitution, Addiction and elderly. The context for these groups is varied and diverse. Unfortunately, there is very little done towards creating a cadre who would have the required energy and motivation to engage with the complexities involved and be able to respond to the needs of people.

The workshop was a purposeful gathering for engaging in and improving social interventions in four major thematic areas of social defence, i.e., Child Protection, Drug De-adduction, Elderly and Beggary/ Destitution. It was aimed towards the need to build and connect more among ourselves for groups that have minimal support, get them together and strengthen communities. It was directed towards setting the trends while increasing support by engaging multiple stakeholders in the work.

While these are not attractive areas to work, the workshop aimed at using the opportunity to create better linkages and explore ways to develop and support work, involve students, to look at possibilities for the universities to work together through representatives and build formal structures to see what we can create from what we have.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY

DAY 1

SESSION 1: Inaugural Session

Dr Vijay Raghavan, Chairperson – Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS, Mumbai inaugurated the workshop and welcomed participants on behalf of the TISS and gave a brief on Koshish. He explained the objectives of the National Institute of Social Defence and its role in the protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable groups like the children, elderly, drug addicts and homeless. He introduced the ‘workshop and its objectives’ to the gathering. He critically reflected on the issues facing the homeless, people into begging, elderly, addicts and children. He examined how in the course of development, certain groups get left behind for range of reasons and in the absence of external support, marginalization increases. He stated how various laws are used as a measure to control the movement of the poor to the urban centres and to criminalize the ‘rootless’ poor, thereby making the role of Social Defence very crucial. Highlighting the need for engagement of students in addressing needs of these populations, he cited Koshish as a successful example of a student initiative that led to a full-fledged national project. He, finally, brought out the huge gap between the need of training inputs and capacity building of human resource working in the area of Social Defence and what is available, thereby, setting the tone for the workshop.

Mr. Mohd. Tarique, Program Head, Koshish then introduced the workshop by elaborating on the need for such a gathering to engage, discuss and build on strengthening communities by providing them with the support they need. He also highlighted the important of creating better linkages and exploring ways to develop and support work by engaging students, educators, field practitioners and multiple other stakeholders to build formal structures and create better opportunities. He stressed on the need to critically look at policy responses at varying levels and incorporate social work education in areas of social defence. He mentioned the need to have a paradigm shift in work and engage different stakeholders in their own domain to works towards creating this shift.

He invited the participants to look at the workshop as an opportunity to share thoughts, to work creatively and share experiences, for new ideas and energies to be developed.

Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy, Senior Journalist and Communication Expert, began by sharing his experiences on vulnerability and the need for organizing workshops like this. He set the context for the workshop by giving it a framework and direction. He drew attention to the four major areas of concern for the NISD and the issues that need to be raised. He specifically emphasized on the need for field work to get a sense of the issue, experience realities and
understand the life behind the issue. He invited the audience to connect the dots that we get during the three days and discuss about the pressing issues throughout and beyond the workshop. He concluded by asking the participants to voice their expectations from the workshop and create congruence on fundamental issues through dialogue.

The workshop began with self introduction by the participants.

**SESSION 2: THEMATIC DISCUSSION - CHILD PROTECTION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

*Dr. Nilima Mehta, a child rights expert and President of the family service centre, was the resource person. Former Chairperson, Mumbai Child Welfare Committee, she has been involved in core teaching and practice on field for more than 30 years.*

Dr. Nilima introduced the session by setting the ideological framework of work to understand social defence in the field of protecting and empowering the child, as a vulnerable group in society. She focused on the importance of theorizing practice and practicing theory at all levels, to develop a link between the field and policy. She emphasized on how we tend to forget the focus of work, i.e. the person we are working with, and look at what we want from them. There was a clear understanding built around the need for a paradigm shift from a need based approach to the rights framework. She further elaborated on the concept of Equality as the approach and Equity as critical terms for justice. Moving from the welfare to a development approach is as significant as moving from an institutional to non-institutional set-up to ensure the child remains an active participant in decision making and remains the beneficiary. Right to participation is important for not just children, but also for adults as they are partners in the development and
empowerment process. She spoke on the significance of understanding UN conventions, national legislations, policies and plans of action that are directed towards the welfare of the child, and also the need for inter sectoral allied system collaboration with the police, judiciary, education, and develop linkages to ensure we do things together for convergence of different areas. The discussion proceeded to understand how family must be the first rehabilitation option for the child, while institutional rehabilitation should be the last resort and how child protection is about neglect, abuse, rehabilitation of children. Family strengthening is an important measure to prevent disintegration of families and engaging in more non-institutional care as alternative care for children. Dr. Nilima concluded stating the children are in every sense a voiceless group and every member of the society are in every sense responsible to give that child the childhood s/he deserves.

The session was followed by an open house discussion with many meaningful insights from the speaker as well as the participants on issues related to child rights and the need for working towards the best interest of the child.

SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION

The session started with a panel discussion on Social Work Practice: Engaging with issues of Social Defence moderated by Mohd Tarique, with Dr. Vijay Raghavan, TISS, Mumbai, Ms. Kamini Kapadia, Consultant (UNICEF), Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khan, Azad Shiksha Kendra, Jaunpur, Social Activist & Leader and Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy, Senior Journalist and Communication Expert. The presentations were followed by an open discussion.
Dr. Vijay Raghavan set the contextual framework for the discussion by introducing Social Defence as a term and what we as a group from various streams and areas do to make social defence work. He drew the historical chart of the emergence of social defence in the context of the modern world, in the post colonial construct. He stressed on the evolution of Social Defence as an idea to provide for the safety of common citizen, which rises from the assumption that there is inequality existing in society and that there are people who commit crime. One thing common to this population is Social stigma, which alienates the vulnerable groups from the mainstream social structure. Quoting from his experience on field, he mentioned that the state has to provide for their rehabilitation. This group cannot themselves get back to the society. The state has to support them. He highlighted the options for reinstating them into the social structure including temporary institutionalization, provision of pension, stipend, and other social security measures. Therefore leading to the two major connotations that social defence has - taking care of vulnerable and those without any support systems; and to reduce anti social elements in society.

Ms. Kamini Kapadia advocated the need for creating an interface between educational institutes and field work and the need for them to happen horizontally. She explained how field practitioners, faculty and students can maintain a synergetic relationship and learn and grow from each other’s strengths. She mentioned the need to shift towards a right based approach to tap the immense potential of people and involve them as active participants in the development process. She also quoted the need for the media to join the discourse, not be dramatizing, but by bringing the right type of issue to the fore. She submitted that there is a lot of work to be done and learn from the stigmatized communities. The whole right to development is to be brought to focus to work with these stigmatized communities. We need to recognise the positive aspects and engage with them to explore the possibilities for the field practitioners and academicians to sit together and develop material to use for work, from what we learn.

Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy took on the session with an analysis of the situation which requires a healthy tension between the academicians and the field practitioner. He stressed on the point that we need to have a healthy respect for both – the field and the book. It is important to not remain in one domain. He mentioned how it is important for people to be anchored and maintain the element of equality between the field and academics. He cited examples from his work and experience on working with the vulnerable section stating how social support systems are so strong for the not-so-vulnerable groups, that we remain protected from any kind of injustice that those on the vulnerable side are prone to. He reflected on the need to acknowledge that there are structural issues and people will inevitably get ejected from the social system.

Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khan, began with the experience of the emergence of social workers from social work institutes and from the field as a very significant aspect of the movement. He opined
that when they are supported they try to get other people into the stream and engage in more dialogue with multiple stakeholders. While it is a challenge to engage NGO’s and other organizations in the rights based approach to work. It is also difficult for field workers to work independent of community support. He also stressed on the fact that NGO’s need to gain credibility for their work instead of creating an image of a money making unit. He spoke about the impact of government schemes and programmes and their potential in strengthening families which could ameliorate the vulnerability of these groups. He suggested that it is very important that the community and the police is engaged, at every level of decision making and are active partners in the growth process.

Mr. Mohd. Tarique brought into focus the need for engaging in policy making and academia to look at social work practice and from an academic lens. He spoke on how the paradigm is moving into a much wider scope that issues which once social work spoke of are today taken into policy frameworks. Today we are talking of legal entitlements and rights for these very groups who have forever remained invisible. He gave instances where the state says that if it has to provide safety mechanisms for a person, s/he has to be put in prison. This seeks defence for the society from the vulnerable person and not for the person from society. He further elaborated on the need to provide freedom and space to make students see issues with an open mind and create spaces to let them grow. He concluded stating that the pool of stakeholders is expanding with the media persons, lawyers, etc. joining the movement and each one has a role to play. He also added that the education system should open its door to practitioners to develop the area and similarly, practitioners need to be open to the academia. It is a blend of both that makes positions clearer and perspectives set. The general idea is to be open. Institution building is an important journey. A sense of justice is also important to understand and fix certain problems and this is what social work education should be most focused towards.

The session was followed by active and meaningful discussions toward creating a system where both field practitioners and academia could be active partners in the movement in creating a safe society in the context of a democratic welfare state.
SESSION 4: STUDENTS ENGAGEMENT IN FIELD WORK

This final session for the day was taken by Ms. Roshni Nair, Associate Professor, Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS, Mumbai. Her focus was on how field work is at the core of mentoring students to work in the area of Social Defence. It is only through the students that the teacher connects to the field and the NGO is a mould where the student is placed and supervised on field. Therefore, she emphasized that field work becomes a very powerful tool to get new issues from the field and then work on those issues. There is always an exploration happening throughout the process. She mentioned that there is a lot of change happening in society, governance is changing, people’s lives are impacted, the profile of students is changing, curriculum changes, teachers are very conscious on their understanding of the field, there is this tension of pressure on each other. In a sense, the process is very dynamic. She reflected on the need for looking at allied partners, minority commissions, women’s commissions, human rights commissions to understand specific roles of these institutions that connect the various organizations, with the student being the link. She added the need for including a gendered dimension of work which is an acute issue for field practitioners. She concluded that by being a part of education, we are not limited to the classroom, but we need to involve the field as much as the class and expand opportunities into new areas of work.

The session compiled the ideas established through discussions on work and research and the need to link students to the systems to take them in our journey by looking at multiple issues from like trafficking, police reform, prisons, undertrial prisoners, legal reforms, rehabilitation with the family, mental health, working with the youth to state a few.
SUMMARY

Day-I kindled an insightful learning on issues of child rights and protection and acquainted the house with multiple experiences of educationists and field practitioners struggling to decriminalize and assist the vulnerable in their struggle for survival. Some key concerns the emerged from the sessions were the violation and denial of basic legal and human rights, the concerns of children and the requirement to implement various schemes and programmes in tandem, the need to shift focus on rehabilitation with newer constructions of what would constitute lesser stigma, institutionalization and harassment. It was agreed on the need for acting in the best interest of the child and prevention of family breakdown in order to reduce vulnerabilities and risk. Everyone accepted the need to shift paradigms towards a rights based approach, where there is a need to change the way we think to change our actions.

There were serious deliberations on the need for the government and civil society organization (CSO) to participate in developing social work education and involve CSOs in legislations and participant decision making. There was a recognized need for the potential to develop material that we can use for our engagement with the vulnerable populations. Case studies, innovative practice models are very important contributions to be made as practitioners. Need assessment was identified as crucial for capacity building in order to build and evolve new models. While the call for networking was strongly advocated, the challenge to sustain these networks was also realized.

The sessions were summed up with acknowledging the need for a goal that drives social work. Problems be addressed only when one enjoys what s/he is doing, mainly because the issues are not easy to deal with and needs a great deal of self driven motivation to enter into an unknown space and bond to it.
DAY 2

SESSION 1: THEMATIC DISCUSSION

DRUG AND ALCOHOL DE-ADDICTION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Ms. Krishna Iyer, Kripa Foundation initiated the session by highlighting the drug situation in India and the evolution of the ways in which drug use has dangerously entered the realm of the Indian social-cultural milieu. She shared her knowledge on addiction as a chronic relapsing disease that has harmful consequences on the brain with long lasting but reversible effects. She stressed on the coinage of addiction as a disease in order to attend to it and address it as a primary ailment, leading to involuntary maladaptive behavior. She highlighted that issues in addiction primarily arise because we do not really understand addiction. Unless we as people working in the field do not understand addiction and try to address the issue, it cannot be sorted. She explained that it is an incurable but treatable disease, affecting all dimensions of a person’s life – socially, physically, psychologically. She dealt at length on the symptoms of addiction, stages of addiction, types of dependency, factors leading to addiction, damage cause due to addiction and challenges faced while working with addicts. She concluded with discussion on the ill effects of stigmatization of addicts and the ways of with their de-addiction process.

The session was followed by a question and answer session where the participants actively voiced their myths and biases on sensitive issues like addiction, substance abuse and rehabilitation of these groups. The session addressed the issues of concerns related to the thematic area and fostered the practical measures to address the rising concerns and grievances.
SESSION 2: THEMATIC DISCUSSION

CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS AND DESTITUTION

Mr. Mohd. Tarique, Koshish, TISS presented the perspective and approach of working with the government in evolving and equipping them with a framework to firstly decriminalize and then to essentially rehabilitate the homeless people notwithstanding the law as such. He dealt at length with the emotional, psychological and economic impact the law wielded on people, including the families of the persons who get processed under the beggary law. He traced Koshish’s journey and relationship with the government officials working at various levels in the larger machinery which informed and fed into the inquiry and understanding of beggary and homelessness. He cited examples from his experience on realize the frustration and pain of living on the street, on how the street is a highly exploitative space, not because people want to exploit, but because people want to survive. He established a link between homelessness and beggars by connecting the cycle of extreme poverty, stigma of being on the street, discrimination, exclusion, denial of access to means of justice, deprivation – and how this process actively alienates the poor. He ventured in to break common myths revolving around beggary and the need for state to respond to legislations like the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 and address the social security needs of the most invisible residents of the country.

The session ended on a note where fundamental questions were raised on core issues of decriminalizing beggary, punitive action against the vulnerable and the call to look at the real issues facing us on field. A discussion on the reasons and consequences of existent law and practices took place, which evinced active participation and feedback from all participants alike.
SESSION 3: STATE RESPONSE AND CHALLENGES

A CASE STUDY OF CHEMBUR BEGGARS’ HOME, MUMBAI

This session aimed at the need to acknowledge and accept the problems and challenges faced by people working with the implementation of the law. **Mr. Gautam Arwel, Superintendent, Female Beggars’ Home, Mumbai** spoke around the ways in which the government has responded to destitution and beggary. He highlighted the strategies used by the government to rehabilitate people arrested under the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 are brought to the Beggars’ Home. He explained the procedural set-up of the Beggars’ Home and its classification for different groups like lepers, TB patients, disabled, etc. He spoke about how people do not have any money, due to which they appear dirty and are therefore are at the risk of being identified as beggars and thereby arrested. He insisted that there needs to be more time given to the Beggars’ Home by the court to conduct proper rigorous inquiry and give true details of people brought to court. He raised concerns on the arrests of mentally ill persons, senior citizens leading to wrong and illegal arrests. He also accepted with grace the capability of the staff working inside custodial set-ups to deal with sensitive issues of these groups. He closed the session by questioning the presence of civil society to make this a better place for these vulnerable groups in the presence of bad legislations.
This session also addressed many questions that participants had about beggary and the law. This was followed by a field visit to the Chembur Beggars’ Home to get a feel of the real situation and get people to talk about situations emerging on field.

**SUMMARY**

Day 2 succeeded to be an illuminating experience and also in some sense created an empirical background to what was being discussed through the field visit. On one hand it unveiled multiple realities within which the vulnerable groups negotiate for their survival and on the other, it drew attention to the legal interpretation and implementation of BPBA, 1959 and the states response to the criminalization of the poverty. It underlined the need to move beyond the punitive scheme of things. This created a space to engage with the state mechanisms and demand critical state support for all these sections. The debate focused on the need to shift emphasis towards constructive policies by substituting the authority of law with more accountability and responsibility.
DAY 3

SESSION 1: UNDERSTANDING OLD AGE

Dr. Asha Banu, TISS, Mumbai, introduced the session with her starting remarks on understanding the concerns around ageing. She highlighted the current situation whereby she defended the older people’s right to dignity, which is incessantly thrashed by such the social and legal situation in our country. She critically looked at the breakdown of social security mechanisms for the old, which are instrumental in marginalizing this populace. She listed the role of family in reducing vulnerability for the older population groups and the state’s failure implementing schemes and providing shelters to them as several degenerating and marginalizing tendencies in discrimination against the elderly. She focused on common problems related to old age and the raised concerns on the inadequate provisions available for the old. She raised fundamental questions on how we are translating issues faced by the elderly and what are we giving back to them. She maintained that it is extremely important to change our gaze to see the issues of the elderly and attend to their needs.

The session was followed by an interactive session on the thematic area raising and addressing major concerns that revolve around the problems of the elderly citizens of the country leading to their vulnerability.
SESSION 2: ROLE OF YOUTH: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS – GROUP WORK

Mr. Altaf Shaikh, Life Coach, aimed at developing a Framework for structuring the issues raised in the three days for effective rehabilitation through comprehensive group work based discussion and presentation by the participants. The participants attempted to comprehend the information collected in the workshop so far, where we stand as individuals now and how we proceed by seeking creative solutions. The house was divided into four groups on the below mentioned themes as they debated, discussed and contemplated on such focus areas through a meaningful discourse.

Themes:

1. Elderly
2. Beggary
3. Drug Addiction

The three groups discussed around the theme of the group and their deliberations were presented to the larger group. Each group was able to make some substantial references and provided range of alternatives.
There were diverse opinions about whether there should be a law or policy or both. However, what everyone agreed on and reached consensus was ‘the need for the current legislations like the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959’ to be repealed. There were also several suggestions with regard to the rehabilitation required but primarily it focused upon the need to have non-custodial support program where range of programs are made available to the people meeting their specific needs and capacities. Civil Society Groups and Government institutions are expected to work together to mobilize, motivate and build people’s capacities while government is to provide for an environment that will facilitate and enable a person to move out of destitution.

SESSION 3: TOWARDS ADVOCACY NETWORKING AND DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION – TANDA

A CASE STUDY ON CHANGE YOUTH CAN BRING

Mr. Mayank Sinha, Programme Co-ordinator, Towards Advocacy Networking and Developmental Action (TANDA) started TANDA field action project (FAP) in year 2011. He spoke about the beginnings of this FAP based on nearly two years of student fieldwork with the Pardhi community in Mumbai through the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work. He spoke of the encouragement given by the TISS to students like him to work with communities in need for developmental effort. He highlighted the major activities done in order to facilitate work which included: community profiling, community mapping, enumeration of the Pardhi families in Mumbai, housing rights status, survey on the education status of the children between 7–14 years, caste certificate status and SHG (Self Help Group) formations. All these activities posed serious challenges which included rapport building, lack of available literature, local power dynamics, lack of programmes and schemes for these communities, etc and how at
the end of the fellowship, TANDA emerged as a Field Action Project of TISS. The operation of TANDA is mainly based in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

He highlighted the objectives of the project - Creating a network of human resources and knowledge generation on the issues of Nomadic Tribes – De Notified Tribes (NT-DNT) communities; Advocacy and lobbying with the policy makers towards the fulfillment of the basic rights relating to housing, education and livelihoods of NT-DNT communities; Capacity building of the community towards access to citizenship entitlements of the NT-DNT communities. He mentioned TANDA’s present engagement with Pardhis, Wadars, Masanjogis and Banjaras and its major thrust to build a women’s organization that would facilitate women from the NT and DNT communities to come together and collectively resolve the various issues and problems that they face in their day to day life. He summed up stating TANDA’s effort in dedicatedly working towards producing literature about the NT and DNTs, considering the scarce literature available about these communities through surveys and research. It is one of the best examples of student intervention in bringing about social change.
SESSION 4: STRENGTHENING SOCIAL DEFENCE: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Mr. Moham Ramamoorthy, senior journalist and communication expert, shared his views on the important of developing communication strategies to deal with problems of vulnerable groups. Through exercises he enlightened the group on the need to know what to say and how to say and how communication plays a crucial role in exploring possibilities in the themes around social defence. He added on the significance of unpacking jargons, the risk of stereotyping while understanding the context of vulnerability. He ended on the note that it is important to use date, field work, case studies as well as theoretical understanding to unpack and interact with these groups.

Summary

The day ended with reflections on every session, beginning from the session on elderly which was useful in building a sound understanding about the problems faced by senior citizens and the neglect they face every day. While sessions on specific thematic areas focussed on building an understanding around a particular issue, group work session provided the participants an opportunity to debate and deliberate their own ideas and identify key issues with probable response mechanism that was shared with entire assembly. The presentation on TANDA was an effective in reaching out to students to further engage them in field work and working with communities. The session on 'Communication Strategy', in a very interesting manner pursured the participants on how effective planning and goal setting could be done and also how a specific program could be built to realize the set goals.
Valedictory Address

Prof. S Parasuraman, Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The valedictory address primarily reflected on how states have struggled to protect the interests and rights of some of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations. Prof. Parasuraman stressed on the need for investing in the youth through institutes for higher education like the TISS to build them up for the challenge that comes in ensuring justice for the people living on the margins, forming the core of Social Defence.

He asserted that while the government is attempting to be more inclusive in its policies and programs, a fact remains that we do have systems that do not do justice to people and constantly create a community that gets uprooted and pushed out of their legal and natural ecosystem. Unfortunately, for some of the most serious vulnerabilities, states have been responding with criminalization. When State policies undermine the capabilities of the people, it is the State responsibility to take care of people’s livelihoods and security.

He further stated the need to relook at some of the broader aspects of governance. Creating vulnerabilities are inherent in the capitalistic model of development. When we are relooking at beggary or homelessness, these are not individual issues in isolation, but products of social and economic processes. He highlighted the role of interventions like Koshish which not just address beggary and homelessness but also fundamentally deals with poverty, deprivation and subsequent criminalization of poverty.

He concluded by mentioning the pressing need to find ways to address not only the immediate causes of poverty but also its effects. He mentioned that the TISS always has its doors open to creative minds and energies that are willing to work towards these common objectives of change. He urged the group to engage meaningfully saying, “Transformative work is about dealing with the causes of the social problems. This can happen only through collectives that can challenge the work we do.”
WAY FORWARD - SEEKING SOLUTIONS

This workshop was organized with a very clear objective to promote social defence through social work education and practice and establish the need for youth and experienced social work practitioners to engage within these areas.

As a concrete outcome of the workshop that was mainly meant for training, Koshish (TISS) and at least two other universities i.e. Gujarat Central University and Azim Premji University, Bangalore have decided to come together and work towards developing students' engagement program with various groups under Social Defence. Representatives from all the three universities have decided to continue with the discussions that took place during the workshop and build a program that would facilitate and enable students learning through talks, orientation sessions, field exposure visits, internships and volunteer work.

The larger agenda for the workshop was to create a voice for the invisible voiceless populations. Elderly, Children, Destitutes and persons in Addiction are the marginalised groups within the marginalised that are highly vulnerable. Except for children, who are largely acknowledged and accepted as the state's responsibility, there is either resistance or prejudices associated with other groups under Social Defence, therefore, not many interventions are made with them.

In this light, it is important that more and more young people are engaged and the government systems are activated to re-look into its policies and laws. Any kind of engagement in this direction is useful and required. There is a clearly felt need for capacity building and encouragement for the students across disciplines to engage meaningfully with the issues of Social Defence. It has been acknowledged that in present times when Social Work Practice is moving towards the rights-based framework for protecting the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through a structured legal framework, moving into the space of Public Policy. Here emerges a crucial and significant role for multiple stakeholders across disciplines of educational training.

It is not an easy task to engage meaningfully with these populations. It is also quite complex and draining. This is where highly motivated and self driven people are required. Government, with all its good intent and program development to be inclusive in its react out, fails to reach out to most needy for range of reasons, want of relevant human resource being one of the most important of those reasons. How we change this situation is not easy but then there are also enough illustrations and learning’s that have depicted how youth involvement serves as a potent resource to activate the dysfunctional systems state created to extend support for these groups. A critical reflection of the workshop included the urgent demand to enhance the capacities and capabilities of not only the people but also create a cadre that is motivated and committed to the cause of Social Justice.
The workshop ended with the hope and commitment to engage and invest with a clear focus, more closely and regularly, to support professionals and students engage with the core issues of Social Defence.

The critical need for an interface between what is taught in the courses and the realities in the field are questions that need to be answered soon. There has to be scope for constant evolution of the framework and integration of the latest trends and developments.
**ANNEXURE:**

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>'Social Work Education and Practice: Strengthening Social Defense'</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 10 - 11 am | Session I: Inaugural  
Welcome Address on Behalf of TISS: Dr Vijay Raghavan, Chairperson, Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS.  
Introducing the Workshop: Mr. Mohd. Tarique, Program Head, Koshish  
Setting the context: Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy, Senior Journalist and Communication Expert  
Self Introduction by the Participants. |
| 11- 11.15 am | Tea Break |
| 11.15am - 1pm | Session II: Thematic Discussion: Child Protection in India: An Overview  
Dr. Neelima Mehta, Child Rights Expert |
| 1 - 2 pm | Lunch |
| 2 - 4pm | Session III: Social Work Practice: Engaging with issues of Social Defence  
Panelists: Dr. Vijay Raghawan, Ms. Kamini Kapadia, Consultant (UNICEF), Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy, Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khan (Azad Shiksha Kendra, Jaunpur) |
| 4 - 4:15 pm | Tea Break |
| 4.15 - 5:15 pm | Session IV: Student Engagement in Field Work  
Ms. Roshni Nair, Assistant Professor, Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS |
| 5.15 - 5.45 pm | Open House |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Thematic Discussion: Issues and Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 23, 2013 Thematic Discussions</td>
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| 10 – 11 am | Session I: Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation  
Ms Krishna Iyer, Krupa Foundation |
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 - 11.15 am</td>
<td>Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 - 11.30 am</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>Session II: BPBA 1959- Criminalizing Homelessness and Destitution</td>
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<td>Mr. Mohd Tarique, Koshish</td>
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<td>1 - 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>2 - 3 pm</td>
<td>Session III: State Response and Challenges: A Case Study of Mumbai Beggars’ Home</td>
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<td>Mr. Gautam Arwel, Superintendent, Govt. Beggar's Home for Females, Mumbai</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 6 pm</td>
<td>Field Visit: Exposure visit to rehabilitation program run by Koshish.</td>
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### Date and Time

**March 24**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thematic Discussions</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 11 am</td>
<td>Session I: Understanding Old Age</td>
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<td>Dr Asha Banu, Chairperson, Centre for Health and Mental Health, School of Social Work, TISS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 - 11.15 am</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<td>11.15 am - 12.15 pm</td>
<td>Session II: Group Work- Challenges and Prospects: Role Youth can Play</td>
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<td>Mr. Altaf Sheikh, Life Coach</td>
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<td>Themes: Elderly; Beggary; De-addiction; Child Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15 - 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Group Presentations and discussion</td>
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<td>1.15- 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>2 - 2.30pm</td>
<td>Session III: TANDA: Case Study on 'Change Youth can bring'</td>
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<td>Mr. Mayank Sinha, Co-ordinator, TANDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30- 3.30 pm</td>
<td>Session IV: Strengthening Social Defence: Communication Strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy, Senior Journalist and Communication Expert</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30 - 3.45 pm</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.00 - 5.30 pm</td>
<td>Valedictory Address:</td>
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<td>'Vote of Thanks'- Sanjana Krishnan</td>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The workshop report would not be complete without thanking those who made it possible.

We are grateful to Dr. Giri Raj, NISD, for his constant efforts towards getting this workshop organised.

Mr. Ujjwal Uke, Principal Secretary, Maharashtra, has been our strongest support within the Government and we are thankful for the support he extended in making the workshop happen.

Our sincere thanks to Prof. S. Parasuraman for being a constant support and encouragement to the Koshish family.

A deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Mohan Ramamoorthy for being awesome! Words will fail to thank him enough.

We thank Dr. Vijay Raghavan and Ms. Kamini Kapadia, two very special members of the Koshish family for being there with us throughout.

We are grateful to all our resource persons: Dr. Nilima Mehta, Ms. Roshni Nair, Ms. Krishna Iyer, Dr. Asha Banu, Mr. Altaf Shaikh and Mr. Mayank Sinha for taking time out from their busy schedule and sharing their invaluable insights from work and their experiences.

A special thank you to Mr. Gautam Arwel for his contribution in taking Koshish ahead and being a constant support for our work inside the Beggars' Home.

A hearty thank you to Ms. Roja Pillai for her motivation and support, Ms. Joycie and Ms. Rutuja for managing our accounts, Mr. Shetty for taking care of our hunger pangs, Mr. Mahendra and Mr. Kale, for their perfect logistic arrangements, Mr. Salvi for making arrangements for transportation, Mr. Mangesh and Mr. Subhash for technical support, Mr. Vijendar Singh for designing our certificates.

A special thank you to Mr. Deepak, JSS trainer at the Beggars' Home and all our clients for printing our folders; Thank you to the Prayas team for providing us with their folders.

Our field work students Anil, Nazia, Rizwana, Shruthi and Tabish cannot be thanked enough for their involvement and willingness to take on the completion of tasks beyond their comfort zones.

We thank the participants from across the country – students, teachers, field practitioners for being with us through the three days. It has been a pleasure.

Thank You.