TISSTory
is a journey across 75 years

A journey that reveals many stories, some told, some perhaps waiting to be discovered.

For many of us: students, alumni, staff, parents and other stakeholders, TISS conjures up images of lush green spaces, resonant with birdsong; memories of inviting classrooms, innovative field work, animated discussions and above all, a spirit of camaraderie and freedom.

We have been a part of this memorable journey, that started in Nagpada in 1936 and continues in 2011, as TISS expands to new campuses across the country. In this exhibition, we celebrate this continuing journey, this rich legacy of an institution that has always reached out to society, through relevant education, research and field action, with a commitment to social justice for all.
A DREAM TAKES SHAPE

1936: A new profession is born
The first institution in South Asia for professional social work education

Proposed to the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust by Dr. Clifford Manshardt, an American missionary, this is the first venture of the Trust.

"And if you seek to understand what are the students do in the face of India's problems? I would remind you that you are all but the beginners. Very few will rise and live to 100 when trained social workers will be at work in every important center in India."

Clifford Manshardt, inaugural speech, 1936.

TISS starts its journey as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work from Naggada Neighbourhood House, Byculla

1937: The first Field Action Project (FAP) is established, the Child Guidance Clinic, the first institution of its kind in India. Renamed Muskāan it continues to reach out...

1940: the Indian Journal of Social Work begins publication and is published without interruption till the present.

1944: The name changes to Tata Institute of Social Sciences

1948: TISS reaches out to work in the Kurukshetra refugee camps in the aftermath of Partition. This practice of responding to disasters with relevant social interventions continues.
A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION...

SOCIAL INSURANCE FOR LABOUR

1949: The Institute shifts from Nagpada to a more spacious campus at Andheri.

1951: Under the first 3-year plan, TISS develops a Department of Tribal Welfare under the guidance of Dr. Behram Mehta. Fieldwork commences in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh.

1953: US delegation with Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits the campus.
THE PIONEERS

Dr. J. B. Kumarappa
Succeeded Clifford Manshardt as Director of the School of Social Work. A scholar with an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard and Columbia Universities, he was later an elected member of the Rajya Sabha.

Prof. A.R. Wadia
An educationist-philanthropist, he was the Director for nine years. Later, a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, he served as a Rajya Sabha member for twelve years.

Prof. M.S. Gore
The Director for 20 years, he was responsible for the development of social science research and for consolidation of TISS as a deemed University.

Dr. Bebram H. Mehta
A popular and unconventional teacher, he taught Community Organisation and Public Welfare Administration. He took the students to Kurukshetra for peace mission relief work.

Prof. Gauri Rani Saroj
The first Head of the Department of Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, with an M.A. from Chicago and D. Phil. from Allahabad.

Prof. M.N. Kulkarni
A teacher of Community Organisation, he was the first Head of the Department of Urban and Rural Welfare.

Prof. A.J. Panakal
The first Head of the Department of Criminology and Correctional Administration, he studied criminology in US and was one of the first Indian criminologists. He was responsible for greening of the Deonar campus.

Prof. L.S. Kuchekkar
A teacher of Personnel Management who studied at Oxford University.

Dr. M.V. Moorthy
He taught Personnel Management and Industrial Relations and later headed the Department. He had a Ph.D. from Bombay University.

I was very impressed by Dr. Bebram Mehta’s first sentence which he obviously intended to be a thing to remember. There we were, with our note books and pens, ready to take down the golden words, and he said, “The end of social work is to end social work!”

Zakiya Patil, Class of 1951-53
THE DREAM TURNS SILVER AND GROWS...

1954: TISS shifts to the Deonar Campus.
A large space on the outskirts of the city,
sits architecture an unusual blend of the indigenous and the modern
designed by the noted architect Durga Balpat.

1961: Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru
presides over the Silver Jubilee celebrations

1964: TISS becomes a Deemed University.
The Diploma in Social Service Administration
(Dip. SSA) becomes an M.A. in Social Work

1962-1982:
Prof. M.S. Gore, as Director, focuses on
developing social sciences research and
introduces research units

1967: The Social Work specialisation in Labour
Welfare & Industrial Relations develops into an
Independent M.A. in Personnel Management and
Industrial Relations

1969: the first research unit for Child and Youth Research, begins
work with support from the UNICEF. Subsequently, several other
research units are set up in relevant areas. Between 1970 and 1984.

"The moment I arrived here, I was pleased by the external appearance of
these buildings. It is attractive. It is unusual as it seems to fit in with the
type of work it is meant to do. Just as a house is not merely a house, it has
to be a home to be lived in - not merely few walls and room and stereotyped
furniture. A home must have a personality of its own. I can happy to be at
this location and I do hope it will grow and prosper and do a lot of good work."
RETHINKING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK

1982: Prof. Arnauty Desai takes over as Director and moves TISS towards a paradigm shift in social work education from an urban, institution based, remedial model to more rural-oriented community and rights based approach.

1986:
Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi inaugurates the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The Government of Maharashtra gifts 100 acres in Tuljapur Taluka, for a Rural Campus.

The Rural Campus initially focuses on field action projects and short term training, building up a strong grassroots base. The once barren campus land is transformed into a green haven through watershed management and afforestation.

Today the School of Rural Development, Tuljapur offers a five year Integrated programme in Social Work, with specialisation in Rural Development.

"These practice-oriented projects not only provided valuable learning for our students but also kept our teachers constantly involved in practice in one way or the other. In all our educational programmes, we were innovative in teaching these, yielding research of students, participating in community projects, and researching in crises."

Prof. Arnauty S. Desai, alums and former Director.
The Cause of the Children

75 YEARS OF FIELD ACTION

Field Action Projects (FAP) were envisioned to provide field work opportunities for students, create new knowledge for social work and as demonstration projects for new areas of intervention.

The Institute’s first Field Action Project was the Child Guidance Clinic (CGC). It continues today under the name of Muskana: Centre for Child and Adolescent Guidance.

Some pioneering projects:

- Special Cell tackles violence against women by working with the police and in police stations
- The Integrated Rural Health & Development Project (IRHDP) located in Aghai about 100 kms from Mumbai, works with the local tribals on health and development related issues
- Prayas works within the criminal justice system for the rights of undertrial prisoners
- Childline India’s first phone helpline for street children, started as a TISS Field Action Project. Now it is an independent nation-wide initiative.
- Navchetana works with issues of child rights & child abuse in Government children’s homes

HUM - Humanity United in M-Ward aims to create a Human Rights sensitive M-Ward

Koshish works with issues of homelessness and the social construction of crime, deviance and beggary

Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria is a macro endeavour in training and capacity building of professionals so as to make significant changes in development indicators and discourse.

"Childline is an example of the fact that social work practice skills do work. It started as an FAP and today, in 51 cities we have ensured permanent government funding by instituting it as a scheme of the Ministry of Government of India. We have ensured that the necessary changes have been made in the Juvenile Justice Act. All this was possible because the voice was heard in the thinking process in TISS - formulation of strategies, thinking macro and integrating theory into practice."

Jerose Billimoria, Founder-Director, Childline
75 YEARS OF
RESPONSE TO DISASTERS

Since 1947, TISS has responded to various crises such as the Partition, floods, riots, cyclones, earthquakes and industrial disasters, with a focus on:

- Relief management
- Psychosocial support
- Assessment of loss and impact
- Rehabilitation and development needs
- Mobilisation of human resources
- Facilitating community participation in rehabilitation
- Policy and programme development support
- Coordination of civil society participation
- Training and capacity-building of personnel
- Publication and documentation
- Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives

Some disasters where TISS has intervened:

1947  Partition of India
1971-72  Formation of Bangladesh
1977-1978  Cyclone, Andhra Pradesh
1984  Industrial gas leak, Bhopal
1989  Floods, Jambhulpada, Maharashtra
1993  Earthquake, Latur, Maharashtra
1999  Super-cyclone, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa
2001  Earthquake, Kachchh & Saurashtra, Gujarat
2004  Tsunami, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka
2005  Floods, Mumbai
2005  Earthquake, Kashmir

The Centre for Disaster Management has consolidated this work and offers a Master's programme in Disaster Management.

"I want to send you a few lines to record my admiration of a contribution which the Tata Institute of Social Sciences has made to the solution of the refugee problem... I shall not easily forget the hours that I was privileged to spend with your students at Karachi, their Initiative, keenness and powers of organisation. They knew what they were doing, what wanted to be done and how to do it."

Eustace Fairbairn, Special Representative, UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, on TISS Partition relief work, February, 1948.
75 YEARS OF RESEARCH

In the 1930s and 40s, social work as a new profession needs an understanding of the Indian social context. Students and faculty conduct research and publish, contributing to the knowledge base of social work.

1952: The Department of Research Methodology (now Centre for Research Methodology) is set up.

1969: The Unit for Child and Youth Research is set up with UNICEF support, to promote interdisciplin ary research on the issues, policies and programmes related to children and youth. The Research Unit in the Sociology of Education is also established.

In the 1970s and 1980s new research units include Urban Studies, Rural Studies, Women's Studies, Family Studies, and Labour Studies.

In 2010-2011 there were 143 ongoing research and documentation projects. The results of this research are disseminated through books, monographs, research reports, papers in journals and books, popular articles and documentary films.

"All our teachers have dirt beneath their fingernails. We have studied in the dirt..." I would always tell my students never to underrate their local areas. When we were going to a rural area, even for months or a year, and asked da to encourage..."

Prof. R.K. Hebson, former Head, Centre for Research Methodology
75 YEARS OF EDUCATION

1958: Diploma in Social Service Administration to 20 students. The first degree of its kind in South Asia.


1967: The social work specialisation in Labour Welfare and Industrial Relations develops into an M.A. programme in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations.

1980: Evening certificate programmes in Hospital Administration and in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations, which later develop into Diplomas.

1993: Masters in Health Administration and in Hospital Administration initiated.


2005: Diplomas in Sustainable Development commence in Ladakh and in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.


The M.A. in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations becomes M.A. in Human Resources Management and Labour Relations, with curriculum changes.


New Diplomas in: Media and Cultural Studies, and Psychosocial Care and Support in Disaster Management.


2009: M.A. in Habitats Policy and Practice, Women’s Studies and Counselling, and Diplomas in Community Organisation and Development Practice and in Rehabilitation Counselling.


I would say, TISS is no longer a school of social work. TISS is a school of learning. It’s a place of learning where different ideas can come together and people can learn from each other. Yes, of course, being a social worker I always hold a card as a social worker. But I am also proud that it has just not revolutionized but it’s important to be a social worker. To wear a badge, to represent when shortcomings. That is the role of a social worker which is remarkable.

Dr. Prathap Bhanu Mehta, alumnus and former faculty member, TISS, Padma Shri, International.
RE-IMAGINING TISS

2006: Academic restructuring of Departments and Units into Schools and Independent Centres

Current Schools and Centres

School of Habitat Studies
- Centre for Science Technology & Society
- Centre for Urban Policy & Governance
- Jamsetji Tata Centre for Disaster Management

School of Health Systems Studies
- Centre for Health Policy Planning & Management
- Centre for Health & Social Sciences
- Centre for Public Health
- Centre for Hospital Management

School of Management & Labour Studies
- Centre for Human Resources & Labour Management
- Centre for Labour Studies
- Centre for Social Entrepreneurship
- Centre for Social & Organisational Leadership

School of Rural Development, Tuljapur

School of Social Sciences
- Centre for Development Studies
- Centre for Human Ecology
- Centre for Socio Legal Studies & Human Rights
- Centre for Studies in Sociology in Education
- Centre for Study in Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy
- Centre for Women’s Studies

School of Social Work
- Centre for Community Organisation & Development Practice
- Centre for Criminology & Justice
- Centre for Disability Studies & Action
- Centre for Equity for Women, Children & Families
- Centre for Health & Mental Health
- Centre for Social Justice & Governance

Centre for Media & Cultural Studies
Centre for Lifelong Learning
Centre for Research Methodology

New Campuses in Guwahati and Hyderabad

TISS Guwahati:
- M.A. in Social Work for the North-East region, on the anvil. Ongoing Diploma in Community Organisation & Development Practice

TISS Hyderabad:
- Collaborations with Andhra Pradesh Academy for Rural Development (APARD), Osmania University, Hyderabad and the Azim Premji Foundation for education, research and training

“Once we understand our constraints and how we can locate ourselves in order to be relevant in the social, economic and political context, it becomes easier for us to re-vision and re-position ourselves.”

Prof. S. Parashuraman, Director, TISS