

PROSPECTUS
Diploma Programme 2010
*Community Organisation
&
Development Practice*



Tata Institute of Social Sciences
(A deemed university)

INTRODUCTION

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is a deemed university that works towards the promotion of people-centered sustainable development and an equitable and democratic society. Established in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, the Institute was renamed as Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 1944. Its purpose is to work towards the goals of participatory development, social welfare and social justice through its teaching, research, policy and programme formulation, field action and extension work.

TISS in Northeast India:

TISS has been in constant engagement with the North East region in the past through various projects of the Government, support to Universities and NGOs, and also through its students and alumni from the region. However the same was more fleeting and task centered. There has been a clear realization that more concrete and holistic efforts are required to deal with the politico-socio-economic realities unique to the region, and to contribute to its various processes. Subsequently, TISS, under the aegis of the **School of Social Work**, began an exploration to develop a strategy for engagement to respond to the region in a more systematic and coordinated manner which evolved into the TISS, North East.

DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

North east India is a confluence of diverse cultures, tribes, languages and traditions. Comprising of the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, the region is a juxtaposition of people belonging to varied tribes and races. While the presence of multiple groups and tribes living in the region makes it one of the most diverse regions in the country, the very same factor has also been the cause of a number of ethnic conflicts and clashes. This coupled with a long-felt sense of alienation has resulted in the formation of organized and armed insurgent outfits that have been waging decades-long struggles in the region. The resulting instability has adversely affected the development process of the northeast. The northeast is one of the most economically backward regions in the country. Though the region has been attracting a great deal of anthropological interest since a long time, what have hitherto been neglected are the unique opportunities and challenges to development practice in the region. The development approach that has been adopted is top-down rather than participatory.

There has been considerable investment for the development of the northeast region. Several large infrastructure development projects funded by national and international agencies have been undertaken by the state governments. Many such projects had not taken into account democratic and holistic planning processes, the consequences of which are being witnessed through large scale displacement, man-made disasters etc. On the other hand, there are still

large parts in many states, especially the hilly areas which are still inaccessible due to lack of proper roads and communication facilities, and where people are still deprived of basic government services. In such a scenario it has become a pre-requisite to make the development process in the region more participatory.

That there is a dearth of development workers in the northeast region is something most will acquiesce to. There is definitely a need to nurture and strengthen human resources for planning and implementing development initiatives, whose role could be to reach the development efforts to the people, by increasing their own capabilities to negotiate or utilize schemes/services, and to deal with the service delivery systems. In such a backdrop, Community Organization with its perspective of emphasizing the centrality of communities in change processes and understanding issues of identity, marginalization and powerlessness, has great relevance in preparing development workers to mobilize communities and act as catalysts of change. Through an understanding of aspects of development processes, resource distribution, issues of people's participation, leadership, power dynamics and development intervention, the focus would be on community mobilization (or strengthening the existing community based structures) and assertion. Further, inputs and discussions on not only the micro-level issues concerning the immediate community or the state, but linkages to macro level processes of globalization, on the lives of the poor and marginalized and implications for development practice would be critical to the knowledge, perspective and skill building for practitioners.

Hence there is a need to enhance the cadre of development workers whose role is to strengthen the development efforts of the people by increasing their own capabilities to negotiate or utilize the schemes/services and to deal with the service delivery systems, contribute through generation of resources, as well as in the management of the services and resources made available through the government schemes. This would enhance the relevance and sustainability of development initiatives.

In this context, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences for a second time proposes a Diploma course/programme on Community Organization and Development Practice to be offered at Guwahati. The programme, through an emphasis on community organization will address the importance of participatory and democratic planning at the community level which is the need of the hour in the northeast, and in turn will lead to a sustainable development process in the region.

In 2009, the institute had offered the same course from the School of Social Work and twenty seven students from different part of the region representing all the seven states successfully completed the course. The students are now engaged in different development activities and there have been very positive responses from the field work agencies, resource people, faculties and activists. It was reinforced that such training programmes are required in the region for effective participatory development work.

Broad Objectives of the Programme for Participants

1. To build capacity for critical reflection and analysis of development issues both at micro and macro level
2. To build on the existing understanding of community dynamics, structures and experiences.
3. To strengthen skills and capacity for intervention at different levels
4. To facilitate interaction, sharing and networking across the region
5. Provide hands-on support (along with other NGOs and networks) to start utilizing their knowledge

COURSE OUTLINE

This course will combine aspects of concepts and knowledge on society, democracy, institutions, development, laws and policies, and process of making them work for the people. This course will also impart skills in mobilizing and working with individuals, groups, communities and state, non-state development actors and exposure to rural communities. A strong field work is integral part of the programme.

The total credit hours for the Diploma Programme in Community Organisation and Development Practice will be 40, as detailed below:

10 papers	26 credits
Field Work	12 credits
Rural Practicum	2 credits
Total	40 credits

COURSE CONTENT

Module	Name of the Course	Credits	Duration
Module 1	In House		
	Induction		1 Day
Course I	Self and Society	2	1 week
Course II-A	Introduction to Community Organization –Part I	2	1 week
Course III	Communication	2	1 week
Course IV	Participatory Approach in Development practice	2	1 week
Module 2	Rural Practicum		
	Exposure to rural areas/communities in North East.	2	2 Weeks

	The students will be placed in Rural Community under CBOs/NGOs.		
Module 3	In House		
Course V	Introduction to Social Research	2	1 week
Course VI	Project Planning and administration	2	1 week
Course II B	Introduction to Community Organization –Part II	2	1 week
Course VII	Working with Groups and Individuals	4	2 weeks
Module 4	Field Work		
	Filed Work orientation and travel time to Field Work Organisations	12 credits	1 Week
	Field-Work in Community, NGOs/Government Agencies setting		6 weeks
	Field Work Seminar		1 week
Module 5	In House		
Course VIII	Village Development –Sectoral Analysis	4	2 weeks
Course IX	Issues of the North East Course	4	2 weeks
	Student assessment, Graduation Day etc.		1 week
	TOTAL	40 credits	24 weeks

TIME FRAME AND COVERAGE AREA

The Diploma Programme with 40 credits will be for 6 months' duration. Of these, 3 & 1/2 months would be for classroom teaching, 2 months for fieldwork and 1/2 month of Rural Practicum.

The resource persons will be mobilized from academicians of NE Universities, field practitioners, TISS alumni and faculty. The effort will be to cover the various groups across the eight states of North-East including Sikkim. The programme will begin from 15th of March 2010.

PROCESS OF STUDENT SELECTION

The student selection is a two stage process

1) Nomination of candidates by local councils/government/, CBOs / NGOs.

2) There will be a personal interview held.

STATUS OF STUDENTS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING

This course will impart skills in community organization, participatory planning, implementation of programmes and monitoring and evaluation. On completion of the programme the students are expected to involve in development work at the local level as part of government, non-government and community based organizations. The Institute will inform the government and non-governmental organizations about the programme and seek their support in engaging the participants completing the Diploma in CODP.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

The minimum qualification requirement is Class XII passed from any recognized college or Higher Secondary school. In the initial batches, priority would be given to those who are working with government, community based organisations, non-governmental organisations and other developmental work. Nominations from the Government and NGO's/ CBO's would be considered.

There are 35 seats available for the course.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application forms can be obtained from North-Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), TISS, Guwahati office or by emailing to tissnerc@gmail.com.

FEES

Sl No.	Fees	Amount
1.	Admission Fee	500
2.	Tuition Fee	1000
3.	Field Placement Expenses	1000
4.	Rural Practicum	2000
5.	Reading Material and Stationery Fee	1000
	TOTAL	5,500

The total cost of the course is Rs. 5,500 per participants. Food and Hostel will be available at nominal fee.

However, TISS has a few scholarships to support students on means – cum - merit basis. Participants who are nominated by the Government/ NGO's/INGO'S/CBO's can be sponsored by the same.

Award of Diploma:

The programme is a full time programme of instruction, rural practicum and field work, on completion of which a Diploma in Community Organisation and Development Practice (CODP) will be awarded to the students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Receipt of Filled in Application forms	20th February '10
Announcement of Selected Candidates	1st March '10
Commencement of the Diploma Programme	15th March '10

ENQUIRIES

For further information please visit or contact or write to:

North-Eastern Regional Centre

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5th Floor, Eureka Tower (Near Chandmari Flyover)

Chandmari, Guwahati-3

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Batch of 2009 DCODP

Our Vision

To be institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to the changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centred and ecologically sustainable society that promotes and protects the dignity, equality, social justice and human rights for all, with special emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Our Mission

In pursuance of its vision and guiding principles, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences organizes teaching programmes to facilitate the development of competent and committed professionals for practice, research and teaching; undertakes research; develops and disseminates knowledge; and reaches out to the larger community through extension, at the local, national, regional and international levels.



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