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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
alum.tiss.edu/register/
Be a member of our dense and diverse Alum connect. Log on to the link to know more

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Want to be part of our next Issue? Write to us with your story.

TISSQuad seeks to serve as the quadrangle which has always acted as a link between the TISSians.
From Director's Desk

'TISSQuad: the link across time and space that connects us as TISS community'

- Prof. Shalini Bharat, Director, TISS

Prof. Shalini Bharat, Director, TISS
Behind the Scenes

Making of TISSQuad - Alum Connect Association

TISSQuad is the newly launched, formal, institutional body for alums affairs. The committee has members from across the campuses and consists of alumni as well. TISSQuad was formed to have an umbrella alum connect space to help our vast network of alum stay connected.

TISSQuad: Quad represents the quadrangle of TISS Mumbai campus that is symbolic of a place where students meet, discuss and connect. Quad also stands for all four campuses of TISS that makes it complete. TISSQuad aims to play the role of that Quadrangle for its Alums. The committee has met several times before the launch, discussed on each and every aspect and purpose of the body. We are pleased to finally bring to you the TISSQuad and we hope it binds us together.

Committee Members
1. Prof. Asha Banu Soletti
   Dean of Student Affairs and Professor, TISS, Mumbai
2. Prof. RSS Mani
   VP Institutional Development ITM Group of Institutions & Career Mentor
3. Prof. Swati Banerjee
   Professor and Program convenor, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai
4. Dr Bibhu Prasad Nayak,
   Associate Professor, TISS, Hyderabad Campus
5. Dr. Kalpana Dixit,
   Assistant Professor, TISS - Tuljapur Campus
6. Prof. Zubin Mulla,
   Professor and Chairperson, School of Management and Labour Studies
7. Mr. Sobins Kuriakose,
   Head, Sector Skill Collaboration at NSDC
8. Dr. Nilesh Gawde,
   Assistant Professor, TISS, Mumbai
9. Dr. Jennifer Kipgen,
   Assistant Professor, Guwahati Campus
10. Prof. Nasreen Rustomfram,
    Professor TISS Mumbai
11. Geeta R Sethi,
    Sr. Coordinator, Center for Excellence on Adolescents and Youth

Why Alums and not Alumni?
Alums is a plural, gender neutral word for the graduates.
Achievements Link

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE


2. TISS is ranked as the Best Social Work Institute in India for 2021 (Outlook)

3. TISS is ranked 8th in Top 10 General Universities (Government) for the year 2020 in the latest Best Universities Ranking Report released by India Today!

4. Prof. Abdul Shaban (School of Development Studies, TISS Mumbai) received the prestigious Visiting Fellowship at the Université Denis Diderot (Paris VII) (University of Paris).

5. Prof. Lakshmi Lingam (Dean, School of Media and Cultural Studies) is featured in a Forbes India article on the occasion of International Women’s Day!


7. Minal Madankar, Dr. POOJA SAWALE, Dr. Harshal Shirodkar and Dr. Anukriti Chhabra wins the Second Prize at the 2020 edition of The Geneva Challenge. All four are from the 2018-2020 batch of the Master of Public Health in Social Epidemiology offered by the School of Health Systems Studies, TISS Mumbai.
Bridge, a student led initiative officially recognized by the Office of Student Affairs, TISS (Mumbai), is an effort in collaboration with the institute's student aid to channelize funds to ensure that academic mobility of students is not affected due to financial constraints. It aims to bridge the currently widening deficits of the student aid mechanism through contributions from our alumni and other potential contributors. The team comprises of a student body formed every year, with support from the admin and faculty alike.

As the pandemic piled upon the financial constraints of the students, Bridge ran it's pilot fundraiser campaign in May 2020 for the outgoing batch of 2020, and was able to raise Rs. 6,77,717 which was furthered as student aid to 18 students. With the message of perpetual small efforts leading to significant change, Bridge launched its ongoing campaign Avirat in December 2020 which follows a subscription based model, with a minimal contribution each month for a fixed duration of choice. As of August 2021, Rs. 1,08,200 have been raised through Avirat, with more subscriptions for contributions in the coming months.

With plans for subsequent fundraising campaigns in the pipeline, Bridge aims to extensively reach out to the TISS community and beyond, and invite support to help sustain the academic aspirations of students.
I am working with Shiv Nadar Foundation as Associate Manager in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Before joining TISS, looking at the encompassing social inequality, provoked the thought in me that “why do social processes persists over time and what it takes to change them?” I had a very functional knowledge of sociological perspective. I joined TISS to learn the intricacies of how society works. I must say the institution has not only given me a perspective but made me a peculiar for gaining knowledge. The institute is a home to amalgamation of cultures across India which gives a sense of understanding the cultures from different parts of the country. Each day used to be a festival and we all used to take part in the celebrations and preparations. I cherish the memories of our classes in the morning in Roda Mistry campus, they used to be so thought provoking that even after the classes during evening tea, during dinner you could see students sitting in a group discussing the same. The views used to be different on the prevailing issues but the essence used to be same. Everyone was determined to do something for the society to annihilate the prevailing issues around underprivileged. The professors like Prof. Padmini Swaminathan, Srinivas Surisetti, Aseem Prakash and the ex. deputy director of TISS Hyderabad Laxmi Lingam not only helped us to broaden our perspective towards the development as a whole but also helped us to understand the power of defending the voiceless and less privileged. I started working soon after college and the teachings have not only helped me grow in my career but also in my personal life. May be, I was fortunate enough to see that life after TISS was not that difficult because not only we had theoretical knowledge but the practical knowledge from experiential learning as well. The institute not only made me think critically but also to match the pace of the evolution in the development sector. I am really grateful to the professors of the institute who not only shaped my future but also made me a better person with broadened perspective. I am grateful to my batch-mates for teaching me about their cultures. I am grateful to TISS for making me reach where I am today.
Dear TISSians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you about the best two years of my life. During my time with TISS, I could say I got to learn many things both inside of the classroom as well as outside of it. Lectures were not monologues, they were always critical as well as fruitful discussions. Besides, the whole environment of engaging with charged socio-political and economic debates definitely helped us in grooming our minds. The micro practices inside the campus that promoted community living, democratic actions as well as liberal consciousness makes TISS Guwahati stand tall amongst all. The space provided by TISS helps in liberating the mind.

At present I am enrolled as a research scholar in PhD in ZHCES, JNU Delhi. My decision to pursue further studies is because of TISS. The faculties at our Centre for Sociology and Social Anthropology have always encouraged me to take up further studies. Prof. XAXA, Prof. Kalpana Sarathi, Dr. Borbora, Dr. Kitan, Dr. Sawmveli, Dr. Haripriya, Dr. R K Debbarma and Meghali Madam as well as all the faculties have played a major role in shaping critical minds.

The moments shared with all my fellow TISSIANS will always be special in my life. The bond that forms in TISS seldom gets broken. My friends Shuvam, Sujata, Sangtea, Tia, Sukannya, Seigoulin and all the rest have enriched this journey. It was the discussions, debates as well as numerous field trips, field works that we took together that filled these two years with fun as well as with enormous experiences.

I could go on and on but let me just stop here. I offer my best wishes for the TISSQuad initiative.

With every best wishes,
Fellow TISSian
दे दो मुझे पंख।

दे दो मुझे पंख तितलियों के।
रंग बिरंगे, काले नीले पीले।
नाजुक सी, सुंदर से, सजीले।
हवा के झीलों संग मुझे वेह जाने दो।
फूल फूल पर मंडराने दो।
पराग कण में मुझे नहाने दो।
घर आंगन जंगल वादियां महकने दो।
कोई छूना चाहे मुझे अगर तो पराग में लिपटे
मेरे पंख उसे छू जाने दो।

दे दो मुझे पंख पंछियों के।
थोड़े चंचल, थोड़े शांत, थोड़े अलहड़।
कभी उड़ते शान से कभी रुक जाते अगले ही
पल। कितने मेहनत कितने जीवंत,
आत्मनिर्भर।
ना कोई चिंता उनको ना कोई फिकर।
सीख जाने दो मुझे उनसे जीने का हुनर।
बड़ी कठिन है जिजंदगी, मुश्किलों भरा सफर।
ढोकर जो लगी थोँड़ा सस्ता लूंगी।
थोड़ा दम लेकर पंख पसार लूंगी।

दे दो मुझे पंख बाज के।
कितने सजीले, कितने बहादुर, निर्दर।
उड़ते ऊंचाइयों पर पसारे अपने पर।
बढने दो मुझे उड़ने दो मुझे।
पिजरा तोड़, वादियां में विचरने दो मुझे।
पसीने में लथपथ चमकने दो मुझे।
धूप में थोड़ा पकने दो मुझे।

दे दो मुझे पंख तितलियों, पंछियों, बाज के।
बढने दो मुझे। उड़ने दो मुझे। बढने दो मुझे।
Thinking of the time last year…the outbreak of COVID 19, a sudden lockdown and the closure of educational institutions including TISS…and our life seemed to change and so did our teaching-learning processes.

A cup of hot ‘Kahwah’, hugs and goodbyes
It was a usual day at TISS with an unusual eeriness in the air. I was sitting with a group of final year students who had come to say an unwilling goodbye as they were getting ready to leave the hostel. We had cups of hot ‘kahwah’, a traditional herbal drink from Kashmir and we took one of those last photographs and selfies on campus, before the closure of the Institute due to COVID 19. That day…we sat till the lights in my office floor had slowly been put off one by one….we sat well past the dining hall timing and it seemed nobody wanted to move…no one wanted to see the time ticking away, and then it was time for that goodbye, ‘we will miss you ma’am’…and can there be anything more touching than this for a teacher?

Looking through the class photograph
And finally when we began with the online semester, I looked at that class photograph one more time, which was taken before the pandemic. I could see a unique expression on each of my students…enthusiastic, exhausted, bored, sleepy, interested in a tree outside the window etc., etc.

University campuses and classrooms across the world provide spaces to deconstruct and decolonize our own thought processes which emerges not necessarily from information available in google/internet or books stacked in the library or some hegemonic knowledge systems, but also through our human interactions and interface with the environment around us.

However in an age that is getting defined by technology and online teaching, especially in the wake of COVID 19, I was in a serious dilemma as to how do I recreate the classroom where a look, a joke, sharing of experiences, some laughter and many more nuanced human interactions helps in centering the student in the teaching-learning process?
Learning a new ABCD and trying to create the magic again in an online space…
And while the questions, dilemmas and the reflections still continue…we are slowly trying to adapt and adopt to online teaching-learning processes, and a new ABCD became part of our vocabulary in academia. It started with A for asynchronous classes to Z for zoom meetings…and all the letters and emotions in between. However processes of inclusion, digital divide and accessibility still remains a serious concern.

We tried…we faltered…we struggled…but together with our students, we attempted to find some of the questions even if we have not found all the answers yet. We tried to pick up the pieces of our experiences and struggles to negotiate the virtual space…to create again the magic called TISS…to feel the experience called TISS that is beyond the four walls of the campus…an experience that gets embedded in our minds…in our thoughts…in our hearts…

In lieu of conclusion: I still like to dream…
The dilemmas exist, but so do our dreams…and our students are the fore bearers of that hope…which I dream each day…

My dream…is it a metaphor? or a dream?
beneath the unseen.
I dream...
about that land of fairy tale,
where I sit in that little classroom with my students,
hidden in the crevices of that old spotted tree,
in the quadrangle…or behind the guesthouse…
In that wonderland called TISS...
In that little hole of solitude, solidarity and warmth,
with that little book in hand,
surrounded by students and a hot cup of ‘kahwah’
I dream…