

**PRIME MINISTER'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS  
SCHEME**



**Report**

**September 2014-June 2015**

---

## Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship Programme

The Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship (PMRDF) is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) Government of India (GoI), implemented in collaboration with State Governments. The focus of the programme is on reduction of poverty and improving the lives of people in rural India.

### Coverage of PMRDF

The PMRD Fellows have been selected through a pan India process through All India Common Entrance Test (AICAT) which was followed by written exam and personal interviews. The first batch that was launched in 2012, had 140 Fellows and were placed across 83 districts in nine states. The second batch was launched in November 2013. In 2014, the fellowship has been expanded to nine more states covering north-eastern region as well as Jammu & Kashmir. Currently Batch 2 consists of 149 Fellows.

### Role of Tata institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

TISS as a knowledge partner of MoRD provides holistic support to Fellows to acquire knowledge, professional skills and capabilities required to engage in transformative development work with the people, the state and non-state institutions. The Institute has developed a systematic mechanism through online mode (Moodles) to document Fellows field related work reports. TISS offers Masters in Development Practice (MDP in short) programme to the fellows.

For the first batch, the Masters Program was kept as optional and 62 Fellows opted for it. Realizing the value of the program the MoRD decided to make the program mandatory for second batch. Thus the second batch in MDP is 149.

The Masters Program curriculum was approved by the TISS Academic Council in April 2014. Having understood the diverse requirements of fellows, the MDP programme is being methodically modified to streamline the learning from the field and thereby enhance the capacities of the Fellows to function as effective change makers.

The MDP Program is made of two types of program-phases,

- **Contact Program Phase:** During the phase, the Fellows meet the faculty members face-to-face and interact with field practitioners and experts on regional sectors.
- **Online Program Phase:** During the fellows' field engagement, the MDP Program is conducted in the 'Online' mode'. The programme faculty members provide online lectures, presentations, PPT notes and assignments.

There are seven main components (i) Foundation Courses, (ii) Perspectives and Attitude Building Courses, (iii) Concepts and Theory Courses, (iv) Sectoral Courses, (v) Courses on Professional, Analytical, and Research Skills and Methods, (vi) Field Work Courses, and (vii) Dissertation. It carries in total 66 credits. The Fellows document their work of facilitating social

and economic development at grassroots levels and at the end of their fellowship is expected to write a dissertation.

### **Report: September 2014 to June 2015**

The following briefly states the work undertaken by the PMRDFs team in last ten months.

#### **Support and Mentoring System**

The Institute has recruited and deployed a total of 20 members constituting of faculty, programme officers and Associates and support staff under the programme. TISS has adopted scientific methods of recruitment, appraisal & training of its faculty and program staff to ensure that key values and academic credibility of the institute is strengthened.

- Programme Director-1
- Faculty Members-9
- Field Coordinator-1
- Program Associate/officer-6
- Support staff-3

The team has also expanded substantially over the period and is currently functioning under Programme Director, Prof K Seeta Prabhu. They are placed in five locations to effectively address the field and academic responsibility - in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Raipur, Guwahati and Delhi. The organogram shows the distribution of team members in various locations along with respective reporting authority placed at the end of the report.

#### **Exposure Visit: November 2014**

An exposure visit was organized from November 3-11, 2014 in four different locations to give Fellows an exposure to good practices of rural development in different context.

- Gujarat (Kutch): 26 fellows ( Dr. Mrutyuanjaya Sahu)
- Gujarat (Navsari): 29 fellows (Mr. Bhimsi Ahir)
- Andhra Pradesh: 29 fellows ( Dr. Kaivalya Desai)
- Maharashtra: 31 fellows (Dr. Sejuti Das Gupta)

Each of the group was accompanied by one Program staff. By the end of the visit, each team submitted a report on the following themes of the visited organization: i) Leadership, ii) Social and resource mobilization, iii) Planning and decision making, iv) Capacity building and skill development, v) Transparency, and vi) Conflict Resolution.

#### **Contact programmes**

The phase began with organising orientation programme for Batch 2, Cohort 3 followed by three successful contact programmes.

- Batch II (cohort 3): September 1 to October 1 2014 (18 credits)
- Batch I: October 27 to November 5, 2014 (6 credits)

- Batch II: February 9-24, 2015 (8 credits)
- Batch I: April 7-27, 2015 (25 credits)

They were held in Hyderabad, Raipur and Mumbai respectively. Each of these lasted for three weeks approximately covering 28 courses and a total of 47 credits of Masters in Development Practice. Each of the courses taught during this period was coordinated by respective PMRDF faculty.

The academic programme is meant to be a mix of theory and practice. Hence practitioners, senior bureaucrats and academics were invited to address the fellows. In this regard, at least 24 External Resource Persons (person with more than two lectures are counted just once. eg. Meenaxi Shedde, Prof. Harapogal, etc.) were invited during the four phases and a total number of 78 hours of lecture were delivered by them. The faculty members from all five centres contributed during contact phase. From batch 1, 62 fellows are enrolled and for batch 2, the programme is compulsory. The details of the contact programme are attached as annexures, providing courses covered in Annexure 1 and resource persons in Annexure 2.

Research and analysis work conducted by Fellows as part of the Master's Program are under consideration for publication with leading publishing houses.

#### **Retreat: February 2015**

A retreat for programme staff was held in February 25-27, 2015 in Raipur to review the progress, understand the programme, identify bottlenecks and arrive at a common understanding of roles and responsibilities. It acted as a platform to induct new members and plan work for the next six months. Defining structure of reporting bolstered effective functioning.

#### **Documentation: April - June 2015**

A process of documentation is being undertaken to capture the work and experience of the fellows in the Harvard case study format. The significance lies in bringing in knowledge from remote corners of India and documenting best practices undertaken by fellows. A part of this already existed as part of field reports which was developed in the Harvard Case Study the faculty members are working with the fellows to generate. The fellows have shown exemplary work in social, infrastructural and technical fields which mandate documentation. The Ministry of Youth, Skill and Entrepreneurship, Government of India exhibited interest in the work of the Fellows and invited them to showcase their work on 9th May 2015 in Delhi.

#### **Field mentorship provided**

Fieldwork has been ongoing covering fellows across the 18 states in India including North-East and Jammu & Kashmir. Given the concentration of fellows in Central India, Raipur office has been anchoring the fieldwork for the states of Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Delhi office has taken to the task of liaising with the GoI officials. Guwahati team is looking after the seven states in North East. Through these frequent visits, a good relationship has been forged with the state officials who have come forward to help the fellows. TISS and SIRD of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have developed particularly congenial relations and a

MOU has been signed between TISS and SIRD, Ranchi.

Until June 2015, 77 districts and 191 fellows have been covered by the team members. It has allowed to contribute to fellows' varied requirement by connecting them to specialists in different sectors, resolving issues with reporting authority where required, familiarising state officials with the programme objectives and monitoring work of the fellows.

**Placement: April - June 2015**

A brochure has been prepared showcasing work profiles of all fellows. Interviews have been organised in Mumbai in April 22, 2015 to facilitate recruitment by an organisation, 'Samagara' where even non-MDP fellows were allowed to participate. A round of interviews is due to be organised in September 2015.

**Evaluation**

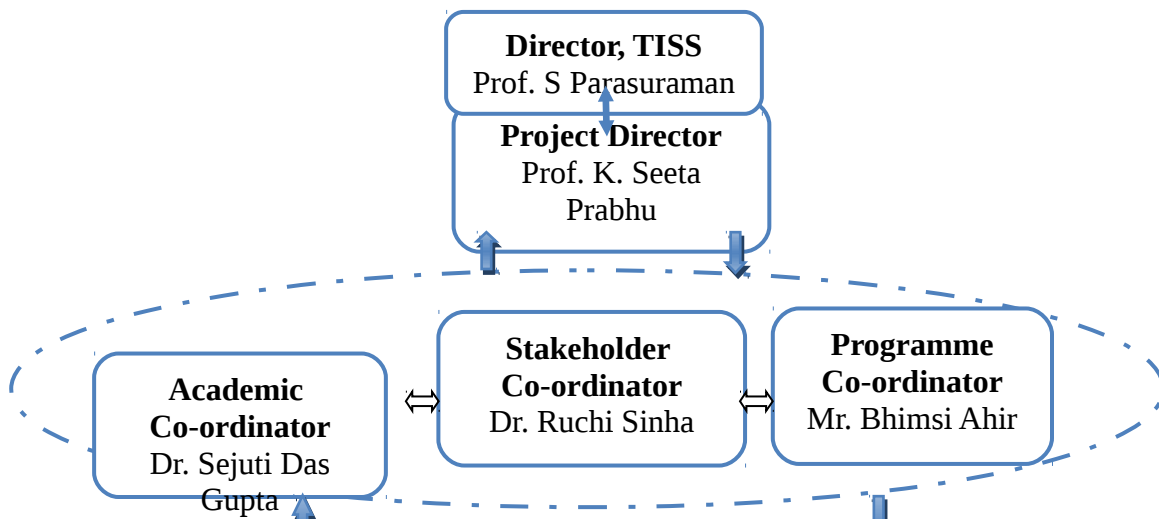
An evaluation team has been appointed by SIRD Chhattisgarh of two IIM (Ahmadabad) professors, Prof. P M Shingi, former Professor and Prof. Samar Dutta working closely with SIRD. The Objective is to evaluate the work of the fellows in six districts of the state. Meeting was held in TISS, Mumbai on June 12, 2015 where the TISS Director shared the vision of the programme and a follow up meeting has been held on July 24, 2015. The work is steadily progressing. Review of Fellows' work has also been initiated in other states, Bihar and Jharkhand where Programme Director was physically present for the purpose.

**Contingency: June and July 2015**

Committees have been formed to spearhead legal matters which emerged in course of the programme like sexual harassment and fellow's disciplinary issues. A Gender Amity Committee has been formed at TISS to operate for any such issue that arises in future.

All these efforts have come together in the latest success for the programme of an extension for the batch 1 fellows. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has decided to retain the fellows in their respective states for six months keeping in view their contribution in addressing socio-economic issues at grassroots and effective contribution to the implementation of government schemes. The process was supported by TISS team where bottlenecks arose, particularly in Assam and Orissa.

Two state governments have written to MoRD about their interest in a third batch of fellows – Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.



**Raipur**  
**Reporting Authority: Mr. Bhimsi Ahir**  
*Faculty:* Dr. Ashish Kumar Das, Dr. Sagar Wadkar, Dr. Anupam Sarkar  
*Programme Associate:* Asim Mishra  
*Account and Admin:* Manoj Tiwari  
State covered: Chhattisgarh (33); Jharkhand (47); Bihar (32); West Bengal (9)

**Hyderabad**  
**Reporting Authority: Prof. Lakshmi Lingam**  
*Faculty:* Dr. Ipsita Sapra, Dr. Jessy Philip, Dr. P. Devaraj  
*PO:* Subhradip Choudhury  
State covered: AP (23); Orissa (48)

**Mumbai**  
**Reporting Authority: Prof. Seeta Prabhu**  
*Faculty:* Dr. Sejuti Dasgupta and Dr. Mrutyuanjaya Sahu  
*PO:* Gautam Patil  
*Accounts and Admin:* Manoj Sharma , Reeja Rajan  
State in Charge: Maharashtra (1); MP (25)

**Delhi**  
**Reporting Authority: Dr. Ruchi Sinha**  
*Faculty:* Dr. Ruchi Sinha  
*SPO:* Pallavi Surpiya  
States in Charge: J&K(17); UP(8)

**Guwahati**  
**Reporting Authority: Prof. Virginus Xaxa**  
*Faculty:* Dr. Pebam Nganθοiba  
*PO:* Kautilya Basmati  
State in Charge: North East Region (29)

## A) Courses Covered during Batch 2 Cohort 3, 1/9/2014 to 1/10/2014 Contact Phase I

(B2C3-CPI), Mumbai

Course Code (Credits)	Title of the Course	Course Co-ordinators
MDP 1 (2 credits)	Understanding Society and Development in the Indian Context	Dr. Kaivalya Desai
MDP 2 (1 credit)	Key Concepts in Constitutions, Law and Public Administration, Economics and Social Policy	Dr. Mrutyuanjaya Sahu
MDP 3 (3 credits)	Understanding Poverty, Exclusion and Environmental Sustainability	Dr. Kaivalya Desai
MDP 4 (1 credit)	Introduction to India's Development Intervention	Dr. Mrutyuanjaya Sahu
MDP 5 (2 credits)	Rural Practicum	Dr. Mrutyuanjaya Sahu
MDP 6 (2 credits)	Introduction to Social Research Methods and Tools	Dr. Kaivalya Desai
MDP 7 (2 credits)	Practical skills for Development Practitioners	Dr. Sejuti Dasgupta
MDP 8 (2 credits)	Tools for Socio-Economic and Institutional Analysis	Dr. Sejuti Dasgupta
MDP 9 (3 credits)	Understanding Ground Reality – I (Field Immersion)	PMRDF faculty

**B) Courses covered during Batch 1: 27/10/2014 to 5/11/2015, Contact Phase II (B1CP11) Hyderabad**

MDP 15 (2 credits)	Concepts and Theories for Development Practitioners –II	Dr. Sunny Jose
MDP 17 (2 credits)	Advanced Research Methods	Dr. Srinivas
MDP 18 (2 credits)	Analytical Tools and Practical Skills for Development Practitioners	Dr. Ipsita Sapra

**C) Courses Covered during Batch 2: 9/2/2015 to 24/2/2015, Contact Phase II (B2-CP11) Raipur**

<b>Course code (Credits)</b>	<b>Title of the Course</b>	<b>Course Co-ordinators</b>
MDP 14 (1 credit)	Building Perspectives	Mr. Abhishek Kumar
MDP 15 (2 credits)	Concepts and Theories for Development Practitioners – II	Dr. Sejuti Das Gupta / Dr. Anupam Sarkar
MDP 16 (1 credit)	Development Practice – II	Dr. Sahu
MDP 17 (2 credits)	Advanced Research Methods	Dr. Ashish Kumar Das
MDP 18 (2 credits)	Analytical Tools and Practical Skills for Development Practitioners	Dr. Sagar Wadkar



**D) Courses Covered during Batch 1, 7/4/2015 to 27/4/2015, Contact Phase III (B1-CPIII) Mumbai**

<b>Course code (Credits)</b>	<b>Title of the Course</b>	<b>Course Co-ordinators</b>
MDP 1 (2 credits)	Understanding Society and Development in Indian Context - I	Dr. Ashish Das
MDP 2 (1 credit)	Key concepts in Social Sciences	Dr. Sahu
MDP 3 (3 credits)	Understanding Poverty, Exclusion and Environmental Sustainability	Dr. Sejuti Das Gupta
MDP 4 (1 credit)	Introduction to India's Development Interventions	Dr. Anupam Sarkar
MDP 6 (2 credits)	Introduction to Social Research Methods and Tools	Dr. Sargar Wadkar
MDP 14 (1 credit)	Building Perspectives	Mr. Abhishek Kumar
MDP 16 (1 credit)	Development Practice – II	Dr. Sagar Wadkar
MDP 19 (1 credit)	Research Designs and Instruments – 1	Dr. Pebam
MDP 20 (2 credits)	Development Practice III– 2 (16 hours) workshop	Dr. Sahu
MDP 21 & 22 (5+5 credits)	Understanding Ground Reality –III (Fieldwork – 2)	Ms. Meenakshi Shedde
MDP 26 (1 credit)	Data analysis and Interpretation – 1 (workshop)	Dr. Anupam Sarkar

## A) External Resource Person invited during Batch 2 Cohort 3, Contact Phase I (B2C3-CPI), Mumbai

Sl No.	Name of the Resource Persons	Date and Day	Time	Course and title of the Session taken
1.	Prof. Ram Punyani	8th September Monday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	MDP 1 "Issues of Religious Minorities"
2.	Dr. Milind Bokil (Former Bureaucrats)	12th September Friday	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 4 "Development Administration in Tribal Areas: Issues and Challenges"
3.	Dr. K. J Joy	16th September Tuesday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MDP 1 "Critical issues in Land and Water Management"
4.	Ms. Avani Kapur	17th September Wednesday	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 8 "Accountability" (PAISA)
5.	Dr. M N Roy (Retired IAS Officer, West Bengal)	20th September Saturday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	MDP 4 "Development Administration: Concept and Meaning"
6.	Prof. Haragopal (Retired Professor)	25th September Thursday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	MDP 3 "Issues and Challenges in Extremist Affected Areas"

7.	Mr. Biraj Patnaik (Former Advisor to Planning Commission)	26th September Friday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MDP 8 “Doing Policy Analysis Social Fabric Matrix Approach – Counterfactual Approach - CoIMPACT (Consultative Impact Monitoring of Policies)”
8.	Prof. Siby George	26th September Friday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	MDP 3 “Interdisciplinary perspectives on Science, Technology and Development”
9.	Ms. Ritambhara Mehta	29th September Monday	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 8 “ Tools for Socio-Economic and Political Analysis ”
10.	Ms Sowmya Kidambi	30th September Tuesday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	MDP 8 “Transparency and Accountability Framework - Social Audit”

**B) External Resource Person invited during Batch 2, Contact Phase II (B2-CPII), Raipur**

SI No	Name of the Resource Person / Designation	Date and Day	Time	Type of session / Course
1	Shri. D. S Mishra, Additional Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh	12th Feb, 2015 Thursday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Interaction
2	Prof. Hanumanth Yadav ( National Law University, Raipur)	12th Feb, 2015 Thursday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MDP 16: Regional Module (Raipur)
3	Dr. Shashidharan Enarth (BASIC	12th Feb, 2015 Thursday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	MDP 16: Regional Module (AP)

	Consultant)			
4	Dr. Yogesh Kumar Samarthan	12th Feb, 2015 Thursday	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 16: Regional Module (Bhopal)
5	Prof. Reetika Khera (IIT, Delhi)	13th Feb, 2015 Friday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	MDP 15: NREGA: Issues and Challenges
6	Dr. Alok Pandey, (Deputy Director, PRIA)	14th Feb, 2015 Saturday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 18: "Micro Level Planing and Development"
7	Prof. Haragopal ( Retired Professor)	21st Feb, 2015 Saturday	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	MDP 16: Regional Module
8	Shri. Diprav Lakra, (DC Simdega)	23rd Feb, 2015 Monday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Interaction
9	Mr. Shubhranshu Choudhary (CGNET)	23rd Feb, 2015 Monday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Interaction

**C) External Resource Person invited during Batch 1 – Contact Phase III (B1-CPIII) , Mumbai**

<b>SI No</b>	<b>Name of External Resource Person</b>	<b>Date and Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type of Session / Course taken</b>
1	Dr. Urmimala Sarkar (Associate Professor JNU)	14th April, 2015 Tuesday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 16: Sectoral Module (North East)
2	Dr. Shashidharan Enarth (BASIC Consultant)	16th April, 2015 Thursday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MDP 20: Livelihood and Skills
3	Ms. Aparajita Sarangi,	16th April, 2015	2:30 PM to 3:00 PM	Interaction

	(Joint Secretary, MoRD)	Thursday		
4	Dr. Shashidharan Enarth (BASIC Consultant)	16th April, 2015 Thursday	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Discussion
5	Prof. Reetika Khera (IIT, Delhi)	16th April, 2015 Thursday	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 20: "NREGA: Issues and Challenges"
6	Shri. K Vijay Kumar, (MHA)	20th April, 2015 Monday	10:15 AM to 1:30 PM	Presentation / Interaction
7	Prof. Narendra Pani (NIAH, Bangalore)	20th April, 2015 Monday	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM	Historical roots of corruption in Indian State
8	Ms. Meenakshi Shedde (Independent Consultant)	11th April, 2015 Saturday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 21: Documentation
		13th April, 2015 Monday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 21: Documentation
		17th April, 2015 Friday	11:00 AM to 4:00 PM	MDP 21 & 22: Documentation
		18th April, 2015 Saturday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 22: Documentation
		21st April, 2015 Tuesday	2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	MDP 22: Documentation
9	Prof. Gopal Guru (Professor JNU)	23rd April, 2015 Thursday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MDP 16: Caste and humiliation