RESTRUCTURING THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Report of
The Fourth Review Committee

March 2007

The Indian Council of Social Science Research
New Delhi

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The Fourth Review Committee
The Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

March 18 2007

Professor Andre Beteille
Chairman, ICSSR

Dear Professor Beteille,

We, members of the Fourth Review committee constituted by the Council, have completed our work and are happy to submit our Report on Restructuring of the Indian Council of Social Science Research.
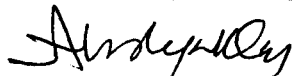
The Report is based on extensive discussions with you, Professor T.C.A. Anant and other colleagues at the ICSSR secretariat, consultations with a wide cross section of social scientists and our own deliberations on the functioning of the ICSSR within the context of the current state of social science research.

There is a general feeling that the Council has not made as large an impact in promoting serious social science research as was expected. But it is recognized that this is due to factors beyond its control and reflects the malaise afflicting social science research as a whole. The nature of this malaise and the importance and urgency of redressing it are underscored in the Report. We are convinced that radically redesigning the council in the form of the *Indian Academy of Social Sciences* is required to enable it to play an active role in promoting high quality social science research in India.

Our major suggestions contain the following key elements:
- a substantial increase in funding by earmarking 0.1% of the public sector plan expenditure every year as grants to the Academy to support research on contemporary social and developmental issues in the country;
- a major reorientation in programme priorities and funding strategies to ensure better balancing between different activities;
- devising stricter mechanisms and procedures to ensure accountability for superior professional quality of projects and their outputs;
- To ensure that the restructured organisation is autonomous, transparent and professionally managed the Council be converted into *'The Indian Academy of Social Sciences'* as a statutory body.
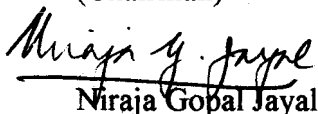
We hope that our report will play a part to revitalize social science research in India.

A.Vaidyanathan
(Chairman)

Mihir Rakshit

Niraja Gopal Jayal

N.Jayaram

Kuriakose Mamkoottam
(Member – Secretary)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Restructuring the Indian Council of Social Science Research

Report of the Committee to Review
The Indian Council of Social Science Research

Introduction

Pursuant to a decision taken at the 102nd meeting of the Indian Council of Social Science Research held on February 10, 2006, a Committee to review its functioning was constituted in May 2006. The Committee comprised the following members:

A. Vaidyanathan -   Chairman

Mihir Rakshit

Niraja Gopal Jayal

N. Jayaram

Kuriakose Mamkoottam -   Member Secretary

The Committee's Terms of Reference are

1. Review the performance of the council in promoting social science research in terms of the mandate described in its Memorandum of Association. In this connection to evaluate its policies and programmes for research institutes; regional centres; research projects; fellowships; support of publications and documentation services; and promoting international collaborations

2. Examine and suggest changes in the structure, organization and functioning of the Council that would enable it to be an effective agent for improving the quality of social science research in the changed and changing context.

3. Suggest measures to enable the council to play a more effective and meaningful role in promoting social science research in and through public institutions for better understanding of the processes of development and social change and for public policy.

4. Any other matter related to the conduct and care of social science research.

The Review Committee started its work formally on the 1st of June 2006. The Committee members met among themselves several times and also held meetings and discussions with other stakeholders of the Council. The dates and locations of meetings held are given below:

Dates	Venue	Discussions with
1/6 &2 /6 2006	New Delhi	Chairman, Member-Secretary and senior officials of the Council
8/7 & 9/7 2006	New Delhi	Staff of various divisions of the Council and internal meetings
12/8 &13/8 2006	New Delhi	Staff of various divisions of the council and internal meetings
15/9 2006	New Delhi	Professional Staff of the ICSSR
15/9 2006	New Delhi	Employees of the ICSSR
30/9 &1/10 2006	New Delhi	Selected group of social scientists from the northern region and internal meetings
28/10 & 29/10, 2006	Bangalore	Selected group of social scientists from the southern region and internal meetings
23/11& 24/11, 2006	Mumbai	Selected group of social scientists from the western region and internal meetings
4/12, 2006	Hyderabad	Directors of ICSSR institutes
12/12 & 13/12, 2006	Kolkata	Selected group of social scientists from the eastern region and internal meetings
31/1 &1/2, 2007	New Delhi	Discussion of draft report
6/3 & 7/3 2007	New Delhi	Finalisation of report

Ours is the fourth in a series of committees appointed to review the work of the Council. The first review was done in 1973[1]; the second in 1978[2] and the third in 1986[3]. These reports provide a comprehensive account of the evolution and functioning of the council and a critical assessment of achievements and shortcomings of its various activities and suggestions for improvement. We have benefited greatly from a study of these reports. We have also noted a widespread concern over recent trends in social science research generally, and about the effectiveness of the Council in particular, articulated in a number

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[1] *ICSSR, Social Science in India: A Report: Retrospective and Prospective, 1973. The review committee was chaired by Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah.*

[2] *ICSSR: Report of the Second Review committee, 1978. Prof V M Dandekar was the Chairman of the Committee.*

[3] *ICSSR: Report of the Third Review Committee July 1986. Committee was chaired by Prof P N Dhar*

of recent articles in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Seminar* and other publications.[4] We have kept in view such broader considerations while examining the potential future role of the Council and the measures necessary to enable it to perform that role effectively.

We held a series of meetings with the Chairman, Member-Secretary and heads of divisions of the Council to get briefed on its current activities, problem areas as well as ideas for improving performance. We also had discussions with representatives of both professional and administrative staff to get their views on the working of the Council and its personnel policies. In addition, we had the benefit of the data and information on various aspects of the Council's functioning furnished by its various divisions.

In order to obtain the views of the larger social science community on the state of social science research generally, and ideas on the Council's role in promoting quality research and measures for its revitalization, a series of consultations were organized with select groups of social scientists from academia and with Directors of ICSSR institutes. Consultations with social scientists were held in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata. Based on the knowledge of Committee members and informal consultations with some reputed senior scholars, roughly 20-25 social scientists noted for their experience and scholarly contributions and different disciplines were invited to each of these regional consultations. We had the opportunity to interact with institute directors at their annual meeting in Hyderabad. In all, some 125 scholars from a wide cross-section of senior and younger social scientists from different regions and disciplines attended these meets.[5] The discussions were not only focused and lively but generated a number of constructive ideas on the role of ICSSR and its revitalization. They revealed a remarkable degree of convergence on these matters which has greatly facilitated our task and added to our confidence in formulating our analyses and recommendations.

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[4] A list of articles on the subject in the *Select Bibliography*.
[5] A list of participants is appended.

Our report is divided into three broad sections. Section I provides an overview of recent trends in, and the current state of, social science research in the country. This is followed in Section II by a detailed discussion of the achievements and weaknesses in respect of various activities of the ICSSR and the constraints – both internal and external – which have affected its performance. Recommendations regarding the future role of ICSSR, its constitution and internal organization, funding and strategy and policies for research promotion are detailed in Section III. Major changes in all these respects are obviously necessary to enable the Council to perform a larger and more effective role in promoting high quality independent scholarly research that widens and deepens understanding of social and economic change, and at the same time ensures the accountability of researchers funded by it and the timely completion of projects and the quality of output. It may be emphasised that the recommendations need to be viewed as a package of closely inter-related and inter-dependent measures.

I

Social Science Research in India: Evolution and Current Status

The Terms of Reference required the Committee to review the performance of ICSSR in promoting social science research and suggest measures, including its internal structure, organization and functioning, to enable it to play a more effective role in this respect. In doing so, it is necessary to take a broader view of the state of social science research in the country and ICSSR's role in it.

Social science research is chiefly driven by two forces: (a) interest in knowledge about the functioning of society in its diverse social, cultural, political and economic aspects, and in understanding the factors that shape them; and (b) the practical needs of policy makers and managers in government, civil society and the private sector for reliable information and professional analysis.

In the pre-Independence period, the scale and scope of both these was quite limited: universities and other academic institutions, the main centres of scholarly research at that time, were relatively few. The requirements of information and analyses for government were also quite limited. The post-Independence period witnessed a vastly expanded role for government in engineering economic development and social change. It also saw the rapid growth of modern industrial and commercial enterprises. Political controversies and public interest in issues relating to public policy and their social implications generated a growing demand for reliable data, analyses and interpretation of the diverse aspects of economy and society.

All this led to a rapid increase in the demand for both information and research on developmental issues. The fifties and sixties saw an unprecedented effort at expanding and restructuring the statistical system, and in promoting research. Several new universities with departments for teaching and research in different social science disciplines were established. The Planning Commission initially played a leading role in (a) involving social scientists (mostly economists) from the university system in

preparing plans, monitoring their implementation and impact; and (b) encouraging and supporting research by scholars in universities through a large number of projects on diverse subjects.

Government departments began to show increasing interest in establishing or expanding specialized institutes (the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, and the Indian Institute of Public Administration being early examples) under their control. They also began sponsoring research projects in universities and funding units in existing universities and institutions to conduct research on specified subjects (e.g., agro-economic centres, farm management surveys, demographic research). There were relatively few non-governmental social science research institutions. Universities were the main centres of research, and their work during this period is notable for exploring a wide range of specific as well as wider development issues with a broad perspective, as also for generating vibrant debate on many key issues.

The number of university departments and research institutions in the field of social sciences has since grown manifold. Besides funding the creation and expansion of social science faculties in universities and colleges, the University Grants Commission initiated a programme to fund Centres of Advanced Studies in university departments with outstanding faculty, and Special Assistance Programmes to nurture and support promising university departments in different social sciences to expand and strengthen their research capabilities. The funding for fellowships for doctoral and post doctoral research was increased.

Social science teaching and research relevant to agricultural and rural development became an integral and important part of the agricultural universities. The Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Technology, and the Indian Institutes of Management also set up departments of humanities and social sciences, though mainly

for teaching. Some of these have also been active in initiating research projects in economics and other social science disciplines.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research was set up in 1969 with the specific objective of promoting socio-economic research by establishing institutes in different parts of the country, funded jointly by the Central and the state governments, to support individual research projects and provide research fellowships. The Council has so far set up and funded, jointly with state governments, 27 such institutes in different parts of the country.

Government departments and public sector organizations and, more recently, UN agencies, aid agencies of foreign governments, international financial agencies, and private foundations have also shown increasing interest in funding research on socio-economic development and policy issues. This has led to a mushrooming of non-governmental 'research' institutes and an increasing presence of private consulting firms and NGOs in surveys and 'research'. This trend has gathered momentum with the progressive liberalization and globalization of the economy.

The Current Situation

Information on the number of institutions engaged in social research, the topics of their work, sources of funding and output is very difficult to obtain. We have pieced together some, though far from comprehensive, data on these aspects for institutions directly under the Central government, and those that receive substantial and regular financial support from it. It has not been possible to get similar information for research institutes and grants given by state governments. But it is no secret that state governments are in general far less interested in supporting socio-economic research. Information on non-governmental organizations, private consultancy firms and individuals engaged in research is even less satisfactory. This is reflected in a lack of reliable information as to the number of such entities, the quantum and sources of funding, and the actual work done with such funding.

Broadly speaking, institutions conducting social science research can be classified into the following four categories: (a) social science departments in universities and post graduate colleges under the UGC; (b) autonomous research institutes specializing in social research; (c) research institutions set up by government departments; and (d) agricultural universities and institutes of technology, management and the like. Of these, the first two categories and several of those in the third are the most active players in the field. Table 1 provides an indicative picture of the number of institutions engaged in socio-economic research, classified by category of institution and the main area(s) of research.

Table 1: Categories and Scope of Social science Research Institutions in India

	Universities	ICSSR	Government	Others	Total
Broad Scope	72	27	2	38	139
Specialized					
Agriculture/Rural Development	17		37	9	63
SCs, STs, Minorities				14	14
Population				4	4
Education and Manpower			3	2	5
Health and related subjects				9	9
Women				15	15
Urban			2	3	5
Finance				6	6
Labour			1	3	4
History				7	7
Environment	1				2
Foreign Trade			1	1	2
International Relations			1	6	7
Management/Administration	62		13		75
Law	6				6
Engineering & technology	32				32
Others			6	16	22
Total	190	27	67	133	417

Note: A list of the institutions covered is appended.

The University system: There are currently 72 universities with over 500 social science departments. Their discipline-wise distribution is given in table below. These are expected to be centres that demonstrate high levels of scholarship, and creative

theoretical and empirical research that expands the frontiers of knowledge. In addition, a few deemed universities specialize in postgraduate teaching and research in one or more social sciences. Some research is done by faculty in colleges, especially those with post-graduate social science departments.

Table 2: Number of Social Science Departments in Universities

Discipline	1971	2001
Sociology	51	88
Political Science	59	106
Public Administration	19	30
Economics	72	119
Psychology	46	73
Geography	48	78
Anthropology	18	22
Total	313	516

Source: Anu Kapur (2004: 4190)

Data on the number of faculty in different social science disciplines in these institutions and of those actively engaged in research is not readily available. According to UGC, which compiles a list of professorial level faculty – though on a voluntary reporting basis – there are nearly 1200 professors in social sciences. It is not clear whether the coverage is limited to universities under the UGC. In any case, being voluntary, it is not complete. The total number of faculty in these areas is obviously several times larger.

Specialised universities: The large majority of the other universities are specialized institutions. They include agricultural universities (15), management institutes (62) and institutes of engineering and technology (32). They have departments of social sciences and humanities; but these are relatively small and have only a sprinkling of social scientists, mainly economists. Agricultural universities conduct extensive empirical studies on land and water use, economics of crops and livestock and rural development. Management schools and, to a much smaller extent, institutes of technology also do some

applied research on developmental issues. But in general, consultancy seems to be far more common than research.

Autonomous research institutions: These include 27 institutes set up and fostered by the ICSSR in partnership with the state governments. They vary in size and scope. Research is their main activity but several have teaching-cum-research programmes at the PhD. level. A very few offer M.A./M.Phil. courses. Their permanent faculty is currently close to 500. Including research and research support staff working on contract basis the number would be considerably larger. A distinctive feature of these institutions is that their faculty is drawn from different social science disciplines though with a distinct plurality of economists. Some of the institutes work in specialized areas such as women's studies, history, education, policy research; others cover a wider range of social and developmental issues.[6]

The number of 'autonomous' institutes is, by all accounts, much larger, but there is no comprehensive, authenticated information on these organizations. A recent (2005) compilation by NASSDOC (National Social Science Documentation Centre, a division of the ICSSR) lists the names of about 860 engaged in social science research and training. Questionnaires seeking information on their activities were sent to all of them but only 265 of them responded. A large number of them are not engaged in research.

Excluding the ICSSR institutes, universities and government institutions, we have identified close to 150 institutes engaged in socio-economic research. About a fourth of these are engaged in research that has a broad scope in terms of the range of issues covered. The large majority of institutions in this category, however, seem to specialize in research on particular, narrowly-defined areas. The diversity of specialized research focus in this category is especially marked with a concentration of those specializing in agriculture/rural development, women's studies, SC/ST/Minorities, and health. With a few exceptions, most of these institutions are sponsored and/or supported by the central government. State governments, by contrast, have shown little interest in promoting and

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[6] A detailed account of the ICSSR supported institutes is given in Annexure 1.

funding social research by independent academic institutions, with the exception of labour studies, rural development and public administration. Some of these are well established, relatively large institutions known for their research contributions. But even in respect of these, information on the size and composition of their faculty, sources of funding, areas of research and research output is not readily available. Information for most others is scanty.

Government Research Institutes: Ministries and departments of the Central and some state governments have set up institutes for specialized training and research in different sectors These include   research institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; institutes for rural and urban development; public administration; environment and forest management; education, population research; and foreign trade. Several of these have deemed university status.

The primary objective of ICAR institutes is scientific research to develop technologies for increasing agricultural productivity by better management of land and water, breeding varieties with higher yield potential, and improved agronomic practices. Most of them have social scientists (again mainly economists) on their staff to study economic viability and factors affecting the spread of techniques developed by them for specific crops and regions. Two of its institutions – Indian Agricultural Research and Statistical Institute and National Centre for Agricultural Policy Research – specialize in research on the methodology of data collection and policy relevant research for agriculture and allied activities. Till recently, the ICAR used the proceeds of a special agricultural cess to fund individual and institutional research projects, on a substantial scale, on the economic and social aspects of agriculture. But, after the abolition of the cess, this programme has now ceased to exist. A joint ICSSR-ICAR council was also established to promote collaboration between the two organisations in promoting social science research relevant for agriculture. But this initiative was not seriously pursued. Consequently, most socio-economic research funded by the ICAR is conducted by its own institutes and agricultural universities.

Most other government research institutes undertake sector-specific research. Their mandate is to collect and collate data, and undertake surveys and desk studies to help policy makers. Their output, which is now becoming increasingly accessible to the public, is a valuable source of information for the wider research community. Training is also an important function of several of these institutions. Some information on the staff composition, training, research activity and publications is available on their web sites. But these are mostly limited to central government institutes, and the posted information is highly variable in terms of coverage and detail. It is therefore difficult to get a clear picture of their sources of funding, distribution between research and other activities, and research output.

NGOs and Private institutions: It is impossible to know even the number of freelance consultants or of consultancy firms in this field. Their work is largely determined by their clients' needs for reviews of the current state of information and knowledge on particular topics, assessment of status and prospects for specific sectors and industries; and studies relevant for the formulation and appraisal of specific projects and policy decisions. Their agenda is thus substantially client-driven. The data they collect, and the reports they prepare, are meant exclusively for their sponsors (including public agencies) generally use their output selectively, and do not make it public. The material is often used in internal discussions on public policy but is not available for scrutiny by others. This is also the case with in-house research of private enterprises and their associations.

A large and growing number of NGOs and private sector organizations are engaged in socio-economic research. They fall into three categories: (1) Indigenous and foreign private consultancy firms in the field of socio-economic research. They are involved in the collection of primary data through large scale surveys, preparation of sector strategy papers, and tracts on contemporary topics of policy interest. For the most part these are dominated by economists. (2) Several large and established NGOs involved in developmental activity have active in-house research units to conduct surveys in their areas of operation; do 'process documentation' of their activities; and assess the impact of their programmes. (3) Finally, there is a large and increasing number of individuals

and 'fly by night' firms also doing research on a consultancy basis for central and state governments, for international organizations and for foreign aid agencies and foundations.

These researches share many of the characteristics of social science research in the country in being sponsor-driven, centred on putting together available information, and in some cases collecting fresh data, on the specific aspects of the economy and society that interest funding agencies. They tend to place a strong emphasis on policy relevance and impact evaluation of particular programmes rather than on independent professional analysis and interpretation of major trends from a broader socio-political and historical perspective. This tendency has been reinforced by the growing practice of awarding research contracts on the basis of competitive bidding. Indigenous academic and research organizations with professional competence and experience find themselves at some disadvantage compared to commercial consulting firms. In any event, the findings of a large proportion of these studies tend to be treated as confidential and are therefore not published. Even those which are published do not provide sufficient details of the methodology, data and analyses to permit critical assessment and open debate in either public or scholarly forums.

Sources of Funding for Social Research

Government (mostly the Central government) and public sector financial institutions have been, and remain, by far the most important source of support and funding of social science research. State governments, by contrast, have not shown much interest in research. Based on data on the detailed demand for grants for the central budget – which are available on the Ministry of Finance website – the Central government spends roughly Rs 600 crore a year (2004-5) for supporting social science research. Nearly half of it is spent on collection, processing and publishing basic socio-economic data that are widely used by researchers and policymakers in and outside of government. Nearly Rs 132.4 crore is given to specialized research institutions set up by different government departments. The figure of Rs 175 crore includes grants to the Indian Statistical Institute and to non-governmental research institutions to encourage and support research through

a combination of untied grants, grants to special units in non-governmental research institutes for studies in their areas of interest (Agro-Economic Research Centres, Population Research Centres and centres for research on decentralization being notable examples) as well as for specific research projects. The Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India are funding endowment units in several non- governmental research institutes which have some freedom to decide their areas of research.

Several cautions about these estimates are in order. Government research institutions do a sizeable amount of work on sponsored projects. The figures for non-government research (under 'others') also include substantial components of scientific and technical research, notable examples being Ministries of Water Resources and Environment and Forests. On the other hand, socio-economic research done in, or sponsored by, the ICAR and public financial institutions are not covered. Nor do the estimates fully cover surveys, evaluation studies and policy consultancies funded by the Central government. Considerable amounts are spent on these under various programmes including projects funded by foreign governments and international financial institutions like the World Bank. Even allowing for this, government funding of socio- economic research as distinct from data collection, is unlikely to exceed Rs 250 crore.

Table 3: Expenditure on research-related activities in the Budget of the Central Government 2004-05 (in Rs Crore)*

Ministry	Budget Head	Data Collection and Processing	Research		Total
			Government	Others	
Agriculture	Agricultural Census	7.7			7.7
	Cost of cultivation Surveys	15.4			15.4
	Others			16.3	16.3
DARE	Economics, Statistics and Management	14			14
Commerce	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade		1.7		1.7
Industry	Economic Adviser	3.1			3.1
Finance	National Institute of Financial Management		1.4		1.4
	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy			1.7	1.7
Home	Census & Statistics	126			126
Human Resource	National Council for Educational Research and Training		54		54

Resource development	Indian Council of Social Science Research			41.5	41.5
	Indian Council of Historical Research			7.8	7.8
	Indian Institute of Advanced Studies			6.7	6.7
	Indian Council for Philosophical Research			4.8	4.8
	National Institute for Educational Planning and Research, and Others		5.2		5.2
	National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development		10.2		10.2
Communications	Indian Institute of Mass Communications		5.5		5.5
Labour	National Labour Institute		4.6		4.6
Law	National Juridical Academy		0.8		0.8
Planning	Human Development Reports			2.6	2.6
	Institute of Applied Manpower Research & Other Research	9			9
Programme Implementation	Indian Statistical Institute			**47.5**	**47.5**
	National Sample Survey	86.9			86.9
	Economic Advice & Statistics	16.3			16.3
Urban Development	Others			14.6	14.6
Water	Research &Development		10.8		10.8
Environment & Forests	Forest Survey of India	10.7			10.7
	GB Pant Institute		7		7
	Management Capacity Building			16.7	16.7
	Environment Impact Assessment			2.8	2.8
Culture	Anthropological Survey of India		12.4		12.4
	Asiatic Society, Kolkata		5.2		5.2
	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library	7.3			7.3
	National Archives	9.9			9.9
Total of above		280.2	132.4	175.5	588.1

 * Taken from demand for grants data published on the MOF website. The figures in
 the last column relate in several cases to expenditure on research on technical as well
 as socio-economic research.

The corporate sector and industry associations are the other major sources of demand for
research. The magnitude of their spending for such research is by all accounts substantial,
but here again there are no available estimates of the magnitude. Their interest is mostly

in solving operational problems, conducting surveys to assess the market for their products, and studies on policy issues that affect their interests. Most of their demand is met by faculty of management schools, indigenous domestic private sector consultancy firms and, increasingly, by international consultancy firms. Non-governmental research organizations are involved only to a very limited extent.

Until recently, indigenous private trusts and foundations showed little interest in funding socio-economic research. The Tata Trusts, which set up the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, were perhaps the only exception. Of late, they have shown increasing interest in supporting such research through sizeable grants to strengthen infrastructure, corpus grants to selected social science research institutes, and for research projects on contemporary development issues. Several new foundations are now in the field: the Observer Research Foundation; the Premji Foundation; the Infosys Foundation, and the New India Foundation set up by the Nilekani family are prominent examples. They are however interested mainly in funding innovative action programmes in the NGO sector that have a potential for improving the life of under-privileged groups. However, they have shown limited interest in funding socio-economic research.

Foreign funding for socio-economic research comes from four types of sources: UN agencies, international lending institutions, foreign government agencies, and non-governmental foundations. Much of it is built into agreements between the Government of India and foreign governments and UN agencies, apart from various loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The nature of studies and the institutions that will be funded for these purposes are decided in consultation with the Government of India and is subject to its approval. Of late, some of these organizations have funded analytical studies on poverty, employment, education and health using existing national surveys and also commissioned fresh sample surveys.

Among foreign foundations, the Ford Foundation has given substantial funds for research, as also for infrastructure and libraries to a number of university departments and institutes. Very few such organizations fund medium-term research on broad themes of

their interest in selected institutes. It is notable that, during the last couple of years, Ford and IDRC have given around 3 million dollars a year – equivalent to about Rs15 crore – for social science research and training. Others support research on selected themes of their interest in universities, research institutes and NGOs. Most prefer to get `research' done through consultancy contracts and projects selected through a process of competitive bidding.

The quantum of funds available for sponsored projects and consultancies from governments, private sector and foreign agencies is thus substantial and has been increasing. Faced with the inadequacy of domestic funding, research institutions and universities are increasingly dependent on such projects. But the themes naturally reflect donors' interests and concerns which keep changing. Grants are awarded on the basis of competitive bidding in which academic institutions are at a distinct disadvantage vis-à-vis the burgeoning private consultancy firms. The cumulative effect is that even good institutions with a strong interest in research are finding it difficult to pursue research for an agenda that reflects their interests and competence. Much of the research is policy-centric with a palpable bias towards economics and quantitative analysis. Other social sciences do not benefit much from the availability of such funds. However, they have benefited by the growing interest of scholars from foreign universities in collaborative work with their Indian peers and the ability of the latter to mobilize funds for this purpose.

Research Output

A broad idea of the locus and nature of social science research can be obtained from the distribution, by discipline and institutional affiliation, of published papers, monographs and books. NASSDOC, which is a division of ICSSR, compiles a comprehensive list of social science articles and monographs published in the country. The number of listed publications is too large to permit such analysis within the time and resources available to us. Moreover, the listing covers journals and publishing houses of too widely varying a quality to permit a meaningful assessment of the outputs of the research system. We have therefore limited our focus to (a) books and monographs on social science themes by

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selected well-known publishers; and (b) articles in social sciences in selected journals. We have considered only the institutional affiliation and disciplines of the authors of publications listed in the latest catalogues of five publishing houses, most of whom get manuscripts refereed before publication; and of articles published in 7 refereed journals and in the *Economic and Political Weekly* during the last two years.

Table 4 gives the distribution of 998 authors of books and monographs by institutional affiliation and by discipline. The following features are noteworthy:

- About 31 percent of the authors are economists and roughly an equal proportion are sociologists; a little over 23 percent are political scientists; about a tenth are historians and 5 percent are geographers.
- Economists constitute a relatively higher proportion of authors from research institutes and international organizations than in other institutions. The latter have a relatively more balanced distribution of authors across disciplines.
- About a third of the authors are NRI and foreign scholars and about 28 percent are from Indian universities. A little over a fifth of the authors are from Indian research institutes, the majority of them from institutes outside the ICSSR family. Somewhat surprisingly, retired officials, journalists, personnel from the NGO sector and those without any institutional affiliation are relatively numerous.
- More than 80 percent of all the authors covered are from research institutes, universities and NRI/foreigners. But the pattern differs across disciplines. The distribution of economist authors is more or less equal between these three categories of institutions. But in the case of other disciplines, the majority of authors are from universities and NRI/foreigners. Independent scholars are prominent in history and geography.

Table 5 gives the distribution of authors of articles in selected journals by institutional affiliation. The pattern in this respect is broadly similar to that indicated by Table 1. Of the 542 authors covered by the review, nearly 40% were from research institutes (including ICSSR institutes); about a third were from universities and a fourth from

NRI/foreign scholars. Most had only one article in the selected journals in the 2 years covered by the survey period. More than 60% of the 393 articles reviewed had single authors; nearly one fourth were authored by two scholars and a little under 10% by more than 2 authors.

Table 4: Disciplines and Institutional Affiliations of Authors of Books Published by Selected Publishers

Discipline	ICSSR Institutes	Indian Universities	Other Research Institutes	NRIs and Foreigners	Independent scholars	International Agencies	All
Economics	29	77	53	94	38	17	308
Sociology	19	96	41	101	43	4	304
Political Science	14	59	35	82	44		234
History	6	26	16	39	17	1	105
Geography	1	24	4	10	8		47
All	69	282	149	326	150	22	998

Note: The publishers covered are: SAGE, OUP, Manohar, Permanent Black, Social Science Press, Orient Longman, Rawat and Concept

Table 5: Institutional Affiliations of Authors of Articles Published in Selected Social Science Journals in India, 2004-05

Institution	Number of Authors
ICSSR Supported Research Institutes	58
Other Autonomous Research Institutes	156
Foreign Scholar/NRIs/Foreign Universities	131
International Organisations	7
Universities/Colleges	179
Government Departments	9
Independent Researchers	2
Total	542

Note: Based on articles published in the following journals: *Contributions to Indian Sociology; Demography India; Indian Economic and Social History Review; Indian Journal of Agricultural economics; Indian Journal of Labour Economics; Journal of Quantitative Economics; and Sociological Bulletin.*

The pattern of authorship of EPW articles is rather different. The contribution of Indian research institutions (including ICSSR-aided institutes) and those of foreign contributors is roughly the same as in journal articles; the share of Indian universities and colleges is

substantially higher and that of contributors from NGOs and individuals is much lower at 2% compared to around 11% in the selected journals. (Table 6)

Table 6: Institutional Affiliation of Authors of *EPW* Articles, 2006

Institutions	Number of Papers	Percentage
Universities	45	22
ICSSR-aided Institutes	20	10
Colleges	5	2
Other Institutions	59	29
NGOs/Individuals	22	11
Foreign Universities	40	20
Other Foreign Scholars	12	6
Total	203	100

Factors Impeding Social Science Research

The information we have marshalled from a variety of sources, including extensive interactions with social scientists in different parts of the country and numerous recent articles commenting on the state of social science research, highlight several features that give cause for serious concern.

1. While the scale and range of social science research in the country have been expanding, the nature, scope and quality of research output, as well as its contribution to a better understanding of socio-economic processes and shaping of public policy is widely perceived to have fallen short of expectations and also not commensurate with the resources spent on them.

2. Much of this research consists of studies on specific issues of interest to various sponsors. Descriptive accounts and polemical discussion are far more common than incisive and original analytical studies. Information on these studies is patchy. The topics they cover are diverse and changing. Often, studies even on the same topic vary so much in scope, conceptual framework and methodology that their findings are of limited use for generalizations and getting at the broad picture. Their usefulness is further limited because a large proportion of studies are either not published at all or are published without any, not to mention rigorous, peer review.

3. There is a conspicuous reluctance to support open, independent research in social sciences which does not produce valuable material products and processes like scientific and technological research. Compared to the amounts spent on scientific and technological research – most of which is publicly funded – the allocations for social research is miniscule. Much, if not most, is for studies relevant to operational and policy issues.

4. Governments and public agencies have shown a marked reluctance to fund independent analysis and interpretation of socio-economic and political trends from a larger perspective. One explanation for this reluctance may be that the focus of such research and its findings tend to be politically sensitive for organs of the state and/or may not be palatable for one or other powerful sectional interests which are in a position to fund such studies.

5. Lack of funding is not always the only limiting factor. Lukewarm interest in serious and sustained scholarly research – reflected in the poor quality of research proposals, the relatively small number of projects which are approved for grants, the relatively small amounts of total research grants disbursed by the UGC, non-completion and delayed completion, and indifferent quality of output – is a major contributory factor. .

6. The fund constraint is more serious in the case of non-governmental social science research institutions. Most do not have access to public funding and depend entirely on sponsored projects/ consultancies. Even for institutions that do get block grants from public agencies, the amounts are meagre and have not grown fast enough even to maintain their levels of activity. They have been forced to rely more and more on sponsored projects on topics reflecting the (shifting) interests of funding agencies. Under these conditions, researchers who want to pursue sustained research with a broader perspective and around a long term agenda find it difficult to do so.

7. Even those who are interested are often reluctant to seek public funding because of inordinate delays in the processing of grant applications both within the universities and by funding agencies; and the rigid and unrealistic conditions imposed by funding agencies regarding remuneration of research personnel and

admissible rates for travel and field work. These are further aggravated in the case of universities by the fact that hiring of personnel has to follow rigid guidelines and control over sanction of expenditures, and the release of funds vests with the university bureaucracy. Increasingly, university faculty, especially in disciplines other than economics, are taking advantage of opportunities for getting funds from elsewhere, and for collaborative research with foreign scholars/institutions.

8. An even more serious problem is the severe, and increasing, shortage of qualified researchers. Even universities and research institutes that have a good reputation for quality are faced with a decline in both the number and quality of PhD. students. More and more of the talented and aspiring students coming out of our universities take advantage of the rapid growth of both challenging and rewarding opportunities abroad.

9. There is a steep reduction in the number of qualified candidates aspiring for research careers within the country partly because of the greater ease of access to foreign universities and the prospects of far more lucrative and professionally satisfying opportunities abroad, and partly because of the increasing availability of more lucrative domestic opportunities in non-research jobs (especially in the IT/ IT related and financial sectors) and in NGOs/private consultancies. The introduction of competitive bidding for research projects tends to lure better known and better qualified researchers to obtain lucrative individual consultancies. Universities and research institutes not only find it difficult to get and retain qualified people, but are ill-equipped to compete with private consultancy firms. All this places public research institutions at a multiple disadvantage in mobilizing funds, in pursuing long-term research programmes of their choice and attracting and retaining staff of high quality.

10. These systemic constraints are compounded by, and in turn compound, problems of maintaining internal cohesion of faculty and a vibrant academic culture, observing rules and conventions regarding individual projects, team research, conducting regular seminars on proposed and on going research, regular, transparent and independent peer evaluation of work done and ensuring that

appointments and promotions are based on assessment of professional competence through open competition.

These features of the overall social science research scene are also manifest in the activities and performance of the ICSSR. In addressing our mandate, which is to suggest ways of enabling it to play a more effective role in promoting high quality social science research, we are conscious that the ICSSR has been a relatively small player in the field both in terms of the resources at its command and also published research output. We are also conscious that the Council is subject to the serious and multiple systemic constraints that afflict the larger social research scenario.

Based on interactions with leading social scientists and the extensive literature on the current state of social science research, the Committee is of the firm view that ICSSR can and should be enabled to play a key role in promoting and supporting research that will contribute to studying different aspects of society with a broader, multi-disciplinary perspective that will help widen and deepen knowledge and understanding of emerging socio economic trends, processes and forces that drive them. This calls for far-reaching changes in its approach, priorities, organization and management, backed by vastly increased in funding. The remainder of the report spells out concrete suggestions for much-needed changes in these dimensions.

II

ICSSR: Role and Functioning

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in 1969. Its mandate, spelt out in its Memorandum of Association, was to sponsor and give financial support, by way of grants and fellowships to social science research projects in selected areas and topics by individuals, institutions and university teachers; encourage international collaboration in research; organize and support training in research methodology and assist in the formulation of research projects and programmes; develop and support centres for documentation, maintenance and supply of data, inventory of current social science research and preparation of a national register of social sciences; and provide financial assistance to disseminate the findings of research through conferences, seminars, workshops, and publication of digests, periodicals and journals devoted to such research.

Achievements

During the 35 years of its existence the Council has played a significant role in all these activities and achieved much.

- Perhaps the most significant of these is the establishment and nurturing of social science research institutes in different parts of the country. These institutes, sponsored and funded by the Council, have made a significant contribution in promoting social science research, bringing together multi-disciplinary faculties under the same roof, and stimulating research focusing on development issues at the regional level. Another notable feature is the fact that the institutes outside Delhi were set up and jointly funded by the central government (through the Council) and state governments. The scale of activity – reflected in the number of institutes, their faculty and research – has increased. The number of institutes increased from 9 in the mid-seventies to 20 by the mid-eighties. Since then, their number has risen further and now stands at 27 with a faculty of over 400 professionals. Many have built

excellent infrastructure including buildings, sizeable libraries and modern computing facilities. (See Annexure 1)

- Since its inception, the Council has funded over 3000 projects and given Rs 164 crore as grants. The number of projects sanctioned averages around 100 per year. This has remained more or less at this level *till recently; but* declined sharply in the last quinquennium. A striking feature is the diversification of grants by disciplines, thus belying the impression of the dominance of economics. Also noteworthy is the fact that the majority of projects have gone to researchers in universities and colleges. About forty per cent has gone to ICSSR and other research institutes. Of late however, there has been a marked shift in favour of NGOs and a marked reduction in projects funded in institutes. (See Annexure 2)

- The third form of direct financial support for research is through a variety of research fellowships. The total financial outlay under this programme since 1970 is estimated at Rs130 crore. Over 1000 full term doctoral fellowships have been awarded; in addition, a large number of short term fellowships and study grants have been given to support doctoral research work. The number of scholars benefited during the period 1981-4 is placed at around 1060. The Council has a modest programme to fund general fellowships for post-doctoral work and young post-graduate researchers in universities and institutes, and 148 such fellowships have been awarded. A much larger number of fellowships (293) have been given to senior scholars to enable them to do whole-time research within their own institutes or in other institutions. 57 National Fellowships (for 2-3 years each) have been awarded to outstanding social scientists in recognition of their scholarly contributions to do research in their chosen area leading to a publication. (See Annexure 3)

- The Council also has a rather modest programme of international collaborations, mostly by way of exchange of scholars under various official bilateral agreements with foreign governments. The Indo–Dutch programme is the only jointly implemented collaborative research programme between

Indian and Dutch scholars on a wide range of mutually agreed themes. (See Annexure 4*)*

- The Council has also set up 6 regional centres in collaboration with state governments in an attempt to increase the outreach of the Council, provide fora at which social scientists in different regions can interact more closely with each other, come together for research promotion and bring their ideas to the Council. Unlike others, the North- Eastern Regional Centre has been set up with a wider agenda including the formulation and implementation of research projects relevant to the region.

- Besides direct funding of research, the Council offers a wide range of facilities –including training courses in research methodology (73 of them between 1971 and 1984), NASSDOC (with a sizeable collection of basic reference works, 4000 copies of doctoral theses and 4500 research reports supported by the Council and other agencies); data archives (reported to have acquired 172 data sets, a directory of social scientists in India, and offering training and guidance to research scholars); preparation of surveys of the current state of research in different social science disciplines; funding of seminars and conferences; and financial assistance for publications of research output. The total outlay for these programmes since inception is placed at a mere Rs14.7 crore. (See Table 7). In addition, substantial investments have been made in building computer facilities and further programmes for upgradation and modernization are underway.

Table 7: <u>ICSSR Outlays on Support Services since Inception</u>
(in Rs Crore)

Training	1.84
Documentation	8.28
Data archives	1.42
Publication subsidy	3.15
Total	14.69

Constraints

Without in any way detracting from these considerable achievements, it is important to recognize that overall the impact of the Council on the scale and quality of social science

has fallen below expectations. The programmes have been changing in scale and focus, and have been marked by varying strengths, weaknesses and degrees of success. A detailed discussion of these aspects of different spheres of the Council's activities can be found in the Annexures to this Report. Here, we present the main highlights as a necessary prelude to assess the future role of the ICSSR in promoting social science research and suggest a concrete programme of action. Broadly speaking, the Council's functioning has been constrained by both external limitations and internal weaknesses.

A major external constraint relates to the quantum of funds made available to it and the conditions attached to the utilization of grants. The Council is funded entirely by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In 2004-5 it received Rs 41 crore as grants against a request for Rs62.1 Crore. Excluding expenditure on the Council's own secretariat, infrastructure, support services and international collaborations, it is left with barely Rs 25 crore for funding research institutes, research projects and fellowships. The Councils' grants to institutes (with faculty strength of 500 researchers) along with grants from other government and public sector agencies meet barely half their annual expenditure. The scale of funding for research projects and fellowships falls far short of needs and demands.

The quantum of grants from the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Council has no doubt increased over time. In nominal terms, it rose from about Rs 8 crore during the Fifth Plan to more than Rs 200 crore in the Tenth Plan. But over the same period, the general price level (measured by the wholesale price index) has nearly quadrupled. More important, salaries of public sector employees, to which the emoluments of the staff of the Council as well as those of the institutes funded by it are tied, have risen by 12-13 times. Therefore in real terms the increase in the funds available to the Council has been far less than the nominal allocations suggest. Part of it has been used to expand the number of institutes leaving far too little to expand the scale and scope of research it supports. The average number of doctoral fellowships and projects funded has suffered a decline.

The Council's limited manoeuvrability in deciding priorities is evident from the following table which shows the pattern of allocation of its resources over time.

Table 8: <u>Distribution of ICSSR Outlays on Different Activities in Successive Plan Periods</u>

Activity	VII Plan		VIII Plan		IX Plan		X Plan	
Research	66.7	(100)	67	(100)	68.3	(100)	65.5	(100)
Institutes		(73)		(79)		(78)		(81)
Projects		(9.1)		(6.1)		(3.5)		(5.3)
Fellowships		(13.2)		(10.0)		(7.0)		(8.9)
Other		(4.7)		(4.9)		(11.5)		(4.9)
Regional Centres	4.8		5.4		4.5		7.1	
Support Services	3.5		1.8		3.4		4.1	
Administration	25.1		25.9		24.2		23.4	
Total	100		100		100		100	

Note: The figures exclude own capital expenditure which is relatively small and volatile. Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Pay scales, allowances and benefits for the staff of the council, institutes and personnel recruited to research projects as well as changes therein are subject to prior approval by the Council, and other government grant-giving departments. In all these respects, the reasonable expectation that changes in the council and institutes will be on par with those in other comparable cadres of government has not been fulfilled. In many cases, this parity has been delayed and even denied. All this has not only greatly reduced the scope for adopting and consistently pursuing a personnel policy suited to the special nature of the institution and its activities, but has also created considerable problems of morale among the staff of the Council's secretariat. Compounding this is lack of clarity on the role of the Council and the kinds of training and experience appropriate for that role. Recruitments and promotions have been made in an ad hoc manner. The internal organization and working follows the pattern typical of government departments. Inter-departmental communication and interaction is weak. All this has contributed to a certain negative image of the Council as a slow-moving, closed and bureaucratic organization.

The credibility of the institution in the academic community requires that the occupants of the key positions of Chairperson and Member-Secretary are scholars of eminence and

that Council members are widely recognized as having made significant contributions in different social sciences. However, the Memorandum of Association of the Council makes the appointments subject to approval by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Lack of transparency in the process and several instances where the basic principles have been ignored or violated in making these selections have further eroded the capacity of the Council to function effectively in promoting its basic objectives. This issue and possible remedies are discussed later in the Report.

Partly due to the inadequacy of funds to meet growing and competing demands, the Council has not been able to frame and implement a coherent long-term programme to fulfil its mandate. Actual allocations have invariably fallen short of requests. Which activities are to bear the burden of cuts and to what extent have to be negotiated and approved by the parent ministry rather than by the Council after a careful deliberation of priorities. This has led to a situation in which the share of total expenditure which goes as grants to Research Institutes and for the Council's administration have remained more or less static but at the expense of allocations for other activities (projects, fellowships and support services) which are very important for promotion of high quality research. (See Table 8).

Without well-defined objectives for the different activities and their priorities, it is difficult to have clarity on the basis for deciding grants to institutes, the kinds of research projects/programmes that the Council will fund, and the scale, composition and terms of the research fellowships programme. This in turn has adversely affected the monitoring of the progress of the substantive aspects of different programmes and their components to ensure timely completion, rigorous professional assessment of the quality of output, and its dissemination. The Council's mechanisms and procedures for monitoring and assessment are weak. The working of the various functional units, their achievements and weaknesses are reviewed at some length in the Annexures. This section focuses mainly on their weaknesses and the underlying factors.

Research Institutes

The Council and state governments provide institutes with block grants to cover the recurring expenditure for an approved size and composition of staff and support services, as well as grants for specific items of capital expenditure on building, library, computers and other infrastructure. These were meant to provide them an assured flow of resources to pursue serious research of their choice. The expectation that these Institutes would evolve into vibrant centres of intellectual activity doing independent, high quality research on contemporary socio economic issues, has however not been realised. While the policy of leaving the Institutes free to decide and implement their research programme is commendable, mechanisms to ensure accountability for performance have been weak.

Apart from getting audited accounts and reports of completed and on-going research, the overall functioning of the Institutes is also reviewed periodically by peer review committees set up by the Council. These reviews have not been done regularly. Moreover, their reports tend to be rather general and do not go much beyond emphasising the importance of working to an institutional agenda, promoting collaborative research, inter-disciplinary studies and peer review of research output. ICSSR had at one stage envisaged close collaboration and interaction with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research to promote multi-disciplinary research in a broader perspective. But this was not seriously pursued and petered out fairly early. Efforts to promote interaction among institutes, and between institutes and the university system at the regional level, have also not been conspicuously successful. No attempt has been made to link the renewal of grants or the quantum of increase to performance in terms of clearly defined criteria.

These weaknesses have been compounded as dependence on grants for special units and sponsored projects has grown. Block grants used to account for the bulk of the institutes' resources in their early phases. By the mid-nineties, they came to account for less than half their receipts (see Table 9). The remainder came from recurring grants/endowments

earmarked for special units sponsored by government departments and agencies, from sponsored projects, and in a few cases from their own corpuses.

Block grants from the Council and the state governments have more than trebled in absolute terms and their share in the Institutes' total receipts has gone up from 43% in 1995-6 to nearly 48% in 2004-5. The share of sponsored units in receipts has hardly changed. Significantly, and contrary to general belief, the share of sponsored projects has in fact come down during this period. Though in absolute terms the Institutes' annual flow of resources has nearly trebled, much of this has been neutralized by rising costs, leaving little room for expansion. Their freedom to choose and pursue a research agenda of their choice remained restricted. The number of qualified professional staff is limited and it is increasingly difficult to maintain their quality. They are also facing difficulties in getting and retaining qualified researchers and research students in the context of the rapid growth of more attractive and lucrative employment opportunities abroad, as also in non- research activities within the country. Several institutes have multi-disciplinary faculties, but the small size of faculty has tended to engender a strong reluctance to reach across conventional disciplinary boundaries. As such, attempts to exchange views on selected social issues from different disciplinary perspectives have proved formidable barriers to creative interaction and collaboration.

These external constraints are compounded by internal weaknesses in the functioning of the Institutes. There is a propensity for individual researchers to assert their right to decide and pursue their work without having to take institutional responsibilities and contribute to collective institutional effort. These difficulties are compounded in the absence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the faculty, quantum and quality of research output and procedures for evaluating them, and incentives that link career advancement to performance. In fact, the trend has been for increased pressures for diluting accountability and performance as a criterion for selection/promotions; for automatic promotions unrelated to performance; and resistance to inducting qualified 'outsiders'. Structural weaknesses in the constitution and functioning of governance and

management add to the difficulties of creating and maintaining a vibrant and stimulating academic environment.

Table 9: <u>Sources of Funds for ICSSR Institutes 1995-96 and 2004-05</u>

		1995-96		2004-05	
		Rs Million	%	Rs Million	%
ICSSR		347.5	19.2	1426.1	28.3
State		423.8	23.4	977.9	19.4
Govt Units		141.5	7.8	387.7	7.7
Corpus					
	Own	63.4	3.5	174.7	3.5
	Other	66.3	3.7	198.6	3.9
Ford		0	0	10.1	0.2
Projects		699.5	38.6	1287.8	25.5
Other		68.5	3.8	581	11.5
Total		1810.5	100	5043.9	100

Note: These figures relate to 21 institutes and cover receipts for current and non-recurring expenditure. Total receipts may not equal total expenditure in the same year because of carryovers.

All these factors have cumulatively affected the performance of the institutes. There are of course significant variations in all these respects between Institutes. Nevertheless, our overall assessment, which was strongly echoed in our wider consultations, points to certain common features of their programmes and performance. Research programmes continue to be ad hoc and fragmented. Research is mostly individual- centric on limited and shifting topics. Sustained work on the same theme is limited. Multi-disciplinary research is even more so. No serious effort has been made to develop and pursue long term institutional, or even individual, agendas. With some exceptions, few have attempted to pull together and synthesize findings of studies on particular themes that they may have conducted over a period. There is also reason to be less than satisfied with the quantum and quality of professional publications relative to their professional staff strength.

Research Projects

While the number of applications is large and covers a wide range of disciplines and issues, most do not pass even a preliminary cursory scrutiny. The quality of even those which pass this stage are marked, in varying degrees, by lack clarity of objectives, methodology and analytical framework. The effectiveness of project grants is severely limited by the fact that (a) the scale of funding is small both in absolute terms and relative to the allocation for research institutions; (b) the topics of investigation and their focus and scope is left entirely to be proposed and decided by researchers; (c) the suggestion that the Council should promote thematic research has not been pursued. (d) Opening research grants to NGOs has further diluted the academic content of research funded by the council.

There is considerable room for improvement in the internal screening process, choice of reviewers, the promptness of their response and the quality of comments. The topics, objectives and scope of approved projects are highly variable as is the quality of the completed projects. A large proportion are in the nature of micro-level surveys of narrowly specified subjects, and impact evaluations whose scholarly contribution in terms of methodology, fresh facts, analysis and insights, or even contribution to policy is limited. Reported completion rates of recently funded projects are quite high. Draft reports are supposed to be reviewed by independent scholars. But this is not always done and reviews also suffer from inordinate delays and indifferent quality. Copies of final reports are reported to be kept in the Council's library for reference by interested scholars. Only a small proportion of the studies are published in refereed academic journals, books and monographs.

Research Fellowships

In terms of numbers, the number of doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships is reported to have been substantially increased during the last five years; the number of senior fellowships has remained more or less constant. The process of selection – applications through open advertisement, internal screening, followed by external refereeing – is clear. As in the case of research projects, the fellowship programme also faces difficulties in

locating good referees and getting them to review applications; the process takes several months and referee reports are not always detailed and thorough. While routine progress reports are received, non-completion and delays in completion, getting serious peer reviews of final output and publication of results remain significant problems.

Relative to needs, the number of doctoral fellowships given by the Council is quite small. There is no fixed ceiling on the number of open and short term fellowships. But the utilization of fellowships by institutes has for long been less than the number allotted to them, being less than half in recent years. Not all institutes have a strong enough programme to avail of their full quota of fellowships. Several face difficulties in getting university recognition as centres of doctoral research and considerable delays in getting the theses evaluated. The fact that the Council's PhD. fellowships carry considerably smaller stipends and contingency grants, and until recently were also for a shorter duration compared to UGC fellowships, could be a contributory factor. But it is also a reflection of the sharp decline in the quality of postgraduate students and the dearth of applicants for the PhD. programme in the social sciences and humanities even in the best universities throughout the country. How to overcome these problems and expand the scale while improving the quality of the doctoral fellowship programme is among the more difficult challenges that the Council will have to face in the coming years.

Table 10: <u>Trends in the Number of Fellowships of Different Categories Awarded by ICSSR</u>

Category	1969-74	1979-84	1989-94	1999-04
National	5	9	18	15
Senior	30	57	63	50
Post doctoral	7	34	49	59
PhD. full time	185	168	155	262
PhD. part time	-	271	313	402

International collaboration

This programme covers administration of several bilateral cultural exchange programmes (CEP), as well as the Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD). The activities under CEP are determined by agreements between the Government of India and several foreign countries. ICSSR has little influence in shaping their range and scale.

There is little activity under agreements with several countries. Actual achievements in others are patchy. Activities under collaboration agreements which the Council has entered into with social science academies of France, Russia and China are also limited. IDPAD is the only programme with a truly successful academic record in promoting sustained collaborative research between Indian and Dutch scholars over more than a decade and a half. IDPAD has been discontinued because of shifts in the policies of both the Dutch government (which is no longer supportive of such research) and the Indian government (which does not permit the Council to get funds from some European countries for such programmes).

Regional Centres

Regional centres were intended to decentralize the Council's activities so that social scientists in universities and colleges in states could more easily access information about the activities and programmes of the Council. They were also meant to provide a forum, with supporting infrastructure, for promoting greater interaction among researchers at the regional level both in respect of their research and to identify promising areas for region-specific research; encourage greater collaboration among them in both research and training programmes; and devolve responsibility for receiving and screening research proposals. Substantial investments have gone into building office and guest house spaces and libraries at the Centres. The regional centres are usually located on the campus of local universities and their Directors and staff are also from the host university.

Opinion on the functioning of these centres is sharply divided between support and scepticism. Supporters feel that they are performing a useful role in making ICSSR more accessible to social scientists in far-flung regions, and argue for expanding their role. Critics point to the failure of the Centres to adequately perform their expected functions consistently and effectively; the fact that their personnel and functioning are mostly controlled by the University where they are located; and the lack of strong, representative advisory boards. They further argue that the functions can be performed better, cheaper and more effectively by the creation of electronic networks through research institutes at the state level.

Support Services

Data Archives: Of the various support services, the data archive was at one time viewed as an important way of helping researchers to locate and access empirical data. Besides facilitating ready access to official data, it was expected to be the repository of all primary data collected under research funded by the Council. This expectation has not been met. There is no information on the data sets which have been obtained and where and how they are stored. There was also a proposal to build and maintain a computerized bank of basic socio-economic data collected by various agencies so that researchers can be saved the time and effort of searching for data and getting them in a readily usable form. But this has been abandoned. The Archives unit is now practically defunct. Budget allocations have been cut drastically and staff redeployed to other activities.

Training programmes: Besides the doctoral fellowships programme, the Council itself organizes short-term training workshops and seminars to familiarise researchers and librarians on new techniques of information technology, and in computer applications in data analysis. It also encourages and supports special training programmes organised by research institutes on different aspects of research methodology. These programmes are widely welcomed by the social science community. But they are far too few, sporadic and limited to a few institutes. Participation is limited. Their focus and content tends to be rather general and does not address the differentiated needs of researchers from different disciplines and with varying orientations (theoretical issues, empirical surveys, primary surveys etc) to make a significant impact.

Documentation: Besides commissioning surveys of the current state of research to identify current trends and gaps in research in different disciplines, the Council seeks to provide research support to social scientists through its library, documentation and publication units. The library has a good collection of basic reference books, PhD. dissertations and research reports. The documentation unit maintains a data bank on social science research, provides library and information services (including compilations of general bibliographies on different subjects, and assistance for interested researchers to locate and access references specific to the needs of their research work). There has been

a sustained, if modest, effort at the computerization of these activities. Besides giving financial support to conferences and seminars on social science themes, the Council also gives grants for the publication of theses, research project reports and social science journals. The Council has a forward looking programme to use up-to-date technology to enable wider and easier access to bibliographic data bases and major on-line libraries in other countries; build a national network of social science libraries; and move towards consortia-based subscription to e-journals.

However, judging by the number of users and the number of training programmes, the existing facilities are clearly under utilized. The reasons for this deserve close study. While expansion and upgradation of these facilities are necessary, they should be planned after assessing the users' felt needs and requirements, and the possibilities of sharing the responsibility for various services with research institutes and universities, especially when they are linked up through an electronically connected network.

III

Future Directions

Before we discuss measures to restructure the organization and functioning of the Council, it is necessary to recapitulate the weaknesses and gaps in the existing system, and to reflect on the relevance and role of social science research and the contribution that ICSSR can realistically be expected to make in remedying these.

As already noted in Section I, the scope and focus of social science research in the country varies in terms of proximate purpose, disciplinary orientation and techniques of inquiry, and also in scope from the highly specific and localized to broader themes and larger spatial units. A great deal of research tends to focus on collecting or collating information and providing analyses to both help formulate programmes and find solutions to operational and policy problems, and evaluate their impact. But there is also a strong tradition of research that seeks to critique the functioning of institutions in terms of omissions and commissions in the formulation and implementation of public policy, and to highlight important but neglected contemporary and long-term issues of polity, economy and environment.

A great deal of primary data is collected by surveys done as part of sponsored research projects, without exploiting the potential of the data collected by public agencies (or through public funding) on many aspects of society and economy at different points of time. Moreover, the surveys vary greatly in coverage and quality. Many are micro-level studies of the same or similar themes, but non-comparability of concepts and methods limit their usefulness as a basis for generalisations and meaningful analyses of variations and their underlying factors. A large proportion of these studies is not published or otherwise available in the public domain. Even those that are published are of highly variable quality and do not provide sufficient details of their methodology, empirical basis and analyses for meaningful critical scrutiny and debate.

Operational and policy-centric studies have been and will remain an important component of social science research. It will continue to attract substantial funding from government, business and international organizations. Even as it needs larger funding, it is necessary to pay more attention to improve quality, make the studies available in the public domain open to professional scrutiny and utilize them to widen and deepen the knowledge base.

Of greater concern is the failure of research to develop and refine theoretical frameworks to document, analyse and interpret different facets of society and its dynamics from a broader perspective. This is an aspect that has suffered from serious and prolonged neglect. Such research is arguably essential not only for generating knowledge but also to facilitate a better public understanding of contemporary social problems, their underlying factors and the forces that drive them.

Free, open and informed discussion on social problems from different viewpoints and wider perspectives is vital for the effective functioning of democracy. This is all the more crucial in the context of the rapid and manifold changes occurring in society and the attendant tensions and controversies that they generate. Not only the nature of issues but also their solutions are highly contentious. Both academics and activists espouse their views vigorously and with passion. That these discourses tend be emotive and polemical is understandable. But the debate cannot be carried forward even to achieve greater clarity on the issues involved, much less to resolve them, without a serious effort at detached critical scrutiny and debate regarding the factual and analytical bases for arguments and conclusions. This social function of research in informing public debate is as important as its role in widening and deepening knowledge.

The general consensus, based on our extensive interactions with a large and diverse group of social scientists, is that social science research in India has not fulfilled this role in sufficient measure, that a special effort is necessary to fill this lacuna, and further that the Indian Council of Social Science Research should be enabled and equipped to play a leading role in this process**.** While concurring with this view, we recognize that this will

require major and even drastic changes in the way the Council is functions and is funded and organised.

The essential conditions include:
- a commitment to increase the quantum of public funding for the Council;
- a sharply focused strategy and policies for funding research;
- effective means to be put in place to both improve quality and the accountability of researchers; and
- restructuring of the Council to function as an autonomous, academically credible, and professionally managed institution.

Convinced that these changes are feasible, we proceed, in the rest of the report, to spell them out in some detail.

Funding Strategy

A necessary, though not sufficient, condition for all this to happen is adequate and assured funding. Unlike research in 'hard' science and technology, social science research of both the applied and basic kind does not produce marketable inventions or products. On the contrary, by its very nature, it probes socially sensitive issues; which means that its findings are often not acceptable to all groups in society and are therefore controversial. For this reason, private organizations representing sectional interests are reluctant to fund such research. Instead, they prefer to fund studies that either meet their operational requirements or produce data and analyses that help to argue their case with their competitors and/or influence government policy.

Individual government departments and organizations also tend to be reluctant to facilitate and fund research that might produce information or analyses critical of their policies and actions. They have for long used their control of public access to information of all kinds. – including the data they collect and the results of studies they commission – to discourage independent research. Recent relaxations of policy in this respect, though limited as yet, have greatly facilitated and stimulated research in several areas. The Right

to Information law will hopefully further improve the situation in terms of accessing information. But this will not meet all the information requirements for social research. Information has to be processed, analysed and interpreted to produce knowledge. This cannot be done through ad hoc sponsored research of the kind that is now predominant. It calls for the recognition that independent scholarly research serves the important public purpose of contributing to a better understanding of societal issues in a broader perspective, which in turn has a crucial role in maintaining a vibrant rational discourse in a democracy. This recognition must be backed by adequate public funding to institutions, giving them ample freedom to choose their research areas, publish their findings and have them freely and openly debated professionally and in the public domain.

If the Council is to play a bigger and more effective role – and we argue it must – it needs much larger funding than at present. Currently, the Council is entirely funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, whose basic mandate and primary concern is education and universities. Social science research has a very wide scope and covers practically all aspects of economy, society and politics. Therefore, it is unrealistic, and far too constraining, to depend exclusively on one Ministry or department for resources to fund broad-based research. It needs to be recognised and accepted as the responsibility of the government as a whole, with funds being contributed by various departments.

This can be done by providing for an earmarked budgetary allocation for socio-economic research to be channelled to the Council through the Planning Commission and ministries/departments responsible for development and social justice. Public sector financial institutions might also be required or persuaded to make substantial contributions to the Council. Funding departments could indicate the broad themes on which they would like the Council to promote focused research. However the elaboration of the specific agendas and modalities of implementation should be left to be decided by the Council on the basis of advice obtained from eminent scholars in different fields.

Considering that socio-economic development is the central concern of government, we suggest that, to begin with, about 0.1 % of the public sector's annual plan outlay be

earmarked and set apart as investment for augmenting socially relevant and useful knowledge. At present levels of plan expenditure, this would yield about Rs 400 crore which would be nearly ten times the present budget of the ICSSR. The utilization of such enhanced funding to effectively improve the range and quality of research would be an enormous challenge for the Council. How well it meets this challenge should be evaluated by a committee consisting of eminent scholars after about 10 years. If the evaluation is positive, the possibility of increasing the public funding to around 0.2% of public sector plan outlay should be considered. The credibility of the Council, reflected in its performance, will also enhance its capacity to attract funds from domestic and foreign foundations that support such research.

Research Policy

At present the Council provides block grants to the 27 Research Institutes which it helped set up, leaving them quite free to determine their research agenda. Individuals seeking project grants are left free to choose the topic of their research. In neither case does the Council make any effort to steer, or even encourage, research to focus on well-defined coherent themes. The processes of refereeing, monitoring and assessment of the output are quite weak. The magnitude of the grants to Institutes and their periodic revisions are not linked to the quantum or quality of their research output. In the case of research projects, as well as the fellowship programme, non-completion, delayed completion and poor quality of output does not attract any penalties; nor does it lead to corrective action. These deficiencies must be addressed to make effective use of the enlarged resources to promote and encourage sustained research on select important areas/themes of contemporary relevance, and provide for strong inducements to ensure accountability both for timely completion and for quality of output. This calls for radical changes in the Council's policies regarding the kinds of research it funds, the research support activities it takes up, as well as the way both of these are managed.

The Council's emphasis should be on funding research which improves and helps accumulate and consolidate a knowledge base by sustained work on selected themes; encouraging multi-institutional, interactive networks of researchers from different

disciplines to work on common themes; promoting interchange, interaction and collaboration between research institutions and between institutions and the university system both in research and the training of researchers. It is equally important to devise ways to make peer review and assessment of research stricter, stronger and more credible.

Strategy Relating to Institutions

With increases in resources on the scale envisaged, there will be both temptations and pressures to increase grants to existing institutes and extend such grants to more institutes. The Council should not yield to these temptations and pressures. In the case of Institutes which it has nurtured and funded, the Council should limit the quantum of block grants that will be given to each institute at roughly current levels without any commitment to meet the rising costs of the core staff. This would mean giving up the Plan/Non-Plan grant distinction.

Instead, the Council should offer to provide substantial multi-year grants for institutional research programmes whose components – as well as the research objectives, methodology, expected outputs and time schedules of each component – are clearly spelt out. The research must be analytical and not merely descriptive; it should address issues in a broad perspective; and the results must contribute to a better understanding of, and deepening insights into, societal and developmental processes. While the Institutes should be free to decide these on the basis of their faculty competence and interests, they should be encouraged to take up inter-disciplinary research by internalising that perspective in the design of research projects; and through interactive networks of researchers approaching a given topic from different disciplinary backgrounds and/or from different institutions. Under such a regime, programme grants need not be limited to ICSSR institutes. They can be open to other research institutions and universities that have qualified faculty and produce programme proposals that meet the above criteria.

Grants should be subject to rigorous peer review and approval of the proposals. Adherence to agreed time schedules for completion of work and preparation of reports on

each component needs to be stringently monitored. Funding for approved programmes should be liberal and leave the institutions free to decide on appropriate staffing, recruitment and emoluments, subject only to broad guidelines.

Reporting to the Council must be limited to the submission of audited accounts, and periodic reports of progress relative to projected schedules. Institutions should be required to hold annual seminars to discuss completed work and work in progress to which a wider set of academics should be invited. Final reports should be reviewed by independent scholars at the end of the programme with reference to the stated objectives and the quality of analysis.

Renewal of research programme grants to institutes should not be automatic. Each grant should be based on a fresh review of the programme proposals, taking into account the performance in the earlier programme. This is necessary to ensure accountability on the part of grantees for fulfilling their commitment to produce reports on time and of good quality. Additionally, the Council might consider evolving a system of rating of institutions based on the scope, volume and quality of their research output, their publication record and citation indices.

Research Projects

The allocation for funding for individual research projects must also be increased to a level that is comparable to allocations for institutional programme grants. But a thorough overhaul of policy relating to project funding is essential. The main changes that need to be made in respect of projects are detailed below.

The procedure of getting applications for research project grants should shift from open-ended invitations on topics of the researchers' choice to research on selected themes. This does not mean closing the door to research on other topics in which individual scholars are especially interested. On the contrary, a substantial proportion of project funding for research projects must be earmarked for individuals who wish to pursue topics of their own interest. As far as thematic research is concerned, the themes selected should reflect

contemporary social and economic concerns which are widely recognized to be important. This should be done through a credible and transparent consultative process. Suggestions regarding themes could be invited from Council members, advanced centres in the universities, research institutions and funding agencies. These could then be reviewed by composite groups of social scientists to arrive at prioritized themes for consideration by the Council.

Each year, the Council may select a certain number of broad themes to be funded and commission a reputed scholar in each field to prepare a paper reviewing its significance and relevance, the current state of knowledge on the theme, and the gaps which need to be addressed. This paper should be discussed by a wider group of scholars who are knowledgeable and active in that area to discuss the paper, and come up with concrete suggestions on the issues that need further research and would significantly widen or deepen knowledge about the area.

After the Council (or its designated committee) approves the agenda on selected research themes, proposals may be invited for specific projects from individual scholars or groups of scholars in research institutes, universities and colleges. Proposals should then be reviewed and selected by a strong peer review process. The Council needs to explore ways of identifying promising researchers from the lesser known universities, colleges and institutes, and providing them with training and advice on how to prepare proposals.

Grants should be conditional on researchers working on theme-based projects coming together and working as an interactive network, with a selected institution serving as the node for the interactive process. This process is meant to help them formulate a programme with core common objectives and methodologies, leaving some room for add-ons of interest to individual researchers, with sufficient funding for meetings/workshops before, during and after completion of the research.

Procedures for screening of projects need to be both transparent and rigorous. In order to make the refereeing process credible, it is necessary to lay down clear guidelines

regarding criteria, as also to insist on referees giving specific and sufficiently detailed comments and suggestions both on the project proposals and on the final outputs. Publication of results in refereed journals and as books/monographs should be given much be given much greater attention than is presently the case.

Research Fellowships

The objectives, criteria, procedures and terms of national and senior fellowships need to be reviewed and recast. Doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships are far more important. Their purpose is to train young researchers and to help those who have completed their degree to gain more experience. They have not been particularly effective for several reasons: a shortage of young people with training and aptitude for research and interested in academic or research careers; problems with language; poor quality of PhD programmes; availability and rapid growth of more lucrative career opportunities in the IT, BPO and financial sectors. These systemic problems cannot be solved by the Council. But we believe that there are a sufficiently large number of young post-graduates in social science subjects, young faculty in colleges and also among activists who are motivated to conduct serious, systematic study of social issues but are handicapped in various ways.

With larger resources, the Council can make a significant difference by (a) increasing duration and quantum of stipends maintaining parity with fellowships offered by the UGC; (b) proactively initiating a programme to improve the quality of pre-PhD. courses and training in research methods; (c) helping researchers to locate and access literature and data they need; and (d) providing opportunities for research students to discuss their work with their peers and seniors.

The inadequacy of undergraduate and postgraduate education in providing strong foundations in the one or more social sciences, and the virtual absence of properly designed pre-PhD courses to prepare students for research is a very serious problem. The Council should give financial support to selected research institutes and universities in different parts of the country to organize and conduct an intensive and structured pre-PhD

course in social science. Those selected to attend the course should be given fellowships on the understanding that those who successfully complete the course up to an acceptable standard would be eligible for PhD fellowships for 3 years.

Those awarded doctoral fellowships should be helped to choose their topics by making available literature reviews of the current state of knowledge and issues needing further work on different themes/areas they may be interested in. At this stage it may be useful to organize short workshops where the students can have the benefit of discussion with their peers and with more experienced and knowledgeable scholars in crystallizing their thesis proposals. Similar workshops conducted, perhaps on an annual basis, to discuss their ongoing work, would help clarify issues of method, analysis and interpretation.

It will take a proactive effort on the part of the Council together with the UGC to get institutes and university departments with good faculty to organize and conduct these activities. A number of them are already active in conducting courses and workshops but these are far too patchy and limited in reach to be effective. Such faculty/departments should be identified and encouraged to undertake a more comprehensive programme structured along the above lines with the Council undertaking to fund it fully. This could be incentivised by including the participation in these programmes, and the number of successful completions and publications emerging from these in refereed journal/ monographs, in rating institutions and departments. The substantial increase in outlays that such a programme will entail is, in the Committee's view, eminently worthwhile in terms of the contribution it can make to the scale and quality of doctoral candidates as well as their research.

Research Support Activities

The Council tries to help researchers in a variety of ways:

- Library and documentation services;
- Research Surveys
- Data Archives
- Publications

- Seminars and conferences

Library and documentation: The library and documentation service under NASSDOC is by far the largest and most active. The Council has a sizeable library including a large collection of PhD. theses and research project reports. It has a good collection of online library data bases. Both are accessible to users on request. NASSDOC also maintains and updates a national directory of social science research institutions and social scientists, as well as an index of social science literature; it prepares bibliographies on selected subjects, and gives training and assistance to researchers for preparing bibliographies and helps access them.

These are valuable resources, but their usage is rather limited. With progressive computerization, they will hopefully become more widely accessible, and therefore more widely used. Future plans envisage up-gradation of the in-house computer system, creation of an electronically linked network of social science libraries in the institutes in different regions and expanding the links with major international libraries. It is also proposed to negotiate subscriptions to e-Journals for the common use of institutes, enabling their online access and downloading by researchers though the electronic network. These are clearly steps in the right direction for future development.

It is however time to commission a comprehensive expert review of future plans keeping in mind the possibilities of expanding and widening access to the library resources and reducing costs by (a) collaboration and division of labour with the UGC in building an e-journal network (which would greatly widen access and reduce costs); (b) designing the Council's network in such a way that it can be linked to other major public and university libraries; and (c) sharing the responsibility for preparation and updating of bibliographies, indexes of periodical literature, digitisation of theses, and other similar activities .

With the spread of these techniques, the size, scope, form and content of the library to be maintained by the Council should also be reviewed afresh. A clear vision on this issue and a phased programme to transit from the present to an advanced computer-linked system needs to be worked out.

The Committee suggests that the Council should arrange to put abstracts of PhD dissertations and reports of ICSSR funded projects on its website so that they are more widely accessible. The possibilities of collating information on research projects done under its auspices and their findings – or at least sources of and web links from which this information can be obtained – also deserve to be explored. Based on these compilations, it would be useful for the Council to periodically commission reviews of work on the same or related themes by scholars with experience and broad perspectives to distil and summarise any significant insights they have to offer. Placing information on data sources, their content and detail, and mode of access on the website which can be easily accessed by researchers all over the country will provide great support to young researchers.

Research Surveys: It is also necessary to review the current practice of commissioning periodic scholarly reviews of the current state of knowledge relating to different disciplines. Several foreign journals do public comprehensive and detailed reviews of theoretical work in frontier areas and also applications in foreign countries. These can be made more easily accessible with the new technology of information storage and dissemination. What may be more useful to researchers in the country is to commission reviews focusing on the current state of research and knowledge on major themes of contemporary national interest. Such reviews could be expected to articulate the questions that have not been explored at all or explored inadequately as also new ones that are being raised. They could develop on the broad themes chosen as the Council's thrust areas from time to time and help individual researchers to do literature reviews on their specific topics.

In our interactions with social scientists, the medium of instruction and examination was widely cited as a reason for the poor quality of university education especially at the postgraduate level. The reason is partly a certain reluctance on the part of research students to write their papers and theses in their native tongue. The more important reason however is the paucity of literature on social science theory and applied social research in Indian languages. In order to overcome this it has been suggested that reviews

of theoretical work and reviews of literature on selected themes viewed from different disciplinary perspectives should be translated into major Indian languages and distributed widely to college teachers and students. We commend this suggestion and recommend that the Council should take a lead in implementing it.

Another important related point that surfaced in the discussion is that a considerable amount of informed and perceptive literature is available in language newspapers and periodical articles. These tend to be descriptive, interpretative and polemical, and may not meet the requirements of rigorous scholarship. But they are a source of rich information which is highly relevant for researchers. It has been suggested that social science research will benefit greatly if a systematic and continuing effort were made to locate, sift, collate and preserve these materials. It would be useful to arrange for the contents of the material to be made widely available. This task obviously has to be done at the regional level, and is a worthwhile and useful initiative, which deserves serious consideration and support from the Council.

Data Archives: The Data Archives unit was meant to build and maintain an up-to-date store of major data bases both in a processed form and, where available, unit record data and be equipped with computer facilities to make them easily accessible to researches. It was also expected to get and preserve primary data from all surveys conducted as part of projects funded by the Council. This in fact was a condition of research project grants. A detailed report on the scope, content and operation of the archives was reviewed in detail by a Committee specially appointed for the purpose some 20 years back. However their recommendations were not followed up. Instead the unit was allowed to atrophy over time and is now practically defunct.

The archiving of data for research is important, in fact essential, for several reasons. The official statistical system collects a massive amount of socio-economic data through censuses, sample surveys and information collected by various government departments and public agencies. A considerable amount of it is published in a processed form in hard copy. A great deal is not published even in processed form and made available in the

public domain. It is not easy for researchers – especially in academia – even to find out what data sets are published, in what form and at what level of detail. Even if they can get this information, it is very difficult for them –including in metropolitan centres with good libraries – to access them. Access to primary data has until recently been extremely restricted.

The situation is beginning to change at least in respect of some major data sources collected by government agencies. The processed data are increasingly available in digitized form and are therefore accessible on the net. A great of official data can now be accessed through the websites of government departments and public agencies, at least at the Central level. Some, notably the National Sample Survey, now makes unit record data available on CD-ROMs at reasonable cost. Some are willing to process primary data for requests of special tabulations. While these are welcome developments, researchers will be better served by creating archives at as detailed a level as possible, with clear annotations and explanations regarding design, concepts and definitions.

The situation is much worse in respect of the innumerable surveys conducted by researchers in universities, research institutes and consultancy firms. Several are repeated periodically using more or less comparable concepts, coverage and methodology. Those who collect them seldom care to spell out the objectives, scope, concepts and methodology of the surveys even in their reports. In any case, most of these are either not published at all or treated as confidential and limited for the sponsors' use. With a few significant recent exceptions, few bother to preserve the primary data and even when they do so, access is very limited. Moreover, because of the difficulty of access, researchers cannot explore possibilities of analysis of their particular concerns and decide what further information needs to collected for carrying the analysis further. This results in enormous duplication of effort in repetitive micro-surveys of the same aspects.

Systematic archiving of these data will greatly enhance the possibility of mapping and analysing variations in various features of economy and society and the factors

underlying them. Similarly, data from comparable surveys of particular aspects or at different points of time will help study dynamics of change.

For all these reasons, data archives are important and creating and managing them must be given serious attention by the Council. The recommendations of the Data Archives Committee should be reviewed in the light of subsequent changes: the attitudes of data agencies showing greater willingness to make data more freely accessible to users, the passage of the RTI Act, and changes in technology that make it possible to decentralise the responsibility for setting up and operating a regional network of archives. We recommend that the Council set up a committee consisting of the Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission, experts in organising and operating data archives, and non-official social scientists knowledgeable about the available sources of data to come up with a programme.

Publications: The council is actively involved in publishing research results directly and by giving financial support to researchers to publish their work in the form of books and monographs. The council is not equipped to organize the distribution and sale of its publications. Selection of manuscripts to be subsidised is open to accusations of bias. Implementation of the Committee's recommendations on measures to improve the quality of research will obviate the necessity for subsidies. There will therefore be no need for a separate publications division.

Regional Centres

Based on consultations with social scientists across the country and after a careful examination of the structure and functioning of the Regional Centres, the Committee is of the opinion that the Council may wind up the Regional Centres. The functions currently performed by these Centres may be assigned to a Council-supported research institute in the region. The moveable assets of the centres and their academic staff may be relocated to the institute. The administrative staff currently drawn from the universities in which the regional centres are located may be repatriated to the parent universities.

International Collaboration

The Council must go beyond the existing Cultural Exchange Framework and take proactive steps to promote links with scholars and institutions in SAARC countries, as many of them lack organisational structures like that of the Council. Of the various collaborative programmes that the Council has implemented so far, IDPAD appears to be a success story. The Council could explore embarking on such programmes with other countries. The Council could give special attention to promote expertise among Indian scholars on some select countries.

Given the limited resources, henceforth the Council may provide financial assistance only to younger scholars (below 45 years of age) and first time visitors to participate in international seminars/conferences hosted by organisations recognised by the Council under various categories.

Overall, 'international collaboration' is too narrow a rubric to capture the various facets of the activities that the Council is now handling and will be called upon to handle in future. It is, therefore, suggested that the International Collaborations Division could be renamed as International Affairs Division. This Division could maintain data base on professional associations abroad, international organisations and funding agencies and their procedures, and scholars in various social science disciplines, etc. on its website.

Organisational Changes

The above changes in the functional activities of the council call for a radical restructuring of the Council to give it sufficient autonomy, and a major overhaul of its internal organisation, staffing and ways of functioning.

*The need for autonomy***:** At present the Council has very limited institutional and functional autonomy. Under the Rules, the Council comprises, besides the Chairman and the Member- Secretary, 6 representatives of the Government and 18 social scientists all to be nominated by the Government (Rule 3). The power to fill vacancies in the Council

consequent on the completion of the term of a regular member (Rule 7) as well as casual vacancies (Rule 9) vests with the government.

The rules specify that the Chairman of the Council should be an 'eminent social scientist' to be nominated by the Government (Rule 3) while the Member-Secretary's appointment is subject to the approval of the Government (rules 13 and 14). The procedure for getting and screening nominations is not specified.

The section of the Rules regarding "Proceedings of the council" (Rules 23 and 24), vests the Council with the power to make all operational decisions.– budget allocations, expenditure sanctions, appointments, salaries and emoluments of staff, terms and conditions of grants, and policies, programmes and procedures to implement them decide the preparation and sanction of policies, financial procedures – by majority vote but the Memorandum and the Rules cannot framed or amended without the previous approval of the Government (Rule 23 a). Rule 41 requires that all financial matters should be referred to the Financial Adviser appointed by the Government for 'advice' and if the Member-Secretary does not accept it, referred to the Chairman for final decision.

These provisions are subject to the overarching authority vested in the government by the Memorandum of Association Article 6-b of the Memorandum is explicit that the Council will be subject"…in respect of the expenditure of grants made by the Government of India, to such limitations as the Government of India may, from time to time, impose" (article 6-b). And further that "The Government of India may give directives to the Council in respect of its policies and programmes" (article 8 a) and further that "If at any time a difficulty arises in the functioning of the Council because of any lacunae in the Memorandum of Association or in the Rules, or failure of any of their provisions to operate, the Government of India shall have the powers to give directives to resolve the difficulty and such directives shall be binding on the officers and authorities of the council" (article 8 b). As a result, both the financial and functional autonomy of the Council have been severely abridged.

The criteria and procedures for appointment of the Chairperson and Member-Secretary as well as for the selection of social scientist members of the Council and replacements for vacancies have never been made transparent. The practice of the Council suggesting names for those whose term comes to an end has been practically abandoned with the government deciding nominations on its own. The government has insisted that the creation of posts, fixation and revision of salaries, allowances and benefits of the Council's staff as well as faculty and staff in the research institutes, be subject to the prior approval of the Ministry. This condition has also been enforced in respect of the number and terms of fellowships, as well as the salaries payable to research assistants appointed for projects. There have been significant changes over the years in all these respects in similar or comparable sections of government. But the Ministry has declined to approve implementing them in the case of the Council. This has left the Council's staff at a considerable disadvantage in all these respects, thereby creating professional frustration, vitiating the work atmosphere and the overall functioning of the organisation. The fact that fellowship terms and remuneration to project personnel is far below UGC norms is cited as one important reason for sluggish interest in both programmes. Added to this is the image of the Council as a slow-moving bureaucratic organization. In combination, these have eroded the credibility of the Council in the eyes of researchers as well as those who fund research.

An essential and critical pre-condition to restoring the credibility of the Council is to ensure that it governance and management is entrusted to the scholarly community with full financial and functional autonomy to decide and implement its programmes. This would call for a radical change in the present constitution of the ICSSR. We suggest that the Council be renamed the ***Indian Academy of Social Sciences (IASS)*** and converted into an autonomous statutory body. Concrete and detailed suggestions regarding the constitution, organs of governance and their respective roles, as well as the internal structure of the Academy are given in Annexure-5. Here we would like to highlight the basic and essential features of the proposed institutional structure which are as follows:

- IASS to be governed by a collegium consisting of Fellows of the Academy who should be eminent scholars from India and abroad, who have made

significant contributions to any of the major disciplines of social sciences such as Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology/ Social Anthropology, and social science aspects of Management, Commerce, Geography, History, Law and Philosophy.

- Initially the collegium will be constituted by about 25 of the senior most surviving National Fellows of the present ICSSR who are willing to serve on it and another 10-15 foreign fellows to be selected by a special committee of distinguished and senior social scientists.

- The size of the collegium may be increased by inducting eminent scholars as Fellows to be selected through a process of nomination and election to be evolved by the original fellows of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences.

- Management of the Academy's activities to be vested in an Executive Council consisting of 18 eminent social scientists, 4 senior officials of the GOI, and a senior official each from the UGC, CSIR, ICAR, and ICMR.

- The social scientist members of the Executive Council to be elected by the Collegium from a panel of nominees on the basis of scholarly excellence and broad-based representation for different disciplines.

- The tenure of the members of the Executive Council to be for a period of three years One third of the Executive Council members would retire every two years and their replacements would be elected by the collegium.

- The Academy to have a President and a full time Chief Executive to be appointed for a fixed tenure. They would be selected by the President of India from a panel of nominees proposed by an independent high-powered search committee constituted by her. The President and Chief Executive will be ex officio Chairperson and Secretary respectively of the Executive Council.

- The Search Committee will consist of three distinguished social scientists (one of whom will be its Chair) and one representative of the Government of India who may be the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission or the Secretary to the Ministry of HRD.

- The Executive Council should have full authority, subject to observing certain broad guidelines applicable to publicly-funded organizations, the power over all matters of policy, internal organization and administration.

- The Executive Council should have full autonomy to decide on (a) the strategy of research funding; (b) priorities between and within different activities; (c) criteria, mechanisms and procedures for entertaining, screening and approving proposals, (d) mechanisms and procedures for monitoring and peer review of outputs to ensure high professional quality; (e) matters relating to the size and composition of staff, their recruitment, career planning and remuneration, as well as financial controls and auditing.

- There should be a mandatory periodic review of the Academy's overall performance in relation to its mandate by a high-powered committee comprising outstanding social scientists and public personae.

Internal Organization and Personnel Policies

The internal organisation and staffing of the Council need to be reviewed and recast to implement the policies decided by the Council in a professional manner and taking full advantage of digitized systems of management. This involves issues regarding the nature of functions to be performed by professional staff and the qualifications appropriate to them; the strategy to be followed to avoid or at any rate minimize the risks of career stagnation and deterioration in professional vitality and competence; the size of supporting staff and their functions and qualifications; measures to ensure orderly change over in the structures with minimum adverse impact on existing staff. The following are by way of some general guidelines. The details may be worked out in consultation with experts in organizational design and personnel once the scale and content of the programme gets crystallized.

The suggested restructuring will mean a manifold increase in the scale of operations, significant changes in its mix and professional leadership of high quality. It will be therefore necessary to strengthen the top management by inducting two senior advisers who should be social scientists (from universities/research institutes) recognized for high

quality research informed by a broad perspective. Their appointments should be for a fixed-term contract.

The present distinction between research institutes, research projects, research fellowships, support services and administration will remain. But the nature of the tasks to be performed and hence the personnel and their functions will need major changes: The organization has to become flatter, with a substantial reduction in the number of administrative and support staff by the use of computers for internal and external communication, maintenance of accounts and other records. The staff manning the other divisions should be professionals.

The original concept was that the academic staff should be persons with a good academic background and research experience in social sciences, in addition to familiarity with the current state of knowledge in different fields. But for a variety of reasons the Council could not attract and retain academics with these qualities. It will be even more difficult to do so in the future. Nor is it necessary because the main job of the professional staff is not research but one of managing the research programmes and projects. A more practical approach would be to induct social scientists with a good academic training and train them to serve as programme managers. The necessary training could be imparted through a combination of formal courses in research management (in a reputed management school) and on the job experience.

The research staff will not be involved in deciding substantive issues concerning research priorities, setting research agendas or evaluating proposals and outputs. These will be deliberated upon and decided by the *Executive* Council on the advice of advisory committees comprising scholars with the necessary experience and expertise in the selected fields. The programme managers would be secretaries to the advisory committees and be responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of specific approved projects/programmes, timely disbursement of funds, organizing meetings of research networks, ensuring that researchers send in reports of progress as well final reports on schedule, and organizing the refereeing of reports.

The reorganized set up will require a substantial expansion at the professional level. Not all the existing staff may qualify for this. Some of them may retire. But the possibilities of redeploying others in the new rubric by appropriate training programmes need to be systematically explored keeping mind their age, educational background and skills.

The job specifications and qualifications for various positions will need to be reviewed in the light of the skills and experience needed for performing different tasks. The Council should be free to decide designations, as well as the pay scales and benefits for different jobs and levels without being required to follow patterns and practices in government departments. The patterns followed in other research organizations, with suitable modifications, may be more appropriate. Open competitive recruitment should be the basis for selections. Serving employees should have the opportunity to compete for these positions, by availing of special training at the Academy's expense to upgrade their skills.

IV

Conclusion

On the basis of the extensive literature in journals and discussions with a wide cross-section of social scientists across the country, and our own personal knowledge, we have given an idea of the current status of social science research in general and that of the ICSSR in particular.

This Report has highlighted the growing commercialization of research and the neglect of independent scholarly research that contributes to a better understanding of societal processes and the inability of the Indian Council of Social Science Research to arrest this trend. It has identified both systemic factors that have contributed to bring about this situation, as well as the constraints specific to the ICSSR. It has also highlighted the need for independent professional analysis and interpretation of emerging trends and their implications both for the revival of high standards of scholarship and for its important role for an open and democratic society. The Committee has argued the case for a strong public sector initiative for this purpose by establishing the IASS as an autonomous statutory body, and committing substantially larger public funds to support its activities. It has further made concrete suggestions regarding the strategy and priorities of the proposed Academy, the patterns of funding, and incentives to ensure accountability on the part of grantees.

This is a huge challenge that calls for the government and public authorities to change their ingrained sceptical, if not hostile, attitude to independent research oriented to generating knowledge. It is a huge challenge also in terms of the nature and magnitude of changes in the organization, policies and ways of functioning of the institution. We believe that the order of increase in public financial support is quite modest in relation to both need and the amount of resources which the government spends on socio-economic development. We also believe that the Committee's proposals for redesigning the institution as an effective agency for promoting high quality and socially meaningful professional research are eminently desirable and feasible. We recognize that all these

recommendations cannot be implemented at one go; that they have to be properly phased after careful consideration; and that the important operational details should be carefully worked out. We hope that the Council, the social science community and the government will find our suggestions acceptable and make a concerted effort to implement them.

V

Summary of Recommendations

The Fourth Review Committee constituted to review the Indian Council of Social Science Research has attempted to interpret the past performance of the ICSSR, and envision the future potential of such an institution, by placing it within the larger context of social science research in India.

Social Science Research in India: Contemporary Challenges

In a wide-ranging survey of the landscape of social science in this country, the Committee has sought to highlight some features of particular concern. These include

- Social science 'research' in India is done by a large variety of institutions – government, universities, non governmental institutions, private firms and individuals.

- The focus of 'research' is varied and covers studies addressing operational problems; specific policy-centric issues and evaluation studies of selected programmes and policies, and scholarly studies of different aspects of socio-economic-political structure and change.

- Of these, the first two categories have become increasingly important. Their objectives and scope are driven by sponsors' interests and their reports are seldom available in the public domain or for independent scrutiny and debate. Private sector and international agencies have become major players in the field.

- Most of public funding of social science research is from the central government and its agencies. The magnitude is miniscule compared to what is spent on research in science and technology.

- Much of the funds is used for policy centric and evaluation studies leaving very little for rigorous, scholarly research on development and change. Governments are lukewarm about supporting such research.

- Rigid conditions and bureaucratic procedures attached to funding restrict the scope for serious scholarly research.

- There are also several systemic weaknesses both in universities and non governmental research institutions.

- There is limited and lukewarm interest in research among university faculties; Supply of trained and motivated young researchers and research students is dwindling due to more lucrative opportunities in non research jobs, lack of internal cohesion among faculty and absence of a vibrant and interactive academic culture.

- In general, the nature, scope and quality of social science research output, its contribution to improving our understanding of socio-economic processes, and to the shaping of public policy, have fallen short of expectations.

The functioning of ICSSR

The Council's achievements with the limited resources at its command are significant and commendable:

- It has sponsored and nurtured 27 national institutes in different parts of the country;

- It has funded some 3000 research projects and awarded nearly 400 research fellowships, and 860 doctoral fellowships since inception;

- It has provided a number of services (such as documentation, training in research methodology and use of computers, and bibliographic assistance) to help young researchers;

- There is considerable variation in the performance of the ICSSR institutes under different programmes and activities, while several of them have grown in size and academic reputation for their research.

- Some have made notable contributions to encourage research with a regional focus highlighting the diversity in terms of socio-economic structure, the nature of problems they face and the responses to them.

- The completion rates and research output of fellowship holders are also quite high.

However the Council's impact on the quality of social science research in the country has fallen considerably below expectations. Besides the multiple systemic constraints that afflict the larger social research scenario, the Council's effectiveness has also been impeded by several factors:

- The grant provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development – the sole source of its funds – is far too small in relation to its mandate to make a significant impact.

- Though grants have increased manifold in nominal terms, most of it has been absorbed by the growth in the number of institutes and the large and progressive rise in costs.

- Inadequate funding has constrained the council's capacity to plan and consistently pursue a coherent long term strategy and priorities as between different activities.

- The priority given to meeting the institutes' needs has led to considerable volatility in outlays on fellowships and support activities.

- The credibility of the Council as an autonomous and professional body has been adversely affected by lack of transparency and failure to observe the spirit of provisions in its Memorandum of Association regarding the appointment of the Chairperson, Member Secretary and non official members of the Council.

- Conditions attached to government grants regarding personnel policies for its staff as well as the terms of grants given to research institutes, projects and fellowships are rigid and stringent.

- The Council has been unable to attract and retain qualified academics to man its professional/managerial positions. The morale and motivation of personnel who have risen to these positions and the Council's staff as a whole are low.

- This has also contributed to weakening of mechanisms for getting independent peer reviews of programmes of research institutes, research project proposals and fellowships and monitoring the performance of grantees.

These shortcomings are not irremediable. Our consultations with a large cross section of social scientists across the country revealed a broad consensus that currently excessive importance is being given to sponsored research on specific issues conceived in a narrow perspective; and that, in order to counter this, it is necessary to promote and support independent analytical and empirical research. There is a near unanimous view that the Council can and should be enabled to play a bigger and more proactive role in improving the range and quality of social science research in the country.

While strongly endorsing this assessment, we recognise that this requires far reaching changes in its approach, priorities, organization and management is also recognised. The essential conditions include:

- a large increase in the quantum of funding
- a sharply focused strategy and policies for funding research;
- effective means to be put in place to both improve quality and the accountability of researchers; and restructure the organisation into an autonomous statutory body to be called the ***Indian Academy of Social Sciences*** as an academically credible, and professionally managed institution.

The main highlights of our recommendations on each of these aspects are summarised below.

Funding Strategy

- The restructured Academy must have access to much larger and more assured funding.
- The resources must be primarily, though not exclusively, provided from public funds because social science research of the kind that is to be supported

serves several important and crucial social functions in a democracy. Private sector and international funding agencies are not interested in supporting such research.

- Approximately 0.1 % of the public sector's annual plan outlay may be earmarked and set apart as for augmenting socially relevant and useful knowledge.

- Since research to be supported covers practically all aspects of economy, society and politics, it would be appropriate that the government as a whole, rather than any individual department (as is the case at the present), take the responsibility for funding.

- This may be done by providing for an earmarked budgetary allocation for socio-economic research to be channelled to the Council through the Planning Commission, ministries/departments responsible for development and social justice, and even public sector financial institutions.

- Funding departments could indicate the broad themes on which they would like the Academy to promote focused research. However the elaboration of the specific agendas and modalities of implementation should be decided by the Academy on the basis of advice obtained from eminent scholars in different fields.

Research Policy

- The Academy should fund research which improves and helps accumulate and consolidate a knowledge base by sustained work on selected themes; encourage multi-institutional, interactive networks of researchers from different disciplines to work on common themes; promote interchange and collaboration between research institutions and between institutions and the university system both in research and the training of researchers; and devise ways to make peer review and assessment of research stronger and more credible.

- All this calls for major changes in the current strategy and priorities of the organisation. The increased resources should be used to expand all major

programmes (research institutes, research projects, fellowships and support services) and achieve a better balance between them.

- It is also necessary to recast the criteria regarding the kinds of activities to be funded under the different programmes, the terms of funding and mechanisms for improving coverage and quality.

Research Institutes

- No new institutes should be sponsored by the restructured organisation.

- In respect of the 27 Research Institutes which the ICSSR has been funding, the quantum of block grants that will be given to each institute to be kept at roughly the current levels without any commitment to meet the rising costs of the core staff.

- Substantial grants should be given for research programmes open to both these Institutes as well as other institutions to be eligible for funding of multi-year research programmes. The components of the programme and their respective objectives, methodology, expected outputs and time schedules should be spelt out. The research must be analytical and not merely descriptive; and the results must contribute to a better understanding of, and deeper insights into, societal and developmental processes.

- Funding for approved programmes of research should be liberal, and the institutions left free to decide on appropriate staffing, recruitment and emoluments, subject only to broad guidelines.

- Renewal of research programme grants to institutes should not be automatic. In order to ensure accountability in terms of both quality and time, each grant should be based on a fresh review of the programme proposals, taking into account earlier performance.

Research Projects

- Support for individual research projects to be increased both in absolute terms and relative to that of programme grants. This programme should have two components: projects on selected themes; and projects on topics of individual researcher's choice.

- A substantial part of allocations under this programme should be earmarked for thematic research projects, which will be changed periodically and should reflect contemporary social and economic concerns which are widely recognized to be important. This should be done through a credible and transparent consultative process along the lines spelt out in the report.

- After the Academy approves the research themes, proposals may be invited for specific projects from individual scholars or groups of scholars.

- It is important to facilitate the participation of promising researchers from the lesser known universities, and colleges in such research programmes.

- Grants should be conditional to researchers working on theme-based projects coming together in an interactive network, with a selected institution serving as the node for such a process.

Fellowships

- The present categorisation (namely national, senior, post doctoral and doctoral) may be retained. But the eligibility criteria, selection procedures and terms need to be changed with a substantial increase in the amount of the fellowships.

- Duration and quantum of stipends of *Doctoral fellowships* should be raised to the level as fellowships offered by the UGC.

- The restructured Academy can do much by helping young post-graduates in the social sciences, and young faculty in colleges who are motivated for serious research to arrest the declining numbers and poor quality of students seeking admission to PhD programmes.

- It is extremely important to launch a proactive initiative to encourage and support, in collaboration with UGC, selected research institutes and universities in different parts of India to organize and conduct intensive and structured pre-PhD courses in social science.

- Other steps include persuasion and inducement for select institutions to conduct well designed and focussed short term specialised courses and training in research methods; help researchers to locate and access literature and data they need; and provide opportunities for research students to discuss their work with their peers and seniors.

Other Programmes

- The role and functioning of the Regional Centres and the International Collaboration programmes need to be reviewed.

- There are sharply differing views on the need for and effectiveness of the Regional centres in fulfilling the roles for which they were created. It would seem that the intended roles can be performed as well if not better by state level research institutes with needed fund support from the restructured organisation.

- It is necessary to look beyond the Cultural Exchange Programme framework of international collaborations, and take more proactive steps to promote links with scholars and institutions in SAARC countries, as many of them lack organisational structures like that of the Academy.

- It is worthwhile to explore possibilities of promoting joint research programmes on the IDPAD model with other countries: SASNET (Sweden), NADAL (Switzerland), SSRC (USA), ESRC (UK), CASS (China) are good possibilities.

- Concerted efforts should be made to promote expertise among Indian scholars at least with some select countries, especially those in South Asia.

Accountability

- In all programmes the Academy should rationalise and simplify monitoring systems by leaving grantees free to decide matters relating to their internal administration and utilisation of grants without having to obtain its approval. Focus should be on getting strategic and substantive information on the utilisation of grants and progress on programmes for which grants are given.

- Far greater attention needs to be given to devising mechanisms and procedures to ensure high quality of projects and their outputs. The suggestions that grants for research programmes and projects should be for specified periods; that renewals should be based on the performance of earlier grants are particularly important for this purpose.

- Procedures for screening of projects should be both transparent and rigorous. The refereeing process must be credible.

- Final reports should be reviewed by independent scholars at the end of the programme with reference to the stated objectives and the quality of analysis.

- Publication of results in refereed journals and as books/monographs, as well as rating the overall performance of institutions on this basis should be given much greater attention and weight in assessing performance than is presently the case.

Research Support activities

The Research Support activities need to be substantially expanded and reorganised.

- The future plans for Library and documentation services call for a comprehensive expert review keeping in mind the possibilities of expanding and widening access to the library resources and reducing costs by using computer networks and collaboration and division of labour with other organisations.

- It would be useful to commission periodic reviews of developments in different disciplines in India and also reviews of current state of knowledge in on the broad

themes chosen by the restructured Academy as the thrust areas for research support.

- Reviews of theoretical work and reviews of literature on selected themes viewed from different disciplinary perspectives should be translated into major Indian languages and distributed widely to college teachers and students.

- Systematic efforts to locate, sift, collate and preserve the rich amount of factual material available in regional language newspapers and periodicals will be immensely useful to researchers.

- A committee consisting of the Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission, experts in organising and operating data archives, and non-official social scientists should be constituted to revive and reorganise the data archives unit.

  - Implementation of the Committee's recommendations on measures to improve the quality of research will obviate the necessity for subsidies. There will therefore be no need for a separate publications division.

Governance Structure

Larger funding and strategic reorientation must be accompanied by measures to restore its credibility by entrusting its governance and management to the scholarly community with full financial and functional autonomy to decide and implement its programmes. To this end we recommend that the ICSSR be converted into an autonomous statutory body and called the ***Indian Academy of Social Sciences (IASS)*** with the following main features of governance and organization.

- IASS to be governed by a collegium consisting of Fellows of the Academy, and eminent scholars from India and abroad, who have made significant contributions to any of the major social science disciplines.

- The collegium may be expanded from time to time by inducting eminent scholars as Fellows to be selected through a process of nomination and election to be evolved by the original fellows of the *Indian Academy of Social Sciences*

- Management of the Academy's activities to be vested in an Executive Council with a fixed tenure of 3 years consisting of 18 elected social scientists, 4 senior officials of the GOI, and a senior official each from the UGC, CSIR, ICAR, and ICMR.

- The collegium will elect the social scientist members of the Executive Council (including replacements for retiring members) from a panel of nominees on the basis of scholarly excellence and broad-based representation for different disciplines.

- The Academy to have an honorary President and a full time Chief Executive to be appointed for a fixed tenure to be selected by the President of India from a panel of nominees proposed by an independent high-powered search committee constituted by her.

- The President and Chief Executive will be *ex officio* Chairperson and Secretary respectively of the Executive Council. The top management to be strengthened by inducting two senior social scientists (from universities/research institutes) as advisers to the Member secretary.

- The Executive Council to have full autonomy to decide on (a) the strategy of research funding; (b) priorities between and within different activities; (c) criteria, mechanisms and procedures for entertaining, screening and approving proposals, (d) mechanisms and procedures for monitoring and peer review of outputs to ensure high professional quality; (e) matters relating to the size and composition of staff, their recruitment, career planning and remuneration, as well as financial controls and auditing.

- Periodic review of the Academy's overall performance in relation to its mandate by a high-powered committee should be mandatory

Internal Organization and Personnel Policies

- The suggested restructuring implies a manifold increase in the scale of operations, significant changes in its mix and professional leadership of high quality.

- The organization should become flatter, with a substantial reduction in the number of administrative and support staff by the use of computers for internal and external communication, maintenance of accounts and other records.

- The main job of the professional staff being that of managing research programmes and projects, rather than actually doing research. They should be trained in one or more social science and given special training in research management.

- The programme managers would be secretaries to the advisory committees and be responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of their decisions.

- Open competitive recruitment should be the basis for selections. Serving employees should have the opportunity to compete for these positions, by availing of special training at the Academy's expense to upgrade their skills.

ANNEXURE – 1

ICSSR INSTITUTES

Annexure 1

ICSSR Institutes

Along with its recommendation for setting up an Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Committee on Social Science Research[7] suggested that one of the main functions of the Council would be "To give both maintenance grants to research institutions in social sciences that do not constitute either affiliated or constituent institutions of statutory universities in India". The objective was to supplement the university system and help rectify some of the major gaps in social science research in India. More specifically, the institutes were intended to undertake in-depth research in social sciences, especially of an inter-disciplinary nature, focusing on major socio-economic issues both at the national and regional level; to facilitate collaboration and interaction among academics working in different universities and institutes; to enhance the capability of young, prospective researchers through well-designed training programmes; and bring out the policy implications of the research findings.

Following the Committee's recommendation the Council set up some new institutes and also started providing regular financial support to a few select pre-existing ones. Over the last three decades the number of ICSSR institutes has increased three-fold, from 9 in the 1970s to 20 in the mid 1980s and 27 as of now. A complete list of these institutes is given in the appendix. Out of the 27 institutes as many as 5 are located in Delhi; 3 each in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and UP; 2 each in Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh; and 1 each in Kerala, Maharastra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Chandigarh. Thus while the ICSSR initiative has helped development and sustenance of social science research centres in a large number of States, it is difficult to appreciate the logic behind location of nearly half (13 out of 27) of the institutes in the Northern region; and concentration of more than one-third of them in 3 cities.

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[7] Planning Commission, Government of India (1968), *Report of the Committee on Social Science Research.*

ICSSR provides regular maintenance and development grants to the institutes under two heads, Plan and Non Plan. The importance of the research institutes in ICSSR's overall research programme is indicated by Tables 1.1 and 1.2 in the appendix. As Table 1.1 shows, research institutes account for by far the largest component of ICSSR expenditure. Between VII and X Plan their share in total ICSSR outlay averaged nearly 46 per cent, showed a rising trend, and reached more than 50 per cent in 2005-06 (Table 1.2). Indeed, out of the total ICSSR expenditure directly related to research, the share of expenditure on institutes went up from 73 to 81 per cent between VII and X Plan, while that on research projects and research fellowships declined from 9.1 and 13.2 to 5.3 and 8.9 respectively over the same period (Table 1.1). The reason seems to lie in the fact that unlike in the case of projects and fellowships ICSSR had to provide adequate grants to the institutes to cover their rising salary and maintenance costs—something reflected in the institutes' increasing share of the Non Plan and declining share of Plan expenditure out of ICSSR's expenses under the two heads (Table 1.2).

ICSSR does not however constitute the only source of funds of the institutes. For research institutes set up by the ICSSR outside Delhi the State governments promised to match the grants provided by the Council. In fact in 1995-96 the share of State governments in total funds accruing to the institutes was 23.4 per cent compared the 19.2 per cent provided by ICSSR (Table 1.3). The largest source of funds in that year was however projects whose share at 38.6 percent compared to the combined share of ICSSR and State governments taken together (42.6 percent). Between 1995-96 and 2004-05 there was a considerable change in relative importance of funds from different sources. While ICSSR's share in total funds increased from 19.0 to 28.3 per cent that of State governments fell from 23.4 to 19.4 per cent (as many State governments failed to honour their commitments). The most drastic decline occurred for funds from projects, with their share going down from 38.6 per cent in 1995-96 to 25.5 per cent in 2004-05 (Table 1.3).

Change in the pattern of financing noted above obscures some major differences among various institutes. While ICSSR's total grants to the institutes went up by 4.3 times between 1995-96 and 2004-05, over the same period the increases were more than 10 times for CMDR; 8 times for ISID; 5 times for CWDS; 3 times for MIDS; 2.5 times for CSSS; and less than 2.5 times for CESS (Table 1.4). It is difficult to appreciate the rationale behind such wide variations, especially since in many cases the increases were significantly less for better performing institutes. An important consequence of this was that faced with the resource crunch the high profile institutes had to garner more resources through projects. Thus between 1995-96 and 2004-05 share of projects in total funds went up from 33.9 per cent to 57.1 per cent for CESS, from zero to 25.8 per cent for CSSS, and from nil to 9.3 per cent for MIDS. Increasing reliance on such funds could not but have posed serious obstacles to these institutes' pursuit of in-depth and fundamental research in social sciences. However, only a handful of institutes were able to raise their project funds significantly. The perception of project granting agencies relating to the competence of most ICSSR institutes seems to have turned unfavourable—something which may explain the steep fall in projects as sources of finance for the institutes as a whole.

So far as the institutes' academic activities are concerned, while extending them block grants for covering recurring expenditure as well as grants for building, library, computer and other infrastructure, the Council left them free to choose their own research agenda and training programme, subject only to a five-yearly review of their performance by an expert committee. Permanent faculty of the institutes numbered close to 500 in 2005, averaging about 18 per institute. But there is considerable variation across the institutes, with some having only 4 to 10 social scientists, while others employing far in excess of the average. There is also a significant difference among the institutes in respect of the scope and nature of their academic programmes. Only 2 to 3 institutes run relatively comprehensive training programmes on a regular basis, though short-term courses in specific areas are occasionally conducted by some others. Again, somewhat contrary to the objective of the Council, only a relatively small number of institutes undertake studies

on all or major branches of social science, while many are engaged in research in narrow areas or specific issues.

There can be no denying the fact that ICSSR institutes have made a positive contribution toward social science research in India. Of particular significance have been a large number of socio-economic studies at the regional level which have highlighted the wide diversity of economic, social and political conditions in different parts of the country and also within different regions. Thanks to the studies conducted by the regional institutes, social scientists are now better aware of the multiplicity of forces at work in promoting or impeding socio-economic development at the grass root level, and of important issues and questions requiring further research. Performance of the ICSSR institutes in recent years, judged by the magnitude of their research output, also appears good (Tables 1.5 to 5c). Apart from the research projects and PhD. theses completed, the institutes have also to their credit a large number of monographs, working/occasional papers, seminar/conference presentations, and published books and articles.

A closer scrutiny of the institutes' own reports relating to research for the three years, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, suggests however that all of them may not be of robust academic health (Tables 1.5a to 1.5c). Only a handful have given a list of their publications along with their dates and places so that it is not possible to classify them on the basis of whether they were refereed or not. It is also not clear in many cases whether articles or books were published in the reporting year or referred to the cumulative total over a number of years. The doubt arises since one institute reports the same number of articles published for both 2003-04 and 2005-06 (while no information was provided for 2004-05). While this is a glaring instance of misinformation, for many institutes year-wise breakdown of publications and their classification between refereed and non-refereed ones is difficult on the basis of reports available.

Despite the difficulties in interpreting the reports, we have constructed tables for the three years giving the total and composition of research output of all the 27 institutes (Tables 1.5a to 1.5c in the appendix). A perusal of the tables suggests the wide variations in

academic performance of the institutes. On the basis of their refereed publications (including those in EPW) and the quality of information provided by them[8], it appears that while some of the institutes have been functioning reasonably well, performance of many others leaves much to be desired. Indeed, there is a large measure of agreement among social scientists that, judged by their contribution towards fundamental and inter-disciplinary research or development of appropriate analytical framework for social science research in the Indian context, the institutes have not on the whole fulfilled their founders' expectations.

Before making our suggestions for revamping the institutes it may be useful to identify more fully the main problem areas in respect of their academic activity, financing and administrative set up.

Academic Performance

On the basis of information provided by the institutes we have already voiced our reservations regarding the academic output of many of them. Our perception in this regard is also supported by Tables 1.6 to 1.8 where authors of books and papers on social sciences are grouped on the basis of their institutional affiliations. From Table 1.6 the following points may be noted about the institutional affiliations of authors and their disciplines:

- About 31 percent of the authors are economists and roughly an equal proportion are sociologists; a little over 23 percent are political scientists; about a tenth are historians and 5 percent are geographers.
- Economists constitute a relatively higher proportion of authors from research institutes and international organizations than in other institutions. The latter have a relatively more balanced distribution of authors across disciplines.
- About a third of the authors are NRI and foreign scholars and about 28 percent are from Indian universities. A little over a fifth of the authors are from Indian research institutes, the majority of them from institutes outside the ICSSR family.

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[8] On the presumption that an institute providing incomplete or misleading information relating to its research output in all the three years can hardly be academically healthy.

Somewhat surprisingly, retired officials, journalists, personnel from the NGO sector and those without any institutional affiliation are relatively numerous.

- More than 80 percent of all the authors covered are from research institutes, universities and NRI/foreigners. But the pattern differs across disciplines. The distribution of economist authors is more or less equal between these three categories of institutions. But in the case of other disciplines, the majority of authors are from universities and NRI/foreigners. Independent scholars are prominent in history and geography.

The scenario is only slightly better in respect of articles published in selected journals (Table 1.7) and EPW (Table 1.8) in both of which the number of authors from ICSSR institutes constitute about 10 per cent of the total. However, with the number of articles authored by the faculty of ICSSR institutes totalling 58 for the period 2004-05, the average publication per institute comes to a dismal 1.1 per year. What is much more disconcerting, of the 58 papers published during the two years as many as 38 (i.e., nearly two-thirds) were by researchers from only 4 institutes, and 52 were accounted for by 9 institutes; 13 institutes did not have any publication to their credit.

Much more important than inadequacy of publications is the institutes' lack of lasting contribution and development of relevant models for analysing major economic, social and political issues in the Indian context. Research projects undertaken by the faculty of institutes are often ad hoc, do not form part of a coherent, long-term research programme, and what is most unfortunate, are not used for generalisation and formulation of testable hypotheses for follow-up research. To be more specific, the large majority of research output record results of area studies, field surveys, census reports, NSS findings, etc. Many of the findings are interesting, but unfortunately research stops at this stage and is not carried forward (a) to analyse the causal relations behind the findings; or (b) to examine how far the results are of a general nature or location/situation specific, and if so, what the distinguishing factors in the particular context are. It also appears that research papers/project reports of many scholars tend to be repetitive and that they do not

keep themselves abreast of major developments in their discipline or acquire greater competence, maturity and insight over time.

The academic environment that has prevented the institutes from developing into centres of excellence is worth characterising.

1. Most of the institutes do not have any full-fledged training programmes, nor do the majority of the faculty teach (on a regular basis) in colleges, universities or institutes themselves. In view of the fact that there is hardly any advanced graduate school in social sciences in India and that fresh MAs and PhDs generally lack competence to follow articles published in international journals, let alone do independent research of reasonably good quality, absence of rigorous training courses in the institutes and of simultaneous pursuit of teaching and research on the part of the faculty have constituted a serious impediment to improving the quality of research in many institutes. Lack of rigorous teaching courses is of course most damaging for PhD students and young researchers at the institutes. But the negative impact often extends to the good quality, promising faculty as well. Being engaged in research in narrow areas and sans the benefit of being forced (in the course of teaching) to think deeply as well as remain familiar with advancements in the frontier of their discipline, the faculty generally tend to lose their touch over time and fail to realize their academic potential.

2. There is a widespread feeling that in view of attractive options elsewhere social sciences no longer attract bright students. However, the mediocre quality of research on the part of both PhD students and the faculty of a number of institutes is a long-standing, not a recent, phenomenon. Again, there is a vicious circle here which is often lost sight of. Every year a number of good students go abroad to do their PhD and an important reason for this is lack of a graduate school where well-designed, rigorous pre-PhD courses can make a lasting difference in the students' capability and quality of research. The important point to note in this connection is that, given the university system and all that, the institutes have to nurture and make the best use of the talent they can attract, and rigorous training courses seem to be essential for this purpose.

3. There can be no better stimulus to research than intensive interaction with one's peers. It is useful to distinguish in this context between two types of interactions. First, seminars and conferences are useful in that they provide an opportunity for examining specific issues from a wider perspective. Second, workshops attended by researchers working in similar areas can be extremely helpful in identifying gaps, churning out new ideas or making the participants aware of hitherto unexplored lines of enquiry relevant for the issues being addressed. However, very few institutes seem to hold regular seminars and workshops. What is most regrettable, not only there seems to be not much interaction among scholars working in different institutes, universities and other academic bodies, but even within an institute there is often fairly rigid compartmentalization both between disciplines and between areas of specialization within a discipline.

4. Though ICSSR institutes are supposed to be subject to a thorough five-yearly review by an Expert Committee, such reviews are often not undertaken on a regular basis (and what is most unfortunate) nor are corrective actions taken in line with recommendations of the Committee. Again, while the Expert Committees' reviews relate generally to the overall performance of the institutes, there is no effective internal mechanism in place to provide stimulus or incentive to individual members of the faculty to improve the quality of their research.

5. Some of the institutes are too small to be academically viable. Lacking scale economies in terms of infrastructure and human resources, they cannot conduct broad-based, intensive teaching programmes or undertake inter-disciplinary research, and their faculty are seriously handicapped in broadening their vision or gaining expertise through teaching and interaction with their colleagues.

Organisation

There are two main organisational deficiencies that seem to adversely affect performance of many institutes. Governing Bodies of some of the institutes are often headed by powerful politicians or bureaucrats rather than renowned social scientists. This tends to severely undermine the institutes' autonomy, distort research priorities, and create an

environment where striving for academic excellence is hardly valued if not positively frowned upon.

The other problem arises from manning and functioning of the institutes' Academic Councils. With only one or two outside experts, the councils are dominated by the faculty—something which makes toning up of academic programmes or honest soul searching extremely difficult.

Finance

We have already commented on the problems created by (a) the reluctance of many State governments to honour their financial commitments to the institutes; and (b) the sharp fall in share of project funds[9], the largest component of institutes' finance ten years back**.** We have also noted that though for all institutes taken together there was a significant fall in the share of project funds; the better-run and relatively well-known ones were able to garner project finance from domestic and international sources. But this has involved substantial costs in terms of the quality of research. The projects awarded by the sponsoring agencies do not generally fit in with the long-term research agenda of the institutes or of the individual faculty. The reports are often not available in the public domain. What is most damaging, researchers engaged in completing time-bound projects lacking serious intellectual challenge tend to become incapable over time of innovative enquiry requiring deep thinking and sustained effort.

Given the current and prospective financial resources at ICSSR's disposal, there can be little doubt that funding of the institutes is far from optimal. Of the ICSSR's total expenditure (Plan plus non-Plan) around 45-50 per cent is spent on the institutes[10] (Table 1.1). Even if there is (say) a 10 percentage point increase in the proportion allocated to the institutes, the fund would be inadequate to make all the 27 institutes capable of conducting high quality research on a sustained basis. The large majority of the institutes

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[9] [Over the period 1995-96 to 2004-05 increase in project funds (in nominal terms) is about 23 per cent fell far short of the price increases.]

[10] The question whether this proportion is optimal need not detain us here.

are too small and too narrowly focused, have too few social scientists of requisite expertise, and are too poorly endowed with infrastructure to make it possible for the ICSSR to put them on a sound footing. Indeed, given the availability of funds *and* the supply of good quality social scientists in India (in relation to their demand in universities and elsewhere), it seems that were the ICSSR to start from scratch it should not try to set up more than 3 to 4 institutes that could run advanced graduate or pre-PhD courses and expect to make lasting contribution to social science research in India. The legacy of the past omissions and commissions limits the current options available to ICSSR; but the measures to be chosen in the short and the intermediate run need to be in the context of the long term goals.

Suggestions

Organisation

1. For academic autonomy it is necessary to have an arms-length relationship with the government. The chairman of the Governing Body of an institute should be a well known academic, not a minister or a bureaucrat. Other members of the Body may include Vice-Chancellors (or Deans of Social Sciences) of universities and Directors of reputed non-ICSSR institutes in the region. It is also important to ensure that except for the ex-officio members (like Vice-Chancellors) the Body is fully reconstituted with new members every five years or so.

2. Apart from an institute's own faculty, other members of the Academic Council may include 3-4 outstanding social scientists at least one of whom is to be from outside the region. In order to be effective for taking decision, the size of the Council should be relatively small; faculty representation may be on a rotational basis; but each non-member faculty would have the right of making representations to or being heard by the Council on matters relating to teaching and research.

Academic Programme and its Financing

1. It is difficult to over emphasise the importance of advanced centres for conducting full-fledged PhD. programmes and making teaching along with in-depth research integral parts of the institutes' academic agenda. On the basis of past performance and available human and non-human resources of the institutes, some of them may be developed into comprehensive, broad-based teaching-cum-research centres, serving as first rate graduate schools and undertaking fundamental research with a longer term focus on important social, economic and political issues in the Indian context.

2. The faculty of these institutes should be large enough to accommodate specialists in all major disciplines and sub-disciplines. In particular, apart from academics engaged in empirical studies, the faculty must include a fair number of competent theorists as also statisticians/econometricians. Duration of the full-time research training programme may be two years. It is also useful to have some flexibility and longer programmes for teachers and other engaged elsewhere, but keen to undertake research. While the institutes should be free to design their own training programmes and experiment, all trainees may be required to take some core courses along with advanced ones in accordance with their fields of specialization.

3. For running the graduate schools at the institutes collaboration with competent university teachers and faculty of other institutes from all over the country may be extremely useful. The objective is to expose the students to the best available teachers in the country, by drawing them under one roof or through inter-institutional collaboration. Apart from running comprehensive research training programmes, these institutes may serve as a catalytic agent of social science research in the regions by serving as data archives and conducting short-term courses on research methodology, or on important, new developments in some fields.

4. Teaching along with research should be made mandatory for the faculty of all institutes. In institutes which cannot offer comprehensive research training

programmes the faculty may undertake regular part-time teaching in universities, or offer courses in their fields of specialisation.

5. For all institutes block grants should be frozen at the current levels and new funds are to be made available only on the basis of institutes' five-yearly teaching and research programmes subject to vetting by an expert body. While funds allotted under this scheme will be significantly larger for full-fledged teaching-cum-research institutes, there should be no guarantee of automatic renewal of programme grants for any institute. Fresh grants are to be made only on the basis of thorough evaluation of the institute's performance and the acceptability/ feasibility of the new programme. Evaluation of an institute should be on the basis of the quality of both its training programme and research output. For evaluating the former, the expert body has to consider the course content, references used, modes of teaching and examination, and above all competence acquired by the trainees at the end of the programme. The quality of research is to be judged on the basis of (a) its analytical rigour; and (b) how far the results lend to generalization and deepen the understanding of emerging social, economic and political issues.

6. While the individual faculty of an institute should be free to choose his or her area of research, it is necessary that he or she closely interacts with others (within or outside the institute) working in similar fields. At the same time in-depth study of many major economic and social problems often require collaboration of researchers from diverse disciplines. Hence an individual's freedom of choice has to be tempered with the need for research on important issues. Collaborative research on these issues may be both intra- and inter-institutional, remembering that pooling of knowledge of working of economic/social processes in different parts of a country like India can help greatly in identifying the common elements as also the differential factors at work.

7. It should be mandatory for researchers to report at least once a year on the progress of their work in seminars where academics from universities and other institutes may be invited. ICSSR should also organize regular workshops for

intensive, across-the-table discussion among select scholars working in similar areas.

8. It is necessary to institute an effective system of detailed peer review of interim and final research output of a scholar. The review should highlight both the contribution and short-comings of the research output.

9. For avoiding major disruptions (in case some institute fails to make the grade at the end of the 5-year programme) and upgrading the academic environment, at least 50 percent of the faculty may be visiting, from universities, colleges or other institutes. Attempts should be made to induce good foreign scholars to make short visits to or spend their sabbatical in the institutes. It is also important that the core faculty of the institutes visit for a year or so universities in India or abroad every 5 or 6 years.

10. Since some institutes find it difficult to have their research students registered for PhD in regional universities, the institutes concerned may approach the Indira Gandhi National Open University for registration of their students.

11. For facilitating interaction among academics and exploiting the positive externalities of research, it should be mandatory for the institutes to put all their research output including data collected on the website.

List of Institutes

	Name of the Institute	Academic Staff (2006)
1	A.N. Sinha Institute Of Social Studies, Patna	9
2	Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum	26
3	Centre For Economic & Social Studies, Hyderabad	28
4	Centre For Multi Disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad	5
5	Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi	25
6	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development, Chandigarh	16
7	Centre for Study of Developing Societies, Delhi	23
8	Centre For Social Studies, Surat	11
9	Centre For Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta	30
10	Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi	15
11	Council for Social Development, Hyderabad	11
12	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Science, MHOW	22
13	G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad	16
14	Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi	4
15	Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow	15
16	Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad	13
17	Indian Institute of Education, Pune	9
18	Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore	43
19	OKD Institute of Social Change & Development, Guwahati	6
20	Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur	15
21	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi	54
22	Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad	24
23	Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi	17
24	M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain (MPISSR)	9
25	Madras Institute of Development Studies, Madras	20
26	N.K.C. Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneshwar (NKCCDC)	8
27	Sardar Patel Institute of Economic & Social Research, Ahmedabad	20
	Total	**494**

Table 1.1: Expenditure pattern of ICSSR during different Plan periods
(Rs Million)

		V plan		VI plan		VII plan		VIII plan		IX plan		X plan estimate	
		value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%
1	Expenditure on research	49.5	63.62	90.1	68.2	199.9	63.5	253.1	63.8	580.6	60.5	1089.8	54.6
a	Research grants	16.3 (32.93)	21.0	19.8 (22.0)	15.0	19.1 (9.6)	6.1	16.2 (6.4)	4.1	22.8 (3.9)	2.4	69.5 (6.4)	3.5
b	Research institutes	25.2 (50.91)	32.4	54.9 (60.9)	41.6	153 (76.5)	48.6	210 (83.0)	52.9	512.1 (88.2)	53.4	904.1 (83.0)	45.3
c	Fellowships	8.0 (16.16)	10.3	15.4 (I7.1)	11.7	27.8 (13.9)	8.8	26.9 (10.6)	6.8	45.7 (7.9)	4.8	116.2 (10.7)	5.8
2	International collaborations	--	0	5.5	4.2	6.6	2.1	8.4	2.1	31.2	3.3	67.2	3.4
3	Regional Centres	5.1	6.6	10.5	7.9	15	4.8	21.6	5.4	43.4	4.5	142.3	7.1
4	Other programmes		0		0	3.4	1.1	4.1	1.0	41.6	4.3	150.3	7.5
5	Support services		0		0		0		0		0		0
a	Documentation	4.4	5.7	7.3	5.5	3.6	1.1		0	17	1.8	41	2.1
b	Data Archives	0.7	0.9	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	4	0.4	9.5	0.5
c	Training	1.1	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.5	3	0.8	4.3	0.4	9.4	0.5
d	Publication subsidy		0		0	5.1	1.6	3.3	0.8	4.9	0.5	18.2	0.9
e	Study grants		0		0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0	1.9	0.1
6	Administrative expenditure	17	21.9	16.7	12.6	79	25.1	102.7	25.9	231.8	24.2	468.1	23.4
	Total current	**77.8**	**100**	**132.1**	**100**	**314.8**	**100**	**396.7**	**100**	**959.1**	**100**	**1997.7**	**100**
	Capital: Building, equipment	1.8		1.5		40		46.4		71.6		48.3	
	Grand total	**79.6**		**133.6**		**354.8**		**443.1**		**1030.7**		**2046**	
	Notes: 1) Figures for V and VI plan from Report of the 3rd review committee, 1986 p.62. Not comparable with figures for subsequent periods which are as given by the ICSSR secretariat. International collaborations include IDPAD; other programmes include NER centre and 150 years of independence War.													
	2) Figures in parentheses denote percentages of total research expenditure.													

Table 1.2: ICSSR's Actual Plan and Non Plan Expenditure—Total and on Research Institutes
2001-02 to 2005-06
(Rs Lakh)

Year	Total ICSSR expenditure			ICSSR expenditure on Research Institutes		
	Plan	**Non Plan**	**Total**	**Plan**	**Non Plan**	**Total**
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
2001-02	1524.65	1611.22	3135.87	685.82 (44.98)	834.3 (51.78)	1520.12 (48.48)
2002-03	1729.96	1809.52	3539.48	652.46 (37.72)	1025 (56.64)	1677.46 (47.39)
2003-04	1738	2451.72	4189.72	532.84 (30.66)	1357 (55.35)	1889.84 (45.11)
2004-05	1587	2448.79	4035.79	592.2 (37.32)	1230 (50.23)	1822.2 (45.15)
2005-06	1779.99	2463.85	4243.84	841.07 (47.25)	1397.84 (56.73)	2238.91 (52.76)
Total Exp.over the period	**8359.6**	**10785.1**	**19144.7**	**3304.39 (39.53)**	**5844.14 (54.19)**	**9148.53 (47.79)**
Note : Figures in the parentheses are percentages to total ICSSR's expenditure under the relevant head.						

Tale 1.3: <u>Sources of Funds for ICSSR Institutes during 1995-96 & 2004-05</u>

	1995-96		2004-05	
	Rs (lakhs)	percentage	Rs (lakhs)	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
ICSSR	347.6	19.2	1426.1	28.3
State	423.8	23.4	977.9	19.4
Govt units	141.5	7.8	387.7	7.7
Corpus				
Own	63.4	3.5	174.7	3.5
Other	66.3	3.7	198.6	3.9
Ford	0	0	10.1	0.2
Projects	699.5	38.6	1287.8	25.5
Other	68.6	3.8	581	11.5
Total	1810.7	100	5043.8	100
Note: Relates to 21 institutes and covers resources used for both current and capital expenditure.				

Table 1. 4
Sources of Funds of individual ICSSR Institutes

(Rs Lakh)

1995-6	CESS, Hydrbd		BANISS, Mhow		CRRID, Chdngr		CWDS, Delhi		IDS, Jaipur		MPISSR, Ujjain		CSSS, Kolkata		MIDS, Chennai	
	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%
ICSSR	28.3	28.4	3.9	3.9	17.1	14.9	14.9	19.7	12.3	9.3			43.5	48.2	22.8	41.3
State	29.3	29.4	72.4	72.6	25.3	22.0			10.3	7.7			43.5	48.2	27.4	49.8
Govt units					4.6	4.0			5.3	4.0						
Corpus																
own			7.7	7.7			1.8	2.4							0.7	1.2
other	8.2	8.2			11.0	9.6							3.3	3.7	4.2	7.7
Ford																
Projects	33.8	33.9	15.7	15.7	37.1	32.3	14.2	18.8	104.5	78.9						
Other					19.9	17.3	44.7	59.1								
Total	99.6	100	99.7	100	115	100	75.6	100	132.39	100			90.3	100	55.02	100
2004-5																
ICSSR	54	14.5	24.2	9.1	65	17.6	81.4	41.1	63.5	22.0	45.2	63.9	104	35.3	69	36.5
State	53.3	14.3	208	78.0	75	20.3			25	8.7	25.5	36.1	104	35.3	69	36.5
Govt units					30.9	8.4			5.6	1.9						
Corpus																
own	5.3	1.4	13.7	5.1			9.4	4.7					10.9	3.7	6.15	3.3
other	46.8	12.6			10.2	2.8									17.34	9.2
Ford		0.0													10.05	5.3
Projects	212.5	57.1	20.7	7.8	112.3	30.4	61.5	31.1	194	67.3			76.1	25.8	17.69	9.3
Other					75.6	20.5	45.6	23.0								
Total	371.9	100	266.6	100	369	100	197.9	100	288.1	100	70.7	100	295	100	189.23	100

Table 1. 4 (continued)																
1995-6	**NKCCDS, Bhubaneswar**		**ISID, Delhi**		**OKDSCD, Guwahati**		**CDS, Trivandrum**		**ISEC, Bangalore**		**CPR, Delhi**		**CMDR, Karntk**		**GIDS, Lucknow**	
	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%
ICSSR	15.9	32.4	10.6	33.3	5.1	20.7	30.0	21.2	25.7	10.5	11.3	11.0	4.6	48.0	20.2	47.2
State	8.1	16.5			4.6	18.5	59.4	42.0	74.0	30.2					21.0	49.0
Govt units	5.9	12.0							28.9	11.8						
Corpus																
own							3.1	2.2			24.3	23.7	5.0	52.0	1.0	2.2
other			13.8	43.6					2.9	1.2						
Ford																
Projects	17.3	35.3	5.9	18.5	15.1	60.8	49.0	34.6	113.3	46.3	66.9	65.3			0.7	1.6
Other	1.8	3.7	1.5	4.6												
Total	**48.97**	**100**	**31.71**	**100**	**24.84**	**100**	**141.54**	**100**	**244.8**	**100**	**102.5**	**100**	**9.59**	**100**	**42.84**	**100**
2004-5																
ICSSR	65	46.9	79	14.2	46	35.6	135.6	45.9	129	26.1	59	47.2	53	53.5	54	43.3
State	44.5	32.1			7	5.4	116.4	39.4	103.2	20.9					58.5	46.9
Govt units									81.1	16.4						
Corpus																
own	4	2.9			14.11	10.9	13.1	4.4			19.5	15.6	44.3	44.7	7.1	5.7
other	3.2	2.3	7.25	1.3	7.84	6.1			13.9	2.8	0.3	0.2			3.3	2.6
Ford																
Projects	14.21	10.3	22.2	4.0	54.34	42.0	30.1	10.2	167.4	33.8	46.3	37.0			1.9	1.5
Other	7.7	5.6	448	80.5									1.7	1.7		
Total	**138.61**	**100**	**556.45**	**100**	**129.29**	**100**	**295.2**	**100**	**494.6**	**100**	**125.1**	**100**	**99**	**100**	**124.8**	**100**

Table 1.4 (continued)											
1995-6	CSD, Hyderabad		GIDR, Ahmedabad		IEG, Delhi		CSS, Surat		SPIESR, Ahmedabad		All	
	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%	value	%
ICSSR	8.8	54.0	9.1	11.5	23.3	14.7	12.2	21.4	28.1	15.1	347.6	19.2
State			9.1	11.5			12.2	21.4	27.3	14.7	423.8	23.4
Govt units					84.3	53.2	12.5	22.0			141.5	7.8
Corpus											0.0	0.0
own			7.5	9.5			5.1	9.0	7.3	3.9	63.4	3.5
other	3.8	23.3			19.1	12.1					66.3	3.7
Ford											0.0	0.0
Projects	3.0	18.4	53.3	67.5	31.7	20.0	14.9	26.2	123.1	66.3	699.5	38.6
Other	0.7	4.3									68.6	3.8
Total	16.3	100	79	100	158.4	100	56.8	100	185.8	100	1810.7	100
2004-5												
ICSSR	42	61.0	42	22.2	91.2	16.8	51	53.5	73	53.7	1426.1	28.3
State			19	10.1		0.0	17	17.8	52.5	38.6	977.9	19.4
Govt units					264.9	48.7	5.2	5.5			387.7	7.7
Corpus												
own			22.2	11.8			3	3.1	1.9	1.4	174.66	3.5
other	11.5	16.7			77	14.2					198.63	3.9
Ford											10.05	0.2
Projects	12.9	18.8	105.6	55.9	110.4	20.3	19.1	20.0	8.55	6.3	1287.79	25.5
Other	2.4	3.5									581	11.5
Total	68.8	100	188.8	100	543.5	100	95.3	100	135.95	100	5043.83	100

Table 1.5: Quantitative Information on Research Output of Research Institutes During the Year 2004-2005

Sl No	Name of the Research Institutes	Project Completed	Projects Ongoing	Awarded PhD Degree	Submitted Thesis	On-going PhD. Thesis	Books/ Reports Published	Published Research Papers / Articles	Monographs/Mimeographs	Working / Occasional Papers	Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops	Faculty	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	ANSISS, Patna	8	3	-	-	-	7	19	-	-	70	17	34
2	CDS, Trivandrum	63	41	5	-	6	4	55	-	13	99	28	50
3	CESS, Hyderabad	12	14	4	-	-	1	30	-	14	53	20	25
4	CMDR, Dharwad	7	10	1	2	5	-	-	5	6	12	10	16
5	CPR, Delhi	8	17	-	-	-	3	200	2	12	42	32	21
6	CRRID, Chandigarh	6	7	-	-	-	4	49	-	-	29	24	74
7	CSDS, Delhi	3	24	-	-	-	7	137	-	-	70	21	24
8	CSS, Surat	3	12	-	1	-	-	13	-	-	66	11	12
9	CSSS, Kolkata	-	4	-	-	24	2	49	-	1	28	28	41
10	CWDS, Delhi	10	14	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	9	34	42
11	CSD, Hyderabad	7	6	-	-	-	1	16	-	6	16	11	12
12	BANISS, Mhow	3	8	8	-	-	-	11	-	-	48	6	68
13	GBPSSI, Allahabad	4	23	2	-	6	4	16	-	-	66	9	12
14	GIS, Varanasi	2	6	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	21	4	11
15	GIDS, Lucknow	12	21	-	-	3	5	-	-	25	103	16	32
16	GIDR, Ahmedabad	10	10	-	-	-	1	33	-	19	108	9	20
17	IIE, Pune	10	8	-	-	5	14	-	-	-	14	19	20
18	ISEC, Bangalore	32	27	12	-	-	9	70	5	21	190	26	57
19	OKDSCD, Guwahati	2	7	-	-	-	-	32	4	-	29	6	11
20	IDS, Jaipur	18	11	-	-	-	4	-	-	18	20	22	27
21	IEG, Delhi	-	-	-	-	18	10	74	-	25	26	36	63
22	IPE, Hyderabad	3	3	-	-	7	11	19	-	-	14	21	51
23	ISID, Delhi	3	7	-	-	1	-	20	-	-	42	11	24
24	MPISSR, Ujjain	4	8	2	-	15	-	11	-	-	9	9	8
25	MIDS, Chennai	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	26	34
26	NKCCDS, Bhubaneswar	9	9	-	-	-	4	31	-	-	25	8	21
27	SPIESR, Ahmedabad	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	45
	Total	243	314	38	3	90	91	899	17	164	1226	473	855

Table 1 5a: Research Output of ICSSR Institutes 2003-04

	Working Papers	Discussion Papers	**Articles**	EPW	Refereed	Non Refereed	Authors of ARTICLES	**Books**	Refereed	Non Refereed	Authors of BOOKS	**Total Authors**
MIDS, Chennai	8	1	**4**		1	3	3	**5**	1	4	4	**5**
CSSS, Kolkata			**33**	8	15	10	15	**11**	6	5	5	**17**
CWDS, Delhi			**3**		1	2	1	**1**	1		1	**1**
ASSISS, Patna			**15**			15	7	**2**		2	1	**7**
BANISS, Mhow			**1**			1	1					**1**
IIE, Pune			**2**			2	2					**2**
CESS, Hydrbd	7		**71**	21	20	30	20	**2**	2		1	**20**
NKCCDS, Bhub			**17**	3	5	9	8	**4**	1	3	4	**8**
CPR, Delhi	10	8	**200**					**3**		3	5	
CSD, Hyd	4		**11**			11	6					**6**
CSDS, Delhi			**4**			4	3	**4**	3	1	3	**4**
ISEC, Bnglore	21		**66**					**7**	3	4	9	
MPISSR, Ujjain			**23**					**4**		4	5	
OKDSCD, Gwht			**4**			4	4					**4**
SPIESR, Ahmd			**2**			2	2					**2**
CDS, Thrvnthprm	13		**12**					**4**	3	1	6	
IEG, Delhi	13	20	**62**					**5**	2	3	4	
CSS, Surat												
GIDS, Lucknow	6		**13**					**3**		3	4	
GBPSSI, Allhd			**57**									

Table 1 5a (ctd.)												
IDS, Jaipur	7		**91**									
CRRID, Chdngr			**21**					**1**		1	1	
GIDR, Ahmd	8	10	**27**					**2**	2		6	
ISID, Delhi			**16**									
IPE, Hyd		9	**5**					**5**		5	3	
CMDR, Karntk								**1**		1	1	**1**
GIS, Vranasi								**4**	2	2	4	**4**
Note: Compiled from the information provided by the Institutes.												

Table 1.5b**:** Research Output of ICSSR Institutes 2004-05

	Working Papers	Discussion	**Articles**	EPW	Refereed	Non-Refereed	Authors of articles	**Books**	Refereed	No Refereed	Authors of Books	**Total Author**
MIDS, Chennai	4											
CSSS, Kolkata												
CWDS, Delhi			**9**									
ASSISS, Patna												
BANISS, Mhow	6		**13**			13	8					**8**
IIE, Pune		14										
CESS, Hydrbd												
NKCCDS, Bhub	2		**25**		6	19	8	**4**	1	3	7	**11**
CPR, Delhi												
CSD, Hyd	3		**18**		4	14	7	**1**	1		1	**7**
CSDS, Delhi								**7**	2	5	3	**3**
ISEC, Bnglore												
MPISSR, Ujjain								**1**		1	1	**1**
OKDSCD, Gwht												
SPIESR, Ahmd			**5**			5	5	**6**		6	4	**8**
CDS,	13		**52**	6	34	12	32	**5**	3	2	8	**32**
IEG, Delhi												
CSS, Surat			**13**		2	11	5					**5**
GIDS, Lucknow												
GBPSSI, Allhd				1	4	11	6	**4**	1	3	6	**10**
IDS, Jaipur	6	8						**4**	3	1	4	**4**
CRRID, Chdngr			**2**			2	1	**2**		2	3	**4**
GIDR, Ahmd												
ISID, Delhi	5			1	2	4	3			4	5	
IPE, Hyd			**19**			19	3	**6**		6	3	**6**

Table 1.5b (contd.)												
CMDR, Karntk	6		**2**			2	1					**1**
GIS, Vranasi												
Note: Compiled from the information provided by the												

Table 1.5c: Research Output of ICSSR Institutes 2005-06

	Working	Discussion Papers	**Articles**	EPW	Refereed	NonRefereed	Authors of Articles	**Books**	Refereed	NonRefereed	Authors of Books	**Total Authors**
MIDS, Chennai	4											
CSSS, Kolkata			**49**					**3**	1	2	3	
CWDS, Delhi	3											
ASSISS, Patna			**7**		1	6	4	**1**		1	1	**5**
BANISS, Mhow			**8**			8	3					**3**
IIE, Pune	5											
CESS, Hydrbd										1	1	**1**
NKCCDS, Bhub	4		**13**		1	12	4	**3**		5	7	**7**
CPR, Delhi	2		**200**					**4**	2	3	6	
CSD, Hyd	1		**15**			15	8	**4**		4	4	**8**
CSDS, Delhi			**347**					**20**	8	12	10	
ISEC, Bnglore				60				**10**		10	10	
MPISSR, Ujjain			**12**			12	5					**5**
OKDSCD, Gwht	6							**5**		5	5	**5**
SPIESR, Ahmd			**4**	1		3	2	**1**		1	1	**3**
CDS, Thrvnthprm	9		**56**	12	36	8	17	**6**	2	4	9	**17**
IEG, Delhi								**9**	6	3	10	**10**
CSS, Surat	2		**18**	4	4	10	7	**2**		2	2	**9**
GIDS, Lucknow	2									3	3	
GBPSSI, Allhd			**27**					**2**	1	1	2	
IDS, Jaipur						1	1	**1**	1		1	**2**
CRRID, Chdngr					3	16	9	**5**	3	2	3	**7**

Table 1.5c (contd.)												
GIDR, Ahmd								**1**	1		1	**1**
ISID, Delhi			**4**	1	2	1	4					4
IPE, Hyd												
CMDR, Karntk	3		**5**									
GIS, Vranasi										1	1	**1**
Note: Compiled from the information provided by the Institutes.												

Table 1.6: <u>Disciplines and Institutional Affiliations of Authors of Books Published by Selected Publishers</u>

Discipline	ICSSR Institutes	Indian Universities	Other Research Institutes	NRIs and Foreigners	Independent scholars	International Agencies	All
Economics	29	77	53	94	38	17	308
Sociology	19	96	41	101	43	4	304
Political Science	14	59	35	82	44		234
History	6	26	16	39	17	1	105
Geography	1	24	4	10	8		47
All	69	282	149	326	150	22	998

Note: The publishers covered are: SAGE, OUP, Manohar, Permanent Black, Social Science Press, Orient Longman, Rawat and Concept

Table 1.7: Institutional affiliations of Authors of articles published in selected
Social Science Journals in India, 2004-05

Institutions	Number of authors	Percentage
ICSSR Supported Research Institutions	58	10.70
Other Autonomous Research Institutions	156	28.78
Foreign scholars/NRIs./foreign universities	131	24.17
International Organisations	7	1.29
Universities/Colleges	179	33.03
Govt. Departments	9	1.66
Independent researchers	2	0.37
Total	**542**	**100**

Table 1.8**:** Institutional affiliation of authors of EPW articles 2006

Institutions	Number of papers	Percentage
Universities	45	22
ICSSR aided institutes	20	10
Colleges	5	2
Other institutions	59	29
NGOs/individuals	22	11
Foreign universities	40	20
Other foreign	12	6
Total	**204**	**100**

ANNEXURE – 2

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Annexure - 2
Research Projects

Introduction

Research projects – or research grants as they were earlier known – form an important part (listed second among the 12 Objects of the Council in the Memorandum of Association) of the ICSSR's mandate as also its strategy of promoting social science. In accordance with this mandate, the ICSSR has sponsored research projects, individual as well as institutional; supported journals and professional associations; supported training in research methodology and indicated priority areas for research. 45 Research Projects (henceforth RPs) were, at the inception of the ICSSR, transferred to it from the Planning Commission.

The total number of RPs sanctioned from the inception of the ICSSR to 2004-05 is 2881, of which 270 projects were cancelled/withdrawn/closed, and 2359 project reports were received. This leaves 252 projects unaccounted for, in terms of project reports. This Annexure contains an analysis of 264 RPs sanctioned in the period 2000-2005. The expenditure incurred on these projects as a percentage of the total Plan expenditure of the ICSSR (see Table 2.1) increased from 3.1% in 2000-01 to 9.6% in 2005-06.[11] However, the overall Plan resources of the ICSSR increased at a far higher rate of 39% from 2001 to 2006.

In the five-year period that has been analysed in this Annexure, the major shift in terms of research funding was the discontinuance of thematic – referred to as `sponsored' – research projects, that had been introduced following the recommendations of the First Review Committee, headed by Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah, in 1974. The Council accepted this recommendation and sponsored research programmes were launched in, among others, the areas of poverty and unemployment, social unrest and violence, the condition

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[11] The budget head "Research Grants" appears to be rather flexible. The allocation for funds in 2000-01 shows four sub-categories of this budget head: Grants-in-aid for Projects (old and new), Honoraria to Consultants, Administrative Reforms and Conference on South Asia. The allocation for the Conference on South Asia is Rs 70 lakhs, close to double of that for research projects per se.

of the Muslim minority and of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Status of Women, Integrated Area Development, and Law and Social Change.

In the 1980s, the ICSSR discontinued the practice of identifying important thrust areas for research and inviting proposals on these, and that has remained the position since. A second major shift has been the sudden increase in the number of NGOs receiving funding for RPs. Though the first two or three such instances occurred as early as 1969-70, this was a relatively rare practice until 2000. Since that time, however, close to fifty per cent of the research projects are found to be located in NGOs.

Categories of Research Projects

Research Projects of the ICSSR are granted in a wide range of disciplines and sub-disciplines, from the standard social sciences such as Economics and Political Science to Social Work, Criminology, Library Science, Law, Demography and Linguistics. In addition, there is a separate set of grants in the field of Gender Studies.

There are four categories of RPs, and a brief description of each follows:

Research Projects: Individuals "normally" below the age of 70 years, not merely professional social scientists but also civil servants, journalists and social workers with a record of publication, are entitled to apply for RPs. Scholars are expected to be affiliated with "a reputed academic institution or a college/university". On completion of the project (3-24 months), grantees are expected to submit a project report and indicate the policy implications of the study conducted.

Research Assistance to Young Social Scientists: These 6 month grants are intended for college lecturers and researchers working in research institutes, below the age of 40, to write a paper/monograph under the guidance of a senior social scientist.

Study Grant to Senior Social Scientists: This category of research grants is in the nature of post-retirement assistance of up to 3 years for writing up new or earlier research for

publication. The requirement for affiliation is vague, stipulating only that "the grant is administered through the institution identified/approved for the purpose."

Sponsored Programmes:

Till about a decade ago, the ICSSR indicated priority areas of research through the `Sponsored Programmes'. These were grants, awarded for a period of 3-5 years, to an institution or group of institutions interested in carrying out research on a given theme. The programme has since been discontinued.

Before proceeding to an analysis of the data provided on RPs, let us briefly survey the comments of the first three review committees.

Previous Review Committees of the ICSSR: Comments on Research Projects

The First Review Committee, 1973:

- Much of the research done under the auspices of the ICSSR has "no relevance to contemporary social and national problems and suffers besides from lack of rigour in its analysis of phenomena and synthesis of facts".

The Second Review Committee, 1978:

- *Senior faculty gets more*: Over 40% of projects went to the Professors, 22% to Readers and 20% to Lecturers in University departments and Research Institutes. College teachers received less than 8% of projects.
- *Delhi-centric*: The Committee urged corrective action to remedy the impression that "the ICSSR is a body of and for the elite located in Delhi". In terms of regional distribution, 23.31% of RPs went to Delhi-based scholars, especially those at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University.
- *Sponsored RPs elitist*: Sponsored research projects enabled inter-disciplinary research on common themes in priority areas but they were also viewed as elitist and selective.
- *Resources go where they are less needed*: A drastic curtailment of ICSSR funding for established university departments and research institutes was recommended.
- *Bias towards Economics*: Highest number of RPs (25%) awarded to economists.

The Third Review Committee, 1986:

- *Bias towards economics:* Noted and justified by the argument that Economics has a larger number of scholars!

- *Delhi-centric:* 23% of research grants went to Delhi residents, though Delhi was only one of 111 cities in which grantees resided.

- *Evaluation-oriented research:* "Policy research to be of relevance cannot merely focus attention on the evaluation of government programmes at the sectoral level in the regional or local dimensions. The insights gained from such studies about the understanding of constraints and potentialities can be of great help to the policy maker if they are presented at an appropriate level of generalization and applicability. Such assimilative work is at present scanty. There also appears to be a neglect of researchable themes of (a) theoretical nature."

A review of the recent experience of Research Projects clearly shows that the comments made by previous Review Committees continue to be relevant, and echo many of the present-day concerns.

Salient Characteristics of Recent Research Projects, 2000-05

During the last five-year period, the ICSSR sanctioned a total of 264 research projects. Of these, 12 projects were terminated before completion. There is a general tendency of growth in the number of projects being granted each succeeding year, with a peak number of 80 during 2003-4, but stabilizing at around 50 per year for the most part.[12]

Broadly six categories of institutions house ICSSR-funded research projects: Universities, ICSSR Institutes, ICSSR Regional Centres, Colleges, NGOs and independent research institutes. There is a significant variation between the number and size of the projects that institutions in each category receive. Table 2.2 shows that Universities and NGOs got the largest number of projects over the last five years, 83 and 82 respectively, thereby accounting for roughly 31.5% of total number of projects each, and 62 per cent of the total number of projects sanctioned. Of the gender studies projects, however, NGOs got more

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[12] The exception here is 2001-02, when only 20 RPs were processed.

than 50% (12 out of 23) of these whereas universities got just 4. Discounting the gender studies projects, universities got a slightly larger share than NGOs.

After Universities and NGOs come colleges (48 projects) followed by ICSSR institutes (34 projects). These account for 18% and 13% respectively of the overall number of projects sanctioned in this period. By contrast, ICSSR regional centres hosted just 2 projects in last five years. From 2003-04 onwards, independent research institutions such as the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and Library and the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis began getting grants.

In the period 2000-05, the ICSSR committed an expenditure of over 6 crore rupees for various projects, at an average project size of 2.3 lakhs. (see Table 2.3) During this period there was a seven-fold increase in the funds available for grants in a given financial year. Similarly there was a four-fold increase in the average size of the project in terms of funding between 2000-01 and 2004-05. It is also interesting to note that while the total number of projects granted for the period under consideration shows some fluctuation, the average size of the projects manifests a fairly consistent positive slope throughout.

The pattern of distribution of *projects* across different types of institutions is reproduced in the allocation of *funds* to different categories of institutions. Thus, Table 2.4 shows that universities and NGOs together obtained two-thirds of all grants made in the last five financial years. Further, when the average size of the projects located in each of these institutions is considered, universities are close to the overall average, while NGO projects are slightly higher. As Table 2.3 shows, Gender Studies projects have an average size much higher than the overall average (roughly Rs 65,000 higher), and these are mostly located in NGOs. Further, though ICSSR Institutes account for only 17% of the total allocations, the average size of the projects located in these is substantially higher than either universities or NGOs. At roughly Rs 3,12,000, an average project at an ICSSR Institute is almost Rs 80,000 more than the average project. Colleges, on the other hand, account for roughly same proportion of funding (15%) but have a lower average project size.

It is interesting to compare this data with the observation, in the Report of the Third Review Committee, that social scientists in Universities and Colleges feel disadvantaged vis-à-vis those in research institutes in terms of their access to grants. Two decades later, the phenomenon of the NGO has changed the balance considerably. While Universities and NGOs obtained an almost equal number of projects, the ICSSR Institutes got less than half of this number. Even social scientists in Colleges got more than those at research institutes.

The disaggregated fund commitments to different types of institutions where the ICSSR locates its projects (Table 2.4) shows that four of these, viz. Universities, ICSSR Institutes, Colleges and NGOs together account for 98% of its project funding. Table 2.5 shows that the average size of the projects at various institutions across the five-year period was pretty evenly spread at around Rs 80,000 during 2000-01, with only colleges having somewhat smaller projects at Rs 60,000 apiece. From 2001-02 onwards, the ICSSR began giving larger grants, resulting in the average size of the projects at Universities being doubled, and at NGOs quadrupled.

Some general trends pertaining to individual years during this period are notable. In 2001-02, two thirds of the total money (Rs 23 lakhs out of Rs 31 lakhs) given to NGOs was allocated for just two projects.[13] Over the next two years, the budgetary allocation for RPs was substantially increased, and hence projects were granted at revised and higher scales of budgets. During 2003-04, three large projects located at ICSSR Research Institutes accounted for just under half of the total allocations to this category of institutions in that year, and also account for the very high average size of projects located at Research Institutes.[14] In 2004-05, there was a drop in the number of projects

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[13] Dr. Dibakar Kundu's study on "*The Relevance of Shyama Prasad Mookherjee's Thoughts in the New Millennium*", located at the Seva Anukshan, Kolkata and "*Kashmir and Its People: A Social Study*" by Prof. S. Bhatt, Dr. S.S. Toshkhani and M.K. Kaur, located in the Kashmir Education, Culture and Science Society, New Delhi.

[14] These three RPs are: Rs 7.38 lakhs awarded to Dr. Kuldeep Kaur of CRRID, Chandigarh to work on "*Madrasa Education in India: Its Relevance and Impact*"; Rs 6.66 lakhs awarded to Dr. Hari Jai Singh, also of CRRID, Chandigarh for his project "*Indian Upsurge and Indian ferment: who we are and whither*

granted by almost a third compared to the previous year. However, the average size of the projects increased again, stabilizing well above Rs 3 lakhs.

On the whole, the mean project sizes have been highest for non-ICSSR research institutes, followed by – in descending order – ICSSR Institutes, NGOs, and Universities. These institutions – including the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses – received only 3 projects over two of the five years under study, but the average size of just these projects was 15% higher than the average project size at ICSSR Research Institutes and 55% higher than that at Universities.

Of the 6 largest Research Projects (over Rs 6 lakhs each, or roughly more than twice the mean size), 3 were located at ICSSR Research Institutes and the remaining 3 at NGOs. (see Table 2.6) Of the 3 at ICSSR Research Institutes, 2 were at the same institute. Of the remaining 3, the NGOs in which they were located are not known for academic excellence, and indeed the academic potential and output of these three studies – The Relevance of Shyama Prasad's Thoughts in the New Millennium; Kashmir and Its People: A Social Study; The Missing Women in Haryana: Socio-Cultural Causes and Effects of Adverse Sex Ratios in the Districts of Haryana – is far from clear.

As an institution with an all-India presence, ICSSR has classified India into six regions. Tables 2.7 and 2.8 present a regional disaggregation of this data. The percentage of projects received by each region, and the proportion of funding, are almost perfectly matched, and this is a stable trend across the five-year period. (see the last row of Table 2.7) The northern region gets around 40% of the quantum of funding as well as of the number of projects, followed by southern region at 26%. Together, these two regions account for two-thirds of the overall disbursements. The eastern (14%) and western (10%) regions come third and forth; the north-western (6%) is fifth, and much of this is in and around the NCR, such as Gurgaon. The negligible 1% for the north-eastern region is not significant, as that region has a separate dedicated programme of research funding.

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we go" and Rs 12.5 lakhs awarded to Dr. Subash C. Kashyap of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for "*A Definitive Study in the Evolution and Operation of the Provisions of the Constitution of India*".

Table 2.8 shows that the total amount of money given to NGOs is larger than that given to Universities, and almost double of that given to ICSSR Research Institutes. NGOs have an edge over Universities in the east, the north and the south. However, in the western region, the NGOs get slightly less than Universities, while in the north-western region they get only a quarter of the funding that Universities get. The evidence for the charge that ICSSR project funding is Delhi-centric is not all that robust. While the northern region has 103 out of 264 RPs, Delhi has 35 or about one-third of these, and Uttar Pradesh has 26. If UP has 9 RPs in Universities, Delhi has 10. However, Delhi has a much larger proportion of NGO projects compared to any other state in the northern region. Nearly half of the 18 projects located in Colleges went to Madhya Pradesh, while not a single college located in Delhi got a project from the ICSSR in the last five years.

The Third Review Committee (1986) had, in its Report, analysed the disciplinary distribution of the Research Projects between 1980-81 and 1984-85. It had commented on the bias in favour of projects in Economics (30%), with Political Science and Sociology accounting for 12% of the total projects each. Our analysis of the research projects between 2000-2005 shows that while Economics continues to be the single largest discipline attracting research grants (21%), Sociology accounts for 18% and Political Science for 13.8% of the total number of projects. Education has substantially increased from 2% to 6.5%. (see Table 2.9)

In 1980-85, Interdisciplinary Studies accounted for 8%; today it is a mere 2.3%. There have also been some interesting shifts in the other subject areas. For instance, History has completely disappeared from the second phase, which may be explained by the availability of funding for History from other sources, including the Indian Council of Historical Research. The disappearance of Home Science and Music, on the one hand, and the appearance of new fields such as Environment, Mass Communications and Library Science, on the other, may be explained by the new recognition of the importance of these areas, and in some cases their marketability. Similar forces may also account for the lower figures for research in Law, Psychology and Geography. Many new Law schools have been established, whose graduates are highly employable in legal firms.

Psychology and Geography are apparently also in some demand in the consultancy market.

Screening and Selection Procedures

The procedures for screening, refereeing and monitoring Research Projects have undergone some shifts over the years. The next section of this Annexure will analyse the monitoring aspect – by examining the data relating to research outputs – while the present section looks at the selection procedures. When the Third Review Committee published its Report in 1986, proposals for up to Rs 5000 were screened by the Council Secretariat itself, those for up to Rs 10,000 were referred to one consultant, and those for over Rs 10,000 were referred to two or three consultants. The procedure currently followed is that of screening of all proposals by a Research Committee constituted, on the recommendation of the Council, by the Chairman of the ICSSR. This Committee has 13 members, all of whom are external, this being a departure from the practice followed in two previous committees which had three official members. The proposals short listed by the screening process are sent to three outside experts in each case.

There are several problems that attend the process of stringent quality screening. To begin with, there are delays in sending out proposals and delays also in receiving feedback from experts. Sometimes, the evaluation of the proposals is rather cursory and inattentive to methodological issues – it was informally reported that about fifty per cent of the referees' reports are casual.

Secondly, apart from the lack of attention to the quality of scholarship, the other major concern has been a certain volatility stemming from lack of continuity in the leadership of the institution, and the politicisation of the constitution of the Council. The last decade has made these trends particularly visible.

Thirdly, both the number of applications as well as the quality of the proposals received is reported to have sharply declined. This may be attributed to the constraints in appointing project staff, the limited salaries for research assistants and TA/DA for project

staff, and the jerky and generally delayed release of funds. ICSSR grant conditions are extremely restrictive. Research assistants' salaries, for instance, are well below those of the University Grants Commission. Further, the ICSSR does not have the freedom to revise these from time to time – all such initiatives have necessarily to be approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Even when a research project is sanctioned, the release of funds is subject to tardiness and delays, which necessarily impact the running of a project. These are widely perceived to be major factors dissuading scholars from seeking ICSSR funds.

Fourthly, the decline in the number and quality of proposals may also be due to the availability of more generous grants from other agencies, such as bilateral or multilateral donors, or even foreign universities and other grant-making organisations. These grants have the additional attraction of not being subject to two layers of bureaucratised processes – one at the ICSSR and the second at the Universities and Colleges. In part, this is also the reason for the increasing demand, from within mainstream academia, for locating ICSSR projects in NGOs. It has been suggested that scholars prefer a less stringent accounting regime, and some of them have actually floated NGOs for whom the 7.5% overhead costs (provided in ICSSR projects) provide some extra resources.

Finally, a comment on the thematic content of the RPs is in order. Regardless of the discipline to which these belong, the projects appear to be predominantly in the nature of evaluations of development programmes or anti-poverty schemes. There are hardly any projects that appear to be pushing the frontiers of social science, suggesting methodological innovation or examining issues of contemporary importance.

An Analysis of the Data Relating to Outputs of ICSSR Research Projects
The quality issues that plague the screening process are equally ubiquitous in the evaluation process at the conclusion of a project. The expert evaluating the final report is usually one of the three members that evaluated the initial proposal. This appears to be the norm though there are occasional exceptions. In the final evaluation, the expert gives

her/his opinion about the quality of the work and comments on whether it is fit for publication.

Project outputs can be evaluated in two ways: first, the *rate of completion* with the actual submission of a final report; and second, the *quality of the report*, as gleaned from the comments of the evaluator. The broad picture may be seen in the bottom row of Table 2.10. For the 264 projects that were granted in the last five years, reports were submitted in 48% (127 RPs) If we add to this number the 27 RPs that sought extensions to submit reports, and 46 projects whose due date fell in 2006 (some of these are a few months delayed already) the total percentage of projects that either submitted the reports or are expected to do so, goes up to 75%. Of course, in terms of resources, even 20% defaulters can imply a sum of Rs 1.2 crores or one-fifth of the total sum spent by the ICSSR on Research Projects in the five year period under study.

We have synthesized the enormous variety of evaluative labels[15] in terms of four categories – very good, good, OK, poor. The number of recommendations for publishing has been counted separately. Reports that were explicitly stated to be works of very good quality and given publication grants are classified as very good. Reports that are recommended for publication grants but with suggested modifications have been classified as good. Reports that are accepted but not explicitly granted publication funds have been classified as OK. Finally, all the work that is explicitly stated to be of very poor quality is classified as poor.

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[15] Some of these include: Suggested improvement, recommended publication with revision; Recommended publication with modification; Found work to be of good quality, recommended publication grant with some suggestions; Found work to be of good quality, recommended publication grant; Suggested thorough editing, strongly recommended publication grant; Report reasonably good, not recommended for publication grant; Found it useful contribution, suggested improvements, not recommended for publication; Found the report monotonous and heavy reading, not recommended for publication; Found the report very poor, not recommended for publication; Found the report poorly conceived and badly planned; Consultant has recommended change in the sampling design; Consultant has recommended the report be accepted in the present form; Good study, recommended publication in the form of papers but not as a book; Did not find the report even up to the level of masters thesis, not recommended for publication; Given suggestions for improvement, silent on publication.

The data show that, of the 127 reports submitted, 56 reports (44%) submitted are still with the experts. Nearly half of these have been submitted by NGOs, while Universities and colleges together account for the other half. About a third of the reports that have been submitted and evaluated have been considered good or very good, and almost all of these are recommended for a publication grant. The remainder have been evaluated as mediocre, mostly by the very people who cleared the proposal in the first place.

Comparing the report submission rates of Universities, ICSSR Research Institutes and NGOs, it appears that NGOs are more efficient in submitting reports – perhaps because they depend upon research projects for their sustenance in a way that scholars employed in universities or research institutes do not. Thus, the NGO rate of report submission is close to 70%, the ICSSR Research Institutes are 44%, and the Universities are 35%. However, the rate of non-submission of reports is not very different as between NGOs and Universities, which for this period means that more projects at the Universities have either received extensions or have a few months to go before they fall due. The statistics of ICSSR Research Institutes show a very low rate of non-submission of reports, at just 9%. The number of such reports lying with the experts is also very low (6%). Though the backlog with the experts follows the same order, it is interesting that a larger number of projects in NGOs (10), as compared to any other category of institution, have been evaluated as good or very good.

The disaggregated data for the projects funded by the ICSSR show that some reports have been lying with the experts for as long as five years. There are delays – in some cases inordinate - in both sending the reports and in getting the assessments of the referees. Indeed, the data do not clearly indicate how many of the projects sought extension and how many finished them in time. In some cases, the data simply record the receipt of some booklets, which are evidently not sent to experts for evaluation. The ICSSR itself appears to be somewhat disinterested in serious follow-up. It does not collect or maintain records of any publications that have resulted from the research (which would normally occur within a year or two of the completion of the research), nor does it insist that the

primary data collected in the course of such research be deposited with the ICSSR. There is little effort at enforcing accountability.

As with the quality of screening of proposals, thus, the quality of evaluation of completed projects is also weak and beset with difficulties. In general, the more established scholars tends to keep a snobbish distance from such tasks.

Conclusion

In summary form, the data presented above indicate that:

- The Research Projects of the ICSSR account for less than 10 per cent of the total Plan expenditure of the organisation.

- 62% of the Research Projects are awarded to Universities and NGOs, and divided in almost equal proportion between them. The NGOs are sometimes unknown institutions with little or no academic credibility.

- The ICSSR Research Institutes receive less than half the number of projects and approximately half the quantum of funds under the Research Projects scheme. Of course, ICSSR Research Institutes have independent research budgets that fund faculty research. However, since the faculty remain eligible to apply directly to the ICSSR for larger grants, they thereby tap into the general pool of resources which is, in any case, not particularly large.

- In monetary terms, the average project size has been Rs 2.3 lakhs. It is somewhat higher at ICSSR Research Institutes

- Of the 6 projects over Rs 6 lakhs each (all awarded in 2002-03), 3 were located at ICSSR Research Institutes (accounting for more than half of the total allocations to such institutions in that year) and 3 at NGOs. None of these was located at a University or College.

- In terms of regional distribution of RPs, the northern region gets around 40% of the quantum of funding as well as of the number of projects, followed by southern region at 26%. Together, these two regions account for two-thirds of the overall disbursements.

- Close to 20% of project reports due in 2000-05 have not been submitted. Rates of non-submission of project reports are about the same in Universities and NGOs.

- 44% of the reports submitted are still lying with the experts. Another 3% are yet to be sent to experts.

- Only a third of the reports submitted and evaluated have been considered good or very good.

- The themes of the RPs are predominantly in the nature of evaluations of development programmes or anti-poverty schemes. There are hardly any projects that appear to be pushing the frontiers of social science, suggesting methodological innovation or examining issues of contemporary importance.

- The number as well as quality of proposals received by the ICSSR has registered a decline over the years. The restrictive grant conditions, and bureaucratic processes, act as disincentives. The availability of alternative sources of funding, with less restrictive conditions and more generous provision, make it easier and more efficient to access such funding agencies for research.

Suggestions

The data as well as the Committee's consultations with social scientists across the country suggest that the Research Projects programme of the ICSSR is poorly funded and not adequately robust in terms of being able to maintain high academic standards.

The Committee is of the view that this is an area that needs to be both expanded and strengthened in the proposed Indian Academy of Social Sciences. The appropriate institutional arrangements for achieving this objective are elaborated in the main report. The following points summarise the Committee's recommendations in respect of the Research Projects programme.

- There is a need for restoring the earlier practice of thematic research by identifying priority areas of research. There should, however, remain ample opportunities for individual scholars to propose innovative research of their own.

- Recognised scholars could be approached to prepare reviews of the state of research in a particular field, which could form the basis for crystallising a research agenda through broad-based discussion with a forum of interested researchers from different disciplines.

- Thrust areas/themes could be identified through a consultative process in which the IASS would involve senior and younger members of particular disciplines to formulate the important questions in their disciplines.

- The thrust areas could be advertised and proposals invited for theoretically imaginative and methodologically solid research proposals in these areas. The Research Institutes should be particularly encouraged to link up with each other (say 3 or 4 Institutes from different regions in the form of a network) and put up joint proposals, thus enabling more wide-ranging and comprehensive research findings to emerge.

- On each theme, the institution should facilitate the creation of an interactive network of researchers who could even belong to different disciplines, approaching a common problem from distinct disciplinary perspectives. Such networks would be a means of getting focused research on core common questions, using comparable methodologies of data collection, and generating data that would allow for generalisations as also for the analysis of variations across space.

- Such networks would have the added attraction of reducing the load of monitoring on the IASS secretariat.

- Stringent standards of quality should be applied before committing to fund any projects. Methodological rigour must form the core of any strategy to improve quality and this in turn may require (a) the committed involvement of senior scholars and (b) the training of younger scholars. However, this stringency should be offset by a more liberal pattern of funding.

- The policy of granting projects to NGOs, especially those that function like private concerns, should be seriously reconsidered. If these cannot be altogether excluded, the endeavour should be to build a panel of `approved' NGOs that have a credible history of producing research.

- The affiliation of young researchers in a region with faculty at the nearest Research Institute should be facilitated, to enable the younger researchers to benefit from methodological and conceptual training, and produce better research.

- The faculty at the Research Institutes could have half its faculty time paid for by the Institute and the other half by the research project. The practice of taking on several projects at one time – thereby compromising the quality of the outputs – should be discouraged, and the number of projects an individual is currently involved with should be treated as an important criterion in deciding on such applications.

Table 2.1: Expenditure on Research Projects as a Proportion of ICSSR Plan Expenditure

2000-2006 (*Rupees in Lakhs)*

Year	Actual Expenditure	Total Plan Expenditure of ICSSR	Research Projects as a percentage of Total Plan Expenditure of ICSSR
2000-01	40.00	1280.68	3.12%
2001-02	41.40	1524.65	2.71%
2002-03	62.79	1729.96	3.62%
2003-04	106.37	1738.00	6.11%
2004-05	127.90	1587.00	8.05%
2005-06	171.72	1779.99	9.64%

Table 2.2**:** No. of projects sanctioned to different categories of institutions 2000-2005

S. No	Category of Institutions	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Gender Studies[16] 2004-2005	Total
1.	Universities	8	7	18	29	17	4	83
2.	ICSSR Institutes	4	-	5	14	9	2	34
3.	ICSSR Regional Centres	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
4.	Colleges	9	2	10	14	8	5	48
5.	NGOs	13	9	18	15	15	12	82
6.	Independent Research Institutes	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
7.	Terminated Before Completion	1	2	3	6	-	-	12
	Total	36	20	54	80	51	23	264

[16] These are not projects sanctioned during 2004-2005, but projects whose status during that year is given at the end of annexure II. They could belong to any of the three financial years 2002-3 to 2004-5.

Table 2.3: <u>ICSSR grants for projects 2000-05</u>

S. No	Year	Project Funds 2000-2005		
		No. Of Projects	Total money Committed (Rs in lakhs)	Average Size (Rs)
1.	2000-01	36	25.95	72,094
2.	2001-02	20	42.59	2,12,950
3.	2002-03	54	103.52	1,91,705
4.	2003-04	80	206.59	2,58,243
5.	2004-05	51	167.79	3,29,019
6.	Gender Studies	23	68.11	2,96,153
7.	Terminated Before Completion	12	-	-
	Total	264	614.57	2,32,793

Table 2.4: <u>Funds allotted to Different Categories of Institutions 2000-5</u>

S.No	Category of Institutions	Project Funds 2000-2005		
		No. Of Projects	Total money Committed (in lakhs)	Average Size
1.	Universities	83	194.92 (32%)	2,34,852
2.	ICSSR Institutes	34	106.25 (17%)	3,12,516
3.	ICSSR Regional Centres	2	3.09 (0.5%)	1,54,725
4.	Colleges	48	91.02 (15%)	1,89,642
5.	NGOs	82	208.37 (34%)	2,54,120
6.	Independent Research Institutes	3	10.89 (1.8%)	3,63,000
7	Terminated Before Completion	12	-	-
	Total	264	614.57 (100%)	2,32,793

Table 2.5: <u>Average size of Research Projects at various institutions 2000-5</u>

S. No	Category of Institutions	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	GS 2004-05	TOTAL
1.	Universities	83,840(8)	1,51,721(7)	1,59,933(18)	2,61,365(29)	3,62,464(17)	2,84,928(4)	2,34,852(83)
2.	ICSSR Institutes	80,876(4)	-	2,28,992(5)	4,17,287(14)	3,11,694(9)	2,54,912(9)	3,12,516(34)
3.	ICSSR Regional Centres	9,450(1)	-	-	-	3,00,000(1)	-	1,54,725(2)
4.	Colleges	60,188(9)	59,929(2)	1,81,482(10)	1,96,871(14)	3,30,990(8)	2,44,469(5)	1,89,642(48)
5.	NGOs	80,771(13)	3,41,900(9)	2,50,751(18)	2,52,193(15)	2,98,311(15)	3,28,304(12)	2,54,120(82)
6.	Independent Research Institutes	-	-	-	349387(2)	3,90,225(1)	-	3,63,000(3)
7.	Terminated Before Completion	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12)
	Total	72,094(36)	2,12,950(20)	1,91,705(54)	2,58,243(80)	3,29,019(51)	2,96,153(23)	2,32,793(264)

Table 2.6: <u>Research Projects over Rs 6 lakhs (roughly more than twice the mean size)</u>

S. No.	Name & Address of Project Director	Topic	Affiliating Institution(s)	Consultants Who Evaluated the Proposal	Duration (months)	Total amount sanctioned with date	Report Received or Due on	If received, Who evaluated	Expert Opinion	Remarks
112 2729	Dr. Kuldip Kaur Centre for research in Rural and Industrial Development Sector- 19-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160 019	Madarsa Education in India: Its Relevance and Impact	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development Chandigarh	Dr. Jacob Aikara, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai	24	7,38,525 29.10.03	Due on 31-5-06	-	-	**ICSSR Institute**
124 2741	Dr. Hari Jai Singh Centre for Research in Industrial Development, 21, Sector 19-A Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160 019	Indian Upsurge and Indian in Ferment: who we are and whither we go	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development Chandigarh	Prof. R.M.L Patil Bangalore 2. Prof. Arun Chaturvedi Udaipur	24	6,66,500 15.10.03	Yes	**Prof. Arun Chaturvedi**	**Comments awaited**	**ICSSR Institute**
185 2802	Dr Subhash C Kashyap 62, Sainik Farms New Delhi-62. RP02/0064/2001	A Definitive Study in the Evolution and Operation of the Provisions of the Constitution of India	Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi	The proposal was placed before RCs and the revised proposal was approved in the Council in its 94th meeting held on 21.10.02.	24	12,50,000 28.1.03	Due on 31.12.05 Ext. 31.12.06			**ICSSR Institute**
50 2667	Dr. Dibakar Kundu 21/6 Banamali Chatterjee Street Calcutta- 700 002	Relevance of Shyamaprasad's Thought in the New Millennium	Seva Anukshan 21/C, Chatterjee Street Kolkata	Dr. S.C. Sharma New Ayodhya Nagar(A.P) Dr.(Mrs) Karuna Channa J.N.U, New Delhi Prof. S.N.Navalgunkar Pune	24	5,00,000 +Foreign Trip to UK for 60 days air fare + per diem Rs 3,46,824/-.	Yes	**Prof. S.N.Navalgundkar**	**Comments awaited**	**NGO**
51 2668	Prof. S. Bhatt, Dr. S.S. Toshkhani and Mr. M.K.Kaur Centre for Federal Studies, Hamdard University New Delhi	Kashmir and its People: A Social Study	Kashmir Education, Culture & Science Society,, New Delhi		24	10.40 Lakhs 14.02.02	Two Books received Yes	-	-	**NGO**
7	Dr. Neelam Gupta President AROH Foundation 338, Than Singh Nagar Anand Parbhat New Delhi	The Missing Women in Haryana: Socio-Cultural Causes and Effects of Adverse sex ratios in the Districts of Haryana	Aroh Foundation New Delhi	1.Dr. Maithreyi Krishna Raj Iumbai Dr. Veena Poonacha Mumbai	6	6,94,450 31.10.03	Dr. J.L.Pandey Dr. KG Uma	**Both Suggested improvement**		**NGO**

Table 2.7: Distribution of funds and number of projects among regions with annual distributions 2000-05

Year	ER		NER		NWR		NR		SR		WR		Total	
	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted
2000-01	5	3,50,413	2	1,07,650	2	1,70,375	17	13,95,025	7	4,25,985	2	1,45,950	35	2595,398
2001-02	3	11,75,264	-	-	1	2,96,100	6	18,89,923	8	8,97,723	-		18	42,59,010
2002-03	9	17,47,368	-	-	1	48,300	20	42,33,900	16	32,17,750	5	11,04,780	51	1,03,52,098
2003-04	7	16,60,365	-	-	6	23,35,805	38	1,11,39,123	15	32,72,855	8	22,51,365	74	2,06,59,513
2004-05	7	22,89,750	2	5,85,875	1	3,00,000	17	54,26,150	16	55,99,915	8	25,78,280	51	1,67,79,970
Gender Studies	5	14,66,950			3	7,95,820	5	17,86,120	10	27,62,643	-		23	68,11,533
TOTAL	36 (14%)	86,90,110 (14%)	4 (1.5%)	6,93,525 (1%)	14 (5%)	39,46,400 (6%)	103 (39%)	2,58,70,241 (42%)	72 (27%)	1,61,76,871 (26%)	23 (9%)	60,80,375 (10%)	252 (+12 TBC) (100%)	6,14,57,522 (100%)

Table 2.8: <u>Distribution of funds and number of projects in various categories of institutions across regions 2000-05</u>

Category of institution	ER		NER		NWR		NR		SR		WR		Total	
	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted	No of Projects	Money Allotted
Universities	9	20,60,310	2	3,85,175	7	16,52,350	31	77,38,116	24	55,65,768	10	20,91,065	83	1,94,92,784
ICSSR Institutes	5	10,30,910	1	2,10,700	2	14,05,025	15	44,93,905	6	19,14,065	5	15,70,963	34	1,06,25,568
ICSSR Regional Centres	-	-	-	-	1	3,00,000	-	-	1	9,450	-	-	2	3,09,450
Colleges	10	30,29,500	1	97,650	2	96,075	18	28,26,695	15	24,54,158	2	5,98,775	48	91,02,853
NGOs	12	25,69,390			2	4,92,950	36	97,22,525	26	62,33,430	6	18,19,572	82	2,08,37,867
Independent Research Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10,89,000	-	-	-	-	3	10,89,000
TBC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
	36	86,90,110	4	6,93,525	14	39,46,400	103	2,58,70,241	72	1,61,76,871	23	60,80,375	264	6,14,57,522

Table 2.9: Discipline-wise distribution of Research Projects
Comparison of 1980-85 and 2000 –05

Sl.No.	Subject	1980-85		2000-05	
		Number	%	Number	%
1	Economics	133	30.00	57	21.9
2	Sociology	52	12.00	47	18.0
3	Political Science	52	12.00	36	13.8
4	Inter-disciplinary	40	8.00	06	2.3
5	Psychology	34	8.00	11	4.2
6	Women's Studies	24	5.00	*	
7	Commerce	21	5.00	20	7.7
8	Geography	20	4.00	13	5.0
9	Public Administration	13	3.00	03	1.2
10	Anthropology	9	2.00	05	1.9
11	History	9	2.00	-	-
12	Education	9	2.00	17	6.5
13	Law	8	2.00	01	0.4
14	Linguistics	7	2.00	01	0.4
15	Management	6	1.00	21	8.0
16	Statistics	4	1.00	-	-
17	Home Science	2	-	-	-
18	Criminology	1	0.22	02	0.8
19	Military Science/Defence Studies	1	0.22	03	1.2
20	Regional Planning	1	0.22	-	-
21	Music	2	0.44	-	-
22	Demography	-	-	05	1.9
23	Social Work	-	-	01	0.4
24	Environment	-	-	04	1.5
25	Library Science	-	-	04	1.5
26	Mass Communications	-	-	03	1.2
	TOTAL	448	100.00	260	100.00

Source for the period 1980-85: Third Review Committee of the ICSSR,
Note: In the 2000-05 period a separate programme for Research Projects in Gender Studies was in place, hence those figures are not included here.

Table 2.10: Summary of the project report status and their evaluation 2000-05

Sl. No	Category of institution	No. Of projects	Status of the report				Evaluation				Pending Evaluation	
			Received	Not Received	Due 06 Ext. cases	Due 06/07	Very Good	Good	OK	Poor	With Expert	Yet To be sent to expert
1.	Universities	83	29	19	12	23	2	3	6	3	14	1
2.	ICSSR Institutes	34	15	3	9	7	2	4	2	1	5	1
3.	ICSSR Regional Centres	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
4.	Colleges	48	24	9	3	11	-	3	8	-	13	-
5.	NGOs	82	57	18	3	4	2	8	20	2	23	2
6.	Independent Research Institutes	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	Terminated Before Completion	12	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	Total	264	127	51	27	46	6	18	36	7	56	4

ANNEXURE - 3

FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING

Annexure 3
Fellowships and Training

Promotion of social science research through the award of research fellowships to social scientists is a prime activity of the Council. The Council's programme of research fellowships covers a wide range of disciplines, including Business Administration and Management, Criminology, Economics, Education, International Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Social Work, Sociology, and the social science dimensions of Anthropology, Demography, Geography, History, Law, and Linguistics. Scholars from other disciplines too are considered for the award of the fellowships if, in the opinion of the Council, they are competent to do social science research. Thus, discipline-wise, the Council's research fellowships programme is sufficiently broad based. The criteria adopted by the Council for awarding fellowships to non-social science scholars to pursue social science research, however, are not clear. In fact, from the available records, there is no evidence of any serious deliberations on either disciplinary priorities or eligibility criteria. As and when issues arose, ad hoc solutions seem to have been evolved, which in due course have become the norm.

The Council's expenditure on Research Fellowships has increased more than four-fold over four plan periods (from 277.8 lakhs in the VII Plan [actual] to 1161.7 lakhs [estimated] in the X Plan. However, as a percentage of the Council's total expenditure (plan and non-plan put together), it has decreased from 7.8 per cent in the VII Plan to 5.7 per cent in the X Plan (see Table 3.1). This is in contrast with the Council's expenditure on International Collaborations programme, which has increased both in absolute and relative terms: from 65.9 lakhs (1.9 per cent) in the VII Plan to 671.7 (more than ten-fold) (3.3 per cent).

Broadly, there are two types of fellowships: Senior Fellowships and Doctoral Fellowships. The *Senior Fellowships* are given to scholars to pursue their individual research interests and they are not expected to result in any formal academic degrees. These fellowships facilitate senior scholars in social sciences to be academically productive beyond their superannuation. They also enable the academically active among

currently employed scholars to devote quality time to the pursuit of research free from the conventional obligations of teaching and administrative work. The *Doctoral Fellowships* are given to doctoral scholars to pursue and complete their research work leading to a doctoral degree (see Table 3.2).

Senior Fellowships

There are three categories of Senior Fellowships: (i) National, (ii) Senior (confusingly so called in the Council's terminology), and (iii) General (see Table 3.3).

National Fellowships are meant for social scientists who have made outstanding contribution to research in their respective field and who would like to pursue their research interests further. These fellowships are of two sub-types: Specific and Non-Specific. For four fellowships, the subject area is specified: Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship for 'Gandhian Studies', Jawaharlal Nehru National Fellowship for Studies on the 'Ideology of Jawaharlal Nehru', Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Fellowship for 'Studies on Social Justice', and J.P. Naik National Fellowship for 'Studies in Education'. There is no subject specification for the remaining six fellowships, and the awardees may work on themes of their interest.

The National Fellowship is awarded on the Council's own initiative and *only* through nomination. The nominations may be made by Vice-Chancellors of universities in the country, the Directors of ICSSR research institutes or regional centres, members of the Council, and the ex-National Fellows. The nominations are placed before the National Fellowships Committee (appointed by the General Council) for making recommendations to the General Council. During the last five years (2000-01 – 2004-05), in all, 15 such fellowships were awarded, and as many as 14 were awarded in one year, that is, 2002-03.

Senior Fellowships are meant for social scientists who have a proven track record of publications. These fellowships are also open to civil servants, journalists, social workers, etc. who have inclination for social research and have publications to their credit. Under this fellowship, an Indian social scientist may conduct research either within the country

or abroad. This fellowship is also open to scholars from abroad (preferably the neighbouring countries) who wish to come to India to conduct full-time research. Social scientists desirous of being considered for this fellowship have to make a formal application. The Research Fellowships Division has a well-established procedure for processing these applications and forwarding them to the Research Committee of the Council for final selection. During the last five years (2000-01–2004-05), in all 60 such fellowships have been awarded, at an average of 12 fellowships per year.

General Fellowships are meant for young social scientists to pursue their post-doctoral research. Social scientists selected for this fellowship have to work under the supervision of a senior scholar. These fellowships are, thus, equivalent to post-doctoral fellowships. Superannuated scholars are not eligible for this fellowship. The procedure for processing and selection of candidates for the General Fellowships is the same as in the case of Senior Fellowship. During the last five years (*2000-01 to 2004-05), in* all 80 such fellowships have been awarded, at an average of 16 fellowships per year.

An analysis of the data on the above three categories of fellowships reveals that there is sufficient interest among social scientists in these fellowships, and the discipline spread of the awardees of is wide. In 2001-02, for example, in all 149 nominations were received for 15 National Fellowships. The scholars awarded the National Fellowships are, by and large, reputed scholars in their respective fields. Similarly, between 1998-99 and 2001-02 (4 years) 93 applications had been received for General Fellowships and 26 fellowships were awarded (3.6 applications per fellowship). But, when, in 2002-03, the Council decided to advertise the General Fellowships, in all 197 applications were received and 41 fellowships were awarded (4.8 applications per fellowship).

A status analysis of these fellowships (see Table 3.4) reveals that the rate of completion is almost cent per cent (ignoring those who were awarded these fellowships in the last two-three years, as their work was in progress). Eighty per cent of the National Fellows and over 88 per cent of the Senior Fellows who have completed their fellowship period have submitted the report, even if not always on schedule. As compared with this, the

percentage of General Fellows submitting their reports on completion of their fellowship (62 %) is low. The Council does not seem to follow up the errant fellows in a sustained manner to make them comply with the requirement of submission of reports. What follows the submission of the reports is also not monitored by the Council.

The amount of various types of Senior Fellowships and the relative contingency grants were last revised in 2001-02. Considering the revision in the pay scales of teachers and also inflation generally, there is need for upward revision of all fellowships and the contingency grants. In fact, the amount of fellowships under the Senior and General Fellowship categories is less than that of UGC Junior Research Fellowship!

Doctoral Fellowships

Doctoral degree is the most important research-based qualification in higher education. As such, it is the initial training ground for prospective researchers. To encourage novitiate researchers, the Council has instituted five schemes under the Doctoral Fellowships: (i) Institutional Fellowships (ii) Centrally Administered Fellowships, (iii) Fellowships for Foreign Nationals, (iv) Short-term Doctoral Fellowships, and (v) Contingency Grants (see Table 3.5).

Institutional Fellowships are awarded through the research institutes supported by the Council. A specified number of doctoral fellowships are assigned to 23 of the 27 institutes (see Table 3.6). Four institutes have not been assigned any fellowships. In view of the requests from some institutes, in 2004-05, the total number of institutional fellowships was raised from 53 to 76.

The Research Fellowships Division reports that, for various reasons, not all the institutes are availing of the quota of fellowships allotted to them. Data show that during the last five years (2000-01 to 2004-05) only 15 of the 24 institutes/centres have availed of the fellowships allotted to them. During this period, on an average, only 25 fellowships were awarded per year by the institutes, the highest being 46 in 2004-05. In 2004-05, one institute – A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna – informed that it did not receive

any application from candidates belonging to the disciplines of its faculty members, and so it did not select any candidate for the award of the fellowship.

The fact that qualified candidates do not apply for the doctoral fellowships appears to be a systemic problem of higher education across the country. With lucrative job opportunities now being available in the non-academic or semi-academic sectors to better quality graduates and postgraduates, the relatively low paying academic and research jobs requiring 4-5 years of additional academic work for doctoral degree are not more attractive. Furthermore, those who enter the doctoral programme are, by and large, not adequately prepared academically and are not oriented to research as a career option. Their linguistic and communication skills, especially in English – the language of academic communication internationally – are also weak. All this points to the need for making doctoral research more attractive and rigorous by (a) increasing the fellowship amount and (b) extending the duration of fellowship.

The Research Fellowships Division also reports that some institutes 'do not send the documents of the selected candidates in the same financial year' as the candidates do not enrol in the doctoral programme in that academic year. It is not clear as to why the Division wants the institutes to send documents of the selected candidates. The entire scheme appears to be riddled with unnecessary bureaucratic procedures and the accompanying delays.

In several institutes, the scholars utilising the fellowships face serious problems of registering for the doctoral programme in the universities. Some universities do not recognise the institutes' faculty as independent research guides. This problem needs urgent attention.

Another important issue in the administration of fellowships by the institutes is the hidden costs. The institutes are required to pay affiliation and processing fees to the Universities for registering the doctoral candidates enrolled by the institutes. Additionally, there is substantial expenditure incurred in connection with the travel of the

institute's faculty members, students and officials to the university concerned to attend periodical meetings and for the conduct of viva voce examination. The institutes are legitimate in asking the Council to cover these expenses.

Centrally Administered Fellowships are so called as they are directly administered by the Council through the Research Fellowships Division. There are two sub-categories of these fellowships: (a) Open Doctoral and (b) North East. Candidates with a first or second class Master's degree from a recognised university who have registered for a doctoral programme in social sciences are eligible for the doctoral fellowships. The candidates should also have cleared NET conducted by the UGC/CSIR and/or have research experience. There is no fixed number for these fellowships, and the number of such fellowships awarded in a given year is dependent on budgetary provisions. During the last five years (2000-01 to 2004-05), in all 178 Open Doctoral Fellowships and 53 North East Fellowships have been awarded, working to an average of respectively 36 and 11 fellowships per year.

Both the Institutional and Centrally Administered Fellowships are advertised in leading newspapers, the *Employment News* and the Council's website. For the award of the Centrally Administered Fellowships, the Member-Secretary constitutes a selection committee consisting of experts from various disciplines. It appears that the entire process takes an unduly long time (8-10 months).

Although the doctoral fellowship is for two years, until June 2005 it was extended to three years in exceptional cases. It is now restricted only to two years. After two years of fellowship, many scholars are constrained to look for jobs, at least part-time, to meet the expenses involved in completing their doctoral work. This results in avoidable delay in the completion of their work.

The Centrally Administered Fellowships – both in the 'Open' and 'North East' categories – are in great demand: During the four academic years (2001-02 to 20040-05), for 186 seats (140 in the 'Open' and 46 in 'North East' categories) there were as many as 2,193

applications – almost 12 applications for each vacancy. In 2005-06, only North East category fellowships were advertised: 45 applications were received and 15 fellowships were awarded.

However, the Centrally Administered Fellowships are skewed in their distribution. For instance, of the 63 fellowships for which data are available, 30 (47.6%) have been awarded to scholars from two institutions in Delhi – Jawaharlal Nehru University (20) and University of Delhi (10). Andhra Pradesh (8) and Tamil Nadu (7) account for 15 (23.8%), and the remaining 18 are spread across 10 other states. This is against the avowed objective of the Council 'to broad base the social science research and to increase its outreach' by specifically encouraging 'scholars from backward regions'.

Selection of candidates for the award of fellowships follows an elaborate process of double screening and then interviewing by Selection Committees (one for 'North East' category and another for 'Open' category) appointed for the purpose. A perusal of the panel of experts suggests that scholars of repute in different social science disciplines are appointed as members of the Committee. Though time-consuming and cumbersome, the selection process appears to be done professionally. It must be noted, however, that in 2002-03, though the total number of seats under the 'Open' category was only 30, four candidates were selected and approved by the Member-Secretary under his powers and thereafter six waitlisted candidates were approved by the Research Committee. Such ad hoc and arbitrary decisions need to be avoided.

The grants for doctoral fellowship are released in three instalments: the first instalment (Rs 40,000) is released immediately after the receipt of grant-in-aid bill by the Council; the second instalment (Rs 34,000) is released after the Council receives the six-monthly progress report from the scholar duly forwarded by the supervisor along with the simple statement of accounts for the previous instalment; and the third instalment (Rs 10,000) is released only after the Council receives a copy of the approved thesis and accounts. In the case of salary-protected fellows, the grants are released in three instalments: the first two instalments are each of 45 per cent of the total grant amount, and the last instalment (10

per cent) is released after the Council receives the statement of accounts. The fellowship is extended into the second year after the Council receives the request from the scholar along with the progress report and the financial statement. The grants are released in three instalments as in the first year. The cumbersomeness of the procedures and the dysfunctional reporting requirements were common complaints of the fellowship holders and the supervisors.

Given the various administrative procedures involved and the long-drawn correspondence between the Council and the grant receiving institutions, there is inevitable (and often frustrating) delay in the monthly disbursal of fellowships to the awardees. Most of the awardees do not receive the fellowship on time or regularly. Quite a few of them are awaiting the fellowship even after completing their theses. During the Review Committee's consultations, this was adversely commented upon by the guides of Centrally Administered Fellowship holders.

Fellowships for Foreign Nationals: Some doctoral fellowships are also awarded to scholars from foreign (preferably neighbouring) countries for undertaking doctoral research in India. Foreign nationals can avail of this fellowship only if they are registered for the PhD degree in an Indian university. This fellowship has been rarely awarded.

Short-term Doctoral Fellowships are meant for scholars who have completed two years of their doctoral work after registration and who are not in receipt of assistance from any source. As in the case of other doctoral fellowships, the salaries of employed scholars are protected under this scheme. This fellowship is of great help to scholars to speed up and complete their doctoral work. The fact that 316 such fellowships have been awarded during the last five years (2000-01–2004-05) – an average of 63 fellowships per year – proves its popularity. It must be noted, however, that the distribution of these fellowships is skewed: Delhi alone gets about 30 per cent, 42 per cent are distributed among three states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the remaining 28 per cent are thinly spread over the rest of the country.

Contingency Grants are meant for scholars registered for doctoral research work who are not in receipt of any assistance. This grant can be used for meeting expenses relating to field work, printing of questionnaires, computer analysis of data, cartographic work, and purchase of books and journals. During the last five years (2000-01–2004-05), 66 such grants have been awarded, at an average of about 13 grants per year. Such grants are of immense help to self-financing scholars.

For all categories of fellowship, the coverage of subjects is broad and includes any proposal having a social science orientation. Officially, the following disciplines are recognised for support: Demography, Economics/Commerce/Management, Education, Environment and Sustainable Development, Gender Studies, Information and Communication Technology, Library science, North-East Studies, Political Science/International Relations/Public Administration, Psychology, Social Anthropology, Social Aspects of Law, Social Geography, Social Linguistics, Sociology, and Sociology of Natural Science. The proposal need not necessarily fall within any one of the disciplines; the proposals with interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary orientation are also considered.

Training Programmes

A prerequisite for high quality research in social sciences is the training in the science and art of doing research, broadly subsumed under the rubric Research Methodology. While the philosophical basis of social science research is common to social sciences generally, different social sciences have evolved their own theoretical frameworks and procedures/techniques of research. However, scholars engaging themselves in inter-disciplinary or trans-disciplinary research need to familiarise themselves with the research strategies of disciplines other than in which they are trained. Furthermore, from the stage of formulation of research to the ultimate reporting and publicising of its findings, there are several aspects on which a good researcher has to hone his skills: designing the research protocol; sampling procedures; techniques of collection and analysis of data – qualitative and quantitative; sourcing and analysis of secondary data; adoption of information technology; team work practices; and academic writing skills.

It is widely known that notwithstanding the immense importance of the knowledge and skills of Research Methodology, many social science departments in the Indian universities either do not teach this subject or teach it perfunctorily. As such, most students embarking on doctoral studies or seeking employment in research organisations are inadequately prepared for their studies or employment. Since social science departments in the universities basically view their responsibility as teaching rather than research, the onus on training the new generation of social science researchers in Research Methodology rests with the Council and the institutes supported by it.

It is true that the Council has been encouraging training in Research Methodology by sponsoring a variety of programmes: ten-day training programme on research methodology and project formulation; seven-day/two-week training programme in research methodology; two-week training programme in data analysis for full-time research scholars and university/college teachers (at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai); three-day training workshop on research methods and survey techniques for field functionaries; five-day workshop of doctoral scholars and guides; three-week refresher course in research methodology, etc. However, these programmes, relevant and useful as they have been, are inadequate considering the great need and immense demand for such programmes. Moreover, they are also offered in an *ad hoc* fashion. Some of the Council supported institutes, no doubt, offer a year-long pre-doctoral course for doctoral candidates enrolled by them. But their coverage is too restricted.

Suggestions

The existing scheme of Senior Fellowships may be reorganised under three sub-categories of Academy Fellowships*:*

    (i) *National Fellowship* shall be the highest form of honour conferred by the Indian Academy of Social Sciences on social scientists. This fellowship must measure up to the honour of the awardees as well as befit the standing of the Academy. The nominees to this fellowship shall be preferably in the age range of 55-70 years. The amount of this fellowship shall be Rs 50,000 per month (consolidated), with a

contingency grant of Rs 100,000 per year (all inclusive). If an awardee is employed, her/his gross salary may be protected if it exceeds the amount of the award. The duration of this fellowship shall be two years. Considering the stature of the National Fellowship, the *Academy should put in place a transparent procedure* for receiving and processing nominations and selection of the awardees.

(ii) *Research Fellowships* shall be awarded through a process of advertisement and selection to social scientists and others who have interest in social science themes. This fellowship shall be open only to doctorate degree holders who are preferably in the age range of 35-55 years. The amount of this fellowship shall be Rs 40,000 (consolidated), with a contingency grant of Rs 50,000 per year (all inclusive). If the awardee is employed, her/his gross salary may be protected if it exceeds the amount of the award. The duration of this fellowship shall be two years.

(iii) *Post-Doctoral Fellowships* shall be awarded through a process of advertisement and selection to social scientists. This fellowship shall be open only to doctorate degree holders who are preferably below 35 years of age. The amount of this fellowship shall be Rs 25,000 (consolidated), with a contingency grant of Rs 50,000 per year (all inclusive). If the awardee is employed, her/his gross salary may be protected if it exceeds the amount of the award. The duration of this fellowship shall be two years.

For both *Research Fellowships* and *Post-Doctoral Fellowships*, the Academy shall invite applications (through wide publicity). After initial screening of the applications by a screening committee (consisting of two Academy Members, two social scientists nominated by the President of the Academy, with Chief Executive Officer of the Academy as the Convenor), the applications of short-listed candidates may be sent to two subject experts. The final selection shall be made by the same Committee that is constituted for the purpose of awarding the National Fellowships.

As regards Doctoral Fellowships, the existing scheme may be reorganised as follows:

(i) The doctoral fellowships may be categorised under four types: (1) Institute Administered Fellowships, (2) Academy Administered Fellowships, (3) Short-term Fellowships, and (4) Contingency Grants.

(ii) To make doctoral research more attractive and rigorous, the Academy must increase the fellowship amount and extend the duration of fellowship to 5 years (2 years for pre-doctoral training and 3 years for doctoral research work). With this the doctoral scholars can be provided rigorous pre-doctoral training. The rate of timely completion of their research work will also improve.

(iii) Since the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing the fellowship programme for social sciences on a more extensive basis, it is recommended that the Academy put its doctoral fellowships on par with that of the UGC as regards the duration and the amount of fellowships and the quantum of contingency grants.

(iv) The institutes must be advised to take suitable steps to optimally use the fellowships allotted to them. In case, for whatever reason, the fellowships allotted to an institute cannot be used fully in a given year, the unutilised fellowships must be transferred to an institute which is in a position to use them. The Academy may review every three years the utilisation of fellowships allotted to the institutes, to continue/discontinue the Institute Fellowships offered to the institutes and to increase/decrease the number of fellowships, if the decision is to continue the institutional fellowships.

(v) Alternatively, considering the economies of scale, as also enhanced efficiency and speedy processing, the Academy could consider restricting the Institute Fellowship scheme to a small number of institutes with proven record of (a) optimal utilisation of the fellowship, (b) efficient administration of the scheme, and (c) successful completion of doctoral work. The number of fellowships assigned to these institutes may be suitably increased.

(vi) There is considerable scope for streamlining the award of fellowships by the institutes: The institutes must have the autonomy in the matter of selection of the candidates for fellowships and the responsibility for administering and monitoring the fellowships. The institutes must be asked to advertise and award the fellowships within a stipulated period – say July-September; and they must ask the selected candidates to join the programme within a stipulated period (say three months) of the award of the fellowship. Overflow into the next academic/financial year must not be allowed, as it results in accounting/auditing problems. The institutes must be advised to send the list of candidates awarded fellowships to the Academy as soon as the selection is made.

(vii) The Academy must release the grants to the institute (once in a financial year) once it gets the list of candidates selected for fellowships for the academic year. The institutes must be solely responsible for maintaining the records/documents and monitoring the progress of the candidates; the Academy may discontinue obtaining these records/documents from the institutes as is the current practice. The institutes must be asked to submit consolidated progress reports of the candidates at the end of the financial year, before the release of the next year's grants.

(viii) The Academy must reimburse to the institutes the hidden costs in the administration of fellowships, such as (a) the payment of affiliation and processing fees to the Universities for registering the doctoral candidates, and (b) the travel of the institute's faculty members, students and officials to the university concerned to attend periodical meetings and for the conduct of viva voce examination.

(ix) In consultation with UGC, the Academy must address the issue of recognition of the institutes as research centres for conducting doctoral research: The universities in the state in which the institutes are located may be persuaded to accord recognition to the institutes which have a proven track record in doctoral research and treat them on par with their own Departments and Colleges in the matter of doctoral

programmes. The Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi may also be persuaded to accord such recognition.

(x) The Academy must address the issue of skewed regional distribution of the Academy Administered Fellowships and Short-term Doctoral Fellowships. Special efforts must be made to cover the candidates from the regional universities and the backward regions.

(xi) Selection of candidates for the award of fellowships is an elaborate, time-consuming and cumbersome process. There is scope for simplifying the process by delegating the responsibility of selection of candidates to select research institutes in the different regions. This will also take care of the skewed nature of the award of Academy Administered Fellowships.

(xii) *Contingency Grants,* meant for scholars registered for doctoral research work who are not in receipt of any assistance, are of immense help to self-financing scholars. The Academy could consider increasing the number of such grants and also enhancing the amount of the grant to Rs 20,000.

(xiii) The Academy must consider ways of expediting the release of grants. Simplification of procedures, disbursal of grants for one year at a time, and decentralisation of monitoring (via select research institutes) are suggested in this regard.

(xiv) Given the broad base of interest in social and economic issues, the Academy could consider special schemes of fellowships to non-social scientists – for example, media professionals, social activists, etc. – to take a break from their routine work and to engage in research or write a monograph on issues of socioeconomic or cultural importance based on the reflections on their experience, etc.

(xv) The Academy must take the non-submission of reports by fellowship awardees seriously. A monitoring mechanism must be put in place and the progress reviewed and followed up annually.

The Academy can play a very important role in strengthening the Research Methodology Training Programme:

(i) Instead of managing such training programmes on its own, the Academy must entrust the responsibility to select institutes which have proven track record in delivering such training programmes, and support those institutes liberally. These institutes can monitor these programmes more effectively than the Academy's office in the headquarters.

(ii) In implementing these training programmes, the institutes must actively involve the expertise available in universities and other institutes such as IIMs, IITs and ISI in the region.

(iii) Considering cost-effectiveness, not all institutes need duplicate pre-doctoral research methodology programmes; rather the scholars enrolled by them may be deputed to the institutes where such programmes are offered.

(iv) The involvement of expertise from universities and the institutes in the region and opening up of the facility to research scholars from these universities and institutes would contribute to strengthening the symbiotic relationship between the institute and the university system, on the one hand, and between the institutes, on the other.

(v) There is need to diversify courses in the research methodology programme: (a) discipline-specific and interdisciplinary, (b) theme/issue based (especially in the priority research areas identified by the Academy); (c) short duration (three days to one week) to long duration (two-weeks to one month); (d) client-specific: for beginners (foundation courses), for those who have already collected data

(quantitative and qualitative data analysis); for research supervisors/guides; for research staff employed by governmental and non-governmental organisations and consultancy agencies; and (e) specific aspects of methodology: preparation of research instruments; quantitative methodology and computer applications; qualitative methodology; interviewing skills; theory and procedures of sampling; academic writing skills, etc.

Table 3.1: <u>Expenditure on Research Fellowships/International Collaboration (including IDPAD), Training Programmes in four plan periods (Rs in lakhs)</u>

Programme	VII Plan Actual	VIII Plan Actual	IX Plan Actual	X Plan Estimated	Total
Research Fellowships	277.78 7.83%	269.01 5.80%	456.93 4.43%	1161.67 5.68%	2165.39 5.56%
International Collaboration	65.92 1.86	84.36 1.82%	311.51 3.02%	671.74 3.28%	1133.53 2.91%
Training Courses	16.47 0.46%	30.41 0.66%	43.32 0.42%	94.15 0.46%	184.35 0.47%
Total Plan Expenditure	3547.35	4639.95	10303.13	20458.83	38949.26

Table 3.2: <u>Summary of Fellowships Awarded (2000-01 – 2004-05)</u>

Year	National	Senior	General	Doctoral					
				Open	North-East	Institutional	Partial Assistance	Contingency	Foreign National
2000-01	1	7	5	21	6	16	63	-	-
2001-02	0	8	6	38	8	-	86	12	-
2002-03	14	12	16	34	8	36	61	24	4
2003-04	0	17	29	45	16	27	60	13	-
2004-05	0	12	24	40	15	46	46	17	-

Table 3.3: <u>Categories of Senior Fellowships</u>

Category	No. at any time	Duration in years	Amount per month*	Contingency grant per year	Age bar
National Fellowship	10	2	25,000	50,000	Preferably < 70 years
Senior Fellowship	No fixed number	2	8,000	36,000	< 65 years
General Fellowship	No fixed number	2	6,000	12,000	Preferably < 45 years

Note: * Under all these categories of fellowships, there is provision for protection of salary if the social scientist is employed.

Table 3.4: <u>Status of Various Fellowships awarded</u>
<u>(as on 31 March 2006)</u>

Fellowship	Awarded	Joined	In Progress	Completed	Reports Received (% of 5)
1	2	3	4	5	6
National	81	70	-	70	56 (80%)
Senior	411	353	31	322	284 (88.2%)
General/Post-Doctoral	262	185	27	158	98 (62%)

Table 3.5: <u>Schemes under Doctoral Fellowships</u>

Scheme	No. at any time	Duration	Amount per month*	Contingency grant per year	Age bar
Institutional Fellowships^	76	2 years	6,000	12,000	< 35 years
Centrally Administered Fellowships ^	No fixed number	2 years	6,000	12,000	< 35 years
Fellowships for Foreign Nationals	No fixed number	2 years	6,000	12,000	< 35 years
Short-term Doctoral Fellowships	No fixed number	6 months	6,000	6,000 (one time)	-
Contingency Grants+	No fixed number	-	-	12,000	-

* Only candidates who have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) are eligible for this amount. Others are given Rs 5,000 per month.
^ As on 31 March 2003, in all 1,286 doctoral fellowships have been awarded under the Institutional and Centrally Administered Fellowship categories.
+ Only to doctoral scholars who are not in receipt of any fellowship.

Table 3.6: <u>Assignment of Institutional Doctoral Fellowships</u>

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	No. of Fellowships Allotted
1	Sardar Patel Institute for Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad	3
2	G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad	4
3	Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad	3
4	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi	6
5	Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow	4
6	Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai	4
7	A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna	3
8	Indian Institute of Education, Pune	3
9	Centre for Social Studies, Surat	2
10	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi	4
11	Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad	3
12	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata	6
13	Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad	4
14	O.K.D. Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati	3
15	Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science research, Ujjain	3
16	N.K.C. Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar	3
17	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Science, Mhow	2
18	Centre for Research in rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh	1
19	Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi	1
20	Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur	1
21	Council for Social Development, Hyderabad	1
22	Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	6
23	Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore	6

ANNEXURE - 4

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Annexure - 4
International Collaborations

The Council promotes academic link among social scientists of India with their counterparts in other countries, both at the individual and institutional levels. For this, it has instituted several programmes of collaboration and joint research. These programmes may be grouped under two main categories: (i) Cultural Exchange Programmes, and (ii) Academic Contacts Outside the Cultural Exchange Programmes. It is expected that these collaborative endeavours will facilitate scholars to enter into dialogue and to engage in research and academic activities which would be mutually beneficial to scholars and academic institutions in India and abroad.

Cultural Exchange Programmes

Under the Cultural Exchange Programmes, the Council has institutional collaboration with Maison des Sciences de L'Homme (MSH), Paris (France) and Centre de Sciences Humaines de New Delhi; Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Moscow (Russia); and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing (China). The Council is also an implementing agency for a number of other cultural exchange agreements which the Government of India has entered into other countries (for example, Australia, China, Egypt, France, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mexico, North Korea, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam). The activities under the CEP include (i) exchange of scholars, (ii) joint seminars, (iii) joint research projects, and (iv) joint publications.

Cultural Exchange agreements signed between India and another country are generally valid for one to three years. Sometimes the validity of the agreement is extended until a new agreement is signed. Such agreements are operationalised through Joint Advisory Committees/Steering Committees/Joint Commissions consisting of social scientists and officials of the implementing organisations – the Council in India and its counterparts in the other countries. These committees meet annually or once in two years to review the activities of the previous years, examine proposals for exchange of scholars, identify

seminar topics and joint projects, etc. of the next two years. During the years 2002-05, three meetings were held in France, and one meeting each in China and Russia.

During the five year period (2000-01 to 2004-05), in all 81 scholars from abroad visited India and 73 Indian scholars visited foreign countries under the Cultural Exchange Programmes. The Cultural Exchange Programmes is basically confined to three countries: China, France and Russia – 75 (92 per cent) of the incoming scholars and 63 (86.3 per cent) of the outgoing scholars are from these countries (see Table 4.1). There was no exchange of scholars between India and Egypt and India and South Africa, and no scholar from Hungary or Israel visited India. Thus, viewed from a long-term perspective, only India-China (since 1983), India-France (since 1976) and India-Russia (since 1975, with the then USSR) collaborations appear to be successful within the framework of the Cultural Exchange Programmes. In fact, though these three collaborations were initiated under Cultural Exchange Programme agreements, they seem to have resulted in linkages between institutions in India, on the one hand, and the institutions in China, France and Russia, on the other. In the case of other countries, the Cultural Exchange Programmes has been evidently inoperative.

According to the in-house report of the International Collaborations Division, 'the Cultural Exchange Programmes have not made much headway as expected'. This the Division attributes to the 'small area of operation' and the 'limited role' of these Programmes. The Council only implements the articles related to social sciences inserted in these Programmes. It is reported that the proposals sent by the Council for inclusion in the articles of Cultural Exchange Programmes are seldom accepted, and the Council has hardly been able to establish relations with more countries or expand relations with the countries with which there is a Cultural Exchange agreement. There is also bureaucratic delay in that (a) the Cultural Exchange agreements do not reach the Council or reach it too late, and (b) the counterpart organisations in some countries do not respond to the Council's initiatives for implementing the items of the agreement.

It must be noted that the Council is not the only organisation dealing with Cultural Exchange Programmes. Organisations such as the University Grants Commission and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations are administering these Programmes on a more elaborate scale and also more effectively. As such, to expect these Programmes to yield more than what they have till now, is unrealistic.

Academic Contacts outside the Cultural Exchange Programme

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Institutions: Independently of the Cultural Exchange Programmes, the Council has initiated professional contacts and long-term collaborative programmes with the National Research Foundation, South Africa; National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam; the Japan Society for Promotion of Sciences; and the Social Council of Asia. Collaborations have also been initiated with Germany, Israel, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. The Council is the nodal agency in India for implementing the UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) programme. The Council has also established collaborative ties with UNESCO, World Institute of Development Economic Research (WIDER), Helsinki, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris.

Many of the MOUs signed by the Council, however, have remained on paper only, with neither side initiating any follow up action. The MOUs signed with Israel and Taiwan are examples of this. Similarly, the MOUs signed with Japan and South Africa also have remained unimplemented because the Council 'changed its priority in favour of other countries'. Thus, the visits of Council's officials for signing of the MOUs in many cases has been non-fructuous and a drain on the Council's meagre resources.

Membership of International Federations/Councils: The Council is a member of several international federations and councils of social science associations: International Social Science Council (Paris), Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils, International Federation of Social Sciences Organisations, and the Academy of Social Sciences Australia. Such membership, no doubt, serves the purpose of networking institutions and representing the official Indian establishment of social sciences. There

has been, however, no assessment on the part of the Council on what has been the concrete impact of membership. In fact, the Council does not seem to have a documented note on its involvement in international federations and councils of social science associations.

Financial Assistance: The Council provides partial financial assistance (normally, 50 per cent of the international travel) to Indian scholars to participate in international seminars/conferences hosted by organisations recognised by the Council under various categories. However, if the Council's advisory committee so recommends, more financial assistance is extended depending upon the merits of the case. In addition, if the seminar/conference is organised by organisations affiliated to the International Social Science Council or some other important international professional organisations or universities, social science search councils, etc. the Council provides for registration fee, visa fee and maintenance allowance (per diem as prescribed by the Ministry of External Affairs). Scholars working in the Council-supported research institutes are eligible for 100 per cent of economy class airfare, 50 per cent of the registration (up to a maximum of US $ 100), and maintenance allowance (per diem as prescribed by the Ministry of External Affairs).

The Council extends financial assistance (up to Rs 2 lakhs) to Indian scholars for data collection abroad. During 2000-01–2004-05, 197 scholars received the Council's financial assistance to go abroad for data collection or to attend conferences. Scholars making use of the Council's financial assistance are required to give a participation report to the Council. A perusal of some of the reports shows that they hardly provide any useful feedback to the Council, academic or administrative. Most of these reports are perfunctory and, at the most, contain some factual information about the organisational logistics of the seminar/conference they have attended.

The International Collaborations Division reports that the Council receives a large number of applications from scholars for participation in conferences abroad. Considering that a variety of organisations organise such conferences, what constitutes a

'truly' international conference is hazy. To streamline this, the Council had categorised the organisations into three types:

- Organisations which are affiliated to International Social Science Council (ISSC).
- Other important professional organisations which are not members of ISSC [It is not clear how the importance of an organisation is determined.]
- Universities, social science research councils, and professional organisations in South Asian and South-East Asian countries, CIS countries, and African countries.

However, this categorisation is not strictly adhered to, and scholars have been extended financial assistance to attend seminars/conferences organised by bodies other than these. Exercise of discretion by the Council's officials in this regard raises suspicion among scholars and invites avoidable criticism about the arbitrary functioning of the International Collaborations Division.

It is also reported that most of the applicants seek financial assistance to attend conferences/seminars held in the western countries. There are very few applicants asking for financial assistance to attend conferences Asian, African or Latin American countries excepting South Africa and Brazil.

The Council extends partial financial assistance to scholars/institutions in India for organising international seminars, conferences and workshops in the country. The proposals are reviewed by a specially constituted expert committee which makes recommendations based on the academic quality of the proposals. The assistance extended varies from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to 400,000. Fourteen such grants were made during 2003-04 and 10 during 2004-05.

For more than three decades now, the Council has been inviting distinguished scholars from abroad to deliver lectures and to participate in seminars/conferences in India. The

Council supports research institutes inviting such scholars by meeting the international and domestic airfare of such scholars as also their local hospitality and transport. More than 30 scholars have visited India under this scheme.

The Council has launched a joint programme with UNU/WIDER, Helsinki, and a joint project on food security in collaboration with FAO, Rome. In both cases, the agenda was initiated by the partners rather than the Council. The papers presented in the workshops on these two projects are proposed to be published. In collaboration with the Oslo Governance Centre (UNDP), the Council has organised a workshop on 'Governance Indicators' in April 2005.

IDPAD (Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development): IDPAD was a phase-bound collaborative international programme (of the Council and the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research [WOTRO]) implemented in January 1981 (see Patel 2002). The last phase, which began in July 2002, came to an end in 2006. With its own Advisory Committee, this programme functioned independently of other bilateral programmes of the Council. It was mainly funded (about 90%) by the Dutch government, with the Council contributing a supplementary share (see Table 4.2). Compared to other activities of the International Collaborations Division, the IDPAD's volume of grants per project was very high. Incidentally, this programme was directly looked after by the Member Secretary, and not by the Division.

Under this programme, Indian and Dutch scholars undertook joint research on pre-selected areas such as industrialisation, dairy development, recent trends in European society, ecology and development, participation of women, rural transformation in Asia, structural adjustment and poverty in India, new international economic order, and state and society. In all, 91 projects were sanctioned under this programme, of which 56 projects and others are nearing completion. IDPAD was a great success in terms of publications: so far 58 books and 100 occasional papers have been published, and scores of articles have appeared in journals.

This programme facilitated interaction between policy makers and research scholars through seminars and workshops. Under this programme, during the last phase (2002-2006), in all 32 Indian scholars visited The Netherlands and 10 Dutch scholars visited India. The Council spent Rs 20,90,856 on the visit of Indian scholars to the Netherlands covering international air travel, domestic travel, visa charges and health insurance, and the Dutch counterpart covered the rest of the expenses on accommodation, food, research activities, incidentals, etc. The Dutch counterpart bore the entire expenses on the Dutch scholars visiting India. The final evaluation of the programme is awaited.

Financial Allocation for International Collaboration: The details of the Council's budget for international collaboration are shown in Table 4.2. The expenditure on various activities of ICD has increased steadily from Rs 65.92 lakhs in the VII Plan (actual) to Rs 671.74 lakhs in X Plan (estimated), that is, by more than ten-fold (see Table 3.1). More importantly, as a percentage of total plan expenditure, it has increased from 1.86 per cent to 3.28 per cent during the corresponding plan periods. It is surprising that such an important activity of the Council has not been reviewed externally, or even internally, since the last five years.

One activity that came under severe criticism during the Committee's consultations with social scientists is the lead role that the Council has sometimes taken in organising seminars and conferences. Some of these seminars/conferences are 'high profile and extravagant' and one such seminar is reported to have cost the Council approximately Rs 60 lakhs. Two officers of the Council, neither of whom belonging to the academic cadre, 'were sent to France, UK, USA and Canada, and other to Israel, Taiwan and South Korea to hunt for potential invitees. These visits cost the Council at least Rs 6 lakhs', notes a former official of the Council (Ghosh 2001: 529). Considering that the total allocation for research projects and fellowships during 2000-01 was just Rs 40 lakhs, one cannot but conclude that the limited resources of the Council were not spent judiciously.

It is gathered from the records that, apart from the official meetings, several officials of the Council have attended seminars/conferences held abroad at the Council's expense

irrespective of their expertise vis-à-vis the theme of the seminar. For example, for a Seminar on 'Culture, Identity and Development' held at MSH, Paris on 21-23 May 2003, three of the eight delegates from India were officials of the Council – Chairperson, Member-Secretary and the Director of International Collaborations Division. It appears that the Council's funds are used by its officials for making repeated trips: During 2002-03 – 2003-04 (2 years), the Chairperson made 15 trips abroad, the Member-Secretary, 13 trips, the Director of IC Division, 8. Three officials have made 4 trips each; two officials have made 2 trips each; and 14 officials have made one trip each. In all, 22 officials have made 66 trips during the two years, of which 36 trips have been made by just three officials. Many of the junior officials have just 'accompanied' the Chairperson.

The collaborating countries send scholars working on India, and thereby they have promoted expertise on India in their countries. But, there does not appear to be any concerted effort on the part of the Council to promote such expertise among Indian scholars at least on some select countries.

Suggestions

In a rapidly globalising world, the importance of international collaborations among social science institutions and social scientists can hardly be exaggerated. The Academy must be more proactive than just being a programme implementation agency of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(i) The Academy must look beyond the Cultural Exchange Programme framework and take more proactive steps to promote links with scholars and institutions in SAARC countries, as many of them lack organisational structures like that of the Academy.

 (ii) Given the long-duration of the IDPAD, 25 years to be specific, its promotion of joint research in the genuine sense of the term and its academic success in terms of the mutual contacts it established and the number of publications which resulted from it, the Academy could explore embarking on similar programmes with other countries:

SASNET (Sweden), NADAL (Switzerland), and China are good candidates for such a venture.

(iii) Such initiatives take sustained and concerted efforts to fructify. Given the periodical changes at its top-level management, the Academy is not administratively geared for such ventures. The Academy could think of a committee of scholars with rolling membership to initiate and monitor such ventures.

(iv) The funds for assisting scholars to attend conferences, seminars, and workshops are limited; they must be utilised to promote visits by younger scholars (below 45 years of age) and first-time visitors.

(v) The Academy must make concerted efforts to promote expertise among Indian scholars at least with some select countries, especially those in South Asia.

(vi) The Academy must monitor and document its involvement in international federations and councils of social science associations.

(vii) 'International Collaborations' is too narrow a rubric to capture the various facets of the activities that the Division is now handling and will be called upon to handle in future. It is, therefore, suggested that the International Collaborations Division could be renamed as International Affairs Division.

(viii) The International Affairs Division must maintain a database on professional associations abroad, international organisations and funding agencies and their procedures, and scholars in various social science disciplines, etc. on its website.

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ANNEXURE - 5

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Annexure-5
Organisation Structure and Human Resource Management

The Committee on Social Science Research which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Professor V.K.R.V.Rao recommended in 1968 that the Government of India should extend its faith to social science research as it had done so to scientific and technological research expressed in the declaration of the Scientific Policy Resolution of March 1958. Based on the above recommendation, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in 1969 under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860).

Origin and Objectives of ICSSR

The creation of ICSSR was based on the realisation that social science research in India lacked a national organisation that could actively work for its expansion and promotion apart from securing support and recognition from the government without being under its control. The ICSSR was conceived as an **autonomous** agency to expand social science research and to improve its quality, while attempting to develop strong linkages between the findings of social science research and policy formulation (Ref. The Report of the Committee on Social Science Research, 1968).

The Council's Memorandum of Association (MOA) indicates a large canvass of activities it was expected to do to promote social science research in India and to ensure that such research is of high academic quality and obtain wider recognition in the society. It was expected to identify areas on which research was to be promoted and to initiate research in new or neglected areas. For this purpose, the Council was to sponsor research programmes, research projects, and administer grants to institutions and individuals for research in social sciences. It was to give both development and maintenance grants to research institutes that have been specifically constituted to carry out research in social sciences, but not as a constituent part of statutory universities in India. It was also expected to provide technical assistance for the formulation of research programmes and for designing of research projects by individuals or institutions, and to organise and support institutional arrangements for training in research methodology. The ICSSR was

created to specifically encourage interdisciplinary and international collaborative research.

The mandate of the ICSSR included developing and supporting documentation centres, data archives and a national register of social scientists. It is also the role of ICSSR to organise and sponsor seminars and workshops and to give grants for publication of research work and to undertake publication of research digests, periodicals and journals. Furthermore, it is the function of the ICSSR to institute and administer research scholarships, fellowships and awards for research by students, teachers and senior scholars to carry out research in areas of their interest and expertise on full time basis. The ICSSR was, however, created to supplement the structure that already existed in the University Grants Commission (UGC), and its major responsibility was envisaged to build research potential and promote its effective utilisation while the UGC was primarily concerned with the development of departments in the universities and such other institutions.

The overall objective of the ICSSR was, therefore, to encourage social science scholars to undertake research which is based on rigorous methodology and academic discipline to generate new knowledge as well as add on to the existing body of knowledge. It is also important that the findings of such research be made available in the public domain and open for discussion and systematic debate. It is not necessary that all such research will have policy implications or immediate relevance for application.

The ICSSR assumed not only the responsibility of promoting social science research in India, but also was expected to enhance the quality of such research. It remains the deliberate policy of the Council to encourage both fundamental and applied research in social sciences, and strive to promote social science research in the universities. Providing assistance to Indian social scientists to develop research outside India was also included in its objectives. The most important role of the ICSSR, therefore, was to facilitate and promote social science research and to attract and motivate high quality researchers to undertake social science research which is knowledge centric. Such

research is expected to generate new knowledge and/ or add on to the existing body of knowledge, rather than merely focusing on relevance of application, which may be more often than not based on client driven needs.

Governance Structure

The ICSSR is constituted with a governing council headed by the Chairman, eighteen social scientists, one representative each of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Finance to represent the Government, and the Member-Secretary. The Chairman of the Council is an honorary, part time and non-executive position. The Member-Secretary is the full time, paid chief executive of the Council. The MOA specifies that both positions should be filled by distinguished social scientists. However, the procedure for their selection is left rather ambiguous with an explicit provision that their appointment, as well as that of members of the council is to be approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India.

In order to maintain continuity and change at the same time, the term of the members of the Council were clearly defined in the MOA. In the first reconstitution of the council in 1972 one third (or six) of the social scientist members were to be appointed for one year, another one third (or six) of the social scientist members were to be appointed for two years and the remaining six social scientists members were to be appointed for three years Further it was stated that when the term of office of a member comes to an end, the vacancy shall be filled by the GOI through nomination. Outgoing members were to be eligible for reappointment, but no person could be a member of the Council for more than two consecutive terms of office.

To support/ assist the Chairman and the Member–Secretary in policy making and administration of various activities of the Council, the MOA provides for various committees including (a) Planning and Administrative Committee, (b) Research Committee, (c) Research Institutes Committee, (d) Committee on International Collaboration, (e) Committee on Training, (f) Committee on Documentation Services and

Research Information, and (g) Committee on Data Archives. The council may, by resolution, appoint advisory panels or committees other than the ones mentioned here for such purposes and with such powers as it may think fit; and it may also dissolve any of the committees and advisory panels set up by it.

The activities of the ICSSR have been organised into major functions/ programmes of (a) funding of research projects, (b) sponsoring of research fellowships, (c) supporting premier research institutes and regional centres (d) developing international collaboration in research and (e) providing documentation and data services through specialised programmes like Data Archives and National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC). The organisational structure and the administrative processes envisaged within the Council are expected to facilitate to administer efficiently the programmes and activities under the overall objectives and mission of the ICSSR. Needless to mention here is the fact that the structural arrangements and administrative processes adopted by the Council have to abide by the various rules and regulations approved within broad parameters of the MOA based on which the Council has been constituted.

Research Institutes & Regional Centres: Currently the ICSSR provides part funding (not exceeding 50% of the budget) to 27 research institutes and 6 regional centres which are situated in various parts of the country. Though some of these institutes existed earlier (which were formed and managed by trusts), most were created by the council. The regional centres were instituted to specifically develop interface with university departments and colleges in the various regions of the country.

Administrative Processes & Human Resources: The academic/ research related activities are divided into six divisions of (i) International Collaboration, (ii) Research Projects, (iii) Research Institutes & Regional Centres, (iv) Research Fellowships, (v) Documentation, and (vi) Research Survey Publications & Sales. Each of these divisions is headed by a senior officer at the level of Director.

Internal administration and financial control are managed by three distinct units (i) Personnel, Establishment & Welfare, headed by an Administrative Officer, (ii) Planning & Coordination, headed by a Deputy Director, and (iii) Finance, headed by Financial Advisor & Chief Accounting Officer (FA&CAO). Each of them has a team of supporting staff at the levels of Deputy Directors/ Senior Programmers, Assistant Directors/ Documentation Officers/ Section Officers/ Research Assistants/ Senior Personal Assistants/ Accounts Assistants/ numerous Stenographers at grade-1 and grade-II levels/ several Upper Divisional Clerks/ Lower Divisional Clerks/ large number of messengers, most of whom continue to be in temporary status against non-sanctioned posts.

As on 30ᵗʰ May 2006, a total of 205 persons are in position against the total sanctioned strength of 208. Of these only 63 belong to academic/ research related posts, which include documentation assistants and data entry operators. More than half the staff- 104 to be precise - belongs to non-academic categories such as upper division clerks / lower division clerks and class III/IV categories, including stenographers and messengers. Some 21 messengers are on temporary appointments without sanctioned posts.

The members of the professional staff possess high level academic qualifications. Five out of the six officers at the director level hold doctoral degrees. Similarly, four among the deputy directors and eight among the thirteen officers at the assistant director level also possess doctoral qualifications, while one of the remaining has M. Phil degree, and others possess Master's degree. Similarly, three of the 8 research assistants hold doctoral degrees, the other four have Master's degree and one holds M.Phil qualification. Out of the 4 documentation officers one has a doctoral degree, another one holds MBA degree, and third one holds a Masters degree while the fourth one is a graduate.

Over a period of time, the ICSSR appears to have become an aging organisation. Out of the six directors who hold offices today, five of them will superannuate by early 2009 and several of them much earlier. Similarly the average age of the eight research assistants is 48.4. The average age of the four documentation assistants is 40.7. The average age of

the eight officers who are at the next lower level of Deputy Director is 54.7 and five of them will superannuate within the next 1-3 years. Ironically, what is more noteworthy is the fact that the average age of the 13 officers who are at the level of Assistant Director, which is the lowest level of the professional cadre is 58.6.

On the other hand, the non-professional employees, particularly those at the lower levels belong to much lower age groups. The Table 5.1 shows that out of a total of 204 employees in position, 18 will superannuate within the next 2 years, 19 will superannuate within the next four years and another 35 will superannuate within next 7 years. Fifteen officers who will superannuate within the next four years constitute about 50 percent of the total 31 officers who belong to the professional cadre today. On the other hand 37 out of a total of 151 employees who belong to clerical and other support staff will superannuate within the next 7 years. In fact, the average age of 26 employees at class III/IV level including library assistant, data entry operator, driver, photocopy operator, security guards etc. 46.4 years. There are 12 employees in the post of messenger against a sanctioned strength of 9, whose average age is 45.6 and there are 21 people who have been given temporary status since 1.9.1993 as messengers whose average age is 39.9.

The current profile of employees, particularly at senior positions among the professional staff, may create an immediate crisis of continuity as many of them will superannuate within the next year or two. Moreover, such a skewed composition of the professional staff at the senior level of the administrative cadre may not be the most enabling condition for high level performance. However, the fact that a large number of them will be reaching the age of superannuation sooner than later may provide the opportunity for the ICSSR secretariat to be reorganised in a non-disruptive manner.

Finances of ICSSR

According to the MOA, the Council may enter into arrangements with the Government of India, State Governments and other public or private organisations or individuals for furtherance of its objectives, for implementation of its programmes and for securing and accepting endowments, grants-in-aid, donations or gifts on mutually agreed terms and

conditions; provided that the conditions of such grants-in-aid, donations or gifts shall not be inconsistent or in conflict with the objectives of the Council or with the provisions of the Rules. But very little has been done in these directions.

The Council has been and continues to be funded entirely by grants from the Central Government through the budget of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In The quantum of grants received by the Council and its outlays has increased manifold during th*e* past 20 years, though they have been consistently smaller than council's request. The total outlay (plan plus non plan) increased from Rs3547 lakhs during the 7th five year plan period to Rs 20459 lakhs (estimated) during the 10th plan. Grants and outlays increased by barely Rs 1100 lakh between the 7th and 8th plans; the increase between the 8th and 9th plan was higher at Rs 5400 lakh with a still much larger jump of Rs 10000 lakh (estimated) between the 9th and 10th plans.

Impressive as these figures are, most of the increase in the funds available to the Council has been neutralised by rising costs due to increase in the general price level and much faster rise in salaries of the employees during the same period. There was little room for expanding and strengthening its activities in real terms. Given the vast size of the country and the huge variety of social issues and problems that call for careful research, the funds available to ICSSR (currently averaging around Rs 4000 lakh) is far too small to make a significant impact on the nature and quality of social science research in the country .

Nearly 50 percent of the allocation goes to the research institutes and of the remaining, a major part is spent on account of administrative expenditure. These shares have been relatively stable. Grants to research projects have been relatively small and also volatile ranging from as low as 2.2 percent to as high as 5.4 percent of the total outlays during the past 20 years Similar is the case with Research Fellowships, whose share in total outlays ranged from 3.4 percent to 7.8 percent during the same period (see Table 5.2, for the statement of expenditure during VII, VIII, IX and X plan).

Council's grants to institutes have increased both in absolute terms and as a proportion of their total outlays. But they still account for less than 30% of the Institutes' annual receipts. The balance is obtained from diverse other sources including sponsored projects. The Council has not only contributed little to the expansion of the institutes' activities but has not much of an impact on their research agenda or quality. The low and volatile outlays on individual research projects and fellowships reflects the inability of the council to pursue a coherent and consistent long term strategy because of the limited quantum of resources available to the council and conditions attached to the terms on which it can fund grantees.

Constraints

The Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations, gives the Council the authority for deciding the strategy and priorities for substantive programmes and for appointing all categories of officers and staff for conducting the affairs of the Council, to fix the amount of their remuneration. However, the MOA and the Rules incorporate several explicit provisions that circumscribe these powers.

Thus Rule 6 (a) which states that the income and property of the council, however derived, shall be applied towards the promotion of the objects thereof as set forth in the Memorandum of Association, subject, nevertheless, in respect of the expenditure of grants made by the Government of India, to such limitations as the Government of India may, from time to time, impose, is an example. Furthermore, Rule 8 (a) states that the Government of India may give directives to the Council in respect of its policies and programmes.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to which the Council is attached and which is also the sole source for its funds has insisted that the Council cannot implement decisions on many crucial matters in its domain without the prior approval of the Ministry. For instance, all matters concerning the financial (aspects of the) affairs of the Council are to be referred to the Financial Advisor for his advice. According to the provisions of the MOA, if the advice tendered by the Financial Advisor

on any matter referred to him is not accepted by the Member Secretary, the matter shall be referred to the Chairman whose decision shall be final. But in reality this power has rarely been exercised. The Council could not implement its decisions on several important matters for lack of approval by the Ministry,

A case in point is the "procedure, terms and tenure of appointments, emoluments, allowances, rules of discipline and other conditions of service of the officers and staff of the council". At the Ministry's insistence the Council adopted the Governmental personnel system in all these respects though it is neither conducive to the ICSSR's needs nor to its effective functioning. Nor has it been able to get Ministry's approval to its proposals for ensuring that pay scale, allowances, benefits and other terms for its staff are kept on par with the changes made by the Central government from time to time.

The Ministry has also insisted on prior approval for changes in the terms and conditions of grants given to Institutes, research projects and fellowships, as well as the emoluments and benefits for staff appointed under these grants. This made it impossible for the council to ensure that changes in these respects announced and implemented by the UGC could be granted to the Council's grantees and grantee institutions.

Over a period of time, the spirit and letter of provisions regarding the criteria and procedures for appointments of the top positions and council members have also not been observed. For example, appointments of non-social scientist/s as Chairman and bureaucrat/s as Member-Secretary of the Council on more than one occasion are examples of such departure from the spirit of the MOA. Similarly, the nomination of social scientists and other members to the Council also have not followed the rotational practice as recommended in the MOA. Although according to the MOA that the GOI nominated the eighteen social scientists to the Council, in practise at least till some years ago, it was the Chairman in consultation with the existing members of the Council who recommended the names of the social scientists which were then approved by the GOI. However, in recent times the ministry of HRD has departed from this practice by unilaterally nominating all the members of the Council without consultation with the

Chairman of the Council. Moreover, every year 6 sitting social scientist members of the Council are supposed to retire and new members are supposed to be appointed in their place. But since 1998 it has become 12, and suddenly all 18 are appointed at one time, which eliminates the practice of continuity in the thinking and policy making of the Council.

Observations of Earlier Review Committees

All these aspects as well as the organisation and structure of the ICSSR secretariat and the finances of the Council have been discussed extensively in the Reports of the earlier Review Committees that were set up in 1973, 1978 and 1986. They also made a number of specific recommendations to correct the deficiencies so that the Council could have greater autonomy and function more effectively.

The First ICSSR Review Committee (1973), which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, examined the constitutional position of the council, its advisory role, its composition and mode of appointment, its funding and the offices of the Chairman and Member secretary. Among the important recommendations made by the first review committee the following points may be worth noting here:

i. *The council and its various committees should be more broad-based so as to give proper representations to all social science disciplines and regions of the country;*

ii. *Special efforts should be made to identify competent younger social scientists and appoint them as members of the council and more particularly of its various committees;*

iii. *The council should be composed of (a) Eight ex-officio members to represent government departments and other research agencies among whom should be included the nominees of the Ministries of Education, Home and Finance, the Planning Commission, UGC, CSIR, ICAR and ICMR;(b) Eight members nominated by the council who should be outstanding social scientists recognised for their academic and scholarly accomplishments;(c) And eight members chosen by the council in consultation with a panel of social scientists*

established either by their various professional associations or by the ICSSR itself;(d) Social scientists to be appointed as members of the council under categories (b) and (c) should have a reputation for research excellence and an integrated and all round knowledge of the discipline concerned (p.120)

Regarding the appointment of Chairman and Member Secretary of the Council the first review committee recommended that w*hile the government should have the final authority to appoint the chairman and the member secretary of the ICSSR, it should establish the healthy convention of accepting and appointing to these high and responsible posts only persons* nominated by the council itself. *The convention should also require that the council nominate only one person to each post (P.*121)

The Second ICSSR Review Committee (1978), which was constituted under the Chairmanship of V.M.Dandekar, made specific recommendations on the Structure, Organisation and Finances of the Council. The committee had observed that *the current administrative procedure places too great an administrative burden on the Member secretary and therefore he needs the support and assistance of two senior persons above the Directors of the Divisions. And they should be selected from senior academic community on the basis of their academic and administrative competence.*

The Dandekar committee remarked that *despite being an autonomous institution, ICSSR has borrowed wholesale all the financial rules and regulations from the GOI. The financial system of the ICSSR needs a thorough revamping, and the matter should be taken up with the GOI as early as possible*. More importantly the committee had made the observation that *by far the most important question relates to the autonomy of the ICSSR*, and it made specific recommendations. The committee was of the strong view that *the powers given by the constitution of the ICSSR to the Government to issue "directives to the council in respect of its policies and programmes" should be withdrawn as these powers detract from the real autonomy of the ICSSR (74-79).*

Furthermore, the Dandekar committee recommended that *for appointing the Chairman a selection committee consisting of a nominee of the ICSSR, a nominee of the UGC, and a nominee of Government of India should prepare a panel of three eminent social scientists for consideration of the Government. Government should select one of the three for appointment as the Chairman of the ICSSR.* A similar process was recommended for appointment of Member Secretary as well. *To protect the autonomy of the ICSSR the appointment of the Member Secretary, who is the chief executive, should be left entirely to the ICSSR. A selection committee consisting of a nominee of the ICSSR, a nominee of the UGC and a nominee of the Government should prepare a panel of three out of which the ICSSR should select one for the appointment of its Member Secretary.* The Dandekar committee found that the financial rules and regulations of the GOI had very little relevance to the needs of ICSSR, and recommended that they should be re-examined with due consultation with the government so that the ICSSR may have a set of rules and regulations appropriate to its needs and character.

The committee (1978) also suggested changes in the procedures for constitution of the council/ nomination of members.

> *Every year, 6 out of the 18 social scientist members retire and have to be replaced. Each one of the 18 sitting members may communicate, in confidence, one name, to the Chairman. The chairman may then put these names together and indicate against each his discipline and region. If in the opinion of the Chairman, the list is inadequate in the sense that if the choice of the six to replace the retiring six members is confined to this list, some disciplines/regions may not be adequately represented on the ICSSR, he may so and, in consultation with the MS, may suggest additional names. Taking into account the discipline/region composition of the six retiring members, the Government should then select six from the list to replace the retiring six members.*
>
> *Out of the other six members to be nominated by the Government, the Government may nominate, as at present, three secretaries from the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Education and the Department of Social Welfare. However, these individuals should not be represented in the ICSSR by their*

nominees. The other three members may be nominated in rotation by the UGC, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of medical Research, ICHR, CSIR and the Registrar General of India. These persons should be nominated in their personal capacities and no substitutes should be allowed to represent them in the meetings of the council.

<u>*The Third ICSSR Review Committee*</u>, which was constituted under the Chairmanship of P.N.Dhar which submitted its report in 1986 observed that *the government while appearing to recognize the importance of social science research in furthering knowledge and in improving public policy does not allocate adequate funds to enable it to fulfil the objectives laid down for the organisation. If the council has to make an impact on social science research in the country and to play a more active role in promoting research, disseminating research findings and increasing the interaction between researchers and policy planners, the council will need greater financial support from the government. The council comes off poorly if we look at the funds available to ICAR, CSIR or ICMR.* Moreover, the Dhar committee observed that the total dependence of the council on a single ministry of the central government for all its financial requirements is a limitation. The committee found it was necessary for the council to broaden and diversify its resource base and the idea of creating an Endowment Fund should be examined afresh.

The Dhar committee had also recommended that the Council (ICSSR) secretariat must be reorganised to strengthen the professional capability of the staff. (a) The role of the secretariat must be redefined and strengthened for its academic content, (b) efforts must be made to improve the professional competence of the existing staff, and (c) opportunities must be created to invite academics to work on specific programmes on a contractual basis (p.55). According to the committee, *the secretariat of the Council must be a professional body that will help the Council in its interaction with different groups of social scientists."*

Suggestions

The reports of all the previous Review Committees have drawn pointed attention to the severe constraints that have impeded the Council from functioning as an autonomous institution; the lack of adequate and diversified funding as a key factor which made it difficult to build an organisation structure and high standards of professional management appropriate for research. Their diagnosis and suggested remedies are reinforced by our study of relevant material, extensive discussions with the different stake holders of ICSSR, including senior officials, members of the professional staff and employees of the Council, and consultations with a wide cross section of respected social scientists belonging to different disciplines and different regions.

We have found a strong and widespread consensus on the need for (a) a bold and innovative effort to promote independent high quality social science research on a larger scale with a broader perspective and (b) the role that ICSSR as a public institution can play in the process provided it is truly autonomous, gets much larger and more diversified funds, and is radically restructured. For this purpose we recommend a three pronged strategy.

First, the restructured organisation must be committed to promoting social science research of the kind that Professor VKRV Rao suggested in his report recommending the creation of ICSSR: "*The understanding of the social phenomena and human behaviour, knowledge about the social process and its determinants, are essential for designing policies to promote social change and to produce a dynamic society capable of absorbing and utilizing the scientific and technological developments for the welfare of human beings*".

Second, such an organisation has to be assured of much larger funds than is currently available to the ICSSR. It must be mostly, though not necessarily exclusively, funded by the government and public agencies. We recommend that about 0.1% of the Public sector plan expenditure be earmarked for the purpose.

Third, the restructured organisation must be a truly autonomous body managed by the scholarly community in a democratic, transparent, and professional manner with credible mechanisms to ensure accountability for its performance as well as the performance of its grantees. It should incorporate key features of the social science academies of China, the USSR and France as well as the Social science research councils of UK and US (see appendix-3 for a brief outline of their main features). All of them hold prestigious position among academic circles and the public and have been successful in promoting and funding high quality social research. Except for the American SSRC, all the rest are publicly funded and managed by collegiums of respected scholars.

We recommend that the ICSSR be converted into *The Indian Academy of Social Sciences* along the following lines.

- Senior social scientists with academic credibility and demonstrated administrative acumen should be appointed to administer the affairs of the Academy. These senior social scientists should be ably supported by a small team of professionally trained research managers and support staff, who will form the core team of a lean secretariat. Information processing and decision making should be made transparent and speedy by devising systems and tools with the help of computerisation and taking full advantage of the Internet and digital technology, moving towards a paperless process. All peripheral activities, such as transportation, sanitation, publishing etc. may be outsourced.

- The internal organisation and human resource management policy may be restructured to handle the vastly increased and more demanding tasks. The secretariat of the council may be transformed into a responsive and efficient organisation by taking advantage of the natural attrition of the large number of the aging employees at almost all levels of the current secretariat. The younger employees may be re-trained and redeployed to take on the newer responsibilities, wherever possible. Those among the existing employees who will not be able or willing to be re-trained may be offered affordable separation packages by designing an appropriate Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

- The committee constituted to undertake the cadre-review of the (present) Council's secretariat may be advised to take into account the possibility of its reorganisation while examining various options. A special committee, consisting of professional experts, may be appointed and given the task of working out the details of reorganising the secretariat.

Internal organization and Human Resource Management: The internal organisation and staffing of the Academy should be such that it is able to implement the policies adopted by the Academy in a professional manner and take full advantage of digitized systems of modern management processes. The nature of functions to be performed by the professional staff and their qualifications appropriate to perform such functions will change. Appropriate strategy needs to be evolved to minimize, if not avoid, career stagnation and deterioration of the professional competence and motivation among the professional staff. Careful thought has to be given to determine the size of supporting staff and their functions and qualifications, and to adopt measures to ensure smooth change over in the structures with minimum adverse impact on the existing staff. The details of these proposed changes may be worked out in consultation with experts in organizational design and Human Resource Management after the scale and content of activities and programmes of the Academy are finalised. The committee, however, has deliberated on the matter and is of the opinion that some broad guidelines, as outlined below, should be kept in mind, while redesigning the present Council into the **Indian Academy of Social Sciences**.

The Indian Academy of Social Sciences should have a *collegium* of eminent scholars (fellows) from India and abroad, who have made significant contributions to any of the major disciplines of social sciences such as Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology/ Social Anthropology, and social science aspects of Management, Commerce, Geography, History, Law and Philosophy. The *collegium* will have the authority and the responsibility for the proper and efficient conduct of the Academy's activities.

The initial *collegium* may be rather small in number and could consist of 25-30 senior most National Fellows of ICSSR , who are able and willing to be part of the *collegium* and 10-15 eminent social scientists from abroad (who may be of Indian origin or otherwise) but have made significant contributions to Indian social sciences. The composition should be such as to have a balanced representation of different disciplines.

The size (number of fellows) of the *collegium* may be further increased progressively to an optimum level through election by its incumbent members. The size and composition of the *collegium*, the criteria for eligibility to be chosen as a fellow, the mechanisms and procedures for nomination and election to be evolved by a Committee of eminent scholars to be appointed specifically for this purpose by the *collegium* in consultation with GOI. Their recommendations will be discussed and appropriate decisions will be made by the *collegium* after obtaining the views of the Executive Council of the proposed Academy and Government of India.

The Academy will be administered by an Executive Council which will consist of 18 eminent social scientists (to be nominated by the *collegium* and elected by the sitting members of the (present) Council) to represent the different disciplines of the social sciences and the different regions in the country, 4 senior officials of the Government of India (not less than the rank of additional secretary) to represent the Department of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home, and the Planning Commission, the Secretary of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Secretary of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and the Chairman of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The tenure of the members of the council shall be for a period of three years.

The 18 social scientist members of the Executive Council of the academy shall be elected by the <u>sitting members of the Executive Council of the Academy</u> (by the sitting members of the present Council for the first time) from a list of social scientists who will be nominated by the fellows of the *collegium*. Each member of the *collegium* of The Indian Academy of Social Sciences will nominate two eminent social scientists from his/ her

own discipline for consideration. The tenure of each member of the Council shall be three years. However, each year one third (6) social scientist members of the Executive Council will retire and new members will be elected from the list of social scientists nominated by the *collegium* by secret vote for a period of three years.

The Executive Council of the academy will be headed by a part-time honorary President and a full-time Chief Executive as its executive head, both of whom will be appointed for a fixed tenure. The President and the Chief Executive of the council shall be appointed by a duly constituted procedure, namely, by the President of India selected from a panel of nominees proposed by an independent high-powered Search Committee constituted by her.

The Search Committee will consist of three distinguished social scientists (one of whom will be its Chair) and one representative of the Government of India who may be the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission or the Secretary to the Ministry of HRD.

The Executive Council should have full authority, subject to observing certain broad guidelines applicable to publicly-funded organizations, over all matters of policy, internal organization and administration. The Executive Council should have full autonomy to decide on (a) the strategy of research funding; (b) priorities between and within different activities; (c) criteria, mechanisms and procedures for entertaining, screening and approving proposals for funding research, (d) mechanisms and procedures for monitoring and peer review of outputs to ensure high professional quality; (e) matters relating to the size and composition of staff, their recruitment, career management and financial remuneration, as well as financial controls and auditing.

To help the council to formulate policies and execute programmes efficiently the council may constitute various committees such as (i) the Planning and Administration Committee, (ii) Research Committee, (iii) Research Institutes Committee, (iv) Committee for International Affairs (v) Committee for Research Fellowships and Training (vi) Committee for Documentation and Information Services etc.

However, there should be a mandatory periodic review of the Academy's overall performance in relation to its mandate by a high-powered committee comprising outstanding social scientists and public personae.

The suggested restructuring, as above, will mean a manifold increase in the scale of operations, significant changes in its mix and professional leadership of high quality. It will, therefore, be necessary to strengthen the top management. Given the wide variety of activities and the magnitude of activities expected to be performed by the Chief Executive, the committee recommends that two senior positions as *Academic Advisors* may be created below the Chief Executive. The positions of these senior advisors may be filled by inducting senior social scientists (from universities/research institutes). These advisors should be distinguished scholars with wide experience in the conduct and management of research and recognized for high quality research. Their appointments should be for a fixed-term contract. They will advise and help the Chief Executive in all matters relevant to research and related activities

The present distinction between research institutes, research projects, research fellowships, support services and administration will remain. But the nature of the tasks to be performed and hence the personnel and their functions will need major changes. The organization has to become flatter, with a substantial reduction in the number of administrative and support staff by introducing the use of computers for internal and external communication, maintenance of accounts and other records.

The original concept was that the professional staff of the secretariat should be persons with a good academic background and research experience in social sciences, in addition to familiarity with the current state of knowledge in different fields. But for a variety of reasons the Council could not attract and retain academics with these qualities. It will be even more difficult to do so in the future. Nor is it necessary because the main job of the professional staff is not research but one of managing the research programmes and projects. A more practical approach would be to induct social scientists with good academic training and train them to serve as *programme managers* (see Chart 5.1, for the proposed organisation structure). The professional staff of the redesigned Academy will

not be involved in deciding substantive issues concerning research priorities, setting research agendas or evaluating proposals and outputs. These will be deliberated upon and decided by the Council on the advice of advisory committees comprising scholars with the necessary experience and expertise in the selected fields. To command respect among the social scientists, in particular, it is important that the processes of evaluating the proposals, awarding research grants/fellowships and assessing the output are transparent, rigorous and objective. This requires that decisions on these substantive matters be entrusted to group(s) of senior academicians with suitable academic orientation and up-dated knowledge in the relevant disciplines. These groups/ committees may meet periodically. To be credible, the criteria for membership of these committees, their tenure and procedures for selection need to be transparent.

The processing, follow-up and monitoring of the decisions of these committees should be done efficiently at different levels by the professional staff (*programme managers*) of the Academy. The *programme managers* would be secretaries to the advisory committees and be responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of specific approved projects/programmes, timely disbursement of funds, organizing meetings of research networks, ensuring that researchers send in reports of progress as well final reports on schedule, and organizing the refereeing of reports.

For this purpose it will be necessary to organise special training courses in research management for the professional staff at the time of induction. The necessary training could be imparted through a combination of formal courses in research management (in a reputed management school) and on the job experience.

In order to develop a professional organisation, the secretariat of the Academy should evolve modern Human Resource Management policies and processes to guide recruitment, performance, reward systems and career management of its professional staff at all levels. While providing enough opportunities for employees within the secretariat to move up the career path based on merit and performance, it should also leave sufficient room in the middle and senior levels to attract talent from outside on a

competitive basis. Such lateral induction will be necessary to prevent retardation and to allow entry of fresh thoughts and innovative ideas.

The reorganized set up will require a substantial expansion at the professional level. Not all the existing staff may qualify for this. Some of them may retire. But the possibilities of redeploying others in the new rubric by appropriate training programmes need to be systematically explored keeping mind their age, educational background and skills.

In order to attract young and professionally trained social scientists, it is recommended that the posts of Research Assistants may be replaced with those of *Young Social Scientists* with appropriate remuneration packages. The various activities relating to finance/ accounting, and personnel, which are currently organised under four different divisions of Personnel, Maintenance, Planning & Coordination, and Finance may be reorganised in two departments of (i) Human Resource Management and (ii) Finance & Accounts.

A professionally qualified person may be appointed as Manager-Finance & Accounts to look after all finance related matters while another professionally qualified person may be appointed as Manager-HR to look after all administrative and human resource matters. Such decentralisation will allow the Chief Executive along with the President of the Academy to devote adequate time and energy to evolve and periodically review policy matters and ensure efficient execution of the Academy's mission and objectives.

As the activities relating to publications and their sales are outsourced to established publishers outside, the existing publication (dedicated) division within the secretariat may be wound up. Furthermore, given the similarity in the nature of work, it is recommended that the Research Survey activities may be merged with Documentation division and given the name of *Research Survey and Documentation,* and brought under a single divisional head.

The unreasonably large numbers of positions at the lower levels including stenographers, upper division clerks, lower division clerks and messengers should be drastically reduced

to the minimum (required) level to make the organisation less bureaucratic and more professional.

The secretariat of the academy may not need to directly maintain and manage support activities such as fleet of transport, sanitation, maintenance of computing facilities etc. most of which could be outsourced.

In this era of seem-less communication and internet, speed and transparency of decision making are important expectations. Not only should the processes of decision making be streamlined but also the officials who deal with such processes should be equipped with the necessary skills and attitude to work with a professional orientation.

All professionals working in the secretariat at different levels need to be exposed to the latest developments through periodic training which will provide them with adequate opportunity for self renewal.

Keeping in tune with contemporary practices, the secretariat may consider developing appropriate performance based reward and recognition systems which will simultaneously improve employee motivation while enhancing the performance and efficiency of the organisation.

The job specifications and qualifications for various positions will need to be reviewed in the light of the skills and experience needed for performing different tasks. The Council should be free to decide designations, as well as the pay scales and benefits for different jobs and levels without being required to follow patterns and practices in government departments. The patterns followed in other research organizations, with suitable modifications, may be more appropriate. Open competitive recruitment should be the basis for selections. Serving employees should have the opportunity to compete for these positions, by availing of special training at the Academy's expense to upgrade their skills.

Table 5.1**:** <u>Category-Wise Distribution of Employees of ICSSR Secretariat and Their Superannuation</u>

Category	in position	Superannuate by 2008	Superannuate by 2010	Superannuate by 2013
Director	6	4	1	1
Administrative Officer	1		1	
FA & CAO	1	--	--	--
Deputy Director	8	3	2	1
System Analyst-cum-Senior Programmer	2			1
Assistant Director	13	1	3	5
DCFO	1	--	--	--
Documentation Officer	8			3
SSLO	1	--	--	1
Liaison Assistant	1	--	--	1
Programmer	2			1
Private Secretary	1	Working since superannuation		
Section Officer	5	4	--	1
SPA	5	3	1	
Research Assistant	8	1	1	2
Documentation Assistant	4	--	1	--
Accounts Assistant	10	--	2	5
Steno-Grade-II	8	--	1	1
Steno-Grade-III	6	--	--	--
Upper Division Clerk	16	--	--	6
Lower Division Clerk	23	--	1	--
Other support Staff	25	1	3	2
Sweeper-cum-Farash	8	--	--	1
Farash	6	--	2	1
Messenger	12	--	--	1
Library Attendant	2	--	--	1
Messenger on Temporary status (not sanctioned)	21	--	--	--
Total	**204**	**18**	**19**	**35**

Table 5.2: <u>Indian Council of Social Science Research</u>
<u>Statement showing Expenditure during VII, VIII, IX and X Plan</u>
(Rs in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of programme	VII Plan (Actual)	VIII Plan (Actual)	IX Plan (Actual)	X Plan (Estimated
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Research Project	190.81	161.59	227.77	694.98
2	Research Fellowships	277.78	269.01	456.93	1161.67
3	Research Institutes	1529.60	2096.51	5120.64	9040.57
4	Regional Centres	149.79	215.60	430.37	1422.74
5	International Collaboration (including IDPAD)	65.92	84.36	311.51	671.74
6	Documentation Services including Library books	36.39	212.62	169.57	410.22
7	Data Archives	4.14	2.68	40.42	94.60
8	Study Grant	1.78	2.00	3.14	19.02
9	Training Courses	16.47	30.41	43.32	94.15
10	Publication Subsidy	50.92	33.06	49.09	182.38
11	Other Programmes, NER 150th year of the first war of Independence	34.49	40.96	253.53	471.47
12	Land & Building	369.19	384.92	574.10	373.06
13	Furniture & Equipment	30.49	79.45	141.83	109.71
14	Administrative Expenditure	789.58	1026.78	2318.49	4681.04
15	**Total**	**3547.35**	**4639.95**	**10303.13**	**20458.83**
	Plan	1596.52	1992.60	5265.43	8884.95
	Non-Plan	1950.83	2647.35	5037.70	11573.88
	Total	**3547.35**	**4639.95**	**10303.13**	**20458.83**

Appendix – 5.1

Main Features of Social Science Research Council/Academies in Selected Countries

The Economic and Social Research Council of UK receives most of its funding (a budget of more than £100 million) from the UK Government, but functions as an independent organisation. The ESRC funds over 2,500 researchers in academic institutions and policy research institutes throughout the UK and also support more than 2,000 postgraduate students. The ESRC is governed by a Council whose main responsibilities are setting policy and identifying priorities. The Council is supported and advised by various boards, committees and groups. The Chief Executive of ESRC, supported by four main directorates, based in the ESRC's Swindon headquarters, is responsible for the implementation of Council's policies and decisions, and for the overall management of ESRC.

The ESRC Council delegates responsibility for the allocation of funds, management of current research investments, and development of policy and strategy to the boards, committees, and to the office through the Chief Executive. Its members chair these boards and committees and progress is reviewed through Council meetings in February, April, June and October. Council membership is reviewed annually, appointments are advertised nationally and members are ultimately appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Council membership is carefully balanced to reflect input from the academic, business and public sectors, to a broad regional distribution and to gender balance.

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), USA which functions as an independent is a not-for-profit research organisation. Based in New York City, it mobilizes researchers, policy makers, professionals, activists, and other experts from the private and public sectors to develop innovative approaches to issues of critical social importance. This

mandate is carried out through workshops and conferences, research consortia, scholarly exchanges, summer training institutes, fellowships and grants, and publications.

The SSRC is governed by a board of directors made up of social scientists and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines and institutions. The board elects the SSRC's president and regularly reviews its intellectual program. An executive committee of the board oversees financial and operational aspects. The SSRC's work is directed by the president and a staff of approximately eighty only.

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) is the highest academic institution and a comprehensive research centre for the social sciences in China. The basic goals of the CASS are to prosper and promote the development of social sciences, and fully pursue the strategy of invigorating the nation through science and education, devote great efforts to construct a number of research institutes with international reputation, foster a number of scientific scholars enjoying great prestige both at home and abroad, put out a batch of scientific research achievements which are valuable towards nation's significant policy decisions and the development of disciplines; build the CASS into the highest academic research organization in the fields of philosophy and social sciences, which will rely on basic theoretical research and will be characteristic of multi-disciplinary and comprehensive studies with emphasis on a macroscopic, strategic and foresighted nature.

Establishing extensive foreign academic exchanges is a long-term principle of CASS. The academic exchanges between CASS and foreign countries have been continuously increased over recent years The annual flow of exchange has been expanded from several dozens of persons-times (in some ten batches) in 1978 to about 2,378 persons-times (in 942 batches) in 1998. At present, CASS has already established academic exchanges with more than 200 social sciences research institutions, academic groups, universities, foundations and government departments of 80-odd countries and regions of the world. The increasingly expanded external academic exchanges are playing an important role in flourishing China's social sciences undertakings, promoting the development of various branches of learning, and training qualified personnel.

The CASS's major projects aim at researches on vital theoretical and practical problems in China's reform and opening-up and modernization construction as well as topics of high academic value in the development of social sciences. The CASS's major projects are conducted usually by research teams and managed directly by the CASS. Institutes' key projects are set up and managed by the institute itself. A researcher undertakes research tasks assigned by the CASS or his /her institute in accordance with his/her professional skills or interests.

According to the statistics, from 1977 to 1998, the CASS has published 5,400 academic works, 66,000 papers, 9,000-odd findings and research reports as well as a considerable number of translations, classical books with punctuated, collated and annotated texts, various dictionaries, reference books, and books of popular edition. Annually some 300 academic works, 3,800 papers, 500 findings and research reports are published. Social Sciences in China (a bimonthly in Chinese and quarterly in English), Historical Research, Archaeology, Economic Research Journal, Philosophical Research, Journal of Law, Literary Review and World Economy are the representatives of the 82 CASS journals. These journals put emphasis on introducing the latest achievements and academic developments and reflect the level of the research of social sciences in China. With a purpose to publish academic works, China Social Sciences Publishing House, Publishing House of Social Sciences Documentation, and Economic Management Publishing House, affiliated to CASS, have also published a large number of works on social sciences and have contributed greatly to the development of social sciences in China.

Chart- 5.1: Proposed Organisation Structure
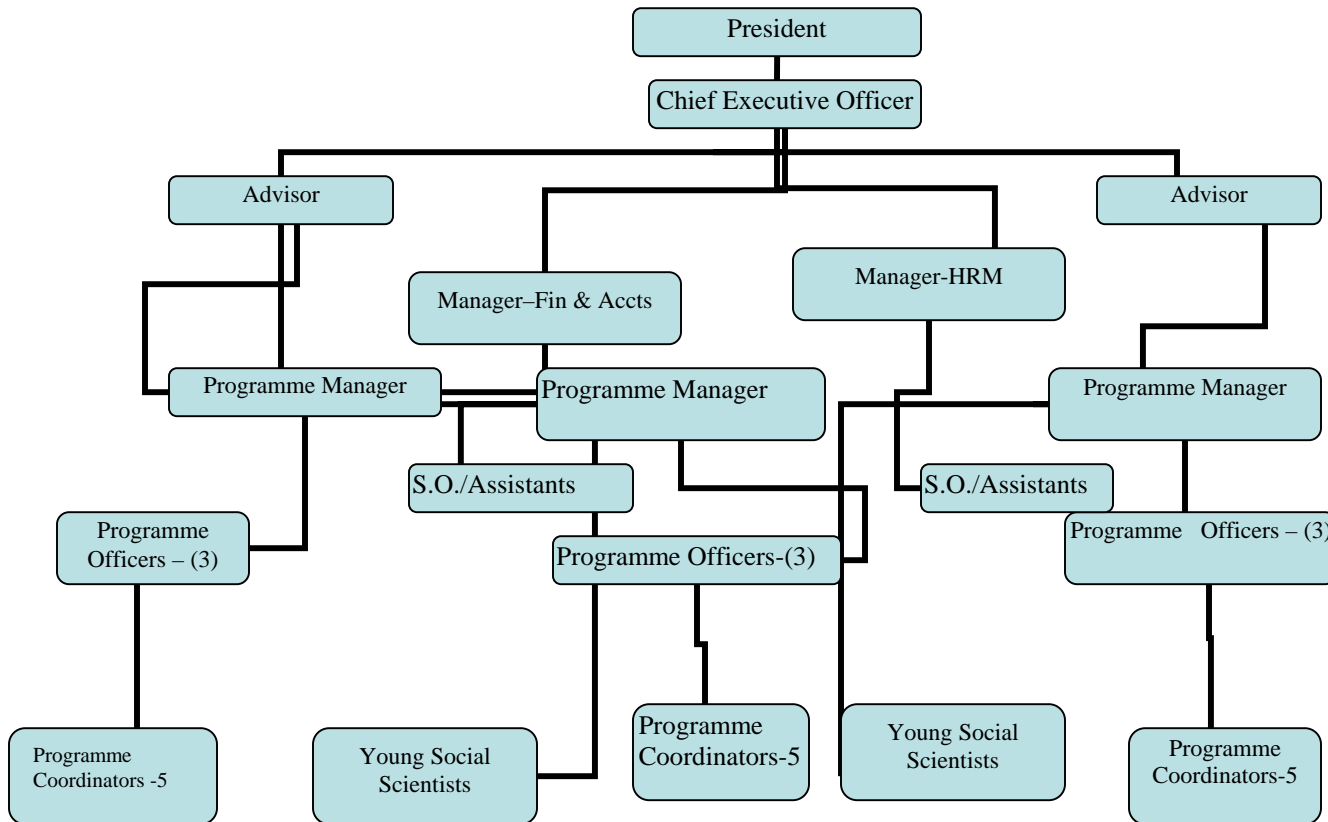
Appendix – i

List of Social Science Institutions

List of institutions engaged in social science research

General Universities

1. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)
2. Allahabad University (AU)
3. Andhra University Anna University
4. Annamalai University
5. Assam University
6. Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
7. Barkatullah University
8. Berhampur University
9. Bharathiar University
10. Bharathidasan University
11. Ch. Charan Singh University
12. Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University
13. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya
14. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University
15. Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar
16. Gandhigram Rural Institute
17. Gowahati University
18. Goa University
19. Gujarat University
20. Gulbarga University
21. Guru Ghasidas University
22. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
23. Guru Nanak Dev University
24. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University
25. Himachal Pradesh University
26. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)
27. Jadavpur University
28. Jamia Hamdard University
29. Jamia Millia Islamia
30. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
31. Kakatiya University
32. Karnataka State Women University
33. Kurukshetra University
34. Kuvempu University
35. Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga
36. Madurai Kamaraj University
37. Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSUB)

38. Mahatma Gandhi University
39. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University (MJPRU)
40. Makhanlal Chaturvedi Rashtriya Patarkarita Vishwavidyalaya
41. Manipur University Mohan Lal Sukhadia University
42. Nagarjuna University
43. Nalanda Open University
44. North Eastern Hill University (NEHU)
45. North Maharashtra UniversityOsmania University
46. Patna University
47. Pondicherry University
48. Punjabi University
49. Rabindra Bharati University
50. Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur
51. Sambalpur University
52. Shivaji University
53. Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathawada University
54. Tezpur University Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University (TMBU)
55. University of Burdwan
56. University of Calcutta
57. University of Delhi
58. University of Hyderabad
59. University of Kerala
60. University of Madras
61. University of Mumbai
62. University of North Bengal
63. University of Pune
64. University of Rajasthan
65. Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University
66. Vidyasagar University

Deemed universities

Agriculture

1. Assam Agricultural University
2. Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)
3. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry
4. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalay
5. Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)
6. Kerala Agricultural University
7. Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology (NDUAT)
8. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT)
9. Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)
10. Punjab Agricultural University (PAU)
11. Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU)

12. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology of Kashmir(SKUAST-K)
13. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU)
14. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)
15. University of Agricultural Sciences

Rural development

1. Gandhigram Rural Institute
2. Institute for Rural Management

Environment

Center for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT)

Population Studies

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

Women's

Karnataka State Women University

Broad scope

1. Gokhale Institute of politics and economics
2. Indian statistical institute
3. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)*
4. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

Law
1. Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU)
2. National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University of Law (NALSAR)
3. National Law Institute University (NLIU)
4. National Law School of India University
5. National Law University, Jodhpur
6. Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University

Engineering /technology

1. Bengal Engineering College (BEC)
2. Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT)
3. Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)
4. Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar
5. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
6. Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay (IITB)

7. Madras Indian Institute of Technology,
8. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD)
9. Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG)
10. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee(IITR)
11. Institute of Technology, Guru Ghasidas University
12. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU)
13. Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur (MNIT)
14. Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal
15. Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Allahabad
16. National Institute of Technology, Durgapur
17. National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur
18. National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur
19. National Institute of Technology, Karnataka (NITK)
20. National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra
21. National Institute of Technology, Rourkela
22. National Institute of Technology, Srinagar
23. National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli
24. National Institute of Technology, Warangal
25. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST)
26. Punjab Engineering College (PEC)
27. Rajiv Gandhi Technical University (RGTU)
28. Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat
29. Uttar Pradesh Technical University (UPTU)
30. Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur
31. Visveswaraiah Technological University (VTU)
32. West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)
33. West Bengal University of Technology (WBUTech)

Government Institutes

1. Centre for Disaster Management
2. Centre for Entrepreneurship Development of Karnataka (CEDOK)
3. Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Madhya Pradesh (CEDMAP)
4. Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, IIMA
5. Entrepreneur development institute
6. Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration(HCMRIPA)
7. Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)
8. *Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)*
9. Indian Institute Of Advanced Studies, Shimla
10. Indian Institute Of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi
11. Indian Institute Of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
12. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi
13. Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi
14. Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM)

15. Indian Labour Institute (also states)
16. Institute of Co-operative Management (ICM), Bhopal
17. Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram
18. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)
19. Madhusudan Institute of Co-operative Management (MICM), Bhubaneswar
20. Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab (MGSIPAP)
21. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
22. National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration
23. National Institute of Rural Development
24. National Institute of Urban Affairs
25. NISTADS, New Delhi
26. Research and information system for non aligned and Other developing countries, New Delhi
27. Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA)
28. Shri Krishna Institute of Public Administration (SKIPA)
29. State Institute for Urban Development (SIUD
30. State Institute of Public Administration And Rural Development (SIPARD)
31. State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Meghalaya
32. State Institute of Rural Development, Tamil Nadu
33. Yeshwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA)

ICAR institutes

1. Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI)
2. Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (CIAH)
3. Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)
4. Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB)
5. Central Institute for Research on Goats (CIRG)
6. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA)
7. Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET)
8. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
9. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) ☐
10. Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF)
11. Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI)
12. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI)
13. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI)
14. Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI)
15. Directorate of Maize Research (DMR)
16. Directorate of Wheat Research (DWR)
17. Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
18. Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI)
19. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)
20. Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR)
21. Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bangalore
22. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR)
23. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR)

24. National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)
25. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP)
26. National Centre for Agricultural Economics an Policy Research (NCAP)
27. National Research Centre for Agro forestry (NRCAF)
28. National Research Centre for Cashew (NRCC)
29. National Research Centre for Grapes (NRCGNational Research Centre forOil Palm(NRCOP)
30. National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture (NRCWA))
31. National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
32. National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM)
33. National Research Centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (NRCMAP)
34. Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region (WTCER)

Management Institutes

1. Bharathidasan Institute of Management, Trichy
2. Chetana's R.K. Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai
3. Department of Industrial & Management Engineering
   IIT, Kanpur, Kanpur
4. Department of Management Studies, IISc Bangalore, Bangalore
5. Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, New Delhi
6. Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras, Chennai
7. Department of Management Studies, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee
8. Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University, New Delhi
9. Fore School of Management, New Delhi
10. Goa Institute of Management, Panjim
11. IIM Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad
12. IIM Bangalore,Bangalore
13. IIM Calcutta, Kolkata
14. IIM Indore, Indore
15. IIM Kozhikode, Kozhikode
16. IIM Lucknow, Lucknow
17. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
18. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
19. Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management,Kolkata
20. Indian School of Business, Hyderabad
21. Institute for Financial Management & Research, Chennai
22. Institute of Management Development and Research, Pune
23. Institute of Management Technology, Gaziabad
24. Institute of Rural Management Anand, Anand
25. International Management Institute, New Delhi
26. Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
27. K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
28. Management Development Institute, Gurgaon
29. Mudra Institute of Communication Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad

30. Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
31. National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi
32. National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai
33. Nirma Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
34. Prin L N Welingkar Institute of Management Research, Mumbai
35. S.I.E.S College of Management Studies, Mumbai
36. S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai
37. Shailesh Mehta School of Management, IIT Powai, Mumbai
38. Symbiosis Centre for Management & Human and Human Resource Development, Pune
39. Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune
40. Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management, Pune
41. T. A. Pai Management Institute, Manipal
42. University Business School, Chandigarh
43. Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur, Kharagpur
44. Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship, Bangalore
45. Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneshwar, Bhubaneshwar
46. Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur

ICSSR institutes - 27

Non governmental institutes

Broad Scope

1. Action research Institute of Development Studies, Patna
2. Administrative staff college of India
3. Asia-Pacific Socio Economic Research Institute
4. Bihar Institute of Economic Studies
5. Centre for Development Research, Vishakapatnam
6. Centre for Development Studies and Activities, Pune
7. Centre for Indian Development Studies, Chandigarh
8. Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai
9. Centre for Regional Studies, Bhagalpur (Bhagalpur University)
10. Centre for Research in Social Sciences, Technology and Culture, Coimbaore
11. Centre for Research Planning and Action, Delhi
12. Council for Social Development, New Delhi
13. Deccan College PG and Research Institute
14. Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi
15. Development and Nation Building, New Delhi
16. Himalayan Action Research Centre, Dehradun
17. ICRIER, New Delhi
18. Indian Institute of Economics, Hyderabad
19. Indian School Of Political Economy
20. Indian Social Institute, New Delhi

21. Indo American institute for international studies
22. Institute of Development Planning Studies, Vishakapatnam
23. Institute of Policy Studies, Ahmedabad
24. Institute of Small Enterprises and Development, Cochin
25. Institute of Social Development, Udaipur
26. Institute of Social Sciences, Agra
27. Jan Tinbergen Institute of Development Planning, Rohtak
28. Malabar Institute of Development Research,Trichur
29. National Council of Applied Economic Research
30. School of Social Work, Mangalore
31. Society for Development Research and Action, Udaipur
32. Society for Promotion of Activities for National Development and Nation Building, New Delhi
33. Society for Socio Economic Studies and Sciences, Kolkatta
34. Systems Research Institute, Pune
35. 'Unnati', Organization for Development Education, Ahmedabad

Agriculture and Rural Development

1. Asian Institute of Rural Development, Banglaore
2. Centre for Rural Studies, Dharwad (Karnataka University)
3. Himalayan Institute of Action Research and Development, Dehradun
4. Institute for Resource management and Economic Development, New Delhi
5. Kumarappa Institute of Gram Swaraj, Jaipur
6. Lalbahadur Institute of Rural Management
7. Samarthan – Centre for Development Support, Bhopal
8. Sri Nandadevi Mahila Lok Vikas Samiti, Chamoli
9. State Institute of Rural Development, Jaipur

Anthropology

Institute of Indian Culture, Mumbai

Urban studies

1. Centre for Urban Economic Studies, Kolkata (Calcutta University)
2. Regional Centre for Urban And Environmental Studies, (Osmania University)
3. Society for Development Studies, New Delhi

History

1. Christian Institute for Study of Religion and Society, Bangalore
2. Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute, Pune
3. Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture, Mumbai
4. International Academy of Indian Culture, New Delhi
5. Kashi Prasad Jayswal Research institute, Patna

6. National institute of Punjab Studies, New Delhi
7. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi

Population

1. Centre for Gerentological Studies, Trivandrum
2. IIPS, Mumbai
3. Population Foundation of India, New Delhi
4. Population Research Centre, Dharwad

SC/ST/Minorities

1. Centre for Himalayan Studies, Darjeeling (NBengal Univ)
2. Cultural Research Centre, Kolkatta
3. Dalit Intellectuals Forum, Gurgaon
4. Indian People's Welfare Society, Howrah
5. Institute of Islamic Studies, Mumbai
6. Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi
7. Institute of Social Research and Applied Anthropology, Fulgeria, West Bengal
8. Jharkand tribal welfare research institute, Ranchi
9. Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre, New Delhi
10. MLV Tribal Research and Training Institute, Udaipur
11. Social Science Centre, St Xavier's College, Mumbai
12. Tribal Research Centre, Nilgirirs
13. Tribal research Institutes In Several States
14. Xavier Inst of Social Science Ranchi

Education and manpower

1. Indian Adult Education Society, New Delhi
2. NCERT, New Delhi

Health and Related Subjects

1. Centre for Health Education Training and Nutritional Awareness, Ahmedabad
2. Centre For Research and Development, Pune
3. Family Planning Association of India, Pune
4. Foundation for Community Health, Pune
5. Karve Institute of Social Science, Pune
6. National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi
7. National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad
8. National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad
9. Voluntary Health Association of India

Women and children

1. Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore
2. Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs of India, New Delhi
3. Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi
4. Jagori Women's Training Etc Centre New Delhi
5. Joint Women's Programme, New Delhi
6. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi
7. Sakhi, Resource Centre for Women, Trivandrum
8. Samadhan, Ranchi
9. School of Women's Studies, Jadhavpur University
10. SEWA Academy, Ahmedabad
11. Shakti Vahini, Faridabad
12. Women in Security, Conflict, Management and Peace, New Delhi
13. Women Study and Research Centre, Baroda University,
14. Women's Political Watch, New Delhi
15. Women's Studies and Development Centre, Delhi University

Finance

1. Institute Of Financial Management and Research
2. National Institute of Bank Management
3. Economic Research Development Library, Mumbai
4. National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad
5. NIPFP, New Delhi
6. Om Sai Ram Centre for Financial Management Research, Mumbai

Environment

1. GB Pant Institute of Himalyaan Environment and Development
2. Centre for Research on Ecology, Environmental Applications, Training and Education, Dehradun

Labour

1. Giri Labour Institute, NOIDA
2. Sri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, New Delhi
3. The Ambedkar Institute of Labour Studies

International

1. Centre for African Studies
2. Centre for Asian and European Studies, Jaipur
3. Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa (Goa University)

4. International Centre for Peace Initiatives, Mumbai
5. International Centre for Peace Initiatives, Mumbai
6. International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, New Delhi

Others

1. Centre for Education and Documentation, Mumbai
2. Centre for Environment, Social and Economic Research, Roorkee
3. Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Trivandrum
4. Centre for Research, Planning and Action, New Delhi
5. Centre for Social Research, New Delhi
6. Centre for Studies in Peace and Non-violence, Tirupathi (Venkateswara University)
7. Concerned Action Now, New Delhi
8. Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad
9. Dr Shambunath Singh Research Foundation, Varanasi
10. Institute for Conflict Management, New Delhi
11. Institute of Regional Development Studies, Kanpur
12. Institute of Small Enterprises Development
13. Institute of Social Development, Jajjar
14. Nhanjilnadu Development Society, Kanyakumari
15. Sarat Chandra Roy Institute of Anthropological Studies, Ranchi
16. Society for Participatory Research in Asia, New Delhi

Appendix – ii

List of Scholars Who Attended Consultations

1. A. R. Vasavi
2. A.M. Shah
3. Abhirup Sarkar
4. Ajitava Roychaudhuri
5. Alka Parikh
6. Amitava Bose
7. Amrik Singh
8. Amrit Srinivasan
9. Anand P. Mavlankar
10. Anil Gupta
11. Anjan Mukerjee
12. Anup K. Sinha
13. Apurba Kumar Mukhopadhyay
14. Ashima Goel
15. Ashok Acharya
16. B. Venkatesh
17. C.T. Kurien
18. D.D. Nampoothiri
19. Dalia Chakrabarty
20. Dilip C. Nath
21. Dilip Nachane
22. E. Haribabu
23. Errol D'Souza
24. G. Haragopal
25. Gita Nambisan
26. Harihar Bhattacharya
27. I. Ramabrahmam
28. Indra Munshi
29. J.C. Sandesara
30. Janak Pandey
31. JGB Tilak
32. Jose George
33. K L Krishna
34. K.A. Manikumar
35. M. P. Bezbarua
36. M.G.S.Narayanan
37. Madhusudan Datta
38. Mahesh Rangarajan
39. Narendar Pani
40. Neera Chandoke
41. Nirmal Chandra
42. Om Prakash
43. P.Judge
44. P.N. Mari Bhatt
45. Partha Mukerjee
46. Pranab Sen

47. Prasanta Ray
48. R. Nagaraj
49. R. Radha Krishna
50. R. Srinivasan
51. Rama Melkote
52. Ranabir Samaddar
53. Ravinder Kaur
54. Rekha Chowdhary
55. Rowena Robinson
56. S.K. Rao
57. S.L. Shetty
58. Samita Sen
59. Sarah Joseph
60. Sashank Bhide
61. Satish Deshpande
62. Sharmila Banerjee
63. Sobhanlal Duttagupta
64. Somnath Bandyopadhyay
65. Soumyen Sikdar
66. Sudha Mohan
67. Suguna Pathy
68. Suhas Palshikar
69. Sujata Patel
70. Sukanto Chaudhury
71. Surendra Gopal
72. Sushil Khanna
73. Swapnendu Bandhopadhayay
74. T N Madan
75. Tejaswini Niranjana
76. Thomas Pantham
77. Tridib Chakrabarty
78. V.K. Natraj
79. Venkatesh Kumar
80. Vinod Jairath
81. Yoginder Yadav

Appendix – iii

**List of Directors of ICSSR Research Institutes Who Attended
Consultative Meeting**

1. A.K. Singh
2. Ambika Jain
3. Biswaroop Das
4. D.C. Sah
5. Dipak Malik
6. G.K. Karanth
7. Indranee Dutta
8. K.Narayanan Nair
9. K.S. Bhat
10. Kanchan Chopra
11. Mary E. John
12. N.C. Shah
13. Padmini Swaminathan
14. R. Parthasarathy
15. R.C. Tripathi
16. S. Mahendra Dev
17. S.P. Padhi
18. Sailabala Debi
19. Sanjeev Kumar Sinha
20. Sarthi Acharya
21. Sugata Marjit
22. Suresh Sharma

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