



Estd.1951

Indian Sociological Society

## **Rules for the working of Indian Sociological Society Research Committees**

**As approved and amended in September 2022**

### **Introduction**

Research Committees (RCs) are an integral part of ISS and are instruments for advising the Office Bearers and Managing Committee (MC) members on subjects of concern to the ISS and also for implementing the programmes of the MC. In this capacity they have advisory and consultancy roles. Since RCs are considered crucial operational wings of ISS for all its teaching, research and professional activities and in order that they organically relate to them, the following guiding principles and rules have been formulated regarding their governance to streamline their functioning, to make them more effective and useful to all members of ISS:

- I. RCs should reflect the diversity and depth of Indian sociology's disciplinary practices across geographical and institutional regions within the country.
- II. RCs should indicate and guide new types of research and articulate cutting-edge research in frontier areas.
- III. RCs should converse with sociologies of the global South in terms of their focus areas and take leadership roles in this direction.
- IV. RCs should equally converse with the global trends in the discipline while embodying the distinctiveness of sociological practice in India.
- V. RCs should play the role of intellectual/academic leadership to orient our disciplinary practices towards national and international trends and debates in the specializations that they represent. RCs have to communicate the distinctiveness of Indian scholarly practices without being insular and/or indifferent to what is happening globally.

### **I. Preamble**

RCs have been established by ISS with the following objectives:

1. Provide a forum for more involvement in and commitment to the society on the part of senior professionals by associating them as office bearers of RCs,
2. Streamline the process of paper presentation at the All India Sociological Conferences,
3. Encourage specialization among paper presenters,
4. Give direction to the conference sessions and papers,
5. Assist younger members of the profession in preparation and presentation of papers at all India Conferences through RC Conveners and senior members, who will motivate them and act as friend, philosopher and guide to them.
6. Provide for ISS a group of specialists whom it could bank upon in times of necessity for consultation and other academic matters (syllabus revision, research priorities and the like),
7. Make ISS professionally strong through the Research Committees and Adhoc groups.

## **II: Governance**

1. As RCs are academic arm of the Society, they have to ensure that their meetings create an intellectual dialogue and debate on the issues that are germane to the specializations that they represent.
2. Each RC is required to identify their respective academic fields, specializations and academic boundaries. These should also be accepted and endorsed by its members so that they can collectively establish the intellectual continuity and academic stability of each RC. In each RC's business meeting, members should deliberate on and approve the RC's academic agenda, which serves as the organization's defining document. Additionally, they would upload this statement to their respective websites on the ISS website.
3. An ideal RC should have a viable number of long-term members (at least 5 years or more), minimally 30 so that at least a meaningful discussion takes place during presentations.
4. Each RC should have members from across the country in order to reflect diversity and heterogeneity that constitutes India and would have member- representatives of at least 10 different states of the country across all regions and across wide institutional swathe – university professors, college teachers, doctoral researchers. It should also represent the linguistic heterogeneity.
5. RC conveners have to provide academic leadership and thus they should have reasonable academic standing in the field. They should be Professors/ Associate Professors/ Readers Assistant professor/ Research scientist B, within Universities and Colleges. It would be desirable that s/he be affiliated to a colleges and University Department.

6. In addition, we also recommend that an RC convener should have published at least two papers in the Bulletin or a peer-reviewed journal or a reference book from reputed publishing houses.
7. There should be an RC advisory committee, that engages senior professors with young scholars in the field of RCs. Holding at least one Mid-term conference/workshop and participating in AISC is important function of all RCs. In organizing all the programmes, the convener should ensure diversity and inclusivity.
8. RC Convener should form review committee through advisory committee to assess abstracts and give suggestions to guarantee quality presentations in every RC. Acceptance of abstracts will be based on the following criteria: 1. The theoretical and conceptual clarity of the article, 2. The methodological application of the paper, and 3. The paper's sociological significance.

- Abstracts should be submitted to fit the following criteria:
- Connection of the title to the theme of the conference (whenever possible)
- Relevance of the title and of the abstract to the focus of each RC/Ad-hoc group
- Conceptual clarity and methodological application of the abstract with this focus

All RCs should have academic advisory committee not more than 3 members from senior scholars/members to strengthen the academic activities of RC's.

### **III. Membership**

1. All new RC members will have to fill up and submit a form of membership available on the ISS website.
2. Membership is available for ONLY to THREE RCs/Adhoc groups per person.
3. (Ordinary/Student and Life Members can enroll themselves as RC members on payment of Rs. 1000 for 5 years. Henceforth there will be no annual or biannual membership for RCs. An ordinary member or student member can take RC membership for five years but will have to renew their membership of ISS for the next four years. If this is not done the Ordinary/Student member will not be able to submit an abstract for presentation at the AISC.
4. RC conveners should confirm with ISS office about the renewal of ISS members in case of ordinary/student member before sending acceptance of abstract. Therefore, MC should ensure that there is minimum ten days gap in the closing date of abstract submitted and confirmation of acceptance of abstract.

5. As Adhoc Groups are formed on temporary basis, the membership fee for these Groups will be on yearly basis and their members should pay Rs.250 for each year. 70% of the same will be transferred to the convener each year through cheque on online Bank A/C.
6. All RC/Adhoc fees will be paid to the ISS. Each convener will receive 70% of the fees in their RC/Adhoc group bank accounts with 30% being retained by the Society. After Each RC/Adhoc group should send audited accounts of their income and expenditure statement to the Society every year.
7. Other categories of ISS Members can become Associate Members of RCs by paying Membership Fees as stated above, but they can neither contest in RC elections nor vote in those elections.

#### **IV. Office Bearers**

1. Each RC/Adhoc group will have a Convener, a co-convenor, a Secretary and an Executive Committee consisting of 2 to 5 Members elected by the members of that RC/ Adhoc group. An RC/Adhoc group can co-opt an outside ISS member as an ordinary member of that RC if it deems fit but he/she will have to pay membership fee as in Section III.
2. There shall be a treasurer for every RC/Adhoc group who will be nominated/Elected by the RC Members.
3. In RC/Adhoc groups having 20 or more members, there can be a Co-Convener elected by the members of the RC.
4. Any RC/Adhoc group Convener, if elected as MC Member or Office Bearer, has to resign as RC Convener immediately after getting elected. Any existing MC Member cannot become a RC Convener.
5. The tenure of office of the office bearers (Convener, Co Convener, Secretary, Treasurer and Five Executive Committee Members) shall be 2 years.
6. The Convener of a RC/Adhoc group can hold office continuously only for two consecutive terms.
7. They can be re-elected for another term of two years only.
8. An outgoing Convener of one RC/Adhoc group cannot be elected as Convener of another RC/Adhoc group for a minimum of FOUR years after vacating his/her office. This does not apply to the other Office Bearers of a RC.
9. Though no RC convener can exceed two consecutive terms. However, in situation of necessity after four years, The RC convener may serve two additional terms in the same or a different RC
10. A person cannot be a member of more than two RCs/Ad-hoc Groups at the same time and can only hold office in one of them.

## **V. Election**

1. There shall be election to the various offices of RC/Adhoc groups every two years. Election shall be held at the time of the Annual Conferences of the Society. The RC/Adhoc group Convener should activate the election proceedings and will act as the Returning Officer. In case RC Convener is contesting for 2<sup>nd</sup> time in that case one of the Executive committee members with a longest standing should act as a RC convener.
2. Only members with one year's standing are eligible to vote in RC election. Only Members who have 3 year's standing in the RC can stand for election as Convener, Co Convener and Secretary. Members of an Adhoc Group can vote and choose its office bearers as and when the Group is formed. The same rules as of RC will apply.
3. Only life members who have three years standing in the RC/Adhoc group shall be eligible to contest for the other elected posts in the RC/Adhoc group.
4. If any RC/Adhoc group has only less than 6 qualified voters at the time of election, there shall be no election in that year and the matter should be reported by the outgoing RC Convener to the ISS office immediately. In such cases, the MC will take appropriate decision regarding the nomination of the next Convener. In case of Adhoc group if such a situation occurs, the MC can also dissolve the Adhoc group.
5. Within two weeks after election, the outgoing RC/Adhoc group Convener should send to ISS Secretariat a brief report containing list of voters, list of contesting candidates and the results of the election.

## **VI. Qualifications for RC/Ad-hoc Conveners**

1. The RC/Adhoc convener should be a Professor/Associate Professor/Reader/Assistant Professor/Research Scientist B who is on the permanent staff of a college or a university department. RC conveners should have sound academic background. He/she must have at least two papers published in the Bulletin, a peer-reviewed journal, or a reference book from select publishing houses.
2. S/he should have good standing in the field of specialization of the concerned RC.
3. S/he should be a Life Member of ISS at least for a minimum period of 5 years.
4. S/he should have been a member of the RC group for a minimum period of three years.
5. The person desirous of being a RC/Adhoc group Convener must be a regular participant in AISCs. S/he must have participated in at least three continuous AISCs before the election.
6. In case these qualifications are not fulfilled, the MC can take a decision to appoint a new convener for any RC/Adhoc group. If the same person is elected by the RC members at a subsequent business meeting, his or her term shall begin on the date he or she takes duty as Adhoc convener.
7. If Asst. professor/Research scientist B is RC convener, he/she must be in permanent job for 5 years.

## **VII. Roles and Responsibilities of the RC/Ad hoc Conveners**

1. RC/Adhoc group Conveners shall be responsible for the following:
2. Organize all RC/Adhoc group sessions at the AISC and present an Annual Report of the RC/Adhoc group at the Annual Conference of the Society. S/he may entrust the work to the Co Convener or Secretary, if he/she cannot present it himself/herself.
3. S/he should upload a note on the academic scope of its RC/Adhoc group on its website (which is part of the ISS website). The RC/Adhoc group convener can also initiate publication programme for the RC after discussing this with the advisory committee members.
4. The RC/Adhoc group Convener shall be the Returning Officer at RC/Adhoc group elections. In this capacity, he/she should send a report on the election to the ISS Office within two weeks after the election containing the list of voters, list of candidates contesting for election and the result of the election.
5. MC has the power to entrust an RC/Adhoc group Convener with any responsibility for the good working of the RC or Society if it deems necessary.
6. The RC/Adhoc Conveners are responsible for ensuring that all oral paper presenters get a least of 10-15 minutes to present their papers during the session, and a minimum of 5 minutes for those making poster presentations. They could invite papers from specialists in consultation with the advisory committee, in addition to receiving volunteer papers.
7. RC/Adhoc group convener may invite abstracts for 'Young Scholar Award' from abstract givers under the age of 35 years along with proof of age. A separate session should be organized for Young Scholar Award. The RC Convener should form a panel of three senior ISS members to take a decision on best paper which may be awarded a Certificate. The Certificate shall be provided by the ISS to the RC Conveners.
8. RC/Adhoc group Conveners should encourage maximum involvement of members in the sessions of the Conferences. One way of doing this is to provide them with important responsibilities (e.g., chairing sessions, co-editors, members, newsletter review committee) and retain their interest by regularly engaging them in activities like organizing mid-term conferences, seminars/workshops and publication of a newsletter.
9. RC members should be encouraged to organize inter-RC academic activities. These could be done either alone or in combination with other RCs.
10. If any RC/Adhoc group Convener defaults in any of the above responsibilities, MC will have the right, after getting his/her explanation, to remove him/her and appoint another person either from the same RC or from outside as it may deem appropriate.

## **VIII. Activities of the Research Committee**

1. There can be a mid-term workshop to discuss the progress and updating of RC/Adhoc group activities. RC conveners should hold two to three online /offline meetings of RC members to ensure active participation and collective activities.
2. RC/Adhoc groups can organise regional conferences, workshops, seminars and the like either alone or in collaboration with other RC/Adhoc groups.
3. Each RC may have its own newsletter and publications. Copies of such newsletters and publications should be sent to all members of ISS Managing Committee and to the ISS President and Secretary.

## **IX. Rules for RC Publications (As decided in a meeting Held In April 2022)**

1. RCs are encouraged to undertake publications of midterm conferences and papers presented at AISC.
2. RC conveners should ensure that major section of papers selected for publication are contributed by the RC members.
3. The papers should be selected through peer review in order to contribute and strengthen the thrust area of RCs and can be published in co-edited volume. RCs convener will be editor and one of the paper contributors will be co-editor as approved by the RC members.
4. ISS encourages RCs to undertake publication of Journal; RC convener can be editor and two members of RC as endorsed in business meeting should be co-editor. So that the next line of the editor is ready at the exit of the convener, and the publication of the journal is continuous. The theme of the journal should be decided and endorsed in business meeting collectively by members of RC.
5. Only such publications would be considered RC publication which have more than 70% of the contribution from the RC members.
6. It is desirable that Journal should be included in the care list and also meet high standard as laid down in Scopus.

## **X. Finance**

1. Each RC/Adhoc group will be transferred 70% of all fees collected every year.
2. Each RC/Adhoc group will maintain proper accounts to be audited internally every year.
3. RC/Adhoc group Convener shall keep the funds of the RC in savings bank account to be jointly operated by Convenor/ Co-convenor and Treasurer.
4. All RC/Adhoc group membership fees shall have to be paid directly to the ISS bank (Punjab National Bank, Branch: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070). The name of the Account is: Indian Sociological Society and its Savings Bank Account Number is: 4114000100575176

## **XI. Setting up of New RC/Adhoc groups, merging and termination of existing RC/Adhoc groups**

1. The ISS MC can constitute a new RC or Adhoc Group in any branch of Sociology if not less than ten (10) Life Members of ISS come forward with a request and agree to pay for an RC five years membership fee in advance and two years for an Adhoc group.
2. The ISS MC may merge an RC/Adhoc group with another appropriate RC for academic and professional reasons.
3. MC has the right to terminate any RC/ Adhoc Group or merge it with another appropriate RC **on the following ground: i) if its membership is less than six for 3 consecutive years, or ii) if it fails to attract at least 10 papers for 3 annual conferences continuously, or iii) if its theme loses relevance at any later point of time.**
4. The ISS MC can merge and/or terminate any RC if any RC/Adhoc group does not follow the guidelines and rules elaborated in this document.

### **List of Research Committees displayed on ISS website)**

01. RC 01 Theory and Practice in Sociology
02. RC 02 Studies on Family, Marriage and Kinship
03. RC 03 Economy and Society
04. RC 04 Migration and Diaspora Studies
05. RC 05 Sociology of Education
06. RC 06 Sociology of Religion
07. RC 07 Adivasi and Tribal Studies
08. RC 08 Inequalities, Stratification and Exclusion Studies
09. RC 09 Dalit Studies
10. RC 10 Gender Studies
11. RC 11 Sociology of Environment
12. RC 12 Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well Being
13. RC 13 Science, Technology and Society
14. RC 14 Globalisation and Society
15. RC 15 Rural and Agrarian Studies.
16. RC 16 Work, Labour and Organisation
17. RC 17 Sociology of Social Movements
18. RC 18 Social Demography
19. RC 19 Urban Studies
20. RC 20 Media Studies
21. RC 21 Political Sociology
22. RC 22 Conflict and Violence Studies
23. RC 23 Sociology of Law, Crime and Deviance
24. RC 24 Sociology of Childhood and Youth
25. RC 25 Sociology of Sports

- 26. RC 26 Minority Studies
- 27. RC 27 Sociology of Care
- 28. RC 28 Sociology of Everyday life
- 29. RC 29 Social Transformation and Development
- 01: Adhoc Group
- 02: Digital Sociology
- 03: Pedagogy, Teaching and Learning
- 04: Indian Sociology and Knowledge Systems
- 05: Food, Culture and Society