



Estd.1951

## Indian Sociological Society

### Rules for Indian Sociological Society Research Committees / Adhoc groups

*[Approved and amended as on September 2024]*

#### **Introduction**

Research Committee/s (RC/s) / Adhoc Group/s (AG/s) 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 programme planning of the MC.

Thus, 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.

Research Committee (RCs) play the core and a significant role in the functioning of Indian Sociological Society. RCs are independent and autonomous Committees govern by standard rules and procedures envisaged for robust academic output beneficial for the society. Each RC/Ad Hoc group of the ISS will have elected/ nominated Convenor, Co-Convenor, Treasures and three executive committee members.

RC/ Ad Hoc group shall have Business Meeting during AISC and the Convenor shall present its annual activities/Expenditure reports there in the Business Meeting.

President of ISS may depute one MC Member as observer for the RC / AG Business Meeting.

#### **Scope:**

- RCs should reflect the diversity and depth of Indian sociology's disciplinary practices across geographical and institutional regions within the country.

- RCs should indicate and guide new types of research and articulate cutting-edge research in frontier areas.
- RCs should converse with sociologies of the global South in terms of their focus areas and take leadership roles in this direction.
- RCs should equally converse with the global trends in the discipline while embodying the distinctiveness of sociological practice in India.
- 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

### **Eligibility for being RC / AG Convenor / Co-Convenor**

He / She shall be an active member of the same Research Committee/ Ad Hoc Group for a minimum period of three years continuously or five years with gap and should be Life Member of ISS

He / She shall be Professor/Associate Professor/ Assistant professor.

Current Member of ISS Managing Committee/ Convenor Research Committee shall not be eligible to contest second term (Consecutive) for the next three years after first term.

The person desirous of being a RC/Adhoc group Convenor must be a regular participant in AISCs.

### **Structure of RC / AG**

Each RC/AG shall have a Convenor, Co-Convenor, Treasurer & Three Executive committee members from the same RC/AG as governing body

Elected RC/AG Convenor shall have **three years tenure** (January to December)

Any Life Member/ Ordinary member can become member of **any two RCs/AGs** of the ISS Simultaneously.

All RCs/AGs shall attempt to have all India regional representation among its members.

RC/AG executive Members/ Co-Convenor / Convenor shall not be member of any other RC/AG Committee at the same time. Violation of the rules may lead to disqualification from ISS activities/functioning/Executive Committee.

## **Governance**

As RCs/AGs 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.

Each RC/AG 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/AG.

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.

An ideal RC/AG 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.

Each RC/AG 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.

RC/AG Convenors have to provide academic leadership and thus they should have reasonable academic standing in the field. They should be Professors/ Associate Professors/Assistant professor/ Research scientist B, within Universities and Colleges. It would be desirable that s/he be affiliated to a colleges and University Department.

In addition, ideally RC/AG Convenor should have published at least two papers in the Bulletin or a peer-reviewed journal or a reference book from reputed publishing houses.

All RCs/AGs should have academic advisory committee not more than 3 members from senior scholars/members to strengthen the academic

activities of RC's.

Organizing at least one mid-term conference/workshop and participating in AISC is important function of all RCs.

In organizing all the programs, the Convenor should ensure diversity and inclusivity.

**RC/AG Convenor should form review committee through advisory committee to assess abstracts and give suggestions to guarantee quality presentations in every RC/AG.**

Acceptance of abstracts for the conference (AISC) 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.

**The abstracts should be submitted to fit the following criteria:**

- (a) Connection of the title to the theme of the conference (whenever possible)**
- (b) Relevance of the title and of the abstract to the focus of each RC/AG**
- (c) Conceptual clarity and methodological application of the abstract with this focus.**

**RC/AG Convenor will be responsible to acknowledge the receipt of abstract and presentation related communication to the member well before time (at least 15 days before the programme)**

### **Membership**

1. Any ISS members will have to fill up and submit a form for RC/AG membership available on the ISS website.
2. Any ISS Member is eligible for membership of **only TWO RCs/AGs at a time.**
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/AGs.

4. An ordinary member or student member can take RC membership for five years but will have to renew it for the next four years.
5. If membership is not renewed the Ordinary/Student member will not be able to submit an abstract for presentation at the AISC.
6. RC/AG Convenor should confirm with ISS office about the renewal of ISS members in case of ordinary/student member before sending acceptance of abstract.
7. RC/AG should ensure that there is minimum ten days gap in the closing date of abstract submitted and confirmation of acceptance of abstract.
8. 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 Convenor each year through cheque on online Bank A/C.
9. All RC/AG membership fees will be paid to the ISS. **Each Convenor will receive 70% of the fees with 30% being retained by the Society.** After Each RC/AG should send audited accounts of their income and expenditure statement to the Society office every year before March 31st.
10. 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.

## **Election**

1. There shall be **election** to the various offices of RC/AG **every three years.** Election shall be held at the time of the Annual Conferences of the Society (AISC) only.
2. The RC/AG Convenor should activate the election proceedings and will nominate one the Returning Officer for conducting election.
3. Only members with one year's standing are eligible to vote in RC/AG election.
4. Members who have 3 year's standing in the RC/AG are eligible to contest in the election for Convenor, Co-Convenor, Secretary and treasurer's position.
5. If any RC/AG has less than 6 qualified voters at the time of election, there

shall be no election, and the matter should be reported to the ISS office immediately. In such a case, the President of ISS is authorized to nominate any suitable candidate as the next Convenor.

6. RC/AG Convenor should submit a detail report about the election to ISS office containing list of voters, list of contesting candidates and the results of the election.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the RC/Ad hoc Convenors**

RC/Adhoc group Convenors shall be responsible for the following:

1. Organize all RC/AG sessions at the AISC and present an Annual Report of the RC/AG at the Annual Conference of the Society.
2. S/he should upload a note on the academic scope of its RC/AG on its website (which is part of the ISS website). The RC/AG Convenor can also initiate publication programme for the RC after discussing this with the advisory committee members.
3. The RC/AG Convenor shall appoint Returning Officer for RC/AG elections. In this capacity, he/she should send a report on the election to the ISS Office after the election containing the list of voters, list of candidates contesting for election and the result of the election.
4. The RC/Adhoc Convenors 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.
5. RC/AG Convenor 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 Convenor 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 during AISC.
6. RC/AG Convenors 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.

7. RC/AG members should be encouraged to organize inter-RC/AG academic activities. These could be done either alone or in combination with other RC/AG

### **Activities of the Research Committee/Ad Hoc Group**

1. There can be a mid-term workshop to discuss the progress and updating of RC/Adhoc group activities. RC Convenors should hold two to three online /offline meetings of RC members to ensure active participation and collective activities.
2. RC/Adhoc groups can organize 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.

### **Rules for RC/AG Publications**

1. RC/AG are encouraged to undertake publications of midterm conferences and papers presented at AISC.
2. RC/AG Convenors 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 RC/AG and can be published in co-edited volume. RCs Convenor will be editor and one of the paper contributors will be co-editor as approved by the RC members.
4. ISS encourages RC/AG to undertake publication of Journal; RC Convenor can be editor and two members of RC/AG as endorsed in business meeting should be co-editor. So that the next line of the editor is ready at the exit of the Convenor, 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/AG.
5. Only such publications would be considered RC/AG publication which have more than 70% of the contribution from the RC/AG members.

6. It is desirable that Journal should be included in the care list and also meet high standard as laid down in Scopus.

### **Finance**

1. Each RC/Adhoc group will receive 70% of all fees collected from its members from the ISS office.
2. Each RC/Adhoc group will maintain proper accounts to be audited internally every year and submit a statement of expenditure to the ISS office before March 31 every year.
3. RC/Adhoc group Convenor 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 be paid separately by the interested member 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
5. RC /Ad Hoc Group Conveners may avail grants for attending the All-India Sociological Conference (AISC), provided it does not exceed III AC railway fare from the funds available to the RC out of the 70% share of the respective RC membership fees.

### **Setting up of new RC/AG, merging and termination of existing RC/AG**

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 reserve the right to discontinue any RC/ Adhoc Group or merge it with another 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.**

**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 Globalization and Society
15. RC 15 Agrarian and Rural 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
30. RC 30 Digital Sociology
31. RC 31 Sociology of Sanitation

**Adhoc Group**

- Ad Hoc Group 01: Pedagogy, Teaching and Learning  
Ad Hoc Group 02: Indian Sociology and Knowledge Systems  
Ad Hoc Group 03: Food, Culture and Society  
Ad Hoc Group 04: Visual Sociology