



ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

(NAAC Re-accredited 'A+' and Affiliated to Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University)

Soladevanahalli, Bengaluru-560107

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Report Submission: 30/05/2026

Semester:	EVEN	Academic Year:	2025-26	Venue:	Indian Social Institute, Benson Town
Event Date:	03/03/2026	Time:	10:30AM TO 02:30 PM	Duration:	4 Hours

TYPE OF EVENT: Industrial Visit

EVENT NAME: "Orientation Visit to Indian Social Institute"

Target Audience:	First year BSW students	Number of Participants:	10
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Objectives:

1. To provide BSW students with practical exposure to the functioning of a research and training-based development organization.
2. To understand the role of the Indian Social Institute in promoting social justice, equality, and community empowerment.
3. To familiarize students with the Training and Resource Centre model adopted by the institute.
4. To understand the thematic areas of work such as Social Inclusion and Democracy, Labour Migration, and Peace and Reconciliation.
5. To help students understand the role of research, training, and advocacy in social work practice

Program Introduction:

As part of the academic curriculum of the First Year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program, field orientation visits are organized to provide students with exposure to different welfare and development organizations. These visits help students understand the practical functioning of organizations and connect theoretical knowledge with field realities.

In this regard, the Department of Social Work organized the second orientation visit for BSW trainees to the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Benson Town, Bengaluru on 03 March 2026. The visit aimed to introduce students to the role of research, training, and advocacy in social development and to help them understand how organizations contribute to empowering marginalized communities.

A total of 10 students participated in the visit, accompanied by Dr. Mirshad Rahman T. M and Dr. Kumaraswamy from the Department of Social Work. The trainees had the opportunity to interact with



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the staff members of the institute and learn about its programs, organizational structure, and major areas of work.

Theme of the Event: Skill Development and Employment Generation through CSR Initiatives.

Detailed Report:

The Department of Social Work organized the second orientation visit for the First Year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) trainees to the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru on 03 March 2026. The visit was conducted as part of the academic curriculum to provide students with practical exposure to the functioning of research-based social development organizations and to understand the role of training and advocacy in addressing social issues. A total of 10 students participated in the visit, accompanied by Dr. Mirshad Rahman T. M and Mr. Kumaraswamy from the Department of Social Work.

Upon arrival at the institute, the students and faculty members were warmly welcomed by the staff members of the organization. The orientation session was facilitated by Dr. Denzil Fernandes, S.J., along with Dr. Selvaraj, Fr. Ragesh, and Fr. Sameer, who provided a detailed introduction to the institute and its activities. They explained the background, vision, mission, and key areas of work of the Indian Social Institute.

The Indian Social Institute has a long history of working for social justice and community empowerment. The institute was originally established in 1951 in Delhi and later expanded its activities to Bengaluru in 1963. In 1993, the Bengaluru centre became an independent institution. The organization was founded by the Jesuit community, which is well known for its commitment to education, social service, and social justice. The institute works with the aim of promoting equality, human dignity, peace, and democratic values, especially among marginalized communities.

During the orientation session, the resource persons explained that the institute functions primarily as a Training and Resource Centre. Unlike many development organizations that directly implement field projects, the Indian Social Institute focuses on strengthening the capacities of individuals and organizations through research, training programs, workshops, and advocacy initiatives. Through these activities, the institute contributes to policy discussions and promotes awareness on social issues affecting marginalized groups.

The staff members also explained the organizational structure of the institute. The work of the organization is organized through different thematic departments that address specific social issues. The major departments include the Labour and Migration Unit, the Department of Peace and Reconciliation, and the Department of Social Inclusion and Democracy. Each department focuses on research, training, and advocacy related to its thematic area.



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The Labour and Migration Unit focuses on issues faced by migrant workers and unorganized labourers. The staff explained that migrant workers often experience exploitation, lack of social security, and limited access to welfare schemes. The institute conducts awareness programs and training sessions to help workers understand their rights and access government welfare schemes. The unit also organizes programs such as Migrant Day celebrations, Karam Fest, and operates helplines for migrant workers. Additionally, the institute assists workers in registering for welfare schemes such as the E-Shram card and Ayushman Bharat health card.

Another important department is the Peace and Reconciliation Department, which focuses on promoting harmony and peaceful coexistence among communities. The department organizes peace retreats, workshops, and dialogue programs aimed at building mutual understanding and cooperation among different communities. The institute also operates the JCSA Peace and Reconciliation Network and publishes a journal called Pax Lumina, which focuses on issues related to peace, conflict resolution, and social harmony.

The Social Inclusion and Democracy Department works towards promoting democratic values, equality, and social justice. This department conducts training programs for students, youth leaders, and community representatives to build awareness about human rights, democratic participation, and social inclusion. Through workshops and leadership development programs, the department encourages marginalized communities to actively participate in social and political processes.

The staff members also explained the various strategies used by the institute to implement its programs effectively. These strategies include networking with NGOs, community-based organizations, and government agencies, conducting research and fact-finding studies, organizing training workshops and seminars, and developing training modules for leadership development. Through these approaches, the institute contributes to strengthening community participation and influencing social policies.

Another important aspect discussed during the session was the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach used by the institute. This method focuses on training selected individuals from communities or organizations who can later train others in their respective areas. This approach helps in multiplying the impact of training programs and ensures that knowledge and skills are widely shared within communities.

The staff also explained the sources of funding for the organization. In its early years, the institute relied mainly on international funding to implement its programs. However, over the last decade, the institute has gradually shifted towards mobilizing local resources and partnerships.

Currently, the organization manages an approximate annual budget of around 2.7 to 2.9 crores, which supports its training, research, and advocacy activities.

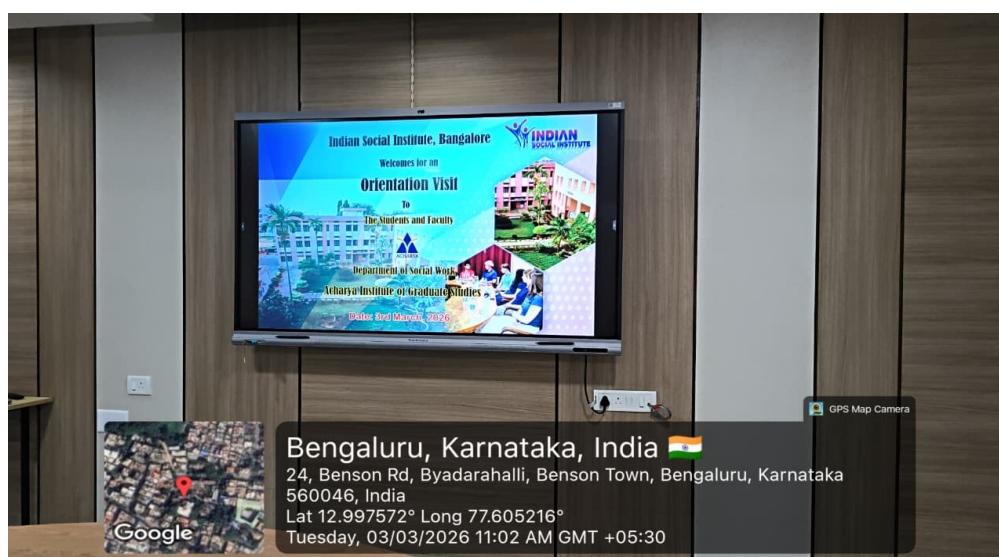
The session also highlighted the main beneficiaries of the institute's programs. The organization primarily works with marginalized and disadvantaged communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, Dalit Christians, migrant workers, fisherfolk, and unorganized labourers. Special attention is also given to women and youth within these communities, as they often face multiple forms of social and economic exclusion.

During the interaction, the students also learned about the important role played by social workers in such organizations. Social workers in the institute perform multiple roles such as researchers, trainers, facilitators, and advocates. They conduct research studies on social issues, design training modules, organize workshops, and facilitate dialogue between communities and policymakers. Through these activities, social workers contribute to social change and community empowerment.

The trainees were given an opportunity to interact with the resource persons and ask questions regarding the functioning of the organization, career opportunities in research-based organizations, and the challenges faced in implementing development programs. The interaction helped students understand the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, research skills, and policy advocacy in social work practice.

Overall, the orientation visit provided the students with valuable insights into how research, training, and advocacy can be used as powerful tools for promoting social justice and empowering marginalized communities.

PHOTOS



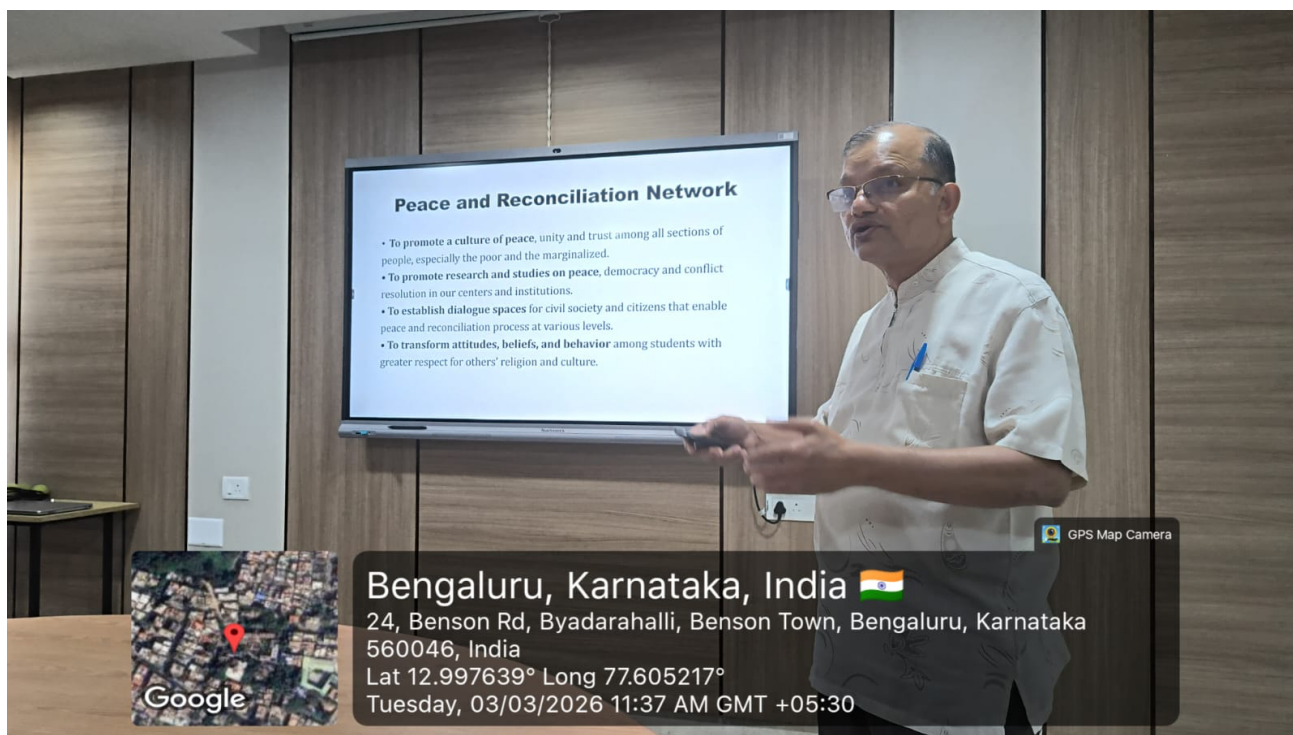
Presentation by Director of ISI



Director briefing about the functioning of ISI



Dr. Kumaraswamy shares the Importance of the Visit



Presentation by Dr. Denzil Fernandes S J, Head of Peace and Reconciliation Unit



Presentation by Fr. Sameer Minj, SJ, Head of Labour Migration Unit



Presentation by Fr. Ragesh, Social Inclusion & Democracy Unit



Outcome:

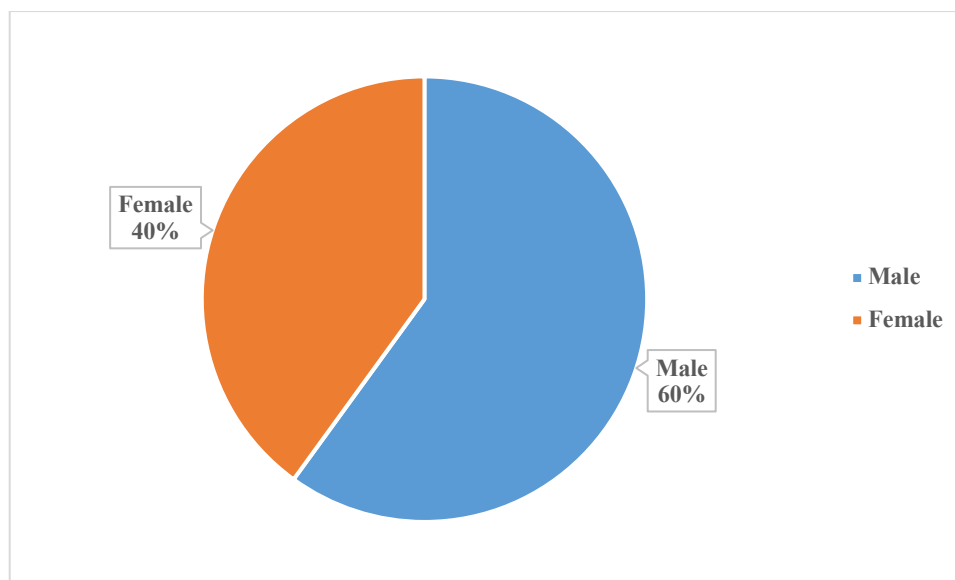
- Students gained practical understanding of how research, training, and advocacy contribute to social development and social justice.
- Students developed awareness about the functioning of a Training and Resource Centre and its role in empowering marginalized communities.

- Students enhanced their knowledge about important social issues such as labour migration, social inclusion, democracy, and peace-building initiatives.
- The visit helped students understand the role of social workers as researchers, trainers, facilitators, and advocates in development organizations.
- The interaction with experts of the institute strengthened students' understanding of policy advocacy, community leadership development, and capacity-building strategies.

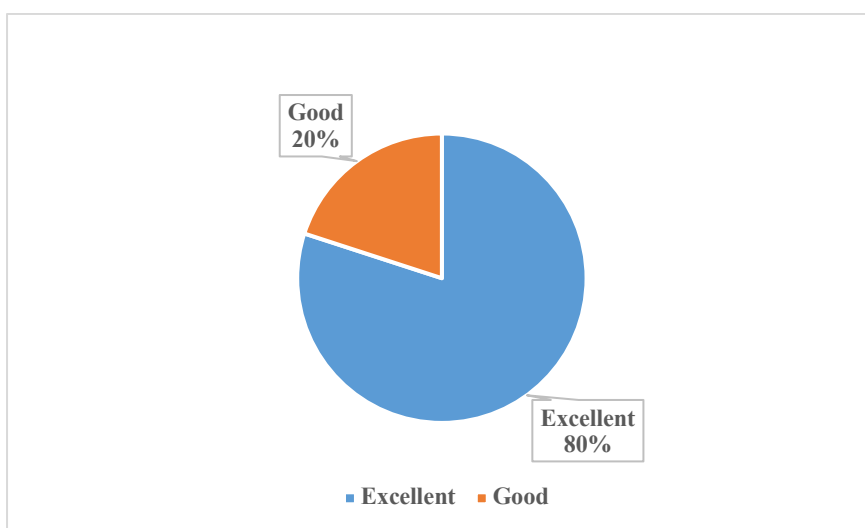
Conclusion:

The orientation visit to the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru was highly informative and beneficial for the BSW trainees. The visit provided valuable insights into the functioning of an organization that focuses on research, training, and advocacy to promote social justice and community empowerment. It helped students understand how social development initiatives can be strengthened through capacity building, leadership development, and policy-oriented research. Such field orientation visits play a significant role in bridging the gap between classroom learning and practical exposure, thereby helping social work trainees develop a deeper understanding of professional social work practice and its role in addressing social inequalities.

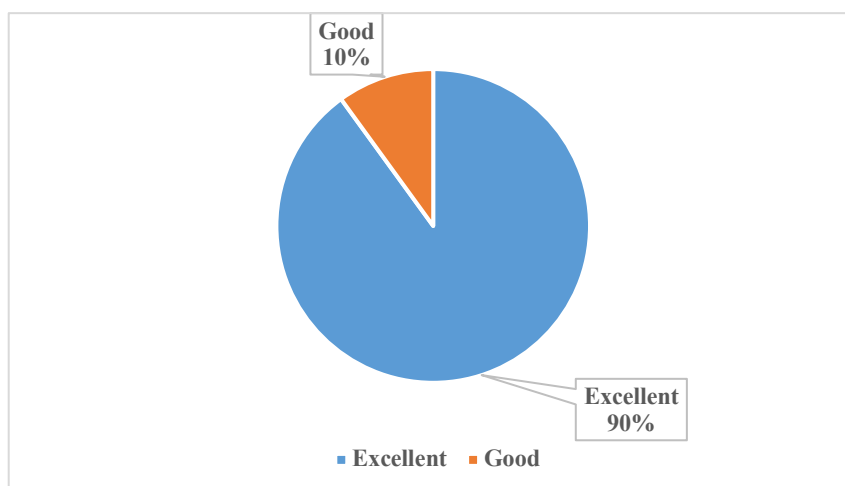
Student feedback summary



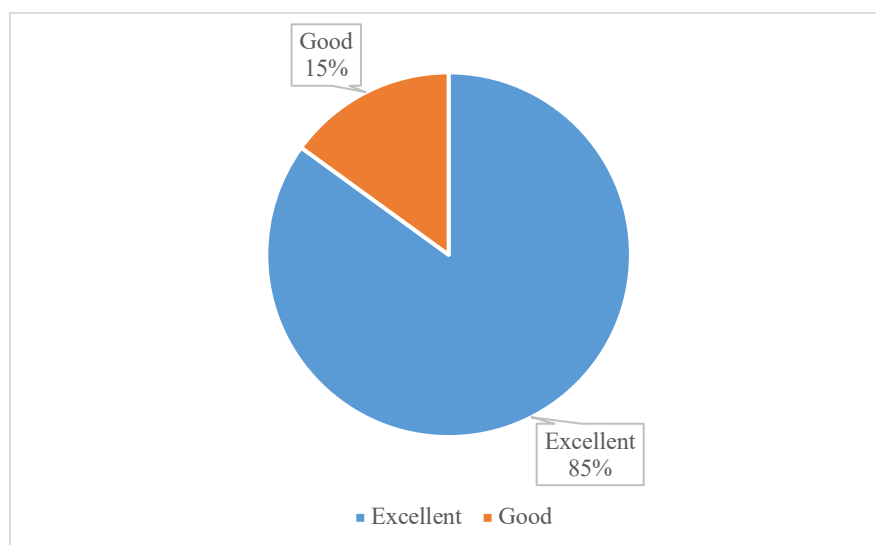
GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS



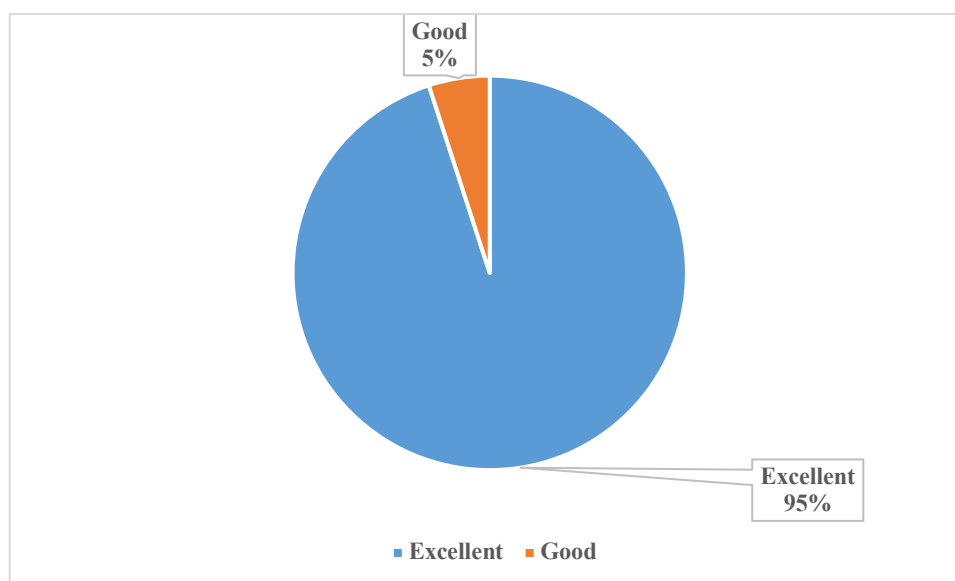
CONTENT AND RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAM



ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTION



PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND APPLICATIONS



OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Feedback Analysis and Interpretation

The feedback analysis indicates a highly positive response from the participants regarding the programme. Among the respondents, 60% were male and 40% were female, showing a fairly balanced participation. With regard to the content and relevance of the programme, 80% of the participants rated it as Excellent and 20% as Good, indicating that the sessions were well-structured and relevant to the participants' learning needs. Similarly, engagement and interaction during the programme were rated Excellent by 90% and Good by 10% of the participants, reflecting that the programme encouraged active participation and meaningful discussion.

The feedback also shows strong appreciation for the practical insights and applications provided during the programme, with 85% rating it as Excellent and 15% as Good, suggesting that the sessions effectively linked theory with practical understanding. The overall experience of the participants was extremely positive, with 95% rating it as Excellent and 5% as Good. These responses clearly indicate that the programme was well received, successfully met its objectives, and provided a valuable learning experience for the participants.