

ABOUT IDC

www.idcindia.org



Message from the Chairperson

IDC was set up by a group of persons to produce and disseminate propeople knowledge. It started with an abundance of ideas and an almost non-existent material resource base. These were difficult times, but abound with ample opportunities to realise one's dreams. These opportunities were shaped by the globalisation of ideas, the technological revolution and the pressing need for holistic knowledge. IDC's struggle has been characterised by a critical appraisal of the existing social processes for the transformation of society.

Societies have their own dynamism and are always in a struggle to find answers to certain pertinent questions to make living more humane. There is an increasing trend to reinforce the assumption that the efforts to realise 'other utopias' are counterproductive. And, any departure from the status quo is considered as rank deviation with monism being presented as the only source of growth. It is this challenge that many of the research institutions, including IDC, are facing.

The first challenge IDC faced was to retain the best human talent in research without much material compensation and to generate resources to survive. The first few years were largely devoted to survival research. Not that we wanted the things to happen that way – but we had no choice. Nevertheless, this gave us an opportunity to save financial resources from research and to reinvest the same in building research infrastructure and research capacities including a library. This, in a way, proved to be a unique experiment to survive with autonomy and dignity, and make research contributions without any maintenance grant from the government or any other sources. However, recently IDC Governing Body has taken a decision to build a corpus fund to provide continuity to research. We have received encouraging responses from the Planning Commission and the Government of Punjab.

Another challenge was more ideological and positional in nature. This emanates from the type of research that is undertaken. Policy research sometimes becomes deadly, given that our polity continues

to be feudal in its outlook, capitalist in practice and socialist in pretensions. We had a taste of this. The problem solving research is restricted by the civil society's felt needs and the donors' activism.

Not to talk of the glamour attached to the new vocation of popcorn research — what one watches every day on television, which has challenged the tedious methods of collation of historical facts for social struggle.

All these challenges have swept away some of the research talent and resources. However, IDC could overcome some of these challenges by building its identity, autonomy and networks with independent minds. It is a matter of satisfaction that the foundation for intellectual adventurism to explore and build 'other alternatives' has been laid.

We have expanded our activities from generation of knowledge to dissemination of knowledge to young minds. Globally competitive units i.e. Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences and Management; Centre for Public and Governance Studies; and Centre for Regional Development Studies, have been set up. Through these advance study centres not only regular post-graduate courses for students have been launched, but advance course for Teaching in Social Sciences (Economics, Political Science, Sociology) for teachers have been envisaged. The teaching of social sciences has undergone a significant transformation with the need to balance theory with data-driven insights while fostering inter-disciplinary integration. Such an approach it is hoped shall enable us to explore sustainable solutions and navigate the complexities of interconnected global trends.

Our endeavour to generate pro-people knowledge, to promote the rights of the vulnerable sections is integrated with the wide support base of our well-wishers and in the achievement of creating independent research facilities. Our efforts have borne out that research-based knowledge can be placed at the other end of the spectrum to make a difference at the margins, and we will continue with our strivings.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Chairperson, IDC

Vision and Mission



The Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) is an autonomous, non-profit research organization located in north-west India. It works from an inclusive perspective, for an equitable socio-economic transformation to build a humane and just society. The core areas for research explorations have evolved in consonance with area-specific challenges and

specialisation of research leadership. The first concern continues to be re-examination of the theoretical underpinning of varied empirical explanations for knowledge synthesis and the second relates to its transfer for interventions.

It is engaged in social research with implications for change in the fields of governance, economic development, peace, conflict resolution and policing, education and gender justice. By serving as a source of knowledge and innovation in these areas for government officials, activists and citizens, it works to shape public policy, build institutions and citizens' capacities and improve the delivery of justice. The main thrust is to undertake research in association with stakeholders to advance knowledge and interventions that fit local needs. It is committed to connecting local needs and knowledge with global standards of human rights and equity.

The Institute for Development and Communication has evolved from the specialisations of its founding members. They were growing social scientists, committed to generating knowledge to harness the potential of their region and address the special needs of the society of their origins. Rooted in the social milieu, the organisation could establish forward and backward linkages to knowledge generation,

stakeholder support and policymakers in North-Western India particularly the state of Punjab. The engagement with social and economic issues confronting the region was tapered by the interest of the researchers, which led to a programmatic thrust with the focus on process rather than on completion of projects. Continuous efforts are going on to consolidate this approach to build systematic interventions in a multi-pronged manner, by combining resources from local initiatives and to build upon the excellent outreach and relation with civil society, political leadership, vernacular and national media.

Approach



IDC has built partnerships that have provided support and sustenance across projects, research areas and overtime. The focus continues to be to construct knowledge from below. Issues raised at the grassroots level are empirically verified and shared across stakeholders to consolidate policy initiatives. This has

been possible with the planned organisation of resources and research capacities to include a Governing body reflecting leadership across academic, policy planning, civil society and cultural traditions. The academic partnerships and research guidance from an internal committee have contributed to relevant methodology, multi-disciplinary outlook and policy-designed contributions. These have helped to evolve human resources to transfer knowledge into frameworks, strategies, mechanisms and tools for intervening in social development. IDC has also a capable human resource to impart training methodologies for grassroots functionaries. A 10,000 plus-library supports the research forays.

Challenges



IDC is committed to strengthening organisational capacity, transparency and exchange within its organisation. The Institute's support for leadership development has led the governing body to allocate available funds to each research director to develop research initiatives with full autonomy, since 2007. It has also formalised an interface from two or more

units to promote multi-disciplinary perspectives in an effort to provide strong policy packages. The programme on Justice and Democratic Governance bridges Policing and Gender Units while the North-Western Regional Development Studies Unit encompasses all the specialisations in the organisation. Research methods courses have been organised for research staff and interns placed in the organisation. There is a regular flow of interns, providing them exposure to researchable issues, methods and data collection to link knowledge with practical ways for social change. It remains an unfulfilled effort to integrate performance ratings with project outputs and make financial systems friendly to researchers' review for a cost-benefit analysis.

Production and Dissemination of Synthesised Knowledge through Academic Exchange



IDC has established linkages, both formal and informal with universities and academic initiatives in the region and globally. These partnerships have facilitated to build capacity for research by holding joint courses for researchers' skill development, particularly on research methods and culturally sensitive

methodologies and training to shape research outputs for policy-relevant use. These partnerships have nurtured forums for linking research with viable policy initiatives and led to organising research networks to strengthen their outputs to policy-relevant products.

IDC has evolved a consortium with regional academic institutions to undertake an assessment of research output in areas of common research. Based on a cost-benefit analysis, the shape of future investments and policymaking can be strengthened. The idea is to pool in resources to identify researchable issues and challenges faced, and share resources of networks, policy inlets and publications. IDC has entered into formal arrangements with universities to encourage internship training and develop a curriculum for short and mediumterm internship capacity-building for meaningful contributions to social policy.

The building of causality analysis within and beyond specific areas of research requires both theoretical and methodological inputs from expertise in borderline disciplines, engagement with public policy and model testing. It is these expectations from strategic partnerships that help IDC to infuse different viewpoints and capacities that lead to the production of synthesised knowledge, shaping of policy and involving the civil society as stakeholders.

Strategic Partnerships



IDC draws on three types of strategic partnerships. One pertains to academic partnerships and exchange, which are at the global, regional and local levels. The second draws on civil society organisations that are more regional and national in perspective and

location, including NGOs, media and activists. The third refers to policymakers at national and local levels. Governance is a state function and IDC's approach is to strengthen institutional mechanisms to make them responsive to the rights of citizens,' particularly those on the margins.

In the north-western region, IDC has a strong network with Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) institutions, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Chandigarh University, Mohali and grassroots organisations who have partnered in research activities. IDC has also entered into an agreement with the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Ropar, of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India to support each other's endeavours in delivering academic programmes. Globally, it has entered into formal arrangements with the Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan and University College, Stockholm, Sweden to:

- 1. Strengthen the exchange of, and communication between, research scholars and personnel at the two research institutions.
- 2. To exchange academic materials and share periodicals published by the two research institutions.
- 3. To collaborate on research projects of mutual interest.

To build teachers' capacities, the Government of India Training Orientation and Research Centre located in IDC, provides a platform to share research findings and receive feedback, which is reworked into training capsules.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Centres

- Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Science and Management (CASSM)
- Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS)
- Centre for Regional Development Studies (CRDS)

Units

- Gender Studies Unit
- Education and Evaluation Studies Unit

Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Science and Management (CASSM)

CASSM aims to advance interdisciplinary education designed to bridge academia, industry, and policy, building visionary leaders for today's interconnected social, environmental, and business challenges. With a focus on evidence-based learning and inclusive growth, the Centre equips students with versatile skills demanded by the ever-evolving job market. The cross-disciplinary thrust fosters collaboration and generates innovative solutions. It has demonstrated potential to inform evidence-based policies and interventions, contributing to inclusive growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The centre is equipped with the means to collaborate with industry partners to align its programmes with job market needs, enhancing graduates' employability; engages with policymakers, government bodies, and NGOs to inform pro-people policies; and nurtures thought leaders by fostering critical thinking and continuous learning through conferences, seminars, and lectures.

Programmes Offered at CASSM, CU-IDC Chandigarh Campus

2-Year Full-Time

Master of Business Administration (MBA) with Dual Specialization

The MBA programme at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Science and Management goes beyond traditional classroom learning, providing students with access to leading industry experts and esteemed faculty members who are at the forefront of their respective fields. Experience transformative education that combines cutting-edge research, thought leadership, and the expertise of renowned professors of practice and international management scholars.

CASSM equips students with the knowledge and skills to make conscious, ethical and sustainable business decisions that promote integrity and accountability. We train students to integrate social, environmental, and economic considerations into business strategies, ensuring the long-term well-being of all stakeholders involved and moving beyond short-term profits. The pedagogy aims to cultivate in students, a deep understanding of both Management principles and social sciences' foundations, empowering them to approach complex business challenges through an interdisciplinary perspective.

2-Year Full-Time Master of Arts (MA) Economics

Economics as a discipline has been evolving in response to the challenges posed by the changing nature of globalization; climate and environment transformation; technological revolution and experiments in public policy and governance. The knowledge to be generated must capture the impact of these changes on the livelihood and quality of life of people and develop relevant content, and pedagogy to disseminate knowledge. We are introducing teaching in Economics to combine and balance economic theory with data-driven inferences and integrating interdisciplinary approaches.

The curriculum of MA Economics has been designed to provide a robust foundation in advanced economic theory and quantitative methods. It emphasizes real-world applications, equipping students with essential skills and an analytical mindset to address complex economic challenges with specialization in Finance, Public Policy and Governance, Economics of Sustainability and Applied Data Analytics.

The programme follows international curriculum standards and partners with national and international universities. It also offers an exit option with a Postgraduate Diploma post-completion of the first year.

Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS)

The Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS) at the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) takes up studies on the verticals of Public Policy, Governance, and Sustainable Development. The idea is to raise issues which are of relevance to different stakeholders like common citizens, especially the poor and underprivileged, academia, government and industry. The studies are taken up on assessment of the state of the public policy and governance where the attempt is to establish certain benchmarks and standards for further research and follow-ups. These studies are undertaken in states/UTs of North Western India — Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS) seeks to improve the welfare of the disadvantaged and deprived sections. Its work has highlighted that the existing system of governance faces challenges in the provision of equal access to social programmes and economic packages based on caste, gender and class. Future programmes would like to strengthen processes, procedures and the design of public services to provide dignified and equal access to state services to the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society.

The focus of this Centre is cutting-edge transactions, which act as an enabling condition for a synergistic view of the demand and supply side of governance study. Focus on cutting-edge transactions includes the cost of transactions as well as the cultural aspect of service-delivery issues. Considering the uniformly structured roles and institutions governing the conduct of public officials, such micro studies would have relevance for good governance across the board and hopefully facilitate identification of convergence or otherwise in respect of such transactions across different sectors and areas of public governance and this expands the scope of application of best practices beyond sector perspectives.

The CPPGS also functions within a broad context of the changed character of nation-states, the consolidation of democracy, questions of migration throughout the region, security sector reforms with special reference to policing, post-conflict management and reintegration. It also focuses on the creation of research partnerships for evidence-based research as an input to context-specific informed decision-making.

The Centre has a special focus on sustainable development, including issues concerning the environment and climate change. The collective activities of human beings have altered the earth's ecosystems, which have been well-studied since the post-industrialization era. In the Indian context, the development model with productive sectors, as drivers succeeded in achieving a double-digit growth rate. This accomplishment had a heavy social and environmental cost in the form of reckless exploitation of environmental resources and their pollution without caring for the requirements of future generations.

In order to mitigate the impacts and manage the risk from these environmental degradations, policymakers must begin addressing environmental, social, governance (ESG) and economic issues in a holistic way. The Centre proposes to closely examine the recent challenges faced by economies across the globe, especially the Indian economy relating to sustainable development. The Centre will also translate these emerging challenges and trends into guidance markers for the Indian policymakers.

Public policy, governance and sustainable development and their interface are interdisciplinary in nature, therefore, CPPGS aims to provide a vibrant academic environment for experts from various disciplines, professionals, civil society, and different stakeholders to work together. Keeping in view the thrust area of the Centre, the blending of quantitative and qualitative research approaches will be the defining feature of research methodology and its tools.

Course Title: The Making of Political Leaders in India

Course Overview

This course will explore the foundational principles, structures, and dynamics of Indian politics while comparing them with the democracies of the USA and Europe. It aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of how political systems function within different cultural and historical contexts. It aims to provide students with insights into the qualities, experiences, and strategies that shape effective political leadership in India.

This course will equip students with a nuanced understanding of what it takes to become a political leader in India, emphasizing both theoretical frameworks and practical applications.

It shall also delve into the unique political environment of India, characterized by its fluid institutional boundaries, loosely structured political parties, and the often ambiguous role of legislatures. It will critically examine how these factors influence political leadership and decision-making in India, differentiating it from more rigid political

systems in other democracies. It shall offer an in-depth understanding of how leaders navigate and thrive in this environment.

The main thrust area of this course would be to change the political landscape to the advantage of the people living on these margins. The emphasis would be to strategise a balance between electoral mobilization, welfare politics, institutional reforms, identity politics, and adapting to globalization and technology. These areas shape the strategies political leaders use to require to function within the complexities of Indian politics and bring about change within the framework of a fluid, often loosely defined institutional system.

Centre for Regional Development Studies (CRDS)

The Centre for Regional Development Studies (CRDS) at the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) has been engaged in conducting research in the context of challenges and opportunities of economic reforms process and globalisation. Its major focus is to explore policy alternatives through structural transformation of the economy particularly of the predominantly agrarian societies, and also cover development issues concerning finance, industry, and migration. In the domain of agriculture, the Centre is involved in developing a policy framework for the rationalisation of the diversion of agricultural land to industrial and urban use. The focus has been to capture the impact of the shift from command to a market economy through reorientation of existing institutional framework, research in agriculture, technological inputs, non-farm activities, culture of governance, impact on vulnerable groups like small and marginal peasants, landless labourers, women and migrant labourers. Also, the Centre aims to capture the nuances interlinked to the crucial aspects of finance, industry and migration associated with regional development. Besides taking up research studies, the faculty of the Centre also provides regular inputs to various government departments for formulating economic and social policies, besides interaction with media.

The focus of this Centre is mainly North-Western region of India – Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Courses Offered

Advanced Course for Teaching Economics

Duration: 6 Months

Economics as a discipline is continually evolving to address the multifaceted challenges brought about by the dynamic nature of globalization, environmental transformation, technological advancements, and innovations in public policy and governance. In this rapidly changing world, the need for economic knowledge that not only analyzes these transitions but also captures their effects on livelihoods and the quality of life is more pressing than ever. In this light, the course aims to create a comprehensive learning environment where theory meets practice, enabling a new generation of economists to thrive in a complex, interconnected world.

Objectives of the Course

- i. To update the knowledge of teachers teaching economics to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- To familiarize them with new developments in economics, tools, and methods.
- iii. To improve pedagogical techniques and integrate technology in teaching.
- iv. To explore new research areas and interdisciplinary approaches.
- v. To encourage collaborative learning and networking among economics educators.

Gender Studies Unit

The Gender Unit promotes gender justice with a three-pronged approach. The first pertains to increasing access to rights with efficient and effective governance. Second by building the capacity of

stakeholders to promote gender rights and third by uncovering the causal conditions leading to the practice of gender differentiation in a specific cultural context. The following is the nature of initiatives in IDC:

- Promoting access to gender through improvements in governance. This includes strengthening institutional capacity, procedures and services to facilitate gender-friendly delivery of services (Gender Sensitive Approach to Violence Against Women: Building Capacity of Police and Community Partnered Delivery System). Efforts are also directed at promoting legal rights, using techniques of social fencing, and social policing and strengthening civil society engagement for an effective delivery of services.
- Building capacities of stakeholders to address gender justice. The focus is on advocacy, sensitization and skill development evolving tools such as the gender violence index to measure the extent and forms of violence as evidence-based advocacy and monitoring mechanisms to register efforts to combat violence.
- Generation of knowledge: To uncover the causal linkages in a specific cultural context within and across social placements and practices of gender justice. The focus is to address gender norms, values and cultural practices that affect the exercise of women's human rights e.g. combating female feticide.

Specifically, the unit has worked on the construction of contextualized masculinities in conflict and post-conflict situations. Evidence-based studies to uncover the dynamics of forms of gender violence have been undertaken on various themes like Atrocities Against Women, Female Deselection, Victims of Militancy and Caste-Based Violations. These studies have been undertaken for knowledge exchange and transfer at levels of policy construction, stakeholder mobilization and community-based interactions.

Education and Evaluation Studies Unit

Education and Evaluation Studies Unit has been conducting studies within a broad framework laid down in planning and policy

declarations. To this end, it attempts to redefine goals that are desirable and achievable. Studies undertaken also focus on improving the teaching-learning environment, which has social proximity in terms of its idiom and medium. The thrust of the unit has been to reinforce the vital need to launch separate policies and formulate strategies to cater to the specific requirements and aspirations of underprivileged sections of society. Another focus of this unit is measuring the extent and reach of social security and safety nets. Several studies have been undertaken on issues like measurement of evaluation of the primary healthcare system, primary education system, and community health evaluation including infant and child mortality, sanitation, AIDS, immunisation and family planning. Both macro and micro-level evaluations have been conducted using innovative methodological tools, participatory qualitative methods, neighbourhood analysis, walkthroughs, multi-cluster surveys, etc.

IDC EXTENSION CENTRE

ETI

The Institute is recognised as an Empanelled Training Institute (ETI) by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for its NSS Programme Officers for the North. Training programmes for N.S.S. Programme Officers have been conceived with a view to providing practical skills to these Programme Officers for motivating the youth to undertake voluntary work. These courses try to relate vision with problems and practical intervention.

Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has identified IDC as a nodal institution for imparting Non-formal Adult and Continuing Education, through Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS).

It offers vocational education to neo-literates and unemployed youths.

IDC Ph.D. Programme

The Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) is an approved research centre of Panjab University, Chandigarh and Chandigarh University, Mohali. The PhD programme is being conducted in various subjects, like Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Economics, and Education.

IDC Internship Programme

The internship programme has been launched to provide an opportunity to emerging young scholars to familiarise themselves with the multi-disciplinary dimensions of social phenomena. Also, build their capacity to appreciate pluralities and inculcate sensitivity towards diversity.

PROF. RANDHIR SINGH RESEARCH AND REFERENCE LIBRARY

an extensive library consisting of 10,000 reference books on a variety of topics Philosophy, including Sociology, Conflict Resolution, Gender Studies. Caste Demographics, Political Science, Law, Economics, History, Literature, Fiction, etc. It also has a reading room, equipped with audio-video



research materials and documentation facilities. It has subscriptions to various regional and national newspapers, magazines and research journals. Researchers, academicians. journalists, activists social and administrators may find the library a useful facility.





Software

- Designed and developed modules to take care of complete functionality required for automating libraries. All modules support data entry in Unicode and thus support all Indic scripts, also compatible with Z 39.50, which makes the retrieval easier.
- Organised search of reading material from the IDC portal.
- Theme-wise retrieval of information other than the general Author and title search.
- An interactive query builder.

Research Facilities

To help in research, the following facilities are being provided by the IDC library.

• **IDC Reports**: In-house published titles are available. Academic material produced during interactions organised.

- DELNET services for the research purpose of IDC staff.
- Movies are kept for the reference services, depicting the culture and language of the region.
- **Documentation**: Dissemination and management of the newspaper clippings.

Ongoing/Online Databases/Facilities

- Online resources includes: Contemporary voice of Dalits, cooperation and conflict, Indian Historical Review, Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Race & Class, Studies in History, Daedalus, Development and Change, Asian Journal of Women's Studies, Politics and Gender, Signs, India Review and Journal of South Asian studies, Economic and Political Weekly.
- Magzter Online: Database of leading magazines available.
- Inter-Library Loan: Also subscribed to DELNET online database for the researchers.
- New Collection Development: The collection is ever-growing as over 300 titles on average are added.

MEMBERSHIP

Improving Access to the users.

 IDC is a member of the knowledge cluster/hub of Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC), which provides the sharing of library resources, Lecture notification amongst different institutions, Joint Ph.D. programmes including common courses etc. As an approved Research Centre of Panjab University, Chandigarh and Chandigarh University Mohali. IDC researchers can use Panjab University library resources and other academic facilities.

CONFERENCE HALL

IDC Conference Hall is equipped with facilities, like Wi-Fi, projector and all multimedia tools.

FORUMS

Digest and Reflect Forum

The Digest and Reflect Forum at the centre provides a dynamic platform to engage in meaningful discussions on contemporary topics. These programmes are designed to foster critical thinking, team building and perspective for change. Led by experts from diverse fields, the discussions encourage participants to delve into complex issues, listen to varied perspectives, and articulate their views. This process, not only broadens the understanding, and also develops the ability to form well-rounded opinions. This enriching exchange of ideas enhances analytical skills for informed decision-making in real-world scenarios.

Digital Forum

The Digital Forum offers a rich collection of resources to inspire learning and exploration across diverse fields. Highlights include thought-provoking audio lectures by distinguished scholars, activists, and celebrities and content from the renowned Great Courses Series, which covers a variety of subjects. Motivational and inspirational materials are available ranging from religious, cultural and artistic streams. The forum also features a range of engaging documentaries and fascinating series like Understanding the Universe by Alex Filippenko, which delves into the mysteries of space and time. This curated selection ensures there is something for everyone eager to expand their knowledge and perspective.















'Implement police reforms'



















