

# Workshop on Access to Medicines, TRIPS and Patents in the Developing World

17-21 December  
TISS Mumbai

## Background of the Workshop

Ensuring universal access to medicines is one of the core obligations of the State for fulfilling the right to health. It is the responsibility of the State to protect its people and also adopt appropriate measures to promote and ensure access to affordable quality drugs and medicines for all. In India, every year millions of people are impoverished due to healthcare expenses and high cost of medicines is a huge part of the healthcare cost. Patent protection on medicines is one of the main reasons for high prices of medicines. The Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), is part of Marrakesh Agreement, which constituted World Trade Organisation(WTO) is key in determining the global rules of patent protection. The impact of patents on access to medicine is widely discussed by the different section of the society such as academia, policy makers and activists. In this background, Third World Network, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan is jointly organizing a five-day residential workshop on Access to Medicines, TRIPS and Patents in the Developing World.

## Workshop Objectives

This workshop is aiming to equip participants to understand the legal and policy issues around access to affordable medicine and patents, to their increase knowledge around the use of the TRIPS flexibilities provided for by the international trade agreements. Further, the workshop aims to enhance their capacity to make effective law and policy interventions.

VENUE: TISS MUMBAI

DATE: 17—21 DECEMBER, 2019

REGISTRATION FEES: NIL

THE MEDIUM WOULD BE ENGLISH.

## ORGANISERS

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS),  
THIRD WORLD NETWORK(TWN) AND  
JAN SWASTHYA ABHIYAN (JSA)

## Workshop Coordinators

1. Prathibha Sivasubramanian, TWN
2. Brinelle D'souza, Centre for Health and Mental Health, School of Social Work, TISS



## Who can Participate

This course is meant for medical professional, legal professional, young scientists, researchers, early career researchers, students, academics, civil society and health right activist working in the field of public health, access to medicines and patient rights perspectives. However, the workshop is open for participation to anyone who may be interested.

Participants are expected to arrive by 16 December evening and leave on 21st December after 5.00pm.

## Selection Process

Interested participants are requested to send in the completed application form (attached) and a write-up expressing the reasons for joining the workshop including the expectation (3-5 lines) from the workshop on or before **25 November, 2019** to the mail id [campaign4access2medicinesindia@gmail.com](mailto:campaign4access2medicinesindia@gmail.com)

Please submit your application as soon as possible.

Participants will be selected on the basis of their application and relevant work experience.

Institutes and organisation who may want to send their students, may limit to a maximum of two participants. Participants will be informed of their election by email only. This is a residential course, so participants may have to stay at the venue for the entire duration (5 days) of the course.

## Accommodation and Travel:

Travel, lodging and boarding will be provided free of cost by the organisers from 16 to 21 December, 2019.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

SARAL KUMAR: 01140521773

## Modules covered in the Workshop:

- Access to medicines in the framework of public health and human rights;
- Medicines—from research & development to the public sector distribution;
- Introduction to intellectual property rights and its impact on access to medicines;
- WTO and TRIPS – evolution, consequences, flexibilities legal aspects and reform proposals;
- Indian patent law and policy—history, 2005 amendments and recent developments;
- Patent examination and enforcement
- Challenging pharmaceutical patent monopolies: role of public health and public interest groups
- Abuse of patents and mechanism to checks on such abuse
- Trade agreements, TRIPS-plus demands and challenges to public health
- Research and development: alternative models

