



Professional Profile

B. Venkatesh Kumar, Ph.D., is Professor and Chairperson at the Center for Governance and Public Policy at TISS. He serves as the Director of the National Corporate Social Responsibility Hub established by the Government of India's Department of Public Enterprises at TISS. He was a pioneer in the formulation of the first-ever guidelines for Public Sector Enterprises on CSR and developed the revised guidelines, which have been implemented since April 2013. Kumar and the team he supervises at TISS currently work with several of the state-owned enterprises in the development of CSR strategy with a focus on inclusive, sustainable development and growth for under-served districts. Kumar is involved in the policy design and its implementation strategies of a number of the Federal Government's key social sector initiatives.

Dr. Kumar is the Coordinator and Expert to help the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, an apex training institution in India for the senior civil service (IAS officers) for developing case studies.

Dr. Kumar is the Course Director of the One-Week In-service Training for senior and mid-career policy leaders and civil servants and has trained over 400 since 2011. This initiative is supported by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.

Dr. Kumar is a domain expert to a high level committee set up by NITI Aayog on Higher Education Reforms chaired by Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Government of India. Dr. Kumar works in multiple capacities to guide reforms in the field of higher education in India. He was invited as a sector expert to interact with the Group of Secretaries (GoS) on Education and Social Sector set by the Prime Minister of India in December, 2016.

He is chiefly involved in conceptualizing, designing, advising and providing support to the Ministry of Human Resource Development's major policy initiative, Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a countrywide reform initiative aimed to revive and resurrect the

state public university system since 2012. He is a member of the Project Approval Board of the National Mission on Higher Education, appointed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Kumar is also a member of the Sectoral Committee on Education, appointed by the Kerala State Planning Board for the 12th Plan period. He served as a World Bank consultant in the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Bihar, on a committee that reviewed the Public Universities Act in Bihar. Kumar has recently completed the task of developing a strategic framework for the leadership development program for Higher Education Administrators. This framework will form the basis of the National Higher Education Leadership Academy, which he chairs. Kumar is the Chair of the Higher Education Leadership Academy and the Center for Academic Leadership and Education Management, both federally funded initiatives to strengthen research, policy advocacy, and professional development for Higher Education and School Education in India.

Kumar served as a Consultant to the World Bank's India Higher Education Program from 2011-2015, guiding key higher education reform initiatives in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and has helped support the Govt. of Bihar in key reform initiatives. At the request of the then-Governor of Maharashtra in (2008-2010), Kumar helped initiate and bring to fruition a number of key reforms in higher education in Maharashtra. This resulted in the formulation of the new set of guidelines for Governance Reforms in State Universities in Maharashtra.

Kumar was a Visiting Professor at Penn State University (2011-2012), a member of the India Advisory Group of the International Institute of Education (2012-2013). He was a Visiting Professor at the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University (2012-2013), and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania in 2015. He has been invited to serve as a Visiting Scholar at the School of Social Welfare Policy, University of California, Berkeley for academic year 2016-2017.

Kumar earned a master's and doctoral degree in Political Science from the University of Mumbai. He is a recipient of a number of awards including: The Performance-based Award at the University of Mumbai in 2007, a Hubert Humphrey Fellowship of the U.S.-India Education Foundation for Higher Education Administrators (2010-2011), and the co-recipient of the 1st Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative Grant on Higher Education for the project: Capitalizing Demographic Dividend: Talent Development in India and U.S.

Kumar has authored books, a number of papers in journals of national and international repute and articles in national newspapers . He taught Political Science at the University of Mumbai from 1997-2009 and currently is a full professor at TISS for over 9 years. His research interests include political process and institutions in India, party and party systems in India, governance and public policy making specifically related to higher education reform in India.