



MANAVODAYA

INSTITUTE OF PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT

PEOPLE BASED DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPT AND PRACTICE

The two-week programme for international participants is a unique experience in participatory development in India.



THE PROGRAMME

People based development is a process that builds on people's own capacity and resources. It is sustainable and replicable:

- People based development is practical and works with marginalized groups of people including the very poor and illiterate and those with mental health problems or disabilities;
- The process can be initiated among people using outside facilitation;
- There is much rhetoric surrounding the subject. Successful facilitation of people based development calls for a clear vision and strategy as well as a suitable attitude among practitioners.

This two-week study programme based in a grassroots setting in India explains how the process works. The programme is of special value to those who wish to pursue meaningful intervention for social change, project administration or implementation in various international development projects, national social care or community development initiatives.

TOPICS COVERED

1. ***Towards a Paradigm Shift in Development*** - We examine the conventional paradigm of development and its limitations, towards a new paradigm of enabling and empowerment. Includes- essential requirements of the process, role of facilitators, paradigm shift in different working contexts, readings and practical examples.
2. ***Understanding Poverty*** – We consider the definition and meaning of poverty locally and globally; indicators of poverty; effects of poverty and exclusion, Includes practical discussion and direct interaction with poor villagers at grassroots level.
3. ***People Based Development*** – The essential features of participatory development, conscientisation, facilitation and withdrawal. Concepts of self- help, practical aspects and empowerment. Includes field exercise.
4. ***Self-help Groups*** – Concepts and methods.
5. ***The Change Agent*** – Identification & training; facilitation at different levels, function of a facilitator; attitudes and behavior for good facilitation.
6. ***Self Development for effective facilitation*** – The context of human values; learnings from Yoga and Lao Tsu; practising Yoga; group discussions on human values.
7. ***Sharing Practical Experience*** - Classroom sessions are combined with field visits allowing direct interaction with villagers.

Language

The programme is conducted in English.

THE INSTITUTE

Manavodaya Institute of Participatory Development works directly with the poor in rural Uttar Pradesh promoting a process of self-help and empowerment among them. The institution was set up in 1985 to undertake direct action, training and research in participatory development with a focus on processes of change that are sustainable and replicable.

The institute has regularly undertaken short intensive courses for professionals and workers from institutions such as banks and NGOs and for officials of development projects including those supported by the World Bank, UNICEF and other international agencies. Programmes offered at the Institute have a unique feature of combining

theoretical and practical perspectives on people-based development derived from several years of direct grassroots involvement.

The international course has been an annual event since 1998 and has attracted participants from the United States, Europe, South Asia and Africa.

Course Faculty

The faculty has been drawn from core staff at the Institute and leading academic institutions in India that have been associated with people-based programmes.

The programme director, Varun Vidyarthi, has a multi-disciplinary background in natural resource management and development studies. He has worked on participatory development issues in rural India for the last thirty five years. He has occupied visiting faculty positions at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and the East West Centre, Hawaii and has extensively toured in rural South Asia for studies and meetings with practitioners of people-based development.

Why should you join this Programme?

The course is aimed at those who want to contribute to a paradigm shift in their organisation's working practices. The programme is of special value to those working in community development, microfinance, international development projects and donor agencies. The programme has also been found useful by those in social work settings. In the past, it has been attended by professors, students, NGO leaders and in-service candidates from various institutions in Europe, United States and Africa.

Clarity of vision, the right attitude and a grassroots perspective are essential prerequisites for meaningful development intervention. The course enables the participants to develop these attitudes in a stimulating context in rural India. In our earlier programmes, many participants have made a fundamental shift in their direction, thinking and in their general lives. We also hope the change they experience will influence the decisions taken by development support institutions at international level, making them more people-oriented and relevant from the standpoint of the poor.

Excerpts from written feedback of participants can be found at the end of this document.

Self-Development

An important highlight of the programme is the practice of self-development for effective facilitation. Practical tips on yoga, meditation, self- and collective reflection are provided all through the course.

For registration, please contact:

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Previous participants Feedback

I have to say that the methodology of the programme was the best attended by me. I have participated in many programmes earlier, but such excellence and complete knowledge of a subject was never obtained before.

K.G. Maheshwari, State Bank of India, Saharanpur

It helps me tremendously in my teaching to be able to point to an organisation that uses a values based approach consciously and consistently in development work. Manavodaya experience creates legitimacy for such an approach.

P. Wilson, Austin, USA

I found Self Help Groups very crucial for sustainability of the project. It is people initiated all the contribution is from the group members. It really avoids dependency. Development is all by the people themselves not an external type. Our world is devastated by donor supports that finally lead to no contribution to the society life changes. To break free from support approach to self help approach could not be an easy task. The very terrific thing is you have done it (successful).

Abebaye Ayele, Farm Africa, Ethiopia

I think a key lesson from People Based Development is that a real paradigm shift has to include a real shift in the power dynamic, be it from the bureaucratic centre of an organisation decentralising control, through to individuals themselves truly finding their own solutions. For an individual to take greater control they need access to information, not just learning what potential services are out there, but learning from peers, how are others finding solutions. For this to happen people need to come together learn from each other's experience and perspectives. The role of the 'professional' in this aspect, diminishing to that of a potential 'facilitator', the innovators being the individual budget holders themselves. This is the true paradigm shift.

Peter Richmond, Aberdeen, UK

If there are only 1% people who follow the thinking presented here then society will transform, I can say this with 100% confidence. What we have learnt in this training can benefit lakhs and crores of people. I am without bias that this workshop was very good.

Dilawar Singh, Shahjahanpur

This course is about a new way of thinking, inner reflections but also outlook on life itself. It has given me a new perspective on how to be as a person, how I communicate with people both in personal and professional life. I started my education reflecting on myself lot, both values, experience, who I am and what I want to be. This course has helped me look deeper into myself and especially to become more strong, curious and reflecting person. I also want to bring the perspective of starting with yourself, be humble, be reflecting and understand how important this is in our work as social workers. This way of thinking will help a lot of people in Norway as well.

Silje Gjertsen, Norway

This course has made me think about myself, how I act, how I talk and actions. From now on, it will be very important for me to be sincere, real and truthful to my values and my beliefs and I am going to stand up for what I believe in. I will let my values be reflected in my actions.

In terms of my work, I want to create an environment that makes room for questions and reflection. I think that making people, who are doing their job on auto pilot and as a routine, think about why they are doing what they are doing, will be a good place to start. It might trigger a process within them and also be the first step towards change.

I have come to realise that I need to be the change I want to see. I cannot sit and wait for others to do something.

Renate, Norway