The Barefoot Academy of Governance, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), is offering a one year PG Diploma program in Facilitating Governance Reform, where participants learn from the best in the field and engage in critical field studies through immersion and interaction with tribal, rural and urban communities.

Launched in 2016, the course is now accepting applicants for its fourth batch, continuing in its mission to create a cadre of Change Catalysts, equipped with the necessary skills to facilitate reform of different governance systems, such as Health, Education, Water, Bio-Diversity, Agriculture and much more. The PG Diploma is not just a course, it is a new perspective on governance reform through a critical, inclusive, and compassionate lens.

Last date for submission of application forms along with completed essays is 31st Jan, 2019

For more details visit
https://goo.gl/t1Rhm4
barefootgovernance.org
or Call 022 - 2552 5252
THE NEED OF THE HOUR

GOVERNANCE REFORM

Asian countries, while gaining political independence from colonizers, were gifted with the structures and systems of government that were colonial constructs. In the surge of post-independence fervour, little attention was paid to changing extant government institutions and cultures in line with the principles of development and democracy.

Over the last 5-6 decades, Asian countries have seen tremendous investment in building economic and social infrastructures. However, uneven development, inequitable progress, and unsustainable economic and ecological growth paradigms have found expression in community strife and social conflict.

If the past has taught us anything, it is this:

- The failures of development and democracy are not merely due to institutional shortcomings but also a profound failure and crisis of the governance processes.

- The future of growing democracies hinges upon making governance processes equitable, participatory, just, and inclusive. Governance reform must recognise and include all the varied social and political players and communities as equal members.

- Although large groups of people are engaged in development and political processes, few of these practitioners are equipped with the knowledge to:
  - change the mind-sets of people and institutions
  - transform the perspectives related to governance, and the relations between citizens and governance institutions
  - democratise institutions

It is this challenging situation that the course seeks to address.
About the Course

This course involves a critical and comprehensive study of good governance ethos and practices based on the ideals of creating inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development processes.

The course aims to

- **create a cadre of Change Catalysts**, who will engage with live issues of governance, sustainable development, and democracy, with a specific view on governance reform.

- **foster an inter-disciplinary, multi-sectorial exploration** of the conceptual frameworks and perspectives on governance. This exploration shall yield insights into how people, communities, institutions, and democracies function, from an experiential, personal, and critical learning point of view.

- **produce governance professionals** who will work with a commitment to deepen democracy and dignity, leading to sustainable development.

- **encourage a democratisation of government institutions**, making them vibrant and geared towards the principles of Social justice, Equity, Sustainable development of economy and ecology, Accountability and Transparency.

"Unless we understand governance, we can't bring about change."
Participants will gain

- **Theoretical and analytical skills**: Learn to identify and comprehend the complex interplay of social, economic, cultural and political processes in governance practices.

- **Experiential and behavioural skills**: Learn to design concrete, practical, equity-centric, democracy deepening interventions with the aim of transforming institutions and institutional practices.

- **Field and research experience**: Gain exposure to ongoing initiatives in the field of community-led governance reform. This offers invaluable perspective on the reality of governance in India.

"The course may not give you a job in a reputed ‘policy think tank’ where most work is done in the interest of the corporate sector. It will give you an insight to work for the society and country at large, where you will focus on the benefit of the common man."

Akshara Damle
Batch 2017
This course has been created on the foundation of academic and experiential wisdom, collected by a group of specialists from over 18 years of work in change management and institutional transformation of governance institutions. It is only when knowledge, skills, values, ethics and attitude are integrated with action that deep change actually takes place.

Methodology

The course methodology rests on the following twin principles: Experiential Learning and Intense Reflective Dialogue. We believe these two processes evoke a participant towards further reading, experimentation, and the consolidation of a perspective and philosophy for the self that guides and influences further work in this sector.

Experiential Learning:
Unless an adult experiences an intense enquiry into understanding of self, others, and systems, all learning remains merely cognitive and perhaps rather superficial. The methodology of enquiry offers the participant the opportunity to articulate new meanings and build perspectives based on one’s experience, life journey, and socialization.

Intense reflective Dialogue:
Narratives, theoretical perspectives, anecdotal references et al are integrated into a rich tapestry of engagement in the form of questioning, reflecting, and building a discourse for the participants.
This course integrates 3 broad learning components

1. **Conceptual Understanding and Perspective Building:**

   This provides participants with core knowledge in a broad range of subjects, such as:
   
   - Sociology,
   - Anthropology,
   - Economics,
   - Psychology and Behavioural Sciences,
   - Development studies,
   - Gender and Dalit studies,
   - Ecology and Environmental sciences,
   - Law and
   - Public Administration.

2. **Skill, Capacity, and Competence Enhancement:**

   This enables participants to acquire a diverse set of skills and competencies including:
   
   - the design of concrete change oriented interventions
   - the design of pre-intervention surveys for benchmarking governance processes
   - the rolling out of change programmes and impact assessments as well as other processes involving multiple disciplines.

3. **Experiential Learning:**

   This enhances a participant’s sensitivity to comprehend and understand the interrelatedness of the inner world of thought, feeling, ethic, value, and vision with the external manifestation as behaviour, action, and response.
Course Structure

The course structure consists of **4 thematic modules** of 3 months each, spread out over the year.

The 4 thematic modules are as follows:

1. The Change Agent Prepares
2. Self, Dignity, and Identity
3. Self, Systems, and Development
4. Self, Collectives, Institutions, and Democracy - Self and the global Citizenship

Each theme will have a

**Direct Learning** contact course program [2 weeks] in which the theoretical foundations will be imparted.

**Distance Learning** Action Research and Field Work programme [10 weeks] in which the participants will undertake field studies with communities and governmental and developmental institutions, in the areas of their work.

COURSE VENUE

PHASE 1: Shall commence at the TISS Mumbai campus in May, 2019, Specific Dates will be announced later.

PHASE 2, 3, and 4 involves the study of governance issues in actual site situations. They shall be held in different places where innovative programmes on citizen-led, people-centric, sustainable development and governance reform programmes are underway.

The locations are as follows

~ Dahanu in Palghar District, Maharashtra
~ Muniguda in Rayagada District, Odisha
~ Veppur in Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu

(venue may be different)
Join the Course

Who can apply?

This course is open to anyone interested in designing and implementing institutional change programmes on themes related to ‘dignity, development, and democracy’. It may be of special interest to:

- government officials
- community leaders
- elected representatives
- Development workers
- leaders of mass organisations
- members of civil society

Eligibility Criteria

Participants must have:

- A graduate degree
- Working knowledge of English

Preference will be given to those with about 2-3 years of continuous experience in working with communities and governance processes as:

- functionaries of government departments and governance bodies
- teachers
- extension workers
- Community workers
- functionaries of NGOs and developmental agencies
- leaders of mass organisations engaged in human rights and developmental issues
What's the Course Fee?

Fee Structure and Payment

The total course fee structure amounts to Rs 60,000/-. 

Fees will be collected in 4 instalments. The First instalment will have to be paid by 31st March 2019, following the announcement of selected candidates, and later dates will be intimated after the course begins.

The course fee does not cover the cost of the following:
- Travel to venue of Direct Learning classes
- Boarding and lodging for the 4 modules

Participants will have to bear the charges for these expenses independently. So far, the boarding and lodging fees has been kept to within a maximum of Rs 750/- per day.

How do I Register?

1. Visit the link https://goo.gl/t1Rhm4
2. Fill out the online application form on TISS website
3. Send your completed essays to v.suresh@tiss.edu and cc: stp@tiss.edu

Make sure to respond to the themes outlined, within the prescribed word limit.