

Course on Organising and Mobilising Rural Poor for Self-Help and Empowerment
(15-20, August 2011)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(An organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, (GOI)
Rajendranagar, HYDERABAD 500 030, India

NEED:

It is difficult to bring about sustainable socio-economic changes in the situation of the poor people in today's economy. The forces against the poor are so many and the social system so biased in favour of the rich that it would not respond to the demands of the poor people. In the economy, the various forces that work against the poor are highly organized. To overcome the constraints and effectively use the space, that is, to be empowered, it is necessary for poor people to organize and mobilize themselves.

As atomized and isolated individuals, the poor are too weak, powerless and lack the capacity to take individual initiatives to improve their conditions. They often tend to accept the status quo as their fate. Human creativity lies dormant in people who live in poverty and deprivation. Mainstream development processes could not only by-pass the atomized poor but sometimes harm them by making them victims rather than beneficiaries of development. Organization is to provide a continuing mechanism for the pursuit of the interests of its members as collectively identified by them. Organization is essentially a means of empowering the poor to enable them to deal with the problems and issues of their poverty. Organizations can serve as an instrument to mobilize people's own resources for projects, which could satisfy a wide variety of people's needs.

The goal of community organizing is people's empowerment. Through community organizing people learn to overcome their powerlessness and develop their capacity to maximize their control over their lives. They must be able to influence the course of history and erode the dehumanizing effects of powerlessness. And through the process of social mobilization for confronting oppressive structures and institutions, people are transformed from dehumanized objects into human beings with dignity, who can assert their rights, work for self-help and can control their destiny.

This training programme aims to impart knowledge, skills and attitudes that are necessary for organizing and mobilizing rural poor for self-help and empowerment.

Programme Objectives

- 1) To understand the socio-economic, political and psychological dimensions of the rural poor;
- 2) To critically examine the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are

necessary for organizing the mobilizing rural poor for self-help and empowerment

3) To understand the nature of the socio-economic context in which poor people's organization operates, the specific interests that a particular group seeks to pursue, and level of consciousness attained by the members of the group concerned:

4) To critically examine the various models for empowering the rural poor, and measuring empowerment

5) To understand the concept, steps and methods for social mobilization.

VENUE:

National Institution Rural Development Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Programme Content:

- Understanding causes and factors of poverty.
- Understanding socio-economic, political, and psychological dimensions of poor people.
- The goal, context and process of community organizing and group formation
- Concept of self-help
- Concept of empowerments, models of empowerment, measurement of empowerment.
- Social mobilization; concept, steps, and processes.

Training Methodology:

The training methods and techniques will include Lecture/discussions, panel discussions, simulation exercises and group discussion, experience sharing through participation, audio-visual presentation.

Participants:

- Project Directors of the DRDAs
- Women and child development officers
- Chief Executive officer of the Zilla Parishad and panchayats
- Asst.Project Officers of the MG NREGA Cell and DRDAs
- Community mobilization officers of Sarvasiksha Abhiyan
- Executives of the reputed NGOs
- Senior Executives of the nationalized and Regional Rural Banks
- President/Vice President of the Zilla Panchayat/Parishads.

Duration: 6 Days (August 15-20, 2011)

Boarding, lodging & Course fee:

The programme is residential, Arrangements for board and lodging are provided free of cost in the Institute's Guest House. There is no course fee for the participants sponsored by the central and State Governments, Panchayati Raj functionaries and NGO's. However, participants from profit making organizations and banks will be charged Rs. 9000/- remitted through Demand Draft in favour of NIRD, payable at Hyderabad. NIRD will not pay any traveling allowance (TA) to, Central and State Government Officials, NGO's and elected representatives and Panchayati Raj Institutions. The TA and local transportation charges will have to be borne by their sponsoring organization

Programme Directors:

Dr.T.Vijayakumar

Dr N V Madhuri

Last Date for receipt of Nominations: August 1, 2011.

Address for submission of nominations:

Dr.T.Vijayakumar

Programme Director

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About NIRD:

The NIRD is an apex organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for training, Research and consultancy in Rural Development. It is the Think tank of the Gol on issues pertaining to Rural Development The Institute serves as a forum for discussion and debate On issues of common concerned, attracts academics and developmental practitioners from all over the country and abroad. NIRD trains more than 4000 senior level administrators, planners and Rural Development functionaries every year. The Institute has well-organized and full computerized library with a collection of over 90,000 volumes. To meet the growing organizational and research needs, the institute as a fully equipped computer lab with the state -of – the- art technology.

Location

The institute is located in the serene rural surroundings of Rajendranagar, about 15Kms, away from the historical city of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh in the southern part of India It is well and by air connected by road, train.