



Madurai Symposium 2011

(Advancing Development: Towards Sustainable Livelihoods)

National Conference on IGNOU Community College Initiatives for Sustainable Livelihoods

Date: 15.09.2011 (Thursday)

Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Organised & Sponsored by



National Conference on IGNOU Community College Initiatives for Sustainable Livelihoods

Background

The Madurai Symposium is a development platform where development stakeholders-community institutions, civil societies, the Government, non-government organizations (NGOs), financial institutions and academia converge at Madurai for conventions and conferences. Four biennial symposiums were organised in Madurai between 2003 and 2009, each attended by over 15,000 participants. The 2009 Madurai Symposium brought development stakeholders together to share and learn from each others' experiences and practices with respect to *Advancing Development: Towards Millennium Development Goals*. It can be argued that one of the most effective methods for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is through livelihoods promotion. Building upon the experiences of the earlier symposiums, the theme for 2011 is **“Advancing Development: Towards Sustainable Livelihoods”** and will be held between September 14-18, 2011.

The majority of the productive population are either unskilled or under-skilled. The 11th Five Year Plan objectives envisage **inclusive growth**. While India's economy has been growing around 7-8% in recent years, this growth has not been inclusive to the desired level. One of the reasons for this has been the mismatch between the demand and supply of a skilled work force. The magnitude of unemployment and underemployment in India is considerably high. There is a shortage of skilled people across the country across all sectors including the agriculture sector. Unless intensive skill development initiatives for the people at the bottom of the pyramid are undertaken, inclusive growth may remain a distant dream ensuring social problems.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) initiated the Community College Movement in the country in 2008, after countrywide consultations and drawing inputs from the National Knowledge Commission and the Planning Commission. In just three years, IGNOU has had over two lakh students pursuing vocational education, skill development and work-integrated learning, full-time, part-time and spare-time. This is one of the successful initiatives in addressing the livelihoods issue.

DHAN People Academy of DHAN Foundation, which facilitates training and vocational education for the poor, initiated the DHAN Community College under the IGNOU Community College Scheme as one of its wings to address the skill-building issue.

The National Conference

DHAN Community College of DHAN People Academy is organizing the **“National Conference on IGNOU Community College Initiatives for Sustainable Livelihoods”** on **15th September 2011** at the Madurai Symposium 2011. The conference will facilitate as a platform in catalyzing skill development initiatives and provide momentum in developing partnership with stakeholders ultimately to address the livelihoods of poor by taking up educational programmes of IGNOU through community colleges.

Objectives

- To sensitize and spread the concept of IGNOU's community college scheme.
- To facilitate cross learning through experience sharing by community colleges.
- To sensitize and enable SHG federations and NGOs to take up skill building through IGNOU's community college scheme.
- To motivate youth and poor people to make use of community colleges for their development.

Agenda

- Welcome address
- Inaugural address
- Key note address
- Background Paper on Perspectives of Various Skill Building Initiatives
- Lead Paper on IGNOU Community College Scheme
- Experience Sharing on Best Practices and Case Studies in Community Colleges

- o Assessing Educational Needs of Target Community
- o Developing Educational Programmes
- o Innovative Education Methods
- o Evaluation Methods
- o Linking with Potential Employers
- o Mobilising Community for Vocational Education
- o Issues and Challenges in Implementing the Community College Scheme
- o Experience Sharing by Students
- Employment Linkages: Matching Employer Demands and Skill of People
- Brainstorming session: Exploring Possible Areas of Intervention and Collaboration
- Panel Discussion: Taking forward IGNOU Community College on a Large Scale
- Way Forward: Declarations and Propositions for Addressing Sustainable Livelihoods through IGNOU Community Colleges
- Concluding remarks

Participants

A total of 400 participants are expected to attend this event. The participants include:

- 2-3 representatives from IGNOU Community Colleges throughout South Tamil Nadu.
- Resource persons from IGNOU, Government programmes, NGOs, academia, etc.
- Students of DHAN Community College.
- Faculty of DHAN Community College.
- SHG federation leaders from INFOS network.
- SHG federation leaders from Government programmes like Mahalir Thittam, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Kudumbashree and MAVIM.
- NGO representatives from INFOS network and other NGOs working in microfinance and skill-building.

- Representatives from People Mutual Movement including Kalanjiam and Vayalagam.
- Leaders from farmers federation, fishermen federation, etc.

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that the Madurai Symposium will be platform for community college representatives to share their experience and take back lesson and best practices for their work. This will pave way for networking and cross learning across community colleges. Also, the event would further clarify the community college scheme. The federation leaders and NGO representatives from more than 125 SHG federations will be sensitized about IGNOU's community college scheme whereby they can partner with IGNOU to address their community's livelihoods issue through skill-building. It is also expected that networking would emerge across organizations such as community colleges, NGOs and SHG federations for cross learning and collaboration. The conference would bring out the declarations and propositions in taking the skill-building initiative forward through IGNOU community college scheme.

Registration

Registration Fee Rs.300/- per participant. Participants should send their filled in registration form along with Fee by Demand Draft (DD) favouring of "Dhan People Academy" payable at Madurai.

Date

15th September 2011 (Thursday)

Venue

The Madurai Symposium 2011 is held at Thammukam Grounds, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. This is located about 4 km from Madurai Railway Junction / city bus stand and Arapalayam bus stand and 3.5 km from Mattudhavani bus stand. The venue is about 14 km from the airport.

Accommodation & Travel Arrangements

DHAN Community College of Dhan People Academy shall arrange simple and shared accommodation for the participants on a first come first served basis for participants coming from long distance. Local travel from the hotel to the venue shall also be arranged. Participants are requested to take care of their travel from their place to Madurai and return journey.

About Sponsors & Supporters

Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi



Since its establishment in 1985, IGNOU has contributed significantly to the development of higher education in the country through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. The 'People's University' follows a learner-centric approach and has successfully adopted a policy of openness and flexibility in entry qualifications, time taken for completion of a programme, and place of study. The University, at present, offers 338 programmes of study through over 3,500 courses to cumulative student strength of over 30 lakh students. The programmes are offered by the University at the following levels: doctorate; masters and bachelors degree programmes; post-graduate and under-graduate diplomas; and certificates.

IGNOU Community College Scheme: The IGNOU Community College Scheme was launched on July 4, 2009. This scheme is an attempt to channelise an academic path meant primarily for the underprivileged sections of the society and helping these sections to upgrade their skills leading to gainful employment. Moreover, this scheme is to reach out to formal education by way of the Associate Degree and the provision for credit transfer.

Features of a Community College: It is instrumental in bringing the university to the community and has a very scientific scheme of evaluation, which is a package of continuous and end of term assessment. They comprise of all necessary components like theory, practical, project, field work, internship, etc. It also has the mechanism for establishing linkages with the industries and prospective employers and provides life long learning necessary for the creation of an educated workforce and has very flexible entry norms. Moreover, it has the capacity of offering such academic programmes which are generally not on offer through the conventional system of education but have a strong need base.

NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)



NABARD is set up as an apex Development Bank with a mandate for facilitating credit flow for promotion and development of agriculture, small-scale industries, cottage and village industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts. It also has the mandate to support all other allied economic activities in rural areas, promote integrated and sustainable rural development and secure prosperity of rural areas

DHAN People Academy (DPA) & DHAN Community College



This educational initiative of DHAN Foundation was promoted in December 2003. It aims at providing development education to the people in the grassroots. Creating a right kind of attitude and enhancing the knowledge and skills of the participants through training and education programmes is the primary focus of DHAN People Academy. Livelihood Initiative with Functional Education (LIFE) aims to give livelihood oriented skills to women, men and youth through vocational education thus making them employable and building their entrepreneurship skills. Similarly, DHAN Community

College tries to fill the gap of addressing skill building for youth through education programmes through the concept of "community college" in association with IGNOU where 21 computer oriented educational programmes (diploma, certificate and non-credit customized programmes) are being offered.

Indian Network of Federation of Micro Finance Self Help Groups (INFOS)



Indian Network of Federation of Micro Finance Self Help Groups (INFOS) is a national network of Self Help Group (SHG) Federations which aims at sharing a common mission of contributing towards growth of the member federations through capacity building and policy advocacy initiatives, facilitating co-learning and through inculcating self-regulation with the view of strengthening the SHG movement in the country. The network has now a membership of 65 SHG federations across the country promoted by various promoting organisations from seven states of the country and another

35 federations likely to get enrolled during 2011 thus reaching out to 100 federations.

Event Anchor

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