

South Asia Regional Linking & Learning Programme

HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT

28 April 2008 – 3 May 2008

**Conference Hall, Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
Deonar, Mumbai, India**

ORGANISED BY



and



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Rationale

Human rights inhere in the very nature of the human person. They define and enshrine our humanity. They exist to ensure that human life remains human. They exist to ensure that inhuman wrongs are redressed and prevented. Human rights provide the values, principles and standards essential to safeguard that most precious of all rights –the right to be human, of which the right to development is an essential and integral component. Human rights are also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, various human rights Covenants, Conventions, Treaties and Declarations, Regional Charters, National Constitutions, and laws, Human rights therefore not only provide a moral, authoritative but also a legal framework to tackle root causes of poverty – the deep rooted structures of discrimination – the processes of impoverishment. A human rights framework has the 'potential' to deal with not only legal justice, the primary preoccupation of traditional human rights organisations, but also economic and social justice which is central to development work.

A human rights framework offers distinctive strengths and specific tools for development work. A human rights framework makes the human individual the owner of human rights and puts the human person at the centre of the development process. People are not viewed as passive subjects, but able to participate in, actively contribute to and enjoy development. Basic human needs to live life in dignity (adequate housing, adequate levels of nutrition, access to education, access to healthcare, to livelihoods and employment opportunities) are no longer seen as demands for charity but as basic human rights to which everyone is entitled. This fundamental shift from charity/service delivery to human rights moves the poorest in our societies from a position of vulnerability to a position of strength, and therefore from a position of powerlessness to a position where they are empowered.

Key human rights principles are of special relevance to development assistance:

- Participation & empowerment
- Non- discrimination, and
- Accountability and the rule of law.

The principle of participation in development must be free, active and meaningful. It further clarifies that participation is both an interdependent means and end of development. Participation should lead to empowerment are their own active, informed and strengthened agents of change.

People Living in Poverty: are usually victims of discrimination on various grounds such as birth, property, national and social origin, race, colour, gender and religion. Depending on the particular circumstances of each society, poverty may affect primarily members of certain socially disadvantaged classes, or of certain ethnic or religious groups, women, elderly people or indigenous persons, but in most cases poverty is aggravated by some sort of discrimination. The right to equality and the principle of non-discrimination are among the most fundamental elements of international human rights law. The right to equality guarantees, first and foremost, that all persons are equal before the law. Secondly, all persons are entitled to equal protection of the law against arbitrary and discriminatory treatment by private actors. A human rights framework imposes obligations on states to end all forms of discrimination.

Accountability and the rule of law are of considerable relevance to governance programming. It stresses that no one is above the law. All persons are entitled to the equal protection of laws. It also states that for every right, there must be a remedy, and therefore, the right to a timely and effective remedy provides a challenge for programming in the sectors of legal and justice sector reform.

Human rights are crucial to development. Traditionally, the development thinking centered around the policy choices to be made, and the available means to foster "development" as seen at the time in question. This has changed in the last decade in which human rights have become established as part of the development paradigm. Yet, fundamental differences remain with regard to the respective approaches of a policy-oriented model resting on an instrumental understanding and a right based one where entitlements defined by law become ends in themselves. The problem of integrating these two approaches is reflected in the debate surrounding the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights.

Human Development in SAARC Countries

The human development indices on various aspects in SAARC countries are not very different. They share poverty, hunger, destitution, disease, social and economic divisions, and diversities of various kinds to almost similar levels. They also share a similar history, geography, seasons and culture. The human rights situation is also not much different in these countries. The legal systems of these countries also share many common features. They all have written

constitutions, which include fundamental rights and directive principles. Bangladesh also specifically protects human rights. Life and liberty are mentioned among the fundamental rights, except in Nepal, where the right to life does not appear to be specifically mentioned. While provisions for "basic necessities of life" are specifically made in some constitutions - for example, in the Constitutions of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka - almost all of the constitutions specifically speak of food, clothing, housing and medical care. Although directive principles in all these constitutions lack judicial enforcement, the fundamental rights are enforceable as a matter of right and mostly, the highest court can directly be approached for that purpose. Pakistan seems to be conspicuous by the absence of any provision for enforcement. The constitutions of India and Sri Lanka also provide for certain fundamental duties of the citizens.

Regarding their commitment to major international human rights instruments, the aforementioned countries are not very far from one another; the exception being that India has not ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984 and Pakistan has not ratified the two human rights Covenants and the Convention Against Torture. All others have ratified all other instruments. They have also signed almost all fundamental labour rights conventions.

It is evident from the above that there exist massive inequalities, more particularly in the developing countries, which render the enjoyment of human rights rather illusory. The political freedom would not have much of significance or meaning for the teeming millions of people who suffer from poverty and all social evils following from it unless economic, social and cultural rights are assured to them. The social workers/ activists and human rights & development monitors and the human rights institutions need to address violations of economic, social and cultural rights as forcefully as they address those of civil & political rights.

This one week course would provide the participants an opportunity to critically analyze the implementation of right to development in South Asian Countries and identify multiple methods for effective implementation of right to development in their respective National and Local levels.

Programme Contents - The Programme will take participants on a six day intensive – enjoyable - learning journey that will equip the participants with knowledge of the key elements of human rights based development, and enhance skills for its practical application. Participants will see the unity between human *rights and development* and become more committed to the work ahead to achieve the unified human rights and development vision of human dignity for all.

After the programme, participants will:

- Understand and apply the key elements of human rights based development. More specifically participants will be able to:
 - ✓ link specific development issues to international human rights;
 - ✓ understand the nature of human rights obligations of state and non state actors and be able to apply the knowledge gained to enhance human rights advocacy;
 - ✓ understand the importance of "accountability", transparency and the right to information in human rights and be able to use accountability and redress mechanisms at different levels;
 - ✓ understand the fundamental principle of "non-discrimination" and how human rights can help tackle deep rooted structures of discrimination that perpetuate humiliation and poverty;
 - ✓ understand and appreciate "participation" as a human right and that realisation of human rights requires participation. Additionally participants will be able to develop new ideas and skills to encourage meaningful participation of struggling communities in development work;

- ✓ understand how human rights empower – steps that can be taken to encourage grassroots “empowerment”.
- Understand and critically reflect on the deeply entrenched global processes of impoverishment as well as reflect and challenge present modes of campaigning.
- Understand the difference between human rights and non human rights strategies and improve on/transform existing development strategies into human rights strategies.
- Understand and apply human rights based development into the different stages of the programming cycle.
- Put all the learning into practice through intensive group work on a real case study.
- Develop strong solidarity with the communities visited as well as solidarity and friendship at a global level with other participants of the programme.
- Increase commitment to human rights in professional work and in personal lives.

Participant Profile - Development actors from grassroots, national and international development NGOs that are beginning to integrate human rights in development work are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be in key positions within their organisations and with solid experience and responsibility in a range of areas, including programming, advocacy and campaigning. All applicants must be committed to attend the full duration of the programme and be able to work and communicate in English.

20-25 participants (20 participants from South Asian Countries and 5 participants from India) who meet the above criteria will be chosen to participate. Programme organisers will take into account gender, and geographical balance as well as representation from diverse social backgrounds, diverse disciplines and covering a range development issues (education, food sovereignty, HIV/AIDS, etc).

Programme methodology - Dignity’s learning programmes are designed as a process of mutual learning, with the participants’ experience and realities as the starting point of the learning process. Active participation and in-depth reflection – individually, in groups and in plenary are the keys to the success of the programme.

The process is based on informal education and learner-centred methodologies. Therefore, the programme will be a mutual learning situation where participants can compare their approaches and concerns in a safe, intercultural context. The use of experiential methods and case studies strengthens the practical side of the programme.

Facilitating Team - The facilitating team for this programme is composed of experienced facilitators with development and human rights experience at grassroots and international levels, and who possess the necessary and creative skills to facilitate an enjoyable learning process. It should be expected that the team will reflect gender balance and the cultural, political and geographical diversity.

Programme Dates & Venue – The programme is a residential one with local arrangements organised by local host, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Selected participants are expected to arrive Mumbai, India on Sunday 27 April and depart on Sunday 4 May 2008.

Working Language - The programme will be conducted in English.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

All selected participants are requested to cover their own travel, board, lodging and other incidental expenses.

Participation Costs - The organisers will charge a participation fee of 3000 Indian Rupees. This amount will be paid to the organisers at the start of the programme. This amount will cover programme materials, guest house accommodation on a twin sharing basis for 7 days, all meals and coffee breaks during the programme dates and programme related local transport in Mumbai. The amount does not cover incidental expenses (phone, laundry etc).

Scholarships - Please note that no one will be excluded for financial reasons and that limited scholarships will be available for those with no alternative financial means to participate especially those from the developing countries or from grassroots development organisations.

Types of scholarships:

Category A: Participation Cost Waiver (to waive the participation cost of 3000 Indian Rupees)

Category B: Full scholarship – Participation Cost waiver + 80% of the travel cost.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the application form and send it to Dignity International with a valid signature and a stamp from your organisation, community or group in support of your application. Twenty to twenty five participants will be selected on the basis of the profile and the overall criteria outline above. Candidates will be informed about their application by the final week of March, 2008. The organisers will, then, immediately start arrangements with the selected candidates.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 7 March, 2008

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Tata Institute of Social Sciences– <http://www.tiss.org>

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was established in 1936, as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. The first school of social work in India, the TISS was a pioneering effort, characteristic of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT). Its establishment was the result of the decision of the Trustees of the SDTT to accept Dr. Clifford Manshardt's vision of a post-graduate school of social work of national stature that would engage in a continuous study of Indian social issues and problems and impart education in social work to meet the emerging need for trained human power. This subsequently influenced the direction of social work education and social research in India. In 1944, the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work was renamed as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The year 1964 was an important landmark in the history of the Institute, when it was recognised as a Deemed University by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India.

Since then, the TISS has been expanding continuously in terms of educational programmes and infrastructure. While responding to the changing needs of the social and educational system in the country, the Institute has gone far beyond the initial concern of social work education. Thus, what started as a small institution offering a post-graduate diploma in Social Work, grew into a Deemed University and, as a result, diversified its activities. Since its inception in 1936, the Tata

Institute of Social Sciences has never limited itself to the mandate of a conventional university; rather, it has worked for the promotion of sustainable, equitable and participatory development, social welfare and social justice through:

- Value-based professional education for social work and other human service professions;
- Social research and dissemination of socially relevant knowledge;
- Social intervention through training and field action projects;
- Contribution to social and welfare policy and programme formulation at state, national and international levels; and
- Professional response to national calamities, through relief, rehabilitation and disaster management.

Over the years, the Institute has, among other thrusts, made a significant contribution to policy, planning, action strategies and human resource development, in several areas, ranging from sustainable rural and urban development to education, health, communal harmony, human rights and industrial relations. In all cases, the focus has been on the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, such as organised and unorganised labour, women, children, Dalits, and tribals.

Today, the TISS has earned recognition as an institution of repute from different Ministries of the Government of India, various State Governments, international agencies such as the United Nations, and the non-government sector, both national and international. This is due to the academic freedom leading to a positive work ethos and creativity in the Institute, strong linkages among education, research, field action and dissemination and the social commitment and responsiveness to varying social needs.

During its seven decades of existence, the TISS has carved out a niche for itself in the field of human service professional education and applied social science research. It has simultaneously influenced social policy and social work practice through pioneering innovations and interdisciplinary / inter-professional interactions. It has proven itself to be a centre of excellence, contributing relevant education and research, towards the national agenda of sustainable, participatory and equitable development. It offers more than 9 different M.A., M. Phil and Ph.D. Programmes in Social Sciences.

Dignity International – <http://www.dignityinternational.org> - Dignity International is a non-profit independent organisation, registered as a Foundation in the Netherlands, standing together and supporting people living in poverty, working with partners, and supporters worldwide to build a global family to make “all human rights for all” a reality. Dignity International is a catalyst for social change - supporting the primary change agents – people in the frontline of the human rights struggle. Dignity International believes that everyone should live life in full dignity - free from fear and free from poverty. In its work Dignity International:

- ✓ Supports human rights advocacy work of the communities in the frontline of the struggle for survival – people whose basic human rights are denied;
- ✓ Connects the different struggling communities across national borders;
- ✓ Builds a global family for lasting social change.

Dignity Track Record - Dignity has a track record of offering quality and pioneering learning programmes in the past six years. In the early 2001 realizing the hunger for knowledge of human rights and how human rights (in particular economic, social and cultural rights) relate to poverty eradication, Dignity was the first organisation to partner with quality and experienced institutions to organise a learning programme at a global level on economic, social and cultural rights. The

programme met with huge demand from all over the world and with success in terms of content, methodology and application. Encouraged by this Dignity continued in its efforts to organise this on an annual basis as well as organising other pioneering thematic learning programmes like "Budget Analysis and ESC Rights". In the past two years, Dignity has taken more emphasis in its learning programmes on the links between human rights and development and in particular to meet the growing demand for training on human rights based development. Again the content, methodology and process taken by Dignity have met with praise by the participants who regard the programmes as not only up scaling their knowledge and skills on human rights based development, but also transforming attitudes.

SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL LINKING & LEARNING PROGRAMME ON

HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT

28 April – 4 May 2008

Mumbai, India

Application Form

To send before **7 March 2008**

Please complete all questions in the form and write legibly. Please submit the completed application form with a letter of endorsement from your organisation. If you intend to send this form by fax please use a black pen.

I. Contact and Personal Information

Salutation Mr. Ms. Mrs.

Last name | _____

First name | _____

Nationality | _____

Date of Birth (day/month/year) | _____ / _____ / _____

Full name of the organization/movement/community and acronym

Function or position you have in your organisation

Organisation's/movement/community full mailing address
Street, n^o | _____

City/town/ village | _____

Postal Code | _____

Country | _____

Phone () () **Fax** () ()
Please include your country code and city code in the telephone and fax numbers.

Emails | _____

Website (if any) | _____

Mailing address which you prefer to be used for future communications on the Programme if different than above

Street, n^o | _____

City/town/ village | _____

Country | _____

Postal Code | _____

Please provide us with an additional phone and fax numbers we can use to reach you for urgent matters related to the Programme

Phone () ()

Fax () ()

Mobil

e

II. Travel Information

This information will be used for travel arrangements for selected participants.

Name exactly as it appears in your passport:

Last name | _____

Middle name | _____

First name | _____

Country issuing your passport | _____

Passport Number | _____

Expiration date of passport (day/month/year) | / /

III. Terms of Participation:

What is your language proficiency? (Working language of the course)

English	Elementary	Intermediate	Good	Advanced
Understanding of spoken language				
Reading				
Speaking				
Writing				

Are you or your organisation able to financially support you?:
(Please read attentively the Financial Section of the Call for Applications)

Programme	Costs	3000	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Rupees				
Travel Costs			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments:

Please specify if you have any special requirement or need special assistance (vegetarian diet, wheelchair access, hearing aid, etc)?

Have you applied for a previous programme of Dignity International? If so, please state which one.

From which sources did you hear about the Programme?

Partner Listserve. Please state which:

Other sources. Please state which:

IV. Work, Interests and Expectations:

Please respond to the following questions carefully and concretely. Use as much space as you require.

*** Please describe your work in your organisation/movement/community. What is the human rights focus of your work, and that of your organisation? What specific expertise and experience from your present responsibilities would you like to bring to the programme?**

*** Please describe how you personally use human rights in your work and/or any other experience or trainings in human rights that you have had. If you are not yet using human rights in your work, please say so.**

*** What are your specific interests and motivations for applying for this programme?**

*** What are your expectations from the programme and what would you like to get out of it? What specific issues and challenges you face in your work, would you like to see addressed? (Please be as specific as possible)**

*** What do you plan to do within your organisation with what you will learn during this programme? How do you see the follow up to this programme in relation to the activities of your organisation? How will this contribute to the strengthening of human rights (nationally, regionally and/or globally)?**

*** Once accepted, participants to the programme will be asked to do some preparatory work for the programme, including writing up a case study or situation, and gather additional information relevant to the case. In addition, once the course is completed**

participants will be asked to participate on a follow up and feedback process for up to a year. Would you be willing and able to do so?

Please return this form and the endorsement letter from your organisation as soon as possible and no later than 7 March 2008 by email to:

▪ Email: applications@dignityinternational.org

Visit <http://www.dignityinternational.org> for additional information or to download this form.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROGRAMME. AS THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS USUALLY EXCEEDS THE NUMBER THAT CAN BE ADMITTED, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ADMIT ALL THE APPLICATIONS. ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DECISION BY THE ORGANISERS BY THE FINAL WEEK OF MARCH 2008.