

Certificate Course on Voluntarism, Civic skills and Social Work



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NEPAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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nurturing social workers to create a just society



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BY: **NEPAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**
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Why another Certificate Course?

Teaching is one of the central functions of an educational institute and so it is for the Nepal School of Social Work¹. Citizens must be involved to make a democracy effective and vibrant. It is not only citizens right, but it is citizens duty to participate in our political process. By participating we can help improve the quality of government. But improvements take time and we need to be patient and not expect too much from our government right away. Other countries have had democracy for hundreds of years. Nepal has only had democracy for a little over a decade and more time is needed for our new democracy to be effective in solving our social problems.

Teaching about Civic skills, Philanthropy, Voluntarism and Social Work is new in the South Asia Region. Over the past decade some schools of social work and public administration in the western countries have offered this course realizing the need for the professionals who need to gain clarity on these concepts applied in their day to day work.

At Nepal school of social work teaching, training and research is at the core of the activities. The school draws on the rich experience and expertise of the member institutions. The institutions are leading in the areas of Social Work Education and Development Studies and hence this certificate course has been a natural to extension of NSSW work in the area of philanthropy and voluntarism.

Why Volunteerism and civic engagement?

Volunteerism and Civic Engagement are two essential ingredients for transforming the society, improving the ways people live. At the heart of the concepts of volunteerism and civic engagement there are the ideals and principles of solidarity and altruism and civic engagement. The idea is simple: each individual has a role to play in the community and in the society at large through small and simple contributions. The

¹ Nepal school of Social Work is a joint initiative of Department of Social Work at Kadambari Memorial College (Purbanchal University affiliate) Department of Rural Development at Nepal College of Development Studies (Tribhuvan University affiliate) and Department of Development studies at Tulsi Mehar Memorial College (Pokhara University affiliate); Sutra Centre for Development Education and Research and .Fr.P.T Augustine Resource Centre.

Course wants to ignite a new interest in making people involved and engaged in community initiative, creating a Serving and Volunteering society.

Moreover 2011 is the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteerism (IYV+10) and also is also marked as European Year of Volunteering. This means that Volunteerism and Civic Engagement will be high on the global agenda with the preparation of the first global Report on the Status of Volunteerism in the world and a specific session at the UN General Assembly on Volunteerism.

This is also a great opportunity for Nepal, a country that already boasts extraordinary examples of altruism and grassroots level community service, often linked to cultural traditions still strong and alive.

In the occasion of the latest international Day of Volunteerism celebrated on 5th December 2010, a national conference on volunteerism and MDG was held in Kathamandu, highlighting the contributions of volunteerism towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Course will offer an opportunity to analyze and discuss the current status of volunteerism in Nepal with the possibility to propose a new agenda for mainstreaming it in the daily life of all the citizens.

What are Civic Skills?

- Reading information in newspapers and magazines and participating in political discussions
- Voting in local and national elections
- Trying to persuade someone, in a peaceful way, to vote in a certain way
- Creating or signing a petition
- Writing letters to elected representatives
- Attending meetings, conferences, workshops to gain information, discuss issues
- Demonstrating peacefully through marches, boycotts or sit-ins
- Running for and holding elected office
- Participating in developmental activities

What is Social Work?

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, social work education has grown worldwide, including throughout the South Asia Region. The history of social work education and training in Nepal is rather nascent. Imparting social work education and training is a challenging task in Nepal due to the ongoing political instability, multicultural issues and lack of social work educators, and the lack of a professional association, in addition to the lack of government recognition for the social work profession in the country.

Social work in Nepal can be traced back through many forms of voluntary work by religious and cultural institutions such as *guthi* (clan based association), *dharmashala* (free residences for the poor) and *patipauwa* (public resting place) in Nepal. Alms giving to the poor and disabled is widely

practiced even today. This practice is rooted in the concept of Dan (charity) in order to please the gods and to seek a better life both at present and in the next life.

Eligibility: Any graduate or students who are in the final year of bachelors' course with some experience

Classes: 48 Lectures (12 Sundays of 4 Lectures /class hours)

Dates: Every SUNDAY (2-6pm beginning 6th Feb 2011)

Course Fee: 1000 Nepali Rupees (to meet partial reading material costs) After successful completion of the course certificate will be awarded by the organizing institutions.

Contact Persons:

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Interested?

send an email with your brief CV and a letter of Motivation to :

nepalschoolofsocialwork@hotmail.com

before 31st Jan 2011.

