

Course title: Group Practicum 2: Local Needs Assessment				
Course code: MPD 102	No. of credits: 4	L-T-P distribution: 10-10-72	Learning hours: 56	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Faculty: Dr Smriti Das		Department of Policy Studies		
Course coordinator (s): Dr Smriti Das		Course instructor (s): Dr Smriti Das		
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Course type	Compulsory Core			
Course offered in	Semester 2			
Course Description:				
<p>This course is a foundational course for students who aim to be development practitioners. It would help the students demystify community engagement and understand the importance of working with local population. It would build their skills to carry out independent research and data analysis to understand community needs and design development interventions in a participatory mode.</p> <p>For field training, students would be attached in groups with local development organizations who would help them facilitate rapport building and deal with other logistical challenges. Students would also report to the local organization on their progress so that they could effectively facilitate data collection.</p> <p>The course also intends to develop an attitude of team learning among students so that they could be prepared for working in any development organization.</p>				
Course objectives :				
<p>The practicum aims at enabling the students to identify developmental needs of an area and prioritize these needs in consultation with the communities.</p>				
Course Contents:				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revision of few methods for social science research: survey, interview, focus group discussion, participant observation, life history ➤ Participatory Rural Appraisal and Appreciative Inquiry ➤ Problem and Situation Analysis ➤ Objective Analysis and Introduction to Logical Framework Analysis ➤ Needs assessment: gap analysis, identification of priorities/importance, tools and techniques for data collection and data analysis ➤ Preparation of research plan/proposal 	10	10	0
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Field Visit for carrying out Community Needs Assessment 	0	0	72
Total		10	10	72
Evaluation procedure :				

Students will be evaluated on three components:

- Field report to be submitted at the end of the semester: 50%
- Presentation on the field research and findings: 25%
- Feedback from the host organization/local reporting officer: 25%

Learning outcomes :

By the end of this course, students will learn to:

1. Design and carry out independent research with the local community
2. Appreciate the significance of understanding the local socio-cultural and economic context before designing a development intervention
3. Identify community needs using various research tools and participatory techniques
4. Prioritize community needs with the community, depending on local conditions and resource context

Pedagogical approach :

This course is primarily a field-oriented course; therefore, students are trained to carry out independent research and trained on ethical considerations. Pedagogical methods include a mix of lectures, role plays, field visits and mock exercises.

Suggested Readings :

Cooke, B. and Kothari, U.(Eds,) (2001), Participation: The New Tyranny? London: Zed Books
Mukherjee, N (1993), Participatory Rural Appraisal- Methodology and Applications,
Scheyvens R. and Storey, D., 2003, eds., Development fieldwork: A practical guide, London:
Sage (chapters 8 and 9).
Srivastava, V.K. (eds) (2005), Methodology and Fieldwork, OUP, New Delhi
Watkins R., Meiers M. W. and Visser, Y. L. (2012), A Guide to Assessing Community Needs,
World Bank, Washington DC

Other relevant readings will be given in class.

Additional information (if any) : None

Student responsibilities :

Students are required to be disciplined and regular in attendance. At-least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam.

While regular reading and class discussion are compulsory requirements, additional readings and discussions will enhance your learning outcome.

* This course is not in offer since AY 2019-20 and has been replaced by MPD 106