INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Medha Kotwal Lele

CREDITS: Four

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The world across we are witnessing the rise of initiatives from civil society to address a plethora of issues that need our urgent attention. These initiatives are often referred to as social enterprises or social organizations or NGOs and all these constitute what we identify as the social sector.

This course is designed to expose students to these various social enterprises/organizations and provide an opportunity to intern with some of them. These would be aligned to the academic interests of the students and provide a contemporary socio-economic context to understand the issues of development, the working of the social sector in India, the challenges they face and the impact they can have to bring about the desired social change in the society.

This course therefore includes some lectures to provide a perspective to the development issues and challenges in India as well how to do action research and write work proposals. Since the focus is on the internships many more class engagements would be discussions of the work at the organizations. Guided and facilitated by the course faculty, the internships with the NGOs will give students a hands-on experience of social entrepreneurship.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

- To understand how the development sector functions in India
- To get a hands-on exposure to the work carried out in the selected area of interest and analyze the socio-economic context within which the organization function
- To interact with the local population to understand the dynamics of development issues in India.
REQUIRED TEXTS

1. The Meaning of Social Entrepreneurship- Prof. Gregory Dees
2. How to change the world-David Bornstein

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will spend approximately 10 plus hours per week at their community placement worksite during their 10-week term in Pune. They must complete the related assignments, including a final learning project to be shared with the placement organization.

After meeting the organizational heads in the first week and visits to the sites, the students will have to submit a work proposal. This would outline the plan of the work assigned to them and how it would be completed in the given time.

Students are required to maintain a time log of time spent at the organization and maintain a dairy with their field notes. Weekly meetings with the faculty will be scheduled to help the students with the issues that may arise.

At the end of the course students are required to submit a reflection paper (details will be given in class). Also, students will have to make a presentation in class where the other faculty and office staff will also be present.

COURSE CONTENT

Module 1 -- 2 lectures

- What is Social Entrepreneurship
- What constitutes the social sector in India
- Explore the whole gamut-volunteering, advocacy, service NGOs and others

Case studies will be presented from India and other countries. Videos / documentaries will be screened to expose the students to the varied issues and approaches to social entrepreneurship.

These two sessions will enable students to reflect, interact, relate, and connect with diversity of cultures that exist across the world. These will also help students to identify their own knowledge and skills that they would use while interning with NGOs.
Module 2– 3 lectures

Research Methodology

- Studying & analyzing the community & organizations
- Participatory action research, interview/ observation
- Reflection on “self” in the field.

Module 3- 3 lectures

Project Planning

- How to develop a detailed work proposal which would include-
  - Proposal Outline
  - Introduction, Argument, Objectives
  - Review of literature, Research Questions
  - Research Design and Time Frame

Module 4 --2 lectures

- Contemporary India and challenges
- What is Corporate Social Responsibility in India and its implications
- Role of Identity-Caste, Gender, Region, Language and Religion
- Notions of Community: as perceived by students analyzing the ‘other’

Sharing and reflections -8 class engagements

Critically engaging with community and self will be an ongoing process. Our visits to different sites, interaction with communities, readings etc. will be the basis for this process.

- Analyze socio- economic issues impacting local communities
- ramifications of global issues on local issues
- critically examine your engagement with your organization
- understand the issues and challenging environment for the NGO

Field trips

Two full day visits to NGOs that have taken on challenges and effectively addressed some basic issues will be visited

1. MASUM- a rural based organization that has a holistic approach to development with a focus on Women. Social, cultural, economic as well as issues of women’s participation in local governance as a means to empower them are the various aspects of interest that the students will be exposed to.
2. Sadhana Village – this is a unique institution that has set up a home for mentally challenged adults. It tries to teach those different skills as well as engagement with the rural community.
ASSESSMENT

A total of 100 marks would be distributed over the different activities under the Internship program. Evaluation of the Internship would cover the following:

Work proposal 20,

Final Presentation 30,

Reflection Paper 30,

Class participation 20.

ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS

A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation: You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty: Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

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ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

It is essential that students participate fully in coursework and all required academic activities. Excused absences may only be approved by the Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grades.