Course title: Group Practicum- Community Needs Assessment			
Course code: MPD 106	**No. of credits:** 4	**L-T-P distribution:** 12-12-72	**Learning hours:** 60
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None			
Department: Department of Policy and Management Studies			
Course coordinator (s): Dr Pritha Datta		**Course instructor (s):** Dr Pritha Datta	
Contact details: pritha.datta@terisas.ac.in			
Course type	Core	**Course Offered:** Semester 2	

Course Description

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.

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.

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.

Course objectives

1. Building skills to design and carry independent research to identify community need/gap assessment.
2. Building skills to identify development needs of an area and prioritize these needs in consultation with the communities

Course Content

Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	➢ 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	12	12	0
2	➢ Field Visit for carrying out Community Needs Assessment	0	0	72
Total		**12**	**12**	**72**

Evaluation Criteria

- 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.

Course Reading Material (*=Compulsory)

*Chambers .R. (2013), Rural Development –Putting the Last First, Routledge , New York

*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

Journals

Economic and Political Weekly, World Development, Development and Change

Advanced Reading Material

Additional information (if any)

Open only for students of MA-SDP

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 learning outcome.

Course Reviewers:

Dr. Kajri Mishra
Dr. Steve Russell