



Gender, Diversity and Social Transformation

A Certificate Course

Offered by Visthar Academy
(Affiliated to Bengaluru North University)

May 2 – 20, 2023
at Visthar, Bengaluru

Gender, Diversity and Social Transformation is an advanced international course offered annually by the Visthar Academy. Applications are now open for the 14th edition of the course to be held between May 2 – 20, 2023.

Each year this certificate course attracts participants from Civil Society Organizations, Human Rights Commissions, Educational Institutions, Faith-Based Organizations, Community Based Organizations and Social Movements. 250+ participants from 30+ countries have used the perspectives and skills developed in GDST to transform their lives, resist violence and lead organizations gender sensitively. GDST has enabled several of them to pursue careers as gender specialists, gender facilitators and gender program managers.

After a 3-year hiatus during the pandemic, the program returns this year with new and updated content.

Objectives

The 2023 edition of the course will enable participants to:

- » Reflect deeply on one's own self and identity and how it is shaped by socio-economic forces
- » Develop an intersectional perspective to critically analyse and respond to contemporary issues
- » Develop leadership skills to facilitate transformation in organizations and communities
- » Learn the recent debates on gender justice, masculinities, LGBTQ rights, disability and empowerment

- » Understand how globalisation, pandemics and other disasters impact gender and social relations
- » Study the policies of the government and UN agencies from a gender and diversity perspective

Contents/Themes

- 1. Gender, social relations and institutions**
 - » Gender and self: Personal constructs of masculinities and femininities
 - » Concepts of sex and gender, gender roles. gender relations, gender equality etc.
 - » Sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identities
 - » Social construct of gender: Role of family, education, religion, media, state
- 2. Intersectionality and social transformation**
 - » Understanding Caste, Class, Disability and Sexuality
 - » Power and patriarchies
 - » Gender based violence from an intersectional lens
 - » Feminisms and Women's Movements
- 3. Gender Equality and SDGs**
 - » A critique of development from a gender and social equity lens
 - » Concepts of sustainable development
 - » SDG 5 Indicators: Gender equality and women's empowerment

- » Community monitoring of SDG 5: Methods and tools

4. Intersectional approach to disasters

- » Core Humanitarian Standard from an intersectional perspective
- » Gender, climate change and migration
- » Gender-transformative disaster preparedness and response

5. Gender mainstreaming

- » Frameworks and tools for gender mainstreaming
- » Policy approaches to women's development
- » Engendering budgeting, planning, monitoring and evaluation
- » Gender in organisation structure, culture and processes

Facilitators/Resource Persons

The course will be facilitated by Mercy Kappen, Rajkumari Nimbale and Roshen Chandran from Visthar. The course will also draw on a panel of resource persons including Ms. Ranjani K Murthy (Independent Researcher and Author), Dr. Sekhar Seshadri (NIMHANS Bangalore), Dr. David Selvaraj (Educationist), Ms. Madhu Bhushan (SIEDS Collective) and grassroots activists who have been working on gender and social justice for several decades.

Methodology

The course follows feminist pedagogical principles and an action – reflection – action model, inspired by the work of Paulo Freire. The facilitators/resource persons will build on the experiences and knowledge base of the participants. The methodologies will include group discussions, case studies, input sessions and developing plans and strategies for mainstreaming gender and diversity.

I found GDST a powerful experience because of the interactive learning process where the learner is exposed to real challenges which they solve and later compare with the theories to gain hands-on experience.

~ **Rael Muthoka**, Social advocate and Community Organizer, Kenya

GDST was a very enriching experience, enabling me to see how patriarchy affect different peoples across the world. I learnt how to integrate theory and practice through participatory methods for social transformation.

~ **Malina Bravo**, Community Psychologist Mexico



GDST broadened my understanding of human diversity and enabled me to reflect on my place in this world. It influenced the direction of my life and led me to work for the rights of Sexual and Gender Minorities.

~ **Rajesh Srinivas**, Executive Director of Sangama, Bengaluru

COURSE FEE AND REGISTRATION

The course fee for non-resident participants from India is ₹5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) and for resident participants ₹15,000/- (Rupees fifteen thousand only). The fee for international participants is \$ 750 (USD Seven hundred and fifty only). The fee covers board and lodging, course material and field visit within Bengaluru.

As this is an intense, close-knit program, seats are limited. Please apply before 28th February 2023 to ensure you get admission.

Register online, visit the GDST page at <https://visthar.org/gender-and-diversity/>

For more details, please write to visthar.programs@gmail.com

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