

CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
PO Box 8313, Deonar,
Mumbai 400088

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTEERS AND
PARAPROFESSIONALS IN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK
(WORK with SENIOR CITIZENS)
September 23- October 13, 2006

About the Programme

Across the world, countries are experiencing population ageing. The growth rate of the elderly population is more rapid in developing countries like India than developed countries. Apart from demographic transitions, socio-economic and political changes together with increased individualism have altered living conditions of the elderly.

The elderly population in India is the second largest in the world, next only to China. This population, which was 77 million according to the 2001 census (7.5% of the total population), is projected to increase to 137 million by 2021. Three-fourth of the elderly population lives in rural areas. Their annual growth rate is higher (3%) as compared to the growth rate of the total population (1.9%). Population projections show that by 2050, the elderly population in India will surpass the population of children below 14 years.

Today, the elderly demand that society should not only ensure independence and participation, but also provide care, fulfillment and dignity. Limited understanding of factors influencing their quality of life is largely responsible for the elderly being denied a dignified existence. After all, the last stage of life holds as much potential for growth and development as earlier stages. The diversity among the elderly and varied interrelated influencing aspects from their environment needs significant consideration of researchers and policy planners.

Also, it is necessary to note that, Geriatric Care is a symbol of civilization. Attitudes towards the elderly widely differ from place to place. Traditionally, in India, the patriarchal joint family vested much authority in its aged members, as heads of the household. This, the elderly were respected and their advice sought. Care of the elderly was viewed as a duty of the younger family members. However, in today's world of modernization and urbanization, this authority is being undermined. An introduction of statutory retirement amongst the working population has reduced the status of the aged to that of non-productive consumers. In addition, the pervasive space and resource crunches that characterize urban centers have degraded the status of the elderly even further. This is clearly reflected in the poor quality of care offered to them.

Ironically, on the other hand, technological breakthroughs and advances in medicine have offered the prospect of increased longevity. Thus, although the average life span has

expanded, the quality of life extended to the 60 plus population is questionable. Yet, **health problems and medical care are major concerns** among a large majority of the elderly. It is obvious that people become increasingly susceptible to chronic disease, physical disability and mental incapacity as they grow older. The idea that old age is an age of ailments and physical infirmities is deeply rooted in the Indian psyche. Majority of the elderly refrain from seeking medical aid due to various impediments. Some refuse medical attention merely because traditionally they have never received such treatment. (Source: *Ageing in India in the 21st Century: A Research Agenda, A Report from HARMONY India: February, 2006*)

In terms of society's response to the issues of Older Persons, both Governmental and Non-governmental initiatives are visible. The major areas of governmental focus are in the areas of providing financial security, assistance to voluntary organizations, making provisions in the constitution and promoting measures to improve the quality of life of the older persons

A large number of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) work for the care of the elderly at the National or State levels, some of them are *Help Age India; Dignity Foundation; FESCOM (Federation of Senior Citizens Organizations in Maharashtra); INFA (Indian Federation of Aging); Anugraha* and so on.

In the light of the above scenario, with regard to the care and welfare of Older Persons the main concerns that emerge are as follows:

- **A wide and complex range of the issues pertaining to the elderly in a rapidly changing modern-day world**
- **A dearth of human resources adequately and specifically trained to make interventions effectively especially in the light of NGOs and CBOs depending on untrained or generically trained personnel to deliver services for elderly.**
- **An absence of systematic training facilities to adequately prepare manpower in the field of gerontology**
- **A need for developing a method for gauging the feasibility and relevance of the programme goals/objectives, content and methodology in order to enable in developing a CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK**

In order to respond to the above concerns in a systematic manner the **Centre for Lifelong Learning, TISS** and the **Family Welfare Agency, Mumbai** (a pioneer NGO for offering *Day Care Services for Senior Citizens in Mumbai city*) propose this **"TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTEERS and PARAPROFESSIONALS in GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK"** from September 23 - October 13, 2006.

The OBJECTIVES of the Programme are:

- To provide opportunities for learning the principles, concepts and facts related to Professional Social Work in general and to Gerontological Social Work in particular
- To foster capacity and build motivation among adult learners to engage in voluntary social work with special reference to Older Persons (Senior Citizens)
- To inculcate and strengthen the required value orientation and approaches to work with people efficiently and effectively.
- To generate a trained cadre of human resources for front line work in the field of Gerontological Social Work

The main CONTENT areas covered are:

- Concepts, Values and Principles of Social Work
- Perspective on Older Persons (Senior Citizens): Lifespan Perspective and Issues
- Care for Older Persons: Programmes and Services
- Skill Building for responsive and responsible interventions
- Practical Inputs: Field-based Assignments

METHODOLOGY: Participatory Methods which include Simulations, Group Discussions, Reflection Exercise, Experiential Exercises and hands-on learning opportunities

Other Details

Eligibility Criteria	: Minimum S.S.C. + 2 years of College Education and having a proven interest in Voluntary Social Work
Resource Persons	: Faculty from TISS and other reputed educational institutions as well as field practitioners from the related field
Duration	: 15 Days (2 Weeks)
Time	: 02.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m.
Medium of Instruction	: English
Participants	: Men and Women interested in Voluntary Social Work
Registration Fee	: Rs. 500/- (inclusive of all resource material and refreshments)

The Application Form and further information can be obtained from the Centre for Lifelong Learning, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai – 400 088
Tel.: 25563290-96; Extension : 681(Ms. Sabiha Vasi) / 410 (Ms.P.Bhargavi) . Also the Application Form may be downloaded from the TISS website: www.tiss.edu

For Further Details Contact:

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**TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEONAR, MUMBAI – 400 088
Centre for Lifelong Learning**

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS IN
GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK
September 23- October 13, 2006**

Application Form

(Last date for submitting forms: September 20, 2006)

(For the candidate to fill in the details)
Cash Receipt No. :
Date
Or Bank Draft No.
Date
Name of the Bank

Affix your Recent
Passport Size
Photograph here

1. Full Name (IN CAPITAL LETTERS)

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(First Name) (Middle Name) (Surname)

2. Age as on July, 2006
(Years) (Months)

3. Current Postal Address in CAPITALLETTERS for communication

.....
.....

Telephone No.WorkResidence

Fax No. E-mail:.....

Permanent Address (If different from above):

.....
.....

4. Education Background (Beginning with the last qualification)

Sl. No.	Name of Examination Passed	Board/ University	Attended From To	Subject of Study	Marks Obtained and Equivalent Percentage
1					
2					
3					

5. Languages Known (specify)

	Speak	Read	Write
1.			
2.			
3			
4.			

6. Are you employed? If yes, please give following details of your past and present job and if attending during work hours attach the “No Objection Certificate” from the employer.

Name of Organisation & Place of Work	Designation and Nature of Work	Years of Experience
1.		
2.		
3		

7. Describe the reasons for which you want to enroll for this Programme.

8. Mention any special information, which you would like to give about yourself.

Declaration of the Applicant

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate. I agree that on being admitted, I shall abide by the rules and regulation of the Institute.

Place :
.....

Date : (Signature of the Applicant)