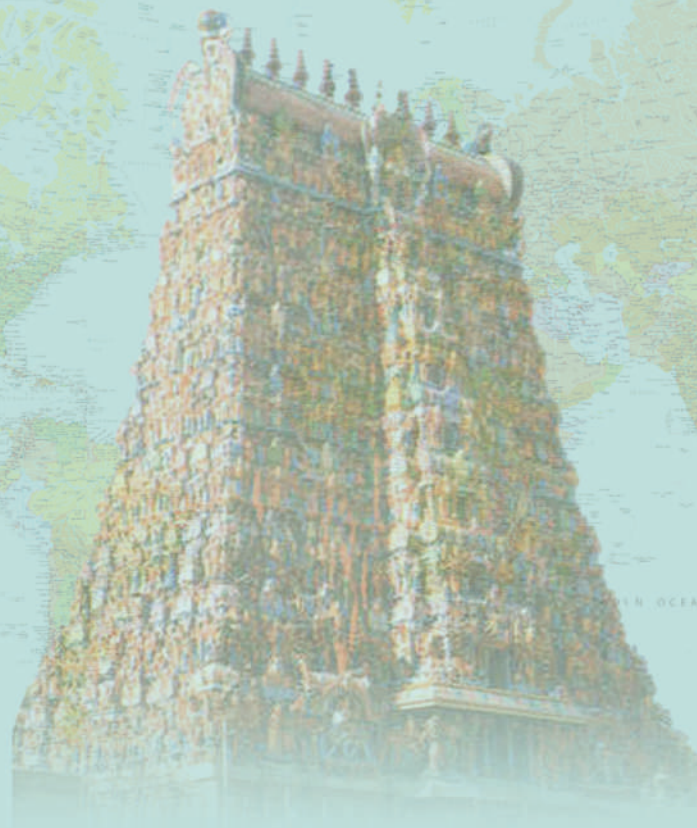


Sixth International Course
Advanced Reflective education and Training (ART) on
Development Finance
(Theme 1)



December 1 - 4, 2008

Tata-Dhan Academy
DHAN Foundation
Madurai, INDIA

The Institute

Tata-Dhan Academy, a development management school promoted by DHAN Foundation, Madurai, India, a international reputed development organisation and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai, India, a pioneering philanthropy from the house of Tata, is offering its sixth International Advanced Reflective education and Training (ART) on 'Development Finance', during December 1–4, 2008.

Course Objectives

The Course aims at enabling the participants

- to learn from well-proven models which dominate microfinance across the world.
- to develop knowledge on strategic skills and operational tools needed to design and manage the process of up-scaling microfinance products.
- to discuss the challenges of implementing 'financial inclusion' and microfinance regulation bill to deepen and diversify microfinance for reducing poverty.

In addition, the Course provides first hand exposure to field practices through field visits and interactions with the poor communities, the field staff and commercial banks to understand mainstreaming microfinance.

For Whom?

The Course is designed for senior decision makers and practitioners from microfinance institutions, banks, donor organisations, government agencies, NGOs, development finance institutions and international organisations that recognise the potential and importance of the role and advancement of microfinance programmes in addressing poverty.

Course design

The Course covers four modules in 12 classroom sessions including a one-day field visit to community based microfinance activities and commercial banks.

Module 1: Institutional models of development finance

This module will expose the participants to diverse models of microfinance that have demonstrated financial and institutional sustainability of large scale operations. The sessions will be on scaling up

strategies, process of contextualisation, opportunities and challenges of financial inclusion, mainstreaming with the commercial banks and emerging alternate paradigm of microfinance initiatives. The perspectives on Asian, African and Latin American microfinance sectors will be offered.

Module 2: Microfinance products for Poverty Reduction

The Module covers the need for promoting and sustaining different context specific savings, credit and insurance products to reduce poverty. It also includes the challenges of microfinance regulation bill which supposed to facilitate microfinance implementation. The participants will learn from the success as well as failure situations of the microfinance organisations of different countries.

Module 3: Microfinance for social development

Should MFIs have to measure and report on the social impact of their services and / or should they be held accountable for social impact? This is a prominent subject of discussion in the field of microfinance. While conservatives answer 'no', those who search and develop alternative paradigms say 'yes'. This module will provide insights on how and why microfinance has



to go beyond its scope and be treated as development finance. It will also enable the participants to appreciate new frontiers of microfinance and how microfinance can pave way forward for social development by strengthening programmes of health, education, gender development etc.

Module 4: Field visit

Poverty is context specific. It is imperative that the development interveners understand the varying poverty contexts. A well coordinated field visit will make the participants to understand poverty in rural, urban, and coastal contexts. Promotion of appropriate products for poverty reduction and the need for going beyond financial perspective will be dealt with. Participants would be exposed to the successful and largest self-help based microfinance programmes in India to understand the alternate paradigm of development finance.

The pedagogy

The teaching methods include small group assignments during field visits, classroom lectures, experience sharing, group discussions and case studies. The participatory learning will be highly encouraged.

The faculty

The faculty includes leading microfinance practitioners from diverse socio-economic and geographic contexts, and experienced and well-known international academicians and researchers from the field of microfinance. All the faculty members are also engaged internationally in training and advising organisations in the creation and management of growing sustainable microfinance institutions. The Course Coordinator is Mrs A Umarani, Director and Faculty, Tata-Dhan Academy, DHAN Foundation, India.

How to Apply

Fee

The fee is US\$1000 for the Course (Rs 35,000 for Indian participants), including full board and lodging, tuition, training materials and other literature and field visits, as well as visits to Madurai city. Participants

themselves or their employers must cover the cost of travel to and from Madurai and of visas. DHAN Foundation will provide letters to local Indian Consulates to facilitate the issue of visas, but participants must themselves obtain the visa. The Academy also facilitates sponsorships for the participants but the travel cost has to be borne by them.

The fee should be sent by Demand Draft in favour of "DHAN Foundation" payable at Madurai, or by international bank transfer to Account Name: Account Name: DHAN Foundation, Canara Bank Town Hall Branch, Town Hall Road, Madurai 625 001, Branch Code: DP 1013, SB Account No.: 1013101028758, Swift Code: CNR BIN BB UFM. The application can be downloaded from the website <http://www.dhan.org/tda/art.php> and the filled-in application form along with the fee should be sent before November 10, 2008. Online application can also be sent to reserve the seats and fee may be sent once the confirmation is made by the Academy.

The Venue

The Course will be offered at the well-known five-star TAJ GARDEN RETREAT on the outskirts of the historic city of Madurai. Participants will be accommodated in double study/bedrooms with private attached facilities.

Heritage Tourism

Madurai is a city of ancient glory with a rich cultural heritage. It is at the heart of Tamil Nadu. The Meenakshi Amman Temple, known for its awesome grandeur is the focal point of Madurai. It is visited by people from all over the world. The temple has an influence over the cultural and social life of the city for centuries. Despite rapid urbanization in the recent years, the city is still traditional and its people are old fashioned in many of their ways. It is one of the major cities of Tamil Nadu with a population of around 1.50 million.

If any participants would like to attend a two-day "Heritage Tourism" would be organised by the Academy on request. The participants have to register and the fee is US\$ 200 per day (US\$400 for two days). It would be organised on December 5-6, 2008.

About Tata-Dhan Academy

The purpose of the institute is to attract, nurture and groom young graduates, into development professionals through its flagship two-year masters' programme in development management, the PDM. The programme is a careful blend of classroom and field segments. Till date six batches of PDM students have graduated from the Academy and are working with disadvantaged communities on various issues. The Academy aims at and is working towards becoming a Centre of Excellence in Development Management.

In addition to long duration education programme and research, the Academy has identified short duration Development Management Courses as its core purpose to enable the world of practice. The thematic Courses include Development Management Appreciation Programme (DMAP), the Advanced Reflective education and Training on Development Finance, Micro Insurance and Microfinance for Business Development, Social Development Research Capacity building (SDRC) and Leadership Education in Advancing Development (LEAD). The purpose of the Courses is to professionalise the development sector in general and NGOs in particular to augment their efficiency and effectiveness.

About DHAN Foundation

DHAN Foundation is a Development Organisation working towards bringing significant changes in the lives of the poor through innovative themes. The organisation runs several field programs and activities to help the poor.

DHAN's Community Banking Programme is building on the self help and collective action of the poor. It has an emphasis on creating access to microfinance services that include savings, credit and insurance to poor women through their own self managed institutions. These institutions are enabling them to address their other development needs also. The tankfed agriculture programme aims at rebuilding the small scale reservoirs spread across the countryside for benefiting small holder agriculture and providing access to drinking water. DHAN's experimentation projects and activities are on making rainfed agriculture more remunerative; making information technology to serve the poor; and democratizing the Panchayats through local action.

The salience of the programs of DHAN are placing high quality human resources to work with the poor, organising them into self managed organisations to avail their entitlements and run their services on a cooperative and self help basis. DHAN always works in collaboration with individuals and organisations including the government and businesses.

DHAN Foundation has promoted India's largest and most innovative community banking programme, serving the financial needs of about 700,000 poor people with cumulative portfolio of about \$150 million in India through its network of more than 200 offices and 700 fulltime staff, most of whom have professional qualifications.

Please send filled in applications, or requests for further information to

Mrs. A. Umarani

Course Coordinator

Sixth International ART Course on Development Finance

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