

Certificate in Community Development

Module Descriptions

a. Orientation (building community, ethos & leadership):

Academic Orientation

The module focuses on the ability to define an information need, and thereafter being able to find, evaluate, use, and communicate information. The latter skills are supported by basic computer literacy in the Microsoft Office Suite, the World Wide Web and e-mail.

Personal Development

Students need to be prepared to be managers of self and others in the future. There is therefore a need for students to be ever self-aware of their strengths and weaknesses to ensure their own ongoing development. This module will ensure that students have the opportunity to seek and gain feedback from a range of sources to this end. It will also develop relevant study skills that will help students to progress in their academic study and social life.

Ethics

This module is designed to help the student develop a practical understanding of ethical issues in community development work. The philosophical and historical bases of ethics are examined and professional rules and policies are evaluated in light of ethical principles. Students are encouraged to examine their personal worldview, values, beliefs, and behaviour related to current moral, social and professional issues.

Leadership in Development Projects

This module explores the theory and practice of leadership and management in the context of development projects. At the end of the module students should be able to: discuss the importance of leadership within the community development process, identify their own weaknesses and strengths as a leader, explain various ways in which leadership can be developed in communities and identify and evaluate leadership style and dynamics in an organisation/community of the student's choice.

b. Theoretical (building knowledge)

Introduction to Sociology

The aim of this module is to broaden the perspective of the student by introducing the student to how societies developed through the major transitions through the ages to what we have today. This module also sensitises the student for the global perspective and the impact of globalisation on even the smallest isolated communities. Case studies will reveal that development is equated to change, a phenomenon that often has both positive and negative effects on local communities.

Introduction to Development

The aim of this module is to lay the conceptual foundation for further in-depth discussions on community development issues. This module introduces a critical review of frequently used and sometimes abused concepts related to the community

development discipline. The underlying meaning of popular community development jargon such as let the people speak, bottom-up development, grassroots participation, and transparent and democratic development will be critically revisited and debated to set the scene for further modules in community development.

Perspectives on Transformation

This module reviews several perspectives on community development and the social transformation process. The study covers development as transformation, people-centred development, expanding access to social power, development as responsible well being, and development as a Kingdom response to powerlessness.

Community of the Poor

In this module the student is introduced to poverty, particularly as it relates to community development. Various definitions of poverty and causes of poverty will be explored, as well as models for poverty alleviation.

c. Application (building skills)

Interpersonal and Cross-cultural Communication

This is a foundational communications course introducing the study of human communication processes within a variety of contexts. These include interpersonal, cross-cultural, group and mass communication. Particular attention will be paid to culture, gender and conflict management.

Community Mobilisation

To “own” something means taking responsibility for it. Ownership of community projects is vital for sustainable development. But how is it done? To mobilise the community in line with positive development activities is an aim of most development project. This module will look at best practices and bad practices in this regard to highlight the value of community participation as a prerequisite for community mobilisation.

Resource Mobilisation

The module will outline the important difference between fundraising and resource mobilisation, and why development efforts have focused on the latter. It introduces a framework to understand resource mobilisation as three key components – resource providers, resources and mechanisms for resource mobilisation. This framework is then used to relate these three components to the local community context – what kind of resources are needed, what kind of mechanisms work, and what kind of resource providers exist. The course seeks to introduce the learners to the conceptual framework for resource mobilisation, as well as the process of studying the resource mobilisation environment they work in as community workers.

Urban Development and Rural Development

This module seeks to explore in depth the dynamics that are involved in cities as unique spaces of social interaction on the one hand, and those involved in rural areas on the other. Urban social development issues are discussed from various perspectives, including economic, social and political factors that impact urban life. The module accords special attention to the impact of urbanisation on the poor, elderly, youth, and other marginalised groups. It also seeks to help students outline the

challenges facing rural development in developing countries and in South Africa in particular. Specific themes discussed are the role of the rural areas in the social and political economy of developing societies, and current approaches towards the management of these areas. The various issues and themes are explored through field-based reflection, lectures and group discussions.

Constructive Conflict Resolution

This module introduces students to the theory and practice of conflict resolution and teaches them specific communication skills to enhance their relationships. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore their attitude toward conflict and to reflect on their personal approach to conflict. The module makes use of case studies to assist students to reflect on the strategies, tactics and approaches used during conflict situations and emphasises the link between communications, behaviour and conflict.

Local Economic Development

The aim of this module is to create an understanding for the possible and the impossible with regards to local economic development. The focus will be macro instruments that are available to governments, the role of government and non-governmental actors and local economic legislation (governance).

Organisational Management

Organisational Management explores the theory and practice of management in the context of community-based and faith-based organisations. The module will examine practical issues such as strategic planning, organising meetings, and effective team-building

d. Research (building a toolkit)

Community Research Methods

This module aims to orientate the student to participatory research (i.e., its tools, techniques and methodologies), with the goal of helping a community identify a problem, collect and analyse information, and act upon the problem in order to find solutions and to promote social and political transformation. The module will implement participatory tools of secondary resources, direct observation and semi-structured interviewing.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Projects

This module aims at equipping development workers in government, NGOs and other organisations with skills, knowledge and the necessary attitudes for effective results-based monitoring and evaluation of development programmes. This module highlights the concepts, roles, purposes and processes of monitoring and evaluation in development projects, and seeks to equip learners to engage and plan more effectively with evaluations.

Community Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a community-based extension of the academic programme in the Certificate in Community Development programme at Cornerstone. The fieldwork is designed to be a multi-disciplinary application of what has been learnt theoretically during one's studies. As such it measures the practical capabilities of the student within a field or sphere of learning.