

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Urban Action School (UAS) 2017: Advanced Course for Urban Policy Practitioners on “Our Urban Futures”

Scroll down for application form.

Dates: 29th July to 5th August, 2017

Venue: Tezpur University Campus

Organised by Department of Sociology, Tezpur University and ActionAid India's Urban Activist Knowledge Hub.

Closing date for applications: 27th June 2017

Application Form attached below the call.

This is a call for applications for the UAS short course on ‘Our Urban Futures’. Designed as an advanced course covering several critical areas of urban development paradigm. This course is essentially a mid career training for mid and senior level activists policy advocates, lawyers, journalists, researchers, and all categories of policy practitioners in this space. The UAS is intended for the benefit of action researchers and social activists, with the objective of building the knowledge base of the participants and to complement action research and field based activism. The course is meant as a space for practitioners to upgrade their knowledge, to provide a space for reflection, for sharing and for acquiring new and useful skills, which in turn helps the participant to do better in her/his work. It is meant to make a difference to the person as well as to the organization/movement/company in which she/he works

Who can apply

Social workers, political activists, people working with community organizations, social movements, trade unions, lawyers, journalists, researchers, urban local bodies, media persons, government officials, research students, elected peoples’ representatives working on issues and concerns pertaining to development are eligible to apply for this course. Experienced professionals are preferred, with a **minimum of five years** of experience. [The language will be mainly English. Applicants who are not comfortable in English can indicate their preference so that we can try and provide interpretation.](#)

How will it be useful

The Urban Action School will bring together activists/ practitioners working on a range of issues relating to urban poverty, exclusion, livelihood, and urbanization from a wide range of disciplines. The UAS hopes to establish, over time, communities of practice and activist knowledge in various disciplines by creating a forum for cross-sectoral learning. The UAS also facilitate cross-pollination of ideas and experiences between different activists/ practitioners. It will provide an opportunity for a critical take-aways based on this year's focus area i.e Urban futures. A “Certificate of Participation” will be awarded to all participants upon completion of the course by co-organisers UAS, Actionaid Association and Tezpur University.

Course Content

Each year the course curriculum is redesigned to reflect current and relevant ideas, issues, and concerns. The intention is to make the course a credible and significant contribution to

understanding of cities, citizens, development models and people-oriented sustainable planning with an attempt to find solutions to growing urban poverty, migration, alienation, exclusion, violence, and lack of regulation and planning.

This short course will focus on **“Urban Futures”** which will attempt to build a holistic perspective by looking at the macro aspects of the global scenario and connecting the impact on the country. There will be a focus on the North East region of the country. Several significant transitions are taking place in the region; for example the impact of the big infrastructure projects have commenced which are raising concerns in terms of its possible impact on the environment and people’s lives. The course will discuss the concepts involved in imagining and implementing a genuinely sustainable, equitable and inclusive development that means a better life for the huge and growing urban poor and working people of the country. Aspects of patriarchy, gender issues and woman’s movement will be discussed. The course will also look at migration, labor issues and primarily the informal sector where the question of minimum wages, social protection etc. will be deliberated upon. In all, the course will examine alternative development models and solutions and try to identify means to achieve a decent and dignified life for people.

The following themes will be discussed in the course.

- Current Development paradigm, Global Finance and Imperialism
- Rural - Urban Continuum and the urbanization paradigm in the country and the effect on triple bottom line
- COP Negotiations and Climate Justice
- Environment Issues in NE and its impact on people and development
- Conflicts arising due to New economic paradigm
- Patriarchy, Gender and the woman’s movement
- Trafficking and decriminalization of sex work
- Migration and livelihoods
- Labour and Informal Sector
- Minimum Wage and Social Protection
- Alternatives and Development Paradigms

Methodology

The course will employ multiple methods of teaching over and above the regular classroom pedagogy. Methods such as group discussions, multimedia, video conferencing etc. will be used. The course will be primarily undertaken in the English medium.

Resource persons

Academics, subject experts and practioners from across the globe are participating to create an enriched exposure concerning urban issues. Some resource persons will take the class online via video uplink. Detailed course content will be sent to the selected participants later. Some of the key resource persons are:

- **Prabhat Patnaik** is an economist and political commentator, who has achieved both national and international acclaim with his incisive analyses of economics and politics. He is a emeritus professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

- **Ramananda Wangkheirakpam** is the director for Forum for Indigenous perspectives and action and his areas of work primarily entails analysis of the impact of huge infrastructure projects specifically the Hydro power sector in the North east region particularly looking at the displacement and livelihoods, the impact on ecology, dam safety etc.
- **Walter Fernandes** founded the North Eastern Social Research centre and is now a senior fellow. His researches focus on development-induced displacement in North East India. He has also done extensive studies on tribal rights, livelihood issues, land rights, climate justice and peace initiatives.
- **Virginus Xaxa** is Professor of Eminence at Department of Sociology, Tezpur University and his areas of research area agrarian studies, plantation labour, indigenous people and development studies.
- **Chandan Kumar Sharma** is Professor and Head at the Department of Sociology, Tezpur University. His areas of research are development, environment, social movements, ethnicity, migration, culture, society and politics of north eastern India
- **Debabrata Roy Laifungbam** is a prominent intellectual, activist and is credited as one of the fathers of human rights movement from Manipur. He is also the convener of the Civil society coalition on Human rights in Manipur.
- **D.Raghunandan** volunteers with the Delhi Science Forum (DSF), in fields of science-and-society interface. He served two terms as Executive Secretary of the All India Peoples Science Network (AIPSN), a federation of science-based social movements. He works actively in climate policy research.
- **Shrawan Kumar Acharya** is a Professor in the Faculty of Planning at JNU. His research interest involves the historical, social, economic, environmental, and political contexts of urban and regional planning. Besides teaching and research he is actively engaged in capacity building initiatives for various government and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Abhijit Sharma** is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Bank Management in Guwahati. His areas of interest are primarily in Rural Financial markets, social enterprise, financial inclusion and micro finance etc. An urban planner, he tries to connect the financial markets and their spatial and economic correlations.

Selection Process

The host organizations will constitute a group of panelists to go through the applications and choose **25 participants**. Selection will be broadly based on representation from different regions and sectors of practice. Care will be taken to see that there is adequate diversity, based on caste, gender and minorities. The decision of the selection committee will be final.

Logistics

The course and the accommodation are arranged at Tezpur University. Accommodation will be on twin sharing basis. Simple food will be provided. Boarding and lodging as well as course materials will be taken care of by the host organizations, as also overhead costs pertaining to the course related activities such as field visits, stationery, reading materials etc. Participants are expected to take care of their travel from their respective locations to and from the venue. We will offer travel support to a few of those working in grassroots organizations. The organizers will decide on the applications for travel support based on set criteria based on finance and geography. Their decision will be final.

Host organizations

Main organizers: ActionAid India's Urban Activist Knowledge Hub i.e. Citizens Rights Collective (CiRiC), in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Tezpur University, based in Tezpur, Assam.

PLEASE NOTE: The course is strictly residential. Participants are expected to stay at the venue even if they are from Tezpur or nearby. All participants are expected to stay through the entire course and not leave halfway unless there are compelling reasons like a sudden family emergency. Applicants must remember that leaving midway without sufficiently valid reason is likely to affect the prospects of others from their organization that might apply for other courses at UAS in the future. These restrictions are designed to ensure equity and inclusiveness across all participants.

How to Apply

You may fill the application form and email it to the following email id: urbanactionschool@gmail.com such that it reaches us before **midnight IST latest by 27th June 2017**. Alternatively, You may print the application form and send it by post or courier to the address below.

To,

Anju Reshma Manikoth,
Course Coordinator,
Urban Action School

c/o Actionaid Guwahati Regional Office, No. 2B, Mandovi Apartment, GNB Road, Opposite Rabindra Bhawan, Digholi Pukhuri East, Ambari, Guwahati, Assam 781001; Ph: 9949811120

PLEASE APPLY EARLY! Closing date for applications is 27th June 2017 (midnight IST) Scroll down for application form.

For organizers

Meena R Menon and Anju Manikoth (Urban Action School); Mrinal Gohain (ActionAid Association) and Chandan Kumar Sharma (Tezpur University)



Application Form: Urban Action School (UAS)

29th July – 5th August 2017

Short Course on “Our Urban Futures”,

*(You may send this by email or fill out and post to the address given at the bottom of the form). Only applications that reach us **latest by 27th June midnight (IST)** will be considered.*

Please use Arial font, size 12 for filling in the application form. In case of hand written forms, block letters are preferred. Bulleted format for sharing details is preferred.

Section I

a. Name:

b. Date of birth:

c. Gender *(Male/Female/Other):*

d. Contact details:

Phone

Email:

Address:

e. State:

Section II

a. Details of organization/institution/urban local body/elected body/company: *(Please write 'individual' if not linked to any organization. And mentioning organization does not mean that you are representing the organization formally in the course)*

a. Name of the organization:

b. Website URL:

c. Office contact details

i. Address:

ii. Phone:

iii. Email:

b. Work experience *(Please specify the Sector/profession and the number of Years of experience):*

c. Organizations/institutions/peoples movement/companies in which you worked previously *(Please mention various organizations you have worked in and the approximate time served with each as well)*

1.

2.

3.

d. Education *(Please specify only the Highest level of education achieved along with Name of the Institute and Year of Completion)*

e. Other certificate courses attended

Name of the Course attended	Institute	Dates attended from and to (dd/mm/yy)	Certificate awarded

f. Language proficiency: (Please tick ✓ the appropriate, (Add languages and rows as per requirement))

Language (please add languages below)	Fluent (Speak, Read and write)	Speak but do not read	Read but do not speak	Do not Understand
English				
Hindi				

Section III

a. Areas of interest: (e.g. labour, poverty, economics, politics, alternatives, social work, political activism, research methodology, social media, etc. This is to help us to integrate your interests in the course if possible.)

b. Please fill in the following: What in your opinion, are:

a. Five critical issues facing India today in order of priority

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

b. Five critical issues relating to urbanization

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

c. Five most effective/possible solutions to the issues in both sections above:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

c. Why do you wish to participate in this course? *(Please answer in few sentences or bulleted is preferred and maximum of 150 words)*

d. Tell us something about your organization/ the cause that you are associated with/ passionate about. *You could include success/ failure snippets in the same. (Please answer in few sentences or bulleted is preferred and maximum of 100 words)*

e. Reference Details

Name of the referee:

Organisation:

Contact Number:

Address:

Section IV

a. Are you member of a social group that has special status? *If so please specify (SC/ST/ Minority):*

b. Do you have any special needs/ disability? *(Please give details - this is to help to make you comfortable and improve your participation)*

Section V

a. Would you require a scholarship support for travel? Yes / No

b. If Yes to the above, please specify your current annual salary:

c. Contact for emergency:

Name:

Phone (with ISD/STD code):

Email:

Any other Information you wish to share:

For questions and queries regarding the programme please write

To,

Anju Reshma Manikoth

The Course Coordinator

Urban Action School

21, Brooke Bond Colony,

Karkhana, Secunderabad,

Telangana,

INDIA - 500015

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