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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The Course “Gender Mainstreaming” covers all the aspects of mainstreaming strategy like defining the concept, national and international initiatives, mainstreaming approach in different sectors, regional initiatives, contribution of Beijing Platform for Action to develop and the mainstreaming strategy and integrating gender mainstreaming into policies. Gender Mainstreaming is very significant concept in Gender and Development Studies. The aim of gender mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality in society by integrating mainstreaming approach to all levels. Gender Mainstreaming clearly states that the women and men should have equal visibility, equal access and power concerning resources and decision-making. ‘Gender mainstreaming’ was defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1997 as ‘a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated’. Gender mainstreaming is both an approach and a strategy. As an approach, it entails placing gender concerns and issues at the center of policy decisions, programme planning, implementation and monitoring as well as in institutional structures. The aim is to ensure that women’s priorities and needs will be effectively taken into consideration throughout all the decision-making and resource allocation processes.

There are three blocks in the course. The first block entitled as “Why Gender Mainstreaming?” which has three Units namely origin and concept, paradigm shift: welfare to mainstreaming approaches and platform for action. The second Block entitled as “Policy initiatives: Global and National scenario has five Units having titled as integrating gender into policy making process, international initiatives- UNDP, International initiatives’- The World Bank, regional initiatives – Asia Pacific and National iInitiatives- India. The third Block has titled as “Process of Gender Mainstreaming. The Units in this Block are National and International Opportunities, Institutional Development, Mainstreaming Gender in the Informal Economy and Cross sectoral concerns.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The first block entitles “Why Gender Mainstreaming.” The first Unit in the block 1 is Origin and Concept. The topics covered in this Unit are origin of gender mainstreaming, definition for gender mainstreaming, forms of gender mainstreaming, dimensions of gender mainstreaming, components of gender mainstreaming strategy. The second Unit in this block dealt with shift in approaches in policies from welfare to mainstreaming. The approaches covered in this Unit are welfare, equity, anti- poverty, efficiency, empowerment and mainstreaming. Platforms for Action are the third Unit in this Block. The Unit not only discusses Beijing Platform for action, it also covered the first world conference on women: Mexico (1975), second world conference on women: Copenhagen (1980), third world conference on women: Nairobi, 1980. After discussing Beijing Platform for Action, the Unit also elaborately dealt with Beijing +5, Beijing+10 and Beijing+15. Along with above mentioned topics, the Unit also covered Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) .