

# **Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane**

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## **Certificate Course in Intercultural Education**

*A Joint Venture of Institute for Oriental Study, Thane and  
VPM's Academy of Education & Research, London.*

### **Introduction**

Does culture influence school education? The answer certainly is “yes, it does”. Culture not only affects the decision of what is to be taught but also determines how to teach. Thus, both the syllabus and teacher pupil interaction in the classroom is significantly influenced by the prevailing social and cultural forces. These are the days of globalization and international schooling. A teacher trained in one culture is often expected to teach in another culture. Moreover, a teacher has to deal with students coming from different cultural backgrounds in the schools. With the demands for teachers from abroad and with the fast changing composition of social fabric in Indian metropolis these needs are on the rise continuously. It has, therefore, become necessary that practicing as well as would be teachers is equipped with the techniques of intercultural education. With these views in mind Institute for Oriental Study (IOS), Thane in collaboration with Vidya Prasarak Mandal's (VPM) Academy of Education & Research, London, has launched a “Certificate Course in Intercultural Education starting. The course is to begin from January 1, 2011.

### **The Course**

The course would be implemented through distance mode. The duration of the course would be six months (January 1 to June 30). It will have four components: 1. Reading Assignments, 2. Project Work, 3. Contact Sessions and 4. Visits abroad. Salient features of each of these activities are spelt out in detail below.

#### **Reading Assignments**

Over a span of six months the candidates will be expected to complete minimum reading assignment. These assignments will pertain to various issues related to Indian as well as British education system. Reading material will be made available either in print or in digital forms. Candidates would also be asked to refer to articles and Power Points made available on the website of the Institute for Oriental Study, Thane ([www.orientalthane.com](http://www.orientalthane.com)) and also on the World Wide Web from time to time.

#### **Project Work**

Each candidate is expected to complete a dissertation in order to qualify for the certificate. The candidate can select any relevant topic of his interest. Each candidate will be assigned to a supervisor from the panel of recognized guides. The maximum time allotted for the completion of dissertation would be three months in addition to the duration of the course. For the course starting from January 2011 the dissertation must be submitted before September 30, 2011.

### **Contact Sessions**

Regular contact sessions will be arranged for the candidates at Thane. These sessions will be used to clarify doubts related to reading assignments. A part of the time will be spent in discussing the progress of the dissertation and in providing concrete guidelines for further work. Group discussions will be arranged for sharing the ideas and opinions with each other. Digital facility will be used profusely to keep virtual contacts with all the candidates. This will enable the candidates to get in touch with supervisors and teachers immediately through e-mail if need arises.

### **Visits Abroad**

A 12 day educational tour to Britain will be arranged for all the registered participants in the month of May 2011. This tour will have four components: 1) Seminar on Intercultural education; 2) Interaction with British school inspectors, teachers and students; 3) Excursion to important museums/libraries and 4) Visits to places associated with Indian Revolutionaries in London.

#### ***Seminar on Intercultural Education***

One day seminar will be arranged in London to acquaint the teachers with the issues of intercultural education. Experts for the seminar will be drawn from the Institute of Education, University of London and VPM's London Academy of Education & Research, London. Teachers will have ample opportunities present papers and share their experiences during the seminar. The outcome of the seminar would be the methodology of teaching to students with multicultural background..

#### ***Interaction with British School Inspectors, teachers and students***

A visit programme will be planned to one of the Local Education Authorities in England, Scotland or Wales. This programme will provide a chance to interact closely with the school inspectors who are responsible for maintaining the standards of school education by providing on-spot guidance to practicing teachers. School visits will be arranged to enable participating teachers to see closely the functioning of British schools in different set ups. They can observe classroom proceedings and talk to teachers as well as with students personally.

#### ***Excursion to important museum and libraries***

One of the important features of British society is that they give a lot of importance to museums and libraries. Each city or a town has a good collection of artifacts and books. What is notable is the fact that these facilities are made freely available to the general public and are being used skillfully to support school education. Participating teachers will be taken to museums and libraries in the LEA of their visits. In addition, they will be taken to some selected museums and libraries in London.

#### ***Visits to places associated with Indian Revolutionaries***

A day long London Tour will be arranged to show various places associated with Indian freedom fighters in London. In this tour the teachers will be able to see personally the places associated with freedom fighters like Madanlal Dhingra, Udham Singh, Veer Savarkar, Lokmanaya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, etc. This tour will not only enable them to pay homage to those great persons but also will facilitate to revise those historical events that took place in the early part of freedom struggle. Journey by London Tube will be an added attraction of the tour.

## **Mode of Assessment**

Evaluation will be an integral part of the course. Continuous and comprehensive evaluation will be carried out to assess the progress of teachers. All the registered candidates will be assessed for the total score of 300 marks under three different heads: Assignments, Project work and Participation in group discussion.

### **Assignments**

Apart from reading assignments candidates will be asked to complete academic tasks from time to time. Their performance will be assessed and marks out of 100 will be allotted based on the quality of the work, relevance of the content and presentation style.

### **Project work**

Project work submitted by the candidate will be assessed critically and marks out of 100 will be assigned to each dissertation taking into account the content relevance, method of data collection and analysis, linguistic capability and conclusions drawn.

### **Group discussion**

Group discussions will be arranged both in India and in England. Behaviour of the candidate will be observed during these sessions. Assessment of the performance will be made based on the understanding of the subject, confidence displayed, language of expression and clarity of thought and conviction. Taking into account these parameters marks will be allotted to each candidate out of 100.

## **Certification**

A candidate will be declared successful if he/she scores 60 percent or more marks in each of three assessment heads. Successful candidate will be awarded certificate jointly by the VPM's Academy of Education & Research, London, and the Institute for Oriental Study, Thane, in the convocation function organized at the VPM's College Campus in August 2011.

## **Course Fee**

Each candidate will have to pay the fee of Rs. 50, 000 (Rupees fifty thousand) and GBP 800 (Great Britain Pounds eight hundred) for the entire course. This fee will cover the reading material, contact sessions and 12 day tour to England (involving the expenditure of travel, stay, food and educational material).

## **Appeal**

Candidates who wish to join the course should submit application duly filled in to me along with a demand draft of Rs. 25,000 (Rupees twenty five thousand only) drawn in favour of "Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane" on or before October 31, 2010. Each candidate is urged to obtain a passport and submit photocopies of the first and last pages of the valid passport to the office of Institute for Oriental Study, Thane latest by December 31, 2010. I look forward to a fruitful academic interaction.

Dr. Vijay Bedekar  
President  
Institute for Oriental Study  
Thane, India

## Application Form for the Certificate Course in Intercultural Education

To,  
Dr. Vijay Bedekar  
President, Institute for Oriental Study  
Dr. Bedekar Hospital  
Naupada, Thane (M.S.) 400 602

Dear Sir,

I wish to join the "Certificate Course in Intercultural Education" organized jointly by the Institute for Oriental Study, Thane and VPM's Academy of starting from January 1, 2011. I am enclosing a demand draft of Rs. 25,000 (twenty five thousand only) drawn in favour of Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane. I am giving below my bio-data for your kind consideration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Special Achievements (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would be grateful if you could consider my case sympathetically and admit me to the said course. I am ready to undertake all the assignments given as a part of the course. I am also ready to bear all the expenses concerned with the educational tour to England.

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

sincerely yours

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

( \_\_\_\_\_ )

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### For Office Use

Demand Draft No. \_\_\_\_\_ for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Drawn on \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Receiving Officer with date \_\_\_\_\_