Customized Course on

Participatory Research and Understanding Gender

Instructional Guidelines for Learners

MOODLE

Our courses are based on the principles of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), as well as, the philosophy of Adult Learning.

The ODL approach ensures that the materials are designed so as to support autonomous and self-directed learning. Self-directed learning focuses on the process by which adults take control of their learning. They set up their learning goals; look for appropriate resources; decide on their learning styles and evaluate their progress, with support from the instructor/facilitator.

Keeping in mind the philosophy of adult education and that each of you learners are adults; the materials are intended to relate to each learner's experience. These prior experiences are considered as an excellent knowledge as learning is best when presented in a real life context. Further, adults have high motivation to learn when they perceive that the new knowledge they gain can help them gain clarity in resolving some of the challenges they face in their daily lives.

All courses at the PRIA Academy are conducted through the Moodle, which is a web-based platform, used by premier educational institutions across the world. This virtual platform is used to maximize interaction between the instructors and the learners. We at the Academy have a strong faculty of practitioners and academicians, who facilitate our courses, as well as international guest faculty who bring in their expertise and enrich learning and discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS

a) **Assignment 1:** Reflection Paper
b) **Assignments 2:** Project Paper

You may submit your assignments 1 & 2 in the respective forums.

Assignment 1: Reflection Paper

The purpose of this assignment is to give the instructor(s) a sense of your conceptual understanding of the course topic.

Instructions

This assignment should build from your existing understanding of the subject matter, and should also incorporate insights gained from Units of the course.
We suggest that before writing the reflection paper, you make a 1-2 page concept outline, wherein you logically sequence the concepts to be covered in the paper. This outline will help you in organising your thoughts and subsequently your paper in an organised and methodical manner. Organise your paper such as to have a clear beginning, body and conclusion. Once the outline is in place, begin writing the paper. Make efforts to develop your own understanding of the subject matter, rather than reproducing what has been covered in the units. It would help to include illustrations from your day-to-day experience; to raise critical questions; and to develop your own critique of the concept. If you are using someone else's ideas, please do acknowledge the same in your reference list.

Length: Please ensure that your paper is not less than 1000 and does not exceed 1500 words. The paper must be in 12-point, Times New Roman font and in 1.5 spacing format.

Value: 35% of your final grade

Assignment 4: Project Paper

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate your understanding of the concept of the subject matter in a project context. This assignment will further guide you to begin thinking about how you might apply your knowledge in a real-life setting.

Instructions

A. You should consider the following steps while working on your project:

1. *Identification of a Development Project*

Identify one development project related to your subject matter. If you are working with a development organisation, then you can select an existing or future project for this assignment.

2. ***Develop a plan for the given project.*** (Note: The plan can be for initiating a new project or while revising and expanding an existing project)

B. Project report

The project report should capture both the above-mentioned steps adequately. Some key issues to keep in mind while preparing the project report:

- How did you identify the project?(Identification process and reason for selection of that project).

- Brief description of the project (i.e. Name, objective, nature, scope, implementing organisation).

- Key components of the projects, which need to be built or strengthened.

Length: Please ensure that your paper is not less than 1500 and does not exceed 2500 words. The paper must be in 12-point, Times New Roman font and in 1.5 spacing format.

Value: 45% of your final grade.

Guidelines for Writing Assignments

- Read the instructions for the assignment and any other information given in the instructional guideline and by your Instructor/s carefully. Sometimes there are several questions or steps embedded within the instructions, so be sure to address all of them in your writing.

- Introduce the reader to your paper by clearly stating your purpose or thesis statement and then provide an outline of how you will go about explaining or

arguing it. In the introduction, you can also provide some context for your topic and why it is important. If you are addressing one small piece of a complex problem, the introduction should define the scope of your paper.

- The body of the paper should follow logically from the outline stated in the introduction. Sometimes it is useful to indicate to the reader when you are making a new point or moving into the next step of your explanation, argument or analysisThis can be done simply by using headings or words such as 'first... second... or next...finally.' Introduce the main point of each paragraph and ensure that the information in that paragraph supports your point.

- Whenever you are citing from an article or referring to a theorist's ideas, you must include the author's name and year of publication in parentheses.

- If you are using direct quotes from the original text, use quotation marks ["..."] and include the page number. For example: 'Kothari (2001) argues "participatory approaches to development research and planning attempt to challenge the apparent power relations in society by recognizing the control that certain individuals and groups have over others" (p 142)'

- If you are paraphrasing the author's ideas, but are not using a direct quote, you still need to acknowledge that this is not your original idea. For example: Kothari (2001) cautions that while participatory approaches can challenge the relations of power embedded in every society, we must take care not to oversimplify the nature of power, or to reassert new forms of social control.

- For excerpts of more than 40 words, start on anew line and indent the block of text. (Do not end a paragraph with this indented quote, comment on it.) These indented quotes do not need quotation marks. For example: Kothari (2001) has described

how powerless groups can have their knowledge validated through participatory approaches: Participatory approaches to development research and planning attempt to challenge the apparent power relations in society by recognizing the control that certain individuals and groups have over others. This is based on the recognition that those who wield little power have limited opportunities to express their interests and needs and is generally excluded from key decision-making processes, and that their knowledge is considered insignificant. Nevertheless, she goes on to caution that we must take care not to oversimplify the nature of power, or to reassert new forms of social control. Indeed, relations of power are embedded in participatory approaches as well.

- The conclusion often provides a brief summary of what has been covered in the paper and reiterates the purpose statement. While no new arguments should be introduced in the conclusion, it is sometimes appropriate to call for action. For example, further research into a subject when there are obvious gaps in the literature. In a more personal paper, you may also speak about your own reflections on the subject, what you have learned or what implications it has in your life.

- Do not trust the spell check –always re-read, and if possible, have someone else read your paper. Grammatical and spelling errors are distracting and can sometimes weaken your credibility to the reader. (Note:You will not be graded for your spelling or grammar for e-mail postings; however, asnoted above, these will be taken into account in theevaluation of the two written assignments you submit.)

Evaluation

The division of marks, for all assignments, is as follows:

S No.	Assignment	Title	Total Marks
1	Assignment 1	Reflection Paper	35
2	Assignment 2	Project Paper	45
	Total		80