

Winter School For Social Transformation

'Winter School For Transformation' is an exciting leadership program through a rural immersion journey which brings together 15 passionate change-makers from all across India. This 9-day journey offers an opportunity to engage with social and developmental issues, to help participants understand the diverse culture, sustainable living, and to effectively contribute to local communities, and to develop personal and professional skills.

Participants leave the program as better-informed active citizens with a new set of perspectives. During these 9 days, we also come with workshops, discussions, and activities designed to explore empathy, a journey to the self, and imbibe the sense of service.

Who can apply?

Winter School for Social Transformation is open to 18-27 years old. Applicants below or beyond this age limit will be duly considered on a case-to-case basis.

No education qualification and work experience is needed to apply for the program

The applicant must be committed to actively participate in the training and Engagement process with honesty, self-reflection, and self-motivation.

Travel & Accommodation

- Food, stay and all other mandatory requirements during the program will be taken care of.
- Participants will have to reach the venue by Day 0 night or early morning on Day 1.
- Pick and drop facility will be available at the nearest railway station on specific timing

Process:

Forming: Participants come together and create a trusting community. The principle work for the team during the forming stage is to address lots of questions from the team, reflecting both their excitement about the new team and their roles.

Framing: During these stage the team comes up with clear structures, goals, directions and roles so that the participants begins to build trust. Also, during this phase, participants are trying to see how the team will respond to differences and how it will handle conflict.

Engaging: During the engaging stage, the participants start making a conscious effort to resolve problems and achieve group harmony. There might be more frequent and more meaningful communication among team members, and an increased willingness to share ideas or ask teammates for help.

Reflection: The team may find that this is an appropriate time for an evaluation of team processes and productivity. Here, participants share insights into personal and group process and are aware of their own (and each other's) strengths and weaknesses. Also, this will be the time for celebration of the journey so far.

Action: Some journeys never end, now the participants go back to their communities and here the participants begin their journey from self to society as active citizens.

Why Winter School for Social Transformation?

India's population is among the youngest in an ageing world. By 2022, the median age in India will be 28 years; in comparison, it will be 37 in China and the United States, 45 in Western Europe, and 49 in Japan. But there is a dearth of capable leaders in India who can take initiatives and have the passion to work for a sustainable, just and peaceful world.

When it comes to the skilled workforce, India is extremely low, at 4.69% of the total workforce, compared to 24% in China, 52% in the US, 68% in the UK, 75% in Germany, 80% in Japan, and 96% in South Korea. Studies are suggesting that less than 50% of youth graduating from educational institutions are employable.

People talk about a lack of a skilled workforce, but do they talk about the crisis in Leadership?

We at @teamigniteindia have taken this leadership gap among our youth on a serious note.

"Our society faces challenges and threats that require collective efforts from the international community to solve the problems and to transform our world to make it a more just, peaceful, and sustainable place for all"

The role of youth in solving these challenges is huge and the government, international bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders should realize this to achieve the Global Goals. Unfortunately, young people have not been perceived as change makers and advocates of changes in all sectors. In a country like India where half of its population is under the age of 25, two-thirds are less than 35 and is likely to have the world's largest workforce by 2027, with a billion people aged between 15 and 64 efforts should be taken to identify, train and equip these workforces.

"India wants to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, empower its youth, provide jobs, but one of the youngest democracies in the world is still struggling to include young people in decision-making"

Even the modern education system has less scope of addressing these issues, mainly because of high competition and uneven balancing of curricular and extracurricular activities and lack of spaces for teachers to discuss these issues.

Many bright young people are either looking to settle in developed countries for a better lifestyle or have no time to invest in the well-being of the society they live in. Moreover, the success is measured in terms of what "I" achieved rather than what "WE" are up to.

"Are our educational institutions fostering social change leaders?"

It is in this context that 'Ignite India' is organizing 'Winter School for Social Transformation'