

**ICMR School of Public Health
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (ICMR)
AYAPAKKAM, CHENNAI 600 077**

No.NIE/F/04/IB/2010/

Date: 15th January 2011

**Post-Graduate Diploma in HIV Epidemiology
Information Brochure – 2011**

1. INTRODUCTION

Strengthening the scientific and epidemiological basis for programme and policy decisions to prevent and control priority diseases is key to public health impact. The Post Graduate Diploma in HIV Epidemiology (PGDHE) at the ICMR School of Public Health, National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), is an initiative of Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) and Global AIDS Program of CDC, USA, in response to the need for the development of long-term sustainable human capacity for applied HIV epidemiology in India. This initiative primarily aims to strengthen the government health system for timely utilization and dissemination of the strategic information available within the HIV intervention programmes. The programme is an off-campus course of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram.

The academic session for the current year commences on 1st July 2011.

2. GOAL and CORE COMPETENCIES

The primary goal of PGDHE will be to develop a self sustaining institutionalized capacity of public health workers in applied HIV epidemiology at field level and competent in addressing HIV public health needs and priorities efficiently and effectively.

It is expected that in the long term, PGDHE will lead to improved surveillance systems contributing to health system strengthening and increased improved human resource capacity at the national level.

Upon completion of the PGDHE, a trainee will have developed the following seven technical core competencies:

1. Manage HIV surveillance system
2. Conduct quantitative epidemiological research to improve the delivery of HIV prevention and treatment services
3. Conduct qualitative epidemiological research to improve the delivery of HIV prevention and treatment services
4. Use statistical software for data processing and analysis
5. Develop HIV programme monitoring and evaluation
6. Develop oral and written communications
7. Use data to analyze and redirect policy

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

a. Duration and Course organization

The PGDHE will be a 12-month “learning-by-doing” programme. This programme will consist of three parts:

Part I - ‘In-class’ sessions (6.5 months) at NIE during which the students will receive theoretical inputs and plan for epidemiological field projects through residential contact sessions at NIE at intermittent intervals. The following modules will be covered: Principles and practice of public health, Principles and methods of epidemiology, Biostatistics, Qualitative research methods, Scientific communication, Applied Epidemiology, and Programme evaluation.

Part II – Field assignments (3 months) during which the students will execute the epidemiological projects (Secondary data analysis, Surveillance description & evaluation, Programme description & evaluation) of relevance to HIV programme at field placement site (usually the district identified by the student and NIE in collaboration with the sponsoring agency).

Part III – International coursework (2.5 months) at foreign institutions, including University of California, Los Angeles, USA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA, HIV/AIDS Control Organizations in Asian countries (such as Thailand, Vietnam, China) during which the students will acquire an international perspective of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and use of epidemiologic tools for decision making in the field of HIV/AIDS.

b. Course credits

The PGDHE will carry a total of 30 credits distributed in three categories: Contact sessions at NIE – 12 credits; Field assignments – 8 credits; International coursework – 10 credits.

c. Course Report

In the last contact session, at the completion of the field postings and international coursework, the student will submit the Course Report that will include all assignment reports. Each of the assignment reports should be in the format of a scientific manuscript of 3,500 words or less that uses the Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion structure.

d. Grading system

A six letter grading system (A-F) will be used to assess student’s performance in each module. Cumulative Grade-point average (CGPA) will be calculated as the weighted average of numerical values of grades with credits as weights.

In the case of failure in any of the modules, one more chance will be given to reappear for examination within two months. If the student fails for the second time, he/she has to reappear for the module when the same is offered in subsequent academic years within a span of two years. The student has to obtain prior approval from competent authority. The maximum grade that will be awarded for a re-examination will be limited to C. A maximum of two chances will be given to pass in all the modules.

e. Criteria for award of diploma

To qualify for award of the PGDHE, the student must obtain a minimum grade of 'E' in all individual modules and assigned field projects; and secure an overall CGPA of 2.

4. SPONSORING AGENCIES

The sponsoring authority (Central/State Government) should nominate and depute the candidates for 1 year on a full time basis.

5. ADMISSION TO THE COURSE

Admission is open to government sponsored candidates only. Five (05) candidates will be admitted to the July 2011 academic session.

a. Course eligibility

Applicants fulfilling the following criteria will be eligible to apply for the programme:

1. MBBS degree (recognized by Medical Council of India)
2. Current position in Central/State Government, preferably in HIV/AIDS Control Programme, sponsored on deputation for 1 year on a full time basis.
3. Minimum two years experience in public health/HIV surveillance or programme related activities.
4. Age 40 years or less as on the date of commencement of the course (1st July). Relaxable in exceptional cases and for SC/ST/OBC/PH candidates as per Government of India rules.

b. Selection of students

The candidates should be nominated by the Central/State Government. A selection committee constituted and approved by the Director of SCTIMST will select the nominated students for the course based on the review of the applications, written test and/or personal interview.

Reservation of seats will be as per Government of India norms for SC/ST/OBC/PH candidates being followed by SCTIMST. Mere possession of the eligibility criteria will not entail selection for the course. The decision of the Director, SCTIMST, shall be final for selection of the candidates.

c. Application Form

The prescribed application form can be downloaded from the Institute's Website: www.nie.gov.in

The prescribed application form given in the website or its photocopy alone should be used. Application in any other form will not be considered.

d. Application Fee

Applications should be submitted along with the application fee of Rs.600/= (Rupees Six hundred only) by means of a Demand Draft drawn on any nationalized bank in favour of "SCTIMST" payable at Thiruvananthapuram.

Applications without the application fee will not be considered.

e. Sponsorship

Candidates should enclose **Sponsorship Letter** from the employer, in original, in the specified format (given in the Application Form), along with the application or produce the same at the time of interview.

f. Last Date

The last date for receipt of the completed applications at NIE is **15th March 2011**.

g. Submission of application

Duly filled in prescribed Application Form with necessary enclosures should be sent to the following address:

The Course Co-ordinator, PGDHE
ICMR School of Public Health
National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR)
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ayapakkam
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 077

Candidates should submit an advance copy of the application in the prescribed form with the Application Fee of Rs.600/= (original Demand Draft) and other enclosures by Registered/Speed Post, to reach NIE, directly, on or before the last date. They should send a copy of the Demand Draft along with their original application through proper channel.

h. Contact details

Email: nieicmr@gmail.com

Phone: 044-26136417 / 26136420

Website: www.nie.gov.in

Fax: 044-26136426