

## **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION COURSE**

### **Introduction**

This foundation course in universal human values and professional ethics is an outcome of long search and extensive experimentation by Prof. R. R. Gaur, Prof. R. Sangal and Shri. G. P. Bagaria, along with colleagues, towards evolving an effective and universally acceptable methodology for introducing value education in the present curricula of technical and professional institutes. Thus, it is in response to a long-felt and urgent need to integrate value education with technical and professional skills in the present-day education system.

This course employs an effective methodology focusing on the right understanding of human reality vis-a-vis the rest of Existence. This involves discovery of the inherent harmony and co-existence in Existence through self-exploration. The right understanding forms the basis of universal human values and facilitates transformation toward a holistic worldview or the 'human consciousness'.

The course structure has 3 sections:

1. Introduction to value education
2. Understanding the harmony at various levels
3. Implications of right understanding in life and profession

The issues in professional ethics are analysed in the context of right understanding with the main focus on the development of ethical competence in the individuals, in contrast to an approach of enforcement of professional ethics through incentives and punishments. The course concludes by proposing several salient steps to undertake the journey toward holistic and value-based living.

***As of September 2013, this course is being run at over 4000 colleges in 28 universities across 5 states in India and all colleges of higher learning in Bhutan.***

### **Salient Features of the Course**

The salient features of this course are:

1. It presents a universal approach to value education by developing the right understanding of reality (i.e. a worldview of the reality "as it is") through the process of self-exploration
2. The whole course is presented in the form of a dialogue whereby a set of proposals about various aspects of the reality are presented and the students are encouraged to self-explore and self-verify these on the basis of their natural acceptance and experiential validation
3. The prime focus throughout the course is toward affecting a qualitative transformation in the consciousness of the student, a transformation in the worldview matching the reality as it is, rather than just a transfer of information
4. While introducing the holistic worldview and its implications, a critical appraisal of the prevailing worldview is also made to enable the students discern the difference on their own right