

Personal inner development and social justice

A day of reflection and discussion

Manavodaya International UK is pleased to invite you to this day of reflection and discussion in Newcastle

Saturday, 11 February 2012 | Skills for People

Tankerville Place, Newcastle NE2 3AT

About the day

The day is based around the practice and ideas of the Indian organisation, Manavodaya, which has helped to make a significant change to the lives of the rural poor.

Manavodaya's approach emphasises the facilitator's humility and honesty in working with self-help groups of dispossessed people. Manavodaya has created working

methods which genuinely transfer power to disenfranchised, marginalised people.

Though the approach has been built in the context of rural India, it can be important to those wanting to contribute to positive social change in the West and anyone who wants to be more effective in their work or relationships.

The first step is that the facilitator must approach the work with an attitude of deep humility – disenfranchised people know their problems and have the solutions in their possession. In order to develop this humility, the facilitator must engage in a process of inner development – constantly working on their own attitudes in a process of self-reflection. Manavodaya offers a modest framework to approach this inner development work – [Eight Steps in Action](#).

In the UK such methods may be at odds with the target-driven approach that has become more and more dominant over recent years. But there is plenty of evidence that, while professionals intervene in people's lives with the attitude that they bring solutions, little changes for any length of time. People mostly remain dependent. We need another paradigm – another way of doing things.

About 20 of us (mainly connected to learning-disability work) gathered in a three-day discussion in October 2011 to explore the relevance of these ideas to our personal lives, UK disability work and anti-poverty work.

We want to establish a discussion group in Newcastle that could develop a practice based on combining an opposition to inequality with promoting, rather than sacrificing, inner development.

More info

These websites tell you about Manavodaya's work.

www.manavodaya-uk.org.uk

www.manavodaya.org.in

THE PROGRAMME

9.30 Registration

9.45 - 10.45 Light yoga and meditation

10.45 - 11.15 What brought us to this discussion?

11.15 - 12.15 Presentation and discussion about Manavodaya India - Pete Richmond

12.15 - 1pm Discussion about Manavodaya UK, Doreen Kelly

1pm - 1.45 Shared lunch

1.45 - 3pm Collective reflection

3pm Consideration of future activity on Tyneside

3.45 Final thoughts and close

Get in touch...

Let me know if you would like to attend this discussion day: martin.donkin@sky.com