

“ My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest shall have the same opportunities as the strongest.

The spirit of democracy cannot be imposed from without. It has to come from within.

True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village.))

- Mahatma Gandhi

6th Development Film Festival

People, Democracy and Development

September 15-18, 2010





About the Festival

The Development Film Festival is envisioned to be a creative platform for the film makers to showcase their works on the themes and issues concerning development of the poor and vulnerable communities. The Centre for Development Communication of DHAN Foundation organises this Festival. The centre feels raising the public awareness and political will is imperative to promote and sustain any development action. It requires multi-media strategies for promoting participation, creating ownership, involving in decision making and management of resources that could impact peoples' lives. The Festival organised every year on a selected theme in development intends to create a platform for the development film makers to screen their products and to promote the public view, debate and meaningful action around the issues.

Past Festivals

The past film festivals were organised at Madurai, the city well known as a seat of learning since the Sangam periods dating back to 4th century B.C, and famous for its cultural and scholarly pursuits. The First edition of the festival focused on poverty, from a larger perspective on water, environment, gender, education, health and culture. The second festival focused on Water and life. The third edition of the Festival was again focused on 'Water and People'. The fourth edition of the Festival focused on 'Culture and Heritage'. The fifth edition of the Festival focused on 'Fight Poverty: Connect and Commit for MDGs', which was held in Chennai.

The filmmakers from all over the world responded overwhelmingly in all these festivals. The films for screening were selected by a panel comprising of film makers, development practitioners and academicians. Films were screened to the public of Madurai, including school and college students. Best films were awarded. Read more about the past festivals at www.dhan.org/dff

VI Development Film Festival: Democracy and Development

Every person is entitled to live their life in dignity and free from fear, with a fair share in their country's resources and an equal say in how they are governed. Democracy is not an event but a complex and continuous process. It is essential that its inception and development are properly managed and nurtured.








The democratic ideal seeks to guarantee equality and basic freedoms; to empower ordinary people; to resolve disagreements through peaceful dialogue; to respect difference; and to bring about political and social renewal without convulsions. The guidance note of the UN Secretary General on Democracy says “in the twenty-first century, we continue to be confronted with the triple challenge of building or restoring democracies, preserving democracies, as well as improving the quality of democracies. Key challenges before us are how to more effectively promote universally recognised democratic principles, institutions and practices; how to respond, in a consistent and predictable manner, to ruptures with democracy, as triggered by unconstitutional transfers of power; and how to respond to, or even help to prevent, the slow and gradual erosion in the quality of democracy and the weakening of democratic freedoms, practices and institutions which sometimes occur”.

The term 'democracy' is often utilised as a good usage and in high esteem and it always stands for advancing the humanity. A word signifying attribute does not stop after denoting the usual meaning, but extends till it reaches the substantive. This is the true significance of an attribute. Only practice can give it a life. In the present day socio, economic and political scenario, we need to critically reflect on democracy and its relevance in the lives of the millions of poor and marginalised people across the globe. The sixth edition of the Development Film Festival would focus on 'Democracy and Development.

Call for production

The Centre is pleased to invite filmmakers to take part in the 6th Development Film Festival on 'Democracy and Development' to be held in Madurai, India in September 15-18, 2010

The film makers are invited to showcase their documentaries, short films and animation films made on any of the following themes:

-  Poverty and Democracy
-  Good Governance
-  Transparency and Accountability
-  Self-Help, Self-Management and Self-Reliance
-  Human rights and Democracy



Procedure for entry

- The entries should be sent in DVD/ VCD format along with the filled in Submission Form.
- The films can be in any of the Indian / foreign languages with English subtitle.
- A filmmaker can send in any number of entries.
- The films sent for competition should have been released within last five years and should have been produced with the own idea of the director.
- The details of awards won by the films and a copy of press releases about the film can be attached with the submission form.
- The director, producer or sponsoring organisation can send in their products.
- The films can be sent in VCD, DVD or VHS formats.
- The original copy of the film need not be sent & received films will not be returned.
- Each film should be sent with the filled in submission form. (Please make photocopies of the form if needed)
- The brochure and submission form can also be downloaded from the website. www.dhan.org/dff
- Complete the form making sure that the information is accurate and complete. Decision of the selection panel is the final.



Participation in the Festival & Dialogue

The film makers whose productions are selected will be invited to take part in the Festival and Dialogue sessions. The Festival is open for the public.

Deadline for the submission of Films

Films and submission forms must reach us by September 10, 2010

Send the Films with filled in submission forms to

The Coordinator

**6th Development Film Festival: Democracy and Development
DHAN Foundation, Centre for Development Communication**

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