

29th May – 1st June 2008

Notions of Identity

Exploring Definitions, Ideas and Practices



The identity workshop has been designed to examine our notions of identity and how they affect our lives at a minute, everyday level. The consciousness “I am” does not allow us to escape the question, “Who am I?” However, our responses to this question are largely implicit and automatic. The purpose of this workshop is to make conscious what might have become automatic or unconscious.

To understand the processes behind the construction of identities is in some sense to understand how we are currently functioning in our lives. Unconscious or unexamined identities make us do the things we do, think the way we think, feel the way we feel, and enter into conflicts in ways that are reflected in our world.

What is the need for identity? What are the conventional identities we work with? How is an identity created or constructed? How can we usefully problematise old structures of identity? What is the nature of observation and being? These are some of the questions the workshop will attempt to address. The modules will explore identity-related issues such as:



- Categorisation
- Memory
- Language
- Conflict
- Sleep and Dreams
- Death
- Observation

The workshop seeks to bring out the notionality of identity and how it is constructed as a moment to moment practice; as well as to provide a safe space for exploration without fear or prior agenda. We shall use aspects of linguistics, sociology, psychology and metaphysics, and proceed empirically, to come to a deeper understanding of the issue, in all its psychosocial, spiritual and mundane ramifications.

This workshop is for: People at different stages of their lives, questioning beliefs and looking to probe deeper.

The workshop is being facilitated by **Vipul Rikhi** who has been a teacher of languages and literature, an editor, scriptwriter and author. He is currently engaged in writing a novel and is Writer in Residence at the Gap Year College, SIDH from April to June, 2008. He has been exploring notions of identity via diverse practices and traditions for a while now.

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Venue: SIDH campus, Kempty, (15 kms ahead of Mussoorie)

The **workshop fee** (including boarding and lodging) for this four-day workshop will be **Rs 3000 per participant**. For registration please contact Vinish with your name, email, phone, address at gapyearcollege@gmail.com; 0135-6455203 or 01376-213060. There are limited seats for the workshop, so please register as early as possible. A few need-based scholarships / partial waivers may be available.

