

Approval: 16th Senate Meeting

Course Number	: HS527
Course Name	: Indian Social Structure and Development
Credits	: 3-0-0-3
Prerequisites	: None
Intended for	: Post graduate students, 3 rd and 4 th Year B.Tech.
Distribution	: Core course for M.A. in Development Studies, Elective for others
Semester	: Even/Odd

1. Preamble:

The course focuses on Indian social structural realities and how social structure influences development. In order to forward any “developmental” program, it is essential to understand structural complexities with which one has to confront at conceptual as well as practical level. A development program needs to address composition of India which is predominated by underdeveloped villages marred by caste, class, gender inequalities. This course focuses on social structural realities and perspectives to understand, perceive and analyse developmental activities. It is also designed to understand complexities of Indian society beginning from the colonial to the contemporary times. The specific objectives are: to introduce the students with the fundamental structures of Indian Society and the debates associated with it; and, to study issues of Indian Society and equip students with current political, economic and social situations; and, how these are linked with the idea of development.

2. Modules with quantities lecture hours:

Module I: Understanding Indian Society (6 Lecture Hours)

- Perspectives to understand Indian society: Orientalist; Nationalist; Subaltern; Postcolonial
- Indian society: Socio-spatial dimension
 - 1. Rural, Urban and Rural-urban Continuum.

Module II: Constituents of Indian Society

- **Caste in India (6 Lecture Hours)**
 - Understanding caste among Hindu and other religious communities
 - Debates on Caste: Brahminical and Non-Brahminical
 - Dynamics of Caste in Cities
 - Politics and Caste: Vote bank politics; Political Parties; Politicization of caste
 - Changing dynamics of caste system: Caste as structure and Caste as substance
- **Tribes of India (4 Lecture Hours)**
 - Popular and social scientific understandings of “tribe” and tribal community
 - Tribes in colonial times: Criminal Tribes, De-notified and Nomadic tribe
 - Developmental programs and transformations in tribal society

- Tribal movements: colonial and post-independence era
- **Class (4 Lecture Hours)**
 - Issues of identification of class in India
 - Structure of Agrarian Class
 - Indian Middle Classes: Origins, Structure, Politics
 - Poor as class
- **Gender (4 Lecture Hours)**
 - Sex, Gender and Third Gender
 - Gender socialization and gender inequality
 - Patriarchy, production and women workforce in Indian economy
 - Women Empowerment: idea, debate and politics

Module III: Village in India (6 Lecture Hours)

- Villages in India: popular imaginations and social scientific understandings
- Village Studies and Community Development Program
- Rural Development in Post-Independent India: Plans, Programs and Policies
- Indian Villages: Change and Continuity

Module IV: City and Urban Space in India (6 Lecture Hours)

- Understanding urbanization and urbanism
- The Urban Turn
- Urban stratification and Urban Public Space
- Slums in India: issues and problems
- Urban Development since Independence: Plans, Programs, Policies

Module V: Religion and Development (6 Lecture Hours)

- Religion and Imaginations of Modern Society
- Religious Minorities: Issues of Representation and Development
- Secularism, communalism and fundamentalism

3. Textbooks:

Deshpande, Satish. 2003. *Contemporary India: A Sociological View*. Delhi: Penguin Books.

Gupta, Dipankar (ed). 1992. *Social Stratification in India*. New Delhi. Oxford University Press.

4. References

1. Cohn, B.S. 1987. 'Notes on the history of the study of Indian society and culture' [Chapter-7] in *An anthropologist among the historians and other essays*. New Delhi: OUP; pp: 136-171.
2. Danagare, D.N. 2007. Practising Sociology through History: The Indian Experience – I and Part II. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 42, No. 33, pp. 3414-3421; and Vol. 42, No. 34, 3499-3508.
3. Embree, A.T. and M. Juergensmeyer. 1989. *Imagining India: Essays in Indian history*. New Delhi: OUP [Introduction; and Chapters-3, 11 & 12].
4. Gandhi, Leela. 1998. Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction. Pp. 1-22 and 167-176. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
5. Inden, Ronald. 2006. *Text and Practice: Essays on South Asian History*. [Chapter 1. Orientalist constructions of India. (pp 13-60)]. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
6. Mongia, Padmini. (ed.). 1997. *Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-9.

7. Oommen, T.K. 2005. 'Understanding Indian society: The relevance of the perspective from below' in S.M. Dahiwale (ed) *Understanding Indian society: The non-Brahmanic perspective*. Jaipur. Rawat; pp: 33-50.
8. Dahiwale, S.M. 2005. *Understanding Indian society: The non-Brahmanic perspective*. Jaipur. Rawat. (Chapter-1).
9. Ambedkar, B.R. Ambedkar, B.R. 2002 [1936]. 'Castes in India' in Valerian Rodrigues (ed) *The essential writings of B.R. Ambedkar*. New Delhi: OUP; pp: 241-262.
10. Desai, Sonalde and AmareshDubey. 2011. Caste in 21st Century India: Competing Narratives. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 46(11): 40-49.
11. Ghurye, G.S. 1992. 'Features of the caste system' in Dipankar Gupta (ed) *Social Stratification in India*. New Delhi. OUP; pp: 35-48.
12. Fuller, C.J. 1992. Kerala Christians and the caste system. In Dipankar Gupta (ed.) *Social Stratification in India*. Delhi: Oxford Uni Press, pp: 195-212.
13. Bokil, M. 2002. De-notified and Nomadic Tribes: A Perspective. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 37(2): 148-154.
14. Guha, Ramachandra. 1996. Savaging the civilised: Verrier Elwin and the tribal question in late colonial India. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 31, No. 35/37; pp:2375-2380, 2382-2383, 2385-2389.
15. Xaxa, Virginius. 1999. Transformation of tribes in India. Terms of Discourse. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 34(24): 1519-1524.

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing Courses:

S.N.	Course Code	Similarity Content	Approx. % of Content
1	HS 381		15%

6. Justification for new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is > 30%