

FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (FYUGP) 2024-25  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

SEMESTER -IV  
MAJOR-7: SOCIOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENT  
Full Marks: 80 (Theory – 60, Tutorial – 20) Credit: 4

**Course Objectives:** This course introduces students to the sociological understanding of environmental issues by examining the social causes and consequences of ecological problems. It explores population growth, resource depletion, pollution, environmental movements, and policy responses, enabling learners to critically analyze human–environment interactions from a sociological perspective.

**Course Outcome:** After completing the course, students will be able to explain key concepts in environmental sociology, analyze major environmental issues and movements, and understand policy frameworks addressing environmental challenges. They will develop the ability to apply sociological perspectives to assess environmental problems and propose informed, socially responsive solutions.

**Course Content:**

**Unit 1: Environmental Sociology**

- 1.1 Emergence, nature, and scope of Environmental Sociology
- 1.2 Relationship between society and environment
- 1.3 Development of Environmental Sociology in India
- 1.4 Sustainable development-Definition, Meaning and characteristics
- 1.5 Basic concepts:Ecosystem, Ecology, Ecological balance, Ecological footprint, Biodiversity, climate change

**Unit 2: Social Concerns over Environmental Issues**

- 2.1 Population explosion and environmental stress
- 2.2 Deforestation: causes, consequences, and social impact
- 2.3 Pollution: air, water, soil, and noise pollution
- 2.4 Global warming and climate change
- 2.5 Dams and displacement: development-induced displacement

**Unit 3: Environmental Movements and Approaches**

- 3.1 Ecofeminism: gender and environment
- 3.2 Political ecology
- 3.3 Forest-based movements: Chipko Movement
- 3.4 Water-based movements: Narmada Bachao Movement
- 3.5 Role of NGOs and civil society in environmental protection

**Unit 4: Policy Prescription**

- 4.1 Environmental policies and programmes in India
- 4.2 Environmental legislation in India (overview)
- 4.3 The Rio Declaration: social and economic aspects
- 4.4 Sustainable development goals (SDGs) and environment
- 4.5 Climate change policies and environmental governance
- 4.6 Protecting forests and preventing deforestation

## Reading

Agarwal, A., & Narain, S. (1991). Global Warming in an Unequal World: A Case Of Environmental Colonialism. Centre for Science and Environment.

Agarwal, B. (1992). The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons From India. *Feminist Studies*, 18(1), 119–158.

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Beck, U. (1992). *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. Sage Publications.

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Meadows, D. H., Meadows, D. L., Randers, J., & Behrens, W. W. (1972). *The Limits to Growth*. Universe Books.

Shiva, V. (1988). Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development. Zed Books.

United Nations. (1992). Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. United Nations.

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SEMESTER IV  
MAJOR 8 : SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Full Marks: 80 [Theory 60 & Tutorial: 20] [Credits: 4]

**Course objective:**

This course introduces students to sociological study of social inequalities. It acquaints students with principal theoretical perspectives on and diverse forms of social inequalities in articulation with each other. This course discusses major sociological approaches to the study of social stratification and inequality. It introduces the students with concepts of social stratification social inequality, with an emphasis on the major dimensions and forms of stratification in India and global society.

**Course Outcome:**

After completing this course, students will be able to understand the concept, forms, and theories of social stratification. They will critically analyse caste, class, gender, and ethnicity as systems of inequality, examine their interconnections, and evaluate their impact on social mobility, power, privilege, and social change in contemporary Indian and global societies.

**Course Content**

**Unit-1: Introducing Stratification**

- 1.1 Meaning , definition and , Characteristics of social stratification
- 1.2 Social Differentiation and inequality
- 1.3 Dimensions of stratification: economic, social, political, and cultural

**Unit-2: Theories of Stratification**

- 2.1 Marxian Approach
- 2.2 Weberian Perspective - Class and Status Group

**Unit-3: Functionalist Perspectives:**

- 3.1 Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E Moore
- 3.2 Melvin M Tumin

**UNIT-4: Identities and Inequalities:**

- 4.1 Caste as a system of stratification in India
- 4.2 Race and ethnicity: nature, and dimensions of inequality
- 4.3 Caste, Race, Ethnicity- Nature and dimensions of Inequality
- 4.4 Feminism and Gendered Stratification

**UNIT- 5: Mobility and Reproduction:**

- 5.1 Social mobility: meaning, types,
- 5.2 factors influencing mobility
- 5.3 Cultural reproduction and social reproduction (education and family)

## References

Ahuja, R. (2015). *Social stratification in India* (2nd ed.). Rawat Publications.

Beteille, A. (1996). Caste, Class, and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification In A Tanjore Village. Oxford University Press.

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Bourdieu, P., & Passeron, J.-C. (1990). Reproduction In Education, Society And Culture (2nd ed.). Sage Publications.

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Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1848/1978). *The Marx–Engels Reader* (R. C. Tucker, Ed.). W. W. Norton.

Omvedt, G. (1993). Reinventing Revolution: New Social Movements and the Socialist Tradition In India. M. E. Sharpe.

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SEMESTER IV  
MINOR -4: RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA  
Full Marks: 80 (Theory 60+Tutorial20) Credits: 4

**Course Objectives:** Rural sociology is a specialised branch of sociology. It analyses the nature and dynamics of village society and rural areas. In the context of India, rural sociology occupies a unique position. This paper is designed to bring out the distinctive features, their structures, changing features and development programmes in rural society in India.

**Course Outcome:** Students will be able to define and explain key concepts, scope and significance of rural sociology and they will gain knowledge about rural socio-economic structure and nature of change. This paper will help them to understand the structure, functions and emergence of local self-Government. They will learn about various rural development schemes and their impact on rural society and economy.

**Course Content:**

**UNIT -1: Rural Sociology:**

- 1.1 Definition, Subject matter, Nature and Scope of Rural Sociology
- 1.2 Basic Concepts: Sanskritization, Dominant Caste and Caste Council
- 1.3 Importance of Rural Sociology in India

**Unit – 2 Rural Socio-economic Structure**

- 2.1 Rural Society: Definition, Characteristics and Change
- 2.2 Rural Economy: Features and Change
- 2.3 Rural Institution: Concept and Features: Varna and Caste, Jajmani System and Joint Family
- 2.4 Agrarian Class Structure –D. Thorner
- 2.5 Land Reforms: Objectives and Programmes of land reforms in West Bengal

**UNIT-3: Local Self Government:**

- 3.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI): Concept,
- 3.2 Structures and Functions

**UNIT-4: Rural Development**

- 4.1 Concept and Objectives
- 4.2 Major Rural Development Programmes: CDP, IRDP, TRYSEM, SGSY and MGNREGS

## References

Berch, B. (1980). *The Political Economy Of Agrarian Change: An Essay On The Green Revolution*. Oxford University Press.

Desai, A. R. (1997). *Rural sociology in India*. Popular Prakashan.

Doshi, S. L., & Jain, P. C. (2002). *Rural Sociology*. Rawat Publications.

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Thorner, D., & Thorner, A. (1962). *Land and labour in India*. Asia Publishing House.

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## Bengali Books

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Barman, R. (2023). *Samajtattwer Porichay* (Introduction to Sociology) [Bengali Version]. Aaheli Publishers.

Mahapatra, A. K. (2022). *Bisoy Samajtattwa* [Bengali version]. Sandhya Prakashani.

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**SEMESTER IV**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES (IDC)-3: GENDER STUDIES**  
Full Marks: (Written 40+Tutorial 20) =60 (Credits -30)

**Instructions:** The course shall be assessed through multiple-choice questions (MCQ) the course will focus on conceptual clarity, legal awareness, and application-based understanding of gender issues. There will be 40 MCQ type questions carrying 1 mark each.

**Course Objectives:** The course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts and scope of Gender Studies, explain gender as a social construct, examine gender socialisation, inequalities, and gender-based violence, and develop awareness of constitutional provisions and laws related to gender equality, justice, and protection in Indian society.

**Course Outcome:** After completing the course, students will be able to define key gender concepts, identify forms of gender inequality and violence, understand the role of social institutions in gender socialisation, and recognise major constitutional provisions and laws related to gender justice, equality, and protection of women.

**Course Contents**

**Unit 1. Introduction to Gender Studies**

- 1.1 Gender Studies: concept, Meaning and definitions, Characteristics
- 1.2 Scope of Gender Studies (education, family, work, health, law, politics)
- 1.3 Importance of Gender Studies - Gender equality, Social justice, Policy and development
- 1.4 Challenges - Gender stereotypes, Patriarchal values, Cultural resistance

**Unit 2. Fundamental Concepts:**

- 2.1 Sex and Gender,
- 2.2 Social construction of gender,
- 2.3 Masculinity and femininity,
- 2.4 Patriarchy
- 2.5 Gender Discrimination,
- 2.6 Gender stratification,
- 2.7 Gender Identity

**Unit 3: Gender Socialisation**

- 3.1 Gender Socialisation – concept and meaning
- 3.2 Agents of socialisation- Family, Education, Media

**Unit 4: Gender: Differences and Inequalities**

- 4.1 Gender and class
- 4.2 Gender and caste
- 4.3 Gender relations within the family
- 4.4 Gender division of labour and work

## Unit 5 Gender-Based Violence

- 5.1 Concept of gender-based violence
- 5.2 Forms of violence :
- 5.3 Domestic Violence
- 5.4 Sexual harassment
- 5.5 Rape ,Marital Rape
- 5.6 Human trafficking,
- 5.7 Femicide,
- 5.8 Reproductive abuse
- 5.9 Acid Attack
- 5.10 Child Sexual Abuse
- 5.11 Online / Cyber Violence
- 5.12 Honour Killing

## Unit 6: Gender and Law

### 6.1 Constitutional Provisions

- 6.1.1 Article 14 – Equality before law
- 6.1.2 Article 15(1), 15(3) – Prohibition of discrimination and protective discrimination
- 6.1.3 Article 16, 16(4) – Equality of opportunity

### 6.2 Marriage, Family and Work Laws

- 6.2.1 Hindu Marriage Act 1955
- 6.2.2 Special Marriage Act, 1954,
- 6.2.3 Prohibition of Child Marriage Act -2005,
- 6.2.4 Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

### 6.3 Protection Laws

- 6.3.1 POCSO Act: Overview and Awareness
- 6.3.2 Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal, i.e. “POSH Act”)

## References

Ariyabandu, M.M. (2009). “Sex, Gender and Gender Relations in Disasters”. Enarson, Elaine and Chakrabarti, Dhar, P.G (eds), Women, Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives. New Delhi:Sage Publications.

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