



The Alliance for Global Education, Pune Program: Spring 2012

SOCJ 365 Social Justice

Dr. Medha Kotwal Lele

Objectives

1. To introduce the concept and practice of social justice in India as is reflected in the constitutional provisions and developed through people's movements for social justice.
2. To critically examine the issues and practice of social justice in the context of specific groups like women, castes like dalits and OBCs, minorities like adivasis and religious minorities
3. To locate issues and challenges to the practice of social justice in the present social, political and economic context

Grading Structure / Evaluation

- Classroom attendance & participation 10%
- Written assignments 2, 15% each (4-5 pages)
- Classroom discussions based on current issues 10%
- Research paper / term paper 30% (10-15 pages)
- Final Presentation 20%

All assignments must be submitted on time.
In all 20 lectures, 1 hour thirty minutes each

Course Syllabus

Module I Concepts and approaches to social justice

- 1) Introduction to the course (Jan.23rd)
- 2) Concepts and notions of social justice (Jan.25th)

Audio-visual material will be used for this, followed by discussion

- 3) Social Justice in the Indian context: critique from quarantine India (Jan. 27th)

Readings: Guru G. 2007, "Twentieth Century Discourse on Social Justice: A View from Quarantined India" in Bhattacharya, *Depth of Modern Indian Thought and Social Sciences*. New Delhi: OUP, pgs. 221-238.

- 4) &5) Colonial India and the many contesting voices for social justice: nationalists, women, minorities, working classes, non-Brahmin & the untouchables (Jan. 30th & Feb. 1st)



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Readings: “Many Voices of a nation” by Shekhar Bandopadhaya: From Plassey to Partition – A history of Modern India, Orient Longman 2004 (Pgs.334-404).

- 6) Constitutional provisions: Directive principles, fundamental rights and the commissions for protecting these (Feb. 3rd)

Govt. Internet sites for commissions and constitution

Module 2: Caste Ideology and Practices

- 7) The first social revolutionary in the colonial period -Mahatma Jotirao Phule’s formulations on social justice- the anti - Shetji/Bhatji movt. (Feb.6th)

Reading: G.P. Deshpande, “Of Hope and Melancholy: Reading Jotirao Phule in our times,” in *Selected Writings of Jotirao Phule* (Left Word, 2002), pgs 1-21.

- 8) Jyothee Thass: Buddhism as the liberating force; Tamil Nadu in 19th century & Periyar’s self-respect formulations (Feb. 8th)

Reading: Gail Omvedt, “Jyothee Thass” and “Periyar” in *Seeking Begumpura*, pgs.185-204 & 225-247.

Visit to Phule wada 9th Feb.

- 9) B.R. Ambedkar: theory of liberation–political and social programme (Feb 10th)

(Audio visual-Lecture on Ambedkar with discussion)

Reading: Gail Omvedt, “Ambedkarism: Theory of Liberation,” in *Dalits and the Democratic Revolution* (Sage, 1994), pgs. 224-259.

- 10) Mahatma Gandhi, untouchability & social justice: Ram Rajya as the ideal society (Feb.13th)

(Audio- visual)

- 11) Guest lecture on Current issues in the Dalit movt. (Feb. 15th)

Visit to a Buddha Vihar (or community temple) and dialogue with the dalit community especially the youth. Feb.16th

Assignment: Written assignment on any one of the topics covered in this module with a comparative reference to the existing problems in your own society - 15 % to be submitted by 20th Feb.



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Module 3: Gender Justice: An introduction to ideologies and practices in India

12) Notions of Gender Justice in Modern India equality, difference (17th Feb.)

Reading: Ratna Kapoor, "Challenging the Liberal Subject: Law & Gender Justice in South Asia" in *Gender Justice, Citizenship & Development*, ed. by Maitrayee M. & Navsharan Singh (Zubaan, 2007), pgs. 117-170.

13) Caste and gender – Questioning Indian patriarchy, caste and religion: Social reform debates 19th century (Feb 22nd)

Readings: (1) Uma Chakravarty, "Prologue," "Chapter One: Understanding Caste," and "Chapter 2: The Axis of Gender Stratification in India," in *Gendering Caste Through a Feminist Lens* (Stree Publications), pgs. 1-36; and (2) Radha Kumar, "Introduction" *The History of Doing* (Zubaan, 1993), pgs.1-30.

14) Post independence 1970s to 2000: issues and debates on violence, sexuality, and role of Law (Feb.24th)

Reading: Nevidita Menon, "Introduction" and "Conclusion," in *Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law* (Permanent Black, 2004), pgs. 1-25 and pgs. 204-245.

15) New challenges and visions- notion of difference over sameness: critique by dalit feminists and other minorities -religions and sexualities (Feb 27th)

Readings: (1) Gopal Guru, "Dalit women speak differently," *EPW* 30/41-42 (1995): pgs. 2548-2552; and (2) Flavia Agnes, "Women's movement within a secular framework: redefining the agenda," *EPW* 29/19 (1994): pgs. 1123-1128.

Visit to Aalochana Centre for Documentation & Research on Women and interaction with the members (28th February)

16) Affirmative action and social justice: policies and enactments (i.e. 73rd and 74th amendments) to achieve this (March 5th)

Film followed by discussion

Written assignment on this module on any topic covered- 15 % to be submitted by 5th March



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Module 4: 1990s and current debates on social justice:

17) Religious Minorities: Sacchar committee report highlights, issues of communal violence- (March 7th)

Reading: Sacchar Committee Report pgs. 9-26 and 238-254

18) Adivasis and marginalized groups: exploitation in the neo-liberal context – loss of land and livelihood, issues of identity (March 9th)

Readings: (1) Virginius Xaxa, “Tribes in India,” in *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology & Social Anthropology*, pgs. 374-408; and (2) Anand Teltumde, “Race or Caste, Discrimination is a Universal Concern,” *EPW* 44/34 (2009): pgs. 16-18.

19) Human rights in India issues and debates (March 12th)

Readings: (1) Usha Ramanathan, “Human Rights in India: A Mapping,” pgs. 1-51; and (2) Yogendra Yadav, “Social Justice” in *Seminar* 2009.

20) Impact of globalization, neoliberal policies, the emergence of movts like the Naxal movt in Chattisgrah, Jharkhand (March 14th)

Reading: (1) Nevidita Menon and Aditya Nigam, “Globalization I,” “Globalization II,” and “Globalization III,” in *Power & Contestation: India Since 1989* (Orient Longman, 2007), pgs. 61-102; (2) Anand Teltumbde, “Atrocities by the State” in *The Persistence of Caste*, pgs. 150-172.

Assignment: Seminar/Presentations on any current issue reported in newspapers- 10%

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