

Course Title: School and Society

Course Instructor: Kishore Darak

Credits: 2

Duration of Course: From November 2018 to mid-March 2019

Brief Outline:

1. Right to Education – A brief history of right to education in India with special emphasis on Jotirao Phule’s submission to Hunter Commission (1882). Comparison between Right to Education Act, 2009 and Phule’s submission.
2. Gender and Education – Introduction to the idea of gender and its function in processes of school both curricular and non-curricular.
3. Cultural politics of Textbooks – A brief overview of textbooks, their need and limitations in the light of National Curriculum Framework 2005. Analysis of selected textbooks (mainly from Maharashtra) from gender, caste and class lenses.
4. Education System – A short introduction to structure of educational bureaucracy (school education) and its functioning with Maharashtra as a case.
5. Teaching of Mathematics, Science and Gender Issues in Education – Discussion on NCERT’s Focus group papers on teaching of Mathematics, Science and issued in gender education with emphasis on aims of teaching these subjects and major pedagogical discourse as a part of school curriculum.
6. Issues in and of school language in the context of multilingual Indian society (if time permits)
7. Field Work – Visit to a Zilla Parishd school in Maharashtra, preferably in Palghar or Thane or Ahmednagar or Pune district.

Assessment (Credit/Audit):

There will be three assignments given. One will be in pairs of 2, one assignment will be individual and one assignment as a group. In addition, students will be assessed for their participation in classroom and interaction with peers.

List of References:

Part A – Core readings

- GoI, The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, New Delhi: Government of India
- Phule, Jotirao (1882), Memorial Addressed to The Education Commission, Education Commission, Bombay, Vol. II. Calcutta, 1884, pp.140-145.
- Apple, Michael (2000), Cultural politics and the text, Official Knowledge, 2nd edn London: Routledge, pp. 42–60

- Selected Textbook of grades III-VIII published by Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production and Curriculum Research, Pune aka Balbharati, Available at URL: <http://cart.ebalbharati.in/BalBooks/ebook.aspx>
- Nawani, Disha (2017) School Textbooks: From Sublime to the Ridiculous, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 52, Issue No. 9, 04 Mar, 2017
- Darak, Kishore (2012): "Prescribed Marginalization", Seminar, No. 638, October, pp 63-68.
- NCERT (2005) Focus Group Paper on Teaching of Mathematics, New Delhi: NCERT
- NCERT (2005) Focus Group Paper on Science Education, New Delhi: NCERT
- NCERT (2005) Focus Group Paper on Gender Issues in Education, New Delhi: NCERT
- Jhingran, Dhir (2009) "Hundreds of Home Languages in the Country and many in most Classrooms: Coping with Diversity in Primary Education in India" in Social Justice in Multilingual Education, Skutnabb-Kangas Tove, Phillipson Robert et. al. (Eds), Bristol: Multilingual Matters, pp 263-282

Part B – Additional readings

- Darak, Kishore (2012). "Freezing History in Pedagogy-proof Textbook" on Kafila, available at <https://kafila.online/2013/12/25/freezing-history-in-a-pedagogy-proof-textbook-kishore-darak-2/>
- Kumar, Kirshna (2004). "Origins of the Textbook Culture" in What is Worth Teaching, 3rd Edition, Hyderabad: Orient Longman, pp. 23-41.
- Rampal, Anita and Harsh Mandar, Lessons on Food and Hunger Pedagogy of Empathy for Democracy, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 48, Issue No. 28, 13 Jul, 2013

Sessions:

1. October 24, 2018: Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE)
2. October 31, 2018: RTE and Jotirao Phule's submission to the Hunter Commission
3. November 29, 2018: Cultural Politics of Textbooks – 1
4. December 3, 2018: Cultural Politics of Textbooks – 2
5. December 18, 2018: Textbook and curriculum – Case of Maharashtra
6. January 10, 2019: Functional System of Schools - A case of Maharashtra
7. January 19, 2019: NCF 2005 Focus Group Paper on Teaching of Mathematics
8. January 23, 2019: NCF 2005 Focus Group Paper on Gender Issues in Education
9. February 6, 2019: NCF 2005 Focus Group Paper on Science Education
10. ...2019, Issues in Language – I
11. ... 2019, Issues in Language – II
12. ... 2019 School Visit