

B.A Political Science

Semester IV

Laws, Duties and Rights of Citizens

(SEC) Paper II

Course Description:-

More often than not, when we talk of laws we mean authoritatively sanctioned rules, which are considered essential for a well-ordered society. Yet laws in a democracy are also about constituting a society marked by equality, freedom, and dignity. The rights approach to law has assumed importance in democracies, precisely because of people's struggles to broaden the understanding of law as something which reflects the will of the people. As such law becomes an important source of rights and duties, which develop and strengthen alongside institutions of representative democracy, constitutional norms, and the rule of law. This course aims to understand law as a source of rights, as a progressively widening sphere of substantive justice, welfare, and dignity. This relationship between laws and rights will be studied through specific values which have come to be seen as integral for a democratic society viz., equality and non-discrimination, empowerment, redistribution and recognition of traditional rights etc.

MODULE-I: Rule of law and the Criminal Justice System in India

MODULE-II: Laws relating to criminal justice administration

- a. How to file a complaint, First Information Report (FIR)
- b. Detention, arrest and bail

MODULE-III: Equality and non-discrimination

- a. Gender: the protection of women against domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment
- b. Caste: laws abolishing untouchability and providing protection against atrocities
- c. Class: laws concerning minimum wages
- d. *Disability and* equality of participation and opportunity

MODULE-IV: Empowerment

- a. *Access* to information
- b. *Rights* of the consumer

MODULE-V: Redistribution, recognition and livelihood

- a. Traditional rights of forest dwellers and the issue of women's property rights
- b. Rural employment guarantee

MODULE-VI: Access to Identification documents and Social Security Schemes

Familiarise yourself with the following: Procedure for obtaining an Election Commission of India Identity Card, Driving license, Ration Card, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna, Old Age Pension Scheme.

Suggested Readings:

K. Sankaran and U. Singh, (2008) 'Introduction', in *Towards Legal Literac.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press

P. Mathew, (2002) *The Law on Atrocities Against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*, Indian Social Institute. New Delhi.

P. Mathew, (2004) *The Minimum Wages Act, 1948*, New Delhi:

S. Naib, (2013) 'Right to Information Act 2005', in *The Right to Information in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi

Dreze, Dey and Khera, (2008) *Employment Guarantee Act, A Primer*, National Book Trust, New Delhi