Chanakya National Law University, Patna

Course: Caste Survey

Elective Course: 1 Credit (16 hours)

1. **Course Overview**

Caste, as a distinct social institution of Indian society, stirs up ambivalence in the minds and attitudes of people in contemporary India. On the one hand, as modern liberal citizens, we reject caste as a remnant of the past that will eventually die its natural death. On the other, we witness caste-based discrimination and inequality, shaping social attitudes and political behavior of people. Amidst such ambivalence, the recent codification of caste data in Bihar and its release in the public domain has reaffirmed the social and political relevance of caste in Indian society. Thus, it becomes pertinent to understand the current politics around the codification of socio-economic data on caste in its socio-historical context.

This one-credit, elective course, fulfills this purpose by familiarizing students with the socio-political context in which the codification of caste data can be seen. To do so, the course is divided into two modules. The first module focuses on the socio-political relevance of codifying caste data in modern India given the contemporary experiences of caste inequality, discrimination, and mobility in Indian cities, institutes of higher learning, and job markets. The second module delves into the critical junctures in the journey of caste in modern India, leaving behind deep socio-political imprints on Indian society.

2. **Learning Outcome**

Together, these modules enable the students to critically appreciate the politics of codifying caste data and its potential and limits in advancing democracy and development in neoliberal India.

3. **Modules**

Module 1: Socio-Political Relevance of Codifying Caste Data (8 lectures)

Caste Survey: Politics and Social Welfare

- Bihar Caste Survey Explained: What's the Demand of Caste Census, What's its Sociopolitical Relevance?
  https://www.outlookindia.com/national/bihar-caste-survey-explained-what-s-the-demand-of-caste-census-what-s-its-sociopolitical-relevance-news-321952

Caste in Modern India

- Kothari, R. (1999). Caste and Modern Politics, in S. Kaviraj (ed.) *Politics in India.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 57-70.

Caste Inequality, Discrimination, and Mobility

- Deshpande, A. (2000). Does Caste Still Define Disparity? A Look at Inequality in Kerela, India, *American Economic Review, 90*(2), 322-325.
- Kumar, V. (2021). Nature and Dynamics of Caste Discrimination on Higher Education Campuses: A Perspective from Below, *Cross Currents: An International Peer-Reviewed Journal on Humanities and Social Sciences, 7*(1), 34-40.
- Deshpande, A., & K. Newman. (2007). Where the Path Leads: The Role of Caste in Post-University Employment Expectations, *Economic and Political Weekly,* October 13, 4133-4140.
- Naudet, J. (2014). Finding One's Place among the Elite: How Dalits Experiencing Sharp Upward Social Mobility Adjust to their New Social Status, in C. Still (ed.) *Dalits in Neoliberal India: Mobility or Marginalization?* New Delhi: Routledge, pp. 236-258.

Module 2: Journey of Caste in Modern India (8 lectures)

Compensatory Discrimination

- Galanter, M. (1999). Pursuing Equality: An Assessment of India's Policy of Compensatory Discrimination for Disadvantaged Groups, in S. Kaviraj (ed.) *Politics in India.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 187-199.

Mandal and Kamandal

- Kumar, A. (2023). Mandal 2.0 Versus Kamandal: Has Congress Got its Political Antidote for BJP's Hindutva?
  https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/mandal-kamandal-has-congress-got-its-political-antidote-for-bjp-hindutva-2379967-2023-05-16

Post-Mandal

- Ranjan, S., & P. Kumar. (2023). High Hopes, Uncertain Future: The Curious Case of Caste Survey in Bihar.
  https://www.outlookindia.com/national/high-hopes-uncertain-future-the-curious-case-of-caste-survey-in-bihar-weekender_story-321701
- Carswell, G., & G. De Neve. (2014). T-shirts and Tumblers: Caste, Dependency, and Work Under Neoliberalization in South India, *Contributions to Indian Sociology, 48*(1), 103-131.
- Lee. J. (2023). Caste and Hindutva, in S. Jodhka & J. Naudet (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Caste.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 279-290.

4. **Evaluation (15 + 10 = 25, Scaled to 100)**

- **Written Assignment (15 Marks):** Students will submit one written assignment (approximately 2000 words). The students will map and document divergent views on codification of caste data available in the public domain. The students can scan newspapers, popular magazines, YouTube videos etc. for the purpose of this assignment and submit a reflective note on the politics of codifying caste data in India. The assessment will be based on the quality of content, structure of the written assignment, articulation (ability to make creative connections between different views) and the quality of reflection.
- **Classroom Participation and Discussion (5+5 = 10 Marks):** Students will attend minimum 12 lectures, and have to participate in classroom discussions after reading the suggested reading material.

5. **Course Instructors' Details**

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Designation: Assistant Professor of Sociology

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