

Sociology
Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) 02
Sociology of Work

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE 02: SOCIOLOGY OF WORK

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
DSE 02 Sociology of Work	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Course Learning Objectives:

1. The course journeys into the socio-cultural aspects of work, known commonly by its economic character. It shows how being fundamental to humankind, work took various forms in pre-industrial times, but industrialization integrally changed its character with far-reaching social consequences. In this context, it also traces the evolution of the Sociology of Work as a sub-discipline, in the light of the ideas of the classical sociologists.
2. The course also examines sociological perspectives regarding the nature and socio-cultural consequences of industrialization, critically evaluating them in the context of non-western societies. The extent to which the information revolution has led to a social transformation comparable to that caused by industrialization is also examined in this context.
3. Further, the course addresses various work-related contemporary issues and concerns such as formal and informal sector work, unpaid and forced work, gender segregation and alienation in work and hazardous work.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. *Demonstrate* the socio-historical context of work.
2. *Understand and interpret* work in its important social aspects such as gendered work, unpaid work, and alienation as different from its better known economic dimension.
3. *Analyze* work in its global dimensions including the mutual relation between work in underdeveloped societies and in developed ones.

4. *Develop a comparative perspective in the study of work, focusing on the differences in the social impact of work in western and non-western contexts.*

SYLLABUS OF DSE-02

Unit 1: Work in Historical Perspective (9 Hours)

In this unit, work is traced through pre-industrial times in the form of gathering and hunting, pre-industrial agriculture and artisan work. Further, the conceptualization of work and its analysis in classical and contemporary sociological literature is reviewed.

- a. Work in pre-industrial society
- b. Sociology of Work: An Overview

Unit 2: Industrial Culture and Organisation (9 Hours)

This unit addresses work in industrial society, analyzing the social impact of industrialization through the theories of industrialization, industrialism, post-industrialism and information society.

- a. Industrialisation, Industrialism and post-industrialism
- b. Information Society

Unit 3: Work in the Informal Sector (9 Hours)

In this unit, the focus is on the sociological analysis of the informal, unorganized sector of work, with a view to bringing out the many continuities that exist between it and the formal, organized sector.

Unit 4: Dimensions of Work (18 Hours)

This unit discusses various important dimensions of work, focusing on the way in which they have been theoretically conceptualized as well as on their manifestation in actual work contexts.

- a. Alienation
- b. Gender
- c. Unpaid Work and Forced Labour
- d. Risk, Hazard and Disaster

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings

Unit 1: Work in Historical Perspective:

a. Work in pre-industrial society.

Volti, Rudi. (2011) *An Introduction to the Sociology of Work and Occupations*. Sage Publications, Inc. (second edition). Chs. 1 and 2, Pp. 1-16 and 19-35.

b. Sociology of Work: An Overview

Strangleman, Tim. (2016). The Disciplinary Career of the Sociology of Work. In Edgell, Gottfried and Granter (Ed.), *The Sage Handbook of the Sociology of Work and Employment*. Los Angeles/London/New Delhi/Singapore/Washington DC, Sage Reference, Ch. 2.

Unit 2: Industrial Culture and Organization

a. Industrialisation, Industrialism and Post-industrialism

Ramaswamy E. A. and Uma Ramaswamy. (1981) *Industry and Labour*. New Delhi, Oxford University Press. Ch 3, Pp.33-65.

b. Information Society

Kumar, Krishan. (1999) *From Post-Industrial to Post-Modern Society*. Oxford, Blackwell Publishers Ltd. Ch 2, Pp 6-35.

Unit 3: Work in the Informal Sector

Breman, Jan. (2003). The Informal Sector in Veena Das (Ed.), *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*, New Delhi, OUP. Pp. 1287-1312.

Kumar, Sanjay and Sharit Bhowmik. (2010). Street Vending in Delhi in Sharit Bhowmik (Ed.), *Street Vendors in the Urban Global Economy*. Routledge. Pp. 46-67.

Unit 4: Dimensions of Work

a. Alienation

Erikson, Kai. (1990). On Work and Alienation in Erikson, K. and S.P. Vallas (Eds.), *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*. New Haven and London, American Sociological Association Presidential Series and Yale University Press. Pp. 19-33.

Taylor, Steve. (1998). Emotional Labour and the new Workplace. In Thompson and Walhurst (Eds.), *Workplace of the Future*. London, Macmillan. Pp. 84-100.

c. Gender

Hynes, Kathryn and Kelly Chandler. (2008).Gender in the workplace. In Wethington, Elaine and Rachel Dunifon (Ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Life Course and Human Development*, Gate Publishers. Pp.163-169.

Chowdhury, Prem. 1993. High Participation, Low Evaluation: Women and Work in Rural Haryana, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 25, Pp.136-148.

c. Unpaid Work and Forced Labour

Edgell, Stephen. Unpaid Work-Domestic and Voluntary work. In *The Sociology of Work: Continuity and Change in Unpaid Work*. New Delhi: Sage, 2012. Pp.153-181.

Coser, Lewis. (1990). Forced Labour in Concentration Camps. In Erikson, K. and S.P. Vallas (eds.) *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*. New Haven and London, American Sociological Association Presidential Series and Yale University Press, 2006. Pp. 162-69.

d. Risk, Hazard and Disaster

Visvanathan, Shiv. (1986)Bhopal: The Imagination of a Disaster, *Alternatives* XI, Pp. 147-165.

Zonabend, Francoise. The Nuclear Everyday in Massimiliano Mollona, Geert De Neve and Jonathan Parry (Ed.), *Industrial Work and Life: An Anthropological Reader*. London, Berg, 2009. Pp. 167-185.

Suggested Readings:

Bell, Daniel. *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*. London, Heineman, 1976. Introduction, Pp.12-45.

Devine, Fiona. (1992). Gender Segregation in the Engineering and Science Professions: A case of continuity and change. In *Work, Employment and Society*, 6 (4). Pp.557-75.

Freeman, Carla. (2009) Femininity and Flexible Labour: Fashioning class through gender on the global assembly line. In Massimiliano Mollona, Geert De Neve and Jonathan Parry (Eds.), *Industrial Work and Life: An Anthropological Reader*. London, Berg, Pp. 257-268.

Grint, Keith. (2005). Classical Approaches to Work: Marx, Durkheim and Weber. In *The Sociology of Work: An Introduction*. Polity Press, Cambridge,. Pp. 90-112.

Talib, Mohammad. (2010). *Writing Labour- Stone Quarry Workers in Delhi*. New Delhi, OUP. Chapter 1, Pp. 23-54.

Additional Resources:

Audio Visual Material:

1. Chaplin, Charlie 1936. ‘Factory Scene’- 'Modern Times'
2. Cole, Nigel 2010. “*Made in Dagenham*”
3. Alux.com “15 Jobs that will disappear in the next 20 years due to AI”
4. NatGeo, 2014. “The Bhopal Disaster: India”

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.