

Sociology
Generic Elective (GE) 24
Sociology of Childhood

GENERIC ELECTIVE COURSE-24 (GE-24) : Sociology of Childhood

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		
GE 24 Sociology of Childhood	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce students to an interdisciplinary perspective on children and childhood.
2. To explore childhood through a variety of perspectives: sociological, economic, legal and cultural.
3. To understand the distinctive nature of Indian perspectives on childhood.
4. To foster an understanding of aspects of childhood which are key to achievement of **SDG 4 – Quality Education** and **SDG-5 Gender Equality**

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Analyse childhood through historical, anthropological and contemporary perspectives.
2. Identify and assess the diverse and interconnected issues in the study of childhood.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the complexities in defining child and the nature of childhood in society.
4. Demonstrate understanding of aspects of childhood which are key to achievement of **SDG 4 – Quality Education** and **SDG-5 Gender Equality**

SYLLABUS OF GE:

Unit I. Child and Childhoods (6 Hours)

This unit introduces students to interdisciplinary perspectives in the study of childhood

a. Child in History and Society

b. Sociology of Childhood

Unit II. Childhood: Cultural Contexts

This unit explores the cultural contexts of Childhood in terms of socialization, peer cultures, consumption and Media.

a. Socialization and Peer Cultures

b. Consumption and Media

Unit III. Childhood: Social and Economic Contexts

This unit investigates the questions of unequal childhood and child labour

a. Inequality and Neglect

b. Child Labour and Child Rights

Unit IV. Childhood in Indian Context (12 Hours)

This unit introduces the distinctive ways in which childhood has been explored in the Indian context.

a. Indian Childhoods

b. Voices and Representations

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Child and Childhoods

a. Child in History and Society

Montgomery, Heather. *An Introduction to Childhood: Anthropological Perspectives on Children's Lives*. Germany: Wiley, 2011. Ch.2 What is a Child? Pp. 50-78.

Zelizer, Viviana A. *Pricing the Priceless Child: The Changing Social Value of Children*. United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, 1994. Ch. 3 From Child Labor to Child Work: Redefining the Economic World of Children. Pp. 73-112. (35).

b. Sociology of Childhood

Prout, Alan. Allison James. Ed. *Constructing and Reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of Childhood*. United Kingdom: Falmer Press, 1997. Ch 1. A New Paradigm for the Sociology of Childhood? Provenance, Promise and Problems. Pp. 7-32.

Unit II. Childhood: Cultural Contexts

a. Socialization and Peer Cultures

Lancy, David F. *The Anthropology of Childhood: Cherubs, Chattel, Changelings*. Cambridge University Press, 2014. Ch. 4. It takes a village. Pp. 120-163.

Corsaro, William A. *The Sociology of Childhood*. 4e. United States: Sage Publications, 2017. Ch. 6. Children's Peer Cultures and Interpretive Reproduction. Pp. 121-149.

Sahi, Jane H. "Bala Krishna: A paradigm of childhood relevant to the present time." Ankur Madan, Shailaja Menon, T. S. Saraswathi (ed) *Childhoods in India*. Routledge India, 2017. 130-156.

b. Consumption and Media

Pugh, Allison J. *Longing and Belonging: Parents, Children, and Consumer Culture*. University of California Press, 2009. Preface, Chapter 1. Care and Belonging in the Market. Pp 1-26.

Livingstone, Sonia. *Young People and New Media: Childhood and the Changing Media Environment*. United Kingdom: SAGE Publications, 2002. Ch 1. Childhood, Youth and the Changing Media Environment. Pp. 1-26.

Unit III. Childhood: Social and Economic Contexts

c. Inequality and Neglect

Lareau, Annette. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. United Kingdom: University of California Press, 2011. Ch. 2 Social Structure and Daily Life. Pp. 14-32.

Miller, Barbara D. Female Infanticide and Child Neglect in Rural North India in Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Child Survival: Anthropological Perspectives on the Treatment and Maltreatment of Children*. Springer, 2012. Pp. 95-108.

b. Child Labour and Child Rights

Heywood, Colin. *A History of Childhood*. 2e. United Kingdom: Polity Press, 2018. Ch. 8 Children at Work in Agricultural Societies & 9 Child Labour and Industrialization. Pp. 129-156.

Appell, Annette Ruth. The Pre-political Child of Child-Centered Jurisprudence, in Anna Mae Duane. Ed. *The Children's Table: Childhood Studies and the Humanities*. University of Georgia Press, 2013. Pp. 19-34.

Unit IV. Childhood in the Indian Context

a. Indian Childhoods

Nieuwenhuys, Olga. "Is there an Indian childhood?." *Childhood* 16.2 (2009): 147-153.

Balagopalan, S. (2011). Introduction: Children's lives and the Indian

context. *Childhood*, 18(3), 291-297.

b. Voices and Representations

Das, Veena. "Voices of Children." *Daedalus* 118, no. 4 (1989): 262–94.

Raman, Vasanthi. "Politics of Childhood: Perspectives from the South." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 35, no. 46 (2000): 4055-4064.

Uberoi, Patricia. *Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family, and Popular Culture in India*. India: Oxford University Press, 2006. Ch. 3. "Baby" Icons: Forms and figures of a new generation. Pp. 85-105.

Suggested Readings:

Kakar, Sudhir. *Indian Childhood: Cultural Ideals and Social Reality*. India: Oxford University Press, 1979.

Young-Bruehl, Elisabeth. *Childism: Confronting Prejudice Against Children*. United Kingdom: Yale University Press, 2012. Ch. 1 Anatomy of a Prejudice. Pp. 18-58

Aries, Philippe. *Centuries of Childhood: A Social History of Family Life*. United Kingdom: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 1962.

Corsaro, William A. *The Sociology of Childhood*. 4e. United States: Sage Publications, 2017. Ch. 6. Children's Peer Cultures and Interpretive Reproduction. Pp. 121-149.

Donzelot, Jacques. *The Policing of Families*. United States: Pantheon Books, 1979.

Gailey, C. W. Rethinking Child Labor in an Age of Capitalist Restructuring. *Critique of Anthropology*, 1999, 19(2), 115–119.

Hardman, Charlotte. "Can there be an Anthropology of Children?," *Childhood*, 2001, Vol. 8 (4), pp. 501–517.

Hecht, Tobias. *At Home in the Street: Street Children of Northeast Brazil*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1998. Ch. 2. Being in the Street. Pp. 41-69.

Hirschfeld, L. A. Why Don't Anthropologists Like Children? *American Anthropologist*, 2002, 104(2), 611–627.

Jenks, Chris. *The Sociology of Childhood: Essential Readings*. United Kingdom: Batsford Academic and Educational, 1982.

Jenks, Chris. *Childhood*: Second Edition. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2020.

Kehily Mary Jane. ed. *An Introduction to Childhood Studies*, Maidenhead: Open University Press. 2009.

LeVine, Robert A. 2007. "Ethnographic Studies of Childhood: A Historical Overview", *American Anthropologist*, 109 (2 June), pp. 247-260.

Mead, Margaret 1975. *Growing up in New Guinea: A Comparative Study of Primitive Education*. New York: Morrow.

Mintz, Steven. *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood*. United Kingdom: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Pande, Ishita. 2012. "Coming of Age: Law, Sex and Childhood in Late Colonial India", *Gender & History* 24, no. 1 pp. 205–230.

R. Steinberg, Shirley. *Kinderculture: The Corporate Construction of Childhood*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2018.

Trawick, Margaret. *Enemy Lines: Warfare, Childhood, and Play in Batticaloa*. United Kingdom: University of California Press, 2007.

Wyness, Michael. *Contesting Childhood*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2002.

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