

Programme: M. A. Women's Studies

Title of the Course: WOMEN'S HEALTH - CRITICAL DEBATES

Course Code: WST505

Number of Credits: 4

Effective from Academic Year: 2022- 2023

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| <u>Course prerequisite :</u> | Registration in the MA Women's Studies Programme | |
| <u>Objectives:</u> | The course discusses the debates around health policy and programme in India and stresses the potential for women's agency and autonomy with respect to improving their health and environments. | |
| <u>Content:</u> | Module 1: Health, Gender and Power: Discrimination, Food access and Health. Traditional medicine: women and the power of knowledge over traditional health systems, family kitchens, pregnancy and childbirth etc. Harmful traditional practices and women's health. Women's bodies as sites of control –menstruation, family planning and contraceptive technology. The gender of health care providers. | 15 hours |
| | Module 2: Health Policy in India: Welfare to Empowerment, Family Planning, Surrogacy Laws. Reproductive health and health care. Debates around PC and PNDT Act, abortion and medical termination of pregnancy. Women's health and the global environment. Medicalization of women's health concerns. Women as consumers of healthcare and health insurance. Gender and Nutritional status | 15 hours |
| | Module 3: Women's Experience and Health: Health and Violence: Psychological concerns and women coping with stress (PMS, Postnatal depression and other mental health concerns): Alcoholism, drug abuse. Lifestyle and health including sterility. Special issues in women's health (menopause, cervical and breast cancer, hysterectomy, violence, AIDS and aging) Health, hygiene and sanitation | 15 hours |
| | Module 4: Understanding health from available data sources (sex ratio, mortality, morbidity, hygiene and sanitation, etc.): WHO, NFHS, DLHS, State Health Intelligence Bureaus etc. State health related schemes and programmes. Five year plans and committees on health sector. Women and health during the disaster, | 15 hours |

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| | pandemic and emergency situations. | |
| <u>Pedagogy:</u> | Lectures, assignments, self-study, documentaries and discussion, group readings and discussions, poster making, presentations | |
| <u>References:</u> | <p>Conrad Peter.2001.<i>The Sociology of Health & Illness</i>. New York: Worth Publishers.</p> <p>Desouza Shaila (ed.) 2006. <i>Women's Health in Goa: A Holistic Approach</i>. New Delhi: Concept Publishers.</p> <p>Desouza Shaila. 2005. <i>A Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in Goa</i>,(Monograph) New Delhi: National Commission for Women.</p> <p>Karkal Malini (ed.) 1995. <i>Our health: How does it count? In Our Lives Our Health</i>. Coordination Unit. World Conference on Women – Beijing 95.</p> <p>Malwande Alaka Basu. 1995. Women's roles and the gender Gap in Health and Survival in Monica Das Gupta, Lincoln Chen and T.N Krishnan (eds.) <i>Women's Health in India: Risk & Vulnerability</i>. New Delhi: Oxfam.</p> <p>Pande R & Vanka Sita 2019. Gender, Law and Health: International Perspectives . Rawat Publications, New Delhi</p> <p>Sangath. 2001. <i>State of Goa's Health: A Report, 2001</i>. New Delhi: Voluntary Health Association of India.</p> <p>Sen Geetha et al (ed.) 1994. <i>Population Policies Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment and Rights</i>. Boston: Harvard School of Public Health.</p> <p>White Kevin.2009. <i>An Introduction to the Sociology of Health and Illness</i>. Los Angeles Sage Publications</p> <p>WHO Gender and Health: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857_eng.pdf</p> | |
| <u>Course Outcomes</u> | This course will help students get a better understanding of the politics of gender and health of women as well as the politics of health care. | |