

Programme Project Report (PPR)
for
Distance Learning Programme under School of Distance Education

Certificate in Ambedkar Studies(CAS)

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Rajesh Komath

Academic support by
School of Social Sciences
Mahatma Gandhi University
Kottayam.

Certificate in Ambedkar Studies

(Distance Learning Programme--Certificate Programme)

Programme Project Report

Mahatma Gandhi University started the School of Distance Education in 1989 with a vision to provide the opportunity of quality education to all realms of society. Since the beginning, thousands of students availed this opportunity for higher education throughout Kerala to a great extent and also outside the state to some extent. But after the new directions of UGC in 2014, University had stopped all its Off-Campus Centres of the School of Distance Education inside and outside the State.

Now it is the new endeavour to revamp the functioning of the school with different types of Diploma and Certificate programmes very relevant to the contemporary society, in addition to the conventional Graduate and Post Graduate programmes with the academic and infrastructural support of the eminent Schools and interdisciplinary interuniversity Centres of the University. All these Schools/Centres have already conducted similar Programmes or Post Graduate Programmes in the same area. This Certificate Programme has been designed by the School of Social Sciences and to be conducted by the School of Distance Education with the academic support of the School.

School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University (hereafter, the School or SSS) was established in October 1989 with the objective of advancing teaching and research in social sciences by creating an altogether fresh space of scholarly conversation that transcends the existed disciplinary divides. The School currently offers, besides a Ph D Programme in interdisciplinary Social Sciences, three M Phil Programmes (in General Social Sciences, Social Transformation and Empowerment, and Human Ecology and Natural History) and two MA Programmes (in Anthropology and History). The School of Social Sciences is one among few institutions in India that offers M Phil programmes in Social Transformation and Empowerment, and Human Ecology and Natural History. It is one of the two centres in Kerala that offers a Masters programme in Anthropology. The annual in-take of students for MA and M Phil Programmes is fixed at 39. At any given time, however, the total student-strength, including students of senior batches and doctoral scholars, would be approximately 100.

a) Programme's mission and objectives

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's thought is essential to understand India's political past and it is a breach of peace for political society in contemporary India. It enables us to critically engage with past and present as Dr. Ambedkar's had a point to teach almost all aspects of India's culture, society, and polity. The entire volumes of writings and

speeches of Ambedkar which was compiled and published by Government of Maharashtra has been later taken up by almost all state governments to translate his philosophical thought in all regional languages. This has made students, teachers and ordinary persons to think about Indian nationalism, culture and society in a new perspective from below. It would also invite us to understand the social psyche of Indian society, social groups and politics. He was a philosopher, economist, anthropologist and a renowned scholar of law. His philosophical and epistemological positions about Indian society could be drawn from India's Constitution as he was the Chairman of the drafting committee of our Constitution. Indian Constitution itself is a document that teaches us fundamental values of democracy which is the key aspect of Ambedkar's thought. Knowing Ambedkar is one of the crucial point of critical thinking to locate India's past and its continuities in the contemporary. This course is intended to produce critical knowledge to engage with nationalism, state and minorities, contemporary social concerns, political contradictions and debates thereof.

b) Relevance of the Programme

To enable students of any branch of Science, Social Sciences and Humanities to creatively engage with Ambedkar's textual, contextual, symbolic, discursive and emancipatory theories and methods to explore substantial questions of nation, state, economy, religion, society and governance in contemporary India.

c) Nature of prospective target group of learners

Students from various streams of social science, humanities and sciences can join for the programme. Thus the prospective target group of learners include undergraduates, postgraduates, researchers and the general public who are desirous of studying such a programme.

d) Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning mode to acquire specific skills and competence

The course provides an outline of the state of art of social theory and empirical studies and will introduce Ambedkar and his ideas as a lens to understand Indian society, culture and economy.

e) Instructional Design

Certificate in 'Ambedkar Studies'							
Course Duration: Six months							
Course Code	Course Type	Course Name	Contact Sessions (hours)	Credits	Internal Marks	External Marks	Total Marks
CAS 101	Core Course	Life and Political Philosophy of	12	4	20	80	100

		Ambedkar					
CAS I02	Core Course	Indian Society and Ambedkar	12	4	20	80	100
CAS I03	Core Course	Ambedkar and Indian Constitution	12	4	20	80	100
CAS I04	Core Course	Economic Thoughts of Ambedkar	12	4	20	80	100
Total			48	16	80	320	400

f) Procedure for admission, curriculum transaction and evaluation

Admission to the programme will be done by the University through a common procedure for all the programmes under the School of Distance Education. A pass at the Plus Two level is the minimum eligibility criterion for admission. Candidates (undergraduates, graduates, and postgraduates) are eligible for admission irrespective of age. The fee structure will be decided by the University. The study materials will be delivered through online and print formats. The School will prepare an academic calendar/activity planner that will be circulated among all the learners at the time of admission itself. The academic calendar will include all the significant activities, important dates, schedule of submission of assignments, schedule of contact classes, schedule of examinations, etc.

Evaluation of the courses shall be done by the faculty themselves on the basis of internal assessment and end semester examinations. 20% of the marks will be decided by the internal evaluations and the remaining 80% by the end semester examinations which will be done by the University. The performance of a student in each course is evaluated in terms of percentage of marks with a provision for conversion to grade points.

Each student shall be required to do one Assignment/Book Review/Debate/Seminar/ Presentation of case study for each course. Assignments/Book Review after valuation shall be returned to the students. The teacher shall define the expected quality of the above in terms of structure, content, presentation and the like, and inform the same to the students.

Grading System will be followed for the evaluation on a ten point scale. The details of the grading system are given in the following Table.

Percentage Equivalence of Grade:

Range of % of Marks	Grade Letter	Performance	Grade Point
95 - ≤ 100	O	Outstanding	10
85 - < 95	A plus	Excellent	9
75 - < 85	A only	Very Good	8
65 - < 75	B plus	Good	7

55 - < 65	B only	Above Average	6
45 - < 55	C	Average	5
40 - < 45	P	Pass	4
< 40	F	Fail	0
Absent	Ab	Absent	0

'P' grade is required for a minimum pass in a course. The minimum GPA required for a pass in the Diploma programme is 4.

Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) :

Credit Points for the Course = (No. of Credits assigned for the course x Grade Point secured for that course).

GPA indicates the performance of a student in the programme. GPA is based on the total **credit points** earned by a student in all the courses divided by the total number of credits assigned to the courses required in the programme.

Note: GPA is computed only if the candidate passes in all the required courses (gets a minimum required grade for a pass in all the required courses as per the curriculum).

GPA =

$$\frac{\text{Total credit points earned by the student from all the required courses of the programme}}{\text{Total credits of all courses required in the programme}}$$

This formula shall be printed on the Grade Card issued to the student with a note that it could be used to convert the grades into mark-percentages. (The details of the grading system as indicated above shall also be printed on the Grade Card).

Conversion of GPA to Grade

GPA	Grade
10	O
9.0 - < 10	A plus
8.0 - < 9	A only
7.0 - < 8	B plus
6.0 - < 7	B only
5.0 - < 6	C
4.0 - < 5	P
< 4	F
Absent	Ab

Conversion of GPA to percentage

Equivalent Percentage = (GPA obtained) X 10

g) Requirement of the institutional support and library resources

The Library, Mahatma Gandhi University (Central and all social science departments) and its facilities will be extended to the learners as per the requirement.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library and Information System consists of University Library, libraries of Schools and four study centre libraries. The University library was established in 1989. The University Library which is situated in the main campus occupies purpose-built accommodation, and provides a variety of facilities and has a user-friendly environment. These include individual work spaces, room for group study and teaching, audio-visual access and online information retrieval system. The building of the University Library is 2000 sq me area consisting of the cellar, the ground floor and the first floor.

Academic as well as public users are given the facility to use the library. Special category membership is provided to journalists. The library is providing service from 8 am to 8 pm in 3 shift timings for its staff. The Library functions on an average of 345 days in a year. The libraries of the teaching departments are open during working hours of the schools. Reading space is provided in all three floors housing the various sections of the library. The library provides reading facility to the visually impaired users too. For this, an electronic lab custom made for visually and physically challenged users has been set during 2016.

The University library has a library advisory committee. It is an 18 members committee with Hon. Vice-Cancellor as Chairman and University Librarian as convener. The Library has a collection of 59, 000 books, 232 journals, 2135 PhD thesis and has access to 15, 000 + e-journals under E-shodh sindhu. The activities of the library are comprehensively automated using open source library, management software KOHA. OPAC, journal article index, by-monthly bibliography compilation and literature search service are also available.

The Library is a member of the INFLIBNET centre, Ahmadabad as well as DELNET (Developing Library Network). As a member of the networks, the library provides access to the resources of other major libraries in the country. In addition to the access to UGC INFONET consortium, it has access to major online data bases, such as EBSCO, Pro-Quest dissertations and thesis, Oxford Scholarship Online, IEEE all society periodicals package etc. Mahatma Gandhi University had won the state IT award during the year 2009 in the E-learning category for its University online thesis digital library. The various departments libraries have a good collection of subject specific book and journals.

A. Mahatma Gandhi University Library	
Category	No.
Books	59000
Journals	232
Bound Journals	7500
PhD Thesis	2135
E-Journals (in UGC-Infonet, renamed as E-ShodhSindhu)	15000
Online databases (in UGC Infonet)	11

Online Archives subscribed	185 titles
Online databases subscribed	4
E-books	7338
DVDs: Educational Videos	293

B	Name of School/Centre	Total No. of books	Books added during the last three years
	School of Social Sciences	18000	1500

h) Cost-estimate of the programme and the provisions

Budget estimate (for 100 students)

S.No.	Item	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	Manpower	2
2.	Study Material (preparation)	1.5
3.	Internal assessment	.5
4.	Books and periodicals	.5
5.	Examination	1
	Total	5.5

Total Programme fee: Rs.5500/-

i) Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes

The quality of the programme will be ensured through strict monitoring by an executive committee including the Co-ordinator of the programme, the subject experts, Director, School of Distance Education and Head of the School of Social Sciences. The Co-ordinator of the programme shall ensure the regular student feedback of courses, teachers and programme in the prescribed format towards the end of the semester and the same shall be analysed to draw conclusions for effecting improvement. Periodical review meetings on the programme efficacy will be held in which the remarks of teachers on curriculum, syllabi and methods of teaching and evaluation will be given due importance. Moreover, the progress and the quality of the programme will be monitored by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the University from the outcome and feedback of the learners as well as the proper documentation maintained in the Centre.

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Certificate in Ambedkar Studies (CAS)

Syllabus

CAS I 01

Life and Political Philosophy of Ambedkar

Module I

Life of Ambedkar---Biographical sketches--early influences through visits--intellectuals--company and his bitter experiences.

Module II

Ambedkar's role in British committees, commissions and conferences.

Module III

Ambedkar's reactions to British political reforms--Minto-Morle reforms--Monteague Chemsford reforms government of India Act, 1935.

Module IV

Ambedkar's conception of freedom-- role in freedom struggle--vision of new India.

CAS 102

Indian Society and Ambedkar

Module I

Caste system and untouchability--purity and pollution and untouchability--origin of untouchability.

Module II

Social democracy, economic democracy--state socialism--Budha or Marx, Gandhi and congress--pune pact.

Module III

Women's question--universal civil code--rights and representations.

Module IV

Hind Swaraj or state socialism--nation--nationalism and inclusive citizenship.

CAS 103

Ambedkar and Indian Constitution

Module I

Role as Chairman of the drafting committee--Social Justice--preamble of the Constitution--fundamental rights.

Module II

Abolition of untouchability--Directive Principles of state policy--state and minorities--reservation.

Module III

Views on human rights--right to equality and right to liberty--right against exploitation and right to religion--on culture and educational rights--constitutional remedies.

Module IV

Centre--state relationship--judicial system--central government--legislature--executive--finance--judiciary--constitutional safeguards.

CAS 104

Economic Thoughts of Ambedkar

Module I

Economic development and human development--human resource development and human development--social capital--socio-cultural dimensions of development.

Module II

Ambedkar and labour economics--views on labour--social theory of labour--exploitation--social, cultural and religious dimensions of labour exploitation--economic deprivation of Dalit labourers--solutions to unemployment.

Module III

Ambedkar views on national economy and society--economy and society--economic systems--national and sub-national economics--role of state in economic activities--allocation--distribution and stabilisation--objectives of economy--growth and equity.

Module IV

Ambedkar views on development and planning--agrarian economy and industrialization--poverty and employments--limitations of centralized planning system.

Reading list for all courses

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- _____, *Sociology: Introductory Readings*. Polity Press, London, 2004
- Barry Hindess, *Choice, Rationality and Social Theory*, Unwin Hyman, London, 1988
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- Bryan R. Wilson, *ed*, *Rationality: Key Concepts in the Social Sciences*, New York,
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- James Farganis, *Readings in Social Theory*, Routledge, London, 2003
- John Scott, *Sociology: The Key Concepts*, Routledge, London, 2004
- Nick Crossley, *Key Concepts in Critical Social Theory*, Sage, London, 2005
- Nigel Rapport, *Social and Cultural Anthropology: The Key Concepts*, London, 2003
- Partha Nath Mukherji *ed*, *Methodologies in Social Research*, Sage, 2000
- Peter Berger, *Pyramids of Scarcity: Political Ethics and Social Change*, Penguin
- Rob Stones, *ed*, *Key Sociological Thinkers*, Macmillan, New York, 2003
- Sayer, R. A, *Method in Social Science: A Realist Approach*, Routledge, London, 1992
- Young, T. R and Bruce Arrigo, *The Dictionary of Critical Social Science*, Westview
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- Ambedkar, Babasaheb. *Mr. Gandhi and the Emancipation of the Untouchables*.
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- Ambedkar, Babasaheb. *What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables*,
Bombay: Thacker, 1946
- Ambedkar, Babasaheb. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches. vol.I*,
Government of Maharashtra, 1989.
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(B.R. Ambedkar and His Egalitarian Revolution) Government of Maharashtra, 2003.
- Dalal, Suresh. *Dr. Ambedkar: Life and Mission*. University of Madras: Madras, 1998.
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Jodhka, Surinder. *Caste: Oxford India, Short Introductions*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Teltumbde, Anand. *Mahad: The Making of the First Dalit Revolt*. New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2016.

Omvedt, Gail. *Understanding Caste: From Buddha to Ambedkar and Beyond*. Hyderabad: Orient Black Swan, 2011.

Chandra, Bipan 1991 'Colonial India: British versus Indian view of Development', Review XIV: 1.81-167.

Chatterjee, Partha 1995. *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Keer, D. Dr. *Ambedkar: Life and Mission*, Popular Prakashan, 1962.

Ambedkar.B.R. *Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar Writings and Speeches* (Vol-10, part I), Education Department Govt of Maharashtra, 1991.

Omvedt, Gail. *B.R.Ambedkar*, Penguin Publishers, 2004.

Omvedt, Gail. *Budhism in India*, Sage Publishers, 2003.

Omvedt, Gail. *Dalit Vision*, Orient Longman, 1996.

Rajesh Komath. *Ambedkar Will Teach the Nation from His Statues*, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 52, Issue No. 25-26, 24 June, 2017.

Rajesh Komath. *The Subversion of Institutions and Creation of a Cultural Discourse*, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 52, Issue No. 16, 22 April, 2017.

Rajesh Komath. *How did Untouchability Deprived India? Contextualising Ambedkar's Perspective*, the Journal of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala, Vol. 8, 2017.

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M. S. Gore, *The Social Context of an Ideology: Ambedkar's Political and Social Thought*, Delhi: Sage Publication, 1993.

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