# Detailed Syllabi of Interdisciplinary Courses (IDCs)

**IDC 107**

## Understanding Indian Society

**Learning Objectives**

This course intends to:

- enable the learners to understand about different types of Indian Society
- enable the learners to know about the major social institutions like Family, Marriage, Kinship, Caste, and Tribe of India
- enable the learners to know about the status of Women in India

**Learning Outcomes**

After going through this course, learners will be able to:

- Understand about different types of Indian Society
- know about the major social institutions like Family, Marriage, Kinship, Caste, and Tribe of India
- know about the status of Women in India

**Syllabus**

**UNIT 1: INDIAN SOCIETY: UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

Meaning and Definition of Society and Culture; Indian Society and Culture; Unity and Diversity: Meaning and Concept; Forms of Diversity in India: Geo-physical diversity, Racial diversity, Linguistic diversity, Religious diversity.

**UNIT 2: TYPES OF INDIAN SOCIETY**

Urban Society; Classification of Cities; Problems of Urban Society; Rural Society in India, Types of Indian Villages, Local Self-governance in the Rural Areas, Criticisms of local self-governance system; Tribal Society in India; Approaches towards tribal society, Significance of 5th and 6th schedule of the Indian Constitution

**UNIT 3: MARRIAGES AND FAMILY IN INDIA**

Family and marriage, Concepts, Types, Criteria of family formation; Some important dimensions of family: Household, Patriarchy, Gender division of labour

**UNIT 4: KINSHIP SYSTEM**

Meaning; Definition; Types; degree of Kinship Rules; Taboos; Kinship structure and pattern in the different geographical zones across India

**UNIT 5: CASTE IN INDIA**

Caste –Meaning and Characteristics; Jati and Varna; difference between Caste and Class; Jajmani system; Dominant Caste; Caste through the Ages; Administrative Interpretation of Caste: Scheduled Castes and their problems; Abolition of Untouchability

**UNIT 6: CHANGING NATURE OF CASTE**
Casteism – Meaning and causes; Relationship between Caste and Politics; Caste and Voting behaviour; Political Elite, Caste Mobilisation

**UNIT 7: TRIBES IN INDIA**
Tribe: Definition and Meaning; Characteristics; T.B. Naik's Characterisation of Tribe; Anthropological Convention; Constitution of India and Scheduled Tribes; Common Characteristics; Classification and Distribution of Tribes; British Policy towards the Tribes; Policy during the Post-Independence Period

**UNIT 8: WOMEN IN INDIAN SOCIETY**
Women in Ancient India: Vedic and Post – Vedic Periods; Buddhist period; Medieval Period; Reform Movements and Struggle for Independence; Gender Relation in different period; Women Empowerment.

**UNIT 9: ECONOMY OF INDIAN SOCIETY**
Economy and types of Economies; Traditional Economic system and its characteristics; Command Economic system and its characteristics; Market Economic system and its characteristics, Mixed Economic system and its characteristics; Indian Economy before Independence; Indian Economy Post Independence Period; New Economic Policies: Liberalization, Globalization, Privatization

**UNIT 10: POLITICS IN INDIA**
Evolution of Indian Political Structure; Indian Structure Post Independence; Society; Decentralisation of power; Political Elite; Political Parties; Emergence of Electoral System

**UNIT 11: RURAL LIFE IN INDIA**
Evolution of Indian Villages; Characteristics of Indian villages; Agrarian Societies: Agrarian Class Structure; Land Reforms and Changes: Land Reforms in post-independence period, Current Scenario of Land Reforms in India

**Reading List**

Beteille, A., 1969, (ed.): Social Inequality: Selected Readings. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
Srinivas, M.N., 1962, Caste in Modern India and other essay. Bombay: Asia Publishing House.
Dumont, L., 1991, "Hierarchy Status and Power: The Caste System and its implications" in Dipankar Gupta (ed.), Social Stratification .Delhi: Oxford University Press..
Berreman, G. D., 1991, "The Brahmanical View of Caste" in Dipankar Gupta (ed.), Social Stratification. Delhi: Oxford University Press.