PAPER I

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

MAX MARKS: 100

EXTERNAL: 70

INTERNAL: 30

PASS: 40%

CREDITS: 6

Objectives: This module aims to provide a strong conceptual and theoretical foundation for understanding women's empowerment within socio-cultural and legal contexts. It seeks to develop critical awareness of gender as a social construct, examine historical shifts in women's status and introduce feminist and socio-legal perspectives that shape contemporary discourse on gender justice.

Course Outcomes:

After completion of this module, learners will be able to:

CO1: Explain key concepts related to gender, patriarchy and women's empowerment.
CO2: Analyse historical and structural factors influencing women's status.
CO3: Interpret feminist theoretical frameworks in relation to socio-legal issues.
CO4: Examine the relationship between law and social change from a gender perspective.
CO5: Identify international commitments related to women's rights and empowerment.

Section A

Unit 1: Gender as a Social Construct; Distinction between Sex and Gender; Gender Socialization; Patriarchy: Structure and Ideology
Unit 2: Historical Evolution of Women's Status in India
Unit 3: Concept of Women Empowerment and Development: Empowerment (Meaning and Dimensions)
Unit 4: Human Development and Capability Approach; Intersectionality: Caste, Class, Religion and Region

Section B

Unit 5: Feminist Theories: Liberal Feminism; Radical Feminism; Socialist and Marxist Feminism; Dalit and Postcolonial Feminist Perspectives
Unit 6: Law as a Social Institution; Relationship between Law and Society

Unit 7: Law as Instrument of Social Change; Socio-Legal Approach to Women's Issues

Unit 6: International Frameworks on Women's Rights: CEDAW and International Conventions; SDGs

Suggested Readings:

- Agnes, Flavia. (2011). Law, Justice and Gender: Family Law and Constitutional Provisions in India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Bhasin, Kamla. (2000). Understanding Gender. New Delhi: Kali for Women.
- Kumar, Radha. (1993). The History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800–1990. New Delhi: Kali for Women.
- Patricia Uberoi. (2006). *Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family and Popular Culture in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Sonowal, Karishma. (2019). Gender equality for sustainable development in India: An analytical study. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 8(2), 67–70.
- United Nations. (2014). World survey on the role of women in development: Gender equality and sustainable development. New York: United Nations Publication.