

# VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

Midnapore, West Bengal



*PROPOSED CURRICULUM & SYLLABUS (DRAFT) OF*

---

**B.A. (MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES) WITH  
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**

---

**3-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME**  
*(w.e.f. Academic Year 2023-2024)*

*Based on*

**Curriculum & Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes  
(CCFUP), 2023 & NEP, 2020**

---

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL

**VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HUMANITIES with HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**  
*(Under CCFUP, 2023)*

Level	YR.	SEM	Course Type	Course Code	Course Title	Credit	L-T-P	Marks			
								CA	ESE	TOTAL	
B.A. in Humanities with Human Rights Education	2 <sup>nd</sup>	III	<b>SEMESTER-III</b>								
			Major-A2	HREPMJ02	T: Promotion of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; P: Practical (To be studied by students taken Human Rights Edu. as Discipline- A )	4	3-0-1	15	60	75	
			Major-A3	HREPMJ03	T: Human Rights and Duties in India: Normative Framework, Constitution and Statutory Mechanisms; P: Practical (To be studied by students taken Human Rights Edu. as Discipline- A )	4	3-0-1	15	60	75	
			SEC	SEC03	P: Working Class and Human Rights Issues– case report	3	0-0-3	10	40	50	
			AEC	AEC03	Communicative English-2 (common for all programmes)	2	2-0-0	10	40	50	
			MDC	MDC03	Multidisciplinary Course-3 (to be chosen from the list )	3	3-0-0	10	40	50	
			Minor-3 (Disc.-C3)	HREMIN03	T: Environment and Human Rights and Duties (To be studied by students taken Human Rights Edu. as Discipline- C )	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
		<b>Semester-III Total</b>						<b>20</b>			<b>375</b>
		IV	<b>SEMESTER-IV</b>								
			Major-B2		To be decided (Same as Major–A2 for Human Rights Edu. taken as Discipline-B)	4	3-0-1	15	60	75	
			Major-B3		To be decided (Same as Major–A3 for Human Rights Edu. taken as Discipline-B)	4	3-0-1	15	60	75	
			Major (Elective) -1	HREMJE-01	To be chosen from the given options (To be studied by students taken Human Rights Edu. as Discipline- A )	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
			AEC	AEC04	MIL-2 (common for all programmes)	2	2-0-0	10	40	50	
			Minor -4 (Disc.-C4)	HREMIN04	T: Human Rights Education, Teaching and Training (To be studied by students taken Human Rights Edu. as Discipline- C )	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
			Summer Intern.	IA	Internship / Apprenticeship- activities to be decided by the Colleges following the guidelines to be given later	4	0-0-4	-	-	50	
		<b>Semester-IV Total</b>						<b>22</b>			<b>400</b>
		<b>TOTAL of YEAR-2</b>						<b>42</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>775</b>

MJP = Major Programme (Multidisciplinary), MI = Minor, A/B = Choice of Major Discipline; C= Choice of Minor Discipline; SEC = Skill Enhancement Course, AEC = Ability Enhancement Course, MDC = Multidisciplinary Course, CA= Continuous Assessment, ESE= End Semester Examination, T = Theory, P= Practical, L-T-P = Lecture-Tutorial-Practical, MIL = Modern Indian Language

**MAJOR (MJ)**

**MJ A2/B2 Promotion of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**

**Credits 04 Full Marks: 75**

**MJ 21/B2T: Promotion of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**

**Credits 03**

**Course contents:**

**A. United Nations for promotion of Human Rights and Regional Human Rights standards and mechanisms**

- i) UN bodies involved in promotion of human rights - Economic and Social Council, UN Commission on Human Rights and its sub-commissions on women, minorities, etc., General Assembly, Human Rights Committee and other committees under the various conventions, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, FAO.
- ii) European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights 1950 and institutions
- iii) Latin American standards and mechanisms for protection of human rights
- iv) African standards and mechanisms for protection of human rights

**B. International Humanitarian Law**

- i) Evolution of IHL since the mid-nineteenth century: IHL conventions 1864, 1899 1907, 1929, and 1949, 1977 Geneva Protocols II & I.
- ii) Basic principles: humanity, protection of civilians and civilian objects, humane treatment of prisoners and civilians under custody, prohibition of use of weapons and methods of warfare, causing superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering, prohibition of widespread, long-term and severe damage to natural environment.
- iii) Indian Geneva Conventions Act 1949: Indian Red Cross Society
- iv) The role of International Committee of Red Cross

**MJ A2/B2P: Project Report (on any chosen topic from the syllabus)**

**Credits 01**

**MJ A3/B3 Human Rights and Duties in India: Normative Framework, Constitution and Statutory Mechanisms**

**Credits 04 Full Marks: 75**

**MJ A3/B3T: Human Rights and Duties in India: Normative Framework, Constitution and Statutory Mechanisms**

**Credits 03**

**Course contents:**

**A. Normative framework of Human Rights and duties in India**

- i) Constitutional perspective: Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, Fundamental Duties, and their interrelationships
- ii) Statutory protection of human rights

**B. Enforcement of Human Rights: constitution and statutory mechanisms in India**

- i) Legislature, executive, and judiciary
- ii) National Human Rights Commission, other commissions and committees
- iii) Social, economic, political and administrative problems of enforcement

**MJ A2/B2P: Project Report (on any chosen topic from the syllabus)**

**Credits 01**

**Major Elective (MJE)-01: Women and Human Rights and Duties**

**Credits 04 Full Marks: 75**

**Major Elective (MJE)-01T: Women and Human Rights and Duties**

**Credits 04**

**Course contents:**

**1. Historical, philosophical and social perspectives**

**2. Status of women in contemporary Indian society**

- (i) Poverty, illiteracy, lack of independence, oppressive social customs and gender bias
- (ii) Violence against and abuse of women in public and private domains

**3. International norms for protection of women**

- (i) ILO conventions for protection of female labour
- (ii) UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960
- (iii) UN Convention on Political Rights of Women 1952, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, Convention on Nationality of Married Women 1957, Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages 1962, Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others 1949, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993, Convention on Political Rights of Women 1952
- (iv) Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace & Cooperation 1982
- (v) Documents of the Four World Conferences on Women: Mexico 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985, Beijing 1995
- (vi) Protection of women in armed conflicts
- (vii) Other relevant developments

**4. The constitution of India and the status of women**

- (i) Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles under the Constitution
- (ii) Special provisions for the protection of women: Article 15(3), Article 39 (d) & (e), Article 42, Articles 243-D & 243-T

**5. Special laws and policies for protection of women**

- (i) Special Laws: Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act 1956, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act 1982, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, Equal Remuneration Act 1976, Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Other laws having a direct bearing on protection of women
- (ii) Gaps between international norms and Indian law, if any
- (iii) Women and public policy: Female health and family welfare, literacy programmes, female labour welfare; Issue of current public debate: political rights of women (reservations and protection of women), personal laws and status of women

**6. Institutional mechanisms for protection of women**

- (i) Constitutional mechanisms: Legislature, Executive and Judiciary (special contribution of judiciary)
- (ii) Statutory mechanism: National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission, State Commissions
- (iii) The Non-Governmental Organizations
- (iv) The information media
- (v) Role of education

**OR**

**Major Elective (MJE)-01: Science & Technology and Human Rights**

**Credits 04 Full Marks: 75**

**Major Elective (MJE)-01T: Science & Technology and Human Rights**

**Credits 03**

**Course contents:**

**Unit-I: Conceptual Legal and Ethical Issues**

Concept of Science & Technology as a tool for furtherance of Human and Social Welfare;

Debates over 'Development': 'Quality' of Life: Spiritualism versus Materialism. Some ethical and legal issues: Developments in Biotechnology; Life sustaining technologies; Artificial Organs, Kidney dialysis, Life sustaining drugs. New Impacts of Science & Technology: Organ transplantation and sale of human organs, Computer crimes, Pornography online. New torture technologies.

**Unit-II: Information Technology and Human Rights**

Revolution in Information Technology, Right to Information, Problems of Imposing Reasonable Restrictions, Applicable Legal Norms: Article 19, 41, 45 & 46 of the Indian Constitution, Information Technology Act 1999, Other Indian Laws Relating to Media, Information Technology, Satellite communication, Cinematograph Act, Official Secrets Act 1926.

**Unit-III: Right to Food and Health**

Science & Technology to improve and diversify food production and storage, and for food security, Fertilizers, Biotechnology to produce improved varieties of Foods, Improvement in storage facilities. Impact of Bio-Technology in agriculture (Positive and Negative): Agriculture as a Commercial Industry. Science & Technology and improvement of individual and community health and hygiene, Experiments on living beings, Community health as a Public Service industry: Shift in character as a commercial industry, Role of multinationals, Pharmaceutical Industries, Changing role of Government.

**Unit-IV: Right to Development:**

Development (spiritual and material) as both the objective as well as the catalyst for realization of Human Rights, Human Welfare: Indivisibility of civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural Rights, Science and Technology as a tool of development, Declaration on the Right to Development 1986, Problems in access to technology applicable Legal norms.

## MINOR (MI)

**MI-3/ C3: Environment and Human Rights and Duties**

**Credits 04 (Full Marks: 75)**

**MI-3/ C3T: Environment and Human Rights and Duties**

**Credits 04**

### **Course contents:**

#### **1. Environment**

(i) Its meaning (ii) Concern for Environment: Historical Perspective (iii) Pollution and its effects on environment and life on earth

#### **2. Right to clean environment**

(i) Its content and scope (ii) Right to Environment versus Right to Development (iii) Sustainable Development (iv) Culprits and Victims (v) Implementation and Enforcement of the right (vi) Globalization of the Right: the planet earth and global commons

#### **3. Rights and duties: an international perspective (From Stockholm to Rio)**

(i) UN Declaration on the Right to Development 1986, International conventions on the protection of the environment, precautionary principle (ii) Debate on Social Clause and WTO (iii) Main Directions (iv) Future Goals

#### **4. National regime of environmental protection**

(i) Constitutional Rights and Duties (ii) Statutory Rights and Duties (iii) Emergence of a common approach

#### **5. Issues of environmental protection in developing countries**

(i) Inter-generational Equity (ii) Preservation of Natural Resources (iii) Indigenous People, Tribals and Forest Dwellers (iv) Poverty, Illiteracy and Environment (v) City Dwellers and Villagers (vi) Working Class (vii) Other living species

#### **6. Supplementary Rights and duties**

(i) Education (ii) Information (iii) Public Participation: Environmental Democracy

#### **7. Rights and duties in crisis: environment versus development**

(i) Mega Projects (ii) Industrial Accidents (iii) Impact of emerging problems of Science and Technological Development (a) Genetic Engineering (b) Hazardous Waste Treatment (c) Pollution Control Mechanism (d) Dumping of Waste and Discarded Technology (iv) Governmental Planning: (a) Industrial development (b) Master Plans (c) Inactions and Misactions

#### **8. Supervision and enforcement**

(i) Supervisory Mechanisms (a) Commissions (b) Committees (c) International Reporting Delegations under various treaties (d) NGOs (ii) Enforcement Agencies (a) Issues of liability, insurance (b) Courts: Process and Remedies (c) Tribunal (d) Arbitration and Conciliation

#### **9. Emerging concepts**

(i) Common Concern of Humankind: Common Heritage Principle (ii) Public Trust (iii) Precautionary Principle (iv) Inter-generational Equity (v) Sovereign Equality (vi) Concern for Unborn, Animals and Plants: Right of Future Generations (vii) Code of Environmental Culture and Ethics

#### **10. Threats to Indian environment**

(i) Forest Denudation (ii) Pollution of River Systems (iii) Indiscriminate Industrial Explosion (iv) Depletion of Rare Species (v) Bio-diversity

**MI-4/C-4: Human Rights Education, Teaching and Training**

**Credits 04 (Full Marks: 75)**

**MI-4/C-4T: Human Rights Education, Teaching and Training**

**Credits 04**

**Course contents:**

1. Human Rights Education, Tehran Conference 1968, Vienna Conference 1993,
2. Role of the Central and State Governments in Promoting Human Rights Education; UNESCO and its role in Human Rights Education for Social Change;
3. Human Rights Education in India and UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995 -2004);
4. Human Rights and Value Education,
5. Role of Government and Non- Governmental Organisations; Human Rights Teaching at School, College and University Levels;
6. Human Rights Education: The Legal Perspective; Research Priorities in Human Rights; Peace Keeping and Training of International Civil Servants.
7. Mandela Law (The World as it could be)

**SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE (SEC)**

**SEC 3: Working Class and Human Rights Issues– case report**

**Credits 03 Full Marks: 50**

**SEC3P: Working Class and Human Rights Issues– case report (Practical)**

**Course Outline:**

1. **Conceptual Issues:** Definition of working class, classification; Status of Working Class: Women, Children, Casual Workers, Bonded Labor, Agricultural Labor, Migrant Workers.
2. **Ideology and Working Class:** Basic Rights and Duties: Their Content and Scope – Association and Assembly, Work with Equality and Dignity, Education and Information, Trade Unionism and its Development, Industrial, Labour Safety.
3. **Labour Welfare Problems:** Health Hazards: Accidents, Occupational Decease; Social Security; Collective Bargaining; Workers’ Participation in Management; Retrenchment, Termination and Displacement; Work Culture and Welfare Measures; Industrial Conflicts and Insecurity; Impact of Technological Developments; Conflicting Rights: Worker’s Benefit v. Employer’s Inconvenience, The right to strike, Lockout and closure of Industry.
4. **International and Indian Standards:** International Framework: ILO Labor Standards; Debate on Social Clause and WTO; Indian Framework: Constitutional Protection; Worker’s Rights and Duties; Employers’ Responsibilities and Duties; Dispute Settlement Mechanisms.

***Practical Application:***

**Case Report** on any Human Rights issues for working class under the guidance of the course coordinator