II. Social Problems of Pakistan

Course Code: SW-102N
Credit Hours: 3 (3-0)
Semester: I
Discipline: Social Work
Category: Major
Course Title: Social Problems of Pakistan

Course Introduction

This course introduces students to major social problems of Pakistan from social sciences and Social Work perspectives. It develops students' understanding of how social, economic, demographic, environmental, cultural and institutional factors contribute to the emergence and persistence of social problems.
The course introduces major social problems including poverty and inequality, population growth, environmental degradation, health and illness, crime and justice, work and unemployment, beggary, religious extremism, child labour and gender inequality. Students are introduced to their basic causes, characteristics, consequences and implications for vulnerable populations and Social Work practice.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the concept, nature and characteristics of social problems.
2. Identify major social problems affecting Pakistani society.
3. Describe key social, economic, demographic and environmental factors contributing to social problems.
4. Describe major social problems from basic theoretical and social perspectives.
5. Identify the implications of major social problems for vulnerable individuals, families and communities.
6. Explain the role of Social Work in addressing major social problems in Pakistan.

Course Content / Assignments / Readings

Week	Course Content	Assignments / Activities
1	Unit-I: Understanding Social Problems 1.1 Concept and definition of social problems 1.2 Social problems in developed and developing societies 1.3 Basic theoretical perspectives on social problems	Class discussion
2	Unit-II: Nature and Causes of Social Problems 2.1 Nature of social problems in developing and underdeveloped societies 2.2 Social problems and social evils 2.3 Factors contributing to the emergence and persistence of social problems 2.4 Basic approaches to prevention	Individual assignment
3–4	Unit-III: Poverty and Inequality 3.1 Concept and dimensions of poverty 3.2 Inequality and social exclusion 3.3 Causes and consequences of poverty and inequality 3.4 Vulnerable populations and Social Work implications	Guided case study (Khalid, 2014; Keister & Southgate, 2022)
5	Unit-IV: Population and Social Problems 4.1 Population growth and demographic change 4.2 Population distribution and urbanization 4.3 Social consequences of population growth	Population profile exercise
6	Unit-V: Environmental Degradation	Environmental case discussion (ur Rehman & Zeb, 2020)

Week	Course Content	Assignments / Activities
	5.1 Urbanization and industrialization 5.2 Pollution and water scarcity 5.3 Climate change and human practices 5.4 Threats to public health, agriculture and livelihoods	
7	Unit-VI: Health and Illness 6.1 Health and illness as social problems 6.2 Environmental threats to health 6.3 Urbanization and lifestyle-related diseases 6.4 Health problems in developing countries 6.5 Access to healthcare as a social problem	Health-related case study (Evans, 2021)
8	Unit-VII: Crime and Justice 7.1 Concept and types of crime 7.2 Emerging trends in crime 7.3 Terrorism and cybercrime 7.4 Wildlife, forest and maritime crime 7.5 Criminal justice systems in developing countries 7.6 Women and child trafficking	Crime and justice case discussion (Evans, 2021)
9	Mid-Term Examination	Mid-Term Assessment
10–11	Unit-VIII: Work and Unemployment 8.1 Work and employment 8.2 Unemployment and underemployment 8.3 Sociological perspectives on labour markets 8.4 Work and immigrant labour 8.5 Social consequences of unemployment	Guided exercise (Duisekova et al., 2022)
12	Unit-IX: Beggary 9.1 Concept and nature of beggary 9.2 Causes and consequences 9.3 Beggary as a social welfare concern 9.4 Relevant laws and welfare responses	Beggary case discussion (Khalid, 2014)
		Group discussion
		Child labour case study (Evans, 2021)
		Gender inequality discussion and presentation (Keister & Southgate, 2022)
		Course review and reflection
		Final Assessment

Textbooks and Reading Material

1. Blackwell, E. (2020). *Wrong and Right Methods of Dealing with Social Evil*. Good Press.
2. Duisekova, S., Kerimbayeva, Z., Mussakhanova, A., Turgambayeva, A., & Stukas, R. (2022). Unemployment as a medical and social problem and incidence among unemployed young people. *Open Access Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, 10*(E), 198–205.
3. Evans, R. W. (Ed.). (2021). *Handbook on Teaching Social Issues*. IAP.
4. Keister, L. A., & Southgate, D. E. (2022). *Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender*. Cambridge University Press.
5. Khalid, Muhammad. (2014). *Social Problems of Pakistan*. Karachi: Kifayat Academy.
6. Kilby, K. (2020). *God, Evil and the Limits of Theology*. T&T Clark.

7. ur Rehman, H., & Zeb, S. (2020). Determinants of environmental degradation in economy of Pakistan. *Empirical Economic Review, 3*(1), 85–109.
8. Spector, M., & Kitsuse, J. I. (2017). *Constructing Social Problems*. Routledge.

Teaching Learning Strategies

1. Interactive lectures
2. Group discussions
3. Case study analysis
4. Student presentations
5. Guided issue discussion
6. Individual assignments
7. Reflective learning

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

Assignment / Activity	Timing	Type
Social Problems Concept Assignment	Weeks 1–2	Individual
Poverty and Inequality Guided Case Study (Khalid, 2014; Keister & Southgate, 2022)	Weeks 3–4	Group
Population Profile Exercise	Week 5	Individual
Environmental Degradation Case Discussion (ur Rehman & Zeb, 2020)	Week 6	Group
Health and Illness Case Study (Evans, 2021)	Week 7	Individual
Crime and Justice Case Discussion (Evans, 2021)	Week 8	Group
Work and Unemployment Guided Exercise	Weeks 10–11	Individual
Beggary Case Discussion (Khalid, 2014)	Week 12	Individual
Religious Extremism Group Discussion (Evans, 2021)	Week 13	Group
Child Labour Case Study (Evans, 2021)	Week 14	Individual
Gender Inequality Presentation	Weeks 15–16	Group
Social Work Responses Reflection	Week 17	Individual