



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL6571	Course Title: Gender, State and Society	
Trimester: 3	Course Type: Elective	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2024-2026	
Course Lead: Dr. Vasudha Katju	Assigned TA/RA:	

Course Description

In this course, we examine the state in light of the concept of gender. We examine the state as an agency which has a gendered character and which in turn shapes and channels gendered identities, institutions, relations, and experiences. We explore the state's impact on and intervention into gendered lives of those living within its territory, through the instruments of legislation and policy. We also note that the state is nonetheless subject to both internal and external challenges. Internally, the state is not a monolith but is made up of numerous institutions and agencies that contest and challenge each other. The state is also challenged by organised external actors that question its power and/or authority and/or seek to deploy that authority to their own ends. How do these factors shape how policies are made or fail to materialize? We explore these challenges to and uses of the power and authority of the state, in the context of gender.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the concept of the state, and the idea of the state as gendered
2. To identify how the state shapes gendered experiences and identities
3. To understand the negotiations between the state and organised political actors in the area of gender
4. To understand the formulation of policy in the context of the nature of the state and the challenges it faces

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyse the nature and role of the state in the area of gender
2. Illustrate how the state's stance on gender impacts everyday life

3. Delineate the contestations between the state and those subject to its regulations
4. Understand the process of the formulation of policy in the context of a gendered state and society
5. Strengthen their critical thinking and communication skills

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 2	Theoretical Backgrounds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defining the state 		
Unit II	Sessions: 3	Critiques of the state
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The state as heterogeneous ● The state as gendered 		
Unit III	Sessions: 5	State impact on gendered experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender identities: Trans Rights Act ● Gender and work: Bar Dancing ● Gender and community: Women and Property 		
Unit IV	Sessions: 3	State impact on institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gendered institutions: Gender and the family ● State institutions: National Commission for Women 		
Unit V	Sessions: 11	Engaging with the state
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hindu Code Bill ● Section 498A ● Women's Reservation Bill ● Gender budgeting ● Marital rape ● Mahila Samakhya ● Women's Development Programme ● Section 377 		