



MARATHWADA MITRA MANDAL'S

SHANKARRAO CHAVAN LAW COLLEGE

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC
202/A, DECCAN GYMKHANA, PUNE - 411 004.

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University & Approved by Bar Council of India, New Delhi
(Permanent Reg. No. - Id No. : PU / PN / Law / 179 - 2002)



Late. Shri. Shankarrao Chavan
Founder President

Shri. Shivajirao D. Ganage
President

Prin. Bhausaheb Jadhav
Exe - President

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL

Organizes

3rd Edition of the 3 months Certificate Course on

“Law and Alternative Sexualities”

25th August, 2023 – 2nd December, 2023

Marathwada Mitramandal's Shankarrao Chavan Law College has consistently strived to be a beacon of legal education, fostering an inclusive and diverse academic environment. With a rich history and a reputation for academic excellence, our institution has been dedicated to equipping students and professionals with the skills, knowledge, and empathy necessary to navigate the complex legal landscape.

Aim and Objective of the Course:

The Certificate Course on Law and Alternative Sexualities holds immense importance in today's rapidly evolving society. As attitudes towards gender and sexual orientation progress, so too must our legal understanding and advocacy. This course serves as a platform to delve into the legal, social, and ethical dimensions surrounding alternative sexualities. By addressing these topics, we aim to promote a deeper understanding of the rights, challenges, and experiences of individuals belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community. Also, such courses help not only in building awareness among our college students but also help in fostering the free exchange of ideas which would further help in building a college campus that welcomes diversity of opinion and people of all backgrounds.

To introduce and acquaint students with the concept of alternative sexual identities, and the history, law, politics, and literature of alternative sexualities in ancient, medieval and contemporary India.



Tel : 81493 40004 Email : mmsclco@gmail.com Website : www.sclco.edu.in

Need and Importance of the Course:

Looking at the need and importance about developing an understanding towards alternative sexualities or rights of sexual minorities in India, our College's Equal Opportunity Cell has initiated the third edition of our highly successful Certificate Course on Law and Alternative Sexualities. The previous two editions of this course have received an overwhelming response from students, professionals, and researchers. It has significantly contributed to educating participants on the history, socio-legal, medical, and mental health aspects relevant to the LGBTQIA+ community. The course has garnered praise from participants, legal professionals, and activists, highlighting its significance in bridging the knowledge gap in this field. This certificate course, 'Law and Alternative Sexualities,' has recently received significant recognition and acclaim. The esteemed C20 Samajshala, a G20 Initiative, has honoured our college for pioneering this ground-breaking course. This recognition serves as a testament to the impactful work we are doing to create a more inclusive society and empower individuals through socio-legal education.

Additionally, this course will enhance participants' employability, as there is a growing demand for professionals in NGOs and support groups working towards lesbian, gay, and transgender rights. Moreover, government organizations have also recognized the necessity of acknowledging and promoting the recognition of LGBTQIA+ rights, further emphasizing the importance of this course. The course has garnered praise from participants, legal professionals, and activists, highlighting its significance in bridging the knowledge gap in this field.

How it will help the Law students:

India happens to be only the 27th country in the world to legalize homosexuality. Law students need to know the history of Section 377 of the IPC since its inception in 1860, to its first reading down by the Delhi High Court in 2009, its subsequent reinstatement by the Supreme Court in 2013, and its final reading down by a constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in 2018. The changed law has ramifications for future legal issues such as same-sex marriage, adoption etc. The course will also include discussions on the NALSA judgement and various transgender rights bills. Several cases concerning the above are being fought in Indian courts at the present time by practising lawyers. A knowledge of these laws and the social, political and cultural issues surrounding them is imperative for law students who are desirous of having a holistic knowledge of the law.

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Curriculum of the Course:

Module I

A. Understanding LGBTQIA+ Terminology and Identities

Explore the diverse terminology and identities within the LGBTQIA+ community.

B. The Politics of Sexuality: Examining Sexual Preferences and Identity

Analyze the politicization of sexuality and its impact on the LGBTQIA+ community.

C. Deconstructing Heteronormativity, Heterosexism, and Homosociality

Critically assess the concepts of heteronormativity, heterosexism, and homosociality and their effects on society.

Review the literature pertaining to LGBTQIA+ studies for holistic understanding.

D. LGBTQIA+ Rights and Healthcare

Study the historical and current interactions between LGBTQIA+ individuals and healthcare, law, and law enforcement.

Module II

A. LGBTQIA+ History in Various Cultures

Explore the historical perspective of LGBTQIA+ issues in ancient Greece, Rome, France, Germany, England, and America, including the significance of the Stonewall Riot.

B. Legal Developments in India: Section 377

Examine the history and implications of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, and its repeal in 2009, 2013, and 2018.

C. LGBTQIA+ Family and Relationships

Investigate the concepts of gay marriage, civil unions, rainbow families, and the importance of inclusivity and intersectionality in relationships.

Module III

A. LGBTQIA+ Themes in Ancient and Medieval Indian Literature

Analyze the representation of alternative sexualities in ancient and medieval Indian literary works.

B. The Yogyakarta Principles

Familiarize participants with the Yogyakarta Principles, a set of international human rights standards on the application of international human rights law to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.



Through this dynamic blend of teaching methods and evaluation techniques, the certificate course aims to create a rich and enlightening learning experience, fostering both theoretical understanding and practical application of the subject matter. The inclusion of street plays further strengthens the course's mission to promote awareness and sensitivity among participants and the broader society.

Fees-

- Law Student from MMSCLC, Pune- Rs. 3,000/-
- Students from outside MMSCLC, Pune- Rs. 4000/-

Duration of the Certificate Course –

3 months (25th August, 2023 till 2nd December, 2023)

Mode of Teaching:

Hybrid mode (Online + Offline) through Google meet.

Link for joining sessions:

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xdp-wtxv-wgf>

Or dial: (US) +1 601-909-0323 PIN: 360 468 484#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/xdp-wtxv-wgf?pin=8823549892838>

Sessions - 41 (Each session will be for 2hrs to 2 ½ hrs)

Days – Thursday, Friday and Saturday (2:00pm to 4:30pm)

Details of the Course:

- Special guest lectures, interactive session-based workshop, videos, group discussion and films will be arranged/organized as a part of this certificate course.
- For each module students were graded on the basis of internal and external evaluation through written assignments, participation in quiz programs and multiple choice question format and group presentation.
- Graduates or Undergraduates above 18 years of age
- 3 months consisting of 41 sessions of 2 hours each on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- The course was conducted in online mode.



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- Interested students were requested to drop an email at courses@selc.edu.in enquiring for seat availability. On receiving the email, the coordinators interviewed the applicants to know about the applicant, their basic understanding of the topic and relevance of this issue in their professional career.

Principal Resource person of the Course:

About Dr. R. Raj Rao who is former Professor and Head of the Department of English at the SPPU, Pune University, India, where he taught Creative Writing and Queer Studies for over a decade, and Indian Writing in English for nearly 30 years. Dr. Rao obtained his PhD in English from the University of Bombay in 1986, and received the Nehru Centenary British Fellowship for postdoctoral research at the Centre for Caribbean Studies, University of Warwick, UK, in 1990. Also he has written several books, poetry, plays, articles and research papers in various journals at National and International Level. Rao has given readings from his work in London, New York, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Milan, Barcelona, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Montreal and Toronto, Dhaka and Colombo among other world cities, as well as all over India. He has been a visiting professor at Dresden University, Germany, Tübingen University, Germany and Concordia University, Canada. Dr. Rao has been a panelist at the Jaipur Literature Festival and at literature festivals in Bombay, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Goa, Lucknow and Shillong.

The key speakers intended for the third edition of the certificate course are as follows:

Principal Resource Person and Guest Speakers:

Prof. Dr. R. Raj Rao: Principal Resource and Former Professor & HOD English Literature Department, Savitribai Phule Pune University, academician, author, poet, playwright and carrying extensive international teaching experience, including Dresden University, Germany, Tübingen University, Germany and Concordia University, Canada. Currently Dr. R. Raj Rao is Adjunct Prof. at Nalanda University, Rajgir.

1. **Parmesh Shahani:** Author & LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Advocate, Founder and Former Head of Godrej India Culture Lab as Culture Curator, Mumbai.
2. **Ashok Rowkavi:** India's first Gay rights activist, Founder of HUMSAFAR-NGO, and visiting faculty at TISS, FLAME University, and scientific advisory committee member of ICMR-NARI, Mumbai.
3. **Maya Sharma:** Feminist, Lesbian and Queer activist, Author, and Founder of Vikalp, Women's Group exploring the lives of marginalized LGBT women, Vadodara.
4. **Dr. Sanjay Sharma:** Former Air Cmde, CEO & Managing Director ATHI (Association for Transgender Health in India), Gurgaon.
5. **Ms. Aruna Desai:** Co-founder, Sweekar-Rainbow Parents, Mumbai.
6. **Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil:** Crown Prince of Rajpipla, Chairperson and co-founder of Lakshya Trust, Gujarat.
7. **Zainab Javed Patel:** Chief Inclusion Diversity, Pernod Ricard India, Delhi.



8. **Kanav Sahgal:** Samvidhaan Fellowship Project Manager, VIDHI Centre for Legal Policy, Delhi.
9. **Dr. Kanchan Pawar:** Primary Care Physician and Public Health Consultant at Mit Clinic, Pune.
10. **Sr. Adv. Anand Grover:** Supreme Court Senior Lawyer and Legal Activist in Indian Law relating to homosexuality and HIV, Delhi.
11. **Dr. Aqsa Sheikh:** Transwoman, activist, MBBS, MD (Community Medicine), Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Jamia Hamdard University.
12. **Ms. Sarita Jadav:** National Program Officer, Health and Education, UNESCO, Delhi.
13. **Ruth Vanita:** Professor at University of Montana, USA, Indian academician, activist, and author specializing in British and Indian literary history with a focus on gender and sexuality studies.
14. **Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang:** Telangana's first Gay Couple
15. **Aditi Anand and Susan Dias:** Lesbian Couple married for 10 years, adopted a child, and co-founded companies (*subject to availability)
16. **Zahad and Ziya Paval:** First transgender couple in India to become biological parents, Kerala. (*subject to availability)

Module Specific Reading /Viewing List

MODULE 1

1. "History and Homosexuality" in *Foucault Live: Interviews 1961-1984* Ed. Sylvère Lotringer.
2. Eve Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*, Introduction, Axiom 1, 2 & 3.

MODULE 2

1. Suparna Bhaskaran, "The Politics of Penetration: Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code" in Ruth Vanita Ed., *Queering India: Same Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society*.
2. Gautam Bhan, "Challenging the Limits of the Law: Queer Politics and Legal Reform in India" in Arvind Narrain and Gautam Bhan Eds., *Because I Have a Voice: Queer Politics in India*.
3. R. Raj Rao, TED x VIT Pune Talk, You Tube.
4. R. Raj Rao, *Criminal Love? Queer Theory, Culture and Politics in India*, Chapter IX, "The Politics of Section 377, IPC."
5. Martin Dubberman, *Stonewall*.
6. Ruth Vanita, *Love's Rite: Same-Sex Marriage in India and the West*.
7. Parmesh Shahani, *Queeristan: LGBTQ Inclusion in the Indian Workplace*.

MODULE 3

1. Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai Eds., *Same Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History*.
2. Hoshang Merchant Ed., *Yaraana: Gay Writing from India*.
3. Ashwini Sukthankar Ed., *Facing the Mirror: Lesbian Writing from India*.
4. Minal Hajratwala Ed., *Out: Stories from the New Queer India*.
5. R. Raj Rao, *The Boyfriend*.



6. Laxminarayan Tripathi, *Me Hijra, Me Laxmi*, Translated by R. Raj Rao and P. G. Joshi.
7. A. Revathi, *The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story*, Translated by V. Geetha Shohini Ghosh, Fire.
8. Ojas Kolvankar and Shubham Ladha, "Hidden City" in *Verve*, January-February 2019.

FILMS/ MOVIES

1. *Fire* Dir. Deepa Mehta.
2. *Aligarh* Dir. Hansal Mehta.
3. *BomGay* Dir. Riyad Wadia.
4. *Quest* Dir. Amol Palekar.
5. *Brokeback Mountain* Dir. Ang Lee.
6. *No Easy Walk to Freedom* Dir. Nancy Nicol.
7. *The Pink Mirror* Dir. Sridhar Rangayan.
8. *The Bath House* Dir. Sachin Kundalkar.
9. *I Am* Dir. Onir Ban.
10. *Ajceb Dastaan Hai Yeh* Dir. Karan Johar, in *Bombay Talkies*.

VIDEOS

1. *Project Bolo* Dir. Sridhar Rangayan.
2. Discussion on *Aligarh* in *Talking Films Online*, You Tube.
3. *Memories Pierce the Heart: Homoeroticism Bollywood Style*, You Tube.

Weblinks for online study materials:

1. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/sex-and-relationships/new-and-expanding-hues-of-the-rainbow/story-7ac21xmkyYJhQKnE8FTqHN.html>
2. <https://www.google.com/search?kgmid=/g/12bnkvfcb&hl=en-IN&q=Whistling+in+the+Dark:+Twenty+One+Queer+Interviews&kgs=174886a6294ae145&shnd=17&source=sh/x/kp/osrp/4&entrypoint=sh/x/kp/osrp>
3. <https://literariness.org/2016/10/10/judith-butlers-concept-of-performativity/>
4. <https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/english/theory/genderandsex/modules/butlergendersex.html>
5. <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2016/11/14/judith-butlers-performativity/>
6. https://www.amazon.in/dp/9386446499/ref=cm_sw_r_wa_apr_glt_i_FH4Y20MBW69NA1JG7TKX
7. *The Color Purple* <https://g.co/kgs/2irwN3>
8. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1000072.A_Married_Woman
9. *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of Aids* <https://g.co/kgs/Ng8egi>
10. *Sexual dissidence* <https://g.co/kgs/72keiF>
11. *Madam, Give Me My Sex* <https://g.co/kgs/uwP8Rz>
12. *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* <https://g.co/kgs/UjXPMo>
13. Link for list of references made during lectures: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bGpqiQzy40ST7FbVmlqtW0J1ZMtiQk_FAuS_DbKZjYJk/edit?usp=sharing
14. https://www.instagram.com/p/CZ1z3rFPjMf/?utm_medium=copy_link

15. Link for document containing references made during lecture:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bGpqiQzv40ST7FbVmlqtwOJIZMtiOk_FAuS_DbKZjYJk/edit?usp=sharing
16. Playlist for Certificate Course on Law and Alternative Sexualities:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7Dqioy5szPdFECutzZR1ol_mvfl7eTohK
17. Here's a show for you... LGBT Kyun?
<https://open.spotify.com/show/6hUjExYeqxokvRjXF8OD9Y?si=0bYOscH9RqS-hvg6x9PHPQ>
18. Details about ATHI : <https://www.athionline.com/resources>
19. <https://www.athionline.com/gfej>
20. Transgender Persons Protection of rights Act
https://www.athionline.com/files/ugd/5cceb3_0235b81bca71403ea61421e9ba97c0e3.pdf
21. Transgender persons protection of rights rules 2020:
https://www.athionline.com/files/ugd/5cceb3_ddfdd93fb9244d4a8a7656c2e49dd69c.pdf

Number of Participants:

21 participants from all over India from different professional background enrolled for this course. (Law students, Software Engineer, Medical professional, PhD scholars, Gender Education Health Trainers, Social Activists and other professionals from the LGBTQIA+ community)

Interested participants are requested to pay the fees and submit this application form at courses@scl.edu.in

Summary of the sessions:

This report provides a succinct overview of the Law and Alternate Sexualities course, featuring prominent speakers such as Professor R. Raj Rao, Ashok Row Kavi, Maya Sharma, Adv. Anand Grover, Adv. Manuraj, Professor Ruth Vanita, Dr. Kaustubh Joag, Kanchan Pawar, Ziya and Zahad, Dr. Prof. Anagha Tambe, Kanav Sahagal, Ms. Sarita Jadav, Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil- Duke DeAndre Richardson, Aditi Anand - Susan Dias, Abhay- Supriyo Chakraborty, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Ms. Aruna Desai, and Dr. Aqsa Sheikh. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including LGBTQIA+ introduction with an emphasis on diversity, practical aspects of political lesbianism, exploration of the Alfred Kinsey Scale and spectrum of sexualities, transgender experiences and gender identity terminology, historical changes in the LGBTQ acronym, introduction of key figures in queer theory, examination of attitudes towards homosexuality in historical perspectives, and references to ancient scriptures and Lavender Marriages in cultural contexts. Other sessions delved into the distinction between sexuality and gender, findings from the Kinsey Study on sexual attraction diversity, discussions on the fluid nature of gender identity, introduction to Samoan gender categories like Fa'afafine, exploration of societal norms and control in sexual behavior, historical roles of hijra in third gender households, and the discussion of overlapping identities in intersectionality. The course also touched on the intersectional journey of Vikalp, engagement with the queer community, the AIDS pandemic and its impact, struggles faced by lesbian women in the 1970s-1980s, advocacy and role of Vikalp Sansthan in Article 377, and discussions on trans rights. Additional topics included challenges for same-sex couples in India regarding marriage



equality, historical references to same-sex relationships, the impact of societal barriers on mental health, and the exploration of LGBTQIA+ mental health conditions, societal determinants, and the debunking of mental health myths. The report also highlighted the significance of systemic support and advocacy for safe spaces. It touched upon the exploration of homosexuality in various cultures throughout history, the significance of the Stonewall Riots in LGBTQIA+ rights, and a deeper dive into historical perspectives on LGBTQIA+ identities in India. The report concluded with an overview of the intersectional journey of Vikalp, diverse insights shared in participants' presentations, a focus on transgender health in LGBTQIA+ health overview, and the intersection of healthcare, law, and queerness in India discussed by Dr. Aqsa Sheikh. The course compilation provided a comprehensive insight into the diverse content, speakers, and discussions, offering a snapshot of the rich and varied perspectives shared during the program.

Lectures details:

Linked created to submit the assignment:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-SqTUGBpMpT5gRyzKR06g7Mcl2-dMk4jWv6efXTdrkhMf_vw/closedform

Feedback Form link for individual sessions:

<https://forms.gle/51vgtHWRjoXNMgJX6>

Overall Feedback:

- According to many participants this course/ similar course should be a part of Gender Studies in the current curriculum offered by the various Universities.
- Learned about usage and employment of the term queer as both negative and positive through works and perspectives of different authors; and also perspectives on transgender identity through works of Revathi and Tripathi.
- Our education system needs to make knowledge and information about queer theories more accessible and easier to understand. "When we talk about queer theory, a lot it is prescribed to the English language. The vocabulary and language that we use are inaccessible at times. When such inaccessible information mixes with rigid ideas like religion and morality, it makes it difficult for the larger population to understand different ways of life that are not heteronormative or normative in the sense that we think of them to be. I feel this gap needs to be bridged, the gap regarding language and understanding. Colleges and education institutions should design courses and programs that will present all the information around queer studies in an accessible format so that it boosts awareness about the community."
- They got to learn about each of these terms in different meanings, like sexual, social, political and their relation with different movements within and outside the broader feminist movement and not only this such academic courses help in building awareness towards day to day problems that people from LGBTQIA+ community members face.
- Some of the participants learned about sexuality as a desire, with it's minoritizing view and it's universal view; i.e. fluid view versus binary view. They learned in detail about Judith Butler's concept of performativity and the 'obscuring of historicity.' Also, they have mentioned in the feedback that they get to learn how sex assigned at birth



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Founder President

Shri. Shivajirao D. Ganage
President

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Exe - President

- leads to gender (social) which leads to masculine-feminine (cultural or male-female), which leads to preference which can be biological or psychological but is universally thought of as heterosexual and understood the concepts of intersectionality and inclusion and how it has become a buzzword today.
- The session ended with more discussion around literature which crosses the boundary between religion, sexuality, and morality and trying to delink them, through different schools of thought and different scholars. We particularly looked at the example of Oscar Wilde's life and the concept of sexual deviance.
- "The biggest concern is the anxiety about being rejected. Acceptance is what they seek and they look out for people who may be accepting. Even though colleges should be treated equally, students from the LGBTQIA+ community get discriminated against due to a lack of awareness," Sharing about one of her students, she says, "That students pleaded for help and said that change my orientation because people outside won't accept me like this. As a counsellor, she felt that the more she knows the better she will be able to do for the community by providing them with the right kind of support and resources which will help them with their mental health and their life in general."


Dr. Kranti Deshmukh
Principal
SCLC, Pune


Dr. Renu Naidu
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Chairperson Equal Opportunity Cell
SCLC, Pune

Dated: 30/01/2024

