

One Semester Certificate Course on Parenting and Child Rights & Child Protection

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Parents/Primary Care givers are among the most important people in the lives of young children. In fact, parenting is the most important and challenging job any of us can have; yet, it receives little support or recognition in our society. That is, bringing up children is one of the most challenging and emotionally demanding jobs a parent will ever do. Sometimes it can feel that parenting has turned into a battle, rather than bliss. But parenting doesn't have to be a battle if they have the required orientation and skill. The common sense stereotype inculcates the belief that parents automatically know and understand how to guide children in the paths of life. Despite the fact that raising children is one of the most important endeavours we undertake as human beings, there is no training expected of us or routinely offered to help us do it to the best of our ability. Every other occupation, even those that don't affect other people's emotional well-being, typically requires some time spent learning and practicing but there is very little formal training for this task and parents are often isolated and without adequate support networks. But as formal degrees alone do not make good teachers or lawyers, so reproduction or adoption by itself does not make good parents. And regrettably, Children traditionally have been regarded as possessions of their parents/families, not as an individual or partner. Child is often rather appropriated by society, trained to become a competent and contributing member by playing mostly a passive role.

One of the biggest social changes of current time has been the digitalization of nearly all areas of everyday life – both in the privacy of our homes and in the world of education, work, commerce, relationships and leisure. *Digitalization penetrates our personal and social-cultural world:* shopping, transactions, listening to music, contacting friends, taking action and finding a date and marriage partners are things we do increasingly online. The World Wide Web is now more than a quarter of a century old (Tim Berners-Lee, a British scientist at CERN, invented the World Wide Web in 1989) which means that an entire generation of parents has been grappling with a challenge that no previous generation has had to face. *They are the first mums and dads bringing up their children in the digital age – and they are doing it without a roadmap.* Most of us take our parenting style from our own experiences of 'being parented'. But today's parents have had to learn how to deal with issues raised by living in the internet-enabled world pretty much as they go, without the benefit of being able to ask THEIR parents for advice.

Epistemologically and ontologically, parenting or child rearing is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting is an indispensable skill because children acquire the abilities to become responsible, caring adults and responsible citizens of their society from

the people who are most intensely involved with them, that is the parents. Like almost everything else we do in life, parenting is a skill, and there is a wide body of research that can help us do it more skilfully--with greater confidence, less stress, and better results. Seeing parenting as a skill also helps us to refrain from judging ourselves harshly when we make mistakes, to maintain an attitude of openness and learning, and to continually seek new and useful information in our effort to keep building our skills. Especially in this Digitalized world Children are helped by talking to their parents about issues that had arisen in the online world. It chimes with the idea that supportive, informed parenting is vital in building digitally resilient children,

whereas child abuse is tremendously high and hence, child protection becomes integral aspect of upholding Children' rights.

Interestingly, some courses are there on child rights and protection but till today no course on Parenting and children and Childhood has been offered by any educational institutions, private or public in India. If this can be offered by SNU it will be a pioneering one.

This Certificate Course on Parenting isn't just for young or inexperienced parents; they're for every sensible, forward looking adult who wants to be a better parent, care-giver, mentor, teacher, counsellor and a real friend to a child upholding children's rights and ensuring their due protection. The course will introduce the participants to the global and national perspectives on Child Rights. Emphasis would be laid on the theoretical underpinnings of the concept of 'child' and 'childhood', while contextualizing child rights. The attempt is to bring to the fore the need for a course on Parenting, Child Rights and Child Protection so that Parenting must not feel like a miscommunication minefield. The need of the hour is to comprehend the state of the situation so that parent-child relations are enhanced and we do not loose each other as neither the parents nor their children can "live together separately" or being "alone together" as the saying goes.

Eligibility criteria: Preferably Undergraduate degree from any Discipline

Duration: One Semester, TOTAL CREDIT =25

Proposed course outline

Parenting, Child Rights and Child Protection 5x3=15 CREDIT

COURSE I: Parenting / Caregiving of children

COURSE II: Situating Child Rights: Analysis of intersections of social, economic and legal orders

COURSE III: Child Abuse, Child Protection and Prevention: An Assessment of social, economic and legal Conditions

COURSE I: Parenting / Caregiving of children

Module 1: What is parenting and Care giving

Module 2: Different Styles of Parenting

Module 3: Ways to become an effective Parent

COURSE II: Integrating the Rights of the Child with the Responsibility of the Parenting

Module 1: What are the rights of the Child?

Module 2: Brief review of the development of Child Rights & UNCRC (1989) -Limitations

Module 3: Multiple Childhood and Rights-Based Parenting

COURSE III: Child Abuse, Child Protection and Prevention

Module 1: What are Child abuses- Different types and their implications?

Module 2: What is Child Protection and Prevention?

Module 3: Different child protection laws, policies and services in India –an assessment

COURSE IV Report Writing / Major Essay/ Oral Presentation= 10 CREDIT