



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

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

Course Code: PPOL6551	Course Title: Informal Economy and Social Policy	
Trimester: 4	Course Type: Elective	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2022-2024	
Course Lead: Dr Amir Ullah Khan	Assigned T/RA: Mr. Sanjit	

Course Description

Amir Ullah Khan is a former civil servant and now works as advisor to the Sahayata Trust, Research Director at the Center for Development Policy and Practice, and Adjunct Professor of Economics at the Tata Institute of Social Science, MCR Human Resource Development Institute of the Government of Telangana and the Manipal Institute of Technology. He is visiting faculty at ISB and at NALSAR. Amir has been Director at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the India Development Foundation and Encyclopedia Britannica. Amir studied at the Engineering College at Osmania University, the Institute of Rural Management at Anand and Jamia Millia Central University where he got his PhD for his work on India's IPR policy. Amir is a columnist with the LiveMint and Deccan Herald.

This course is designed to introduce the students to the fundamental concept of Informal Economy. The informal economy is broadly defined as economic activity that is not subject to government regulation or taxation supports some of the most vulnerable in society. As a policy maker, it is vital to understand the impact, nature, and contribution of the informal sector in the growth and development analysis.

This course intends to provide a basic framework to the students to understand the nuances, challenges, and policy framework around the informal sector. It also provides a comprehensive narrative to gauge at the current scenario of informal economy for a sound policy intervention in the future.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the basic differences between informal, formal, and unorganized sectors.
2. To understand the role of social protection in the informal sector.

3. To understand the nature of rural informal economy and development policies around it.
4. To understand the employment, wages, and composition of the workforce in the informal sector.
5. To understand the policy impact and challenges in the informal sector.

Course Outcomes

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

1. Understand the basics of Informal Economy.
2. Evaluate the composition of the informal sector across India and developing nations.
3. Understand the need for social protection in the informal sector.
4. Evaluate the policy measures and challenges in the Informal sector.
5. Identify and understand the need for development policies in the rural informal sector.

Textbooks and Course Materials

Suggested Readings-

Portes, Alejandro, Manuel Castells and Lauren A. Benton, eds. (1989). *The Informal Economy: Studies in Advanced and Less Developed Countries*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.

ILO (2013). *The Informal Economy and Decent Work: A Policy Resource Guide*, Geneva

Guha-Khasnobis, Basudeb, Ravi Kanbur and Elinor Ostrom. 2006. *Linking the Formal and Informal Economy: Concepts and Policies*. London: Oxford University Press.

Kabeer, Naila (2008) *Mainstreaming Gender in Social Protection for the Informal Economy*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 4	Introduction to Informal Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basics of Informal economy, size of informal sector in India ● Informal sector across the world, in developing countries and its composition ● Formalization of informal sector ● Difference between Informal and unorganized sector 		
Unit II	Sessions: 5	Social Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Protection: meaning and need ● Vulnerabilities in the Informal sector ● Is informal protected or not protected 		

Unit III	Sessions: 4	Rural Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How formal/ informal is rural economy ● Policies for rural development and informal sector 		
Unit IV	Sessions: 6	Informal Sector and the Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal sector as a buffer stock ● Composition of workforce, employment, and wages in the informal sector ● Contribution of informal sector to economic growth 		
Unit V	Sessions: 5	Issues/ Challenges in the Informal Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women in informal sector ● Policy impact on informal sector ● Impact of informal economy on urban services, taxation, and politics. 		