

Bachelors of Divinity (BD)/Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Syllabus

(Revised Draft after Kolkata Meeting)

INTRODUCTION TO CHILD THEOLOGY

Preamble:

36 - 40 percent of the world population are children; up to 1.2 billion are in some way children are at risk. India, for example, has more malnourished children than any other country in the world. The United Nations regards all those who are below 18 years of age as children its General Assembly has agreed the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Most people who ever make a Christian commitment do so in their childhood years. The Bible speaks of children as the gift of God; of their rights and responsibilities; and as partners in ministry. Churches have paid attention to educate the children through their Christian education programmes and to take care of the orphans and neglected children through their social service. Theological colleges offer one or two subjects on Children, usually incorporated into the curriculum of Christian Education Department for Sunday School or Pastoral Theology Department for counselling and guidance.

A separate course on 'Child Theology and Ministry' or 'Holistic Child Development and Mission' is rarely found in the curriculum of seminaries. A Core Course emphasizing the biblical perspective on and value of children; of holistic child development and ministry is urgently needed today.

This scheduled subject deals with the biblical, historical and contextual understanding of children, the status and rights of children in the charter of international and national agencies, methods and means for the holistic development of children and ministry to the children in society and at risk in the local areas of the learners; and developing biblical worldviews of and commitment to children.

Note:

This subject can be offered either by the Department of Biblical Studies or Theology and Ethics or Christian Ministry or Social Analysis or Missiology depending on the faculty situation of the seminaries with 3 Hours of class lectures per week for a Term or Semester of 13-16 Weeks for 3 Credits.

It can be an inter-disciplinary course run jointly by two or three departments, including Biblical Studies, History, Theology, Social Analysis, Pastoral Theology, Missiology, Religions, and Christian Ministry.

OBJECTIVES

1. To expose and engage learners with children and child theology, and so gain personal understanding of God's heart for children.
2. To draw insights from the biblical, historical and contextual studies towards developing a Child Theology for India
3. To study the status, role and problems of children in families, churches and society.
4. To identify the reasons and analyze the issues for the oppression of children and to be involved in programmes and strategies for the empowerment of children.

5. To apply the study to develop child centred models of ministry.

LEARNER'S OUTCOME

The expected main outcome of this course on the conceptual and practical aspects on the side of the learners can be listed as below:

1. That the learner will make personal commitment to listening to and prioritising the needs and role of children in his or her current and future life and ministry.
2. The learners have learnt the importance of children in families, churches and society and gained biblical perspectives on children.
3. The learners have identified the problems and forces which are threatening the lives of many children in India and particularly living in their local context and developed plans, therapies and strategies which can be used by their churches or missions for the holistic development of children.

REQUIREMENTS

(The requirements of this Course can be worked by the Faculty members teaching this subject. However, the following requirements are suggested).

1. Attending the class with a prior reading of the biblical texts, books and articles and participating in the discussion.
2. Submitting an essay of 2000 words on the topics given by the teacher (20-25%).
3. Learning through doing.... A Project for the ministry to Children, which can be used, by his or her church or mission (20-25%)
4. Time to be spent listening to a named child from a different social situation with a subsequent shared theological reflection (requirement; not marked).
5. Final Exam (50-60%).

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT 1. INTRODUCING CHILD THEOLOGY [2 classroom hours]

1. What do we mean by child theology?
2. Why is it needed? What are the issues?
3. Terms and Concepts in Child Theology: Children At Risk (CAR), Holistic Child Development (HCD), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Child Theology Movement (CTM)...etc

UNIT II: CHILDREN IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN CONTEXT: (8 HRS)

PERSPECTIVES/REALITIES

A. ¹Socio-Economic (3 hrs)

1. Children within Caste and Class Realities

¹ An incomplete list of some critical issues for children today can be included in Unit II according to the interest of the teacher and need in the context viz.:

Street living; War and armed conflict; Violence; Abuse within and outside of families; Exploitation; Trafficking; Gender Discrimination and Female Foeticide; Institutionalisation; Consumerisation; Poverty; Urbanisation; Rural marginalization; Family breakdown.

2. Cultural Influences on Children
3. Changing family and community structures across Indian society
4. Education
5. Mass/Multi Media and its impact on children
6. Poverty
7. Liberalization, Privatisation and Globalisation. (LPG)

B. Religious (2 hrs)

1. Community and religious laws and rites in relation to Children
2. Children in religious structures and institutions: (e.g. orphanages, convents boarding schools, madrasas, Buddhist monasteries, “Sunday Schools”, Adoptions)

C. Legal and Political (3 hrs)

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)/Millennium Development Goals
2. Children Protection Laws: IPC
3. Other National Laws and Policies on Children rights, Child Labour, Education, Health, empowerment and budget allocation.

UNIT III: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: UNDERSTANDING GOD’S HEART FOR CHILDREN FROM SCRIPTURE (10 hrs)

A. OLD TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES ON CHILDREN (3 Hrs)

(Special focus can be on the status, role, relationship, rights and responsibilities of children in Unit III)

1. Children in the Pentateuch

Some Texts: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7,23-24; 3:16-17; 4:1-16; 16:7-16; 21:17, 23; 28:10-22; 30:1-5; 37:12-36; Ex. 1-3; 20:12; 21:7-11, 20-25; 22:16,18; Lev. 18:21; 19:29; 20:1-7; Dt. 6:1-9; 10:18; 11:18-21; 18:9-13; 22:13-19, 23; 23:17-18)

2. Children in the Historical Books and Prophetic Literature.

Some Texts: 1 Sam. 1:11; 2; 17:31-34; 2 Sam. 9:1-10; 1 Kings. 3:16-28; 2 Kings. 4:1-7; 5:2-4; 8:12; 10:1-11; 14:5-6; Isa. 11:6-8; 7:11-14; 13:16,18; 48:48; 49:5; Jer. 29; 31:15; 32:35; Amos 2:7; Joel 3:3-8; Hos. 10:14; 11:1-4; 13:16; Zach. 8:1-8; Mal. 4:6)

3. Children in the Poetic, Wisdom and Apocalyptic Literature

Some Texts: Ps. 8:1; 10:18; 27:10; 49:15-16; 68:5; 82:3; 103:13; 106:37-38; 127:3; 128:3-4; 137:9; 139; Lam. 2:19; Prov. 22:6, 15, 30:16; Job 24:7-10; 15:34; Esther 3:13; Ecc.11: 9)

B. NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES ON CHILDREN (3 Hrs)

1. Children in the Synoptic Gospels and the Book of Acts.

Some Texts: Matt. 2:16-18; 11:25; 18: 1-6,10, 15-17; 19:13-15; 21:1-4, 12-16; 16; Mark 2:34-35; 9, 10:13-24; Lk. 2: 8-20, 38, 48-51; 11:11-12; Acts 23:16-22)

2. Children in the Johannine Literature.

Some Texts: Jn. 3:1-10; 12:12-19; 1 Jn.2:1; 3:7-10; 4:4-16)

3. Children in Pauline, other Epistles and Revelation.

Some Texts: Rom. 5:8-11; 1 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 3:26-29; 4:4; Eph.4:11-16; 6:1-4; Col. 1:15-20; 1Thes. 2:11-12; 1 Tim. 4:12; 2. Tim. 3:15, 22; Titus 2:6-8; 1 Pet.4:7-11; 5:5; James 1:27; Heb. 2:17, Rev. ...)

C. DEVELOPING BIBLICAL THEMES ON CHILDREN AND CHILDHOOD (4 hrs)

Key themes:

1. Dignity – female and male children in the image of God (start point: Genesis)
2. Children in the society of God (start point: Deuteronomy)
3. God's care for oppressed children (start point: Exodus)
4. God's justice for children (start point: minor prophets)
5. Children as signs of the Kingdom (start point: synoptic Gospels)
6. Holistic growth of children, in family and church community (start point: Luke, Ephesians)
7. Children as agents of God's mission (start points: Moses, Miriam, Samuel, Josiah, Jesus, Naaman's servant girl,)

UNIT IV: CHILDREN IN INDIAN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND MINISTRY (4 hrs)

1. Children and church practice and policy
Roman Catholic Church and CBCI; Children in the protestant churches (inc. NCCI and EFI policies); Children in the Orthodox Churches; Children in the Pentecostal Churches
2. Children and early missions in India, including a historical case study of Pandita Ramabai or Mother Teresa or any other person/organization in 20th century India.

UNIT V: TOWARDS A CHILD THEOLOGY IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT (8 HRS)

- A. Methodology
 - a. Listening to Children's Voices (Ps. 8:2, Is. 11: 6)
 - b. Setting the child in the midst. (Mat. 18: 1-6)
- B. Children in theology
 - a. Children and Creation
 - b. Children and Fall
 - c. Children and Salvation
 - d. Children and New Creation
 - e. Children and Family
 - f. Children and Society
 - g. Children and the Church
 - h. Children and Mission
 - i. Children and Ecology

UNIT VI: TOWARD FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN: IMPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (18 hrs)

- A. Analysis of various approaches to the ministry to children. (8 hrs)
 - i) Children at risk:
Rights-based approaches, Community-based rehabilitation, Fostering and Adoption; Residential Care, Awareness and Education to Children on their rights and responsibilities, problems and prospects; Counselling and Therapy; Advocacy

- social action against the injustice to children; child protection; Relief; Medical and Educational interventions
- ii) Children in the church:
Worship, Sunday school, spiritual formation, Christian education, child protection
- B. Being with children: Field Experience with CAR (10 Hours)
Listening and dialoguing with children in different social situation: considering strengths, resiliencies, opportunities, needs, problems faced and vulnerabilities; followed by theological reflection.
- C. Role and responsibilities in ministry among children.
Developing commitments and action plans

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DICTIONARIES AND COMMENTARIES

1. Theological Dictionary of the OT (TDOT) and NT (TDNT)
2. New Bible Dictionary
3. Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible
4. Dictionary of Biblical Imagery
5. Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counselling
6. Commentaries on the various books of the Bible (TNOT, TNNT, WBC, ICC, NICOT, NICNT, etc.)

BOOKS

- Berryman, J.W. *Toward A Theology of Childhood* (Vols.1-4), Co: Denver, 2002.
- Bhadra, Mita. (Ed), *Girl Child in Indian Society*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi 110 002, 1999.
- Bishoyi, Sri Kedarnath, *Plight of Child Labour*, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi – 110 002, 2003.
- Brewster, Dan Child, *Church and Mission*, CI, USA, 2005. – ch 2. pages 25-36.
- Bunge, Marcia J. (ed.), *The Child in Christian Thought*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2003.
- Carol Garhart Mooney, *Theories of Childhood: An Introduction to Dewey, Montessori, Erickson, Piaget and Vygotsky*, 2005.
- Deshpande, N.G. *Survival Realities of Street Children*, Navdin Prakashan Kendra of the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK), New Delhi – 110 006, 1993.
- Erikson, F. *Toys and Reasons: Stages in the Ritualization of Experience*, WWN, NY, 1977.
- George, Sabu M. P. Phavalam (Ed), *Female Feticide In Tamil Nadu*, Society for Integrated Rural Development (SIRD), Madurai, 2000.
- Hay, D. and Nye, R. *The Spirit of the Child*, HC. London, 1998.
- Hecht, Tobias. *At Home in the Street*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- McDonald, Patrick. *Children at risk: Networks in action*. Monrovia: MARC Publications,
- Miles, Glenn & Wright, Josephine-Joy, *Celebrating Children*. Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 2003.
- Stephenson, Paul & Miles, Glenn, *Child Development Study Pack. Tear Fund, UK., Aldine De Gruyter*, 1992.
- Myers, Glenn. *Children in Crisis*. Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1998.
- Stephenson, Paul & Miles, Glenn, *Child Development Study Pack. Tear Fund, UK., Aldine De Gruyter*, 1992.

- Phyllis, Kilbourn, ed., *Healing the Children of War*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 1995.
- _____, *Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 2002.
- _____, Kilbourn, Phyllis & McDermid, Marjorie, eds., *Sexually exploited children: Working to protect and heal*. Monrovia: MARC, 1998.
- _____, *Street Children: A Guide to Effective Ministry*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 1997.
- Roy, Kalpana. *Women and Child Development*, Commonwealth publishers, New Delhi – 110 002, 2000.
- Sahoo, U.C. *Child Labour in Agrarian Society*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi – 110 092, 1995.
- Saksena, Anu. *Human Rights and Child Labour In Indian Industries*, Shipra Publications, New Delhi – 110 009, 1999.
- Speakman, Danielle. *Nothing but a thief*. Sovereign World, 2002.
- Swaroop, Thomas (edit.). *The Asian Context of Children at Risk: A Brief reader on issues of poverty affecting children in Asia.*, Compassion India: Chennai, 2006
- Weber, Hans-Ruedi. *Jesus and the Children*, TC, Ohio, 1994.
- Weiner, M., *The Child and the State in India*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1991.
- Winnicott, D. *Playing and Reality*, BB, NY, 1971.
- Zuck, Roy. *Precious in His Sight: Childhood and Children in the Bible*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 1996.

ARTICLES

1. Judith Gundry-Volf, 'To such as these belongs the Reign of God: Jesus and the Children' *Theology Today*, 56, 4, 2000, pp. 469-480.
2. J. Moltmann, 'Child and Childhood as metaphors of Hope'
3. R. Maas, 'Christ as the Logos of Childhood'
4. J.B. Jeyaraj, 'Biblical Perspectives on Children and their Protection: Towards a Child Theology' (forthcoming) 2007.
5. Neera Burra, 'Crusading for Children in India's Informal Economy' *EPW*. Dec. 3, 2005, pp. 5199-5208.
6. Manu N. Kulkarni, 'Child Survival Programmes Revisited', *EPW*, Jan, 7, 2006, pp. 28-30
7. Leela Visrai, A. Acharya and F. Raj, 'Two Child Norm: Victimising the Vulnerable?', *EPW*, Jan 7, 2006, pp. 41-48.
8. M. Grangnolati, M.D. Gupta, et. al., ' ICDS and Persistent Under nutrition: Strategies to enhance the impact', *EPW*, March, 25, 2006, pp. 1193-1201.

REPORTS (can be made as Resource material for study).

1. Reports of the Child Theology Movement Consultations I-VII (edited by Keith White and John Collier, UK)
2. The Papers presented by Indian scholars at the two consultations in Bangalore can be included here if published in Journals or Books (Report complied).
3. Reports of various NGOs – Compassion –India, World Vision, VIVA Net-work, SISU, KNH, etc.
4. Reports of Children Ministries – VBS, ISSU,
5. Reports on Case Studies of CAR – News Papers, Journals, Legal Judgments
6. Models of Project Proposals of Churches, Missions and NGOs for Child Care.

UNPUBLISHED THESIS

1. on the Biblical Theology of Children/Childhood.
2. on the topic of Abortion, Infanticide and Foeticide
3. on the topic of Child Labour, Illiteracy, Child Abuse
4. on the topic of Family and Children
5. on the topic of Counselling and Guidance to CAR.

READING FOR THE UNITS

Unit I.

Reference for Reading.

1. Reports of the Child Theology Movement Consultations I-VII (edited by Keith White and John Collier, UK).
 2. Dan Brewster, Child, Church and Mission, CI, USA, 2005. – ch 1. pages 15-25
 3. J.B. Jeyaraj, 'Biblical Perspectives on Children and their Protection: Towards a Child Theology' (forthcoming) 2007
- Berryman, J.W. *Toward A Theology of Childhood* (Vols.1-4), Co: Denver, 2002

Unit II

Reference for Reading

1. Bhadra, Mita. (Ed), *Girl Child in Indian Society*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi 110 002, 1999.
2. Bishoyi, Sri Kedarnath *Plight of Child Labour*, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi – 110 002, 2003.
3. Deshpande, N.G. *Survival Realities of Street Children*, Navdin Prakashan Kendra of the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK), New Delhi – 110 006, 1993.
4. George, Sabu M. P. Phavalam (Ed), *Female Feticide In Tamil Nadu*, Society for Integrated Rural Development (SIRD), Madurai, 2000.
5. Kilbourn, Phyllis, ed., *Healing the Children of War*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 1995.
6. _____, *Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 2002.
7. _____, Kilbourn, Phyllis & McDermid, Marjorie, eds., *Sexually exploited children: Working to protect and heal*. Monrovia: MARC, 1998.
8. _____, *Street Children: A Guide to Effective Ministry*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publishing, 1997.
9. McDonald, Patrick. *Children at risk: Networks in action*. Monrovia: MARC Publications, 2001.
10. Myers, Glenn. *Children in Crisis*. Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1998.
11. Saksena, Anu. *Human Rights and Child Labour In Indian Industries*, Shipra Publications, New Delhi – 110 009, 1999.
12. Weiner, M., *The Child and the State in India*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1991.
13. Adenwalla, Maharukh, *Child Rights and Law: A Guide Book for legal Intervention*, Childline India Foundation, Jenaz Printers, 2612 853, 2002,
14. FULLNESS OF LIFE AND DIGNITY OF CHILDREN IN THE MIDST OF GLOBALISATION WITH A FOCUS ON STREET CHILDREN, WCC/CCA

- INTER-REGIONAL CONSULTATION ,Mumbai, India, 21 - 25 January 2004., <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/regional/actionplan2004.html>, 17th January 2007.
15. Swaroop, Thomas (edit.). *The Asian Context of Children at Risk: A Brief reader on issues of poverty affecting children in Asia.*, Compassion India: Chennai, 2006
 16. The State of the World's Children, 1999, 2005, UNICEF
 17. UNICEF Rights of Children, <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/crc.pdf>, 17th January 2007.
 18. United Nations, Background Note, Children's Rights, <http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1765e.htm>, 17th January 2007

Unit III – A

Reference for Reading:

1. Article on 'Children' in IDB, NBD and in the Dictionary of Biblical Imagery and TDOT (for Hebrew terms).
2. Roy Zuck, *Precious in His Sight: Childhood and Children in the Bible*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 1996.
3. Dan Brewster, *Child, Church and Mission*, CI, USA, 2005. – ch 2. pages 25-36.
4. Marcia J. Bunge (ed.), *The Child in Christian Thought*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2003.

B-

Reference for Reading:

1. Article on 'Children' in the NT Dictionaries and TDNT (for Greek Terms).
2. Roy Zuck, *Precious in His Sight: Childhood and Children in the Bible*, 1996.
3. Dan Brewster (ed.), *Biblical Themes on Children and Childhood in the Bible* (Booklet).

C-

Reference for Reading:

1. Keith White, 'Rediscovering Children at the Heart of Mission' in Miles, Glenn and Wright, Josephine-Joy, *Celebrating Children*, Paternoster Press: Carlisle, 2003, 189-200.

Unit IV

Reference for Reading

1. Bunge, Marcia J edit., *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Erdmann Publishing Company. 2001.
2. C.B. Firth, *An Introduction To Indian Church History* (India: The Indian Theological Library, 1992
3. Clark, Gillian. "The Fathers and the Children". In *The Church and Childhood*, edited by Diana Wood, 1-28. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1994.
4. Latorette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity, Volume 1 and 2: (Revised)*. San Francisco: Harper. 1975.
5. Miles, Margaret R. "Infancy, Parenting, and Nourishment in Augustine's Confessions." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 50 (1983): 349-64.
6. Mundalan, A. Mathias. edit. *History of Christianity in India*, Church History Association of India : India. Vol. **1-5**.
7. Myron Weiner, *The Child and the State in India*, Oxford University press, New Delhi – 110 001, 1991.
8. Mangalwadi, Vishal , Paditha Ramabhai

Unit V

Wright, Josephine-Joy, Budiardjo, Tri and Yewangoe, Andreas A. “What the Bible Says about Children”, in Miles, Glenn and Wright, Josephine-Joy, *Celebrating Children*, Paternoster Press: Carlisle, 2003, 18-33.

1. Keith White, ‘Rediscovering Children at the Heart of Mission’ in Miles, Glenn and Wright, Josephine-Joy, *Celebrating Children*, Paternoster Press: Carlisle, 2003, 189-200.

Unit VI.

Readings can include Case Studies and Reports of NGOs, Churches and NGOs working among children.