Azim Premji University Colloquium Series
presents a lecture on

“Can India’s Welfare Programmes be Reversed? : Reflections on the Politics of Public Services in India”

Speaker:
Vivek Srinivasan
Academic Research & Program Manager, Liberation Technology, Stanford University

Date: March 05, 2015 (Thursday)
Time: 2.00 to 3.30 pm
Venue: 10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, (Azim Premji University)

About the Lecture

Abstract: Under the new government, advocates of economic “reforms” have redoubled their efforts to dismantle what little India has of welfare programs. This talk will explore how far these efforts could succeed by looking at the politics of public services in India. It will argue that unlike in the past, there is increasing pressure from the common person on the government to deliver public services such as schools, healthcare, water and electricity which would make any reversal of a welfare state unsustainable. The talk will examine the roots of this public pressure starting with the experience of Tamil Nadu and related dynamics in other parts of India. The talk will be based on his recent book, Delivering Public Services Effectively: Tamil Nadu & Beyond (Oxford University Press, 2014).

About the Speaker

Vivek Srinivasan is Academic Research & Program Manager, Liberation Technology at Stanford University. He developed an enduring interest in ensuring that everyone in India has access to basic public services during his activist days with India’s Right to Food Campaign. This led to his PhD in Social Sciences at the Maxwell School of Public Policy, Syracuse University, on understanding Tamil Nadu’s remarkable success in providing basic services to all, which was recently published as Delivering Public Services Effectively: Tamil Nadu & Beyond (Oxford University Press, 2014). He holds a Master’s degree in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.

Currently he leads a team of social scientists and engineers in a project to make basic public services transparent to the rural poor. Through this, his team hopes to combat corruption and promote greater accountability in programs used by the majority of the poor in India.

For a detailed bio, please visit http://viveks.info/me