



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

"Mental Health Care for All - Can Civil Society take over from the Professionals?"

Speaker

Dr Manoj Kumar

Clinical Director, The Mental Health Action Trust, Calicut

Date: October 07, 2016 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

With yet another World Mental Health day almost upon us, a taking of stock is required. As the treatment gap for almost all mental disorders continues to be huge, even in the developed nations, the only pertinent question is how do we provide minimum mental health services to all citizens of the world. The choice of 'Psychological first aid' as the theme this year seems startlingly irrelevant in this context. However, in India, there is a sense of hope as there are encouraging signs of civil society organisations taking charge in areas where previously it was left to the government to lead the way. This talk is about novel ways where communities are coming together to organise care especially for the disadvantaged.

About the Speaker

Arshia Sattar has a Ph.D. from the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She has worked with the Valmiki Ramayana for 30 years. Her critically acclaimed translation of the Valmiki Ramayana is published as a Penguin Classic. Penguin also published her collection of essays, "Lost Loves: Exploring Rama's Anguish" which read the Ramayana as a tragic love story. Her translation of Valmiki's Uttara Kanda, "Uttara: The Book of Answers" will be published by Penguin in November. "The Ramayana for Children" is her fourth book for young readers and is published by Juggernaut. Dr Manoj Kumar is the Clinical Director of The Mental Health Action Trust (www.mhatkerala.org) a not-for-profit Charitable Trust based in Calicut, Kerala. An alumni of the Calicut Medical College, the Christian

Medical College, Vellore, Dr Manoj Kumar started training in Psychiatry over 25 years. He has worked as faculty at the Christian Medical College, Vellore till 1994 during which time his clinical and academic focus was on the Psychiatric aspects of HIV and AIDS. He has worked for over a decade in the United Kingdom and during his time in Leeds, he was instrumental in setting up a clinical Psycho-oncology service there. In later years, he focused on the Psychiatric aspects of Palliative Medicine and was involved nationally and internationally in research and training activities in this field. During this period, he also developed strong links with the nascent specialty of Palliative Care in India, working mainly through the Institute of Palliative Medicine in Calicut, which is the WHO Collaborating Centre for Community Participation in Palliative Care and Long Term Care. He has been involved in various teaching activities in India and is on the National Faculty of the Indian Association for Palliative Care.