



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series presents two talk on “Reflections on empowerment of poor” and “Scaling through shared values”

Event Sub Title:

Reflections on empowerment of poor

Speaker:

Dileep Kamat

Date / Time:

July 24, 2014 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue:

Cafeteria, Ground floor, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

In the name of "Development" we all seem to have accepted destruction of natural resources, displacement of millions of people; farmers are distressed and rural people are flooding city slums, making these places unmanageable entities. Our sovereignty is being compromised under WTO and the growing gap between the rich and the poor does not bother us anymore as GDP growth seems to be the only thing that matters. Violence against women, dalits and minorities is on the rise. In this context, democratization of society at large and all its institutions from family to parliament should be felt as an urgent need by more and more people. The **COMMUNITY LEARNING MOVEMENT (CLM)** is such an experiment which has successfully shown how collective local leadership is developed and takes initiative in conscientising / politicizing the local community; starts taking active part in decision making at PRI levels; takes responsibility of protecting common property resources and their sustainable and equitable use. Dileep will share his experiences on how marginalized communities are transformed from passive, silent, begging ‘beneficiaries’ into active, assertive, participatory, questioning and responsible (and organized) citizens, demanding their rights and good governance.

A Note on the Speaker:

Dileep Kamat, a well-known pedagogue and thinker from Belgaum, has over four decades of experience in organizing workers in the organized and unorganized sectors. He has worked in the environmental movement with the perspective that protection, development and sustainable and equitable use of natural resources is best achieved by the local communities playing the central role. Dileep has facilitated hundreds of learning processes for activists and marginalized communities and also been a resource person and advisor for several NGOs and social movements. He has been lately focusing on building collective leadership of disadvantaged communities who can lead the people-centered advocacy to pressurize the local government for providing basic facilities and good governance.