



Azim Premji
University

Talk: Fighting Corruption at the Grassroots: An Activist's Perspective

Speaker:
Rudresh

Date / Time:
May 6, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Venue:
10th Floor, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

In this lecture, Rudresh will narrate his personal experience of leading a local activists' group which fought corruption in the implementation of the Union Government's flagship welfare programme – MGNREGA in Bellary District of Karnataka. The activists painstakingly collected information on the job scheme and confronted the bureaucratic hierarchy from panchayat officer to state level rural development secretary to see that the officials involved in the misappropriation of funds were finally booked for corruption. The experience of the group provides us with some valuable insights into the loopholes in the implementation of the MNRGA and how grass-roots level citizens' activism can successfully fight against a corrupt system fostered by the local political-bureaucratic nexus.

A Note on the Speaker:

Rudresh has been with Azim Premji Foundation since 2003. He currently leads the Child Friendly School Initiative Shorapur, a joint program of Azim Premji Foundation and Government of Karnataka. Rudresh did his Masters in Social Work with specialization in family and child welfare from Gulbarga University. Later he did his Bachelor in Law (LLB) from Gulbarga University. He began his career at the Foundation, in the Learning guarantee program that was implemented across 45 Blocks of all 7 districts of North East Karnataka. He also contributed to the launch and implementation of this program when it was expanded to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In 2007, Rudresh joined the Child Friendly School Program and has been closely involved in its implementation before taking up the leadership of the program.

Rudresh has been involved in organizing people to fight corruption since his student days. In 1997 when he was doing his ITI course, he organized students against the practice of the faculty receiving money for allowing malpractice in the examination. He also organized youth to protest against Grama Panchayath about cutting of trees in the village. The fight against corruption in MGNREGA is the third such initiative that he has organized.

