



Special Event: Meet Two Authors, Know Two Books

Event Sub Title:

Books: An India For Everyone: A Path to Inclusive development, Harper Collins
Poverty amidst Prosperity: Essays on the Trajectory of Development in Gujarat, Aakar Publications

Speaker:

Shree Amarjeet Sinha and Dr Atul Sood

Date / Time:

April 15, 2013 - 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

Shri Amarjeet Sinha's book, **An India for Everyone - A Path to Inclusive Development** was released by Nobel Laureate Dr. Amartya Kumar Sen on 17th February 2013. In this book, Amarjeet makes the point that there can be no inclusive development without a thrust on securing the entitlement to human development and well-being, an opportunity to every citizen to develop her/his fullest human potential. This requires enhanced public expenditure on health, education, nutrition, skill development, etc. Public systems have played a very important role in securing these basic entitlements in most parts of the world. And we cannot do without the counter- veiling presence of a large and functional public system. While non-governmental partnerships will also be required, there is no going away from investing in the core task of making public systems deliver credible services. Public systems are capable of delivering credible services if they are crafted appropriately, based on evidence.

The discussion will also outline how reforms in public recruitments, legal framework, public management skills, partnerships, can all contribute to better delivery of guaranteed quality outcomes in human development - education, nutrition, health, livelihoods, social security, urban development, social and gender relations, etc.

Dr Atul Sood edited **Poverty Amidst Plenty: Essays on the Trajectory of Development in Gujarat** which was released last year and has been receiving critical acclaim since. This collection of papers by ten contributors explores the core features of Gujarat's growth and its

implications for the poor and marginalized. India was on the high-speed growth lane till three years back. Gujarat was the shining example of success in India. Things are not honky-dory for the Indian economy anymore. Gujarat has just implemented the Indian model of development in a more committed way. Gujarat is also not such a shining example of development. Dr Sood, and the ten contributors to that volume, showed that policy initiatives in this coastal state have had unpleasant implications for the poor and the marginalized. The essays unravelled the myth of 'Gujarat Shining' by a hard scrutiny of claims regarding growth performance, employment situation, status of poverty and inequality besides health and education. The book revolves around these issues in Gujarat.

A Note on the Speaker:

Amarjeet Sinha, 53, is a civil servant with a deep interest in the social sector. He is currently posted as the Principal Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Bihar. He has had the unique distinction of having played a major role in designing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (India's main programme for universal elementary education) and the National Rural Health Mission. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has brought down the number of out of school children in India substantially, even though challenges of quality education and learning achievements remain. The National Rural Health Mission has significantly speeded up the decline of Infant and Maternal Mortality in India, besides reducing the fertility rate and improving the primary health care system for all disease control programmes. He has also been training Indian Administrative Service Officer Trainees at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie on the social sector over the last one and a half decade. A prolific writer, Amarjeet has published six books and a very large number of articles as part of books, in journals like the Lancet, Economic and Political Weekly, Economic Times, The Hindu, The Business Standard, The Hindustan Times, etc.

Dr Atul Sood is a rigorous researcher, popular teacher and keen author. After a post-graduate degree in Economics from Panjab University, Dr Atul Sood got a Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa (Canada). He worked in several ICSSR-supported research institutes before joining Centre for Studies in Regional Development, JNU, New Delhi. Dr Atul Sood has a long time interest in Regional Development and has a keen ear to the ground. In 1984, he co-authored a book, Punjab Crisis: Context and Trends, much before the Khalistan movement seized the attention of other scholars. Critics feel his edited work on Gujarat is also a precursor to explain the 'failure of success' that the trajectory of Indian development can turn out to be unless the model is rethought.