



Workshop and Panel Discussion: Decentralised Governance: Challenge and Response

Speaker:

Panelists: Prof Abdul Aziz, Shree Ravindraprakash Y. J., Prof. N. Sivanna, Prof. Vinod Vyasulu, Prof C S Nagaraju, Dr Jyotsna Jha & Shree Umashankar Periodi

Date / Time:

March 6, 2013 - 9:45am - 6:00pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

Governance has always been widely debated under a variety of circumstances. There is currently little common understanding on what it means to govern or to be governed. It is therefore crucial to discuss and understand the various layers and levels of different systems of governance.

Demands for decentralised forms of governance have been gaining currency throughout the world, given the possibilities they offer for more effective self-determination and involvement of stakeholders. Decentralisation in itself, however, is neither good nor bad. The design of each form of decentralisation and how much time it takes to actually devolve the numerous functions of a system would all go into determining its effectiveness. It is due to this very fluidity in the definition of decentralisation that it requires to be understood more comprehensively. Debates on 'centralization' v/s 'decentralization', centre-state relations, clarity on role of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and their constitutional responsibilities need to be re-examined, re-contextualized in the fast changing developmental scenarios in India.

This workshop and panel discussion would be of great interest for students pursuing their MA in either Education or Development, since it is important for students from both specialisations to develop a deeper understanding of current debates on the above concepts and related issues. Experts who have been working on policy, planning, research, advocacy and implementation of 'decentralised governance system' will hold conversations with students of our university to provide a nuanced understanding of current challenges and responses related to 'governance system'.

A Note on the Speaker:

Prof Abdul Aziz did all his education at the Mysore University. He is currently Visiting Professor in the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy, National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Earlier, he worked in Shriram Centre for Industrial

Relations and Human Resources, New Delhi; taught Economics at Mysore University and headed the Economics Unit in the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore. Dr Aziz has been a UGC Visiting Professor at Madurai-Kamaraj University, Madurai; Consultant with the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad; Honorary Visiting Professor at ISEC, Bangalore and DM Nanjundappa Chair Professor at the Center for Multi-Disciplinary research, Dharwar.

Shree. Y. J. Ravindrakrishna worked in the field of cooperation and rural development with government of Karnataka for 8 years. Then in the field of NGO, he has been working mainly in the areas of rural and community development, social research, education and project management. Now he works with Azim Premji Foundation since 2006. He works in the area of school community connect with focus on decentralization of school management and empowering community to manage the government schools in its locality. He is a post graduate in sociology with law and B. Ed. degree. He has also earned two diplomas in the field of cooperation.

Prof. N. Sivanna is currently an adjunct Professor at the Ramakrishna Hegde Chair & Centre for Governance and Development in Institute for Social and Economic Change. He has previously been a member of the Karnataka Panchayat Delimitation Committee; Member of the Governing Body, Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore; Member of the Advisory Council, Sri Abdul Nazir Sab Chair- CMDR, Dharwad, and is a Life Member of the All India Political Science Association. His areas of specialisation are Decentralisation, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Urban Governance and Institutional Studies. He has co-authored "Decentralised Governance and Planning: A Comparative Study in Three South Indian States" (Macmillan, New Delhi, 2002), co-authored "The Land Army and Rural Development", (Ashish Publications, New Delhi, 1994), and authored "Panchayati Raj Reforms and Rural Development", (Chugh Publications, Allahabad, 1990).

Prof. Vinod Vyasulu is one of the founders of CBPS. He served as the Director for 12 years since its establishment in January 1998, and has since built up a programme of work in local governance issues, with a focus on local finances, devolution and local planning. Before his work in CBPS, he was a professor at the IIM Bangalore, served as Director at the Institute of Public Enterprises in Hyderabad, as Economic Advisor to the National Small Industries Corporation, and held the RBI Chair in the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. His current interests are in alternate development policies and programmes.

Shree Kishore Attavar is currently heading the 'Namma Shaale Plus' Initiative of the Karnataka State Institute, Azim Premji Foundation, at Dharwad. He is also the co-coordinator of the Policy Planning Unit, which is currently based at the State Institute for School Leadership in Education Management and Planning (SISLEP), Dharwad. Prior to this, he successfully led the 'Namma Shaale' Action Research Project across four clusters in Karnataka, as a joint initiative between Azim Premji Foundation and the Government of Karnataka. Kishore has a Master's degree in Community Development from Roshni Nilaya School of Social Work, Mangalore. In his previous roles he has worked as Karnataka State Coordinator of the Total Sanitation Campaign of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (2006-2007), Director of State Resource Centre for Adult and Continuing Education at Mysore (2000-2006), Coordinator of Social

Science Research Centre (1996-2000) – independent initiative on conducting various researches in the social development sector, Secretary of Dakshina Kannada Adult and Continuing Education Society (1991-1996), District Coordinator, Dakshina Kannada, Total Literacy Campaign (1990-1991), Faculty for Non-formal Education at Roshni Nilaya School of Social Work (1987-1989), Faculty in Training Rural and Tribal youth in Karnataka and Tamilnadu at Institute for Youth and Development, Bangalore (1981-1985).

Dr Jyotsna Jha is the current director of CBPS, Bangalore. Before her association with CBPS, she worked as an adviser of Education at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London since 2005. Prior to joining the Secretariat, she was based in India where she undertook several research, evaluation and implementation support projects for both government and non-government organizations, and for national and international agencies. She has actively worked with educational policy planners, administrators, teachers and professionals at various levels both nationally and internationally.

Prof C S Nagaraju comes with diverse experience of serving at different levels in education system. He started his career as school teacher in rural Karnataka. He has been Professor of Education and served additionally as Registrar of Institute of Social and Economic Change. He worked as Professor and Head of Department of Pre-School & Elementary Education NCERT, New Delhi from 1998 to 2000 and as Professor and Head of Educational Research & Policy Perspectives, NCERT, New Delhi from 2000 to 2006. He also served as Principal, Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Mysore (May 2006-April 2007). He is currently an Honorary Professor at ISEC, Bangalore. He has been very instrumental in conceptualizing the idea of CRC in Indian education system and complemented many studies of Classroom Processes and case studies in DPEP states of AP, Harayana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, MP and UP funded by MHRD, commissioned under DPEP. He was part of many JRMs constituted by MHRD on school education. He has widely published his articles on educational decentralization and policy. He collaborated with the National Survey of Educational Achievement at the Primary Stage undertaken by TISS, Bombay, during 1995. He provided consultation to formative evaluation of MDP programme carried out by APF & ISEC. Presently, he is engaged as a consultant on Right to Education study and Right to Food study being conducted by Centre for Child and Law, NLSIU and works as a visiting professor in ISEC Bangalore.

Shree Umashanker Periodi has been working in Azim Premji Foundation since 2003 in various capacities. At present he leads the institutes of Azim Premji Foundation working for quality education in the 8 districts of North East Karnataka. A post graduate in social work with community work and communication as specialization from School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore (1980-81), he comes with wide range of community mobilization work in different sectors. Previously he has worked with Soliga tribes to organize them to fight for their rights through VGKK, B. R. Hills Mysore. He has worked as lecturer in School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore, worked in the North East Karnataka to build the capacity of the small NGOs in the area of working with the marginalized people through "Chawki" of KSTC. He was actively involved in Total Literacy Campaign. Served in the state core group designing the training program for the TLC functionaries. He has been founding member of Karnataka State Trainers Collective, a collective of trainers across Karnataka in the development sector.

He has also worked as consultant for Mahila Samakya, a MHRD project for women's education and empowerment. He has developed Barefoot Research as a process to initiate field activists and primary school teachers in to basic research methodology. He has also worked with media for awareness building and education. In his free time he performs Yakshgana and street theatre.