



Talk: Being the Change Changes the Being

Speaker:

Nipun Mehta

Date / Time:

January 21, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:30pm

Venue:

Room No 103, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

What if generosity was taught by those who have the least? Modern culture tells us that Bill Gates is far more generous than Mother Teresa. Ancient wisdom, on the other hand, tells us that generosity is much more layered and multi-dimensional than that. When one of Gandhi's chappals famously dropped onto the track as he was boarding a train, without hesitation, he let his other chappal also fall -- so that whoever would find one would have a usable pair. The kind of generosity that someone like Gandhi practiced -- with an alignment of body, speech, and mind -- is accessible to each of us. When we become open to learning, our teachers come from the most unexpected places. In fact, those who have little often teach us the depths and nuances of generosity through effortless actions. Their gifts, like those of Gandhi's chappals, don't generally show up on any ledger, and yet, they hold a palpable power that is rooted in the subtle.

A Note on the Speaker:

Nipun Mehta is the founder of ServiceSpace (formerly Charity Focus), an incubator of projects that works at the intersection of volunteerism, technology and gift-economy. What started as an experiment with four friends in the Silicon Valley has now grown to an global ecosystem of over 350,000 members that has delivered millions of dollars in service for free. Nipun has received many awards, including the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the President's Volunteer Service Award and Wavy Gravy's Humanitarian award. He is routinely invited to share his message of "giftivism" to wide ranging audiences, from inner city youth in Memphis to academics in London to international dignitaries at the United Nations; his speech at UPenn commencement in May 2012 was read by millions. He serves on the advisory boards of the Seva Foundation, the Dalai Lama Foundation, and Greater Good Science Center.