



Azim Premji University Faculty Seminar Series
presents a lecture on

Development Paradigms: Challenges and the Way Out

Speaker

Medha Patkar

Narmada Bachao Andolan and National Alliance of People's Movements

Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2015

Time: 4.00 to 6.00 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

Development as 'change' cannot be attained without resource capital. The values, goals, priorities as well as processes of planning are other parameters that influence any development paradigm. The latter in turn impacts regimes of rights, ownership, the distribution of the resources as well as development benefits. Technology, too becomes the major criterion that causes inevitable impacts, which are both, positive and negative.

All of these aspects, when not fully assessed and chosen carelessly, without comparing options, are challenged by those who pay the costs. Those who benefit oppose and object to the act of questioning; they vociferously demand 'development'!

Such a conflict, now being witnessed across the country, is taking place between the communities living amidst natural resources and those whom Madhav Gadgil termed 'omnivores'. Farmers, labourers, fisherpersons have been facing not just onslaught of 'development' but also a denial of the right to be partners in making development decisions, and to agitate or resist. The citizenry, intellectuals too, must take sides in such a scenario. Whether it is large dams, mines, mega cities or industrial corridor, all of us must look into arguments and reasoned debate, as on, say, the issue of 'land acquisition' today, and then decide our position.

Let's answer these questions: Whose Benefits? Who suffers? What are the costs and who pays them? Towards what end is a certain path chosen?

About the Speaker

Medha Patkar took an MA in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay in 1976, with specialisation in Urban and Rural Community Development. She spent the next five years working with urban poor communities in slums in Bombay and teaching post-graduate classes at TISS, where she was registered for her doctoral studies. Her action research projects of the time contributed to struggles of agricultural labourers working in sugarcane farms in South Gujarat.

During 1985-88, she travelled extensively along the banks of the Narmada River to study the extent of displacement to be caused by the proposed Sardar Sarovar (Narmada Dam) Project. Since 1985, she along with a group of young activists and farmers mobilised adivasis in the Satpudas and organised them in a state-wide organisation in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, which later got merged into Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the River Narmada Movement).

She was one of the main organizer of national mass gathering on Development Paradigm with 350 people's organizations in 1989 in the Narmada Valley.

She worked as a Commissioner on World Commission on Dams that studied large dams across the world from 1998 to 2000.

She has been one of the founders of National Alliance of People's Movements since 1996, an alliance of more than 200 people's organizations. NAPM carries forward and support various movements of farmers, labourers, dalits, adivasis, women and youth till date.

She with her colleagues, has contributed to making of policies and enactments on Land Acquisition and for urban poor, adivasis, hawkers and unorganized workers.