



## **Azim Premji University Colloquium Series**

presents a lecture on

### **“Global Knowledge, Local Insights: Contestations around Maternal Health in India”**

Speaker

**Jashodhara Dasgupta**

Senior Advisor, SAHAYOG, Lucknow

**Date: October 08, 2015 (Thursday)**

**Time: 2.00pm to 3.30 pm**

**Venue: 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium, 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**

This talk is a reflection on the last ten years of efforts to reduce maternal mortality in India, starting with the launch of the ambitious National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 which was closely followed by the review of the first five years of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2005. I argue that the global development expertise generated around the MDG indicators and targets influenced policy making in India to bring down maternal deaths, which were contested by local civil society activists advocating other policy approaches. I will describe how local insights continued to provide a contrary picture to the globally acclaimed results of the NRHM's approach, and are now substantiated by more scholarly analyses of maternal health data. The question that I raise is around the greater legitimacy accorded to global knowledge often derived from context-neutral meta-analyses across multiple country settings, to the comparative neglect of context-specific analyses enriched with a more grounded perspective.

#### **About the Speaker**

**Jashodhara Dasgupta** has been working with issues of women's rights in Uttar Pradesh, India for almost 30 years in the voluntary sector, and is currently a policy advocate and researcher on the right to health, with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Jashodhara was one of the founders of the Indian NGO SAHAYOG in 1992, and for the last 12 years has been heading its work with women's health and gender equality using human rights frameworks. She has served on various academic and government committees on health, including most recently the Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health (2011-2013), and earlier the High-level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage of the Government of India (2010-2011). She has been part of setting up several civil society platforms, and is anchoring the National Alliance on Maternal Health and Human Rights, as well as the International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights for the last five years.