



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

"Beyond the Development Trap? Ten Years of Community Radio in India"

Speaker

Vinod Pavarala

Professor and Head, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad

Date: November 04, 2016 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 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

It is over 10 years since a putative community radio policy was announced by the Government of India, in 2003, allowing 'established educational institutions' to apply for a license to broadcast over a limited-power FM frequency. It took three years after that initial announcement was made for the government to concede the same right to community-based organizations, which were not any more seen as 'a threat to the security and sovereignty' of the nation. Civil society organizations, media activists and advocates who ran a campaign for opening up of airwaves from mid-1990s up until the early 2000s had emphasized the potential of using community radio for development, rather than foregrounding what seemed to be the more radical framework of communication rights. This talk will review this history and examine some aberrations that have emerged in the Indian community radio landscape. It will explore questions such as: whether the NGOization of community radio reproduces the same top-down pedagogical approaches to development that were adopted by the post-Independence governments in India?; has the new access to means of representation ushered in, as was expected, an alternative, subaltern public sphere?

About the Speaker

Vinod Pavarala is Professor and Head of the Department of Communication and, since 2011, has been the UNESCO Chair on Community Media at University of Hyderabad. For over a decade, through his research and policy advocacy, he has played a significant role in furthering the discourse on democratization of airwaves in India and elsewhere. His much reviewed book, co-authored with Kanchan K. Malik, *Other Voices: The Struggle for Community Radio in*

India (Sage, 2007) documents community-based efforts across India to carve out an alternative public sphere. In the last four years, the UNESCO Chair, the only one of its kind in the world, has been working not only in South Asia, but also, more recently, in East Africa, and contributed to policy advocacy in Europe as well. He serves on the editorial boards of many international journals in the field and furthers communication education in several institutions in an advisory capacity. Prof. Pavarala has dual masters in Sociology and Communication and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh (USA). He taught at the University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA), and Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, before joining the University of Hyderabad in 1995.