



Colloquium: Reinterpreting IEC - The Politics of Information, Education, Communication

Event Sub Title:

Reinterpreting IEC - The Politics of Information, Education, Communication

Speaker:

Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey and Shankar Singh

Date / Time:

July 17, 2014 - 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Venue:

Basketball court, Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Abstract:

17 July colloquium will be the inaugural colloquium for our 2014-15 batch of M.A. students. The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) members will interact with the students on the topic: **Reinterpreting IEC - The Politics of Information, Education, Communication**. Each one of them will speak on one theme (Information/Education/Communication).

A Note on the Speaker:

Aruna Roy is a socio-political activist who works with local and national issues as a founder and member of the MKSS and the NCPRI (National Campaign for People's Right to Information) and other campaigns. She was born in 1946 and went to a number of schools known for their innovative approach to education - including the celebrated Centre for the Arts, Kalakshetra in Chennai. In 1987 she started working in central Rajasthan with Shankar Singh and Nikhil Dey, towards evolving a peoples' organization for empowerment and change. After two formative struggles for land and minimum wages, the poor of the area got together to establish the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in 1990. The MKSS began the struggle for the Right to Information and later the Right to Work which culminated in the RTI and NREGA laws being passed by parliament in 2005. The passing of the two legislations by the Lok Sabha in 2005 has strengthened processes of democratic struggle, and given hope to ordinary citizens, empowering them to change their lives. Aruna Roy is the President for

National Federation for Indian Women (NFIW) and the co-convener of the Pension Parishad. She received the Magsaysay Award for community leadership 2000 amongst others.

Nikhil Dey was born in Bangalore in 1963. He was educated in India and the USA, and got his degree in law from the University of Delhi. After working briefly with the Kheduth Mazdoor Chetna Sangathana in Madhya Pradesh, he joined Aruna Roy and Shankar Singh in 1987 to go to Devdungri, in Rajsamand District in Rajasthan, where, along with many others they helped form and establish the MKSS. He has been actively working for Right to Information, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Lokpal bill and Right to Food and other Human Rights issues. Nikhil has been an important influence in helping build a rights based discourse in India that recognizes that the economic, social and political rights of the poor and marginalized are intrinsically linked together.

Shankar Singh aged 58, was born in Lotiyana village in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. He was brought up by widowed mother, a manual labourer, who managed to send him to high school under the most difficult circumstances. Self-taught up to a graduation level, Shankar rejected traditional employment and searched for work with a larger social cause. He picked up skills of communication through theater and puppetry to help communicate powerful ideas in a more effective manner. He is one of the founder members of the MKSS along with Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey and has worked as a social activist for over three decades. Acknowledged to be one of India's leading figures in people's theatre, he has combined over two decades of activism with the power of people's communication through street theatre, puppetry, song, and drama to strengthen the voice of the poor. Through his uncanny, incisive wit and his keen political insight, he instinctively communicates complex issues in an idiom familiar to the people.