



Golden Jubilee Year 2014-15

Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College, Ulhasnagar-3, Thane dist, Maharashtra

In-charge Principal: Dr. Padma V. Deshmukh

www.chm.edu

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT! FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!

Globalization, Economic Democracy and Gandhi

A National Level Workshop at Smt CHM College, Ulhasnagar

December 11th, 12th and 13th, 2014

Globalization, as a phenomenon and specially its pace over the last few decades has radically altered human society. In today's interdependent world –products, finances, law, ideas and cultures have breached the national boundaries.

In this context it is necessary to imagine a world in which the 'market' is more humanely redefined and not dominated by profit alone.

A world in which cooperation and creative exchange become more popular than ruthless competition.

Beware, this is not an invitation for idle, utopian day-dreaming. Open Source Softwares is already an illustration of cooperation. These are just a few of the many creative possibilities and challenges that await us in the near future.

Granted that there are no easy solutions to the world's nightmarish problems -- melting polar caps, proliferation of nuclear weapons, over a billion people living in abject poverty, toxic air, toxic rivers and climate change.

At first, the idea of fundamentally re-programming markets seems destructive, anti-profits and some kind of fluffy romantic non-sense.

But what if we are indeed at the threshold of redefining profit itself? What, if we don't have to worry about making money at one level of life and worry about the quality of the air we breathe at some other level? **What if money making, our own health and the planet's health are all missions we can address on one plane?**

The motives for doing this are rather powerful. One, because almost half the world's population are deprived. And, two, because the survival of the affluent classes and the planet itself is now seriously under threat with deepening ecological crisis, the hazards of development and a string of market upheavals.

There is a San Francisco based think-tank which is actually called "Redefining Progress". This group is lobbying for the concept of 'Genuine Progress Indicators'. Unlike the concept of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Genuine Progress Indicators would deal not merely with production and material resources but actual quality of life by taking into account various social and ecological factors. In Bhutan, policies are designed to raise the Gross National Happiness.

There is also a clamour against the kind of globalization that puts profits above people. There is a growing demand for a "cosmopolitan localism", that is, inter-linked networks of empowered local economies that meet the national and international sphere from a position of strength. In this context, local is not always in defined geographical terms but on the basis of shared values and interests.

So as we traverse the challenging terrain ahead, moving towards economic democracy, Can Gandhi's vision of Trusteeship and Sarvodaya be the basis and framework of industry and commerce? Rajni Bakshi, our key resource person says:

“Half a century ago, when the world was clearly divided between capitalism and communism, it was easy to dismiss Trusteeship as a form of dreamy idealism. Not any more. Communism has collapsed and the greed is good variety of capitalism is in retreat. Today there is much more space for the idea that we can succeed in the market-place as social and moral beings not merely as slaves to some supply and demand curves.

“There are some basic requirements for exploring these possibilities. One, you need faith in the inherent capacity of humans to evolve to higher levels of being . Two, you need an open mind that is willing to question the set, familiar ways and consider seemingly radical departures. Three, you need the staying power for slow, sustained and persistent action. And, four, you need a firm resistance to facile optimism. Can we look upto Gandhi for clues on how to cultivate these qualities? Also shouldn't we test Gandhi's confidence that people from all walks of life, from the rich to the poor, have a key role to play in building a more humane and ethically anchored society?”

The three day program shall deliberate on the above note – from how violence manifests in day to day life to violence in economic systems, the paradoxical characterisations of globalization ie identity tensions versus potential for solidarity and cooperation and explore in an open manner if Gandhi's insights about society. markets, ethics and innovation may be a way to nurture and regenerate our human and natural capital.

.....

Confirmed Resource Persons-

RajniBakshi- Gandhi Peace Fellow at Gateway House and a Mumbai-based author.

ReemaNanavaty - Director, Economic and Rural Development ,SEWA

Shailesh Gandhi - Former Commissioner in the Information Commission in New Delhi. He is a retired businessman and right to information activist.

ShaileshHaribhakti - Renowned Chartered Accountant and former President of Indian Merchants Chambers

A Resource person from **Yunus Social Business**

Awaiting confirmation from few more resource persons-

S Parashuraman -Director , TISS

Anupam Mishra

Harsh Mandar

Tentative Program-

Dec. 11th Morning: Opening and Keynote/Special Talk

Dec. 11th afternoon: Workshop

Dec. 12th morning: Workshop continues.

Dec. 12th afternoon: Panel Discussion

And staging of the Play Mahadevbhai by Jamini Pathak

Dec. 13th morning: Session on Social Entrepreneurship.

Afternoon –Visit to Mani Bhavan

Who can apply ?

Applicants must be not more than 30 years of age. (May be relaxed in a few cases)

Applicants must either be enrolled in a college as a student, researcher, PhD scholar, or be college faculty, or a professional from industry/corporate/business or non-profit /social sector.

Last date of application- 15th Oct, 2014

Requirements:

A brief bio data (by 15th Oct,2014)

A short essay of 500 to 700 words on why the applicant is interested in Gandhian ideas and why he/she wish to attend this program. **(by 20th Oct,2014)**

Second Announcement follows shortly regarding Registration Fee/Accomodationetc

Meanwhile, For any queries, please feel free to email GandhiCentre.CHM@gmail.com