Conference on
Affirmative Action in Higher Education in India, the United States and South Africa
New Delhi, March 19-21, 2008
Organised by
Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion,
School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University
and
Centre for Comparative Constitutionalism, University of Chicago

19 March 2008: Venue: India Habitat Centre, Amaltas Hall
9.30 A.M. Registration
10.00 A.M. Inaugural Session
Chair: Professor Bhalchandra Mungekar, Member, Planning Commission
Inaugural Address: Professor S.K. Thorat, Chairperson, University Grants Commission
11.00 A.M. – 11.15 A.M. Tea
11.15 A.M. – 1.00 P.M. Session I: Why Affirmative Action?
Chair: Professor Rajeev Bhargava, Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
Professor Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago Law School
Affirmative Action and the Goals of Higher Education
Professor Deepak Nayyar, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Markets, Globalisation and Higher Education: Implications for Affirmative Action
1.00 P.M. – 2.00 P.M. Lunch
2.00 P.M. – 3.45 P.M. Session II: Discrimination and Affirmative Action
Chair: Judge Diane Wood, U.S. Court of Appeals
Professor Ravivarma Kumar, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court and Visiting Professor, NLSUI, Bangalore
The Future of Reservations in Higher Education
Professor Zoya Hasan, Jawaharlal Nehru University,
Discrimination and Underrepresentation of Muslims in Indian Higher Education: A Case for Positive Action
3.45P.M.- 4.00 P.M. Tea
4.00P.M. – 5.45 P.M.
Professor Narendra Jadhav, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pune
Affirmative Action in Higher Education in India
Dr. D. Parthasarathy, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
IIT’s Experience of Implementing Reservations and the Institutional Problems and Barriers in Effective Implementation and Efficient Outcomes

20 March 2008: Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Social Sciences - I, Committee Room
9.30 A. M. – 11.10 A. M.  **Session III: Affirmative Action and the Issue of Merit**  
Chair: Professor Saleem Badat, Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University, South Africa  
Professor Lani Guinier, Harvard University  
*The Case for Democratic Merit*  
Professor Thomas Weisskopf, University of Michigan  
*Rethinking Affirmative Action in Admission to Higher Educational Institutions*  

11.10 A. M. – 11.20 A. M.  **Tea**  

11.20 A. M. – 1.00 P. M.  **Session IV: Experience of United States and South Africa**  
Chair: Professor T.K. Oommen, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
Judge Diane Wood U.S. Court of Appeals  
*Affirmative Action in Higher Education- An Ambivalent Experience of the U.S.*  
Professor Saleem Badat, Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University, South Africa  
*Redressing the Colonial/Apartheid Legacy: Social Equity and Higher Education Admissions in Democratic South Africa*  

1.00 P. M. – 2.00 P. M.  **Lunch**  

2.00 P. M. – 3.40 P. M.  **Session V: Discourses on Affirmative Action**  
Chair: Professor Thomas Weisskopf, University of Michigan  
Professor Jayati Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
*Caste and Discrimination in Higher Education: Evidence from the National Sample Survey*  
Dr. Rochana Bajpai, SOAS, University of London  
*Political Discourse on Affirmative Action in India: Continuities and Shifts*  

3.40 P. M. – 4.00 P. M.  **Tea**  

4.00 P. M. – 4.50 P. M.  Shri Rajeev Dhavan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court  
*Parliamentary Debate on the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill 2004*  

21 March 2008 Venue: India Habitat Centre, Magnolia Hall  
10.00 A. M. – 12.30 P. M.  **Session VI: Remedial Justice**  
Chair: Professor Balveer Arora, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
Professor Henry Richardson, Georgetown University  
*On the Site of Remedial Justice: Colleges, Companies, and the State*  
Professor N.R. Madhava Menon, Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations  
*Equal Opportunities for Deprived Groups: Rethinking Affirmative Action*  
Professor Satish Deshpande, Delhi University
Regulating Access to Higher Education in India: Social Justice and Credential capital in a Poor and Unequal Society

12.30 P. M. – 12.45 P. M.  Tea
12.45 P. M. – 1.30 P. M.  Valedictory Session
   Chair: Professor Harjit Singh, Dean, School of Social Sciences
   Jawaharlal Nehru University
   Valedictory Address: Professor Prabhat Patnaik, Jawaharlal Nehru University
   Affirmative Action and the “Efficiency” Argument

1.30 P. M. – 2.30 P. M.  Lunch