

**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*

3.45 P.M.- 4.00 P.M. Tea

4.00 P.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

