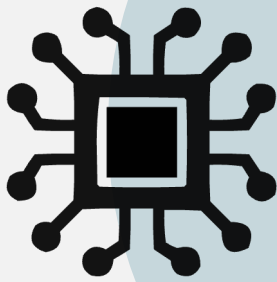




Masters Programme in Public Policy

Public Seminar



Changing Paradigms of Public Policy

Intersection of Technology, Environment and Society



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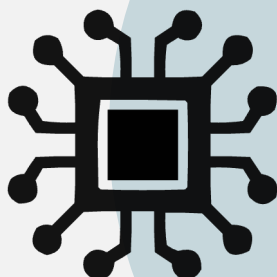


Changing Paradigms of Public Policy:

Intersection of Technology, Environment and Society



Date	Time	Venue	Theme
14 th March	9.30AM to 11.30AM	NAB 201	Reframing Public Policy for a Climate-Safe Future
14 th March	11.30AM to 1PM	NAB 201	Technological Governance: Rethinking Policy for a Sustainable and Equitable Future
14 th March	2.30PM to 4PM	NAB 201	Informality, World of Work, Technology Adoption & Job Displacement, Changing Employment conditions
15 th March	9.30AM to 11.30AM	OAB 201	Digitization: Bridging Intersectional Boundaries in Contemporary Public Policy
15 th March	11.30AM to 1PM	OAB 201	Leaving No One Behind: Examining Sector-Specific Policies in India
15 th March	2.30PM to 4PM	Conference Hall, International Training Centre	Hunasikote Memorial Lecture: CASTES AND MINORITIES: State and Constitution in a Majoritarian Electocracy (Delivered by Prof.Satish Deshpande)





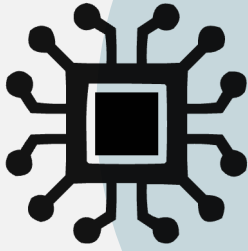
Memorial lecture on CASTES AND MINORITIES: State and Constitution in a Majoritarian Electocracy

to be delivered by



Professor Satish Deshpande

Prof. Deshpande currently is Prof. M.N Srinivas Chair Professor at the Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. He has worked as a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. He has also worked at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the Institute of Economic Growth (both in Delhi) and the University of Hyderabad. His research interests include caste and class inequalities, higher education today, politics and history of the social sciences, issues of language in academia and contemporary social theory. He has various National and International publications to his credit.



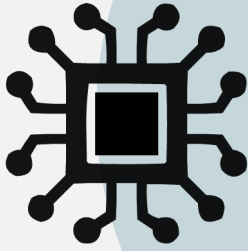
Changing Paradigms of Public Policy:

Intersection of Technology, Environment and Society

Introduction:

In contemporary forms of effective governance, policy paradigms serve as overarching frameworks that shape the discourse, decision-making processes, and outcomes for citizen and state within various sectors. Rooted in linguistic, normative, epistemic, empirical, and methodological dimensions, policy paradigms delineate meaningful problems, define data worthiness, and regulate the policy process itself (Stone, 2012). As such, they play a pivotal role in governing the trajectory of policy development and implementation, often coinciding with common sense and assuming an ideological status that makes them challenging to question (Hall, 1993).

In this seminar, while we initiate a broad discussion on contemporary policy paradigms, our key concern is to develop a discussion on the evolution of policy paradigms, often influenced by myriad factors, including socio-political, economic, and cultural shifts. For instance, the transition from the personal development paradigm to the human capital paradigm in education reflects broader societal changes, such as the increasing emphasis on economic efficiency and productivity (Macpherson, 2015). This paradigmatic shift has profound implications for educational discourse and policy options, as it redefines the goals and priorities of education to align with economic imperatives (Marginson, 1993). Therefore, through this seminar we will highlight the interconnectedness of themes within policy discourse that reflects the dynamic nature of policy paradigms. It is noteworthy that in response to paradigmatic shifts vis-a-vis shaping policy priorities and decision-making processes the themes such as economic efficiency, social justice, and equity have invariably emerged and evolved in contemporary context. Moreover, the introduction of new paradigms by cultural strangers, whether internal dissenters or external agents, have incessantly challenged existing norms and fostered policy innovation (Schmidt, 2008). These outsiders bring divergent perspectives rooted in their unique cultural backgrounds, enabling a critical examination of prevailing policy paradigms and ideologies (Béland & Cox, 2016).



Changing Paradigms of Public Policy:

Intersection of Technology, Environment and Society

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, escalating global climate crisis, evolving dynamics of the world of work, and the transformative power of digitization, the landscape of public policy is undergoing profound shifts. It is in this context that this seminar deals with five key themes which are:

1. Climate Resilience and Public Policy:
2. Technological Governance and Sustainability:
3. Informality and the Changing World of Work:
4. Digitization and Intersectionality in Public Policy:
5. Inclusive Sector-Specific Policies in India:

In the subsequent concept notes that elaborate on these themes in detail, critical themes at the intersection of technology, environment, society, and governance, underscoring the imperative of reimagining policy frameworks to address contemporary challenges are effectively explored.

While distinct in their focus, these concept notes collectively illuminate the interconnectedness of policy domains and emphasize the need for holistic approaches that prioritize sustainability, equity, and resilience.

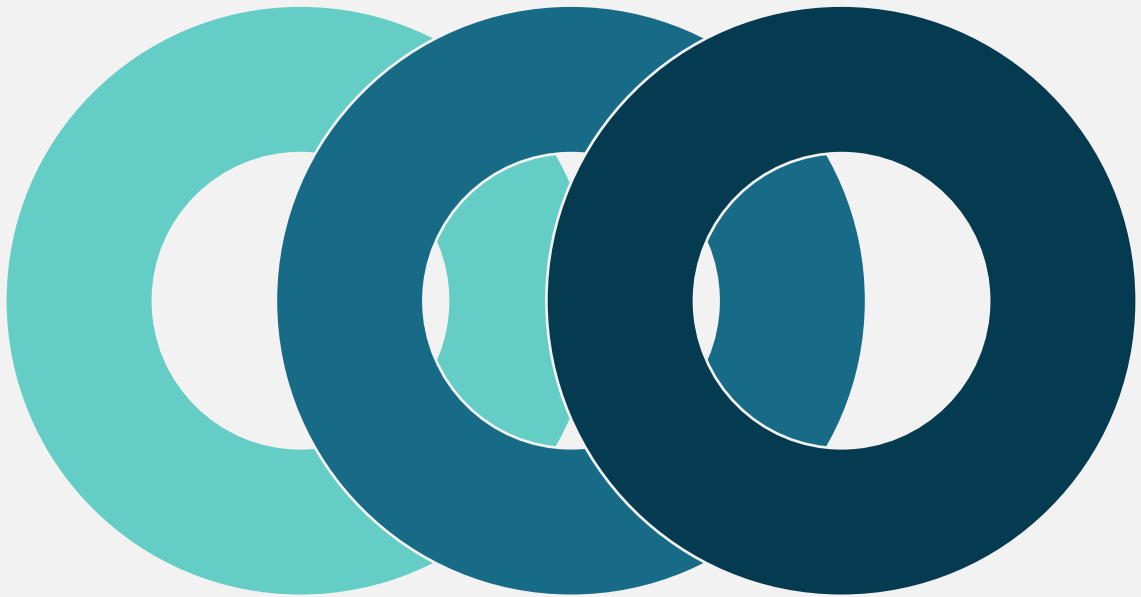
Conclusion

As we embark on this collective journey of inquiry and exploration, it is evident that navigating the complexities of contemporary policy landscapes requires collaborative engagement, interdisciplinary insights, and a commitment to inclusive and sustainable development. By weaving together diverse perspectives and addressing the multifaceted challenges of our time, we can not only recognize the evolving nature of policy paradigms and their impact on policy priorities and decision-making processes, we can also chart a course toward more inclusive and sustainable policy frameworks. Though this two-day seminar our intention is to delineate intricacies of contemporary policy landscapes and the interplay between policy paradigms, thematic discourse, and societal values policy that prioritize the well-being of people and the planet, leaving no one behind.



Masters Programme in Public Policy

Public Seminar



Concept Notes



Reframing Public Policy for a Climate-Safe Future



As the traditional economic growth paradigms, heavily rooted in neoliberal policies, increasingly lead to environmental degradation and a heightened vulnerability to climate-related risks, there's a pressing need for a paradigmatic shift. This seminar aims to critically assess these growth-centric approaches that prioritize economic expansion at the expense of ecological integrity and social equity. By challenging these established notions, the seminar advocates for the adoption of sustainable and equitable pathways forward, emphasizing the need for alternative measures of progress such as the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) and ecological footprint, which more accurately reflect societal well-being and environmental sustainability.

Central to the seminar's discourse is the urgent reorientation of public policy towards enhancing environmental resilience. Drawing from interdisciplinary fields like ecological economics, political ecology, and public policy analysis, the seminar navigates through the complex challenges posed by climate change. It proposes a nuanced understanding that informs and shapes policy-making towards a future resilient to climate adversities. This involves a critical examination of both top-down and bottom-up policy approaches, advocating for a balance that incorporates community-centred strategies in the broader climate change adaptation and mitigation framework.

Moreover, the seminar delves into the political-economic structures that sustain growth-centric policies, scrutinizing the power dynamics at play within institutions, corporations, and civil society. Highlighting the opportunities for transformative change and policy innovation within these frameworks, it presents a systems-oriented approach as a viable solution to the climate crisis. This perspective not only seeks to dismantle the mechanisms perpetuating unsustainable policies but also to foster systemic changes that promote climate resilience.

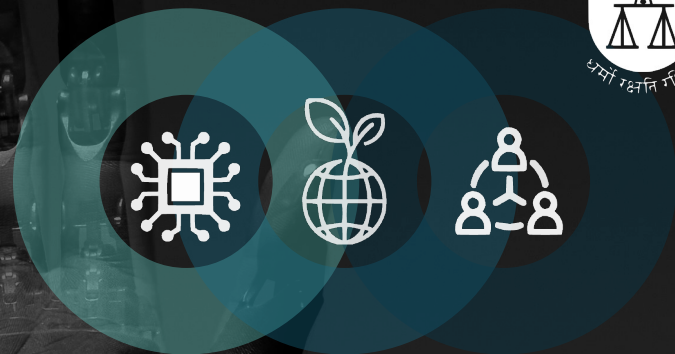
The seminar serves as a platform for robust discourse and knowledge exchange, aimed at informing and shaping public policy towards a sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient future. Through collaborative engagement and interdisciplinary inquiry, it encourages participants to explore creative solutions to the multifaceted challenges of climate change. The overarching goal is to equip policymakers, activists, and scholars with the insights necessary for driving immediate, collective action towards redefining our approach to growth, governance, and environmental stewardship, firmly anchored in the principles of equity and justice.

Keywords:

Climate Policy ,Ecological Economics, Political Ecology, Sustainability, Just Transitions, Governance, Climate Resilience, neoliberalism

Technological Governance:

Rethinking Policy for a
Sustainable and Equitable Future.



In the era of rapid technological advancement, integrating technology into governance systems has emerged as a promising avenue to address complex societal challenges. The notion of technological governance encompasses the utilization of innovative tools, data-driven approaches, and digital platforms to inform policy decisions and enhance governance effectiveness. However, the prevailing narrative often portrays technology as a panacea for all governance dilemmas, overlooking the nuanced interplay between technological interventions, societal dynamics, and environmental considerations.

The presentation aims to examine this paradigm shift in governance critically. It acknowledges the transformative potential of technology but seeks to challenge the oversimplified assumptions, advocating for a deeper understanding of the complexities of using technology for governance. It moves beyond segmented discussions to present a comprehensive view that explores the dual nature of technology, the potential for unintended consequences, and the ethical and environmental considerations into a single framework.

The adoption of technological solutions offers significant opportunities to improve governance processes, transparency, and citizen engagement, but also poses challenges and risks exacerbating existing inequalities. It often overlooks possible unintended consequences and ethical dilemmas. By examining case studies and empirical evidence, this discussion illuminates the unforeseen aspects of technological governance initiatives including differential access to technology has the potential to exacerbate existing inequalities within society, reiterating the Law of Amplification. Moreover, the environmental implications of technological progress, including the digital infrastructure's carbon footprint and the generation of electronic waste, demand integrating environmental sustainability into technological governance frameworks.

Moving beyond the techno-centric approach to governance, the presentation will propose a reimagined policy framework that embraces technology as an enabler rather than a panacea. Drawing on interdisciplinary insights from technology, environmental studies, and social sciences, the presentation will advocate for a holistic approach to policymaking that prioritizes sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Keywords: Technological Governance, Duality, Equity, Sustainability

Informality and the World of Work



The world of work has witnessed a situation of turmoil and crisis over the past three years marked by a combination of unpredictability as a result of health, economic and geopolitical crisis along with fault lines in both the social and environment context. These changes have reconfigured the world's labour markets and shaped the demand for occupations and skills of the future, resulting in diverse economic trajectories within and between nations, both emerging and developed.

Central to these changes has been the adoption of technology and the intertwining of the Fourth Industrial Revolution with the world of work. In today's global economy, trends in technology and trade have led to changes in the system of global production and exchange and to reductions in the employment intensity of growth – and, thereby, to changes in the nature of work and the structure of labour markets. All of these have contributed to an increase in informal employment. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), characterised by a wide range of technologies is expected to profoundly transform the future of work. Many jobs and ways of working will become redundant while many others will be created anew. Assessing the impact of these emerging technologies on the future of work requires an enquiry into not just job displacement but also changing employment conditions.

These changing nature of the world of work and the larger concerns of informality are worrisome for developing and expanding economies like India where the informal economy not only contributes a big chunk to the nation's GDP but also absorbs a higher percentage of the labour force. In India, the informal economy produces close to 50% of the country's GDP on average, while more than 90% of all workers are employed in the informal sector. India's mission to bring its vast workforce into formal jobs is faltering, leaving a majority of non-farm labour in unincorporated businesses. The data from the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23 shows that 74% of non-farm workers are in informal sector enterprises. The Indian context marked by the existence of the majority of workers without a formal employment contract or access to formal social protection requires a deeper understanding of rising informality along with technological adoption.

In the seminar, we delve deeper into the conceptual understanding of informality tracing the transforming paradigms with respect to the changing nature of the world of work. The group will also map out the developments in the international standards for statistics on informality and contextualize it within India's attempt of creating its own labour statistics. Throughout the seminar, we will also attempt to evaluate India's policies across the larger global policy context while focusing on the historical and the contemporary policy paradigms.

Keywords: *Informality, World of Work, Technology Adoption & Job Displacement, Changing Employment conditions*

Digitization:

Bridging Intersectional Boundaries in Contemporary Public Policy



The paradigm shift of public policy represents the synthesis of innovative approaches and the dynamism of modern society in addressing the multifaceted challenges of our times. The integration of digitization into public policy not only promises to enhance efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity in decision-making processes but also presents unparalleled opportunities for responsive and effective governance. However, amidst this evolving landscape, critical attention must be given to bridging existing policy gaps, particularly concerning potential digital divides and ethical considerations, to ensure equitable access and safeguard fundamental rights in the digital era. Through this seminar, our attention is drawn to the migratory workforce of India, where digitization holds potential to improve service delivery and tackle social challenges, albeit often at the expense of inclusivity. While migrant populations, in general, encounter obstacles such as lack of identity documentation, access to social benefits, housing, and financial services, women migrants face compounded challenges due to their gender and migrant status. The presence of this double burden is often overlooked and limits the empowerment of marginalized groups. In this context, we seek to understand the pivotal role of digitization and digital inclusion.

Furthermore, gender mainstreaming, intersectionality, and related academic discussions form the cornerstone of our exploration, as we seek to unravel the nuances of policy interventions such as the e-Shram portal and Public Distribution Systems (PDS). The role of digitisation in mitigating climate change is an emerging crucial topic where small manufacturing enterprises and informal sector labour needs to be protected. Our economy needs to be restructured where SMEs are protected from the risks of digitisation. The 5 broader objectives we wish to achieve are as follows:

1. How are digital policies and platforms made?
2. How exclusion takes place through digitisation of policies?
3. How is gender disproportionate and affects women?
4. Why do these policies need to be made more inclusive?
5. How can these policies be re-imagined to be made more inclusive?

As we embark on this journey, we recognize the significance of engaging with these themes not merely as abstract concepts but as tangible avenues for transformative change. Through rigorous analysis and insightful discourse, we aim to illuminate pathways for policy reform that uphold the principles of equity, justice, and inclusivity.

Keywords: Digitization, Intersectionality, Gender Disparities, Governance, Digital Inclusion.



Leaving No One Behind:

Examining Sector-Specific Policies in India



The seminar explores how evolving policy paradigms, shaped by technology, environment, and society, can either exacerbate or alleviate social exclusion in India. While these discussions may appear distinct, the seminar seeks to establish the crucial link between them by elucidating how changing policy frameworks can simultaneously worsen and ameliorate existing inequalities. By gaining fresh perspectives on combating inequality, the seminar focuses on the specific needs of marginalized communities to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable future. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of urbanization, education, health, and social exclusion in India, the seminar conducts a detailed examination of three policies—Smart Cities Mission, Ayushman Bharat, and NEP—to understand their interplay better.

Urban Planning: The Smart Cities Mission, while aiming to enhance urban infrastructure and quality of life through technological innovation, has faced criticism for its limited inclusivity and potential neglect of marginalised communities. Critics argue that the mission's emphasis on the Master Plan approach and technology-driven solutions may overlook the needs of those with limited access to digital tools and resources. This leads to subversive urban planning and contested ideas of citizenship itself along with who claims and who gets. Concerns about gentrification and displacement highlight the risk of marginalised groups being pushed out of newly developed areas.

Health: In India, the health sector grapples with challenges, particularly in rural areas where access to services is limited. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, recognized as a significant healthcare reform, aims to extend coverage to 10.74 cr marginalized rural families and specific groups through an annual family health insurance of Rs. 5 lakhs. Despite its ambitious scope, numerous reports have underscored myriad inadequacies on implementation and design fronts such as delays in card issuance, pre-hospitalization, intermediate diagnostic and follow-up costs, along reimbursement issues.

Education: While NEP 2020's commendable emphasis on inclusive learning and vocational paths aims to improve accessibility and quality education for all, concerns persist about its potential inadvertent reinforcement of systemic inequalities, particularly impacting marginalized communities. The perceived risks of education commodification through increased privatization, standardized testing, and skill-centricity could exacerbate existing inequalities, rendering private education less accessible and devaluing diverse knowledge systems.

By acknowledging the interconnectedness of urban planning, healthcare, and education, and their impact on social exclusion, this seminar lays the groundwork for crafting sustainable and inclusive policies that benefit all members of society.

Keywords: *Inclusive Learning, Commodification, OOPE (Out of Pocket Expenditure) Subversive Urban Planning, Contested Ideas of Citizenship, Public Expenditure on Health*