



Summer Research Program seminar series

Science, Technology and Scientific Temper

Day: Thursday, June 13, 2024

Venue: LH-5, Lecture Hall Complex

Time: 4 pm



Prof. Hridaykant Dewan
Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Science is something that seems to lead the world. At the time of independence, it was thought to be the engine that would propel India into the world orbit. The 1966 policy spoke about science as the engine of economic development and prosperity but beside that it saw it as an agent for social and cultural transformation. There was a subsequent effort to make spread of scientific temper a main agenda, It is important to unpack the pro and reactive responses to this effort.

Then there is the important point for us as people who are doing science, "how do issues for research get decided in science". Is science driven by curiosity and desire to know or there are complicated factors that determine the questions science explores and is there some way that influences us?

Technology is said to be a product of science, but it is also useful to think about whether that is true. How valid is the reasoning that it is technology that drives science and not vice versa? And then there are more serious questions of who does technology benefit and what have been the main thrusts of technology and how inclusive it has been. The point is as people in science what should be our role, how do we make choices, what can we do to align our work to what we essentially believe and value in society. Recognize that science is not special but something that is a social product that is influenced and controlled just as other aspects are hence be aware of forces that affect it and us.

About the speaker: Prof. Hridaykant Dewan (Hardy, as he is fondly known) leads the Translations Initiative team at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. Prof. Dewan has a Ph.D. in particle physics from Delhi University. He has been working in teacher development and elementary education for the last 35 years and continues to work towards systemic improvement in our public education. He has been member of the founding group of Eklavya movement in Madhya Pradesh and Education Advisor and Organizing Secretary of Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur. He has played a key role in the capacity building of the teachers and the preparation of materials for children and teachers (of primary classes) and for science and mathematics (in elementary classes). He has done a detailed evaluation study of the DPEP (District Primary Education Programme) efforts in Karnataka State. At Azim Premji University, he is leading the efforts to translate and create a repository of readings and study material to launch their degree programs in Hindi, Kannada, etc. He is also an adjunct faculty member at IISER Mohali where he teaches courses in Science Education.