

N

Removing Unfreedom

**July 7th Colloquium
London School of Economics**

SESSION 3

**Introduction to Professor Amartya Sen, and Lord Meghnad Desai.
With Michael Mutter (DFID)**

We are very pleased to have with us two very important people in our world, Professor Amartya Sen and Lord Meghnad Desai So here we have represented in front of you a gathering of development professionals and practitioners. And I would like to stress the practitioner element that we have here as well.

Representatives of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India are here with the president, Jockin here. Of the NGO SPARC who have been pioneering work, first of all in Mumbai through the Slum Dwellers International Movement and coordinates activities through sixteen countries across the world. And I must say it's a tribute to Jockin that he holds this all together as a practitioner force. You wouldn't believe it looking at him, but he's really a giant. A giant in our world.

What we would like to do is, in this last session; compare notes I think, with some of the ideas that we have been exploring during our workshop today. Reflecting on Romi Khosla's papers that we have before us, on the presentation that was made at UN Habitat in Brussels last October for World Habitat Day. And to explore where we think we can be advocates of the Development as Freedom ideas in our work and in the way in which we present our work or work with the practitioners on the ground and supporting them in their work that is in co-operation with their governments, wherever they may be.

We have asked Yusuf Samiullah from DFID to field the questions that we would like to put to you Professor Sen which I think in a way describes the kind of deliberations that we've been having and for us to engage with you in exploring these ideas further.

Dr Yusuf Samiullah (DFID)

Chair for Professor Amartya Sen and Lord Meghnad Desai

Well thanks very much Michael, and welcome to the new faces in the room of which there are several.

It's a privilege to welcome Amartya Sen and Lord Desai to the table, both of course are extremely well known figures and very long standing academics, public speakers and great thinkers and we have been associated with over the last many years and Lord Desai is one of LSE's longest serving and most well known academics. And you will of course encounter him as a commentator on a wide variety of government and other public policies. Professor Amartya Sen is of course also extremely well known to you.

My only commentary is wondering how to shorten the fourteen pages of academic history expertise and honours into this limited time we have here, is that seems to me that of the many, many institutions that he has worked with and your best bet is to have something to do with Cambridge in the title either Massachusetts or the University in the UK and so on so my advice to future aspirants of Professor Amartya Sen is to be an honouree fellow of institutions is to make sure you have the word Cambridge somewhere in the address line. With that slightly frivolous introduction perhaps I can welcome you both more formally and seriously to this meeting.

I will just give you a two second summary of what we've been up to during the course of the day; I think that perhaps this might be helpful. We started with a presentation on the development framework, Removing Unfreedoms, which I need not reiterate to you, Romi Khosla and Jane Samuels talked it through. We saw a film produced by Janet Boston of TVE which is subsequently going to be scheduled on BBC World so we understand with an audience of some 240 million in due course, which gave us some more insight into Unfreedoms.

We have had the privilege of Jockin, over here from the president of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India, here to give us an insight and also his close partner and work colleague from SPARC, the Society for the Promotion of Area

Resource Centres, Sheela Patel and her colleagues, based in Mumbai. Although I have seen SPARC pop up in different parts of the world. So we had these formal presentations in the morning then what we did, we had a plenary session looking at human development.

We had three talks. One from Antonio Vigilante from the UNDP who is also with us. One a presentation on Rights Approach from Jeremy Holland by his stand in Michael Mutter did his best. And Livelihoods from Jo Beale from this Institute.

Then we moved into the traditional DFID recourse, although were not quite sure where to go next and that is the workshop mode and for this we had the World Café, which I thought was quite an entertaining exercise facilitated by Jane Samuels.

You see the tables around the room, each of them were populated by a cast of people with appropriate badge colours. We talked for fifteen minutes and then two from the table left and went to another table, at that table they had a recapitulation of what that table had been talking about and they talked again for another fifteen minutes on essentially two questions. One about the un-freedoms issues in respect to its value on development for policy makers and the other in respect to its relevance to NGOs' grass roots, real people put it that way. And then we moved again after three sessions, so this musical chairs process resulted, then we broke for lunch.

We came back and then we tried to, we had a panel, which were the pre- early coffee speakers. And we listed and brainstormed all the different questions that each table had come up with. And we tried to, from that, cull and distil that into a list of what we were hoping five or six probably twenty or thirty questions was the narrowest number that we could come up with from this cast of people in the room. But we've got about a dozen questions, which in true workshop style we have stuck on the walls behind us so you can't see them.

And what we are going to do is ask, we will try to merge those into half a dozen or so questions that we hope we'll put to you Professor Amartya Sen, if we may. But that what we might do, as a process, might be helpful is if we then ask Lord Desai perhaps to, add a comment after each of those questions rather than have you (Lord Desai) hold back for the whole session.

So if I can ask individual speakers to try and articulate those questions, half a dozen or so. So could I open by asking Antonio Vigilante from the UNDP to pose the first complex question please?