Distancing the Social: Sociology in the Time of Corona-DSS Webinar Lecture by Professor Satish Deshpande

The Department of Sociology, JDMC, University of Delhi organised a webinar on Distancing the Social: Sociology in the Time of Corona on May 27, 2020 as a part of the Distinguished Speaker Series and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the college. The webinar consisted of a lecture delivered on the mentioned topic by Satish Deshpande, Professor at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. His research interests include caste and class inequalities, contemporary social theory, politics and history of the social sciences and south-south interactions. He is the author of Contemporary India: A Sociological View (2003) and coauthor of Untouchability in Rural India (2006). He has co-edited with Patricia Uberoi and Nandini Sundar Anthropology in the East, Founders of Indian Sociology and Anthropology (2007) and Class Inequalities, Contemporary Social Theory, Politics and History of the Social Sciences and South-South Interactions.

The webinar-lecture commenced with Dr. Rajyalakshmi, the Teacher-Incharge of the Sociology Department and a member of the Distinguished Speaker Committee, JDMC introducing the speaker. This was followed by a speech by the Principal, Dr. Swati Pal, which she concluded by welcoming and inviting the speaker to express his views.

The webinar-lecture was well attended, nearing 200 participants, both from student and teaching community of JDMC and various other colleges across the University of Delhi. It was a stimulating and scintillating experience for the participants as it focused on the situation of migrant workers and contributed on reflecting on the point that living in the contemporary extraordinary times of Covid-19 becomes significant for social scientists as it provides a 'direction of sight' and makes visible what generally gets overlooked in an ordinary scenario, as 'to see' is not only a physical act but is essentially a social act.

The webinar-lecture was followed by a question-answer session, which was conducted by Dr. Ruby Bhardwaj from the Sociology Department, JDMC. The session was concluded by a vote of thanks to Professor Satish Deshpande by Dr. Namita Sethi, a member of the Distinguished Speaker Series Committee, JDMC.



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