



Regenerating Cooperatives as Institutions of the Future

A Lecture delivered by Prof. H.S. Shylendra

As part of the lecture series titled 'Dialogues on Development', the Baha'i Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore is pleased to announce a lecture delivered online by author and Professor of Social Science at Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Prof. H.S. Shylendra on Wednesday, 28 June, 2023 from 3 pm to 4 pm on the theme 'Regenerating Cooperatives as Institutions of the Future'. Those interested in participating in the lecture may register at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/qoGwvaPmQ88euvae7>

About the theme:

The experience with cooperatives globally has been rather mixed. While in socialist systems, cooperatives became state-led initiatives losing their autonomy, in the capitalist economy despite their business successes, cooperatives remained as mere instruments of market forces failing to make a major impact on the fundamental challenges afflicting the system like growing inequality, violence, alienation and environmental decay. In both the systems the role of cooperatives remained merely instrumental which stymied the realization of their higher potential as an alternative way of organizing human society and life. The experience with cooperatives in India as a mixed-economy which has been moving towards capitalism is no different. The need for an alternative system persists given the acuteness of the prevailing socio-economic challenges which even threaten human existence. In this regard, cooperatives as higher forms of organization surely hold potential. In India, currently an expert committee is framing a new policy for cooperatives to establish a cooperative-based-economy based on the slogan *sahakar-se-samriddhi*. Creating a cooperative-based economy or society no doubt is desirable but unless cooperatives are made to emerge in a more integrated way with newer methods for organizing and governing them, they may continue to suffer as in the past. This lecture critically examines issues pertaining to cooperatives using both relevant theoretical and empirical analysis.

About the speaker:

Prof. H.S. Shylendra is a Professor of Social Science at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). His areas of interest are sustainable rural development, rural livelihood systems, micro rural finance, and governance. He has published over 30 articles; co-authored 4 monographs and authored two books including *Diversification and Sustainable Rural Livelihood*.