

had a bilingual approach, which was really appreciable but the teaching manual given to all participants was in English, which may prove to be a hindrance to parents who are not proficient in English. However, AFA provides reprints of some teaching manuals in different languages on demand.

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Report on Book Release: *Rethinking Disability in India* by Anita Ghai

Asha Singh

Rethinking Disability in India authored by Dr. Anita Ghai was released by Smt. Brinda Karat who also chaired a discussion on the book at India International Centre on 14 May 2015. Dr Tanmoy Bhattacharya and Mr Harsh Mander as the panelists presented insightful analyses of the current discourse on the contentious relationship between social indifference towards disability and the absence of knowledge about difference in general.

In her book, the author Dr. Ghai has powerfully written about the struggles of the disabled amidst the “hegemony of the abled”. She has also written about how they experience “social apartheid” as defective and disapproved objects under the sharp gaze of the abled. The book has been written in the spirit of opening up avenues for dialogue between various social

ability groups, addressing the experiential terrain of the disabled and voicing the collective angst of communities with difference as “hope may be an accomplished liar but hope is all that we have”. Both panellists, Dr. Bhattacharya and Mr Mander, compellingly urged for the need for co-existence of different normalities. Tanmoy Bhattacharya took forward Ghai’s personal quests and perspective and the demographic absence of the world of ideas related to the social presence of disability. His analysis of the deceptively minimalist cover of the book with the letters of the title words in different fonts and colour was indicative of subversion and perhaps suppression of the marginalized. With regard to the contents of the book, he identified the dynamic link between the availability of audio-visual and print materials, experiential accounts and interactive spaces of difference with a view to prompt review, reflection and reframing of the societal perceptions of the ability-disability continuum. This in turn would lead to an enriched understanding of the extent of what is “normative”.

Harsh Mander elaborated upon the unique ways in which Anita Ghai has recounted her experiences as a way to bring academic attention to social, emotional, sexual and intellectual knowledge of difference and its usefulness in knowing and viewing the world. Brinda Karat provided excellent anchoring and comments to bind the discussion and expanded on the diversity of disability issues and challenges. All speakers touched on the role and need for increasing avenues for dialogue on ideas of difference. Books and films contribute significantly to the production of knowledge impacting attitudes, values and behaviour. The present book contributes hugely towards stoking the academic imagination in probing epistemologies of knowing, learning and internalizing as well as exploring existing social realities of living with difference. Ghai’s book most importantly provides visibility to persons with disabilities.

Asha Singh is Associate Professor at the Department of Human Development and Childhood Studies at Lady Irwin College and has been involved in developing content for television programmes for children's, early childhood education, inclusion and diversity, arts in education, media and children as well as creating child appropriate methods of conducting research with children. In her work, she deals extensively with child development professionals and educators in using theatre as a tool to communicate and comprehend sociality.

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Forthcoming Events

1. 32nd Annual CSUN Conference

February 27 to March 4, 2017

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel

San Diego, CA

Abstract submission date: Science/Research Track:
August 9 to September 6, 2016

General Sessions Track: September 8 to October 5,
2016

<http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference/2016/sessions/>

2. Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia

Abstract and Full Paper between December 15 to
January 30, 2017

conference@interdys.org.

<http://eida.org/call-for-papers/>

3. The ICDD 2017: 19th International Conference on Disability and Diversity

May 4 - 5, 2017, Rome, Italy

Abstract: October 7, 2016

Full Paper: April 4, 2017

<https://www.waset.org/conference/2017/05/rome/ICDD/home>

4. Inclusive Education Conference, 2017

February 15-18, 2017, Trinidad and Tobago

Proposal Submission Deadline July 6, 2016

Final Paper Submission Deadline January 3, 2017

Proposals should be submitted to Ms. Nadia Laptiste Francis, Conference Secretary at ieconference@sta.uwi.edu

Link: <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/17/ie/documents/CallForProposals.pdf>

5. Learning Disabilities Association 54th Annual International Conference

February 16-19, 2017 Baltimore

Conference Link <http://ldaamerica.org/events/annual-conference/>

Registration open – Mid-September

6. NNDR – 14th Research Conference

LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Örebro, Sweden May 3–5, 2017

Link https://liu.se/ihv/nyhetsarkiv-forskning/snyheter/1.632367/NNDR_Conference_2017_Repro_3004_15.pdf

Important dates: Call for abstract: August 2016

Abstract deadline: November 2016

Abstract Confirmation: January 2017

Conference registration deadline: March 2017

NNDR 14th conference: May 3-5, 2017

7. International Social Work Congress 2016 (Iswc16) Social Problems and The Future Of Social Work

November 21-23, 2016

Ankara, Turkey

Website: <http://www.sh2016.hacettepe.edu.tr/en>

Contact person: Engin FIRAT

The Congress is organized with an aim to address the emerging need to explore the response of social work in local, national and international social problems. We hope to achieve this by focusing on the future of social work.

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: August 1, 2016

Compiled by **Deepa Palaniyappan**

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