DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI – 110 007

08 / 4 / 2024

FRIDAY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

You are cordially invited to the

Friday colloquium of the Department

By

DR. SUBRATA KUNDU
(IT Professional and Former Consultant with
National Innovation Council, Government of India)

who will present a paper

on

"SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)"

on

Friday, 12th April, 2024 at **3:00 PM**

in

Room No: 10 (First Floor),

Prof. M. N. Srinivas Seminar Room

Department of Sociology

**(DR. TILA KUMAR
&
PROF. JANAKI ABRAHAM)**

Co-Convenors,

Friday Research Colloquium (2023-24)

Dr. Subrata Kundu

(IT Professional and
Former Consultant with National Innovation Council, Government of India)

Society in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

ABSTRACT

AI or 'Artificial Intelligence' is no more an imaginary category. Today it is a reality of our societies. Slowly it has entered almost every aspect of human life. No matter what we do or where we live in our planet, we can no longer afford to ignore this new reality. While the debates and discussions surrounding Artificial Intelligence have become a 'dominant discourse' in Western Societies; we in India are not paying enough attention to this important issue of our times.

When we mention about 'Artificial Intelligence', we must understand that, we are not only referring about a new technology, it is a kind of a new 'platform' or a 'mother technology', which will create enablers for emergence of new technologies; which will have far reaching implications for every aspect of human life, which is unprecedented in entire known human history in our planet.

In this context, we will focus upon four key aspects of 'Education', 'HealthCare', 'Work and Work Spaces' and 'Ethics'.

On 'Education', some of the questions, we will discuss about: 'Role' and 'Purpose' of 'Education' in the age of AI. What would be the role of existing institutions, engaged with education sector across the world; if the very purpose of 'education' gets re-defined? What kind of new institutions we might need to have in our societies?

On 'Healthcare', we will reflect upon: Will 'Healthcare' at all remain a 'profit – making' sector or would be become a mandatory 'Universal Access for all' phenomena? What will happen to our existing 'manpower' and 'institutions' engaged with this sector; if AI could do most of the work that humans are doing in the field of healthcare, in a more efficient manner?

On 'Work' and 'Work – Spaces', we will discuss: If 'machines' can do most of the work that human beings do today, then what will human beings do? How do we distribute 'resources' among humans? More importantly, how will we define 'Success' in our societies?

On 'Ethics' – Our key questions would be, whether 'AI' as a technology is fair towards every segment of our societies? Will it help in bridging the existing social divisions that we have or will it aggravate these more? How do we ensure that 'AI' as a technology works for every segment of our societies? How do we ensure that AI as a technology helps in enhancing 'Individual freedom and empowers an individual to make one's own choices in life?