

Conversations on society since 1960

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
<http://sociology.du.ac.in/sociological-research-colloquium/>

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**A.R.
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THE 'INTEGRATION-SEPARATION' SPECTRUM IN RURAL-AGRARIAN INDIA

Abstract:

Processes of 'integration' into the macro political-economy coexist with multiple forms of 'separation' from local socio-cultural-ecological worlds and mark the life-worlds of rural communities. Recognising such processes and the 'spectrum of integration-separation' enables us to go beyond the capital-centric (especially 'The Agrarian Question') approaches to understanding rural India. These processes and the complexities and contradictions that they engender may help in answering some key questions: what are the contemporary rural class structures and what accounts for our highly differentiated caste-class structures? Why has the panchayat system, as a form of decentralized democracy, not translated into more democratic processes and outcomes? Why is the rural household now the centre of so much caste-class-gender driven violence?

The Speaker:

A.R. Vasavi, a social anthropologist, is with the Punarchith Collective and is based in Karnataka. The winner of the Infosys Prize for social science in 2014, she was at the National Institute for Advanced Studies from 1997 to 2011. Her books include *Harbingers of Rain; In an Outpost of the Global Economy* (co-edited); *The Inner Mirror: Translations from Kannada Writings on Society and Culture*; and *Suicides and the Predicament of Rural India*. Her research interests include the sociology of India, rural-agrarian studies, and the sociology of education. She is a founding member of the Punarchith Collective based in rural Karnataka that works on alternative learning.