

Research and Methodology Discussion Papers 1

16th of April 2003

With Nabeel Hamdi, Romi Khosla and Jane Samuels

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

The Search for Evaluation and Methodology

In the follow-up discussions of the **Removing Unfreedoms Project**, a meeting was held at Oxford with Nabeel Hamdi of CENDEP on the 12 April. Jane Samuels with Romi Khosla convened the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concept and agenda for the events that would lead up to the colloquium on **Removing Unfreedoms** to be held at LSE and hosted by Lord Meghnad Desai. The Colloquium includes participation from a wide range of people who are involved with some capacity of development including the Nobel Prize of Amartya Sen.

Previous discussions that had led to this meeting had assumed that a workshop in Bombay and the colloquium would focus on specific policy issues and the measurements of unfreedom. However, fairly early on and as the discussion developed, it became clear that our initial intentions were too ambitious and more time was required to exchange ideas before it would be possible to implement realistic strategies for the measurement of unfreedoms.

Nabeel Hamdi was of the view that much more exploration and discussion was required at a conceptual level because the paradigm shift provoked by Sin's ideas on Freedom and Development still needed to reach policy makers and NGO's.

Romi Khsola agreed that we needed to gather together academics, policy-making institutions and NGO's at a colloquium to discuss the concept of **Removing Unfreedoms**. He was of the view this new approach to development was of a fundamental nature and that it was important to gauge whether others who are involved in development at the grass roots level could share this approach.

There was a general concern about a danger that this new approach to development would get discussed at academic and philosophical levels without

influencing the policy makers and practitioners. Jane Samuels then suggested how themes of the July 7th event would become evident and could form the contents of the book. Nabeel then added one author should take the themes of those discussions and present the essence of the concept of Unfreedoms and how policy makers, practitioners and those working at the grass-roots have reacted to Freedom-centred approach to development and whether they are willing to share it.

Jane suggested that in this context the Bombay workshop would therefore provide a very valuable opportunity for feedback from the grass-root organisation Sparc as it would enable real dialogue between an academic formulation of development and the grass root community reaction to it.

Jane explained that the original funding for the book project had been temporarily suspended. Nabeel then added it was possible to think about the book as a stand-alone publication and to explore whether publishers like "Earth Scan" might take an interest in what he thought could be a seminal text.

The question of organising the colloquium was then discussed. Nabeel Hamdi was of the view that specific roles and responsibilities should be identified. It was assumed that DFID would fund and convene the event. It was also agreed to discuss further, with Mike Mutter, the involvement of the NGOs particularly Sparc, Homeless international and others. Nabeel suggested that David Satterthwaite could provide valuable inputs in identifying institutional policy makers. It was important that representative of the World Bank, Cities Alliance, UNDP, EU and others donors would be present at this important event.

Jane Samuels presented a list of potential international participants that she had compiled over the last few weeks that included resources persons from Latin America, Turkey, and Pakistan. Nabeel emphasised that this event should not be seen as a developed country event but should be truly international in its perspectives.

Jane Samuels would convey the substance of this meeting to Mike Mutter, Michael Parkes, Nick Hall, Jo Beal, Ruth McLeod, Sheila Patel and Rick Davies.

Jane agreed to discuss with Nick Hall, Michael Mutter and Michael Parkes a list of possible participants, programme of events and the theme of the colloquium.

