

Keynote Speaker on Effectiveness of Community Participation in Development Initiatives

I was invited to give keynote address for Akhter Hameed Khan Centennial Birthday Celebration on October 23, 2014 in Islamabad, Pakistan. This national event took place at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and attended by 400 invited guests.

The speech began with a tribute to Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, and some remarks about his legacy in establishing the famed Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), Karachi, Pakistan. The keynote address provided an overview of community participation in development initiatives using examples from the field and analyzes the changing meaning of community participation over time. The overview included the definitions, use and abuse of the concept, "participation." The presentation also looked into the qualities of participation that particularly enhances and inhibits the effectiveness of development initiatives through community participation. Finally, the presentation identified the factors of effective community participation in development initiatives from the South Asian regional perspective, followed by an effective Community Participation model that the presenter developed. Students, faculty members, and development specialists attended the event definitely benefitted by learning about the use and abuse of Community participation in South Asian countries that I examined critically during my presentation.