

**Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging (CoHaB)
Indian Diaspora Centre - IDC
(Funded by the European Union)**

University of Mumbai

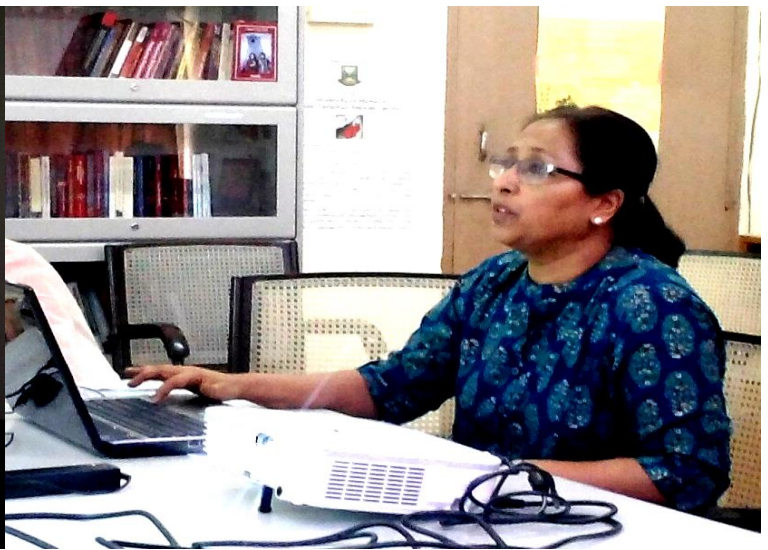
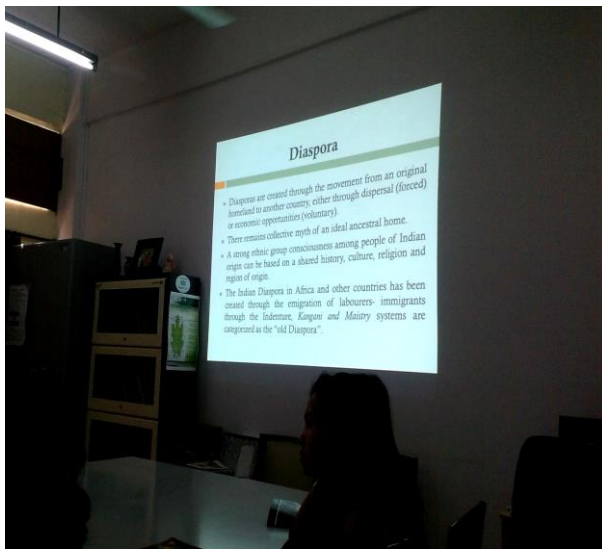
A Report on Dr. Renu Modi's talk on *Indian Diaspora in South Africa*



The Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging Indian Diaspora Centre (CoHaB IDC) had organized a talk on the Indian Diaspora in South Africa by Dr. Renu Modi on Friday, 26th February 2016. The talk was a part of its Lecture Series on the Indian Diaspora. Dr. Modi, a senior Lecturer and former Director of the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, has also served as the social development consultant with the Inspection Panel of the World Bank. Her recent books include *Beyond Relocation: the Imperative of Sustainable Resettlement* (Ed, Sage, 2009); *South- South Cooperation: Africa on the Centre Stage* (Palgrave Macmillan, UK, 2011) and *Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa: The Impact of Chinese, Indian and Brazilian Investments* (Co-ed with Dr. Fantu Cheru, 2013, Zed Books, London).

Her talk focused on the Indian Diaspora in South Africa and its issues of identity and linkages to India. The general politics of South Africa in the colonial, apartheid and post apartheid context was discussed to understand the issues of identity formation of the South African Indians. Her presentation offered insights into the poignant reconstructions of South African Indians' diasporic trajectories including women's lived experiences and their struggles against the multiple dimensions of their identities. The focus was also on the enthusiastic linkages of the South African Diaspora with India in the realm of culture including religion, cuisine and Bollywood.





Dr. Modi also raised crucial questions related to the term “diaspora” and asserted that we need to utilize a more expansive definition of “diaspora” and look at particular socio-historical contexts that have come to shape the term.



The talk was accompanied by a power point presentation that took the audience on a visual journey into the life of the Indian Diaspora in South Africa. It was followed by an interactive question and answer session. The session was well received and attended by students and members of the faculty.