



AMARTYA SEN

(Economic Sciences, 1998)

Dr. Amartya Sen is an Indian economist and philosopher, who received the Nobel Prize for his contributions to welfare economics and social choice theory. His path-breaking work has been instrumental in creating a bridge between human rights and economics and provides an important framework for addressing deprivation and oppression.

In his writings on development, inequality, and justice, Sen argues that expanding human freedom should be the primary goal of development. He also draws attention to the powerful role of individual freedom in promoting development and the importance of recognizing people as agents of change in society, rather than passive recipients of benefits. Sen challenges the notion that claims to civil and political rights are based on “Western values”, drawing attention to historical examples of advocacy for tolerance and individual freedom throughout the world.

With the Nobel Prize financial award, Sen established the Pratichi Trust (India and Bangladesh) in 1999 to work on many of the human rights-related issues that he has dedicated his career to studying, including uneven access to education, health care challenges, and gender inequality. The Trust expands opportunities for individuals through research, humanitarian action, and public engagement on social problems.

“...the notion of human rights builds on our shared humanity. These rights are not derived from the citizenship of any country, or the membership of any nation, but taken as entitlements of every human being.”