

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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To Oxford University Press  
Delhi, India

Dear OUP,

I have been told about a recent problem that has arisen about the use of sections of OUP books for the purpose of teaching in Indian universities in general, and in Delhi University in particular. As in American universities, some Indian universities too tend to use “course packs” made of bits and pieces of different books.

I understand that due to some legal changes such course packs could be described as “illegal”, involving violations of copyrights laws.

I do recognise that copyright is an important issue, and must be of specific interest to publishers. On the other hand, the use of sections of books for teaching purposes through “course packs” has enormous educational value, particularly because of problems of affordability on the part of students. As an OUP author I would like to urge my publisher to not draw on the full force of law to make these “course packs” impossible to generate and use. Educational publishers have to balance various interests, and the cause of education must surely be a very important one.

In fact, the introduction the students get through these course packs must tend to be favorable to the sale of books in the future when the existence and the quality of arguments presented in particular books become more familiar to the next generation of earning adults, through their training during their own education.

May I urge you to reconsider this question in the light of both the importance of high quality education for students, and enlightened self-interest in promoting books published by the OUP?

With anticipation and appreciation of your reasonableness,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amartya Sen', written in a cursive style.

Amartya Sen