



India Development Coalition of America

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Press release

IDCA Organizes an Inspiring India Education Forum

Darien, IL, June 28, 2015. IDCA organized its Annual India Education Forum at the Indian Prairie Library. There were 3 speakers: All were volunteer leaders. The purpose of the forum was to learn about the activities of these organization relating to improving education in India. Dr. Mohan Jain, the Founder president welcomed all the speakers and participants. He introduced the speakers and stressed on the need to rethink education philosophy, policy, and practices to get the desirable outcome and meet the aspiration of millions. The current education system has failed to meet the need of the nation as far as it has not helped to solve the basic problems of the people. It is time that we improve the outcomes to meet the immediate needs and ultimate needs of human beings as per the life philosophy of the country. He then played a short but inspiring video on **Art of Giving**. The video talks about the life and contributions of Mr. Achuyta Samanta, Founder of KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology--www.kiit.ac.in) and KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences—www.kiss.ac.in) in Odisha during the last 20 years, impacting the lives of 1 million people. KISS educates and supports 20,000 tribal children from Kinder Garten to Post Graduate levels. Dr. Jain mentioned that he had an opportunity to meet Mr. Samanta last year in New Delhi. More info at: (www.achuytasamanta.com) . He also mentioned about an on line discussion on education with experts from India and the US. As a result of this dialogue we plan to send a letter of suggestions to the Human Resource Development Minister.

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The first speaker, Dr. Ratnum Chituri of North South Foundation (NSF) spoke about the kids and the team that resulted in wins for Indian children in Spelling Bee, Math plus, Geography Bee. Science, History competitions across the USA. The NSF kids won all five competitions. In spelling bee alone the NSF kids have won 8 years in row. 25 chapters across the country gave 2549 scholarships to encourage excellence. They are now trying to introduce this in India. Last year they also introduced value education For more information www.northsouth.org

The second speaker Mrs. Usha Bhaskar spoke about her passion to give children in her husband's village in Satara District, Maharastra the same opportunity her daughter and son enjoys in the USA. She started out by building a Library, followed by stocking it with books, a playroom filled with toys she took from the USA. She added a teacher and after school programs and a table tennis table. Not to be sidelined her husband added a computer training center with internet connections accessible also via cell phones to sustain the project. She radiated happiness and joy for all she had accomplished. Learn more at: <https://sites.google.com/site/foundationvishnunarayan/>

The last speaker was Quality Guru and Management Consultant Dr. Manu Vora. he spoke about his letter to HRD Minister Smriti Irani to use MOOC and Web Technology of Long Distance learning. He described his journey of Knowledge Transfer of Technology over the last five years with IIT Alumina Associations, Indian Multi National Corporations, wherein he taught Soft Skills like Leadership, Teamwork, Time Management , and also Quality Principles such a Total Quality Management. He has offered to do these sessions at other colleges in India via google hangout facility.

Dr. Manu Vora, a Ellis Island Awardee also serves as the President of the Blind Foundation for the prevention of Blindness in children by dispensing Vitamin A and serves Seniors via cataract operations at \$20 per eye in the elderly. He has raised over 4 Million dollars over the last 25 years. <http://www.blindfoundation.org/>

Porus Dadabhoy the IDCA program chair, updated the 20 plus attendees on India Developments continued efforts to assist Yuwa in Faculty member getting a Visa along with the visit of two Yuwa personnel being hosted

by FIFA. at the Worlds Soccer Cup. in Ottawa, Canada. He discussed the recent updates at Bel Air Foundation and its Graduate Nursing Program with the University of Illinois School of Nursing as they were the recipients of the Obama Singh Grant for Higher Education.

Following the presentations, several of the attendees asked relevant questions to each of the speakers.

In closing, Dr. Mohan Jain, IDCA Founder President, spoke eloquently of the challenges of education as it relates to ethics, costs, and availability for all. He talked about the various models and needs at all levels. He suggested to learn more from Shikshantar Andolan (www.shikshantar.in), Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal (www.bmsbharat.org), and from iWatch (www.wakeupcall.org) about vocational education. He also mentioned that over 40 plus girls who graduated from the all girls Pardada Pardadi school in Anupsahar, UP, are going to college this year.

Several community Physicians, Educators and Young people also attended as did Parents.

Following this everyone enjoyed some refreshments and networked with each other and ended the meeting just before 5 PM. Our upcoming events include: **India Healthcare Forum**, August 22, at the Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien, IL from 1:30 PM, Our **13th International Conference (*Exploring Innovative Strategies for Poverty Eradication, and Climate Change Mitigation in India*)** will be held on October 17-18 at the Rice campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Wheaton, Illinois. Registration is open now. Please register early and save. <http://idc-america.org/events/upcoming-events>.

For additional ideas/resources on this subject, you are encouraged to visit IDCA website and facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IDCA.Education/> . Photos and videos will be posted on our website and Facebook IDCA-Education group pages soon.

IDCA Promotes Social entrepreneurship, networking, collaborating, learning, giving and volunteering to alleviate poverty and mitigate climate change in India.

It is a not-for-profit organization registered in the state of Illinois since 2004. We obtained our 501 (c)(3) tax exemption status in 2005 from the U. S. Internal service. We have been engaged since 2004 in promoting sustainable development in India to eradicate poverty and minimize damage to our environment. To this effect we have been bringing NPOs/NGOs and concerned members of our community in our Annual regional and International conferences both in India and the US and regular monthly seminars in the Chicago. So far we have organized 7 International conferences in Chicago, one in Indiana, Ten International conferences in India (New Delhi, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Kochi, and Hyderabad), and 10 regional conferences (Washington, New York, Detroit, Houston, and San Jose, California). Each conference we have 10-15 speakers representing organizations working in the areas mentioned above. For the US International conference we have invited one or more NGOs from India also. For more information about future events and sustainable development initiatives to help India's villages, please go to IDCA's web site at <http://idc-america.org/> or call Dr. Mohan Jain at 630-303-9592 or Mr. Porus Dadabhoy at :630-960-2425.



Some of the Participants and Speakers—Ms. Usha Bhaskar is 2nd from Right (front row)



Dr. Manu Vora, Blind Foundation India

Dr. Ratnam Chitturi, North South Foundation
Mr. Porus Dadabhoy Watching the Screen



Some Participants Listening Intently