



## India Development Coalition of America

(<http://.idc-america.org>, [info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org), 630-303-9592 )

*IDCA: Inform, Inspire, Impact Poverty and Climate Change*

Press release

### The 14<sup>th</sup> IDCA International Conference on *Mitigating Poverty and Climate Change in India*

**Elmhurst, IL, October 16:** India Development Coalition of America held its 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference at the Clarion Inn, Elmhurst, Illinois on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. Conference theme was: ***How to Mitigate Poverty and Climate change in India.*** There were 15 speakers: Six from local area, 1 visiting from India and 1 speaker from Minnesota. 4 speakers (2 from Bengaluru, 1 each. New Delhi and Mumbai) and 3 from the AZ, OH, and VA spoke via Skype.

The Inaugural began around 10 AM. Dr. Mohan Jain Founder President opened the conference and welcomed the speakers and delegates. He spoke about IDCA 's Vision, Mission and activities and accomplishments in the recent past and how we can work together to help eradicate poverty and mitigate climate change in India. He spoke about the programs and forums done in 2016, the conferences done in India at various locations.

This year we organized the bi-monthly forums on Education, Healthcare, Water, and Livelihoods, and Climate Change, 5thth North Regional Conference in Jaipur on March , the 3<sup>nd</sup> South India International Conf. in Hyderabad on February 5-6, and 12th International Conference in Gurgaon on January 11-12., In 2016, visited our member International Human Benefits Service near Jodhpur; organized the 13th

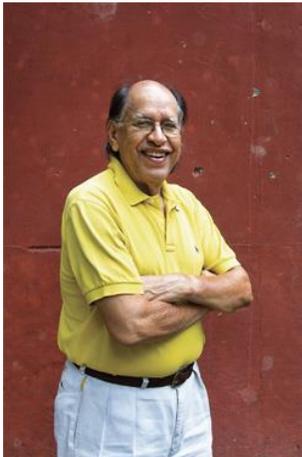




International Conference in Chicago on October 17-18,, 2015; Launched our flagship program Adopt a Village campaign last year on October 2. Visited first Adopted Village in Kanpur Rural District in February, addressed a meeting of local NGOs in Kanpur, and a college and school students. Visited another village, where an eye camp was held. Addressed the local press and informed them about the Adopt A Village campaign. . In May visited our partner CORD in Sidhbari in Himachal Pradesh, to learn about them and discuss about their support for the Adopt A Village campaign. IDCA has created several webpages on its website to support and promote the Campaign. He will tell about how IDCA is helping its

members and partners in India. Each one of us can help by donating to IDCA, its members or partners in India, Volunteer for IDCA, members, partners, Collaborate with each other, become member of IDCA and work in one or more committees. Share the information with others and motivate them.  
May 2016.

Mr, Virendra Singh , Chairman, Founder of Pardada Pardadi Education Society, UP said that since 2000, Pardada Pardadi Educational Society (PPES) has been improving the lives of females in rural India. Its mission is to empower community women from the poorest sections of society. To do this, we provide free education for girls and job opportunities for women, thereby creating a new generation of self-reliant



and educated females who will break the cycle of poverty in the region. PPES is based in the tehsil (territorial division within a district) of Anupshahar, which is in the Bulandshahar district of the state Uttar Pradesh, India. Bulandshahar is infamous for its poverty, crime, and child marriages. Moreover, it is one of the least educated and literate sections of India. PPES was founded by Virendra (Sam) Singh, a retired head of DuPont South Asia. Sam grew up in Anupshahar and although he left many years ago, he moved back in 1999 to use his success to uplift his childhood community. Sam knew that to break the cycle of poverty, he had to first focus on improving the quality of life for the weakest members of this society: rural female children. Female children here are considered an economic and social burden. Forgotten and uneducated, they are forever dependent upon their husbands or male family members for their livelihood. This leads to a cycle of repression, abuse, and neglect that can only be broken with the self-reliance and enlightenment that education brings.

Dr. Bharat Pathak, Vice Chairman of the Deendayal Research Institute spoke to us from India about his 25 years of experience in Chitrakoot, M.P, Gonda and Balrampur in UP, Nagpur, Beed, and Ambajogal in Maharastra. He addressed the audience in Hindi.

In the post-independence period, constant efforts were required at the social level to achieve self - reliance. For centuries our country had been under foreign rule.. During this long period of servitude, the spirit and quest for self - reliance and a dignified life almost vanished. To receive this spirit after Independence, an all-out effort was required. But unfortunately, we equated independence with self-reliance. This was merely a self - deceiving attitude. Unless we get rid of fetid concept, it will be impossible to attain self - reliance in our social, economic and political life. Unless the goal of self - reliance is achieved, the Independence we earned through hardship and sacrifice will be worthless. Long periods of servitude have made the people ' Government dependent ' after attaining independence, this dependent mentality of ' Government dependency' should have been removed from the minds of the people. The citizens of our country take the initiative for their own development, the bureaucracy and monetary incentives alone cannot achieve economic and social development. This fact is being overlooked so we are unable to eradicate Poverty and unemployment in the country. Disappointment and unrest among the people's is growing, on the other hand the potential of people's Power is being neglected and on the other, money is being poured into development schemes that has given rise to laziness and dependence on the Government so there is a need that some good hearted people and



NGOs , VOs should adopt the villages and try to build the bridge between the Government schemes and public. We have to infuse a spirit of hope and confidence among the people for building the future. To achieve this goal , our only capital is the strength of the people and the Natural resources that are available in the rural areas but they are unaware about their value addition and processing so the rural unemployed youth can get trained and they can start their self-enterprises. India is blessed by nature, Our country has all three seasons .Unlimited solar energy is also available.

Following the tea break and networking we had our Healthcare Panel.

On the Healthcare Panel we had Ms. Sunita Nadhamuni Director of Transformational Technology at Dell, and Dr. Bharat Parekh, from St Paul, Minnesota, and Dr. Khushroo Patel, President of the Gram Sewa Foundation.

Sunita Nadhamuni spoke, in India millions fall through the cracks for primary health care resulting in alarming national health indicators. Today 28% of babies have low birth-weight and 0.9 million cases of TB go unreported. With out-of-pocket spending at a high 60% of total health expenditure, 39 million people fall into medical poverty annually.



Across the board, emerging countries struggle with similar issues of poor access to healthcare, quality of health services and affordability. This is due to low capacities of frontline workers, poor infrastructure, weak monitoring of service delivery, fragmented Government functioning and low IT capabilities.

Dell EMC India has developed a mobile, cloud and data analytics solution to improve Government primary healthcare service delivery. Dell EMC worked in partnership with Karuna Trust led by Dr.Sudrsshan to co-create this solution and the first pilot was deployed in 2014 at Gumballi Primary Health Center in Karnataka, one of the 80 PHCs in the country managed by Karuna Trust.

The solution aims to connect citizens, health workers, caregivers and decision-makers in a single, integrated platform. The solution includes an Aadhaar-linked, unique health record for every citizen, mobile applications for health workers, a web portal for the medical officer at the primary health center, and dashboards for health officials at higher levels of Government. It ensures preventive, promotive and curative health at individual and community level by comprehensively addressing all diseases and conditions including maternal & child health, school health and nutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and public health.

The Andhra Pradesh Government has initiated a progressive women's health program called MMHC (Mahila Master Health Checkup) which will use the Dell EMC technology solution to screen 9 million women for non-communicable diseases including oral, breast and cervical disorders, diabetes, hypertension, hormonal and vision disorders. Women suspected of any of these diseases will be diagnosed and treated by specialist doctors at secondary and tertiary hospitals. There is little awareness on these chronic diseases and the target population, women over 35, has traditionally been neglected. Massive training programs have been conducted to get this out to all of them through the health department. There will be 12,000 health workers, hundreds of specialist doctors at area and district hospitals and Government officials who will use this solution to monitor the progress, deliver the services and manage the program.



Dr. Bharat Parekh of Minnesota talked about his work in creating a Mix for undernourished children, Five years ago, Toddler Food Partners (TFP), a MN NGO built a pilot production facility to make Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in a car garage of the Urban Health Center in Dharavi, Mumbai. Dharavi, arguably Asia's largest slum, is where the celebrated 'Slum Dog Millionaire' movie was made. The Health Center is managed by the Sion Municipal Hospital, Sion – a Mumbai suburb adjoining Dharavi. This project was developed by TFP in partnership with the CTARA Institute of IIT, Bombay and the Pediatrics Department of the Sion Medical College and Hospital. TFP procured and built the production facility with engineering support from CTARA; trained the production personnel and developed treatment

protocol for use by the hospital's staff. Pediatricians of Sion Hospital embarked on a controlled clinical trial to test RUTF's efficacy in comparison with the Standard Nutrition Therapy (SNT) with a sample of 200 children. The eight-week trial showed that RUTF substantially out-performed SNT with respect to weight gain and anti-oxidant level. The implications have been far-reaching. This talk will cover the phenomenal impact of our pilot project in both public and private sectors. Instead of treating just a few hundred children, RUTF production has been scaled up now to enable treatment for hundreds of thousands of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children of India. While that is a good start, many hurdles remain; chief amongst those is poverty. Our current focus has shifted from treatment to prevention. We aspire to have a future for India that is free of SAM.



Dr. Khushroo Patel, (left in pic) talked about his wife Roda Patel's accomplishments as a Pediatrician and humanitarian. This was accomplished with the assistance of Dr. Ashwin and Harsha Shah and their hospital grew from 20 beds to 80 beds. It started with nutrition for mal nourished children but to date has helped over 8,000 children with health and mental problems. Their hospital does thousands of surgery's and serves over 10,000 individuals from Snake Bite, to Delivery to Natal Care. Thus far 20,000 women have benefited and today 98% of deliveries are done in the hospital. Roda dream has been realized with the building of a home to house 100 orphans.

They serve an area of tribal folks, traveling working families, 58% are child bearing and 23% are on their second child, 55% are illiterate, and 23% are victims of unwanted

pregnancy or forced marriages. The family and Dr. Patel feel honored and privileged to continue her noble legacy of serving the poor the needy.



After a delicious South Indian luncheon the educational panel started with Dr. Manu Vora, Dr. Ratnam Chitturi , Dr. Alok Agarwal founder of Global Pragathi.

Dr. Ratnam Chitturi, Founder , President of North South Foundation spoke of 25 centers across India giving 2500 scholarships this year with 85 centers in the USA serving 16,000 contestants this year. Starting with Spelling Bee in 1993, NSF has extended into vocabulary, math, science, geography, essay writing, public speaking and brain bee. It offers on line coaching with 200 volunteers. The money earned in the US is used for college scholarships in India creating a Win-Win situation. NSF kids represent .01 pe cent of US children but have achieved extraordinary results. During 2016 against all odds NSF children won championships in Five "Super Bowls" in academic



competitions in Scripps Spelling Bee, National Geographic Bee, US Math Olympiad, International Math Olympiad, and Who wants to be a Mathematician. For nine (9) years in a row NSF kids have won the Scripps Spelling Bee a record for any ethnic organization. Top colleges have accepted and welcomed these children. A documentary is being made to record these events in the American History annals of Education.

Dr. Manu Vora, Chairman and President of Business Excellence a global educator spoke of his efforts to Teach Soft Skills to over 675,000 College and University Students in India using Google Hangout. He talked about the use of technology in Nation Building using changing innovative education practices using technology and enhancing current curriculum with skilled interventions for propagating quality to the grass- roots level in India. His program includes key areas of leadership, time management, communications, entrepreneurship, research methods, quality management, community service, project management to create productive citizens to address critical issues of unemployment and under employment in India. An attending faculty from US University indicated interest in his work and methods for global outreach educational programs.

Dr. Alok Agarwal has adopted a Village at Burgala in Telangana State and is undertaking a COMPREHENSIVE development program for the entire village of 5,000 residents that includes health care, sanitation, water, education., 1000 kids are being helped. A good education is the doorway to a



good life and good society. Hence, we at Pragathi Welfare Society have concentrated our efforts on improving the education of the school children of Burgula panchayat, Telangana, on all fronts – right from infrastructure provision to motivation of the students. The footwear and bicycles provided to the school children ensures they start off their day at school on a bright note. The classrooms and toilets we have constructed, and the desks and chairs we have provided makes sure that the students can learn in an ideal learning environment. In all, about thousand children are being supported in the high school and the seven primary schools in the area.

To get the kids to school in the first place, we have sent out volunteers to motivate the parents and students about coming to school. At school, we have provided them with a science lab, computer lab and library well-stocked with books so that they can take their education to the next level. We also ensure that their mid-day meal is nutritious. A large outdoor stage and auditorium that we constructed ensures that they can conduct their extra-curricular activities. Sports equipment and dresses are also provided. Some other activities of



Pragathi are encouraging teachers, providing volunteer teachers, conducting supplementary classes and motivation camps for students. For further information visit <http://www.globalpragathi.com>

After a tea and coffee break of networking we heard from the Climate Change Panel moderated by Dr. Bharat Parekh.

Dr. Amar Anumakonda Technology and Business Development Executive in Naperville and Jitendra Desai, Chief Innovist, presented jointly their concept of Renewable



Technologies for Rural Development. Technology and innovation have been the hallmark of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and advancements that touch every aspect of day to day living keep appearing in the news constantly. However, most of the inventions are focused on the wealthy and developed markets that can afford the high price these technological advances demand. Therefore, it is arguable if all these technology advancements are helping the vast majority of the world's population and making a difference in their lives. Equally important is whether these technical advancements are having a negative impact on the environment. Renewable energy technologies can make a positive impact in reducing global warming while also serving a critical societal need. The challenge is to make these technologies practical and inexpensive so that they can be effectively deployed in rural settings, especially in developing worlds where the impact and the need is the highest. In this talk, we will discuss some potential renewable energy technologies that are good candidates for deployment in the rural areas of the developing world. In addition to being environmentally friendly and technically deployable, what makes such technology solutions practical is the business model that can be effective for rural societies. The talk will also discuss a business model where the technology is packaged along with a financial and program management components and provide a scalable *solution*.

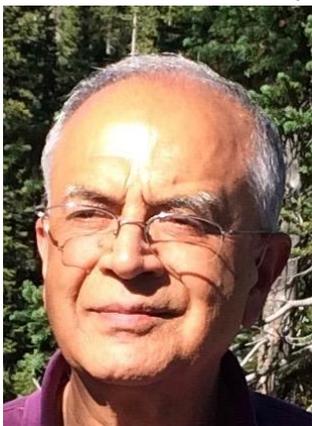
Dr. Sailesh Rao, Executive Director, Climate Healers, Phoenix , AZ addressed us in homely manner. He spoke about his book Carbon Yoga The Vegan Metamorphosis as solution for Climate Healing in Western and Developed Nations.

To substantiate his hypothesis he provided data that indicated the Next Generation is exponentially taking to a Vegan Diet which would reduce Animal Demand in the Food chain, a reduction of pastoral land, and a regeneration of Forests. This non linear change has started in 2016 and will gain steam. The Vegan Festival in Naperville continues to expand and draws 20,000 attendees in Illinois. The rise of Smoothie Market in the West Coast is another example. He goes on to state that “just as in Nature where the caterpillar gorges itself before undergoing a metamorphosis in the chrysalis, our over consuming are reaching a point of being transformed into compassionate, life affirming butterflies which are Vegan and beautiful.



Dr. Hari S Lamba President of Renewing Technologies Inc. Dr. Lamba talked about his book “Personal Climate Change Handbook “ and he kindly distributed a copy to each

attendee. He covered the devastation caused by climate change, the Paris Agreement, the opportunity to install solar panels in Illinois and his lobbying efforts in Springfield to create Clean Energy Jobs in Illinois. There are two things that one can do: personally to reduce one's carbon footprint, and more importantly, to apply pressure on local and national leaders to take more action – because that is what can will have the greatest impact – so there is a need for citizen activism. Leaders need to do more than even what they have promised. Those leaders that oppose climate change actions need to be defeated at the elections – that is the only way forward in the USA. He talked about the need for people to become active



in actually doing things, and get beyond just talks and conferences. In his book, Personal Climate Change Handbook”, he has described most of what folks need to know about Climate Change, problems and solutions. He will describe the devastation that is being wrought by climate change, globally in general, and in the US and India in particular. He said what the world is trying to do: Paris Agreement, activities of respective nations, etc. He then described what people need to do in their own lives and those of their families. At the present, one can do the most by installing a Solar System at their house, as tremendous incentives are available in Illinois, costs have come way down, electric utility bill can be eliminated (on a net basis), and return on investment is only 5-7 years. Plus, this makes a huge impact on reducing one's Carbon emissions at one's house for ever. This was followed by a Special Indian Vegan Dinner and Networking,

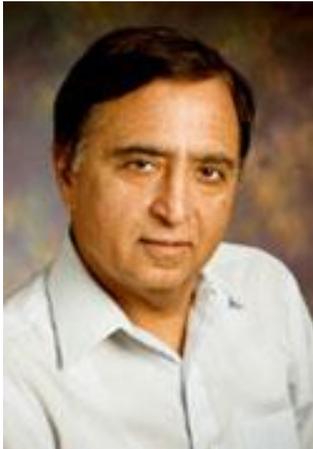


The next day we had a panel covering Water, Sanitation and Livelihoods, plus 3 last minutes speakers.

Speakers included: Mrs. Rugamani Prabhakar, Director, Projects, Art of Living, Bengaluru, Professor Narendra Ahuja Director of ITRA, New Delhi, and Dr. Nandika Pathak Social Entrepreneur and Ambassador for Swachh Bharat, Mumbai,

Mr s. Rugammani Prabhakar indicated she runs the Project Management Unit of Art of Living where she collaborates with grass roots communities, corporations, humanitarian agencies, government and non governmental bodies both nationally and internationally to to drive the organizations vision of providing high impact , sustainable solutions for social development. She indicated the following projects.....(please include from Video)

Professor Narendra Ahuja, For the last 5 years he is working in India as a Director of IT Research Academy, A Project of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India in New Delhi. He will talk about what he has been able to do, that can be helpful in mitigating Poverty in India.



A model has been pilot-tested for building a world class, national R&D ecosystem, directed at finding innovative, indigenous solutions to problems of national importance. Implementation of this model would greatly advance Hon'ble PM's mission of Skill Development, by strengthening and harnessing Indian science and engineering talent for the development of India. The model links academic institutions (e.g., IITs, IIITs, NITs, State and Private Institutions), research (e.g., CSIR, ICAR, ICMR) labs, industry, government and other organizations (handling, e.g., Agriculture. Disaster Management, Power, Water, Transportation, Healthcare, Housing, Education, Oil and Gas) into tightly knit teams.

2. The ecosystem simultaneously enhances the quality of: R&D activity itself; Advanced IT and related education; Researchers' ability, interest and satisfaction from directing their R&D prowess at real-world problems, by transferring technologies to industry and through start-ups; and Mechanisms/opportunities to convert these capabilities into a clear impact on

the ground.

3. The ecosystem is designed to converge as a conglomerate of many coexisting centers of excellence, each focused on a specific area of research/application, tackling near- and long-term issues of national importance. These centers may also act as think tanks. Due to their breadth and depth, they may be able to provide quick answers to unanticipated questions/ needs, or form, at short notice, a well suited expert group from the centers to find sound answers quickly - not unlike, and indeed well along the lines of, what is commonplace in USA.



Dr. Nandita Pathak, A brand ambassador for Swaach Bharat Abhiyan rounded out the discussion. She organized women's conferences for self help for 20,000 women and described her efforts on low cost manufacturing of more than 120 value added projects that can be produced at the Adopt a Village Level being a Doctorate in Food and Nutrition. She also showed a couple of videos of her action oriented life at the Deendayal Research Institute in Chitrakoot which has become a National Model in generating livelihoods, self-reliance and women empowerment. In India farmers are considered to be the back bone of our democracy and farmers have always majority in India. 68.9% of our population lives in rural areas. Though numbers of farm families are

migrating towards urban areas, it is still estimated that more than half of our population would be rural even in 2050. Over the years a plethora of rural livelihoods improvement programs in various forms have been implemented in the country and huge amount of social and financial investment has been made to achieve the sole aim and objective of livelihoods improvement. This is despite various separate flagship schemes targeting different sectors such as health (NRHM), education (SSA) and livelihood (NREGA, NRLM) and several other past initiatives by governments at all levels – Central, State and Local have been launched in the past for livelihood improvement of rural people, but met with limited success. One of reason for the underperformance of these programs has been the lack of a holistic focus on the village as a unit and the rising aspirations among villagers. Access to safe water and sanitation in rural areas are yet a dream of future. Access to safe water and sanitation are partly functions of livelihood security. This is because that even a slight improvement in its quantity and quality is likely to have a far more noticeable impact on the lives and livelihoods. So, an innovative water harvesting technology along with means to maintain proper sanitation and hygiene conditions needs to be devised and implemented with local people's initiative, involvement and participation.

Eliminating Open defecation is the main aim of improving access to sanitation world-wide and is a proposed indicator for sustainable development goals. Even if toilets are available, people still need to be convinced to retrain from ODF and use toilets. Therefore the need for behavioral change is critical in addition to the provision of toilets. The Indian Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation has in mid 2015 defined Open Defecation free ( ODF) as the termination of fecal- oral transmission. This is part of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan "( clean India campaign) . It is abbreviated as SBA is a national campaign by Government of India , covering 4041 statutory cities and towns, to clean the streets ,roads and infrastructure of the country. The campaign was officially launched on 2nd October 2014 at Rajghat New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive . The Government is aiming to achieve an open - defecation free India by 2nd October 2019 the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by constructing 12 crore toilets in rural India .

Following the scheduled program we gave opportunity to 3 last minute speaker to speak for 5-10 minutes to share what they are doing.

Finally, Mr. Jiwan Prakash Sondhi, Mr. and Mrs. Umesh and Rashmi Rohatgi, gave inspirational and educational insight in how to get things done in Adopting Villages in India.

Mr. Sondhi talked about Bank Financing, Government Partnerships, New Water Technology based on his experience and research. Rohatgi's both used abbreviations to create a kit list, the methods of decision, situation, problem analysis, along with prevention plans when doing village problems.

Mr. Prakash Saunshi from Sewa International, Chicago spoke about various activities conducted in the world and the Chicago are. They are helping in settlement of refugees of Nepalese origin from Bhutan.

The International Conference concluded with a luncheon and a Concluding Session to discuss Way Forward Plan to 2017. IDCA plans to take its lessons learnt and continue their work at the International Conference scheduled for January 11-12, 2017 at Bengaluru. We will also have our 6<sup>th</sup> North India Regional Conference at IIIM, Mansarovar, Jaipur on March 3-4, 2017. All are invited to join.

*IDCA is a 501©(3) not for profit organization registered in the state of Illinois since 2004. It was conceived and formed after a conference of 15 Not-for-profit organization and their supporters in October 2003 in the Chicago area. Since 2004 it has organized 14 conferences in the Chicago area, one in Terre Haute, Indiana, 3 each in DC area, and CA and two in Houston, and one in Detroit. It has also organized 20 conferences in India: 4 in New Delhi, 4 in Gurgaon, and 5 in Jaipur, 4 in Hyderabad, one in Ahmedabad, and one in Udaipur and one in Kochi. It has organized more than 50 forums and seminars for visiting NGO leaders from India. We have been promoting networking, collaboration, learning, giving, and volunteering in the US and India. Our Mission is to inform, inspire and empower nonprofits and individuals to help eradicate poverty and promote prosperity for all citizens of India. We invite you to join us as a member and help us to realize our Vision and Mission to serve the less fortunate in India and elsewhere*

*in the world. More information and membership form available at: <http://idc-america.org/membership/application>. We thank you all who have supported us so far and we urge you to renew your commitment, For more information call: 630-303-9592 or 630-960-2425 (Porus) write to: [info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org)*



A Section of the Audience.