



India Development Service (www.idsusa.org)

Presents a Seminar On

Rural Development – Challenges & Opportunities

Identifying Strategies for Rural Development in 21st Century India

Speakers:

Abraham M. George

Founder: [The George Foundation](http://TheGeorgeFoundation.org)

Philanthropist & Author of “India Untouched: The Forgotten Face of Rural Poverty”

S. R. Hiremath

Founding President and Executive Director: Samaj Parivartana Samudaya (SPS)

President: National Committee for Protection of Natural Resources (NCPNR)

Venkatesh M. Raghavendra

Director: Global Partnerships for Asia, [Ashoka](http://Ashoka.org): Innovators for the Public

Co-Founder: The Adventurers (an outdoor and environmental organization)

Saturday, April 8, 2006: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (CST)

Registration starts at 8:30 AM

Loyola University Medical College (Stritch School of Medicine)

Room 160, 2160 S. First Ave, Maywood, IL 60153

(20 min. west of Chicago Downtown / 20 min. south of O’Hare Airport)

Fees: \$25 in advance, \$30 walk-in, \$15 Students with ID (includes Breakfast & Box Vegetarian Lunch)

For Information & Registration:

Visit our website www.idsusa.org or e-mail: idsusa@gmail.com or contact:

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Seminar Co-Sponsor: Department of Asian Studies, Loyola University

The speakers for this seminar have years of field experience in Rural India. They are at the front line of rural development and understand the challenges faced by India while the world is focused on India's growth. We will collectively explore the strategies for India's Rural Development in the 21st Century.



In 1995, **Abraham M. George** founded The George Foundation (TGF), a non-profit organization based in Bangalore, India, that is dedicated to the welfare of economically and socially disadvantaged people. His foundation has initiated several projects in poverty alleviation, education, health, and empowerment of women. His keen interest in promoting democratic institutions and values led to the creation of the Indian Institute of Journalism & New Media, Bangalore. His work in the field of environmental health was instrumental for the removal of lead from gasoline throughout India in April 2000 and the creation of the National Referral Centre for Lead Poisoning in India

Abraham George holds an MBA, MS and PhD in Business Administration from the Stern School of Business, New York University, and is the author of three books on international finance. He is currently chairman of eMedexOnline LLC, a medical diagnostic software company in New Jersey, USA. His career in the U.S. includes: Vice-Chairman at SunGard Data Systems, Chairman and CEO of Multinational Computer Models, Inc. (founded by Abraham George), and Managing Director at CS First Boston.



A pioneer of successful Integrated Rural Development projects, **S R Hiremath** is currently the Executive Director of Samaj Parivartan Samuday (SPS), Dharwad (Karnataka, India) and is also the founder of IDS (in USA and India). After working in Corporate America for 10 years, he and his family have lived and worked with people of India for over 25 years at the grass roots level. He is an advocate for the empowerment of rural poor at state and national levels on issues of Community Control over Natural Resources and Self-Rule as part of a national campaign.

Hiremath's contribution to Rural India include a number of books including "Forest Lands & Forest Produce As If People Mattered". He has built and nurtured a number of institutions and movements, such as Founding President and Coordinator, IDS (International); Founding President & Executive Director, SPS; Founding President, Federation of Voluntary Organizations for Rural Development in Karnataka (FEVORD-K); Convener of Jan Vikas Andolan (JVA); Founding Convener of the Gram Ganarajya Vedike (GGV), people's movement for the empowerment of the Gram Sabha and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Karnataka; President of the National Committee for Protection of Natural Resources (NCPNR), which spearheaded a successful National Campaign for Protection of Forest Lands.



Venkatesh Raghavendra is part of Ashoka's Global Development team, with particular focus on building relationships between the business, the diaspora population and other key investors of Ashoka. Venkatesh is also a part of Ashoka's global training team. He is the co-founder of The Adventurers, an outdoor and environmental organization working in the rainforests of southwestern India, one of the top bio-diversity hotspots of the world. The Adventurers uses the outdoors and adventure activities to draw people to this fragile eco-system and then engage them in social change projects. Venkatesh worked closely with and trained people from the government, educational institutions, media, business and local communities to implement a comprehensive development plan for this region.

Venkatesh and Ashoka are looking for innovations that have worked for Rural India and innovative approaches to sustainable development.