



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

"Building the Economic Power of Women: The IVDP Story"

Speaker

Kulandai Francis

Founder-President, Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP)

Date: September 30, 2016 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

The talk outlines the origins and evolution of IVDP and its efforts to empower women through Self Help Groups (SHGs) since 1989. In achieving its objectives of alleviating poverty, empowering and developing leadership ability among the poor rural women, encouraging saving habits among them and motivating them to take up responsibilities, IVDP has educated and trained a large number of women. The availability of bank loans for the women's SHGs increased membership in these groups. IVDP arranged training sessions, regular meetings and frequent loan repayment instalments to further encourage women's participation. Healthcare, basic literacy, family planning, marketing and occupational skills are also included in its activities. As more and more women joined its SHGs, IVDP aimed to respond holistically to the needs of the community such as providing purified drinking water, sanitation through house hold toilets, personal hygiene (sanitary napkins) and renewable energy (solar lights). At present, more than 10,000 SHGs with 190,000 members across three districts in Tamilnadu. (Krishangiri, Dharmapuri and Vellore) exist. IVDP's links with the poor people, its innovative practices, its capacity to enable people's participation in development and trust building at different levels between stakeholders are among the reasons for the success of its initiatives.

About the Speaker

Kulandai Francis studied commerce before doing courses in Social Development in Canada and Philippines. Keenly interested in community development services, he was involved in refugee relief work during the Bangladesh War in 1971 and drought relief work in Pune in 1972. He has aided in the construction of 331 check dams to support poor peasants and raise the ground water

level. He founded the IVDP in 1989. His work has received many awards, including those offered by several banks such as Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda, Pallavan Grama Bank, NABARD for his successful and dynamic ways of developing, conducting and managing the SHGs. He was also honoured with Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012.