Fact or fiction?

Globalization affects only urban India

What happens in rural India doesn't affect urban India

Village life is idyllic

Men do most of the farming work

All farmers are poor

Understanding Rural India: Life and Livelihoods at the Base of the Pyramid

Dates: November 16 – 26, 2015
Venue: Bengaluru

For more information on the course and to apply:
azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/Understanding-Rural-India
Understanding Rural India: Life and Livelihoods at the Base of the Pyramid

About this course

Rural India is undergoing unprecedented transformations, which have profound impact on the livelihoods of the rural poor by influencing the nature of their work, work related relationships, new opportunities, nature of rural-urban connect and household vulnerability. Understanding the nature of this transition in rural livelihoods is critical in order to design and participate in meaningful efforts to promote livelihoods security for rural households.

In this course, through the use of films, films, discussions, games, case studies and a field visit, we will attempt to develop an informed view of contemporary rural life and livelihoods and dispel some common false perceptions and myths. We will discuss how rural lives are impacted by social structures, government policies and interventions and market structures with which the rural populations engage in different ways. Participants will gain an appreciation of the challenges faced by those who are marginalized due to their caste, class or gender, and how this impacts their choices and livelihoods. Through these explorations, the participants will examine their own beliefs about the nature of livelihoods and development objectives when engaging with rural populations.

What you will learn

- Familiarity with life and livelihoods of people who live in Indian villages
- Ability to distinguish between fact and myths about rural India
- Appreciation of the impact of government and market interventions on livelihoods
- Understanding of the nature of social exclusion (gender, caste and class) and its impact on livelihoods, deprivation and poverty
- Deepen your perspective about development objectives and core values of engagement with rural communities

Who should attend

- Anyone considering careers in livelihoods and development
- Working professionals in the development sector who are interested in gaining a broad understanding of current livelihood realities and interventions in rural India

Fees and Registration

- Registration fee Rs. 300/-. All other fees are waived. Last date for registration: October 15, 2015.
- Participants are responsible for their own travel and stay in Bangalore. Shared accommodation can be arranged on payment basis
- Azim Premji University will provide free lunch/snacks on teaching days as well as free transport for a field visit.
## Day wise Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Main Topics</th>
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| Monday    | **Rural life and Livelihoods:**  
  • Registration  
  • Introduction of participants  
  • Reflection on the nature of rural life |
| November 16, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Tuesday   | **Rural life and Livelihoods:**  
  • Challenges of rural life and livelihoods  
  • Decision making in rural households  
  • Vulnerability of rural households to shocks and external events |
| November 17, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Wednesday | **Rural life and Livelihoods:**  
  • Profile of Indian village and livelihoods  
  • Common myths and beliefs about rural India  
  • Inter-state comparison of economic, rural development and human development data |
| November 18, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Thursday  | **Rural life and Livelihoods:**  
  • Dominant livelihoods in rural India  
  **Socio-political structures and institutions:**  
  • Impact of caste and class on livelihoods |
| November 19, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Friday    | **Socio-political structures and institutions:**  
  • Impact of gender on livelihoods  
  • Gender empowerment and its measures  
  • Social exclusion, deprivation and poverty |
| November 20, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Saturday  | **Socio-political structures and institutions:**  
  • State institutions and their interventions  
  • Market-based institutions  
  • Community institutions and civil society organizations in rural India |
| November 21, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Sunday, November 22, 2015 - Holiday |                                                                 |
| Monday    | **Understanding Rural Value Chains:**  
  • Field visit to Chennapatna |
| November 23, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Tuesday   | **Reflection on field visit - Understanding Rural Value Chains:**  
  • Markets and value chains in rural India  
  • Inclusion and exclusion issues in markets |
| November 24, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Wednesday | **Livelihoods in transition:**  
  • Changing face of Indian village  
  • Agrarian distress  
  • Urbanisation and globalisation |
| November 25, 2015 |                                                                 |
| Thursday  | **Livelihoods in transition:**  
  • Achieving Dignity, Inclusion, Equity and Sustainability  
  • Reflection on learning |
| November 26, 2015 |                                                                 |
| CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION AND WRAP-UP |
Course Directors

Dr Ashok Sircar

Ashok Sircar has worked for 31 years spanning corporate sector, development sector, and teaching/training. For last 16 years, Ashok is involved in development action and studies in India in the domains of programme design, planning and execution, monitoring-evaluation, research and policy advocacy on issues of local governance, land rights and livelihoods. At Azim Premji University, Ashok is the director of the School of Development and jointly anchors the Livelihoods Initiative of the University.

Dr Richa Govil

Richa has worked for 20+ years in roles spanning research, business strategy, school education, financial inclusion, agriculture and rural livelihoods interventions, teaching and training. Richa’s areas of interest include the role of women in agriculture and allied activities, interlinkages between agriculture and household nutrition, participation of small producers in commodity value chains and producer companies.