

# Understanding Poverty and What You can do to Alleviate it

**Dr. Balaji Sampath**

**Association for India's Development (AID)**

**Tamil Nadu Science Forum (TNSF)**

10 am – 12 noon, Saturday, June 17

Union South (Check TITU for room)

Lack of education, ill health, poor sanitation, women's oppression and many such problems are associated with poverty. But what is the cause for poverty? Why is it that a feudal culture often has poorer people? Why and how does inequality go hand in hand with poverty? Understanding poverty means understanding these connections.

Does such an understanding lead us towards solutions? What solutions? How does one organize a mass movement for social change? This discussion will attempt to look at the above questions.

Dr. Balaji Sampath will also be talking about an integrated development plan which is currently being embarked on by the Tamil Nadu Science Forum. This effort attempts to bring about social change in several thousand villages across India in the areas of **literacy, health care, income generation, and women's empowerment** and targets a population of **20-30 million people**.

About the speaker: Dr. Balaji Sampath (Ph.D., University of Maryland, 1997) returned to India immediately after receiving his doctorate and has taken up social work as his full-time career. He is supported by a fellowship from AID. He is a state-level coordinator of the Tamil Nadu Science Forum and recently has been appointed as the state convener of Tamil Nadu for the National Health campaign.

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