



TechBridgeWorld Seminar Series



INTERNET BOOTHS IN INDIAN VILLAGES: A PEEP HOLE TO THE WORLD



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Guest lecture, 16-899/17-899: "Technology and
Development for 4 Billion" (T&D4B)

Abstract

India today is expanding concurrently in three dimensions:

1. It is modernizing its agricultural sector sustaining its population and even going into export
2. Its industries are augmenting, increasing the circumferences of urban areas that they meet rural areas
3. There is a huge section of the population which is primarily concerned with the creation and recording of information, an activity seen in any information society

Thus India cannot be compared to other composite, pluralistic, multicultural countries like U.S.A in the First World or to Africa in the Third World. Though geographically in the Third World, India is a combination of First and Third Worlds. India has also vast differences in its historical background, cultural traditions, geographical conditions and language situations.

India is trying to use communication media to set itself on the road to development. Both the Governmental and private sectors have set up Internet booths (r cafes) in urban and rural areas of India. Case studies reveal the socio-political and economic empowerment of the village folk, especially its women in rural India. Looking at the demographic profiles of these women make us understand their remarkable stories: A "mouse" in the hands of these village women is transforming them into lionesses!



Speaker Bio

Dr. K. Sundari is the Chair of the Sociology department in Stella Maris College in Chennai, India. Her many qualifications include an inter-disciplinary Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology in Madras University which she received in 1984. She has worked in education and research programs studying the rich cultural heritage of India with a recent focus on the role of technology in empowering women in rural India.

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