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Did you know: 77% of Indian population has a per capita income of < Rs 22 per day?

The people who make a difference in your life, whom you will remember are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

I am a Structural and Mechanical Engineer by profession. I am an Advisor at University of Michigan Dearborn, in Computer Science department for last 10 years; I interview the students for Alumni Association scholarships.

I am happily married and my wife, Rashmi, is in true sense my life partner. We are financially free from our family responsibilities as our children (two sons) are married and well established in their respective professions. We are blessed with two beautiful grand daughter and one grandson. What more could one ask for, so we decided to do the social work full time. For last ten years we are not working to earn money. We have been traveling to India, countryside extensively to study the work of different non-government organizations working in rural areas. During that we had gone to about 400 villages in 20 different states. It had helped us understand the problems prevalent and learn the means that are lacking to solve these problems. I also write, share my experiences in form of small articles in Hindi and English, about the burning problems and their solutions that come out after discussions with the local community. So far I have written more than 100 articles, some of these are published in various magazines of USA and India.

For a long time, I was making rich people richer, then I decided to make a difference in less fortunate people's life for a change. I feel I have always seen the problems in different light, and never hesitated to try new ways to solve them.

In the past, I was voluntarily engaged as project director and co-coordinator in developing a village (Sursardham) of 114 earthquake resistant houses for the Year 2001 earthquake affected 700 villagers of Gujarat, India. This project was completed in year 2004. I raised funds, co-coordinated donor as well as managing organizations in U.S.A. and India. Involving villagers in their own progress conceived an idea to make Sursardham a self sufficient and self-sustainable village in five years. They were expected to provide labor as we

provided the building material and training. They will maintain a village fund by monthly paying back to it part of their increased income potential.

In one year the houses are close to complete and I am planning and coordinating to take this project to its second phase. This includes village infrastructure buildings (community hall, school, library, water source and storage structure) as well as vocational training to the village youths to increase their income potential.

I feel that they should get the benefit of computer technology for data and Internet access to obtain information. I am working to make solar energy technology available to them for water and cooking. I am also seeking to provide them help start various home industries to manufacture basic products so their local village economy becomes strong.

This is a model village concept and many more villages that I am aware of can be and are being developed on this concept.

We sent 250+ computers for use in villages and schools in MP/UP India, we collected old computers from USA homes, offices and university and repaired and sent these to India.

The following exemplifies what social workers go through to fight negativity. Some people told us what is the use of your distributing blankets to the needy, people take few more only to sell elsewhere while the neighbors get none. My wife Rashmi spent restless time praying to God, is my coming to India a complete waste, what do I do to help them now? Next day as social workers were addressing villagers, her turn came the very last when audience was tired and almost asleep due to long speeches. Out of no where God put in these words into her as she began with a question: Who made you? Answer came: God. She asked: how many agree, raise your hands. All raised their hands. She then said who made the idols in Mandir? Answer came: Man. She again asked a show of hands as to how many agree (to draw their attention and to wake them up). She then said so *who should come first*: creation of God or creation of man? After a long pause they said 'it should (r..e..a..l..l..y) be creation of God' She then said I have nothing more to add..next time your neighbor needs help, do NOT go to mandir (to do rituals) but help each other. She said some were so moved they had tears and held her hand afterwards.