FAQ: Empowering Billions !!!

Is this a lofty dream ? Can this be achieved ? Do we have the resources ? Are we ready to set aside our differences to work towards a common goal for a prosperous, peaceful and happy humanity ?   **Yes, Yes, Yes**.

Is this a lofty Dream ?   Of course it is. His Excellency **the honorable Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, (the former and 11th President of India) has shown time and again how incredible dreams transform into energetic thoughts and then turn into cohesive actions, when human endeavors are channeled in the right direction.

[Excerpts from '**Empowering the 3 Billion'** book preamble – authored by His Excellency, the honorable Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India and co-author Mr. Srijan Pal Singh].

"The fundamental ingredient towards the evolution of happy, peaceful and prosperous nations emanates from the foundations of sustainable development. As the entire global society, particularly the developing and emerging nations stand at their defining moment in history, the needs of our times are (i) prosperity with inclusion, (ii) development with equity and (iii) industrialization with environmental concern. Large scale divides between the rural and urban areas of the world, which is manifested in income levels and quality amenities, is not only a loss of opportunity but also a concern to the sustenance of prosperity and peace.

Overcoming the prejudices of prosperity and fundamental human living standards are not only a significant national challenge but also an international responsibility. Today, more than 3 billion people are living in villages across the world, in underdeveloped, developing and parts of the developed nations of the world, and often in conditions of underutilization of talent and resources and depravity. We address the opportunities which complement this half of human population. The significance of this 3 billion of humanity is important from the point of view of global policy making, national governance and corporate sector as they, in an increasingly democratic world would not only hold the key to global governments but also present an immense and growing market and sourcing center for the industries around the world. "

Can this be achieved ?   The essence of the Foundation is to enhance the innate abilities and core competence of each citizen. This shall lead to sustained progress in every aspect of one's life when the citizens use modern, proven, scientific methods to evaluate, design and solve their needs to achieve knowledge independence, economic prosperity, self-sufficiency and enhanced quality of life.

Do we have the resources?   Of course. In todays' world, several philanthropic minded individuals and charitable organizations as well as socially conscious businesses and corporates undertake commendable efforts in a number of ways to help the poor and less fortunate in various parts of the world. All such focused activities and relief efforts are essential and much needed, not only in times of disasters (natural or man-made), but also at all other times as well for long term, sustained progress in defeating poverty.

Is the technology ready ?   Using modern tools such as satellite communication, broadband-connectivity, a host of output devices, one can bring Tele-Education, Tele-Medicine and Tele-Commuting, linking any part of the world with any other. This shall be combined with all other efforts being used to promote development, education, healthcare, employment, entrepreneurship and overall alleviation of poverty.

How do we participate ?   Each of us can participate in this process by being educators, mentors, guides and cheer leaders with whatever experience, expertise and knowledge we are ready to share with those who seek it. All it takes is an hour or two a month / week / day for those of us willing to help in this mission.

Has this formula worked ?   The proven success of the existing rural clusters set up as PURA centers in India and hundreds of charitable national and international foundations exemplify that when dedicated individuals and determined organizations join hands with the motivated beneficiaries, the success is achievable. The resulting societal transformation from one individual, one family, one village or town and then the entire country are impressive and miraculous indeed.

What should this lead to ?   Better quality of life is within reach, when modern technology serves the needy.

Comfortable housing facilities,	Convenient transport systems,
Accessible energy resources,	Potable and adequate water,
Essential Sanitation measures,	Affordable modern Healthcare,
World-class quality Education,	Market access via Internet
Better employment opportunities	Overall economic well being

What is the objective ?

(i) Bridge the rural – urban divide

(ii) Stem rural – urban migration

(iii) Expand consumer base and

(iv) Provide sustained rural socio-economic development via **FOUR connectivities**:

I   Physical Connectivity:
- ✓ Install adequate roads, public parks, recreational facilities, etc.
- ✓ Affordable mass transportation, encouraging eco-friendly features.
- ✓ Set up primary care hospitals, clinics, health centers, pharmacies, etc.
- ✓ Set up primary, secondary and advanced schools, public library, colleges, etc.
- ✓ Set up public market, business development zones, entrepreneur parks, etc.
- ✓ Develop rural nodal centers to house required hardware & software maintenance
- ✓ Set up suitable water conservation, management, purification and recycling facilities
- ✓ Set up adequate waste water treatment, sewage treatment, recycling facilities

II   Electronic Connectivity:
- ✓ Several rural nodal centers housing the terminals, within reachable distance
- ✓ Provide broad band linkage via cell towers, optical cables, satellites, etc.
- ✓ Enable uninterrupted access to the internet and outside world
- ✓ Facilitate Tele-Ed, Tele-Med, Tele-Conference, Tele-Commute, etc.
- ✓ Provide mobile medical / service vans with satellite dish links with main centers
- ✓ Ensure adequate power supply with local power generation and self sufficiency

III   Knowledge Connectivity: Skill development and educational opportunity via:
- ✓ Distance learning via Tele-education from primary to university level,
- ✓ Online link with relevant R & D centers that are relevant to rural problems
- ✓ Access to affordable healthcare with Tele-Med links with tertiary care facilities
- ✓ Learn online and implement Sanitary measures to benefit the entire community
- ✓ Upgrade efficiency and skills in agricultural, crop yield, food processing, food packing
- ✓ Skill development in technical & software sectors - BPO / Call Center / Tele Commuting
- ✓ Evolve rural entrepreneurism, based on core competencies
- ✓ Indigenous use of available bio-tech, bio-mass and expansion
- ✓ Learn and implement alternative renewable energy
- ✓ Encourage setting up core competence related industries
- ✓ Using Tele-Conferencing, set up rural co-operatives, marketing, etc.

IV   Economic Connectivity: Using the above three connectivity shall:
- ✓ construct and maintain roads, schools, health centers, office buildings, business parks, etc.
- ✓ maintain rural nodal centers, the hardware and software & broadband connectivity
- ✓ ensure proper use of Tele-education, Tele-medicine, Tele-conference, etc.
- ✓ improve their farm yield using modern farming practices
- ✓ set up collaborative food processing, preservation, storage and packing
- ✓ collectively market them to other rural centers and urban consumers

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