



Name: Kalyanram, Kartik

Designation: Coordinator

Organization: Rishi Valley Rural Health Centre

Contact Information: Rishi Valley Education Centre, Krishnamurti Foundation India, Rishi Valley PO, Madanapalle, Chittoor Distric, Andhra Pradesh, India.

email: kartik.kalyanram@gmail.com

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About the Presenter:

Dr Karlik Kalyanram: A graduate from Armed Forces Medical College, Pune in 1982, joined the Indian Air Force, specialised in Aerospace Medicine in 1989 from Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore, did an advanced course in the same area from US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. He voluntarily retired from the IAF in 1999 and since then has been in Rishi Valley Education Centre. In Rishi Valley, he was responsible for setting up and running a Rural Health Centre to provide low cost effective primary level health care to BPL rural families. About 18000 patients attend the RHC annually. His areas of interest are in epidemiology of non communicable diseases, raising awareness on various issues such as water conservation, life skills, alcoholism and drug use, and informally helping rural youth make choices on issues of livelihood.

Title of Paper: **Tensions in Livelihoods – A Rural Perspective**

Abstract:

The yearning for more, the need for upward mobility is a common thread amongst rural as well as urban youth. This paper seeks to discuss the various tensions that arise amongst rural youth who aspire to move out of their traditional livelihoods such as Livelihood vs Lifestyle, passion vs necessity, Rootedness vs mobility, regular income vs seasonal variations, nuclear families vs common kitchen. Alternative lifestyles are espoused for those in white collar jobs, but what about those in rural areas who aspire for a change? Is change a real / felt need? What is the effect that urban environments, media etc have on these youth? How does one help these youth make the right choice or is there no choice at all? How much influence does the peer generate? What role do we as “educated” professionals have in shaping the future/destinies of these youth? Do we have an understanding of their aspirations, lifestyles, hopes etc to be able to do so? Advocating a continuing livelihood seems romantic, but are we doing them a disservice by this?