



## Invitation

***Historical change is taking place in India. Women in rural areas are beginning to take office and shift the agenda. How do we empower women that have been powerless for thousands of years? How do we enable their leadership to grow? And what other interventions are necessary for social change?***

**Rita Sarin**, served as program officer for SIDA for 15 years before becoming Country Director of The Hunger Project India in 2001. She is now leading a nationwide alliance implementing The Hunger Project strategies to empower women in local democracy by e g leadership training. Together with her colleague **Sriparna Ganguly Chaudhuri** she will tell about the possibilities and challenges in the process of empowering women elected to village government, the so called Panchayats.

The Hunger Project India works in alliance with 90 organisations in 14 states of India. So far 60 000 women leaders have been trained through Women's Leadership Workshops.

Come and learn more about The Hunger Project in general and The Hunger Project in India in particular. **Welcome!**

**Time:** *May 9th at 17.00*  
**Location:** *Minc, [www.minc.se](http://www.minc.se)  
Anckargripsgatan 3, Malmö*

Please **register** your participation **before April 30th** by sending an e-mail to [info@hungerprojektet.se](mailto:info@hungerprojektet.se) or calling 08-735 23 30. Limited number of places are available. Please sign up a.s.a.p. to ensure your place. Refreshments will be served at own cost.



HUNGER  
PROJEKTET  
SVERIGE

*852 million people live in chronic hunger.  
The Hunger Project works with empowering  
more than 23 million people in 13 countries  
to end their own hunger and poverty.*



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## Enabling Local Leadership to End Hunger and Poverty in India

**The Hunger Project** is a global movement that works with empowering women and men to end their own hunger and poverty. Learn more about our methods and take part of a case study with two special guests from India at the beginning of May 2007.

**The first step** to major change was in 1993 when an amendment was made to India's constitution, where there was a transition of power and resources to the local democratic councils known as panchayats. At the same time it was decided that one-third of the seats should be reserved for women. The decision however did not guarantee implementation.

**Today**, India is divided into two parts. The modern India has a remarkable record of accomplishments. The second and larger part of India, is an entirely different world. Of the one billion people living in India today, 720 million live in rural areas characterised by poverty and social injustice. They remain powerless, locked in a system of economic exploitation, class division, caste prejudice and pervasive corruption. They lack access to education, nutrition, health care, sanitation, land and other assets that could enable them to escape poverty. Women bear primary responsibility in all these areas, yet for thousands of years India's rural women have been kept powerless.

The Hunger Project in India works with a four-pronged strategy to empower women leaders through:

- **Leadership training** for women representatives
- **Making panchayats effective** through mobilizing people's participation and advocacy to shift resources and authority to the local level.
- **Alliance building** to support the women in achieving their vision
- **Mobilizing the media** to transform public attitudes.

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**The Hunger Project has proven effective programmes which already empower millions of people in 13 countries to achieve lives of self reliance and dignity.**

**Swedish website: [www.hungerprojektet.se](http://www.hungerprojektet.se) Global website: [www.thp.org](http://www.thp.org)**

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