

Executive Summary

Solar Urja Lamps Project (Dungarpur)

Background/ Initiatives Undertaken

- Solar lamps project was initiated under the aegis of **IIT Bombay, Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP)** and **district administration**, to provide an economic and sustainable solar lighting solution.
- It focuses on development of solar enterprise, for which women Self Help Group (**SHG**) **members are trained and mentored to become solar entrepreneurs.**
- IIT Bombay provided overall technical and management support as part of **Million SoUL program.**
- RGAVP helped in implementation of initiative through **4 SHG - Cluster Level Federations (CLFs).**
- **150 women** participated in a **10-day** training for **solar lamps assembling, repairing and marketing.**
- A **Solar Module Manufacturing Plant named DURGA** (Dungarpur Renewable Generating Association) is being set up to meet local demands of solar energy.

Key Achievements/ Impact

- **83 women** got employed as a part of SoUL project called **The Solar Sahelis.**
- **5 solar shops** were established by women and **19 Solar Saheli** were trained as solar entrepreneurs, for after sales service and sale of other solar products.
- **Revenue of INR 80 lac** was generated with a **profit of INR 32 lac.**
- **Average income of each women employed under the initiative is Rs. 5,000-6,000** per month.
- **40,000 Solar lamps** were assembled, sold and maintained over 4 months.
- Community is **using lamps for study, cooking, milking, going to field, social gatherings, etc.**
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI** has funded the project to provide solar lamps to 70 lakh students across Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand.



Solar Urja Lamps Project (Dungarpur)

Background

Solar Urja Lamps (SoUL) project was initiated under the aegis of IIT Bombay, Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP) and District Administration, to provide an economic and sustainable solar lighting solution to the villagers of Dungarpur, Rajasthan. Due to hilly terrain and scattered habitation, the cost of electricity transmission is very high in this region. The initiative focuses on providing green and environment friendly lighting solution to each household at a reasonable price, so that school going children can study in uninterrupted manner, and women in the area can also earn from the process and enhance their livelihood.

Approach Adopted

4 Self-Help Group Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in Dungarpur district were engaged in different capacities such as managers, assemblers, distributors and service providers for repair and maintenance of the lamps. District administration played a crucial role of bringing together all stakeholders and providing handholding support to them.

Training

IIT Bombay provided a 10 day training to 150 women of the CLFs.

- Technical training was provided to the women for assembling of the solar lamps.
- Distribution training was also provided for distributing the

Assembling of Solar Lamps



Awareness Generation



lamps. This included training on marketing and advertisement tools.

- Repair and Maintenance training was also given as the lamps have a warranty period of 6 months.
- Some selected women were trained to work in their own shops/house for repairing. 5 Solar shops were established by women and 19 Solar Sahelis were trained as solar entrepreneurs, for after sales service and sale of other solar products.

Funding

Idea Cellular provided financial support to IIT Bombay. Price of each solar lamp is Rs. 550, of which Rs. 350 is subsidy provided by Idea Cellular. For consumer the price per lamp is Rs. 200, of which Rs. 55 is given to IIT Bombay and Rs. 65 is the cost of operation for CLF. Thus, CLF earns a profit of Rs. 80 per lamp.

Distribution Activities

- Phase I: 3 blocks where CLF had a strong presence were selected and the lamps were distributed in 180 villages. The women reached to the targeted village 2-3 days in advance and educated the villagers about the benefits of the solar lamps by using pamphlets and sound campaigns. The actual distribution was done by hiring of tempo/mini-trucks by the women and providing delivery at the destination
- Phase II: Distribution was expanded to cover other blocks of the district and was also done at the school level, wherein the distributors visited schools and convinced the principal, teachers and students about the benefits of the solar lamps.

Awareness Generation

Campaigning was done across the district at both, school and household, levels. Distributors participated in meetings of Village Organizations (VOs) for promoting and generating awareness about the project. Few days prior to distribution, distributors visited schools for promotion. Sound campaigning, pamphlets were some of the other techniques used for promotion across various villages.

Establishment of Solar Shops



Solar Sahelis



Impact

The key outcomes of the project are highlighted below:

- 40,000 Solar lamps were assembled, sold and maintained, over a period of 4 months. The entire community is benefited and is using lamps for study, cooking, milking, going to field, social gatherings etc.
- 83 tribal women, engaged as part of the project, are now able to earn Rs. 5000-6000 per month.
- Revenue of Rs. 80 Lakh is being generated with a profit of Rs. 32 lakh.
- Based on the success of SoUL project, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt has funded project to provide solar lamps to 70,00,000 students.
- SoUL project is now moving towards a new height in Dungarpur through solar panel production house named DURGA (Dungarpur Renewable Generating Association). The Bhoomi Poojan was done on 26th Jan 2017.

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