



Solar for Education Forum for Policy

(The forum will seek solutions to policy bottlenecks restricting the uptake of decentralised solar energy solutions)

Access to energy is essential in achieving several social and economic development goals. Education for all is one such development goal, which can be achieved by providing reliable source of power to educational institutions so that a better learning environment can be ensured to children. Government has been successful enough in ensuring that power infrastructure is in place in most of the villages in India. While universal electrification is an achievable goal, it is important to ensure reliability and quality of power. As per Ministry on New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), around 47.5% the population in rural areas still does not have access to electricity. Economic growth of the nation can reach its optimum level if this potential human capital is utilised. This can be done by providing last mile energy access that can ensure proper educational infrastructure and better health care facilities. Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) systems can be a potential game changer in this. Even MNRE endorses the fact that DRE can be an economically viable means for providing electricity connection.

CUTS International along with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) has been steering a project on '**Green Growth and Energy Transformation**' in states of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Delhi. The core aim of the project is to create an implementable strategy /proposal for energy transformation (from fossil to non- fossil) at state-level so that sustainable growth can be guaranteed and states could also meet their targets on renewable energy.

To bring this transformative change, '**Solar for Education**' has been identified as a facilitator for last mile energy access. It aims at making available decentralised solar energy solutions not just to schools but even to households such that an extended learning environment is provided to children at homes. Through this, the larger community also gets benefited.

Our ground research also informs us that there are bottlenecks or issues that restrict the uptake of solar solutions at the grassroots. Finding solutions to these bottlenecks would then make decentralised solar energy solutions a viable option for technology providers, financiers and the community. The strategy adopted by us is firstly to facilitate forums to connect demand to supply and to prepare a project design that would provide solutions for challenges or bottlenecks identified.

Forum for Policy aims at facilitating a dialogue and understanding the policy bottlenecks pertaining to finance and technology like the mandates on Priority Sector Lending to

renewable energy, operational challenges regarding capital subsidies to technology providers, prospects of convergence of funds towards solarisation of schools and so forth.

**Date: Friday 25th August, 2017 | Venue: ITC Rajputana, Jaipur Palace
Road, Jaipur.**

Agenda

09:30-10:00	Registration and Tea
10:00-10:30	Welcome Address by CUTS International and ‘Overview of Solar for Education’ project
10:30-12:00	Stakeholder Interaction: An interactive discussion with various stakeholders on policy issues and challenges pertaining to finance and technology in Solar for Education
12:00-12:15	Tea break
12:15-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuation of Discussion• Summarising the discussion and presenting key highlights• Action points for future forum
13:00-14:00	Lunch