

PRESS RELEASE

A quite revolution is under way to light up schools in Rajasthan

16th December, 2016

Believe it or not, as per the data there are only 270 villages in Rajasthan out of 40000 odd that are un-electrified yet roughly 45000 schools out 1 lack remain un-electrified. A part of the reason can be attributed to a limited definition of rural electrification and the other part can be attributed to lack of coherent strategy to ensure that these schools are not powered.

On the latter aspect, Jaipur based CUTS International today held a day long expert consultation with experts from IIT, CSIR, Rural Schools, consumer organisations, project developers, sector skill council on green jobs, Barefoot college, media, UNICEF and energy experts amongst others.

The consultations were geared towards formulating an implementable strategy on green growth and energy transformation in Rajasthan. CUTS has been leading this project in Rajasthan, West Bengal, National level and international level. Solar solutions for school education has been identified as first project under this initiative in the state. Other sectors will also be explored in the course of time.

The relevance of this initiative can be gauged by the fact that this project has unleashed many game changers even beyond energy and education sector.

CUTS plans to now develop a robust solution oriented strategy to electrify all schools through renewable energy solutions. Participants identified many issues and also elaborated on potential solutions through solar energy to light up schools and thereby improve learning outcomes amongst other things.

Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International delivered the welcome address along with Sehaj Malik of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung– a German Foundation supporting this project. Mr Rohit Brandon, Former ACS Rajasthan and Mr S P Chandak, Energy Expert formerly with United Nations anchored the discusses along with Mr Abhishek Kumar, Udai Mehta, Kanika Balani and Arkapal Sil , Sayantan Senguota and Akshay Sharma from CUTS International. Both Mr Chandak and Mr Brandon are closely associated with this project.

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