

Project Brief

Solar Rooftop Solutions for School Education in Rajasthan

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

For this purpose CUTS International has formed seed communities at the state level comprising a wide array of experts including financiers, project developers, vendors, energy experts, department officials and politicians amongst others.

These experts represent different interests which do not always necessarily converge. Therefore, seed community also serves as a medium for these actors to work together and co-evolve a strategy for transformation so that it is socially relevant, commercially feasible and politically sellable.

Keeping this approach as a guiding force, a section of Rajasthan Seed Community has already met a few times to identify some projects that could contribute to transformative change. One such project is Solar Roof Top for School education in Rajasthan. Some of the main reasons for choosing this project idea are based on the following compelling factors:

- ✓ As per DISE data, there are nearly 1 lac schools in Rajasthan, both government and private. While most of these schools have buildings, roughly about 45% of them are un-electrified
- ✓ Along with the provision of electricity through solar rooftop, there is also a scope of introducing renewable energy education in the school curriculum so that children, teachers and even parents become brand ambassadors of renewable energy solutions
- ✓ The intervention will also catalyse rural market for solar products thus bringing down costs and increase awareness
- ✓ It will serve the social commitment of the state in providing enabling conditions for learning environment in schools
- ✓ This will also be a step towards popularising environment friendly solutions to meet basic needs even outside the immediate area of application
- ✓ It will contribute to better human development record in the state, particularly in areas where electricity is not available
- ✓ Once the provision of power is ensured in the schools, it will also create a base to introduce ICT education in schools
- ✓ Since schools usually operate during day time, the expenses on storage could be avoided thereby making the model more feasible
- ✓ There are also many corporate foundations with considerable interest in providing financial resources to enable quality education in schools
- ✓ There is also a potential for creation of local jobs in renewable energy through the intervention



While the above reasons are not exhaustive, they indicate sufficient reason to take up this project for implementation in the first stage of intervention. However, for this purpose, it is also important to reach out to other key stakeholders for their inputs. These stakeholders would include officials from relevant government departments including school education and rural development, CSOs, corporate foundations, media, political leaders etc.

Once the inputs are collated from these stakeholders, CUTS would finalise a project proposal and carry out outreach activities with actors who will implement the project. This outreach will also connect each actor to the other in order for them to develop feasible business models to scale up the decentralised solar solutions.