

Solar for Education
Scoping Visit to Jaipur District
March 3, 2017
Report

In April 2016, CUTS International, in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) India, commenced a project called Green Growth and Energy Transformation (Grow-Get) to create an implementable strategy for energy transformation in the state of Rajasthan and West Bengal through fostering dialogue among various stakeholders to identify and align their common interests by creating social coalitions, called Seed Communities. Through deliberations and discussions, the seed communities identified **Solar for Education** was identified as the catalytic project to bring energy transformation in rural areas of Rajasthan.

As part of the initiative, Scoping visit was conducted in Jaipur District of Rajasthan to understand the potential of the idea on the ground and to understand the challenges at the grassroots.

Following are the key highlights of the visit:

1. Visit to Rajkiyaah Madhymik Vidhyalalh, Herapur

1.1 Introduction:

- The school was started way back in 1957. Initially the school was from 1st to 8th which then in 2013-14 was upgraded to 10th standard. A total number of students in school are 155 students. The school has a well-functioning School Management Committee.

1.2 Status of Power supply:

- The power supply in the village is alternative i.e, 6 days electricity in the day time and thereafter, 6 days electricity at Night. There are huge power fluctuations in the supply and the supply is Irregular.
- 6 hours a day is usual power supply in the village, but the timing is not fixed and continuous. And because of power fluctuations in the area is it prone to short circuits.

1.3 Rajasthan Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Grants:

- RMSA grants are utilized for maintenance of the schools. Following are the areas where the grant is utilized:

- × Payment of Electricity bills, Rs. 400 in winters and Rs. 600 in summers.
- × Water Bill
- × Paint of school
- × Maintenance
- × Construction work.

1.4 Challenges faced by the school:

- High amount of fluoride in the water. Therefore, there is an urgent need of purifier
- No computers in the school
- Frequent Power cuts

1.5 Bhamasha (Philanthropists): Any person who donates willingly to schools is called a Bhamasha. Bhamashas in school in Phagi Block has contributed towards building assembly area, other infrastructure requirements like giving mats for sitting, fans, etc. The involvement of Bhamasha in schools also brings following changes –

- Involvement of community with Public School
- Increase in enrollments from within the community as Bhamsha encourages and influences community.

1.6 Others discussions:

- There is greater scope to work on Skill development of villagers.
- There is an existing Primary Health Care centre in Renwal village which needs electrification.
- All the anganwaris are all un electrified in the block.
- Renewables are a part of curriculum of students from class 8th.

1.7 Adarsh School Scheme:

Rajasthan has embarked on an ambitious project to improve the quality of public school education in the state. Like most states in the country, Rajasthan too is laden with fragmented schools, teacher vacancies and insufficient governance. Under the Adarsh Schools Yojana, following were the merits of the scheme according to him:

- The Adarsh School is helping the Principals with monitoring of schools in the area.
- Adarsh Schools have also addressed the teacher vacancy issue, because after merger government is only now filling the teacher gap in Adarsh schools, which is a more effective solution.
- Budget has increased for individual Adarsh schools, which means the administration has more funds to spend on school infrastructure development as well.
- The building of the schools which is left as assets after the merger is used for other government offices like Anganwaris, BDO Offices, etc.

2 Rajkiyaa Prathmik Vidyalaya, Rajthal

2.1 Introduction:

Rajthal has 9 schools in total. This school is from 1965, from last 2 years shifted to a new building. A total number of students is 65. The administration is running classes 1 to 8th in 2 classroom building and merging 2 classes and taking classes in open field and under the tree to conduct other classes. The area is ST dominated. The total number of Household is about 200, which holds a population of about 800 students. Here also MDM served by Iskon.

2.2 Problems faced by the schools:

- Fund crunching for construction of building
- Two room buildings and the requirement is at least 8.

- Security of the school assets is a big concern (in the context of solar, need to ensure the safety of the expensive panels and community participation can be effective solution)
- There is no Bhamashah in this area.

2.3 Benefits of Electrification:

A senior teacher mentioned solar will attract the villagers to send their children to schools and help the children to learn computer. Also, it will be an incentive for a teacher to come and teach children. As most the teachers don't come to village schools because of lack of basic infrastructure.

3 P.S Government school, Anandpuri, Gowandi

3.1 Introduction:

This is the primary school in Gowandi, which is one of the backward regions of Jaipur district. The school principals believe that the sole reason being the most backward village is, one Gowandi is the tribal belt of Jaipur and second it is the last village of MLA constituency, from here Dausa districts starts.

Because it is the last place for the politicians to think about, the basics things also villagers are not entitled too. Currently, there is no electricity in the primary school of Anandpuri.

3.2 The benefits of electrification:

- Help the school administration with setting up microphone system which is small necessity for school level programs
- Will help with initiating biometric and hence, regularity of teachers can be assured.
- This can initiate mobilizing the students and community as a whole.

4. Meeting with Sarpanch of Gowandi

4.1. Agenda:

To discuss the project solar for education and understand what can be the level of community participation.

4.2. Major discussions:

- The total population of Gram Panchayat is around 10,000 people. The panchayat covers about 11 villages. It is an OBC Dominated Panchayat.
- There are about 14-15 schools In the Gram panchayat .
- Panchayat building was adjustment to the Atal Seva Kendra of the village as the system of Atal Seva Kendra is not running from last 6 months and panchayat has registered almost 20 complains about the same.
- The village is a grid connected village, but the supply of power is irregular
- There are no computer facilities in schools and requests letter has been sent to education department of Rajasthan government from time to time.
- There is zero fiber optic connectivity in the village.
- Panchayat has done some work on solar street lights, but it was not really a big success because of lack of community participation. The batteries were stolen and there was a lack of maintenance.