

Exploring the Impact of Electric Mobility on the Jobs Ecosystem

Background and Rationale

In the times of a global discourse on sustainable development and lowering carbon footprints, the shift to cleaner alternatives in terms of transport is critical. A paradigm shift is imminent, given the role played by transport in an economy and the plethora of negative externalities on the environment and human health, associated with the use of traditional vehicles that operate on combustion of fossil fuels. Electric mobility has been the chosen way forward in most of the developed countries and has also been gaining traction in India, aided by enthusiasm from the businesses and the government.

In order to ease out the transition, the Central Government has taken number of initiatives such as Fame-I, Fame-II schemes and fiscal propositions in the Union Budget aimed at promoting e-mobility by providing financial incentives to the manufacturing sector and consumers. Along with that the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (2013) and the latest National Mission of Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage launched in 2019 are a step towards greening of transport and jobs. Similarly, several State governments have also formulated EV policies.

Despite the traction, one crucial component that has been missing is the 'city level' framework for EV integration. Given this, CUTS International embarked upon developing a sub-national EV integration framework with the support from FES, India.

From our work thus far, we have realized that a crucial issue is the absence of data on just transition of mobility space, particularly in the context on job losses and job gain. This paradigm shift in mobility may open the gateways for new business opportunities and lead to the creation of a novel job ecosystem. Thus, a just transition would require a fair assessment of livelihood opportunities being affected and potential opportunities being generated.

Objective

To explore the nature and quantum of job losses due to Electric Vehicle integration at a city level & also the nature of new jobs & skills required due to it. This will help inform the pathways to a just transition which is socially, economically, environmentally and politically acceptable and viable.

ecosystem, schemes and policies related to transport sector in particular for EVs in the India, will be reviewed. Further, a matrix with job losses -vs- gains at each value chain level and the potential skill requirements will also be added on the basis of desk research which will be subsequently verified during the scoping visits and detailed field inquiries.

Methodology

- **Literature Review**
Relevant literature including national and international reports on e-mobility and the jobs

Supported by



- **Scoping Visits and Detailed Field Inquiries**

- Stakeholder mapping and selection of locations for field visit – A detailed map of different components of the EV jobs ecosystem will be carried out along with identification of key stakeholders for each component. The focus will be on the impact of EV transition Jaipur city. However, if necessary, field visit to locations beyond the city may be undertaken.
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Stakeholder Consultations – KIIs will be carried out with stakeholders from different components of the EV ecosystem including manufacturing, dealers, charging infrastructure and services providers, demand enablers (like cab aggregators) and industry & workers associations.
- Mapping of existing job roles and skills and upcoming job roles and skill requirements across various value chains in the EV ecosystem: The map created based on secondary research will be supplemented by findings from primary research for developing a city-level comprehensive picture.

- **Assessment of Scoping visits and secondary data**

Based on the findings of the scoping visit and secondary research a draft research report will be prepared.

- **Focused group discussion**

To further validate the findings of the research report, the report would be disseminated to the relevant set of experts, policymakers, industry etc. for their feedback and review. Also, efforts will be made to conduct an FGD in Jaipur.

- **Finalisation of the report**

Based on the feedback received from the relevant stakeholders, the report will be finalized and disseminated.

Envisaged Outputs

- **Primary Output**

A research paper on the impact of electrification of the mobility landscape on the jobs ecosystem at a city level, to be disseminated amongst a larger group of policy-influencers and relevant stakeholders for strengthening the discourse on a just transition.

- **Secondary Outputs**

In the process of preparing the final research paper the following outputs will also be prepared.

- A discussion paper based on secondary research on the impact of EVs on jobs, which will also be a chapter in the final research paper.
- Op-eds highlighting the findings from different sub-sectors of the EV ecosystem to be published in leading journals and newspapers.

Expected Outcomes

Just and equitable policies facilitate a better ecosystem for adoption of new technology and hasten the pace of development. This research and its outputs will inform the policymakers, for a socially, economically, environmentally and politically acceptable and viable transition. The research paper will also be a potent tool in augmenting the use of evidence in decision-making process.

Project Duration and Support

The project is supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and is for a duration of six months, from March 2020 to August 2020.

