

Community Development Project Uttar Pradesh

“Community Development with
Solar Energy Illumination”

Final Report

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Submitted to

The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action

Maison de l' Environnement II.
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The Project at a Glance

1	Name of the Project	Community Development with Solar Illumination
2	Operational area	100 villages in 4 blocks of Hardoi, Unnao, Kanshiram Nagar and Badaun districts of Uttar Pradesh.
3	Project Leaders	Dharmpal Gurjar, Subhash Yadav, S.P. Singh and Ramesh Meena at four locations
4	Address	Humana People to People India, C-183, Madhuban, Preet Vihar, New Delhi -110092
5	Tel. & e-mail	Telephone: +91 11 651 378 06 Fax: +91 11 224 663 86 Email: info@humana-india.org
6	The idea of the project and who it reaches	The project has 3 main components; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) installation of 100 Solar Charging Stations, 2) formation and training of 300 women's Self Help Groups, and 3) Environment Education Programs in all the schools and colleges in 100 villages, of which The Gaia-Movement supports the latter, plus it provides support to Research & Development on more solar energy equipments. The project reaches out to more than 35,000 people with clean energy, enhanced livelihood opportunities and environment awareness through the above mentioned activities.
	The people at the Project	4 Project Leaders, 16 Area Leaders and 4 Development Instructors.
	The history in brief	The project activities were supported by Gaia since 1 st of May 2010 in four districts of Uttar Pradesh are part of the larger project "Community Development with Solar Energy Illumination", which was initiated in June 2009 with a grant for USAID, and with collaboration from TERI – The Energy and Resources Institute.
7	Partners in Development	USAID TERI – The Energy and Resources Institute, NABARD – National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development The Gaia - Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action.

The Project in numbers

S. No	Activity	Goal	Achieved	Diff-
Activities supported by GAIA				
1	No. of individuals who have purchased solar lanterns through project's awareness	40	39	-1
2	Street shows	50	50	0
3	School sessions on environment	100	100	0
4	Distribution of environmental education material in schools	100	100	0
5	Video shows in schools	100	100	0
6	Rally on global warming and climate change	100	100	0
7	School visits to solar charging stations	100	100	0
8	Quiz competition on environment	100	100	0
9	Conferences/visits on project's visibility	6	9	3
Activities supported by USAID				
10	Formation of SHGs	300	304	4
11	Open bank account SHGs	300	278	-22
12	SHG Bank linkages	0	25	25
13	Workshop on women rights, development schemes and income generation for SHGs	60	20	-40
14	Installation of Solar Charging Stations (SCS)	100	100	0
15	Open bank account of SCSs	100	100	0
16	Training of selected entrepreneurs	4	3	-1
17	Training of users of solar lanterns	100	100	0
18	Installation of sign boards	100	54	-46
19	Monthly collection of maintenance cost from each SCS	100	100	0
20	Participation in Gram Panchayat meetings	240	240	0
<p>Comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22 bank accounts of SHGs could not be opened due to delay of sanction letter from NABARD. Workshops for SHGs hampered due to lack of new partnerships for funds. 46 installation of sign boards remained due to delay in getting layout from TERI. The project has received the layout in May and soon all of them will be installed. 				

Presentation of idea and content of the project

The idea of the project is to:

- a) Provide quality illumination based on solar energy to rural households in 100 villages for 30-35,000 people and thereby facilitating education of children, providing better illumination and a smoke-free indoor environment for women to do household chores, and providing opportunities for increased livelihood,
- b) Promote utilization and development of renewable energy (in this case solar energy) devices and services,
- c) Create and promote partnerships between entities among government and civil society institutions that can help to efficiently accelerate and expand utilization of renewable energy devices and services all over India.

The three main activities are:

1. Installation of Solar Charging Stations and train SHG members to run the stations,
2. Formation and training of 300 women's Self Help Groups, supporting women to improve their livelihood. 100 SHG's members will be trained as LaBL entrepreneurs.
3. Environmental education programs incl. tree planting actions with children and youth.

The specific idea of the third project component, the environmental education programs, is to spread knowledge about environment in general, global warming and climate change, and about renewable energy among children and youth, thus to educate the young generation to be environmentally responsible citizens.

Specific Goals for the GAIA supported activities

- i. Organize environmental education programs in 100 schools and colleges in the entire project area (Badaun, Hardoi, Kanshiram Nagar and Unnao districts), combined with tree planting actions and other practical actions involving headmasters, teachers, students and neighbors, during a 12 months period.
- ii. Install 2 additional Solar Charging Stations in villages which have been identified by the project implementation teams as under served with electricity supply, and experiment with other solar energy devices in the project area.

The project achievements

Training of Project Staff on environment education program in schools

The Center for Environment Education (CEE) trained 4 Project Leaders and 8 Area Leaders as trainers to train the project staff to conduct school sessions on environment education program in a simplified manner. The trained trainers conducted training of 30 project staffs and Development Instructors in November, 2010 in their respective projects in four locations. During the training the participants developed teaching material on global warming and climate changes including its reason, how they affect the environment, its consequences and how we can act to prevent it.

School sessions on environment education program

The project completed 100 school sessions on environment in 100 schools of the 4 project districts benefiting approx. 18,000 students, teachers and youth. During the schools sessions, the project created deep understanding of environment amongst the participants and they were sensitized to be proactive locally to resist the negative aspects of human activities that are causing climate change, pollution, environmental degradation, and resource depletion etc.

Distribution of study material

The project has distributed sets of 100 rare study material received from CEE in 100 schools that included eleven types of books, booklets and posters. During the follow up visits it was found that the teachers and students are using the material as a part of their environmental studies and in quiz competitions and it was learned from the teachers that the students secured good marks in environment studies during their schools examinations. The schools sessions succeeded to sensitize the school children and made them environment conscious.

Quiz Competition

In order to assess the impact of school sessions on knowledge of students about environment, the project in the month of March and April, 2011 organized quiz competition in 100 schools. The project was satisfied with the performance of the students and the top rankers were given prizes.

Video shows in school

The project conducted 100 video shows in equal number of schools on environment with the help of movies received from the British Council. The video shows added to the knowledge of students where they learned effects of climate change on human survival due to rising sea level, people's migration caused by changing cropping patterns, diminishing glaciers, water, air and soil pollution and how our country is being affected. Approximately 18,000 viewers including school teachers, students and youths were compelled to think on how they can take local actions to preserve the environment locally with collective efforts. The project distributed 100 CDs to the interested schools, individual teachers and youths to disseminate the knowledge to more and more people.

Rally with School Children

The project organized 100 school rallies in all the project villages of 4 districts to create awareness amongst the masses on environment protection. Before rally the students and the village youths were taken to solar charging station to learn about the solar technology, benefits of solar lantern and how to operate it, followed by a presentation on environment awareness, which subsequently led to a rally in the village. Before rally the project developed IEC material including banner, placards, charts and slogans, which were used during the rally.

Street shows for public awareness

The project organized 50 street shows on environment issues in four project districts with the help of trained teams. The street shows were very popular and enjoyed by most of the villages for its entertainment and educative values and the villages received the message on environment issues including global warming & climate change, ill effects of burning fossil fuels, stop tree cutting, stop use of plastic bags, save the water, use the vermicompost fertilizers, ways to stop climate change and the importance of education. The interactive program enabled a lively exchange of information between the actors and the spectators supplemented by special inputs from project staffs. More than 15,000 people benefitted from the street shows.

Establishing the Technical Resource Centre

The project has recruited and trained 4 locals as Technical Resource Centers (TRC) for upkeep and maintenance of solar charging stations and solar lanterns in 4 project locations. The TRC's are fully functional and have linkage with supply partners to access spare parts as and when needed. Most of the faults are being repaired by the TRC's and only a few cases were referred to the supplier partner through TERI where replacement was sought. For the purpose of sustainable services, the TRC's are getting

Rs. 200 per month per solar charging station as service charge, however TERI is considering a monthly allowance payable to TRC's for a certain period before he can raise satisfactory income with the expansion of the program which is apparent with its growing demand and purchase.

District level conference on Solar Energy

The project organized a district level conference on Community Development through Solar Energy in Ujhani block of Badaun district on 16th of March, 2011. The objective of the conference was to share the results and experiences of the project and to establish linkage with the key stakeholders working on solar energy and the community. The participants in the conference came from NABARD, NEDA, Agriculture Scientist, Solar Energy Program from Tata Chemical Society for Rural Development, Manager from Solid Solar, Senior Bank Manager, District Cooperative Bank Limited besides other key persons from NGO's, PRI members, SHG members, Solar Charging Station and Mobile Charging Facility Entrepreneurs and 400 community members. During the conference the guests from different institutions oriented the participants on different government schemes with special focus on solar energy and IEC material was distributed by NEDA.

State level conference on Solar Energy

A state level conference was organized on 16th of April 2011 at the state capital Lucknow to celebrate successful installation of 100 solar charging stations and to use this opportunity to share experiences and sensitize the senior government officials, policy makers, non government organizations, PRI's and beneficiaries for future opportunities of solar illumination. During the conference film and images from the project were shown to the participants to share the process of a successful endeavor. The key speakers from different institution shared their policy and works and how it can contribute to further expansion and replication of solar energy interventions. Among the key speakers present were as follows:

Name	Department	Topic
Ms. Anne Marie Moeller	Humana People to People India	Welcome and Introduction
Nitishwar Kuomar, IAS – Director	UPNEDA	Renewable energy and Entrepreneurship in Uttar Pradesh – future opportunities
Apurva Chaturvedi	USAID	USAID's support to development of clean energy programs in India – and about this specific project
Akanksha Chaurey	TERI	LaBL, the campaign and it's outreach Opportunities in Uttar Pradesh

Mr. P. S. Chopra Sr. Marketing Manager	Usha International	Social Development and the Corporate sector
Preeti Rawat Kanaujia	Centre for Environment Education – North	The importance of building environment awareness in the young generation
Mr. Mohd. Illyas, DGM	NABARD	The role of NABARD in development of renewable energy entrepreneurship
Project Coordinator, Entrepreneurs, beneficiaries, PRI members	Humana People to People India and LaBL team	The project implementation - Successes and Challenges

Visibility of the project

In order to make the project visible in the community and at the level of policy makers the project has conducted mass awareness through different IEC activities, conferences at district and state level and frequent visits of government officials and other institutions. The project has become visible in and out of the project area by association of a number of stakeholders from community, Government, non government institutions, media and bankers. Different Government Departments including Block Level Government Officials, Sub Divisional Officers, Education Department, NABARD, and Non conventional Energy Development Agency are in direct contact with the project as advocates of expansion and experience sharing. The bankers are visiting the project to extend micro credit to the beneficiaries to purchase solar lanterns. The print media is very impressed with the project benefits and is covering many events and success stories of the project in the newspapers. The visibility at the Solar Charging Stations is marked by installing the sign boards.

There are many visitors from Government, Non Government Agencies and communities visiting the project for its replication are broadening the visibility of the project. Among the prominent visitors in 1st Quarter of 2011 were representatives from Netherland based Snica Foundation, implementing development projects in Nepal. The objective of their visit was to gain experience from the project to implement a similar solar energy initiative in Nepal. The visitors saw the solar charging stations and interacted with entrepreneurs, villagers and SHG members to collect the feed back. In an another visit Mr. R. K. Singh, District Collector and Mr. Chandra Shekher, Chief Development Officer of Kashiram Nagar visited the project on 14th of January, 2011 and visited 2 project villages to see the project implementation and assess its impact. They saw the solar charging stations and interacted with entrepreneurs, users and SHG members. The

visitors were very inspired by the project outcome and expressed their interest to provide all needed administrative support to upscale the program in the district.

In the latest development the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India has asked HPPI to share its experiences for its wider dissemination. (The letter is attached)

Conclusion

The “Community Development with Solar Energy Illumination” project implemented in 4 district of UP has concluded with a trail of success for many more power deprived areas of the state and India as a whole. The contribution made by The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action contributed to its environmental awareness aspect especially in the schools and to disseminate its accomplishment to a larger audience and the policy makers. The project has come up as a successful replicable model integrating all the aspects of information dissemination, demand generation, availability of renewable solar energy through solar lanterns, illuminating households, benefitting students, home makers and livelihood activities and effective community owned service delivery mechanism. The project has been visited by many government and non government institutions to witness its success at the grass roots and the interaction with the beneficiaries and the feed back received established it’s potential.

The project is now focusing to share the experiences with a larger group including funders, government policy makers and institutions working on the same line to expand the program and replicate in wider geographical areas benefitting communities who have been inactivated in the dark hours of the day adversely affecting their lives.