

Launching of Solar Urja Lamp Project in Jhabua

Many rural areas have no access to electricity and the largest of these figures are the rural poor and their school children. As per Census 2011, 43% of households in the country use Kerosene for lighting purpose; out of which 40.9% in Madhya Pradesh, 39.3% in Rajasthan and 23.9% in Maharashtra. India is a very poor in terms of fossil fuel resources; so we import 85% of Oil and 25% of coal. Hence, alternate source of energy is the need of hour. Jhabau and Dhar, remote tribal districts of MP, are no exception to frequent & long power cuts and thus hindering the rural school students in their studies.



Considering this, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has designed an efficient solar study lamp for school children. After obtaining the approval from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI, IIT-B is implementing a pilot project with 1 million lamps in selected districts of MP, RJ, Orissa and Bihar.

IIT-B has selected GVT as the Implementing Partner for three districts, i.e. Jhabua & Dhar in MP and Banswada in RJ, under this project. GVT is covering over 60,000 students under this

project and thus not only provides a stable and clean source of light to students but also generate employment for local youths as these lamps are assembled and distributed through local village youths. Thus, localization of solar energy is goal of this innovative and ambitious project;

Major Benefits of Solar Lamp:

- The Study Lamp provides enough light intensity for study purpose;
- It gives light for 5-8 hours per day on full charge;

At the initial stage of the project, GVT has conducted meetings with District Administration, School Staff and Corporate ensuring maximum participation and support from all the stakeholders.

In line with this, GVT has organized a launching function at Govt. School, Dhebar village of Jhabua. DGM, GAIL India Limited, Shri Asim Prasad and CEO, Zila Panchayat, Shri Dhanraju S IAS, were invited as Special Guest at this launching function.



Shri Dhanraju S, IAS, CEO, Zila Panchayat, Jhabua distributing the lamp to students

Both the guests had discussed the project with GVT officials and appreciated GVT for its efforts in benefitting the school students.

CEO, Zila Panchayat stated that Localized solar energy solutions for rural area could be the quickest and cheapest way to provide electricity for lighting purpose and requested the school staff and students to take benefit from the scheme.



School students receiving the lamps by DGM, GAIL

DGM, GAIL had motivated the students for putting more efforts in their studies and appreciated the GVT staff for benefitting every remote school of the district.

A presentation was made before the villager about safety and precautions vis-à-vis GAIL pipeline passing through Dhebar village.

In the next session of function, both the guest have purchased some lamps from GVT and distributed the lamps free of cost to meritorious students of the school.

Shri Rajeev Khanna, Regional Programme Manager, GVT Jhabua has explained the benefits of lamps to school students and villagers. Shri Rajeev Khanna further stated that solar lamps are always doubted for their service issues but this project, with its local service provision, can dramatically solve this issue. It also provides numerous health, educational, environmental, and other effective benefits, including, eliminating kerosene lanterns and wood fires that produce noxious fumes that are inhaled by such children thus causing health hazards to their lungs and eyes.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Mukesh Upadhyay, PO, GVT.



Assembly of lamps at Jhabua by village youths