Effort

It is not very often that we get a chance to know renewable energy is progressing in different part of the world. I met this person Mohammad, who worked as writer at Renewable Energy Society. I came to know that he is associated to a community service organisation in India. The name of the organisation to which he is associated to is "EFFORT". Effort has recently started solar lamp distribution campaign in rural part of northern India. I interviewed him briefly, below is the summary of Effort NGO and how it is working for upliftment of people in what we sometimes call "THIRD WORLD".

Background

Effort is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which was unofficial established in Jan 2013. Thereafter it was registered under State Government Societies Registration Act in 2014 to provide more credibility to its operations.

Vision

The NGO was established with a simple vision of providing financial, medical and educational support to disaster hit areas, underprivileged people in local area and other weaker sections of Indian society. However, over the years the vision of the organization has evolved, a broader vision now includes working towards the attainment of previous aims as well as emancipating the society with our technical and educational expertise.

Activities

- ✓ Fundraising,
- ✓ Blanket & Mosquito Nets Distribution,
- ✓ Disaster Relief,
- ✓ Educational Help,
- ✓ Solar Bulb Distribution.

Current Task

Effort has initiated a Solar Lamp Distribution Campaign for families living below poverty line in Aligarh city of northern part of India. This campaign has been thought to be carried out in series of slots and aim is to provide solar bulbs to 500 slum dwellers, thereby mitigating health hazards (burns, respiratory problems, carbon emissions) and monthly expenditure on kerosene oil, candles etc. Current task is a pilot project to this bigger project in which aim is to reach 25 slum dwellers.

Impact

During a conversation with one of founding members of Effort he told, "*Before going on-field to we realised that it is important to understand that a quantifiable success has to be identified*". What he meant by quantifiable success, has been summarised in the points below.

1. Expenditure on kerosene oil lit lamps and candles reduced. Based on data collected from 25 families annual savings will be around 30,000 INR or 625 AUD. Analogous to annual charity of 30,000 INR or 625 AUD. This figure will look more impactful if calculated over a period of year for 500 slum dwelling families (around 15 Lakh rupees or 32000 AUD).
2. Mitigation of darkness in slums.
3. Kerosene oil is the major source of burn accidents in low income families. Use of these lamps eradicates this hazard completely. Burns associated to the use of Kerosene oil is major problem for slum dwellers. According to a report of NCBI (National Centre for Biotechnology Information, India): *"In areas where electricity is unaffordable, unavailable, or unreliable, kerosene is often the primary lighting fuel. There are indications, however, that it has health consequences, not only because of poisonings and fires, but also because of exposure to emitted pollutants."*
4. Social Well Being through Renewable Energy.

Course of Action

Stage 1 – Fundraising, Volunteer Registration and Pilot Project.

Stage 2 – Identifying the areas which can be benefitted from lamps.

Stage 3 – Implementation.

As I finished talking to him, it was already afternoon already, sun was bright. Solar Power is an excellent way of bringing energy to weaker sections of society in countries like India where even basic need like electricity is scarce commodity. There is no monopoly of rich over Sun, it brings energy to gloominess of slums and EFFORT has taken that initiative.

A commendable Effort

Volunteer – Majid Ashraf (Engineering Student)

30 Solar Lamps Distributed on 29/9/2016

To Make Donation

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