



JEEViKA's Newsletter

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BRLPS-JEEViKA: Driving solar and renewable energy initiatives for a sustainable and green future



BRLPS-JEEViKA in its endeavour towards generating livelihoods with social responsibilities has kept harnessing renewable energy at the forefront to combat both climate change, provide resilience as well as alternate source of livelihoods. Aligning with Sustainable Development Goals no. 7 and 13, JEEViKA has been playing its part towards sustainability and growth.

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A brief timeline of solar and renewable energy projects undertaken by JEEViKA in due course of time

2010-11: JEEViKA partnered with The Energy Research Institute (TERI), Minda Next Gen Technologies, BREDA and CEL for providing basic energy services to its SHG members. The Pilot was had two components. The pilot majorly catered to

Community based Solar Charging Station for charging lanterns and cell phones: were installed to facilitate charging of Solar Lanterns and Cell Phones against a nominal charging fee. Around 500 households covering 4 Village Organizations from Dhamdaha block of Purnia district benefitted by this intervention.

Solar Lantern & Solar Home Lighting Systems: JEEViKA provided solar based home lighting systems with mobile charging facility to its SHG households in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Benefitting 4900 SHG HH in 4 districts namely Gaya, Khagaria, Purnia and Madhubani.

2014-15: Solar Home lighting project with BREDA

BRLPS-JEEViKA inked another MoU with Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) for installation of solar home lighting system and solar lantern in 9900 HHs especially in areas affected by LWE. Under this, 1 KiloWatt Solar rooftop Systems were installed covering 323 households of Self-Help Group members, office premises of cluster level federations, block project implementation units as well as homes of project officials.

2017: SOULs (SOLAR URJA THROUGH LOCALIZATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY)

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) initiated the mission for distribution of 70 Lakh Solar Study Lamps in mission mode by 31st December 2018 for school children in the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. MNRE appointed EESL and IITB to implement the project in collaboration with State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs). The objective of the scheme was to provide high quality affordable clean light for study purposes to school students in rural India. It was implemented in the fastest possible way by involving local people in the solar study lamp assembling, testing, campaigning, distribution, enterprise, repair & maintenance.

In Bihar, the program was jointly executed by BRLPS, IIT-B & EESL. Cluster Level Federation (CLF) were solely responsible for the block level execution of the project. As per plan given by IITB the works were initiated in 63 blocks of 18 districts of Bihar to distribute a total of 18 lakhs solar lamps.

The nature of the MoU was tripartite and the following components were designated for the agencies:

When distribution of the lamps started, the cost involved with the Cluster Level Federations was remitted from the profits and revenue generated at each block within a span of 10 months of commencement of assembling and distribution. Each CLF generated a profit of 5-9 lakhs INR on an average.

The outcomes:

While completing the target of lamp assembly and distribution, around 2600 community members from Self-Help Groups along with PwD were trained and skilled to implement this project. They garnered skills pertaining to assembly, distribution, repair and maintenance.

Lead Story : Solar and Renewable Energy

IIT Bombay

- Project Design
- Technical Support

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society

- Designing implementation Plan
- Operations
- Accessibility, distribution & repair - maintenance

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (MNRE)

- Vendor &
- Supply Chain Management

Further, after assembling and distribution task, 380 repair and maintenance centers were set-up to ensure the repair of solar lamps and also capacitate our community members as repair and maintenance technicians. After completion of the project duration, 100 repair and maintenance technicians equipped themselves with Enterprise Development training and converted their centers into Solar Shops (S-MARTS)

J-WIRES (Jeevika Women Initiative for Renewable Energy Solution) 2019

Planning was being now initiated to implement and upscale the solar and renewable energy initiatives across Bihar. To vantage the plan, a solar company was envisaged under the aegis of BRLPS-JEEViKA while following all the procedures, statutory compliances in January 2020. The company was registered formally as J-WIRES the acronym for (Jeevika Women Initiative for Renewable Energy Solution). The company is operated & controlled by elected Self-Help Group members (BoDs), promoters and technicians.

Core functions of the company:

- Assembly, Production and manufacturing of solar and allied products/ components
- Sales, Marketing and promotion of renewable & clean energy products
- Partnership & Resource Service Management
- Repair, service & maintenance operation
- Customized installation and services
- Environment protection initiatives

Accomplishments

- Around 15 managerial level officials have been appointed by JEEViKA to promote and upscale the working of the company.
- The company has already initiated promotion of solar shops and solar works support base.
- 310 solar shops have been established
- Establishment and setup of solar street lights in Nalanda district covering 15 villages
- Secured work under Gaya district forestry department for installation of 300 Kilograms solar dryer set for preservation of rare, special and medicinal herbs.
- 15,000 9W highly efficient LED bulbs sold

The way ahead

- 3700 solar shops are envisaged across Bihar by 2023 that will provide service and products to 50 lakh households.
- Plan to sell 10, 00,000 bulbs in 2021-22

The initiative is ready to drive partnerships with other organizations to support social enterprise development interventions.





JEEViKA Grameen Bazar: Aggravating the basics for the community based institutions through creating an ecosystem of demand and supply

Dari and Trunk are essential for any CBO to conduct their meetings and run their institution. JEEViKA provides an initial grant of INR 700 for purchasing a “Trunk”, INR 1200 for “Dari” to the VO. Another 300 is provided to the SHGs for “Dari”.

Capitalizing on the huge demand of Dari & Trunk, the RRM's decided to enter into this area of transaction. It all begun with some members of Grameen bazaar attending a meeting of Kali Village Organization, in the village of Pathara in Meshkaur block of Nawada district for business expansion of Grameen bazaar. It was eventful when during the discussion, the members of the village organization asked if they buy the carpets and Trunks from the Grameen bazaar?

The members of the village organization iterated that they have to travel to the district headquarters to purchase the trunks and the carpets. Travelling to the district headquarter is both a costly and a time consuming affair. This makes the members reluctant to buy these things from the district headquarter. So could they get all these goods from the Grameen bazaar?

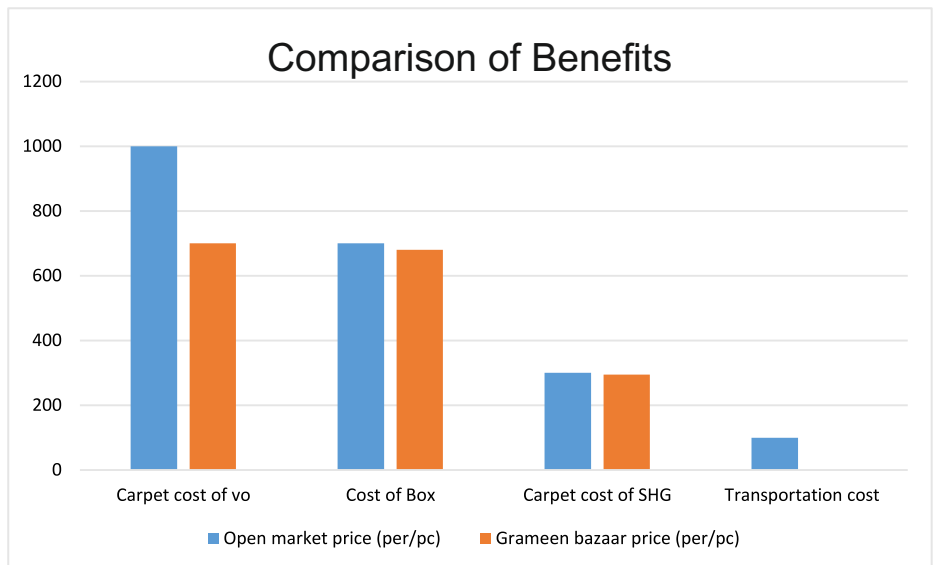
The Grameen Bazaar, Nawada decided to explore this new possibility of business and quality carpet and Trunks were supplied by the Grameen bazaar Meskaur, Nawada to the self-help groups and village organizations at reasonable rates. The Grameen bazaar, the BODs of the Grameen bazaar decided to commence the selling of

carpets and trunks as they thought it to be a profitable proposition.. To anchor the necessary steps for this, the grameen bazar board consolidated quotations from the market. Based upon the quotations, vendor was selected and order was placed for supply of goods to grameen bazaar. After this, the grameen bazaar made quotations available to the vo for purchasing.

Reasons why the Grameen Bazars are becoming a preferred choice of consumers as well as affordable:

- A) Additional services for big ticket purchases
- B) Reduction in the transportation costs
- C) Reduction in the labor costs
- D) Assurance of branded quality products

The grameen bazars apart from anchoring the process of procurement of trunk and carpets are also anchoring the community procurement process for purchase of edible grains and oils under the food security fund. Grameen bazars are instrumental in creating a conducive ecosystem for demand and supply, so that the needs of the community are met by the community operated grameen bazars. This will ensure a market for the Grameen Bazars as well as ensure availability of goods for the community based organizations at affordable and lower prices.



Novel Initiatives to conclude the decade on a positive note:

JEEViKA FPCs participate in NCDEX's Options chain:

JEEViKA driven farm producer companies in Bihar become the first one's in participating in NCDEX's Options trade in goods in various agricultural produce, viz., Mustard, Chana & Maize. Prices have and are being secured for the farm value chain thus created. JEEViKA has received support from Securities Exchange Board and National Commodity exchange to roll out this novelty initiative. 3 FPCs promoted by JEEViKA; AAPCL (Purnea), JWAPCL (Khagaria) & SWJPCL (Saharsa) used NCDEX platform for Maize Futures and sold 1,470 MT & claimed subsidy in coordination with SEBI.



Promotion of a Digital Workforce



Smartphones have been provided to community professionals for digitization of information system across various themes such as IBCB, HNS, Finance, Farm, Livestock & the likes. This step will expedite the process of digitization of data collected on various parameters and would anchor transparency and accountability in the community processes.

Initiation for formation of tea-producer Company



Jeevika Didis from Sadar, Pothia, Thakurganj, three blocks of Kishanganj district attended the first constitution meeting to form a Tea Farmer Producer Company to run a tea Factory. The meeting was held in Kismat Kalidas Tea Factory premises on 17th December 2020. This tea factory is in Kichkichi Paada village under Pothia block of Kishanganj district. JEEViKA didis who were for long dependent on wages from tea cultivation and leaf-harvesting, will now become the owners of the company. The responsibility of tea cultivation, manufacture of tea, its sale, company operations will lie with the JEEViKACBOs.

Training on Mobile Vaani- A 3 days residential training on Mobile Vaani initiatives and content development was conducted in Rajgir, Nalanda from 17th to 19th December, 2020. The training was organized with the objective to capacitate officials extensively on developing effective content strategy, formats and suitable content with reference to Interactive Voice Response System (IVRs) communication. The workshop focussed on planning and designing campaign on IVR through creative content (Drama series, conversation etc.) and Usage of Studio Generated Contents, User Generated Contents (UGCs) for local update and Jeevika's internal messaging (Reporter Generated Contents (RGCs) and content diversity).



Transforming Lives

Nursing trees and the nature



With her resolute towards the environment Rani, a member of Vishal CLF in Sadar block of Khagria decided to set up a nursery. In 2020, Rani Didi took a loan of INR 20,000 to build her own nursery by planting 20,000 saplings. Initially, Rani faced various problems. The foremost problem was the financial crisis, secondly the scarcity of sapling tubes and lastly the pandemic. In spite of the troubles, Rani decided not to give up. Defying these problems, she finally established the nursery. When the nursery was ready, the local administration took cognition and the District Magistrate Mr. Alok Ranjan Ghosh also visited

the nursery. Upon seeing the nursery of Rani Didi, the District Magistrate praised Rani. Apart from this, Didi had planted 1000 saplings under the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali scheme in August 2019 with financial support from the Jal-Jeevan-hariyali mission. Appreciating the tireless efforts and hard work of Rani Didi, the Forest and Environment Department asked Rani Didi to plant 20000 mango saplings. Financial assistance of INR 2, 20,000 was also provided to carry out this work.

Medicated Masks make the way

JEEVIKA didis from Lalganj, Vaishali are producing medicated masks. They have been trained on the task by experts from IIT Bombay. The main feature of this mask being that it is completely coated with medicated solution and is made of a soft cotton cloth with anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties. There is no need to clean it every day post usage and can be used for five consecutive days without washing. The resistance of this mask remains intact for about twenty washing. 20 JEEVIKA didis from Lalganj were trained by IIT Mumbai professors Dr Kapil Punjabi and Rinkee Banerjee to produce these masks. The didis subsequently learnt the method of producing the masks and application of the necessary chemicals. This mask consists of three layers. The chemicals (citric acid, folic acid, sodium, potash alum) used to make the mask medicated fall in the yellow category and have no harmful effects on the human skin. These masks have gained popularity among the masses for their quality and price, one mask costs INR 25 while a pair costs INR 45. The didis have so far produced 25,000 such masks and realized sales worth INR 0.6 Million.



January

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26 : Republic Day Celebrations

January 07 : Chief Ministers' visit to Purnea

COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION

- Jeevika's tableau on emergence of empowered women during the pandemic



JEEVIKA

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