

'Inclusive' solar skilling

Fostering innovation to address lack of electricity, clean water & employment



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1st batch of 10 youth, including 2 PWDs; 6 villages
A cadre of 500+ solar skilled youth by 2025 (100+ PWDs)

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted glaring inequalities in access to basic education, healthcare and livelihoods, with marginalized groups bearing the brunt of the crisis. Some of the most pressing issues that affect tribal communities in Karjat are the lack of access to (reliable) electricity and e-learning, clean water, and increased unemployment. One question that came up repeatedly as we made plans for 2021 was: what can we as a nonprofit do to empower the local community to address these issues? Is there one powerful idea or solution that can tackle all these problems?

The answer lies in tapping the unlimited, clean energy of the sun - solar energy, and harnessing it through locally-led innovations to solve a range of problems: install solar panels to power rural households without electricity; solarize Anganwadi and schools to use latest e-learning and assistive technology; deploy solar water/irrigation pumps to access adequate clean water; and offer solar skilling to local youth to set-up micro-enterprises that will generate employment and boost rural economy.

Hence, Samaaveshi launched 'Inclusive Solar Skilling' (1-8 Oct 2021), in collaboration with ThinkSolar, a Nagpur-based venture that promotes solar entrepreneurship. The first batch comprised of 10 young adults, including two persons with disabilities (PWDs), from six villages in Karjat block. Going ahead, we plan to gradually build a cadre of 500+ solar skilled youth, including 100+ PWDs, who will use solar innovation to transform lives and build resilient, thriving communities post-COVID-19.

Transition from home-based to 'open-air' learning at school

Fun activities to make children feel at ease

With COVID-19 restrictions slowly easing out and life returning back to normal, Samaaveshi is making all preparations to welcome students back to school. Children have lost out on considerable learning due to school closure over the last one and a half years. And this has had a significant impact on their overall well-being.

Hence, our focus is on conducting short, playful sessions for children to feel comfortable and confident as they make the transition. While we started 5-day remedial classes in August, for a group of Grade 1 students without access to technology at home, and online classes for the remaining; in October, we began open-air classes for all Grade 1 students, two-hour sessions twice a week (Mon & Fri). This approach has helped ensure inclusive and equitable learning for the entire batch of 15 students.



Revision workshops on inclusive education with 30 Anganwadis

Continued weekly e-workshops with 60 teachers

After six months of online workshops due to COVID 2.0, we are glad to hold open-air Anganwadi trainings at our school premises. Our approach is to call clusters of 10-15 Anganwadi teachers and do a 2-3 hour revision session on key topics on disability and inclusive education.

While these physical sessions are more interactive and engaging, this strategy has enabled Anganwadi teachers, who do not have smartphones or have poor connectivity to join e-workshops, to learn and participate actively.

Two teachers enrol in 6-month inclusive-ed certificate course

CHILD course by Aatman Academy, Thane

Over the last three years, Samaaveshi has mostly hired teachers from the local community in Karjat, to enable inclusion of local knowledge in the teaching-learning process. And school closure due to COVID-19 has created opportunities to build their capacity and skills through a range of webinars and e-workshops.

We are now glad that two of our teachers have been selected for a six-month programme called CHILD (Certificate Course in Holistic Inclusion of Learners with Diversities) offered by Aatman Academy, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, USA.



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK:

1. **Support a child's education at Samaaveshi:**
www.Samaaveshi.org/Donate

2. **This Diwali, light up a rural Anganwadi without electricity, with solar (get 80G):**

<https://www.Ketto.org/fundraiser/Solar-Anganwadis-in-Karjat>