

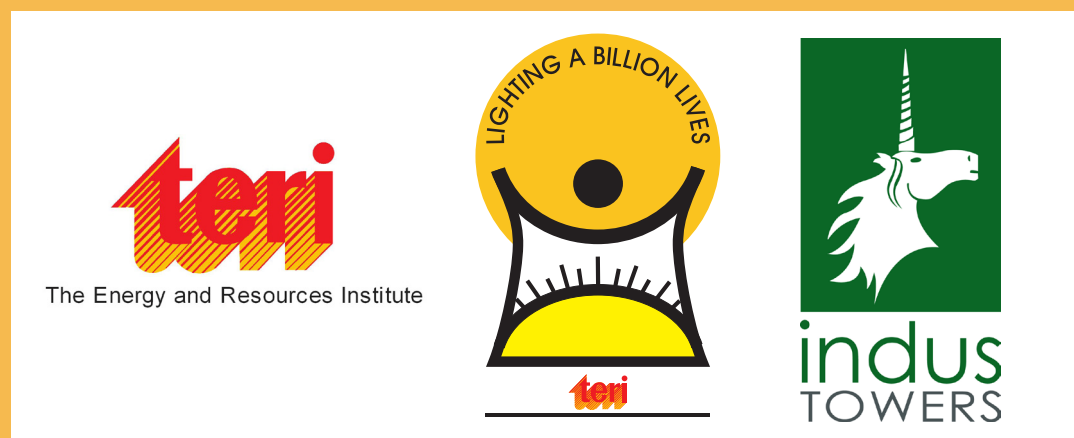
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय

LEAD ME FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT



The Energy and Resources Institute





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SONDHEBASS, UTTAR PRADESH

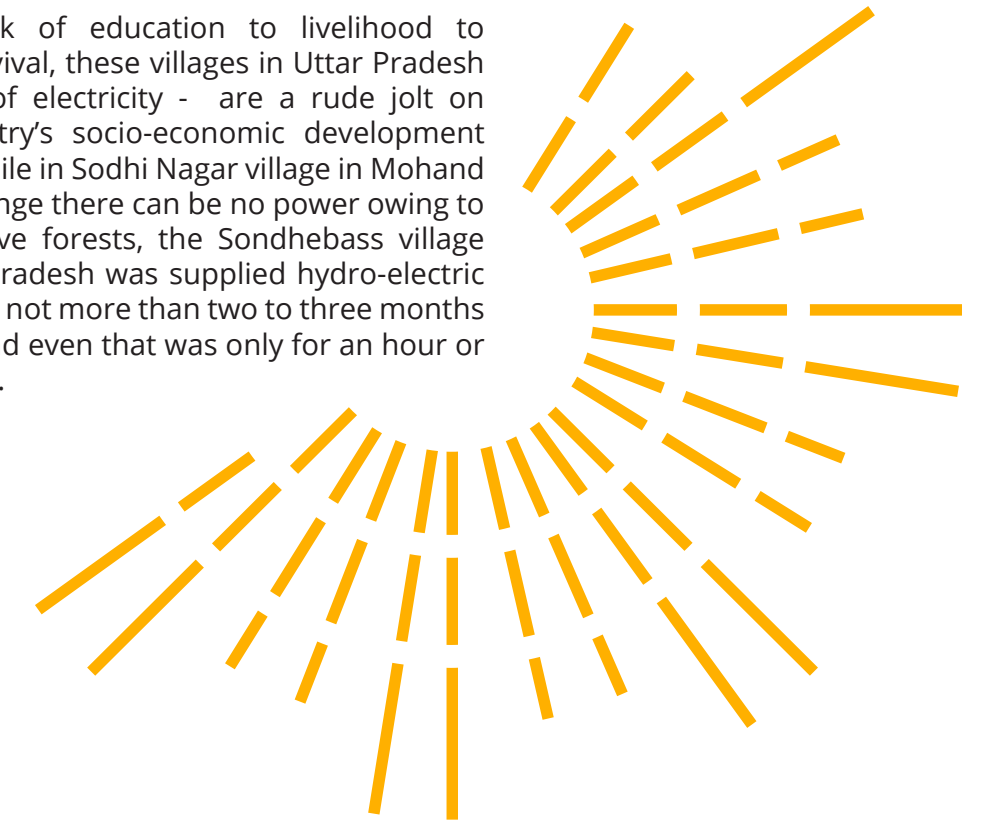


MOHAND FOREST RANGE, UTTAR PRADESH



MOVING FROM DARK AGES TOWARDS A LIFE OF LIGHT

From lack of education to livelihood to basic survival, these villages in Uttar Pradesh - bereft of electricity - are a rude jolt on the country's socio-economic development index. While in Sodhi Nagar village in Mohand Forest Range there can be no power owing to the reserve forests, the Sondhebas village in Uttar Pradesh was supplied hydro-electric power for not more than two to three months a year. And even that was only for an hour or two a day.

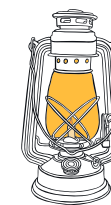




The villagers bide their time by doing odd chores, and spinning and selling ropes for livelihood. Before the installation of solar power in the villages, the activities were dictated by the hours of sunlight. Whatever had to be done, was done when the sun is up. After sundown life came to a standstill.



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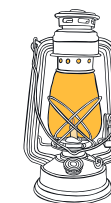
We spin ropes and then sell them in the markets for a living. The village is fraught with attacks from elephants, snakes, scorpions and leopard. We can fend them off as long as we can see them, but it gets tricky when it is dark. However, we have to carry on despite all these odds. We cannot even spin ropes at night since there is no light.

- TURRIYA, RESIDENT, SODHI NAGAR

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“



Electricity has always been a problem in our village since it is on the river banks. The electric poles fall into the river Yamuna every other year and the villagers would erect it back with their money. Earlier we used to work when we had natural light. Now (after advent of the solar micro-grid) everyone here knows what it means to have light despite darkness outside.

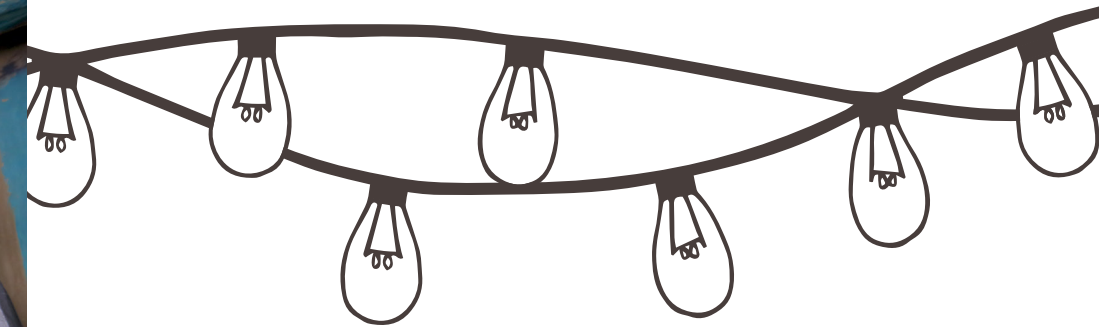
- ASHOK KUMAR, FARMER, SONDHEBASS

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In 2010, TERI decided to intervene in this grim situation along with funding partner Indus Towers, and make lives better for the villagers. They started the program together of installing DC solar micro grids in the villages to supply them with solar electricity. They collaborated with RadSol Energy Solutions, a service provider of solar PV system. Here, experts from RadSol can be seen educating the villagers on the need for installation of solar micro-grid as an assured mode of power supply.



INVOLVING THE LOCALS

The villagers were immediately receptive. They saw this as an opportunity to better their quality of life and ensure their children were educated. With this encouragement from the villagers, the micro grids were installed. The villagers were explained about the workings of the grid and the equipment installed in their houses



LIGHTING LIVES WITH SMILES



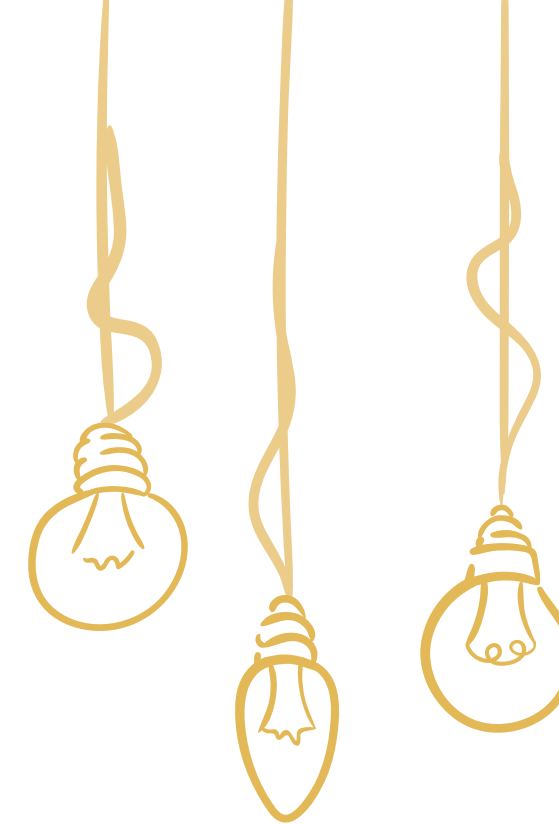
Electricity has since then been supplied for seven hours in a day - from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m and from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Two bulbs and a charger per household run on solar power. This serves the villagers at a time when children have to study and when food has to be cooked.





**SAVING LIVES AND IMPROVING THE
QUALITY OF LIFE OF VILLAGERS WITH
TIMELY MEDICAL AID, UNDER THE AEGIS
OF SOLAR-POWERED BULBS.**





The families are seen spending more quality time together now, as are the villagers in the village square. Earlier, sun-down meant the end of the day. However, now life is seen going on, well after dark.



Rs.
5
PER DAY

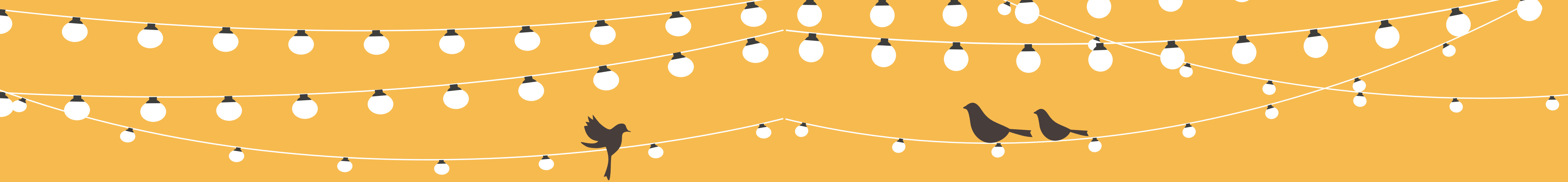
VILLAGERS ARE CHARGED A NOMINAL FEE FOR POWER

Rs.
120
PER MONTH





In case of any issues with the connection, the villagers call the technician on his mobile. The technician is a local youth, identified by RadSol, to generate and maintain interest about the technology in the local community. The youth has been trained to manage the micro grid on a daily basis. On receiving a call about a fault, he visits the house and sorts out the problem. The visits are scheduled either the same day or latest, by the very next morning.



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