

Energy conservation camp engages community members

Shipra Baduni

Sehgal Foundation recently launched its Good Rural Governance program in the state of Telangana under the Digital Corridor Project supported by Ultra Tech Seed, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, and National Informatics Centre. The Strengthening Village-Level Institutions team is working with *panchayats* (village elected councils) and its subcommittees in Telangana to strengthen their work. In village Nuthankal, district Medchal, the foundation is mobilizing the subcommittees under the gram panchayat as part of the *Gram Jyothi* (village council enlightenment) project. The foundation facilitated the meeting of the Natural Resource Management subcommittee in this village, sharing the need for adoption of energy-saving methods such as solar power. The objective was to discuss reducing the burden of bills on community members and, most importantly, conservation of energy.



The camp, a collaborative effort between Sehgal Foundation and Telangana State Renewable Energy Resources Development Corporation Limited (TNREDCL), was conducted as part of the nationwide renewable energy celebrations. In Nunthakal village, the camp enabled participants to understand the scope of energy-saving methods in the village.

Sehgal Foundation and TNREDCL joined hands to conduct a camp on the gram panchayat premises on December 9, 2017. Subcommittee members visited the school headmaster, who suggested the involvement of school students in the camp, as energy conservation was a part of their syllabus. Around 80 people participated, including 10 panchayat members, 50 school students, and villagers.

A speech competition was organized for schoolchildren on energy conservation. LED bulbs were distributed to 20 poor families and participating students. This was followed by a rally on energy conservation by students.



The panchayat is willing to continue working toward the enhanced usage of sustainable energy sources in their village. Panchayat members have also drawn motivation from the camp to realize how they can make a difference and strive to work for the betterment of the community.

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