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THE HINDU METRO PLUS	LET THERE BE POWER	AUGUST 20, 2019
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NEW INDIAN EXPRESS-EDEX	THIS HYDERABAD-BASED SOLAR ENERGY FIRM IS DISTRIBUTING ELECTRICITY TO SCHOOLS FOR JUST RE 1 A UNIT	SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
THE HINDU	POWER@1: AN INITIATIVE THAT GENERATES SOLAR POWER FOR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS	AUGUST 21, 2019

LET THERE BE POWER
AUGUST 20, 2019
THE HINDU METRO PLUS

BY DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

In a dark classroom at the Government Primary School in Shaikpet, students all have ear-to-ear grins, their cheeks rosy as they chime their answers to their teacher's questions. Why is there no light? It's been switched off to let the e-classroom projection show up clearly in front of them. The ceiling fans cool the kids down after their exhausting recess but they're still attentive and are loving the continuous power supply in a time when power cuts are dime a dozen.

Headmistress Y Kezia Mani says a solar plant was commissioned this March, offering a non-stop supply at the school where days run from 8.30 am till 3.30 pm. Said solar plant was set-up by Secunderabad-based solar company Fourth Partner Energy. Last year, they kicked off their Power@I initiative which sees low-income organisations – such as government schools, primary health centres and non-profits – directly addressing the bank-draining issue of pricey electricity bills by providing them with solar electricity at just ₹1 per unit. Basically, the scheme comprises a one-time capital cost for a solar plant at the beneficiary's site, which is paid by the anonymous corporate sponsor; the beneficiary pays just ₹1 per unit of electricity consumed during the entire lifetime of the plant (roughly 25 years) – and Fourth Partner Energy undertakes the maintenance to ensure maximum utilisation of the plant. However, the cost for setting up the plant remains undisclosed.

Kezia explains that prior to the solar set-up, the school was paying around ₹8 or ₹9 per unit but now the difference in their funds can be directed towards vital learning resources and maintenance of the premises. "Working with the government to secure our regular funding was not easy," she says of the continual red tape she's had to deal with, "but the peace of mind with this set-up is indescribable." She says when the plant was first set-up on their open terrace, the students had many questions and she realised it became a classroom in itself. "They know the safety around such a set-up and they also know what the benefits are."

Pallavi Saxena of Fourth Partner Energy's marketing and communications team adds, "The solar plant



Let there be power

Fourth Partner Energy is knee-deep into their nationwide Power@I initiative which generates solar power for schools and hospitals as well as stronger financial sustainability for these institutes



has generated nearly 1,800 kWh electricity and helps meet all the school's energy requirements. More importantly by switching to solar power, the management will save around ₹35,000 annually in electricity bills. This solar plant has positively impacted the lives of over 570 students studying across classes I to V. The carbon offset from this plant alone is around seven tonnes, every year. The team comes to the solar set-up around every 10 days to make sure everything's working seamlessly," adds Pallavi, "and it's a project that's safe and doesn't disturb the existing infrastructure of the building." The monthly power usages have significantly dropped; for the peak summer heat in May the school observed 663 units while July had only 128 units.

As well as all the electrical components in the building (fans, sockets, e-classrooms, Internet and more), the solar plant also powers their Aquality water treatment plant on the ground floor. The process comprises a raw water pump, a filter, a micron filter, a high pressure pump among other components – no small feat to keep this running and Kezia says it's been useful during the drier months.

Meanwhile, to the east
 More recently and a little further away from home, Fourth Partner Energy has set-up a solar plant at Patna's Akhand Jyothi Eye Hospital which is the largest eye hospital in Eastern India. The hospital performs around 50,000 sight restoration surgeries every year, ultimate

Little light of mine Long-term thinking around electricity and water were some of the results
 BY DIVYA KALA BHAVANI



INSPIRED BY THE LIGHT

In Hyderabad, there are many options to get your own solar plant going, whatever the size.

GoSolGen is one of the faster-growing solar companies in the city which promises affordability. They claim the lowest energy cost at ₹1.30 per unit.

Zolt Energy is known for bringing solar solutions to the home, their main form of marketing being word-of-mouth. They also operate in Delhi and Chandigarh.

IIT-Hyderabad scientists say their new method to manufacture solar cells is both low-cost and more environmentally-friendly. They use *kumkum* dye, among other materials to manufacture what they call Dye-Sensitised Solar Cells (DSSC).

ly helping over 62,000 people.

According to Fourth Partner Energy, the commissioned 50 kWp plant will have a monthly generation of 5,900 units, thus replacing around 23% of the total consumption, essentially meeting 50% of the hospital's energy requirements – not too shabby. The yearly cost-savings envisioned by the hospital by switching to solar is estimated to be ₹8,00,000. To bring the bigger picture into foresight, the project lifetime, Akhand Jyothi stands to save over ₹2 crore.

Planet Healers celebrates green initiatives. If you know an eco-warrior, email us at hydmetropolis@thehindu.co.in

Solar power brightens lives of kids at govt primary school in Shaikpet

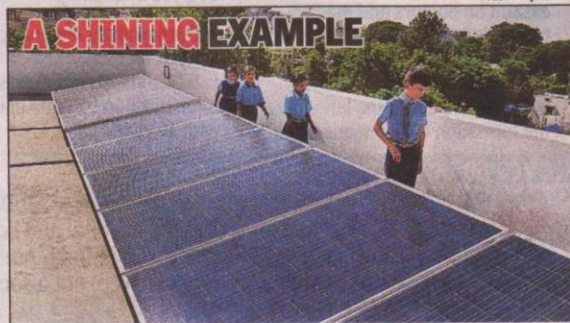
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: With pending electricity bills of ₹36,000, the government primary school in Shaikpet was often seen reeling in darkness. Projectors would remain unused, non-working fans made classrooms a nightmare for students and teachers alike and a trip to the washroom meant hobbling around in the dark.

However, a 5 KW solar plant installed in January this year has brightened the lives of everyone in this school and there has been no looking back since.

"There would be no power for a month-and-a-half at a stretch. The children could not even access basic facilities as the electricity bills were not be paid on time. Our assemblies were being conducted without microphones. We would have to shout ourselves hoarse," says school headmistress Kezia Mani.

Mani says the move to turn to solar energy is the best thing to happen for the school which has 600 students from



Pics: P Ajikumar

Solar power panels installed by Fourth Partner Energy at the Government Primary School in Shaikpet has transformed the institution from one reeling in darkness to a power surplus one which is even capable of exporting energy



classes 1 to 5.

The children are visibly happy. The panels power their computer labs, common tele-

visions and projectors. Sahasara, a class 4 student, says: "Solar power has helped us with our TV lessons". For Vi-

jaylakshmi, from the same class, just "enjoying" light in the classroom is a big deal.

Seeing the plight of the school, leading solar energy player Fourth Partner Energy had agreed to install the solar panels under their Power@1 initiative.

"Solar panels help cut costs of schools and other organisations. Here, we charge only ₹1 per unit just to meet the maintenance costs. The money being saved can be utilised to meet other requirements," says Smit Malkan, project lead for Power@1.

The school's solar power unit is attached to a grid, which means that the power generated which is in excess of the school's requirements can be exported. On days when the sky is overcast or even at night, the school can source power from the grid in lieu for what it has given.

"We have gone from being a school without power to one that produces surplus power and exports it for others," says the primary school's proud headmistress.

HERE COMES THE SUN
 SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
 THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



The school was paying ₹7-8 per unit, but now, funds can be directed towards buying vital learning material and for maintenance

Y Kezia Mani, Headmistress, GPS, Shaikpet



This scheme will help us save more than 80 per cent in power bills which will be used to buy stationery and so on

Prabhakar Chowtapally, Headmaster, GPS, New Bhoiguda

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Fourth Power Energy's Power@1 programme is helping schools go green and ward off big fat electricity bills, finds **Seema Rajpal**

Here comes the Sun!



What it does

This solar plant in the school in New Bhoiguda was commissioned on August 6, 2018. It has been supplying power to run ten classrooms, lights, fans, projectors and so on

There are no two ways about the fact that paying electricity bills must be eating away more than half of the funding the government schools receive. To mitigate this, the Hyderabad-based Fourth Power Energy, one of the largest companies in the distributed solar sector, started Power@1 where they provide electricity for just ₹1 per unit. A one-time capital cost is paid by a corporate sponsor and from then on, even maintenance and is taken care of by Fourth Power Energy. "Corporate partners can utilise CSR funds in a more sustainable and transparent manner and beneficiaries can focus resources for their core activities. It's a win-win solution for all stakeholders," says **Smit Malkan, Power@1 Lead, Fourth Partner Energy.**

To hear about the success stories of Government Primary School, Shaikpet and Government Primary School, New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad we got in touch with Pallavi Saxena, Marketing and Communications, Fourth Partner Energy. "When our in-house team interacted with the heads of the school, we realised that after paying the electricity bill, they have almost nothing left for things like sanitation work. In some instances, teachers have got bathrooms cleaned by paying from their own pocket," she explains. Today, the schools feel ownership towards the plant and not only this, they use the plant as an example to enlighten students about being more eco-friendly — looks the objectives of the company have been met.

The solar plant at the school in Shaikpet was commissioned on March 29, 2019 has generated nearly 1900 kWh electricity. "More importantly, by switching to solar power, the school's management



bright inside

IN THE LIGHT: E-classrooms made possible

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2KWP

The capacity of the solar plant at Government Primary School, New Bhoiguda



Measure it

The carbon offset from the plant in Government Primary School, New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad alone is around three tonnes, every year

will save around ₹35,000 annually in electricity bills which they intend to us towards better housekeeping and maintenance of the school's premises, buying new books for the library and procuring stationary and sporting equipment," explains Pallavi. She also tells us how the school had shut down its second floor because it was not able to pay the additional electricity bill, but thanks to the Power@1 scheme, they started making full use of their infrastructure. And whatever is the excess, is pushed back to the grid and they are credited for it. Their partner in this project is Maanaveeva Development and Finance, an Indian subsidiary of OikoCredit. "This solar plant has positively impacted the lives of over 570 students studying across classes I to V in this government school. The carbon offset from this plant alone is around seven tonnes every year," she informs.

On the agenda are more educational institutions, low-income primary health care centres and non-profits.

THIS HYDERABAD-BASED SOLAR ENERGY FIRM IS DISTRIBUTING ELECTRICITY TO SCHOOLS FOR JUST RE 1 A UNIT

(<https://www.edexlive.com/campus/2019/sep/11/fourth-power-energys-power1-scheme-is-helping-schools-go-green-and-ward-off-fat-electricity-bills-8026.html>)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS-EDEX


OPENING OPINION PEOPLE NEWS #BEINSPIRED I'M NOT CLICKBAIT


Environment Published: 11th September 2019

This Hyderabad-based solar energy firm is distributing electricity to schools for just Re 1 a unit

This solar plant in the school in New Bhoiguda was commissioned on August 6, 2018. It has been supplying power to run ten classrooms, lights, fans, projectors and so on

 **Seema Rajpal**
Edex Live





Power@1 project | (Pic: Fourth Power Energy)

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The capacity of the solar plant at Government Primary School, New Bhoiguda is **2 kWp**

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Let there be light: E-classrooms made possible thanks to Power@1 | (Pic: Fourth Power Energy)

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Here's what the heads had to say



This solar plant in our school premises has brought my students so much happiness. Prior to this set-up, the school was paying Rs 7-8 per unit, but now, with these solar savings, funds can be directed towards buying vital learning material and towards the maintenance of the premises

Y Kezia Mani, Headmistress, Government Primary School, Shaikpet | (Pic: Fourth Power Energy)



Earlier, we used to struggle to pay electricity bills and had huge outstanding bills. There was not enough money left for anything else. Having solar under the Power@1 scheme will help us save more than 80 per cent in power bills which will be used for purchasing stationery for classrooms, books for the library and upkeep of the bathrooms

Prabhakar Chowtapally, Headmaster, Government Primary School, New Bhoiguda | (Pic: Fourth Power Energy)

POWER@1: AN INITIATIVE THAT GENERATES SOLAR POWER FOR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS
(<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/power1-an-initiative-that-generates-solar-power-for-schools-and-hospitals/article29197532.ece>)

AUGUST 21, 2019
THE HINDU

Power@1: An initiative that generates solar power for schools and hospitals

Divya Kala Bhavani

AUGUST 21, 2019 14:01 IST
UPDATED: AUGUST 23, 2019 14:15 IST

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MORE IN
METROPLUS

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