

# Final submission

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## Who are we?

We are the students of the school Rustomjee Cambridge International School. We have formed this group to spread awareness about the people who do not have access to basic and fundamental electricity. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, almost everyone has electricity, this is what we think, about **1.2 billion** people don't have access to this electricity, and so doesn't this stop them from fulfilling their dreams? So, our team, the Global Defenders, would like to give energy independence to deprived families by providing them with Solar Lamps free of charge. Our group possesses of our instructor, guider and teacher, Deepak Marthak Sir, Manasvi Deshpande our group leader and five other members named Khushi Durgani, Krisha Shetty, Janak Desai, Khooshan Singh, Ujas Nandu and Revaant Daga. We are fulfilling the SDG goals of 'Affordable and Clean Energy' and ' Sustainable Cities and Communities.'

## What are we doing?

Our objective is to provide solar lamps/panels to people who do not possess access to rudimentary electricity. For this we require funding which we achieve by selling handmade-crafts and through magnanimous donations. Many stalls are conducted at several occasions for better funding. Through this the needy would be provided light/electricity which will help them in their day-to-day activities. This would mean that they would not require paying for external sources of electricity. Solar lamps being a form of clean energy would help in thereby contributing towards improving the climate.

## How are we achieving this?

We are gathering money in two avenues, selling of handicrafts and through donations. Our own handmade handicrafts include bookmarks, dream-catchers, money plants, Tulsi/Basil plants, paintings etc. All of these were made of used products like coconut shells, usable glass and plastic bottles for the plants, metal rings from other school projects for the dream catchers. Though handmade-crafts and food items were very advantageous and a hit, they weren't are major source.

Donations were one of the best ways of fund gathering, we would collect money from willing donor by explaining them our endeavor. This was done in many housing societies and in our school. Many kind-hearted people helped us with generous donations. There is doubt on calling these donations kind and exceptionally helpful. Though we repent on not able to feature their names due to our foolish mistake of not putting it down, still I would like to say that we have been able to go this far all because of their help.

After gathering of funds, starts our distribution phase. We expect impacts which not necessarily but might change lives and help people fulfill their dreams. Home quarantine period during Covid-19 pandemic affected fund generation and solar panel distribution badly. We had to plan alternative strategies and reschedule timelines. Fortunately, a large part of money collection phase was over. However, distribution of solar lamps/panels needs to wait till lockdown ends. Through sheer hard work of each teammate, we have been able to achieve our goal of collecting 17,000 (about 40 lamps). We know we could have done exceedingly better, but seeing the effort placed by each other, we agree on calling it sufficient.

## Our learning

- So, before beginning a sale, the important part to learn is about our community. It comprises of many people, with different thoughts and opinions. Understanding their preference is a keen factor.
- The area which this project helped us in was conveying our messages effectively to the people (public speaking). This skill will not only help here in this project but also would be extremely beneficial in the future.
- Being young and to be born in a well to do family we do not realize the importance of money, this project has taught such valuable lessons on teamwork and value of money.
- One of the most important things we are trying to learn through this, is marketing, understanding the value of a craft and selling it in an appropriate price determines the sales and profit and loss.
- Not being able to complete a task in a certain time period like this document arises many consequences. Trying to complete most of the work in one day and not keeping any work pending makes everything very convenient.
- In this mission of ours, along with other social values/learning, we also have gained knowledge upon the SDG's we work on. We have learnt that solar power is arguably the cleanest, convenient and most reliable form of renewable energy. Unlike any other source of energy, it can be placed easily in several places (seeing that the place attains proper sunlight). Not only this, it being a renewable source of energy, keep our environment clean.

## Our assumed impact

We are trying to provide the society and environment with small but reasonable amounts for a better cause. We and community both are benefited with this job undertaken. While we did the task of collecting funds through donations or selling handmade articles, large numbers of people were made aware about the underprivileged and the catastrophes they experience everyday for their survival, without electricity. People were informed about the benefits of solar energy and were suggested to make use of it, as it might only cost once in a lifetime but would save more and would last for number of years. According to research, kerosene lamps are widely used for lighting in rural areas of India where electrical distribution is either not available, or too costly for widespread use. Yet using kerosene for lighting is extremely inefficient, dangerous and at times expensive, and it has extensive health and environmental drawbacks. The World Bank estimates that breathing kerosene fumes is the equivalent of smoking two packets of cigarettes a day, and two-thirds of adult females with lung cancer in developing nations are non-smokers, this shows the poverty they endeavor.

Anyways, the cost of electricity transferred from power station might be too high and as the rural areas have over head wiring (unlike cities where we have underground wiring), there is a strong chance of power cut during monsoon. Thinking of future times, this would be a good resource. Our small gestures of donating lamps would bring good health and prosperity in those people's life. While we provide these lamps to those people in villages, we will place our efforts in making them aware about the pros of solar equipment/energy. If time, money and conditions permit, we might also plan to donate them with solar street light. Our group is witnessing the use and benefits of solar energy for the near future.

## Special thanks

We would like to thank Project CHIRAG full heartedly for helping us. Project CHIRAG is a FCRA certified Society that aims at to educate and increase general community awareness about Childhood Cancer and measures considered a preventative of Cancer among Kids. Our team leader Manasvi contacted Project CHIRAG and asked for some assistance. They were the ones who suggested us upon buying the perfect lamp and also agreed to help us in the distribution phase. One of the people whom we are very grateful towards is our principal, Tanya Valecha. She was the one who gave us permission to conduct all of these handicraft stalls and donation campaign. A special thanks to my amazing teammates and Teacher for making us reach till here.