

JABAKA Project (To be completed in 2011)

JABAKA PROJECT Starting in 2003 in the poor state of Orissa in eastern India, ADIRE experimented with renewable energy to solve these problems in 3 villages Jahangirabad, Balabhadrapur and Kalyanpur (aka JABAKA) and is now expanding to other adjacent rural areas. With developments in new communication, computing, Internet, and small modern energy technologies, clean water and sanitation, ADIRE is changing rural lives. Solar photovoltaic, energy efficient TVs, compact fluorescent/LED lamps, biomass powered rural enterprises, and manure based biogas cooking are some of its favorite technologies to improve lifestyles. ADIRE brings modern solar light to remove rural darkness, internet connectivity to remove age-old rural isolation, clean and affordable energy to power homes and businesses. Modern skills harness intelligent but idle rural talents for a sustainable rural livelihood. Research has shown that solar electricity and biogas/biomass cooking is much cheaper and cleaner than the fossil-electric grid system. ADIRE empowers and enables rural poor without outrageous resource consumption and environmental damages. If we do not do the modern development through RE-SKILL now in the villages not locked in to the polluting fossil energy, it will be harder to do it later as in the developed countries, who have to learn the modern RE-SKILL process.

(2) (3)[In our modern world, urbanized developed countries can hardly believe that many rural households in other parts of the world still live without electricity, clean cooking fuel, running water, basic hygiene and other necessities of life. For example, India alone has over 600,000 villages with 700 million people of which only 30 percent have access to electricity and clean cooking fuel. The modern city-based paradigm of material comforts and heavy natural resource use hardly touches the lives of a hundred million rural households in India and four hundred million households in the developing world. This 30% of the world with income less than one dollar a day have entered the 21st century struggling for food and nourishment. They lack shelters to protect themselves from cyclones, floods, earthquakes, normal rain, or extreme climates. Still, they are the people who are affected the most by natural resources depletion, climate changes, and pollution from the massive urbanization.

The government kerosene subsidies meant to provide illumination for the poor in India do not remove poverty but rather perpetuate darkness, diseases, drudgery, and deprivations. Electric grid subsidies add corruption to those village problems. Government claims about giving subsidized electricity to the poor are exaggerated since the technology used is expensive, unreliable, and inappropriate for village environments. The villagers still have to use biomass cooking, kerosene lamps and manual tools due to high costs, poor quality and poor reliability of grid electricity. Villagers see no opportunities for income or skill development in their native land and migrate to cities as a squatter population in slums. Wide-spread urban poverty, in developing nations is the manifestation of desperate rural out-migration.

Sustainable development of rural India villages in an integrated manner will reduce out- migration. The villages can develop with improved health & sanitation, electricity, education, infrastructure, and local employment opportunities that empower villagers to control their own destiny. Are these problems so difficult to solve? Probably not. Village cultures of developing countries have not only survived for thousands of years by respecting nature, but also were the seats of free market private enterprises and democratic decision making. Monopolies, governments, and external powers have had only minor influences on them. It is possible to enrich that rural culture by deploying modern technology, locally available renewable energy, and private interests like those available today in the modern societies. This belief led to the development of the ADIRE.]

To start with, ADIRE will provide the modern gadgets and maintain them for rural productivity growth in the Production Centers, and will set up small power plants for providing reliable and affordable energy in its Energy Center for fueling village economy. It will provide skill training in the Learning Center, and will arrange micro

finance for modern rural enterprises all of which have been neglected so far. ADIRE will also build and show-case modern energy efficient low cost housing, empower women with modern skills and risk capital without any need of significant subsidy. ADIRE does not see commercial operation of Health and sanitation services in a near future. But, in the absence of these services, villagers in their initial journey for sustainable development would most likely go bankrupt. ADIRE will provide water, sanitation, and health facilities at subsidized rate. By dealing with four long term deprivations -- diseases, drudgery, darkness, and disasters, ADIRE will work for proactive development of villages rather than first creating problems of urban migration, crimes, slums, corruption, and subsidies and reactively managing them later. Instead of participating in the four global encounters in Economy, Energy, Emission and Ecology areas, ADIRE will sprout the concept of "Happy life with clean energy" derived from physical, social and intellectual fulfillment effectively fuelled by the nature's widely scattered renewable power.