

## SOLAR STREET LAMPS: CASE STUDY

There are 24 hamlets in Narnoor mandal, Adilabad of which Gadiguda, Khandow and Dongargaon village panchayats are forest areas. There are in total 17 hamlets where mostly SC/ST communities live. The infrastructure like drinking water, electricity, proper roads etc. were in very poor condition.



Under Entry Point Activity of IWMP, the committee raised the issue of poor infrastructure facility in Gadiguda, Khandow and Dongargaon villages especially electricity. The committee decided to provide solar street lamps to these three villages based on the following considerations:

- These villages faced very poor power supply on a regular basis
- 95% of the families residing in these villages are tribals whose traditional dances (especially Dandari and Gussadi dances), meetings, and other cultural activities take place at night.
- The irregular supply was seriously affecting the studies of grown up children. In critical times the students could study under the street lights.
- Any damage to electric poles and wires during storms and rough weather meant to remain with no power for minimum fifteen days.
- These villages were devoid of very poor infrastructure, and hence it was felt that solar lights should be installed in these villages.
- The solar lamps were provided to the three villages which were a major leap forward in their lives. The benefits of these lamps to tribal community in their words are presented below.
- *Gopichand, of Madhara Thanda (Khandow Rampur) said that. "We offer prayers at Gurubaba Temple early morning at 4'o clock prior to the solar lamps it was difficult to follow this daily ritual as it used to be dark that early morning. With the solar lamp lights now, it is easy for us to reach the temple and offer our prayers."*
- *Nagorao, of Gadiguda village comments "We need lights during deepavali because we perform Gussadi and Dandari dances for fifteen days. Prior to the solar lamps we used kerosene lamps but now with solar lamps it is comfortable and trouble-free to carry out our programmes."*
- *Sitaram from Aadmiyaan said that "The village meetings or panchayat meetings are conducted in the late evenings, when all the villagers are back from work. But constant power cuts were problematic. Now with solar lamps we are able to conduct meetings without any interruptions. The village children play under the solar lamps which is heartening to see. It would be nice if one more lamp is provided here."*