E-HANDS ENERGY

PROBLEM:

In the remote and rural areas of India, lack of reliable electricity or access to electricity and internet connectivity is one of the major reasons for lack of access to financial services offered by banks. Banking itself is a challenge in rural areas. Add mobile banking to it, that often becomes a territory difficult to navigate. According to research, 'there is a fundamental mistrust in using phones or digital modes to transact, particularly in rural areas.'

IMPACT:

Till date E-hands has been able to provide affordable and clean energy to 800 branches in 23 states with 24 million financial transactions of over 1.4 million people. E-Hands Energy, which began with a modest trial of powering four rural branches of a NBFC with wind/SPV hybrid in 2012, has now grown to run over 800 branches in 2021 on clean energy across 650+ towns and villages and has another 100+ branches in the pipeline to be rolled out by the end of the current fiscal year.

INTERVENTION:

To address the gaps in communication and accessibility, E-hands designed a solar branch, with SPV capacity ranging from 0.6kW to 5kW supported by a suitable battery bank. The installations run completely on clean energy, operating on 'off-grid' mode and thus dissolving the need to depend on diesel generator and the poorly available grid connectivity. Installations consist of micro wind - SPV hybrid systems and small wind turbines of 1.3-2.3 metres rotor dia with 0.6-1.1 kW generation capacity, located at a wind regime of 4.5 m/s annual average wind speed, in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

Since inception in 2009, E-Hands Energy's prime mission is to harness India's abundant solar and wind energy resources, to provide affordable clean green energy access to millions of people. To this end, it partners with RE manufacturers, leading NGOs, like-minded corporate entities, financial and educational institutions. Thus far, we have traversed rooftops and hilltops with a range of solar, micro-wind turbines, hybrid solar-wind renewable energy and rural solar lighting solutions; benefiting over 45,000 people spanning 500+ installations covering border areas, railway crossings, NGOs, rural homes, schools and IT & Micro Finance companies.

As a member of ADB's "Energy for All" program it has launched several initiatives which have resulted in reduction of 2500+ tons in carbon emissions into the atmosphere.