

Lecture 11 summary: Community Engagement and Capacity Building to Facilitate Energy Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability

Speaker

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The most important sentence of community engagement is what they want. It seems very obvious that a community would be engaged in a work that will impact that community. Community engagement is defined as the process of working collectively with and through groups of people affiliated to geographic closeness, special concern, or same circumstances to address issues touching the well-being of those people. It is an influential vehicle for bringing about environmental and behavioural changes that will empower the health of the community and its people. It often involves co-operation and coalitions that help mobilise assets and influence systems, change associations among partners, and serve as catalysts for improve policies, programs, and practices. Local organisation came into picture because of the problems faced by that community such as energy, sanitation problem and many more. Energy is more than bringing in the power grid. In a community if there is no electricity at night, people face many problems of which security is one of the main issue. In these communities some are very poor which pay highest for energy services. In 2012, sixteen countries have reach to 100% electrification. But there are some part of the world which rely on solid fuels. In India 64% of the population use solid fuels to cook food. It takes about 5 to 6 hours to collect that solid fuel. Since it's not a clean cooking practise, so poor people are being affected by it; out of which the most affected ones are the small children due to there immune system. Studies had prove that electrification had reduce the accidents which take place by poor people. Children can go to school for more days and their future can be secured. So all this will lead to increases in the overall income of the family and it can be done by power for enterprise, refrigeration to store food and so on. Women empowerment is not limited to just enterprise but it means speaking up in the community and taking decision. Women empowerment and community engagement work had been done by KOPERNIK organisation.

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