

Conclusions & Recommendations

SAARC Workshop on Participation of Private Sector to Overcome Energy Poverty in SAARC Member States

1. Energy services for poverty reduction are less about technology and more about understanding the role that energy plays in people's lives and responding to the constraints in improving livelihoods.
2. Energy needs should be considered within the overall context of community life, and energy policies and projects should be integrated in a holistic way with other improvement efforts relating to health, education, agriculture and job creation.
3. Policies, programs and projects should start from an assessment of people's needs rather than a plan to promote a particular technology.
4. Public private partnership (PPP) models to overcome energy poverty should not be copied from the West; rather bespoke financial solutions for each demography and locality should be developed.
5. The needs of different rural communities vary widely, and finding appropriate technologies and effective implementation strategies can be very site-specific. Energy poverty in SAARC member states is mainly experienced in rural areas and rural communities, so a community-based PPP approach is required to tap in Social Collateral for risk management
6. Need to define clear models based on global and regional experience to date.
7. Government should let the market define tariffs for energy poverty-stricken areas, and they should only focus on ensuring the quality. Instead of cheap cost low quality solutions, the poor people need the best quality product to bring in efficiency gains at mass level, and government needs to ensure that.
8. Government should hedge risk by encouraging local RE products manufacturing finance. In fact, the government should focus on creating the RE market by starting with local manufacturing of any technology instead of first importing it.
9. Government should not provide off-take guarantees and capacity payments; rather profit based subsidies for distributed generation be given.
10. Distributed generation (DG) should be promoted for improving energy access. NGOs and communities cannot do this alone—scale is needed through government intervention. Aggregation and scale will bring
 - a. procurement efficiencies
 - b. ensure social and environmental safeguards
 - c. enable better R&D, tech diffusion, and financing modalities

11. Government should mitigate risks to DG and ensure area/village growth approach, bringing real return to communities
12. Focus on the meteorology and energy/electricity nexus—many gains in technology and AI and prediction are not being utilized for economic and human gains!
13. Energy/electricity subsidies are bad, and never reach the intended target. Full cost of electricity be charged from everyone, and for the poor people a targeted approach should be adopted instead, in the form of coupons or vouchers, to be reimbursed to the real target groups.
14. For clean cooking through biogas and biomass technologies, there should be centralized manufacturing in regional hubs to overcome bottlenecks, and localized supply chain. Quality, durability and performance of the technology is important to meet cultural and cooking requirements.
15. For clean cooking initiatives to reach the Last Mile, behavior change is needed from Design 2 Delivery, and female entrepreneurs should be trained.