

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Rising energy requirements in a developing country like India is a major concern to the entire world. As the per capita energy consumption of Indians increase, conventional sources of energy are increasingly being exploited and depleted. This also results in increased environmental pollution.

Environmental responsibility and interest towards green energy sources such as solar energy should start from the grass roots-level. Realising this, AADHAAR is promoting the usage of green energy sources in rural, underdeveloped regions of India. As a first step, it has provided solar cookers and a solar water heater to the 'Samata Shikshan Sanstha', an organisation that is involved in educating tribal and backward children in the Indian state of Maharashtra. These equipments have been installed in the campus of a school (Anandashram School in Pune district, Maharashtra) run by this organisation; the school also has a wind and biogas plant, making it unique in the whole region.

Such initiatives not only reduce the dependency on conventional energy sources, but also help in reducing environmental pollution. Since India receives a great deal of sunshine throughout the year, solar energy-dependant setups are not affected by the frequent power failures in this country.



JOIN HANDS WITH US!



You can join us just as a (regular) **contributor**, by which you monetarily support our activities, or you could become an **active member** and help in coordinating regular activities such as fundraisers or developmental projects.

AADHAAR:

- maintains complete financial transparency.
- is based on voluntary work and does not incur any cost in organisational activity.
- is neither motivated by nor affiliated to any political or religious group.
- is registered in The Netherlands (Dossiernummer: 08099671, Kamer van Koophandel, Veluwe en Twente).

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*One step must start each journey,
One word must start each song,
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care*



**AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH
& ACADEMIC AWARENESS IN
RURAL INDIA**

www.aadhaar.nl



WHAT IS AADHAAR?

AADHAAR is a Hindi word meaning 'foundation' or 'base'. AADHAAR is a non-commercial / non-governmental organisation seeded in August 1997, which provides support for grass roots-level development in India. It was started by students from India attending post-graduate studies at the University of Twente, the Netherlands.

AADHAAR is a nexus that bridges the gap between the haves and have-nots. It serves to connect those who wish to support the underprivileged, with the needy to whom this support can bring about an improvement in their standard of living and can lead them out of poverty.

OUR OBJECTIVES

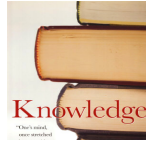
At AADHAAR we believe that real progress will be achieved only when economic prosperity leads to social development at all levels. Uniform social development can lead to the elimination of poverty, illiteracy and other ills that plague the Indian society today.

OUR ACTIVITIES

- **Child education**
- **Healthcare**
- **Self-sustainability**
- **Women empowerment**
- **Environmental issues**
- **Rural upliftment**

The details of selected AADHAAR projects are furnished here:

KNOWLEDGE CENTER



As a vital part of the drive towards the betterment of children in remote areas, AADHAAR has adopted a model based on a concept advocated by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, ex-President of India. This concept, known as the 'Knowledge Center', offers school-going children the possibility to enhance their knowledge. Though these children are enrolled in government-run schools, the available facilities are far from being sufficient and by no means comparable to that of private schools. The knowledge centers, equipped with a wide range of books as well as computer(s) with educational software, help the underprivileged children to improve their knowledge as well as their social skills. A number of knowledge centers have already been inaugurated in various regions of India. Full-time librarians help the children in choosing the right books and streamlining their activities. Efforts are also made to make each knowledge center self-sustainable, by paving way for a regular means of revenue generation. For instance, one of the knowledge centers was given a photo-copying machine and a laminating machine, which will generate revenue that can be used to run the center. This also enables the de-centralisation of the knowledge centers.



EMPOWERING WOMEN



SWABHIMAAN, a charitable trust in Bangalore, works with AADHAAR to improve the lives of young girls and pregnant women with limited exposure to education and healthcare. A multi-pronged approach is followed by SWABHIMAAN:

- Educating as well as nurturing young, impressionable girls who are not cared for by their parents for a host of reasons. About 15 young girls are benefited by this initiative.
- Running a 'mother-and-child clinic' for the benefit of pregnant women living in slums. At a minimal fee, doctors do periodic health check-up and provide the pregnant women supplementary nourishment. Without such an initiative, the financially backward women would not get the nutrients necessary during pregnancy.
- A micro-financing project is in the pipeline for slum-residing women with entrepreneurial drive. Since banks generally do not provide loans to those with little or no stable income, micro-financing is a boon to those who strive to get out of poverty. It can also pave way for female empowerment, as the women can also support their family financially.

