

ASSISI SEVA SADAN HOSPITAL
NAGEPALLI
असीसी सेवा सदन हॉस्पिटल
नागेपल्ली

Powering Healthcare

Assisi Seva Sadan began as a dispensary in 1969 in Maharashtra's tribal dominated and remote Gadchiroli district. But today it is a hospital with 40 beds, serving about 25000 patients every year, who are below India's poverty line (BPL). Four of these 40 beds are reserved for Adivasi patients and another four for those under Below Poverty Line. The hospital serves nearly 150 people daily, and yet it faces about seven hours of power cuts every day.



Assisi Seva Sadan, Gadchiroli

To address this, Assisi Seva Sadan installed 10-kilowatt peak (kWp) Solar PV Systems integrated with battery energy storage capabilities. This was facilitated by WRI India in collaboration with HSBC India and Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI). We met sisters Leena Francis and Rita Francis to discuss more on #PoweringHealthcare

Powering Healthcare

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We treat patients who are below poverty line and they come here from three states - Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra - covering a 150-kilometre radius around the hospital and about 350 villages.

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Gadchiroli is underdeveloped. It is surrounded by forests, and people who come here are poor farmers who depend on the monsoon for irrigation.

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The power cuts affected everyone! With extreme heat, it became unbearable for patients to be in the wards, and injecting intravenous fluids would become difficult.

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About an year ago, iron ore started being mined in the area, polluting the air and our surroundings. The dust settles on our solar panels, forcing us to clean them at least twice a week. Earlier, the dust used to be from the trucks on the road the hospital faces, which was manageable.

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Solar energy is now powering fans and lights in the Outpatient doctors' and registration rooms; the x-ray rooms, treatment rooms; the leprosy and tuberculosis wards; the verandah that is used as a lobby area; the sonography consulting room and boundaries lights.

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We had installed a 5 kWp solar plant approx. five years ago and it is still in use, but we did not get benefit from it as it did not bring down our electricity bills. On the contrary, our bills began to rise! An electricity audit revealed that the facility's solar power system was not optimally used due to incorrect connections and wiring. After rectifying this, we saw a significant drop in our electricity bills.

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With solar energy we now have power day and night; patients are more comfortable, and staff feel relaxed. Often, when power goes out in the hospital's vicinity, villagers walk in and make themselves comfortable!

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WRI India, partnered with HSBC India and CHAI to implement clean energy solutions for improved health outcomes and to attempt to decarbonize healthcare, while also improving service delivery and reducing emissions in India.

WRI India, HSBC India and CHAI aim to achieve Energy for Equitable Development in India's healthcare sector through this initiative.

