

## Smart AWCs in Madhya Pradesh: Electrifying centres with solar energy

63 AWCs in the Alirajpur and Burhanpur districts of Madhya Pradesh have been transformed into Smart AWCs through Solar Installation by UN Women in collaboration with Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, Madhya Pradesh. The state government was not in a position to offer electricity to all the centres across the state.

A cadre of trained AWWs have been developed for installation and maintenance of the decentralized renewable energy systems.

**Pre-installation Situation:** The number of children visiting the centres used to significantly decline during the summer months. They found it difficult to sit for long hours and used to persuade to go back even before lunch was served.

### Post-installation:

**Children:** Children are the happiest as they now have a pleasant learning environment where they can engage in meaningful learning, play and have nutritious food.

**AWW:** Post solar installation the workers shared that their productivity has improved as they are now able to work comfortably. Majority of their work now entails use of tablets/cell phones which they can charge and use anytime.

**Digital Learning:** The centres have started using digital learning aids to educate children which helps them comprehend things better.

**Women:** AWCs are not just places for children, they have also become safe spaces where women can access education, skill building and similar opportunities that can empower them.

*“Sometimes we get late working at the center or have work during the evening hours. Earlier we used to avoid such situations whereas now we do not feel afraid and are able to work or come to the centres at any time of the day.” – Anganwadi Worker, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh*

*“My son used to earlier feel hot and sweaty at the centre during summers and hence used to refuse to go to the centre. Since the time the fan has been installed, he has started enjoying going to the centre.” – Resident, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh*