

PEHLI KIRAN



First Ray of Light

Renewable Energy Project For The Least Privileged People In Rural Areas Of Pakistan

Visit report of
Sehwan Sharif & Bado Jabal after ONE year



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Objective

Shaantech team revisited Sehwan Sharif & Bado Jabal after ONE year on Nov 09, 2009 to get end-user's feedback on product quality, benefit to the end users and effectiveness of donated Solar Charged LED light.

Project History

This project was started in 2002 when Shaantech project team members visited Sehwan Sharif and Bado Jabal to find sustainable ways to help meet the basic needs of the villagers under Mr. Pervaiz Lodhie's "Pehli Kiran" Project.

It was observed in our first visit that villagers were in the complete dark after sun goes down,

Imagine what your life would be if every night was pitched dark as soon as the sun set. This was the reality of villagers of Sehwan Sharif & Bado Jabal. But thanks to Mr. Pervaiz Lodhie, President Ledtronics Inc. USA & Shaan Technologies Pakistan donated Solar Charged LED lighting system to help villagers by lighting their homes with Solar Charged LED lights and trains villagers how to install them.

This project uses an innovative, low cost and sustainable solar power source. The light system uses LED lights providing renewable energy and non-polluting LED lighting solutions to people living in remote areas without access to electricity. There are numerous benefits associated with this project, including health, education, environmental sustainability and economic growth.



Shrine of Saint Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar

Sehwan Sharif

Sehwan Sharif is located in Sindh province of Pakistan. It is 300KM away from Karachi and lay-on the opposite bank of the River Indus. The city is known for renowned Muslim patron saint Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar

Shaantech team was welcomed in Sehwan by Dr Syed Raza Mehdi Shah Sabzawari who is Sajjada Nashin, Qalandar Lal. Sample 02 Solar Charged LED Light was inspected, which was earlier installed at Dr. Mehdi's house but was not working after its re-location by local technician.



Solar power LED based light installed at Dr. Mehdi's house

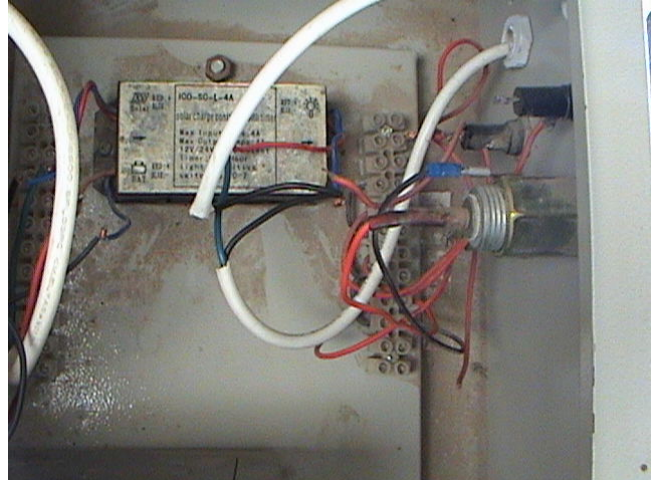


Installed Solar Controller at Dr. Mehdi's house

It was observed that panel wiring was wrong, few wire connection of controller were opened/broken, rest of the connection of Light and controller were directly connected without using fuse and the panel battery was dead. We replaced defective charge controller and rewired the unit.



Dusty Solar Panel



Defective Solar Controller

Solar panels were found very dirty and were not producing optimum power.

Our team recommended refresh training to technician Ali Bhai for installation, maintenance and trouble shooting of Solar Charged LED light.

Earlier this Dr. Mehdi expressed his gratitude to Mr. Pervaiz Lodhie for his “Pehli Kiran” project and efforts he is making for the welfare of least privileged people. Dr. Mehdi gave briefing about the current status of the project and he also informed that a local resident of Ranikot area has modified a solar lantern for cell phone charger.

Our team left Sehwan at 2PM for Bado Jabal with Dr. Mehdi



Bado Jabal Village

Bado Jabal

Bado Jabal is approximately 65 km away from Sehwan city at 3000 feet above sea level. There is no electricity, people live in small localities away from each other.

There is also a School name Bhatt Rural Support Program (BRSP) Community School for their kids. We also observed the construction of mosque which is in final stage.



*Bhatt Rural Support Program (BRSP)
Community School for Kids*



*Under construction Mosque for
Bado Jabal Villagers*



Kids are going to School

Feedback from End Users

People of Bado Jabal gathered in a rest house (Autaq) and gave us a warm WELCOME

Here our team discussed with the end user of Solar Charged LED Lantern and gathered their valuable feedback Dr. Mehdi helped us by translating their feedback from Sindhi to English.



Dr. Mehdi translating feedback from Sindhi to English

Mandar Khan who is head (Mokhya) of Bado Jabal village told that Solar Charged LED Lantern that Mr. Pervaiz Lodhie provides us has changed our lives. These Solar Charged LED Lantern makes our daily life much convenient, our families are very happy and works in late night under the Solar Charged LED Lantern

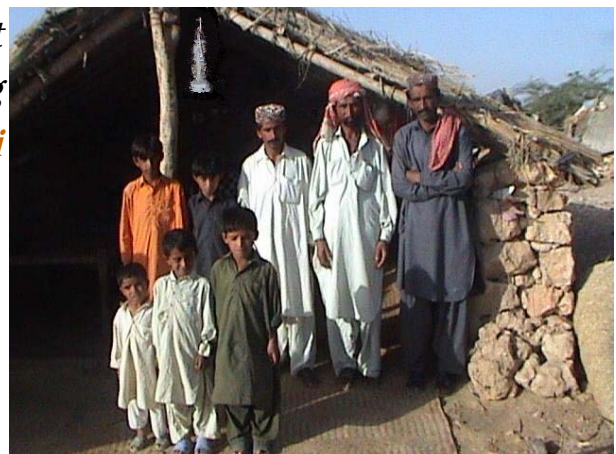


Mandar Khan Head (Mokhya) of Bado Jabal

Sajjan, Karam Ali and Khan Mohammad told that by using these Solar Charged LED Lantern light they are earning more than that they have on using kerosene lamps.

we do not need to purchase costly,

*unsafe kerosene oil and saving sufficient amount, which we are using for buying more raw material for Mats and **Ralli** that are our major source of income.*



Sharbat Mohammad said We are very happy " with a smile on his faces. Sajjan, Karam Ali and Khan Mohammad said that it is their first time to see this kind of solar lights. They also said "We're taking care of the solar light so that we don't want to loose this type of light".

Now it is very easy for the villagers to do more work in the light of these solar lantern. They also said thanks for the help, your kindness and we will always pray for you. They will pray for the happiness of the donor all the time.

Solar Light Benefit For The Villagers.

After living in the dark for ages, residents of Bado Jabal are now enjoying the benefits of Solar Charged LED Light.

Today, children of this village are able to study in comfort after dusk. Earlier when there was no light, insects used to fall into food plates but now they don't have this kind of problem.

Now children can also study under Solar Charged LED Light and do not have problems to sleep in the night. We do not have fear of snakes now. Most of problems have now been solved.

Solar light had significant impact on lives of people living Bado Jabal.

it was very hard to work in night using kerosene oil lantern. Kerosene lanterns are not only expensive but they are also inefficient, potentially dangerous and a major source of greenhouse gases. Solar lanterns changed their lives now they can easily work in night time under Solar Charged LED Light

*Saving of money up to **Rs 300** / month due to not using kerosene oil for the lantern any more.*

Working hours (2-3 hrs/day) are increased

Now Children eat better and more nutritious food by this saving.

Solar LED light don't get blown off in high mountain evening winds like the kerosene lanterns.

Back and forth traveling to Sehwan city (130 km) for purchasing of kerosene oil is eliminated.

Improves health and safety, no fumes, no fire risk.

Conclusion

Solar Charged LED Lantern has a tremendous impact on the lives of rural people living in Bado Jabal without electricity. Solar Charged LED Lantern allowing them to replace their poor quality kerosene lamps producing toxic gases with more efficient safer and pollution free environment.

People of Bado Jabal were very happy, uses of the Solar Charged LED Lantern increased their income, while safety, education, health, fear of snakes bites in the dark and general quality of life all benefit.

For replacement of batteries, saving Rs 1/- daily can makes the cost of a battery in one year and a battery can easily purchased by this annual saving, saving Rs 1/- daily decreased the financial burden on villagers.

Solar Charged LED Light system has drastically changed lives of people in Bado Jabal. The eco-friendly model has not only helped villagers increase their work at night and augment income but also revived the villager's way of life.

One small village at a time Mr. Pervaiz Lodhie's "Pehli Kiran" project since 2002 is placing seeds of eco-friendly green technology use to help save the environment by reduced carbon footprint