



**Awardee: GHE Impact Ventures Private**

**Project Title: Garo Hills Clean Cooking and Energy Access Initiative**

Many remote villages in Garo Hills, Meghalaya in India remain without access to reliable electricity, leaving communities reliant on firewood and fossil fuels for their day-to-day activities, particularly for cooking. Women, who bear the brunt of firewood collection, often walk 2-3 kilometres daily to gather wood from dwindling forest resources. This dependence on firewood not only contributes to deforestation but also exposes families to harmful smoke from traditional stoves, leading to severe respiratory and health issues. These communities continue to rely heavily on biomass fuels like kerosene for lighting and heating, further exacerbating environmental damage and increasing household expenditures.

The lack of electricity has hindered the adoption of modern cooking methods, trapping them in unsustainable practices that contribute to environmental degradation and poor health outcomes. By introducing Solar-Powered Electric Pressure Cookers (EPCs), this project provides a sustainable solution to break this cycle of dependency on firewood and fossil fuels. Solar PV modules will harness renewable energy to power EPCs, enabling villagers to prepare meals efficiently without needing firewood or other non-renewable resources. This reduces the daily burden on women, conserves forest resources, and improves the overall health and well-being of families in these remote areas.

In addition to this, the Solar Grids beyond running the EPC will also fulfil the basic energy access gap. The shift to solar-powered EPCs represents not only an immediate benefit in terms of health and reduced labour but also contributes to long-term environmental sustainability and resilience against the challenges of climate change.

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