



A STUDY ON THE SOLAR SECTOR AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

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ABSTRACT

India has a population of 1.3 billion people, it is essential that by 2022, the solar energy industry would generate as many as 1.6 million jobs with over 6,00,000 jobs focused in the construction vertical alone. The solar sector has emerged as a new industrial domain over the recent years currently there are 100,000 people employed in solar energy and another 45,000 in wind energy sectors.

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INTRODUCTION

Every country has certain characteristics, India has many such characteristics, with second largest population in the world, it is amongst the fast growing economies across all continents. India has a massive need for energy; its per capita consumption of electricity is less than one-third the world average. India government has a set target of achieving 100 GET (Giga Watt) of solar power by 2022 includes 100 gigawatts of solar energy, 60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW of bio energy and 5GW of small hydro. Solar energy is externally critical for world economies because of the number of methods in which sun's radiation is put to use in a vast array of solar products ranging from solar panels, solar streetlights to solar inverters, solar UPSs, solar chargers, solar home system and even solar CCTV cameras, just think about the number of people who would be employed in the manufacturing, solar installation of so many products. Solar energy supply companies are able to offer more jobs per dollar instead. It develops 12 times faster than the whole US economy; the solar sector has emerged as a new industrial domain over the recent years. The solar industry has employed more than 350,000 people thus far and it is projected that by 2025, an additional 202,000 jobs are going to be created. Jobs in solar sector are expected to create

opportunities for poverty reduction along the renewable energy supply chain. Currently there are 100,000 people employed in solar energy and another 48,000 in wind energy sector. The jobs will be geographically dispersed in areas located away from towns and cities, thereby spreading the economic benefits. Finally, it can be concluded that solar energy projects create many local jobs in India – both one-time jobs, during the pre-commissioning construction phase and permanent operations and maintenance positions over the multi-decade life of the solar plant.

Need of study

Solar energy potential estimated by National Institute of solar energy is about 750 gigawatt (GW); this is spread across a number of states namely Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, J&K, Maharashtra, AP & Gujarat. Endowed with more than 300 days of sunshine a year, India is making strides towards becoming a global solar power, since 2009, when the country first launched the national solar mission, it has installed solar parks on large tracts of unused land across the country. Solar is expected to become a crucial energy source in India's energy portfolio in the next decade. One of the major reasons for development of solar energy stands from the fact that it can be set up in the shortest duration compared to other energy sources. In fact, sure studies indicate that the industry creates more jobs per unit of energy produced than any other energy sources.

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Global trends in recent times have been witnessed that US, China, and Germany are pushing for renewables, which more than launch a plan to reduce the global gas emissions by 40%. It will include building factories generating clean energy that would require creating 430,000 additional jobs. As a direct result, global use and implementation of solar technology has been on a steady rise since the early 2000. Solar is now the fastest growing sources of renewable energy in the world, reaching about 1% of the total energy produced globally.

Conclusion

Solar energy projects create green jobs and provide a boost to India's developing economy. In a country where keeping up with the growing populations increasing energy demands is daunting, harnessing this clean and renewable energy source can help meet energy needs in a sustainable way, while providing new economic opportunities.

Thus it potentially represents a much needed solution to unemployment in the face of India's burgeoning population and labour force. The solar power sector created 164,000 jobs by the end of 2016-17 while solar heating gave jobs to 17,000 people the wind industry has spawned 81,800 jobs this is according to a recent report by international renewable energies.

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