



Breathing Space Cookstoves India

Efficient cooking leading to more jobs,
healthier people and fewer emissions



Located in southern India, this project involves the design, manufacture and distribution of efficient household cookstoves. These stoves reduce smoke and toxic emissions by 80%, significantly improving the health and wellbeing of families while also creating jobs and reducing deforestation.



The Context

Using the traditional method of cooking over an open flame exposes some women and children in southern India to the equivalent of burning 400 cigarettes per hour. These toxic fumes cause a range of respiratory issues and are estimated to contribute to approximately 500,000 premature deaths per year, in India alone.

The Project

Under this program, approximately 200,000 households have access to efficient cookstoves, preventing the emission of around 27,495 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. These stoves use less fuel and cook much faster than previous methods, while also requiring less wood fuel and thus alleviating deforestation in surrounding areas.

The Benefits

With this new cooking resource, families can now save time and money and focus on the care and education of their children. The program facilitates women empowerment by training female entrepreneurs and actively involving them in marketing and sales of the cook stoves. This allows women in rural India to gain their own income, thus improving their livelihoods and social position in their communities. A local community group in Khanav village also contributes to this project by providing ethical, affordable loans to households so that the cost of a new cookstove can be repaid over several months.

"I cannot describe how pleased I am with my Cookstove. The stove has not only ended smoke from my life but also saves my cooking time drastically."

– Yashodha, India



200,000 families

provided with clean cookstoves, creating healthier living conditions in homes



46 women

trained as female entrepreneurs, providing the independence of their own income



25 permanent jobs

created, injecting money into local economies



15,000 tCO₂e

mitigated per year by reducing coal-related emissions in the atmosphere

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

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