

About CART

Established in 1983 as a small voluntary group of concerned citizens, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) expanded its activities and CUTS CART was set up in 1996 as a programme centre to pursue the cause of common consumers, initially being undertaken by CUTS as the mandate.

The programmes of the Centre are primarily aimed at generating awareness, creating a more responsible society and encouraging changes at the policy level by advocating with the government machinery and sensitising it to the issues of concern of the common man. The Centre has spearheaded several campaigns and pioneered consumer empowerment.

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Save to Survive

Awareness Campaign on Energy Efficient Products

Focussing on the issue of energy saving, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) launched an awareness campaign entitled 'Save to Survive' in Jaipur city. The campaign was launched in a meeting held at Rotary Club, Jaipur on September, 14, 2011.

Energy is the backbone of development and economic growth. In the recent years India's energy consumption has been increasing at one of the fastest rates in the world. India ranks fifth in the world in terms of primary energy consumption. India's power consumption will double by 2020 while the power deficit is estimated at 12.9 percent in the current fiscal during the peak period.

In India, about 70 percent of India's energy generation is from fossil fuels, which result in high emission of carbon and raise serious environmental and climate change concerns.

George Cherian, Director, CUTS in his inaugural address said that while various steps have been taken to increase the supply, but meeting the ever increasing demand remains a distant dream. One way to address this deficit is managing the demand side, which is the most cost effective solution to the growing demand-supply gap. Hence in India energy conservation has emerged as a major policy objective. Thus the campaign will contribute in decreasing carbon foot-prints and improving the environment by promoting sustainable and green consumption by consumers.

While speaking in the meeting as the Chief Guest, Sumit Mathur, Project Manager, Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC), explained initiatives of the Government for conserving energy and promoting maximum use of renewable energy to meet the energy shortage. He mentioned the Energy Conservation Act (2001) and said 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is the institutional mechanism to promote energy efficiency'. He also added that for checking the excessive use of energy by industries, the Government has appointed Energy Managers and Energy Auditors, who will be responsible for auditing the annual consumption by designated consumers.

CUTS is running the campaign with the support of Consumers International and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The campaign involves various activities such as consumer awareness camps in market places, street plays, stakeholder's consultation on energy efficiency, etc. CUTS will also collaborate with various Government agencies working on energy efficiency such as the RREC, Jaipur Discom, CSOs and consumer groups in the campaign scheduled during September and October 2011. More than 100 representatives of Civil Society Organisations and consumer groups attended the workshop.



Street Plays and Signature Campaign

Four street plays were conducted by the *Goonj Sanstha* on the theme of energy efficient projects. General public and consumers was the target in these events. Handouts with the information on energy saving were distributed during the activity and a signature campaign conducted.

Mid-term Evaluation



GRANIRCA (Grassroots Reachout and Networking in Rajasthan through Consumer Action) project reached its halfway stage on June 30, 2011. A midterm evaluation was conducted during July 4-6, 2011, by Dr. Santosh Kumar, Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Raisan, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, as an external evaluator. The purpose of the external midterm evaluation was to review the progress so far and examine the highlights and the lowlights of the project. On the first day of the evaluation, he met with the project team and also with few selected members of the Project Advisory and Resource Group (PARG). On the second day he visited Kota and Tonk districts with the team and met with project partners and key stakeholders. On the final day, he met with the finance team of CUTS and also attended a partners meeting in Jaipur. The evaluation process concluded with a de-briefing meeting with the project team.

Securities and Market Awareness Campaign (SMAC)

SMAC workshop supported by BSE was organised at Nasirabad (Ajmer) on July 22, 2011. Local coordinating organisation was SPARSH Sansthan. 44 people attended the workshop. In this workshop the main speakers were Ishu Tayal from BSE Delhi and Yashwant Gupta from CDSL, Jaipur. One local resource person Anil Garg, Chairman of Rotary Club also spoke in the workshop. Local media gave a good coverage of the event. The second SMAC workshop during the quarter was organised at Pali on August 29, 2011. Local coordinating organisation was Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pali. 74 students and teachers attended the workshop. In this workshop main speakers were Mr. Ishu Tayal from BSE Delhi and Mr Yashwant Gupta from CDSL Jaipur. Media covered the event. CUTS staff also spoke in the workshop.



National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2011-12

Under the campaign, five Divisional level pre-proposal open workshops were conducted during the month of September. 358 proposals were received as on September 15, 2011. The scrutiny of proposals and preparation of summary sheets is in progress.



Meeting of the Advisory Committee of CART

The seventh meeting of the Advisory Committee of CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) was held on August 26, 2011 in CART Conference hall Chaired by Mr. P.N.Bhandari. Three other members, Mr. Sunny Sebastain, Mr. Rajendra Bora and Ms. Shabanam Aziz participated in the meeting which provided several suggestions with regard to the programmatic areas and activities of the centre.

Sensitisation Workshops and Access Audit

Three sensitisation workshops (with AMIED, *Bodh Shiksha Samiti* and with MMSVS on August 03, 04 and 05, 2011 respectively) were organised in Alwar district under the Project on 'Mainstreaming Disability in Development in Rajasthan' in partnership with Sightsavers (SS). In the workshops, 115 field functionaries and management officials of the three organisations took part and Mr. Ketan Kothari, Programme Development Adviser (Social Inclusion), Mumbai and Prabhat Sinha, Jaipur, Sightsavers were the key speakers. The workshops resulted in enhanced level of sensitisation among participants and a strategy of mainstreaming in these NGOs.

In addition one Access Audit was conducted at Sindhi Camp Central Bus Stand, Jaipur on August 24, 2011 by a trained Group of access auditors which included PWDs of hearing impaired, blindness, loco motor disability officials of Nupur Sansthan, Sightsavers and CUTS. The group visited all corners, public facilities and offices of the bus stand and made observations from the accessibility aspects for PWDs. Soon a report will be submitted to the management with the suggestions of making the central bus stand barrier free and disabled friendly. The event resulted in sensitisation of management towards barrier free environment in the bus stand and wide electronic media coverage in cable network.



CART Mini Retreat

CART Mini Retreat for the year 2011, mainly to review the progress of the Strategic Business Plan (SBP) of CART was held at the Hotel *Sarovar Protico* on September 3, 2011. Opening & introductory remarks were delivered by Pradeep Mehta and M.L.Mehta respectively. In addition to the staff from CART, other senior staff members of CUTS attended the meeting. Rijit Sengupta made a presentation on 'CART & C-CIER: Meeting Points'. George moderated the discussions in the retreat.

VISITS

Visit of Save the Children officials

Prabhat Kumar, State Programme Manager along with Amit Choudhary, Programme officer visited CART office and had detailed discussions about the ongoing project at CHD, Chittorgarh supported by Save the Children and other possible collaborations.

Visit of UNDP Evaluation team

As part of the independent outcome evaluation of UNDP programme cycle 2008-12, the evaluators – Ms. Premila Zazareth Satyanand (New Delhi) and Dr. Anand Akundy (ASCI, Hyderabad) visited CART office and had detailed discussions about the UNDP supported CDDP project and other interventions in Rajasthan. George Cherian provided inputs to the evaluation process.

Visit of World Bank Officials to CUTS

Roland Lomme, Governance Adviser in the India Country Management Unit of the World Bank, along with Ms. Anna Wellenstein (Country Program Coordinator, The World Bank, Washington DC) and Dr. (Ms.) Preeti Kudesia (Sr. Public Health Specialist, The World Bank, New Delhi) visited CUTS on September 12, 2011 and met with key staff from CART, CITEE & C-CIER and had interactions on the work of both CUTS and the Bank, and possible areas of collaboration.



REPRESENTATIONS

‘Climate crisis: Grassroots realities and role of legal fraternity’

On July 23, 2011, Amarjeet Singh attended a public lecture on "Climate crisis: Grassroots realities and role of legal fraternity in addressing impacts" organised by the Association of retired judges of Supreme Court and High Court in HCM-RIPA, Jaipur.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of NHRC

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi jointly with Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) organised the Western Regional Consultation for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – 2012 in Jaipur on July 26, 2011. Purpose of the meeting was to review the ground realities with regard to human rights situations and to check whether the states are fulfilling their obligations. George attended the meeting and provided specific inputs/comments related to socio-economic and cultural rights.

CAG meeting of Reliance Communication, July 27, 2011

Amarjeet attended CAG meeting organised by Reliance Communication on July 27, 2011 at their office at Jaipur.

Meeting of Grassroots Innovators

An interactive meeting of grassroots innovators from various districts of Rajasthan with Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister of India was organised in CUTS conference hall on July 9, 2011. Deepak was responsible for coordinating the meeting.

Decentralised Planning & MDGs

A training workshop to test the training manual prepared by PRIA on Decentralised Planning & MDGs to improve the quality of district planning in five UN convergence districts in Rajasthan.



CART IN MEDIA

Save to Survive' campaign

The Times of India, Jaipur, Sep 18, 2011

JAIPUR: In the backdrop of the state facing severe power deficit, the state government has launched an awareness campaign titled 'Save Electricity, Save India'.

'Consumers unaware of rights in Raj'

Bundi: A majority of consumers in Rajawali are

कट्टस का जारी कार्यशाला का आयोजन

खरादारा को प्राथमिकता

The training workshop was organised by Directorate of Economics and Statistics jointly with UNDP on August 2-3, 2011. Om Prakash attended the first day of the workshop and Amarjeet attended both the days.

National Interactive Workshop

George attended the National Interactive Workshop of Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) under the NEAC organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India at the SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi on August 30, 2011.

State Advisory Committee of RERC

Deepak and Amarjeet attended the 12th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of RERC held on 16th September 2011 and raised the issue of unremitted subsidies and their impact on tariffs etc.

Health for Urban Poor

Madhu Sudan and Arti participated in the half-day workshop on Health for Urban Poor on September, 22, 2011, held at the Collectorate, Jaipur, which was organised by Bhoruka Charitable Trust.

Future Project

Indian Consumers in the New Age: A Forward Looking
Agenda to Address the Concerns of the Common Man
(ConsumersUp) in partnership with Department of
Consumers Affairs, Government of India.