

# RENEWABLE ENERGY INFORMATION NETWORK (REIN)

**1. Name of organization: Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES)**

**2. Type of organization: NGO (National)**

**3. Area of interest:**

## Objectives

- i) An effective education model for the target group including skill training in technology and business, that would bring the world of education closer to the world of work.
- ii) Gender empowerment of adolescents and youth, the girls in particular, to establish gender equity and to enable them realize their potential economically and socially.
- iii) Adaptation of profitable appropriate technologies to be commercialized at the level of the rural youth creating self-employment and employment for them.
- iv) Creating a wider impact of the project through dissemination, and replications,

**4. Address and contact person:**

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## 5. THE OVERVIEW OF CMES

### BRIEF HISTORY

Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) was established in 1978 with an aim to take science and technology to the grass root people through appropriate mass education. Even before its establishment as a NGO, we were pursuing its aims through our popular science monthly 'Biggan Samoeeki' starter in 1960, along with its associated science clubs and young enthusiasts throughout the country. CMES soon focused its attention on the disadvantaged rural adolescents and youth – arranging an appropriate education for those of them who are never enrolled or drop out from schools. The result was the Basic School System (BSS) starting in 1981 which evolved over the years to become more appropriate with an integrated approach emphasizing livelihood skills and gender empowerment. The latter aspect was further enhanced by the start of the Adolescent Girls Program in 1991. The combined BSS and AGP has now developed into a replicable model working in 22 different rural areas of the country in 11 districts. Over these developments we have given utmost importance to innovative approaches to education, appropriate technology and empowerment. For this we have developed a strong R&D program not only in developing methods, materials, and products, but also in the commercialization of the technology through the micro enterprises of the rural youth – appropriately trained and empowered for this. CMES thus concentrated on bringing the world of education closer to the world of work.

### THE VISION AND MISSION OF CMES

#### The Vision

- i. All adolescents and young people can pursue an education, effective in their life and livelihood, irrespective of their gender, economic situation of the family, or any other special situation. In case some of them have to discontinue in the formal system for some reason, they can always avail an alternative opportunity for a meaningful continuation.

- ii. At the same time, all adolescents and young people, irrespective of their gender, and of any disadvantage they might suffer from, should be empowered to assert their rights and avail equal opportunities for pursuing a decent quality of life.
- iii. Appropriate existing and emerging technologies can be adapted by the rural young people, to practice at the market level for the betterment of their life and livelihood.

### **The Mission**

- i. To provide alternative and diverse options to young people so that they can make best for themselves according to their circumstances, aptitude and wishes. The options should come in terms of education, skill training, livelihood opportunities etc. These should be use-friendly, participatory effective and sustainable for all concerned.
- ii. To connect the disadvantaged young people with the wider market where they can profitably operate, and also to connect them with the appropriate emerging technologies to their benefit.
- iii. To empower the young people to assert their rights, to develop their personalities and self esteem as useful and contributing citizens of the country; with especial attention to gender equity and gender empowerment of adolescent girls and young women.

### **6. Level of Involvement in Renewable Energy (RE) Technology:**

- RE Implementation
- RET Research & Development

### **7. Involvement of Renewable Energy Technology**

- Solar PV

### **8. Brief Status report about Renewable Energy (RE) installations Development Partner: IDCOL**

**Duration:** On-going program from 2003

**Total Beneficiaries:** 1542 nos.

#### **Objectives:**

- To electrify the remote rural homes and work places through the installation of solar home systems, providing immediate electricity for basic needs, where grid electricity is not available.
- Improving the quality of life and income generation of the rural families.
- Making Solar PV systems affordable to the average rural families through long term microcredit and free customer services during the recovery period.

#### **Achievement:**

- CMES is fabricating the electronic accessories (the balance of system) which have been certified by BUET Certification Authority. This helps to keep the costs of the system down and to make the repairs and maintenance low cost and flexible.