

# Joining hands for a better world: A TERI – JUSCO Initiative

## Executive summary

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Energy efficiency means ‘using less energy for the same type of services’. The world currently relies on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas for energy. Fossil fuels are non-renewable and finite resources that will eventually dwindle. The increase in demand for energy in response to industrialization, urbanization, and societal affluence has led to considerable fossil fuels burning, which in turn has an adverse impact on the environment. Thus, it is of paramount importance that energy is conserved and efficiently used. It has been estimated that nearly 25,000 MW can be saved by implementing end-use energy efficiency and demand side management measures throughout India. It is also important to use energy efficiently and conserve it due to the fact that one unit of energy saved at the consumption level reduces the need for power generation by three times.

Students are not just the future citizens of the country but will also be the future decision-makers who will have to bear the brunt of the unplanned consumption of energy sources. However, they are the change agent with new ideas and they can play a crucial role in bringing about a positive change in the society in terms of sustainable development. Sustainable development is the benchmark of growth of a nation. This can be achieved by amalgamating the ideas of industries like Jamshedpur Utilities and Services Company Limited (JUSCO) and academic institutions like schools. Thus, to optimally tap their constructive and creative energies, TERI in association with JUSCO implemented the project ‘Joining Hands for a Better World’ in Jamshedpur and Adityapur to help students look towards making the school premises energy-efficient and to create an informed group of citizens by encouraging the students to actively participate in efforts to conserve energy. The project resulted in capacity building of the students and thereby reaching out to the entire school and other target groups through a multiplier effect.

‘Energy’ is part of the curriculum in a number of subjects such as science, social science, mathematics, and language. The project aims at making learning this topic more interesting through non-formal modes such as audit, competitions, workshops, etc. This helped to enhance their learning.

The project was implemented in 8 schools in Jamshedpur and 2 schools in Adityapur to spread the awareness among students about energy efficiency.

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Build consciousness of students and teachers on eco-friendly technologies;
- Bring about change in attitude and practices regarding energy and natural resource management;
- Create an informed group of citizens to ensure project sustainability.