

SOLAR LANTERNS PROMOTES INCOME GENERATION FOR POOR HAWKERS-INDIAN CASE-BY AIWC

Elliot Beach in Chennai.-Madras The "Other" beach of the city– as against Marina, to the north is becoming increasingly popular as the evening destination of the people, especially from the nearby residential areas, of late, a number of small stall have sprung up, which function in the evenings, from about 6 pm to 10 pm selling small eats- chilly cutlets, wafers, etc, and some offering amusements like shoot the balloon, darts etc. In the beginning about 20 of these stalls used solar lanterns.

Chandran and his wife– residents of a nearby fishing village, run a Vegetable cutlet stall. They have two lights which they take from a house from nearby. An enterprising person there had purchased about 24 Solar lamps, takes an advance of Rs. 100/- per light and Rs. 10/- per light per day after 10 pm they return the lights to the owner who gets them charged for the next day, keeps them ready for use in the evening.

Chandran and his wife make about Rs.50 to Rs.75 on week days and Rs.100 to Rs.150 on week end evenings. They have no problem in paying the one time deposit of Rs. 100/- and the daily charge of Rs.10/-per light. They say the solar lamps give light for a little more than 4 hours and functions well, which is enough for them. They do not have to buy Kerosene for the petromax lights they were using earlier, and they don't have to buy those lights or spend a lot of time cleaning them. Their hands also used to smell of kerosene, which was not relished by the customers! And the solar lights are not "hot" to be near. They are very happy with the solar lights. It not only avoids kerosene pollution in the beach but also proves profitable to the enterprising persons who rent them out on a daily basis. Now, 3 years later there are hundreds of Solar Lantern being used along the beach and it is a beautiful sight to see in the evenings.