

Institutional Distinctiveness

1. RENEWABLE ENERGY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although there has been much progress in the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and expanding energy access over the past decade, the world is not on track to meet international climate goals established under the Paris Agreement, or international goals for sustainable development. We are facing a climate crisis: the IPCC 2018 Special Report on 1.5°C found that roughly a decade remains to keep global warming below this level and avoid the worst effects of climate change. Most countries are still subsidising the consumption of fossil fuels, and fossil fuel consumption subsidies increased 11% in 2017. Urgent action is needed now to change our energy systems. Moreover, we will never meet the objectives under UN Sustainable Development Goal 7, for increasing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy access if we continue our current energy path. Renewable energy is central to achieving these international goals.

Solar energy is one such renewable source of energy that can be utilized in greater proportion in near future to improve the scenario. In the seminar titled **“Renewable Energy: Challenges and opportunities”** held in our college on 17.12.2018, two distinguished resource persons Dr. Subhadeep Bhattacharya and Dr. Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay from Institute of Rural Technology have delivered their lecture on the advantages of using renewable sources of energy. According to them installation and use of solar energy can help in—

- Combating climate change. The burning of fossil fuels for energy results in a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Most sources of renewable energy result in little to no emissions, even when considering the full life cycle of the technologies.
- Reducing air pollution **and** improving public health by decreasing pollution and emissions.
- Renewable can offer lower costs **and** stable energy prices.
- There are also opportunities for the development of local industry, and increased job.

The seminar proves to be a successful endeavour in making the young students aware about the importance of reusable energy in the crisis ridden present day scenario. It also makes us understand that in the near future if we fail to replace conventional sources of energy by renewable sources, then the end of this planet is obvious.