



# Shivabasamma's Story

## Creating an Integrated Energy Centre

Shivabasamma lives in an informal urban settlement with her family in Vasant Nagar, Bangalore. They migrated to the city with the hope of a better life and stable employment. Shivabasamma started running a small shop in her community that sells snacks, tea/coffee, candles, soap, and other basic items, however she was struggling to make ends meet with the small number of sales she was making. S3IDF, in partnership with Selco Foundation, provided Shivabasamma with the business training and technology she needed to operate an integrated energy centre (IEC). IECs are renewable energy-powered businesses that provide a range of basic services and activities to local communities. Her shop is now equipped with solar panels that charge batteries to power lighting, filling a clear market gap by providing access to reliable energy. Every evening people from the community rent charged batteries and the next morning they return them so that Shivabasamma can recharge them for the next night.

Residents are pleased with the lighting's low cost and high efficiency – each battery has enough power to light community residents' tents through the night, enabling children to study in the evenings and do better in school and making it possible for women to cook and clean without being bothered by rodents.

Shivabasamma's income and reputation in the community have risen as a result of her IEC. S3IDF and Selco Foundation are now working to transition Shivabasamma from an operator into an entrepreneur (someone who owns the equipment rather than simply operates it) and are helping to arrange financing so that she can purchase the equipment, allowing her more opportunities to expand the services she offers and enabling her to increase her assets through ownership.

