

## A CRITICAL STUDY OF COMMUNITY GOBAR GAS PLANT, METHAN

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### INTRODUCTION

Gobar gas seems to be the ultimate answer to the energy crisis at present. It carries simple technology; involves less cost and requires such a raw material that is constantly available in rural areas. Gobar gas has many advantages including it is a unpolluted source of energy.

At Methan village of Patan district in Gujarat State, there is a unique community gobar gas plant working since 1987, run by a co-operative society of bio-gas users. The present investigation was an attempt to acquire reflections of members as well as executive body towards community gobar gas plant with the following specific objectives:

1 To know the attitude of the user members towards community gobar gas plant.

2 To study the constraints expressed by the users members in adoption of community gobar gas plant.

3 To know the suggestions of the user members to overcome the constraints.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Methan village of Siddhpur Taluka of Patan district. The Methan village was selected purposively as there is a unique community gobar gas plant working since 1987, run by a co-operative society of bio-gas users. At present there are 155 user members of the society. Out of these, more than half i.e. 80 user members were randomly selected for the study. The data were collected with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The data were analyses in the light of the objectives for meaningful interpretation.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their attitude towards community gobar gas plant (N=80)**

Sr. No.	Level of Attitude	Number	Per cent
1.	Highly favorable (above 54 score)	9	11.25
2.	Favorable (46 to 54 score)	65	81.25
3.	Unfavorable (below 46 score)	6	7.50

Mean = 50.4000

SD = 3.8140

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**Table 2: Constraints faced by the member respondents**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Constraint</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
1	Society fails to take strict action against the defaulters	212	I
2	One has to give priority for cooking as there is fixed time for release of gas	150	II
3	Seasonal variation in gas production	149	III
4	Complains are not attended timely for repair of burner and leakage of gas	144	IV
5	Cooking is delayed due to low pressure of gas	142	V
6	Lack of technical staff for maintenance and repair of plant	137	VI
7	Time of gas release is not suitable	135	VII
8	Gas supply is inadequate and irregular	131	VIII
9	Lack of guidance and services from the inspiring institutions after establishment of plant	121	IX
10	Looking to the non working and sick plant, there is a doubt about the running of plant	110	X

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMMUNITY GOBAR GAS PLANT**

The data presented in Table 1 indicate that a majority of the user members (81.25 per cent) possessed favorable attitude towards community gobar gas plant. There were 11.25 per cent and 7.50 per cent of the members who possessed highly favorable and unfavorable attitude, respectively. The probable reason for

favorable attitude may be due to cheap and easy availability of gas from the society.

**CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS**

It can be observed from the Table 2 that the foremost constraint realized by the members is that the society fails to take strict action against the defaulters. Another important constraint is fixed time for release of gas, and as such, one has

**Table 3: Suggestions of the member respondents to overcome the constraints**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	Every members should pay gas consumption bill timely	80	I
2	Every member should use the gas carefully and economically	80	I
3	Society should take strict actions against defaulters	80	I
4	Members should take care to elect enthusiastic and interested members in the executive body	77	II
5	Cattle owners should give cow dung for the plant	72	III
6	Need to appoint technical staff to look after the plant	46	IV

to give top priority for cooking. 'Seasonal variation in gas production', 'not to pay attention to complains in time' and 'low pressure of gas' were the other constraints experienced by the members.

***SUGGESTIONS OF THE MEMBERS TO OVERCOME THE CONSTRAINTS***

The members were asked to give their constructive suggestions for better running of the community gobar gas plant. The data in Table 3 revealed that the three suggestions namely 'every member should pay the consumption bill timely'; 'every member should use the gas carefully and economically' and 'society should take strict action against defaulters' were the most important suggestions made by all the respondents. Most of the respondents also suggested taking care to elect enthusiastic and interested members in executive body.

***CONCLUSION***

Based on the findings, it may be concluded that majority of the member possessed favorable attitude towards the community gobar gas plant. As regards the constraints, the members feel that society fails to take strict action against defaulters. While giving suggestions, all of them agreed to the fact that 'every member should pay the consumption bill timely'; 'every member should use the gas carefully and economically' and 'society should take strict action against defaulters'. Thus, for better running of the plant there is a need to have still better cooperation and coordination among the members of the society.

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