Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that encompasses research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

FOCUS LABS

CIP at its core consists of issue-based labs that maintain focus on crucial concerns cutting across geographic regions.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

FOCUS LABS
CIP at its core consists of issue based labs that maintain focus on crucial concerns cutting across geographic regions.

COMMUNITY LABS
Contextual labs that focus on development solutions specific to that geographic region.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

FOCUS LABS
CIP at its core consists of issue based labs that maintain focus on crucial concerns cutting across geographic regions.

COMMUNITY LABS
Contextual labs that focus on development solutions specific to that geographic region.

ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT
Resources that are common to all the labs
Diverse terrains, issues and socio-economic conditions in India push for innovation at different levels. Multiple challenges are overcome by solutions of a technical, financial, systemic or service oriented nature. Within the examples of areas of work shown above, there are implemented projects, parts of which are replicable for other issues in different geographies. To determine type of solution and improve efficiency and quality of the solution CIP is based on the idea that social development needs better transfer of processes and models.

Diagram shown above is purely representative of the concept, demonstrating how a solution in Africa has been developed by using a financial solution for housing in North-East India and a product solution for Health in South India.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

Click on text to learn more
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

RURAL LAB

Issues specific to energy for agriculture, productive utilisations and clean cooking are addressed through an integrated, bottom-up approach in rural settlements.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

URBAN LAB

Urban Lab explores inter-linked areas of energy access, water, and built-environment in urban contexts through an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

TRIBAL LAB

The unique needs of remote tribal communities revolve around the lack of basic energy access for health, education and livelihoods.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

EDUCATION LAB

By combining energy interventions with appropriate content and delivery in rural schools, colleges and vocational institutes, we seek to improve learning around sustainability, energy and innovation.

LIVELIHOOD LAB

Building appropriate ecosystem design to improve under-served livelihoods with efforts on value addition, market linkage, energy efficiency and entrepreneurship.

VULNERABILITY LAB

Marginalized communities ridden with extreme insecurity and social and financial exclusion, require alternative approaches to bring about long term, inclusive impact.
Center for Innovation for the Poor

Center for Innovation for the Poor is a think-tank that currently encompasses six research and development Labs working on sustainable solutions for under-served communities. Context driven solutions that include social, cultural, financial and environmental aspects are developed with focus on local empowerment, replication and ethical scaling. Thought processes, learnings and methodologies that drive the innovation are documented and cross-referenced for projects across the labs.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN
Implementation of innovative solutions involves modification and customization to improve technology, design and efficiency.

POLICY
By representing the practitioner’s perspective, we facilitate better policies and interventions for decentralized energy and social entrepreneurship.

INCUBATION
Incubation of micro, small and medium sized social entrepreneurs through transfer of innovative mechanisms in technology, finance, skills and ecosystem development.
Holistic innovation is the key to solving developmental issues. CIP believes that holistic innovation can be achieved by identifying and bridging missing links. Initiating and sustaining a solution can be considered as connecting three critical gaps in the ecosystem: social, financial and technical. Every case studied under CIP will emphasize on:
- which link it has strengthened
- why was that link worked on and
- how the link was bridged (process)

Anyone struggling with a linkage, irrespective of the context or issue can use/learn from the above data.

EXAMPLES

Siddis are a remote tribe (of African origin) settled in South India. While providing energy access to the siddis - awareness, technology, affordability, bankability - all were present but credit-worthiness was the missing link that was bridged.

For a vulnerable nomadic community of drum makers, multiple issues pushed for innovation on all parts - community engagements, ownership models (no financing available), flexibility of product and market linkages. Hence all three linkages were strengthened.

Bhagini Nivedita Gramin Vigyan, an NGO in Maharashtra working on livelihoods could easily get access to finance and technology for powered sewing machines, however the critical gap linked here was of awareness and training.
The fundamentals of CIP are to redefine the way in which processes, models and concepts are analyzed, written and implemented - leading to more holistic replications across the world. Processes, models and concept are inter-changeable depending on the context and at what point in the chain they are interjected. CIP shall be responsible for creating processes, models or concepts that can be replicated across segments, cultures and geographies. Most of the time, they need not be imitated in the exact form.

For example, a process might have seven steps. Out of the seven steps, 5 or 6 of them are fundamental ones that will have to be followed irrespective of the site or culture, for example need assessment or problem defining steps. Out of the next four, two may have to changed according to the cash flow of the segment and two may have to modified because of political or market conditions.

Similar thought process can or shall be applied while replicating a business model or a concept. The variable part of the whole chain will depend on factors like end-usage pattern, fuel availability, human resource skill sets etc. Any one part of the model can also be applicable while implementing other sustainable solutions.

The strength of CIP is not only to implement processes or models but also to document it in a way that brings about the analogies that can help an individual, organization or an enterprise to replicate/copy it in any other part of the world that wants to bring in sustainable solutions to energy poor populations.
The fundamentals of CIP are to redefine the way in which processes, models, and concepts are analyzed, written, and implemented - leading to more holistic replications across the world. Processes, models, and concepts are inter-changeable depending on the context and at what point in the chain they are interjected.

CIP shall be responsible for creating processes, models, or concepts that can be replicated across segments, cultures, and geographies. Most of the time, they need not be imitated in the exact form.

For example, a process might have seven steps. Out of the seven steps, 5 or 6 of them are fundamental ones that will have to be followed irrespective of the site or culture, for example, need assessment or problem defining steps. Out of the next four, two may have to change according to the cash flow of the segment and two may have to modified because of political or market conditions.

Similar thought process can or shall be applied while replicating a business model or a concept. The variable part of the whole chain will depend on factors like end-use pattern, fuel availability, human resource skill sets etc. Any one part of the model can also be applicable while implementing other sustainable solutions.

The strength of CIP is not only to implement processes or models but also to document it in a way that brings about the analogies that can help an individual, organization or an enterprise to replicate/copy it in any other part of the world that wants to bring in sustainable solutions to energy poor populations.

Example of a Process Replication

Each of these steps were conducted in a certain way to implement and sustain integrated energy centers in the urban Indian slum context.

The entire process can be replicated to introduce clean drinking water shops in Cambodia.

Steps 2, 3, 4, 6 can be replicated while the others will differ as per community dynamics and local context in Cambodia.

One part of the process replicated in tribal East-African belts. (Even a single part of the process can be applicable to other issues in different contexts.)
The fundamentals of CIP are to redefine the way in which processes, models and concepts are analyzed, written and implemented - leading to more holistic replications across the world. Processes, models and concept are inter-changeable depending on the context and at what point in the chain they are interjected. CIP shall be responsible for creating processes, models or concepts that can be replicated across segments, cultures and geographies. Most of the time, they need not be imitated in the exact form.

For example, a process might have seven steps. Out of the seven steps, 5 or 6 of them are fundamental ones that will have to be followed irrespective of the site or culture, for example need assessment or problem defining steps. Out of the next four, two may have to changed according to the cash flow of the segment and two may have to modified because of political or market conditions.

Similar thought process can or shall be applied while replicating a business model or a concept. The variable part of the whole chain will depend on factors like end-usage pattern, fuel availability, human resource skill sets etc. Any one part of the model can also be applicable while implementing other sustainable solutions.

The strength of CIP is not only to implement processes or models but also to document it in a way that brings about the analogies that can help an individual, organization or an enterprise to replicate/copy it in any other part of the world that wants to bring in sustainable solutions to energy poor populations.