



Only 84% rural households have electricity in four States

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Study results are in variance with government data

- Only 84% of rural households have electricity connection in the four States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan, a comprehensive private sector survey of 10,000 households has found.
- This is in contrast to the government's Saubhagya Scheme data, which shows that 100% household electrification has been achieved in U.P., Bihar and Odisha; and 99.9% in Rajasthan.
- According to the data in the survey report by SmartPower, the 84% figure for households with electricity connections could actually be even lower.
- The report said that 90% of the households surveyed had an electric connection or "electric pole within 50 m distance".
- Within this figure, 84% of the households were the ones with an actual electricity connection.
- The report also found that only 75% of all households used electricity from the grid, suggesting that there were several households that relied on off-grid sources of electricity despite having a connection.
- "Despite the increasing footprint of grid-electricity, this study finds that several non-grid sources are in use; these include, primarily, solar home systems, followed by rechargeable batteries, mini-grid electricity, and diesel generators," the report said.
- Other reasons for choosing off-grid sources included unreliable supply of electricity, inadequate supply of electricity and lack of residence proof.

The Hindu