

June 2011: First Solar Cooking Training on World Environment Day - Janak McGilligan reports that Sanawdiya, a village located at Historic Devguradiya Temple – Kampil Road in Indore district, is seriously affected by fumes rising daily from burning plastic in toxic waste dumps from the city in trenching grounds on the one side and a quarry on the other side. On World Environment Day June 4 and 5, 2011 veteran social worker Dr. (Mrs) Janak Palta McGilligan, a member of the Vigilance and monitoring committee of Indore organized a program to combat this smoke. During the opening of the programme local village youth Gaurav Rawaliya the President of Prithvi Yuva Mandal said that “this theme could not have a better venue than Giridarshan, which means ‘Mountain View’, is the dwelling of Janak Palta McGilligan and where a two KW hybrid /wind and Solar Power Station was installed and established by the pioneer of Solar Technologies in central India, committed environmentalist and Janak’s late husband, Sir James (Jimmy) McGilligan O.B. E., in collaboration with RSIS and Daly college in December 2010. This is a learning centre with no entry or training fees. The main highlight of this program was the demonstration of Solar Cooking on an SK 14 parabolic solar cooker between 9.30 am and 4 p.m by Janak McGilligan, Mrs Nanda Chouhan and Mr Rajendera Chouhan. They cooking food and provided detailed information about the cost, availability and benefits of using solar cooking. They interacted with villagers from Sanawadiya as well as many farmers from neighboring villages Pivdai and Balwada and from Indore, Environment Activists Mr Dinesh Kothari President of SNEHA, the Chief Guest. Mr Rahul Hasija from Swaraj University Udaipur Rajathan, Dr. Pradip Apte, a senior pathologist, Mrs Archana Apte Managing Director, Genomatrix India were also honored guests who spoke on the need to change lifestyles to save India’s ecosystems by using Solar cooking and biogas, to improve the quality of life and the health. Mrs Raju Bai, Sarpanch(elected head of the village), gave special vote of thanks and appreciated “the exemplary role of Janak Palta McGilligan who lost her husband in a tragic accident only one month earlier. Janak and Jimmy had decided to sacrifice the comforts of a city and move into this village that lacks even the basic amenities. We are fortunate that we have such dedicated person committed to serving the community.” The entire programme was conducted without any financial help from any NGO or government and it was free of cost.