

# THE GLOBAL HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION

## TRAVELING AND PROVIDING CLEAN ENERGY IN INDIA

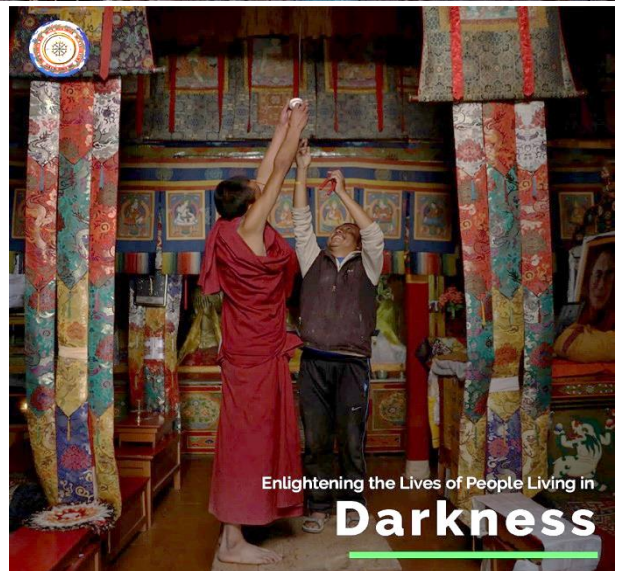
The [Global Himalayan Expedition \(GHE\)](#) was founded in 2013 by the electrical engineer Paras Loomba in Ladakh (Indian Himalayas) to expand access to electricity for the remote Himalayan communities by promoting a new model of tourism.

The Indian Himalayas area is recognized for its great historical and cultural heritage and as destination for tourists from all over the world. Despite having valuable resources in the form of cultural authenticity and natural wonders, local communities face nonetheless heavy migration due to the lack of employment and access to services and facilities. In particular, local communities are largely dependent on kerosene lamps for lighting, which emit toxic fumes and cause health problems. This lack of access to reliable light and basic power plants further hinders economic development in these remote regions.

The *Global Himalayan Expedition* is moved by the consideration that *no access to energy is the primary reason of poverty* and offers tourists the opportunity to travel to the most remote sites of the Himalayas, while having a tangible, positive impact on the lives of local communities through expanded access to electricity. The expeditions organized by GHE involving tourists from all over the world, foresee that part of their travel time is dedicated to installing solar panels, organizing systems of micro electricity grids, training children in the use of new communication tools, supporting the inhabitants in organizing new accommodation arrangements. The objective of the expeditions is to implement sustainable and scalable solutions leading to an overall development of the community while empowering the local village population.

Starting activities in 2013, the *Global Himalayan Expedition* has conducted 37 expeditions, taking in this area groups of 15-20 tourists from around the world. [The expeditions have achieved as results](#) 95 villages electrified, 480 solar grids installed and 1120 tons carbon offset, impacting the living conditions of 36.000 habitants.

Electricity also allows communities to receive tourists, creating economic, social and cultural benefits which limits the rural exodus of isolated villages. With the installation of tourist accommodations, jobs were created in the villages and women entrepreneurs have reinforced their tourism-related craft activities.



By allowing visitors to discover these villages, the crafts, culture and heritage are enhanced and preserved, too.

GHE also provide schools in remote villages with digital infrastructures (computers, Wi-Fi servers) to offer children the same opportunities for learning and access to information as others students of the country. Innovation centers have been created, enabling students to access resources and teaching materials.

The document [published on the FAO website](#) contains a comprehensive and detailed presentation of the activities carried out by the *Global Himalayan Expedition* and the technologies and processes adopted to install energy micro grids in the communities.

The article published by the [World Economic Forum](#) underlines that the *Global Himalayan Expedition* are moving villages away from kerosene to the technology of the fourth industrial revolution, using decentralized microgrids to power up houses with the newest LED lighting technology. The villagers are able to generate electricity with a small solar panel and battery that, compared to cities, makes the villages technologically more advanced.

This extraordinary social enterprise has managed to involve travelers and personalities from all over the world and some of these travelers have chosen to become ambassadors of Global Himalayan Expedition. The initiative has also established partnerships with several global enterprises which send their employees to serve as part of leadership expeditions and extend electricity to the area's villages.

The work of the *Global Himalayan Expedition* has been [recognized by Awards](#) of several leading international organizations for its impact on the travel industry and on the communities. GHE's work of leveraging tourism as a force for development [has received worldwide recognition](#) by articles and videos published in magazines, specialized reviews, tourism organizations and international institutions.

## To know more

[Global Himalayan Expedition website](#)

[GHE publications press coverage](#)

[GHE recognitions and Awards](#)

[GHE in Facebook](#)

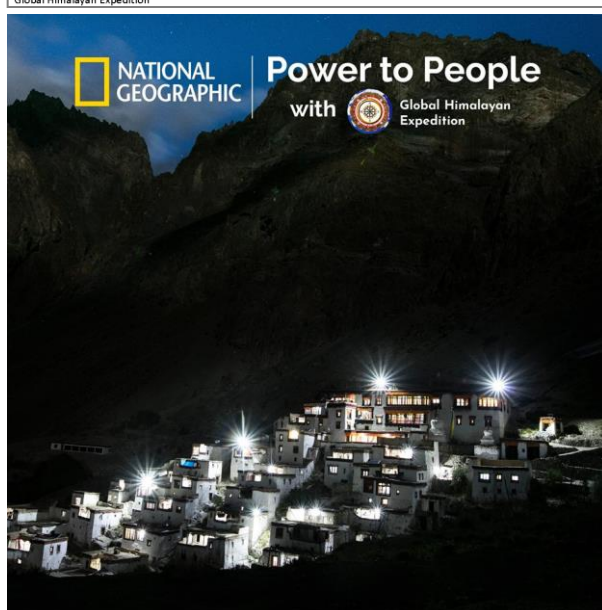
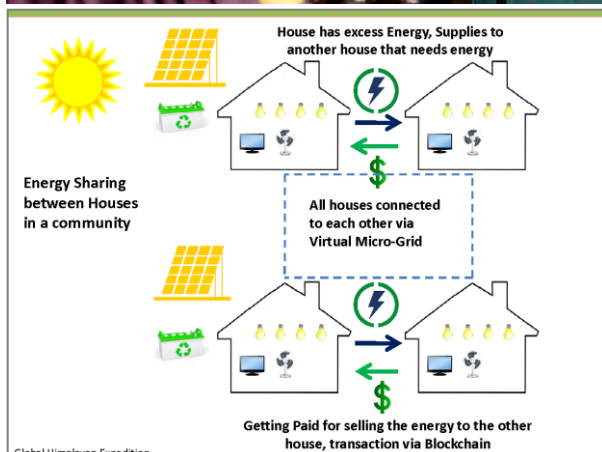
[GHE in FAO website](#)

[GHE in tourism4sdgs.org](#)

[GHE in World Economic Forum website](#)

[GHE in Tourism for Development UNWTO Report](#)

[GHE in icimod.org website](#)



[GHE in voyage.tv5monde.com](http://GHE.in.voyage.tv5monde.com)

[GHE in youtube.com](http://GHE.in.youtube.com)



# HIMALAYAN IMPACT EXPEDITION

**13-23 September 2019**

Bring a remarkable change to the lives of the villagers by enlightening their lives through solar energy.

