

Powering Healthcare

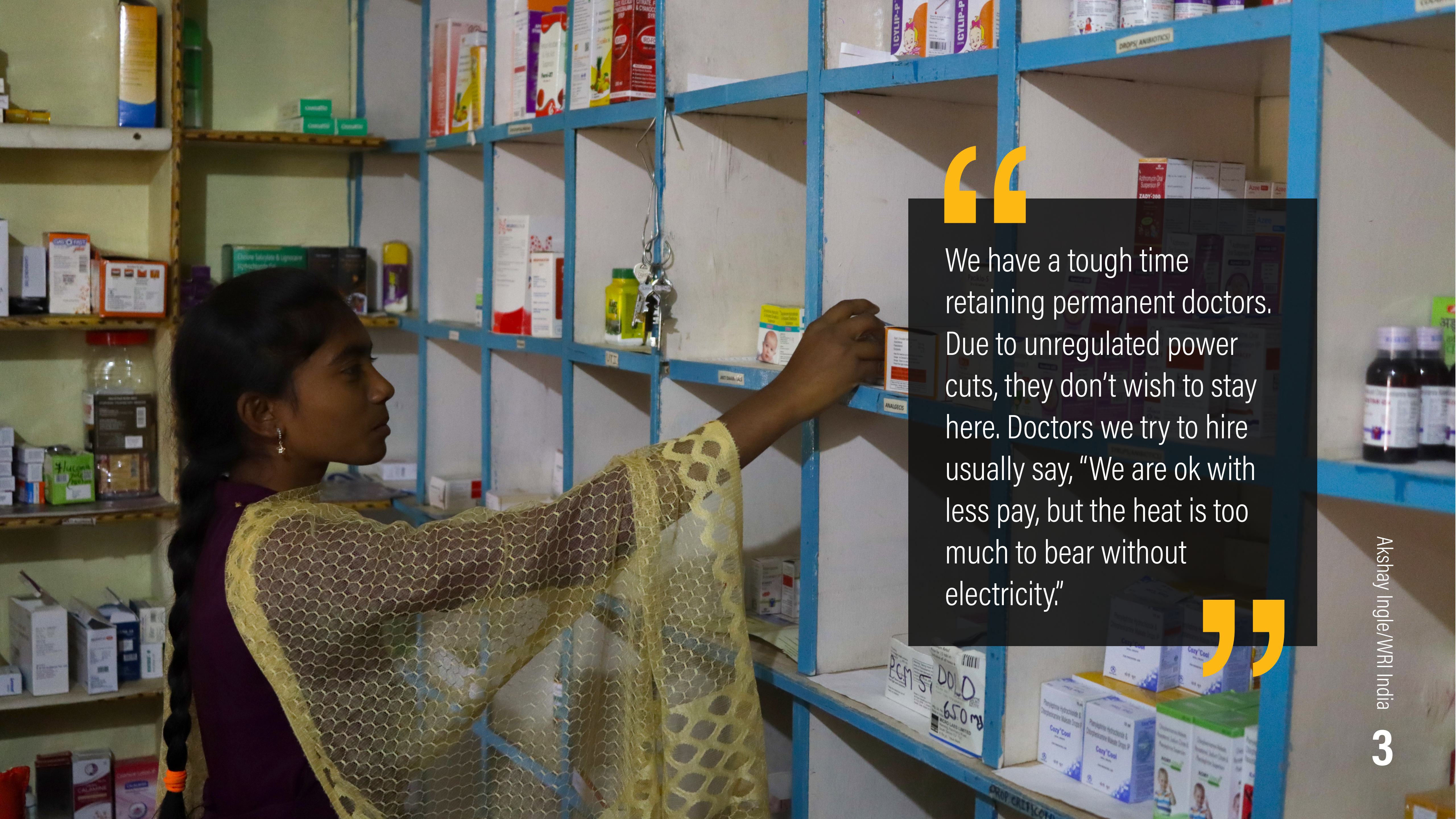
Matha Vihar is a 15-bedded hospital located in a remote part of eastern part of Maharashtra's Shenggaon region. The hospital began as a dispensary in 2002 and now serves about 50 villages in its vicinity. Matha Vihar also provides health awareness and education support for young girls, doubling up as a social change enabler in the region. But it faces about six hours of power cuts every day, which stymie the hospital's efforts to drive this change and to provide timely, quality healthcare. We spoke to Sister Joicy to discuss more on #PoweringHealthcare



Matha Vihar Nursing home, Shenggaon

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The hospital faces problems beyond unreliable power that also affect its working, like poor mobile connectivity. Staff often find it hard to assist technicians from electricity distribution company while navigating to reach the hospital's location. There are times when technical support reaches in the late evenings even while covering short 12-kilometre distances.



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We have a tough time retaining permanent doctors. Due to unregulated power cuts, they don't wish to stay here. Doctors we try to hire usually say, "We are ok with less pay, but the heat is too much to bear without electricity."


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With many cement factories in our neighbourhood, we receive several patients with breathing difficulties due to the dust and air pollution. We have oxygen cylinders and nebulizers, but we cannot treat patients because of power cuts and voltage fluctuations. Most times, we were forced to refer patients to other facilities.

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To address the power cuts, Matha Vihar recently installed a Solar PV System with a peak capacity of 10 kilowatts (kWp) with support from WRI India in collaboration with HSBC India and Catholic Health Association of India. Sister Joicy, the hospital's administrator says the difference in providing timely, quality care, is huge.

Now with reliable power from the Solar PV System and battery backup, this situation is beginning to change. Now, Matha Vihar has been admitting patients at nights as well, something, they could not do earlier.

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Previously, we had a smaller (solar) plant. But now we have a bigger plant with more panels, and it comes with battery backup and Remote Monitoring System (RMS). We can even monitor the performance of the solar panels on our phones now, with the RMS facility.

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Now with reliable power, we are able to treat patients better. We can give them red-light therapy treatment for back pain. We can perform the doppler testing for pregnant women; we are able to provide nebulizer and oxygen support as well

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WRI India, partnered with HSBC India and CHAI to implement clean energy solutions for improved health outcomes and to attempt to decarbonize healthcare, while also improving service delivery and reducing emissions in India.

WRI India, HSBC India and CHAI aim to achieve Energy for Equitable Development in India's healthcare sector through this initiative.