

access to electricity “case study”

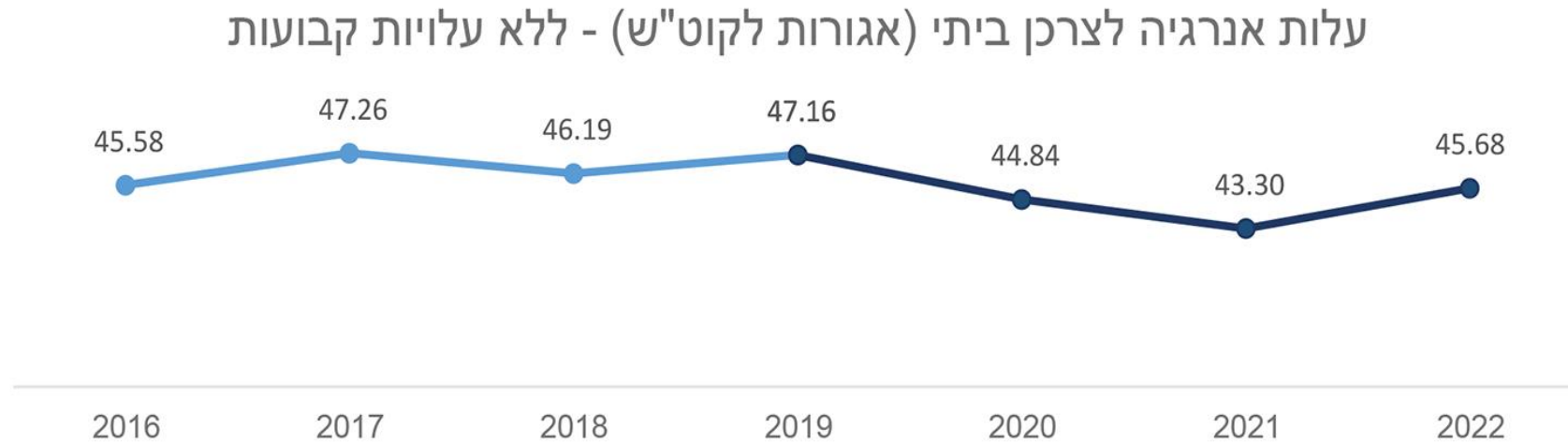
Energetic poverty

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Our goals:

- ▶ examines the contribution of social workers in shaping policy practice processes, and their role in the political construction of social problems.
- ▶ re-constructing social problems: promoting legislative change on behalf of disadvantaged and marginalized communities' access to electricity.

Over the past decade, the price that Israeli citizens have paid for electricity has remained more or less at the same level.



The price of electricity in Israel, largely due to natural gas, is among the lowest in the West; "Much lower, for example, from countries like Britain, or Norway, or Germany."

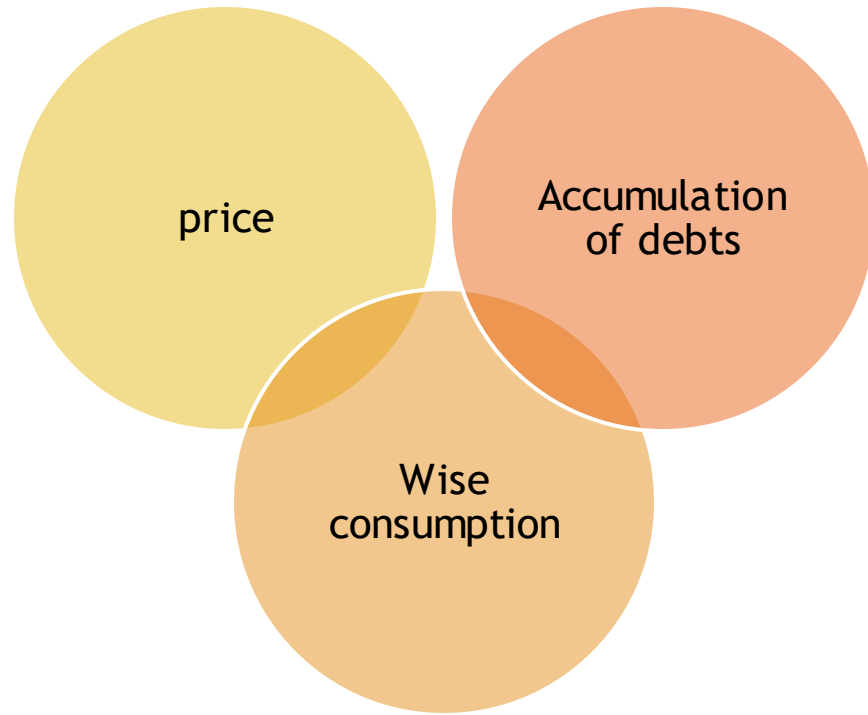
But

Thousands of families often face power outages/shutdown

About 46,000 disconnections a year.

In Haifa 11,000 (2015/6)





Payment for electricity around 20% of household expenses
In poor families with limited income

Poor families with payment difficulties due to lack of income, and The need to prioritize between electricity and food, health, etc.

Families use devices with high energy ratings





What we did ?

Realizing rights and mediation with the electricity company

Civil literacy around proper power consumption

Raising awareness among families, young people and children

Concrete help in subsidizing electricity costs for needy families

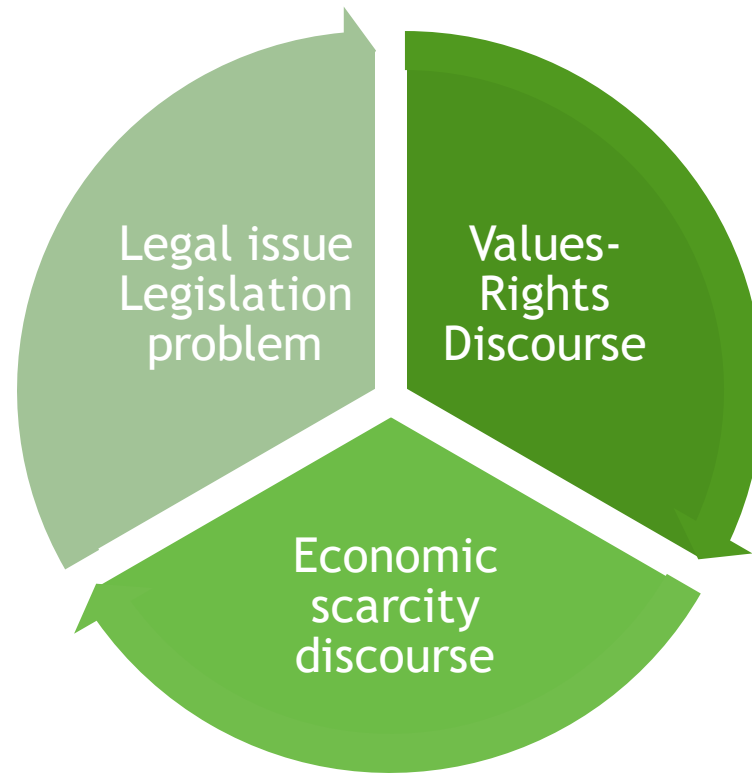
Meetings with the front line -electricity company

Meetings knessent members

Building a coalition with civil society rights organizations, lawyers, and academia

3 discourses was found during the process

lack of clear
legislation



The problem will
remain as long
as there is no
economic
intervention

Fixed supply of
electricity is
perceived as a
fundamental right in
the State of Israel,
and the argument is
that the problem is
with a policy that
has not yet
established this right
in law

Values-Rights Discourse

- "Electricity Forum" from Civil Society

Legislation

- A lawsuit in the High Court of Justice
- last month "Recognition of electricity as a fundamental right"
- Formulation of a law paper - for the legal recognition of electricity as a fundamental right and the prevention of disconnection

Economic scarcity

- Financial help for families: replacing appliances with cost-effective ones, paying off debt