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2024 - 2025



Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi
Environmental Education Centre

38 years of working at grassroots



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Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS)

Jakhan Devi, Mall Road

Almora 263601 (Uttarakhand)

Telephone : 05962-231100

Email: sevanidhi.almora@gmail.com

URL: <http://www.sevanidhi.org>

 USNPSS NGO - Almora



sevanidhi. Almora NGO

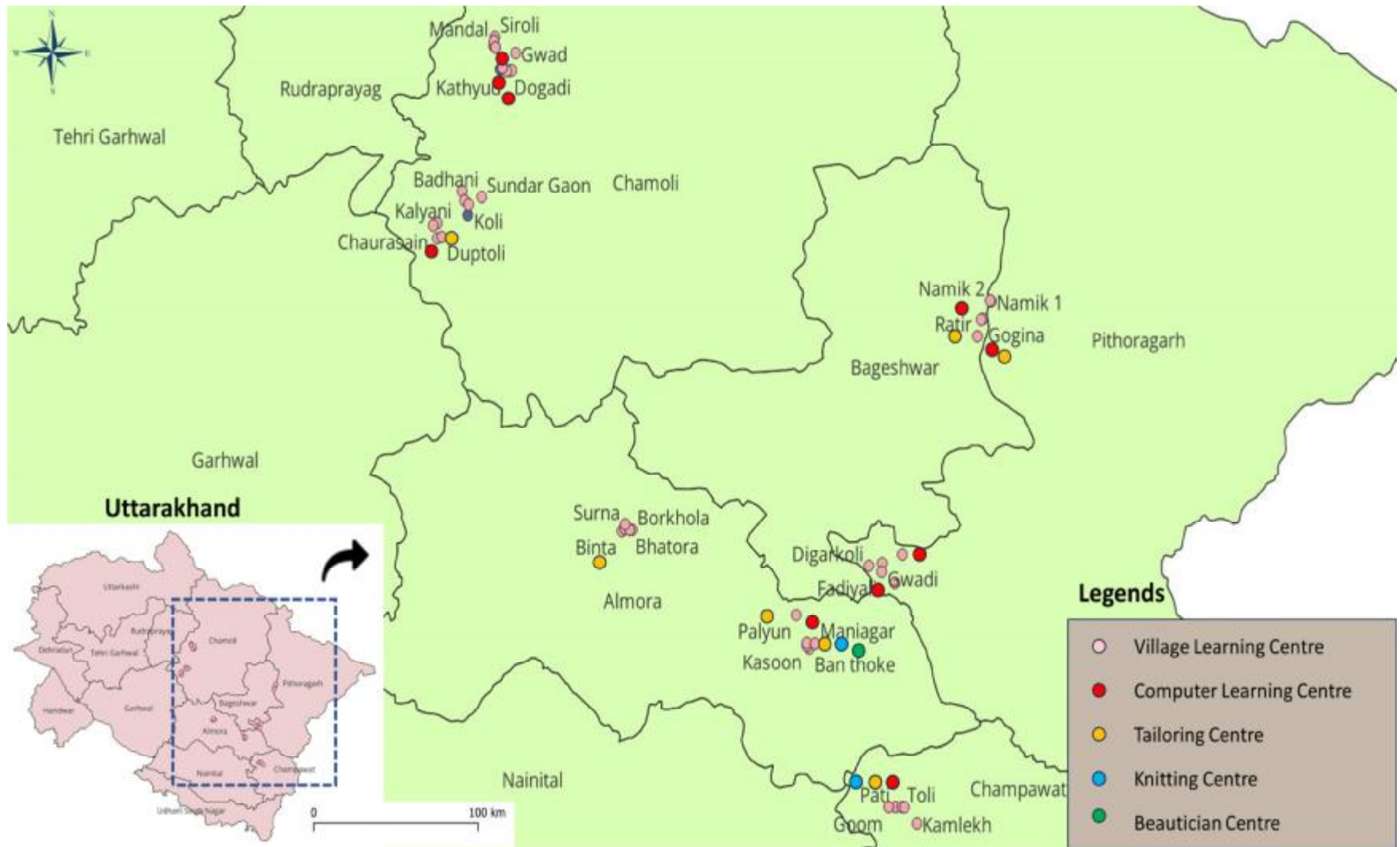


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Location of centers



Introduction

More than three and half decades have passed since the Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS) began to work on education, environment and women's development issues in Uttarakhand. Bringing together the government, voluntary organizations, donors, schools, village communities, researchers and scholars from India and abroad, the organization has pioneered and nurtured programmes on education and environment. Two of its major programmes have been mainstreamed in the government system. The organization is known for developing innovative ideas and translating those into action for individual and community well-being in villages.

With a holistic vision, equitable approach, research and a strong contribution from communities, especially women and youth, USNPSS-a registered organization-continues to build knowledge and skills, create opportunities to develop resilience amid crisis marked by disasters, extreme weather events and socio-economic transition in Uttarakhand. The organization has been engaged with a wide range of activities which include collaborating with community-based organizations and individuals to run village learning centres, computer centres, work with women's groups and adolescent girls, skill development for women and community development. Regular events are organized, both in villages and at Almora, to share experiences, generate knowledge and to provide a platform to the local people to raise their concerns. Documentation and research are carried out to bring to the fore lived realities of people's lives and to share their subjective experiences and views to highlight environmental, climatic and socio-economic changes occurring in the Himalayas in general and Uttarakhand in particular. Programmes that constitute this annual report outline the salient features of the work carried out during the year 2024-2025.

1. Village Learning Centres

The village learning centres (VLC) provide a holistic learning experience to children living in remote rural areas of Uttarakhand, 6-14 years of age. The centres open in the evenings when children are back home from schools. Beyond formal schooling, VLCs offer a variety of educational opportunities to children to explore fields of their interest, develop new skills and deeply understand their surrounding environment.

Each center hosts a library containing about 400 books for children, adolescents, youth and others. Young children look at the pictures while slightly older children learn to read books. An activity book, *khel khel mein*, developed by USNPSS provides a basic framework and a set of structured exercises to develop and reinforce concepts and skills on language, mathematics and environment. Students engage in art, skits, role play, story-telling sessions, charts-poster making activities and more.

Once a week, children learn about their local environment occasionally making visits to nearby water sources, fields and forests. In outdoor settings, shikshikas and children together conduct experiments, collect herbarium specimens, look at the birds and other animals and try to understand connections between human beings and land including forests, farms and water. With the help of the shikshikas, children take measurements in outdoor settings to understand the concepts of length, width, height, weight etc. and develop more activities around the theme of environment.

Children are encouraged to take part in sporting activities. Each center contains badminton sets, a cricket set, football, skipping ropes, carom board, ludo etc. and depending on the season, children play outside or indoors.

VLCs create an educational atmosphere in villages, enabling children, adolescents, women and others in the community to improve their knowledge, develop skills to communicate with others and cooperate with each other. Every month, women's meetings are held in the village, often at the center itself. Women talk about issues relevant to their needs, discuss problems and find solutions by taking collective action. Meetings of adolescent girls are also held.

During the year, the numbers of VLC's were reduced from 44 in 7 clusters in 5 districts at the beginning of the year, to 22 centres. This was done due to the constraints of financial support available.



1



2



3



4

Figure 1. Village learning center at Kethi village, district Bageswar.

Figure 2. Village learning center at Surna, district Almora.

Figure 3. Children's outdoor activity in the centres, Malai village, district Chamoli.

Figure 4. Children's creations at Jakh village, district Chamoli.

Table 1. Number of children in VLCs.

Sl	Village cluster	Center	Total children		SC		ST		OBC	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	Maniagar	Maniagar	10	12	10	12	-	-	-	-
2		Mouni	4	14	2	5	-	-	-	-
3	Gopeswar	Bamiyala	5	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
4		Gwad	7	14	2	2	-	-	-	-
5		Siroli	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
6		Dogari	10	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Pati	Raulamel	14	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
8		Pati	5	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
9		Goom	10	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
10		Kamlekh	6	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Badhani	Jakh	12	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
12		Koli	15	10	1	3	-	-	-	-
13		Malae	12	7	0	3	-	-	-	-
14		Dubtoli	17	9	17	9	-	-	-	-
15	Gogina	Malkha-dugarcha	10	14	-	-	-	-	5	6
16		Gogina	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
17		Kethi	6	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
18		Namik	17	14	11	11	3	2	2	2
19	Binta	Hinari	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
20		Matela	7	9	7	9	-	-	-	-
21		Surna	9	15	1	2				
22		Borkhola	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total			197	245	51	56	3	2	7	8

Displaying children's creative art in the center is an integral part of the programme. Children express their thoughts and skills through drawings, paintings, songs, poems and stories. The walls of centres are decorated with individual work as well as collective efforts such as posters and charts of the local flora and fauna are put up on the walls. Each center displays a model of their village showing fields, forests, water sources and human habitation. Charts of local vegetables, grains and cereals, animals, birds etc. are also shown in the centres. In addition, children and shikshikas together develop different items from old newspapers, colored paper, mud etc. and decorate their centres.

2. Computer Centres

The computer learning programme aims at bridging the digital divide between urban and rural people, especially children and youth, in Uttarakhand. Started in 2011, the programme has now been implemented for about 15 years across Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttarakhand. During the year, five centers were functional. 72 students completed the course and received certificates.

Currently, a well-structured 90-days programme offers opportunities to learn basic computer skills which include word processing, typing in Hindi and English, painting, familiarity with hardware and different software. Children also learn to print documents.

Table 2. Number of children who completed a computer course this year.

Center	District	Female			Female Total	Male		Male Total	Grand Total
		General	OBC	SC		General	SC		
Bachher	Chamoli	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	5
Dogari-kandai	Chamoli	4	-		4	5		5	9
Maniagar	Almora	5	-	5	10	1	5	6	16
Pati	Champawat	22	-	-	22	10		10	32
Pudiyani	Chamoli	8	2	-	10	-	-	-	10
Grand Total		39	2	10	51	16	5	21	72

Each center is equipped with three computers, printers and other essential equipment such as invertors, basic furniture etc. The centres run after-school hours, letting children learn and develop skills in a steady manner.

The learners develop knowledge and skills to use computers at ease. Many young men and women attend the centres to learn working on computers and to practice, eventually to get some employment in the local market and service facilities such as community service centres.



Figure 5. Computer centre at Maniagar village, district Champawat.

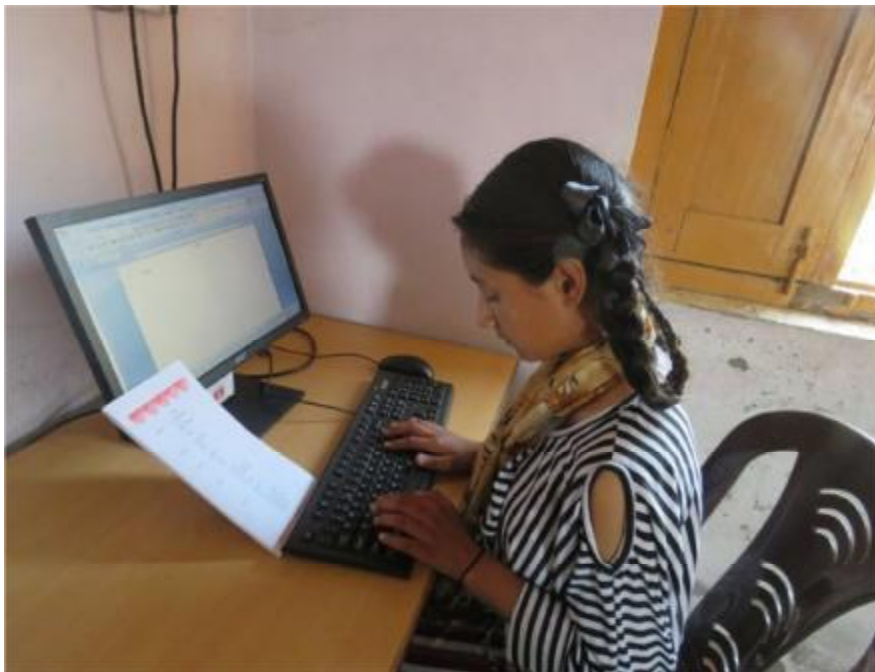


Figure 6. Girls get an opportunity to learn computers, Pati, district Champawat.

3. Training of shikshikas

This year, 2 training programmes of five days each were held at Almora for shikshikas running the VLCs. The second programme included shikshikas running the computer centres. Some of the supervisors and heads of community-based organizations also attended. Highly interactive and participatory training sessions involved discussions, group work

and presentations, role-plays and skits, Bhav Geet, games etc. to develop and upgrade knowledge and skills of participants. New shikshikas were encouraged to speak up and the experienced shikshikas shared their views and challenges they face in running the centres in villages.



Figure 7. Training of shikshikas at Almora.



Figure 8. Training of shikshikas who run VLCs, at Almora.

USNPSS staff has been designing training programmes based on the feedback received from the centres and depending on the needs of shikshikas. Observations and interactions with children and communities during visits to villages also throw valuable insight on how to design and improve training programmes. During training, shikshikas learn different skills such as organizing activities to run a center

efficiently, effective communication methods with children as well as

communities, maintenance of records, participation in meetings of women's groups and adolescent girls etc. The focus is on improving their skills, pedagogical approaches and overall understanding of village learning centres.

Shikshikas also learn to coordinate within and among smaller groups during training, write reports of each day's proceedings and socialize with others at USNPSS. At the end of the training programme, participants give their feedback which is used to improve future courses.

Training of VLC and computer shikshikas run as parallel sessions with a joint set of activities in the mornings and evenings. The group running computer centres involved experienced as well as new shikshikas. The new shikshikas learnt typing in Hindi and English using Somna software. They also learnt Windows and MS Word commands and usage of paint software. Shikshikas who were experienced in running the centres received advanced training which included enhanced comprehension of Microsoft Word, Excel and Power point programmes. Each trainee practiced on computers to develop required skills and to use computers at ease so that they could work with children and others in villages. In addition, shikshikas learnt computer terminology and basics of hardware and software.

Table 3. Training of shikshikas running VLCs and computer centres.

SI	Duration	Participants			Number of participants
		VLC shikshikas	Computer shikshikas	Supervisors	
1	04-08 June 2024	18	0	4	22
2	25-29 March 2025	19	5	3	27

During training held in March 2025, screening of a short documentary on urbanization in the Himalayas was carried out. It highlights social and environmental changes occurring in Uttarakhand Himalaya's and addresses the issue of migration from rural to urban areas. In addition, issues of gender and intergenerational changes in women's lives and changing aspirations of youth in Uttarakhand were addressed.

A slide show on urbanization and vulnerability due to climate change highlighted various insights generating from a scoping study conducted by USNPSS. Since the participants had a rural background, the session was relevant to their needs.



Figure 9. Training of shikshikas who run computer centres.



Figure 10. Screening of a documentary on urbanization and climate change.

A girl or a woman interested in working with children is selected in a village meeting to run the VLC. The community-based organization and USNPSS staff help in selection process. The selected girl/woman comes to Almora to attend training programmes on how to run the center. Table 4 exhibits a brief profile of shikshikas running the centres in villages.

Table 4. Profile of shikshikas running VLCs.

Sl	Shikshikas	Center	District	Age	Education	Working since
1	Ritu Arya	Maniagar	Almora	24	M.A.	April 2021
2	GC Joshi	Mouni	Almora	61	12 th	April 2012
3	Urmila Rawat	Bamiyala	Chamoli	31	12 th	July 2015
4	Kajal Bisht	Gwar	Chamoli	20	B.A 2 nd	October 2023
5	Smita Bisht	Siroli	Chamoli	22	M.A.	July 2020
6	Bipasha Rawat	Dogari	Chamoli	19	B.A.2 nd	November 2024
7	Chandrakala Mouni	Roalmail	Champawat	23	B.A.	August 2022
8	Palak Pachauri	Bhatyura	Champawat	19	B.A 1 st	October 2022
9	Nikita Soraadi	Goom	Champawat	19	12 th	October 2024
10	Suhanibohra	Kamlekh	Champawat	20	B.A.	May 2024
11	Rachna Negi	Jakh	Chamoli	26	M.A.	April 2018
12	Vandana Pawar	Koli	Chamoli	22	B.A.	June 2022
13	Babita Bhandari	Maalai	Chamoli	22	BSc	November2022
14	Kamlesh Arya	Dubtoli	Chamoli	26	B.A.	July 2023
15	Mala Arya	Namik	Bageswar	24	10 th	November 2019
16	Kalawati Mehta	Malka dugrcha	Bageswar	29	12 th	August 2023
17	Koslya devi	Gogina	Bageswar	30	12 th	April 2018
18	Kamla Mehta	Kethi	Bageswar	23	B.A.	July 2024
19	Geeta Danu	Hinari	Bageswar	34	10 th	April 2022
20	Maya Bora	Borkhola	Almora	36	B.A.	August 2014
21	Sarita Rawat	Matela	Almora	24	B.A.	June 2022
22	Deepa Arya	Surna	Almora	23	12 th	May 2023

In addition to *shikshikas*, *margdarshikas* work as supervisors, make regular visit to the centres, offer onsite help and guidance. They also attend monthly meetings of women's groups and hold discussions with adolescent girls. Shikshikas and supervisors together maintain the record at the center, write reports and hold regular meetings amongst themselves to plan and conduct activities in the center and with the community. The heads of the CBOs provide overall guidance to shikshikas and supervisors, hold meetings with them, maintain accounts and other records regarding the programmes with communities. The team organizes bal-melas and women's congregations with close community support.

4. Visits to VLCs

Supervisors and the head of the community-based organizations visit the centres regularly to provide help and guidance to shikshikas. In addition, they plan, execute and monitor day-to day activities in villages.

This year, a total of 44 visits were made by the USNPSS staff to provide guidance and to assess progress of VLCs and computer centres. For the last three years, children have been reading independently for 15-20 minutes every evening in the centres. This activity has started giving some positive results. Children have developed a habit of reading fiction or any other book of their interest on their own. Young children sit with their siblings and look at pictures and symbols (develop imagination) while others read to learn new words, understand meaning and become fluent in reading. As motivated young readers, many children take books home and find time to read with leisure. *Shikshikas* either asks them to summarize the story they have read or she asks questions to foster comprehension. This has been an important step towards attaining good literary skills in early stages of development.



Figure 5. Visit by the head of the CBO to a VLC, Raulamail village, district Champawat.

Table 5. Visits to centres by USNPSS staff.

Sl	Center	District	Date	Children present on the date of visit	
				Boys	Girls
1	Dubtoli	Chamoli	07-05-2024	9	8
2	Maalai	Chamoli	07-05-2024	10	11
3	Badhani	Chamoli	08-05-2024	3	5
4	Jakh	Chamoli	08-05-2024	7	9
5	Pudiyani	Chamoli	08-05-2024	2	2
6	Bamiyala	Chamoli	09-05-2024	14	9
7	Bacher	Chamoli	09-05-2024	3	3
8	Dogari	Chamoli	09-05-2024	2	4
9	Kandel	Chamoli	09-05-2024	14	16
10	Gopeswer	Chamoli	10-05-2024	Meeting with shikshikas	
11	Gwad	Chamoli	10-05-2024	12	8
12	Siroli	Chamoli	10-05-2024	9	6
13	Matela	Almora	11-05-2024	3	4
14	Surna	Almora	11-05-2024	12	12
15	Koli	Chamoli	23-07-2024	13	15
16	Jakh	Chamoli	23-07-2024	10	9
17	Chaurasen	Chamoli	24-07-2024	Meeting with shikshikas	
18	Maalai	Chamoli	24-07-2024	9	5
19	Dubtoli	Chamoli	24-07-2024	7	8
20	Bacher	Chamoli	25-07-2024	Meeting with shikshikas	
21	Bamiyala	Chamoli	25-07-2024	10	14
22	Gwad	Chamoli	26-07-2024	10	7
23	Siroli	Chamoli	26-07-2024	6	5
24	Surna	Almora	05-09-2024	11	11
25	Matela	Almora	05-09-2024	3	8
26	Maniagar	Almora	12-09-2024	Meeting with shikshikas	
27	Kamlekh	Champawat	17-09-2024	8	7
28	Rolamail	Champawat	17-09-2024	9	6
29	Pati	Champawat	18-09-2024	9	4
30	Goom	Champawat	18-09-2024	6	8
31	Kethi	Bageswar	26-09-2024	9	14
32	Gogina	Bageswar	26-09-2024	8	10
33	Ratir	Bageswar	26-09-2024	9	10
34	Namik	Bageswar	27-09-2024	9	9
35	Borkhola	Almora	05-12-2024	6	4
36	Surna	Almora	05-12-2024	7	9
37	Koli	Chamoli	06-01-2025	11	11

SI	Center	District	Date	Children present on the date of visit	
				Boys	Girls
38	Jakh	Chamoli	06-01-2025	7	7
39	Maalai	Chamoli	14-02-2025	9	9
40	Dubtoli	Chamoli	14-02-2025	9	7
41	Koli	Chamoli	15-02-2025	9	9
42	Jakh	Chamoli	15-02-2025	10	7
43	Malkhadugarcha	Bageswar	04-03-2025	12	16
44	Mouni	Almora	20-03-2025	6	6

It has been found that shikshikas who are good at mathematics have been able to cultivate mathematical concepts among children. However, shikshikas, some of them being first generation learners themselves, may have low confidence about their own ability of teaching mathematics. Eliminating this hurdle is one of the major challenges that the USNPSS staff has faced over time.

5. Visits to computer centres

Visits to computer centres were made by USNPSS staff to provide onsite support to shikshikas and to assess progress and achievements of each child. In addition, maintenance of computers and accessories (printers, inverter etc.) was conducted and software related matters were resolved.

Table 6. Visits by USNPSS staff to computer centres.

SI	Name of centre	District	Visit date
1	Maniagar	Almora	25-04-2024
2	Maniagar	Almora	18-05-2024
3	Maniagar	Almora	23-08-2024
4	Pati	Champawat	18-09-2024
5	Maniagar	Almora	02-12-2024
6	Pati	Champawat	23-12-2024
7	Maniagar	Almora	12-02-2024
8	Maniagar	Almora	20-03-2025
9	Pudiyani	Chamoli	08-05-2024
10	Doagri-kandai	Chamoli	09-05-2024
11	Bachher	Chamoli	09-05-2025
12	Dogari-kandai	Chamoli	25-07-2024

During visits to the centres, USNPSS staff tries to hold a meeting with shikshikas, the head of the CBO and the supervisors. The team evaluates progress and provides feedback for further improvements. These collaborative meetings provide a space for reflection, questions are asked and participants listen to each other's thoughts and challenges that they might have faced in running the centres, holding meetings with women's groups and adolescent girls.



Figure12. Meetings with shikshikas during visits to centres, Pati-district Champawat.

6. Bal mela and women's congregations

Every year, bal-melas are held to provide a forum to children and shikshikas to display their work to the community. The event is organized in an educational atmosphere with various activities held during the day to offer children fun and learning opportunities. Educational elements such as mathematical activities, debates, essay and poems, an open competition to test general knowledge and different games are organized.

An exhibition of children's creations such as charts, posters, artefacts made from mud and paper are displayed for the guests to see.



Figure 13. Bal mela at Borkhola village, district Almora and Namik village, district Bageshwar.

Bal-melas are held with much enthusiasm in villages. Children and shikshikas prepare for performances of their choice for weeks and try to give their best on the day. Children perform on issues of local relevance, dance and sing for entertainment. This year, skits and songs revolved around issues of impacts of using mobile phones on children. Health and nutrition related issues were addressed to spread the message that the village residents should not sell milk, fresh vegetables and cereals for petty cash and buy junk food for children. Eating fresh, organically grown vegetables and grains is good for our own health too was the message that the VLCs tried to spread this year.

Congregations offer a platform to rural women to talk about their experiences of conducting different activities in their villages and learn from each other. The event encourages women to shed their fears and hesitation of speaking in public. Women learn to share their thoughts in large gatherings which eventually helps them not only to build self-esteem but to raise their concerns in public. Many members of women's groups represent various village committees such as school management committee, van panchayat, gram-panchayat etc. During congregations they talk about their work and provide information regarding various government schemes.



Figure 14. Members of a women's group coming to attend mahila sammelan at Chaundali, district Chamoli, and sammelan at Pati, district Champawat.



Figure 15. Women's groups of hosting communities prepare light food for children and others during bal-melas. Photo: village Ratir, district Bageshwar and Borkhola, district Almora.

Organized in remote villages, these events offer an opportunity to village communities, especially women and children, to meet, build contacts and develop a sense of cohesion and cooperation. This year, women's group of many hosting villages took up the responsibility of preparing tea and light food for the guests by bringing fire wood and milk from home. In Borkhola village (district Almora) women brought milk and fire wood and in Namik village (district Pithoragarh) all members of the women's group brought potatoes from home to cook and distribute among all participants.

Women and children wait for the event all through the year. Children prepare for weeks to put up a good show and win the competition. The community, especially women's groups, consider it an honor to host a bal mela or women's congregation in their village.

Table 7. Bal mela and mahila sammelan.

Sl	Date	Venue-village	District	Event	Number of participants (approx.)
1	22.12.2024	Pati	Champawat	Bal mela	150
2	03.01.2025	Borkhola	Almora	Bal mela, sammelan	250
3	07.01.2025	Maalai	Chamoli	Balmela	300
4	08.01.2025	Gwar	Chamoli	Balmela	250
5	16.02.2025	Chaundali	Chamoli	Mahila sammelan	300
6	02.03.2025	Toli	Champawat	Mahila sammelan	200
7	05.03.2025	Ratir	Bageswar	Bal mela, sammelan	250
8	06.03.2025	Namik	Bageswar	Bal mela, sammelan	250
9	23.03.2025	Sela	Almora	Bal mela, sammelan	200
Total					2150

7. Income generation

Over the last decade, USNPSS has nurtured various income generation activities in villages of Kumaon and Garhwal regions. These include creating a web of about 320 tanks to collect water for irrigation to grow vegetables, plant nurseries, installation of poly-houses to grow seedlings and off-season vegetables, apiculture, developing orchards across villages in different districts. In addition, partial financial support and guidance was provided to start a homestay in Kedarnath valley to a local resident. In Badhani, Karnaprayag, an outlet is functional which sells local cereals, pulses etc. Produce is collected from nearby villages by providing a reasonable price to communities. All these programmes are functioning well and continue to generate income in villages.

All income generation activities run with the support of USNPSS have a strong focus on innovation and capacity building in communities, especially women and girls. Innovation and experimentation in agricultural fields have ensured better yields and quality of produce in many villages. For example, the community at Pata and neighboring villages, district Nainital, have been able to innovate and expand by learning from their experiences of digging and designing tanks and devising a system of equal distribution of water. A collective way of knowledge generation has emerged with continuous support and reflections made by USNPSS and the village residents on the process and outcome of the programme. Similarly, residents of Chaundali village, district Chamoli, experimented with the idea of growing cabbage and cauliflower in a small plot of land. Earlier people thought that these vegetables were difficult to grown and possibly will not survive. However, following the results of experimentation, the community now grows these vegetables and earns money by selling that in the local market.

The emphasis of skill development programme is not just on income generation but to develop capabilities and confidence among learners to become knowledgeable and be ready to take positive action in their daily life situations. For example, after marriage, many young women have built on their skills and opened a tailoring-knitting shop in their in laws villages. Besides, adapting to new situations, these women spread the same ethos of transformation in the lives of other women and offer support.

7a. Tailoring and knitting centres

Started a few years back, tailoring and knitting centres offer space and training to rural women and girls to develop knowledge and skills to start some non-farm work and generate income. A shift from home-based chores to center-based work eases mobility and offers a sense of purpose in life for young women who are disinclined towards working in agricultural fields but live in villages and roadside habitations.

Training includes developing proficiency in different ways of sewing and learning things like sewing buttons and hooks, use of different stitches and understanding how different fabrics drape and choice of fabrics to stitch different types of garments. Trainers ensure that women learn to be precise in taking measurements, cut and sew clothes with precision and finish edges.

Meetings and informal talks with trainees are held, especially during visits by USNPSS staff to the centres, to develop confidence to speak up and problem solve. Women who want to open

their own tailoring-knitting shops are provided with guidance and help in selecting a good location, networking with others in the market and in running the business for profit.



Figure 16. Tailoring center at Maniagar, district Almora.



Figure 17. Women learn to use different types of sewing machines.

Proficiency in using tools such as scissors, sewing machines (manual, foot pedal, electric) is an important part of skill development. Trainees learn to understand tape measures, rulers, L shape rulers and practice to take measurements with precision so that clothes fit correctly. They also learn to mend old clothes and become proficient in small repair works and maintenance of sewing machines.

Besides imparting training on skill development, the centres offer space to hold meetings of adolescent girls, young and older women. This year, a trainer from Pudiyani village came to Kukrai village to mobilize women to attend tailoring courses. In Alai, meetings were held to inaugurate the center and to involve women in various activities carried out by USNPSS so that a support system is built and women attend the center on a regular basis. A group of women from Alai attended the bal-mela and mahila sammelan at Sela village in March 2025.



Figure 18. Women's meeting at Alai tailoring center, district Almora.

This year, tailoring centres were functional in 5 village clusters in four hill districts of the state. Along with tailoring courses, training on knitting is offered at Pati and Maniagar centres. 42% of trainees represented women and girls from socially disadvantaged sections of communities. 43% of trainees were young women representing 18-25 years old age group. This year, women

came from 42 villages to the centres to learn tailoring and knitting. A new center was opened at Alai village in February 2025.

Table 8. Number of trainees at tailoring centres.

Location		Number of trainees			Age			Caste	
		Total	Married	Not married	18-25	25-30	>30	General	SC
Alai	Tailoring	27	14	13	15	9	3	16	11
Pati	Tailoring	53	49	4	6	24	23	20	33
	knitting	5	5	0	0	5	0	5	0
Kukrai	Tailoring	21	7	14	10	7	4	21	00
Gogina	Tailoring	14	6	8	9	4	1	12	2
Maniagar	Tailoring	38	12	26	28	4	6	18	20
	knitting	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Total		160	94	66	69	53	38	93	67

After completing their training and knitting courses, trainees are encouraged to earn money. This year, 52% of the total trainees have been earning money, 49% by stitching clothes at home. Some of them make clothes of their own family members and neighbors and save money on stitching expenses. Others, stitch clothes of their relatives, women from their own villages and surrounding communities and earn money. 5 trainees opened their own shops.

Table 9. Number of trainees who started generating income by stitching clothes during 2024-2025.

Location	Work	Number of trainees enrolled this year	Homebased work	Opened their own shop this year	Number of villages women came from
Maniagar	Tailoring	38	21	2	11
	Knitting	2	2	0	2
Alai	Tailoring	27	New center	-	3
Pati	Tailoring	53	40	1	17
	Knitting	5	5	0	3
Kukrai	Tailoring	21	4	1	3
Gogina	Tailoring	14	6	1	3
Total		160	78	5	42

In Maniagar village, district Almora, skill development training is offered in three streams. A tailoring and knitting center are functional for the last 7 years. The computer center offers training to children, young women and men to acquire basic competency skills. The beautician training center offers practical training on basic beauty care and services including subtle makeup, hair styling, mehndi, skincare, nail art, bridal makeup etc.

Maya Bisht, village Kwiti, learnt tailoring and knitting at Maniagar center and started working from home. Soon, she got married and moved to her in-law's house in Hawalbagh block. She started a tailoring shop and earned some income. Looking at the demand there, she converted her shop into a training cum tailoring center. Today, she trains the local girls and women and runs her own shop too. After the birth of her daughter, she thought of attending a beautician course too. She went to a private parlor at Almora to learn but found the work there unsatisfactory. So, this year, she came back to her maternal home for about two months to attend training at Maniagar center. She learnt the basics of beauty care and services. Now, her enterprise offers services such as bridal makeup, mehndi etc. to women in her in-laws' village.

Namita Chamiyal, village Chanoli, learnt knitting at Maniagar centre. After completing her course, she continued coming to the centre to knit sweaters for her friends, relatives and family. She invested her earnings in a knitting machine. Now she works from home and knits sweaters whenever she gets orders from her own and surrounding villages. Further, after two years, when she completed her college degree, Namita is coming again to Maniagar centre to learn stitching. She plans to open a shop of her own in the future.

Priyanka Arya, Ameesha Arya and Sanjana Arya come to the centre every day to stitch clothes to earn money. Priyanka and Ameesha do not have sewing machines at home and currently save their earnings to buy machines of their own in the future. The trainer at the centre gets plenty of orders to stitch women's clothes. She gives out work to them which means they can earn additional income and gain experience too.

Ambika Negi's husband died about four years ago in a road accident. She had two small children at home. She used to knit sweaters by hand. After her husband's passing away, Ambika bought a knitting machine. However, she needed more work at hand. When the tailoring centre opened at Kukrai village, she enrolled herself and learnt to stitch clothes. This year, she got a big order to stitch uniform for school going children. The trainer at the centre taught her to stitch shirts and pants for children. Ambika thinks that this order is a big push to her enterprise. She has bought a pedal sewing machine and now works from home.

Deeksha Negi, village Koli, learnt tailoring for three months in Jakh village in 2022. She dropped out due to family problems but has now rejoined the tailoring course. She brings cloth from home, which she gets to stitch in her village, and makes garments in the centre. This November, she has opened a shop on the roadside.



Figure 19. Tailoring center at Gogina village, district Bageswar.

Harshita Rawat, village Diyarkot, learnt tailoring at Kukrai centre, district Chamoli. Now she has moved to Srinagar and stitches women's clothes there in the city.

Nirmala Mathela has opened her own shop at Pati market, district Champawat. Nirmala says that initially people did not take her work seriously. Women gave their clothes to be stitched with the expectation of free work. However, Nirmala insisted on being compensated for her work. Slowly, seeing the quality of her work, people began to give her money. Nirmala finds it challenging to create a balance between household responsibilities and work at her shop. Time is a major constraint but she believes that now people respect her more than earlier.

Jyoti Arya wanted to learn tailoring but had no means to do so in her village. Last year, she had completed her schooling and got herself enrolled in college. She started staying at Pati. Jyoti has been coming to the centre for the last four months. She says that even if she does not get a job in the future, she will have some skill at hand. During discussions of USNPSS staff with Jyoti, Geeta Arya joined in by saying, "what Jyoti is saying is completely true. Even, I feel the same. I did not get any opportunities in my childhood to learn something that would interest me. Now that the centre has opened, we are able to learn something new. We will stitch clothes and earn some money. I stitched a frock for my daughter. Someone said that the frock was very nicely

done. I felt so proud of myself. I have a sewing machine at home. I will learn to stitch a variety of clothes and then start home-based work”.

Kamla Arya comes to the centre to use the electric machine. She stitches women’s clothes after completing her course on tailoring for 6 months. She has also learnt to stitch fall and pico in sarees. While saree fall is sewn to the hem of a saree to add weight pico secures the edges to prevent fraying in sarees, dupattas etc. Kamla earns decent amount by this work which helps her to meet family needs and contributes towards well-being of her children.

Godambari Bisht, a resident of Koon village, moved to Pati to educate her children. She learnt tailoring at Pati centre. Whenever she goes back to her village, women give clothes to stitch. Godambari says that in the village it is difficult to ask her relatives to compensate work but Pati bazar is different.



Figure 20. Tailoring centre at Pati, district



**Figure 21. Women open their own tailoring shops:
Barechina, district Almora.**

7b. Beautician training

Beautician training centre offers training on beauty care and services. This year, along with women and girls, a male trainee, Akash Arya, attended the course. He said to the USNPSS staff, “you go to Barechina or to Almora market and see how this industry works. Young men who come to the barbers shop also want to have facial, threading etc. I am learning this skill here. I have already

talked with an entrepreneur at Barechina. Will work as a beauty care provider in his shop.” In September 2024, the trainer got admission in a nursing training institute and the centre was closed.

Table 10. Visits by USNPSS staff to skill development centres.

SI	Date of visit	Village	District	Participants		Theme
				Tailoring	Beauty parlor	
1	26.04.2024	Maniagar	Almora	18	11	Guidance and managing the center
2	18.05.2024	Maniagar	Almora	18	8	Guidance and managing the center
3	19.06.2024	Maniagar	Almora	13	10	New designs
4	18.07.2024	Maniagar	Almora	6	7	Guidance and managing the center
5	20.7.2024	Maniagar	Almora	8	6	Meeting with 21 adolescent girls
6	23.07.2024	Kukrai	Chamoli	14	-	Meeting with the facilitator and trainees, CBO
7	24.07.2024	Kukrai	Chamoli	16	-	New designs, a trainee from Pudiyan village shared her experiences with women's group
8	25.07.2024	Kukrai	Chamoli	18	-	New designs
9	26.07.2024	Kukrai	Chamoli	18	-	New designs
10	23.08.2024	Maniagar	Almora	5	5	Guidance
11	24.08.2024	Maniagar	Almora	7	-	Beautician instructor was absent
12	02.09.2024	Maniagar	Almora	5	5	Beautician center was closed for the next 3 months
13	17.09.2024	Pati	Champawat	14	-	New designs-children's clothes
14	18.09.2024	Pati	Champawat	7	-	Trainees had gone to Champawat to get sewing machines under a government scheme
15	19.09.2024	Pati	Champawat	14	-	New designs
16	27.09.2024	Gogina	Bageswar	4	-	Women were busy in crop harvesting, just 4 trainees came-new designs
17	02.12.2024	Maniagar	Almora	5	-	Supervision
18	14.12.2024	Maniagar	Almora	7	-	Supervision
19	23.12.2024	Pati	Champawat	8	-	Supervision
20	24.12.2024	Pati	Champawat	10	-	New designs
21	17.01.2025	Maniagar	Almora	9	-	Supervision
22	17.1.2025	Alai	Almora	2	-	Discussion on the possibility of opening a tailoring center with gram Pradhan
23	20.01.2025	Alai	Almora	24	-	Started a tailoring centre
24	23.01.2025	Maniagar	Almora	12	-	Guidance
25	24.01.2025	Alai	Almora	22	-	New centre-setting it up
26	12.02.2025	Alai	Almora	19	-	setting up
27	24.02.2025	Alai	Almora	19	-	Organizing activities
28	18.03.2025	Maniagar	Almora	11	-	Guidance-new trainer
29	20.03.2025	Maniagar	Almora	14	-	Guidance-new trainer

8. Women' s groups

Women's groups associated with USNPSS have worked around issues of education, environment, health and nutrition, gender and caste equality, income generation and capability development for individual growth and on leadership roles. Uttarakhand mahila parishad (Uttarakhand women's federation) was created in 2001 to build up solidarity among women's groups and provide visibility to their concerns across the hill districts of the state. However, with a gradual drop in the number of learning centres, contact and work with women's groups has also suffered.

Currently, about a hundred women's groups actively participate and work with USNPSS on various issues. More than a hundred groups have maintained a regular contact, though USNPSS is not currently working with them. From such groups, women like to attend sammelan and bal-melas and visit the centres occasionally. Many groups have continued with the task of holding monthly village meetings on their own without getting any support from USNPSS. However, they too like to keep an informal relationship alive with USNPSS and make telephone calls; and visit the organization in case they are in Almora for some work. In one of the clusters where VLCs were closed last year, women kept calling on a regular basis. In the winters this year, some other organization approached them. Members of the women's group were concerned whether to join that organization or not. To date, the group has not made any decision regarding the issue. The women want to be a part of the UMP network but limitations of funds and time on the part of USNPSS are also a reality. At the same time, this year too, some old groups that UMP had worked with a few years ago contacted us again. Lamudiyar is one of those villages:

8a. Women's group: multiple wits

Lamudiyar village is inhabited by scheduled caste families. Agriculture is the main occupation but land holdings are small and crop production is not enough even for 2-3 months a year. So, men work as masons and daily wage laborers while women help generate income by selling goats and vegetables occasionally. Shortage of water has important implication in daily life and impacts are felt at home as well as in the community.

With just 5 members, the women's group was formed by USNPSS about two decades ago. Women were deeply concerned about the problem of alcoholism among men. However, scared of discussing such an issue in public, they would keep quiet. Slowly, during village meetings, held every month, women began to talk about the problem of alcoholism and associated

violence at home. Some more women joined the group. In due course, entry of men who used to come to the village to sell liquor was banned.

Slowly, women from all families joined and the membership grew to 32. USNPSS ran a balwadi for many years and later a library for children was opened. During 2011-2013, a women's literacy programme was carried out. Women learnt to write their names and began to understand numbers. Some enthusiastic learners continued learning at home for a long time. Women gained confidence and began to go to the bank to operate their collective fund. Also, they began to understand the meaning and importance of different cards like job cards, health cards, Aadhar cards, pass book, ration cards, electricity bills and other such documents.

In initial stages, besides raising their voices against alcoholism, women took up the responsibility of cleaning the village as well as their homes. During meetings issues of health and nutrition, personal and community hygiene, gender and caste equality, solidarity among women were discussed, repeatedly. Exposure tours were held for women to see the work in other villages and to explore the possibility of doing the same in their own.

During meetings of women's groups at Almora, women learnt about the methods of using plastic-lined tanks to store water. They wanted to have such tanks in their village too. USNPSS requested them to visit village Galla, district Nainital, to see the method of installation and usage of plastic-lined tanks. Members of the women's group and a few men made a visit to Galla. Back in the village, 28 families dug water tanks and started growing vegetables in nearby fields. 14 Poly-houses were installed near the water tanks. With water available for irrigation near poly houses, the community could grow a variety of seasonal vegetables and sold them in nearby markets. A few poor families who had smaller landholdings began to consume homegrown vegetables. Further, fruit trees and agricultural tools were provided to all families. To prevent wild animals coming to the fields, women's group fenced a tract of land. This was an effective strategy because wild boars continuously walked the same route every night.

In one of the meetings, women expressed their desire to save money and created a collective fund. Relatively poor women expressed their inability to save much but agreed to invest 5 rupees every month. A bank account was opened. After two years, the group began to save 10 rupees every month. Later, women bought 50 glasses and 25 plates using money that they had saved. In addition, women took loans from the fund and returned money in time. Loans were taken to buy goats or a birth or wedding in the family.

The president of the women's group was strict about the fact that women return the loaned amount in time. All records were kept meticulously and anyone in the group could see it anytime. However, after a brief illness, the president of the women's group passed away in 2018. At that time, some women had taken loans and all of them were supposed to return it every month.

Members of the women's group wanted to elect another president but consensus could not emerge during village meetings. By that time, USNPSS had closed the library, women's literacy programme was complete and no other center was running in the village. However, women continued holding monthly meetings, occasionally attended by USNPSS staff.

At that time, 14 members had taken loans from the women's fund. They had kept record of each transaction but with the president passing away, women were not returning money that they had borrowed. Over time, quarrel among members of the women's group grew. Since, all women were part of the same group and the loan was taken by a few, others wanted their money back. The problem, however, was that the women who were most vocal and wanted to be the president or secretary of the group had taken the largest amount. During meetings, they would talk and agree with others but refrain from returning the money.



Figure 22. Repayment during a meeting at Lamudiyar village.



Figure 23. From their savings, women bought utensils for collective use.

Some poor, elderly women approached USNPSS to intervene. “If you do not come to our village, we will never get back our money,” a poor widow said. USNPSS agreed to their proposal and this year conducted several meetings at Lamudiyar. Slowly, women agreed to return the money they had borrowed.

In one of the meetings, participants agreed to buy utensils using that money. There were no large utensils in the village and during social events they used to rent such items from nearby villages. “In case we buy some pots to cook food we will have an asset of our own. We can also rent it out during weddings and other functions”, Hema said. In February 2025, members of the women’s group came to Almora and bought utensils for collective use in the community. They are also returning their loans on a regular basis. Once, some amount is collected, the group will take a decision for its utilization. In addition, they have elected a new president and treasurer and saving 20 rupees per month now. Currently, the group is represented by 38 members.

8b. Village meetings

During a meeting at Saknayani village, 02.12.2024, young women demanded a tailoring and knitting center in the village. Earlier, 11 young women from Saknayani had learnt tailoring at Maniagar center. In addition, three girls learnt computers and two had received training in the beautician training center at Maniagar. Women from this village have been attending bal-melas and women's congregations for the last three years now. "I will get married in a year or two but before that I can start a center and help others. Many girls want to learn tailoring and knitting here. It is a remote village, nothing much grows in the fields because wild animals are damaging all our crops. How do we earn or save money? If we learn to stitch clothes that sure will help us a lot" a girl said. Older women, however, had a different viewpoint. Even if nothing grows in the fields, we must cultivate, we should not keep agricultural land barren. It is a bad omen, said an elderly woman. Young women also wanted to have a VLC in the village. "This place is quite far from the nearest market center at Nagarkhan. There is an intermediate college at Nagarkhan. From this village, children go there to study but we need a VLC too. Children will have something constructive to do in the evenings otherwise they just wander in the village," said Deepshika, who has just completed her post-graduation and looking for some work in and around the village itself.



Figure 24. A meeting of women's group at Malkha-dungarcha village, district Baleshwar.

In 2024, Uttarakhand witnessed a long dry-spell of weather in spring season. During summer months, rising temperatures accompanied with dry weather led to widespread occurrences of forest fires. In many villages, members of women's groups volunteered to douse wildfires. In anticipation, women's groups of Diyakot, Kukrai, district Chamoli, had kept their agricultural

tools (sickle, rake etc.) ready. When fire reached in the vicinity of their villages, they cut long branches of trees to douse fires. In many locations, women made fire lines to prevent it from spreading. In Borkhola village, district Almora, the forest department officials were in contact with women's group. When fire began to spread, women phoned the department and called them over. Women also went to the forest to put out fire.

A meeting of the women's group on 17.01.2025 was attended by 8 men from different hamlets of Banthok village, district Almora. Discussions were held on diminishing production in the fields which women believe was due to menace caused by wild animals. "Wild boars come at night and monkeys damage our crops during the day. There is a continuous threat of a leopard roaming around, how can we save our crops and ourselves? Ganga Devi said, we used to grow such a wide variety of vegetables which we cooked at home and sold in the market but now all that has gone." Leela said, polyhouses which we installed a few years ago with the support of USNPSS are still functional. At least, our vegetables are safe there. Monkeys and wild boars do not go inside. So, we get some produce. We need more polyhouses in our village." Men, who had come to the meeting were all growing vegetables for sale. "I have a good plot of land. It's fertile and there is water nearby. I have a polyhouse but need more. I live in the village and want to sell vegetables, fruits and milk to generate income. In case you have any plans of installing polyhouses in villages, please include my name," said a farmer. Another farmer said, "climate change is happening. We do not get rains when we need it the most for our crops to grow. It is all erratic. We are getting rains during harvesting, when nobody wants that. In case we have polyhouses, we can grow off-season vegetables and sell at Almora. Now that we have a road, commuting has become easy." Further, the issue of closing of village learning center was discussed during the meeting. The women's group also talked about organizing a bal-mela at Banthok itself or nearby villages.



Figure 25. Meeting of women's group at Banthok village, district Almora.

Solving problems of water shortage

Mouni village, district Almora, has been struggling with shortage of water for many years now. Earlier, the women's group was troubled by the fact that during road construction debris was carelessly thrown over the mountain slope affecting agricultural land and water sources. During monsoon, water came gushing down from a culvert made on the newly constructed road and a naula, water spring, got buried under debris and got clogged completely. Given the long history of water shortage in the village that was an important source for the community. Women raised the issue in their monthly village meetings. Eventually, with the support of USNPSS the community cleaned the naula and constructed a stonewall to act as a barrier to prevent surface runoff entering the site. One more naula was protected by women with the support of USNPSS.

This year, women thought of digging trenches in the catchment area to improve water recharge capacity of both sources. During a village meeting, 17.01.2025, decisions were taken to protect village springs. Women planned to clean the springs and cut vegetation around it. During monsoon, the sites become swampy and to solve this problem, women thought of digging a surface-water drainage ditch around the spring area.

With subsequent action taken on the issue, women shared their experiences during the meeting held on 20.03.2025 in the village. They are still mulling over the issue of digging trenches to store rainwater. In addition, they want to close the naula by putting a lock on one of the sources. This initiative would help in two ways. First, all community members would get equal amount of water. Second, protection by wild animals such as monkeys, wild boars that wander around in the fields would keep water safe for human use. In addition, they want to save money to buy large utensils for collective use; such as in weddings, social function etc. in the village.

In village Goom, Pati-district Champawat, members of women's group are concerned about shortage of drinking water, especially during the summer, when piped water supply drops and water flow in the traditional sources is affected considerably. During a visit of USNPSS staff to the village, 17.09.2024, young women raised the issue in the meeting and wanted to devise a solution. A plan was made that the women's group would talk about the problem to bring consensus in the community. Women were also keen to talk to the gram Pradhan and seek some help. However, the problem persisted because everyone in the community did not come to attend meetings called by women. During the next visit of the USNPSS staff to the village, 23.12.2024, a detailed discussion was held. On deeper probing, women admitted that there was enough water in the naula but it was not utilized well. Overflow from the source had made the spring area muddy and the path to the water source was overgrown with vegetation. "At least, cattle can go there to drink water so that we do not have to spend the whole day fetching it for domestic use as well as to feed cattle," a woman said during discussions. Subsequently, a plan was made to clean up the water source and the path leading towards that. After much discussion, a consensus emerged. Next Sunday, women and young people gathered to clean the water source and area around it.

Table 11. Visits made by USNPSS staff to attend meetings of women's groups.

Sl	Date of visit	Village	District	Attendees	Theme
1	11.07.2024	Kunja Tilari	Almora	10	Possibility of opening a tailoring center at Alai
2	20.07.2024	Maniagar	Almora	27	Flower seedlings were planted and a meeting with adolescent girls
3	24.07.2024	Pudiyani	Chamoli	20	Climate change, income generation for women
4	25.07.2024	Kukrai	Chamoli	31	Climate change, how to strengthen unity in women's group
5	26.0.2024	Diyarkot	Chamoli	42	Dousing forest fires, Climate change, other NGOs approaching the women's groups
6	23.08.2024	Lamudiyar	Almora	23	Managing women's collective fund
7	24.08.2024	Maniagar Center	Almora	27	Collective strength of women-what can be achieved, income generation
8	24.08.2024	Maniagar	Almora	20	Job cards, shram cards, water shortage in the village and how to solve it
9	05.09.2024	Surna	Almora	49	Distribution of money from women's fund, gram panchayat
10	09.09.2024	Lamudiyar	Almora	21	Women who had taken loans gave back some amount
11	17.09.2024	Goom	Champawat	12	Meeting with adolescent girls, young women
12	18.09.2024	Kamlekh	Champawat	10	Importance of women's group in the village
13	18.11.2024	Maniagar	Almora	37	Women's health, nutrition, menace caused by wild animals, Water shortage
14	23.11.2024	Lamudiyar	Almora	16	Women who had taken loans gave some money back, solidarity
15	26.11.2024	Maichun	Almora	18	Developing skills to generate income, distribution of grass from a protected site
16	02.12.2024	Sakniyani	Almora	19	Skill development, possibility of starting a VLC and tailoring center
17	05.12.2024	Borkhola	Almora	21	Climate change, importance of a women's group, bal-mela and village contribution
18	05.12.2024	Surna	Almora	32	Managing collective fund, bal-mela and mahila sammelan
19	23.12.2024	Bhatyura	Champawat	16	Difference between SHGs and WVGs, how to improve unity
20	23.12.2024	Goom	Champawat	9	Uprooting encroaching species, cleaning of water source
21	04.01.2025	Alai	Almora	27	Skill development for women, panchayat ghar
22	06.01.2025	Jakh	Chamoli	20	dwindling water flow, income from tailoring, wild-animals and crops
23	17.01.2025	Banthok	Almora	21	Milk production and sale, VLC, polyhouse and cash crops, climate change

Sl	Date of visit	Village	District	Attendees	Theme
24	17.01.2025	Mouni	Almora	19	Cleaning of naulas, wild boars and monkeys destroying crops, climate change, women's fund
25	17.01.2025	Alai	Almora	2	Talks with gram Pradhan and his assistant
26	14.02.2025	Dubtoli	Chamoli	18	Climate change, skill development
27	15.02.2024	Jakh	Chamoli	15	Climate change, skill development for women
28	04.03.2025	Ratir	Bageswar	22	Alcoholism among men, tailoring and knitting, bal-mela, sammelan
29	06.03.2025	Kethi	Bageswar	42	VLC, connecting VLC with women's group, tailoring center
30	17.03.2025	Sela	Almora	16	Women and gram pradhan took up responsibility to host a bal mela and sammelan in the village
31	18.03.2025	Maichun	Almora	17	Building solidarity among women
32	20.03.2024	Mouni	Almora	20	Construction of a gate on the naula to ensure equal distribution of water in the community, creating women's fund, cleanliness

8c. Meetings of women's groups at Almora

A meeting for members of women's groups was held at Almora, 9-10 August 2024. A total of 39 women and 2 men from 4 village clusters spread over 3 districts of the state participated.

Another meeting, held on 7-8 November 2024, was attended by members of women's groups, CBOs and selected shikshikas. Participants were requested to think of new activities that could be carried out in their villages. Activities for bal-mela and women's congregation were discussed. The meeting coincided with the visit of the representatives of the Dayal trust, New Delhi. A total of 32 women and men representing different villages participated in discussions with the members of the Trust.

9. Adolescent girls

Adolescent groups represent 11-19 years old rural girls and young women. These groups serve as forums to equip girls with knowledge, skills and resources to learn and navigate challenges that they face at home and in their communities. During their visits to villages, USNPSS staff conducted meetings with adolescent girls to discuss health and nutrition, gender and caste equality, education of girls and climate change. Girls were encouraged to think of their future, select subjects of their interest in school and learn some skills. In addition, supervisors held meetings with adolescent girls and young women on Sundays when girls are relatively free during the day.

9a. Village meetings

Meetings held in villages, provide opportunities to girls to speak up and build confidence. For example, in July 2024, 20 girls and young women gathered to discuss skill development and climate change issues in Pudiyani village, district Chamoli. The next day, a young girl from Pudiyani walked down to Kukrai village to share her experiences of being a trainee at the tailoring center. She had completed her six months course at Pudiyani but kept coming to the center to learn new designs and to use electric machine to stitch clothes. She stitches women's clothes in her village, gets work from neighboring communities and earns about 7000-8000 rupees every month. She said, "in our village, women have not abandoned their agricultural fields. Many families sell milk in the local market. So, when women thought of attending tailoring classes, many would bring a sickle and cloth in the basket which they carry on their back to collect fodder. From the center, they would go to the forests or their fields to fetch grass. Today, some of them have become good tailors. They work from home, stitch clothes of their own and others and earn money."

9b. Workshops with girls and young women at Almora

A workshop on climate change and changing life style was held during 09-10 August, 2024 at USNPSS, Almora. A total of 41 participants (39 girls and young women, 2 men) from 3 districts of the state attended. Dr. Richard Delacey, professor at Harvard University USA, had discussions with participants on gender, importance of languages and education. He also shared his views on changes in women's lives in the USA and India, climate change and environment. A detailed report, in Hindi, on the workshop was prepared and circulated among participants.



Figure 26. Workshop with rural girls and young women at Almora.

Besides holding separate meetings for adolescent girls, intergenerational meetings were organized to promote a positive environment at home and to build better relationships between older and young women and adolescent girls. These meetings offer an enabling environment in villages to help adolescent girls navigate challenges re gender and age-related disparities at home and in communities. In addition, young women and girls build confidence to speak in meetings and express their concerns. Further, adolescent girls participate in bal-melas and women's congregations and share their experiences.

10. Publications

10a. Nanda

1000 copies of Nanda were printed. Nanda is published every year to document thoughts and activities of women's groups and shikshikas in villages. Rural women and girls are encouraged to write about their experiences and views on topics of their own interests. The magazine is kept in village learning centres for women and young girls to read. Copies are distributed during bal-mela and women's congregations in all areas covered by the programme.



Figure 27. Nanda, is read by young women and girls in villages.

10b. Muskaan

100 xeroxed copies of Muskaan were taken to VLCs for children, their parents and others in villages to read and see their contributions. Shikshikas feel proud of the fact that the name and contribution of their village has appeared in the newsletter. Children show their work to their parents, friends and relatives, especially when pictures drawn by them or a story/poem appears in the newsletter.

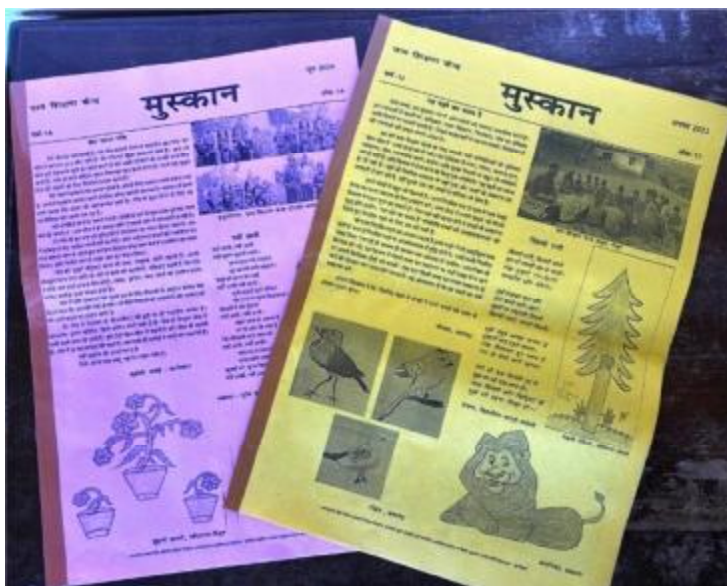


Figure 28. Muskaan – a newsletter of VLCs contains children's contributions.

11. Research

- a) A report, in Hindi, on history, demography, urbanization and climate change at Almora was prepared. The report highlights government policies on building codes and norms and relates those to ground realities of house construction techniques, solid waste disposal, drainage systems and challenges of town planning at Almora
- b) Brief research on forest fires in Uttarakhand was conducted to understand the reasons and impacts of wildfires at local and regional levels. The study also examined wildfire related issues at global levels
- c) Since last year, USNPSS is conducting a scoping study to identify strategies to decarbonize and build climate resilience in the rural and urban landscapes in Uttarakhand. The study aims at exploring climate-induced changes in intersectionality of rural-urban landscapes in terms of agriculture, land-use, and inhabitancy patterns. New risks and vulnerabilities with growing urban sprawls and accelerated construction, mobility, and use of energy are identified with development of a baseline of emission inventories and projections and sources (as per the IPCC definitions). Potential factors to promote green economic development and climate resilient urban areas in Uttarakhand are explored by ground truthing of policies through lived experiences of the local communities.

Under this research programme surveys were carried out in rural and urban settings, data was analyzed, reports were prepared and dissemination workshops were held in different places with different types of participants:

11a. Workshop at Delhi on the findings of climate change research

USNPSS held a workshop on climate change and what it means for the hill communities of Uttarakhand in Delhi, December 05, 2020⁴. Issues emerging out of a scoping study on climate change in the rural and urban landscapes in Uttarakhand were shared with researchers, university professors, donors, policy makers (central government officials, Niti Aayog etc.), climate change professionals and people interested in climate change and development of Uttarakhand. Under four different sessions presentation and discussions were held on local and net emissions, geography: impacts of climate change, energy transition, urbanization and implications for policy and future research. A report of the workshop proceedings was prepared

and sent to all participants to receive their feedback and comments. The report was modified by incorporating feedback and suggestions from participants.

11b. Workshops with students enrolled in Almora University

The USNPSS has started a programme on holding a series of workshops for students enrolled in the university at Almora to develop analytical thinking on issues of local environment and climate change. Intergenerational changes in women's lives were discussed in relation to climate and social changes occurring in the hills of Uttarakhand. Increasing mobility of rural residents to diversify their income sources across gender, caste and age-related variations was discussed in relation to urbanization and climate change at Almora.

A total of 3 workshops were held during the year (Table 12 and Table 13). Each workshop involved deliberations around at least two key components with a lunch break in between. Students came from different departments of the University and demonstrated different levels of understanding of issues under consideration. Students found these workshops as thought-provoking as ideas generated by different perspectives were discussed and contradictions were addressed to generate consensus in the group.

Table 12. Number of students.

Date	11 August 2024			25 February 2025			22 March 2025			Grand Total
Department	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	
Botany	7	3	10	3	2	5	-	-	-	15
Chemistry	3	3	6	4	1	5	5	4	9	20
Education	2	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
English	3	2	5	3	1	4	-	-	-	9
Geography	2	4	6	2	3	5	6	3	9	20
History	-	-	-	5	-	5	3	1	4	9
Law	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
Zoology	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Grand Total	24	17	41	17	7	24	16	8	24	89

Table 13. Distribution of students based on their courses and associated faculties.

Dates	11 August 2024						25 February 2025			22 March 2025				Grand Total
Department	LLB	MA	MEd	MSc	PhD	Total	MA	MSc	Total	MA	MSc	PhD	Total	
Botany	-	-	-	7	3	10	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	15
Chemistry	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	5	5	-	6	3	9	20
Education	-	-	7	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
English	-	5	-	-	-	5	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	9
Geography		3	-	-	3	6	5	-	5	9	-	-	9	20
History	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	4	4	9
Law	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sanskrit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Zoology	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Grand Total	4	8	7	10	12	41	14	10	24	9	6	9	24	89

11c. Climate change and changing life style

A workshop on climate change and changing lifestyle was held with students enrolled in SSJ University Almora, 11.08.2024. A total of 41 students and an associate professor at SSJ Campus Almora attended the workshop. In the first session, two slide shows were screened. The first slide show focused on climate change issues at global, national and local levels. The second slide show highlighted intergenerational changes in women lives. It also showed slides of villages affected by disasters in recent times. Impacts on communities, especially women and children were discussed highlighting stress and trauma that people face at the aftermath of disasters such as cloudbursts and related flooding. The second session was an open discussion on climate change, gender and culture. A lively discussion took place on the elements of traditions and rituals relevant today and how the hill society is changing and adapting to modern ways of living. Prof. Richard Delacey, Harvard University, shared his views on importance of languages and climate change.

11d. Urbanization-a reality

A workshop on “urbanization-a reality” was organized with post graduate and PhD students of SSJ University Almora, 09.02.2025. The workshop focused on issues of growing urbanizations and vulnerabilities caused by climate change. Held at USNPSS, the workshop started with screening of a short documentary on urbanization and intergenerational changes in women’s lives, discussion followed. As everyone was encouraged to speak freely, a lively debate on women’s rights was generated among students. At the end of the workshop students wrote

their feedback on a form. Based on this feedback and informal discussions with participants, the next workshop with students of SSJ University was planned.

11e. Our environment

Titled as “our environment,” this workshop highlighted interconnections between various components of a village ecosystem. The idea was to expose University students to different elements of the local environment and build knowledge around intrinsic complexities of ecological, social and economic concerns. A slide show portraying a model of a village ecosystem demonstrated interconnections between the forests, farms, water, animals and human beings, discussions followed. Linkages between health of an ecosystem and resilience in terms of livelihoods and community well-being were discussed. 24 students (8 men and 16 women) participated in the workshop held on 22.03.2025.



Figure 29. Workshops with students enrolled at Almora University.

12. Sangoshti programme

This year, a total of five events were organized:

Prof. Richard Delacey, Harvard University, USA, spoke on *“Bhasha, bhashi aur samaj: Ek ahindibhashi ke Anubhav”*, 14 August 2024. A total of 52 participants attended including University professors, students, lawyers, retired citizens, writers, teachers and the USNPSS staff.

Shri K S Mallick, retired civil servant who lives in Kasardevi near Almora talked about his experiences in a sangoshti held at USNPSS on 28th September 2024. *“Kasardevi Kshetra mien Pichhle Derh dashak ke Anubhav”* was the topic of his speech. The event was attended by 45 participants.

On the occasion of the 25th sangoshti programme, 20.10.2024, Dr. O P Yadava, CEO and Chief cardiac surgeon, National Heart Institute, New Delhi, talked about heart care and prevention from diseases. His lecture focused on the theme of learning best practices for heart care- *“Apnea Dil Ki Sehat Apnea Hath Mein”* was the topic, he addressed. A total of 60 participants attended.

Prof. Shekhar Joshi, Dean, Faculty of Visual Arts, SSJ University Almora shared his experiences during a talk themed as *“Meri kala yatra”*. 31 attendees participated in the event held on 30.11.2024 at USNPSS.

Dr. Neelakshi Joshi Senior researcher in Leibniz Institute of Ecological, Urban and Regional Development, Germany spoke on the issue of *“Himalaya mein tivra gati se ho rahe shahrikaran ke khatre: Almora nagar ke vishesh sandarbh mein”* (risks of rapid urbanization in the Himalayas: in special context of Almora town). Held on 27.12.2024, the event was attended 35 participants.



Figure 30. Sangoshti programme is attended by residents of Almora.

13. Scholarship

Late Mrs. Alka Dhawan Chatrath Scholarship was awarded to Sakshi Kimothi, BSc agriculture student, enrolled at Sri Guru Ram Rai University Dehradun. Financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- was provided. Sakshi, a resident of Badhani village in Chamoli district, represents a poor family.

14. Meetings of the Governing Body

Meetings of the governing body were held on 2.4.2024 and 19.11.2024. some of the members attended in-person whilst others joined virtually. The annual general meeting was also held on November 19, 2024.

15. Repairs and refurbishing of resource center

This year, repairs of the meeting hall were carried out, the roof and the walls were refurbished and a projector was installed. Further, in the washrooms, new flooring and seats were installed to have a modernistic, clean space.

16. B D Pande memorial lecture

The 11th B D Pande memorial lecture was held on 29.5.2024 at USNPSS Almora. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Padma Vibhushan, a renowned economist and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India spoke on the topic of “Climate change, policy challenges at the national level and their implications at the local level”. The programme was chaired by Shri Indu Kumar Pande, former Chief Secretary of



Figure 31. Lecture by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

Uttarakhand. The lecture was followed by a question- answer session. About 150 participants attended the event. The USNPSS staff appraised Mr. Ahluwalia and Mr. Pande of the work carried out by the organization over the last three decades in Uttarakhand.

17. Visits by donors

Members of the Dayal Trust, New Delhi, visited on 6.4.2024 and 8.11.2024. In April, the team made a visit to Pati, district Champawat, to see the village learning centre and computer center. Discussions were held with women and girls being trained in tailoring and knitting at Pati. A meeting with members of women's groups was held at Toli village. In addition, the team saw the afforestation site, horticultural activities and fisheries in Toli village. In November, the team had discussions with 32 women and men who came from different projects sites to Almora.



Figure 32. Visit by the Dayal Trust representatives to Pati centre, district Champawat.

18. Visitors

USNPSS office is visited by college students, PhD scholars, researchers, school teachers and Professors, NGOs, representatives of funding organizations, friends and well-wishers from India and abroad. Training of shikshikas running village learning centres and computer centres in villages, workshops with women's groups and university students, lectures, and discussions with the residents of Almora are all hosted by USNPSS at its office.

Members of the Governing Body

List of the Governing Body members for 2024-25

Sl.	Name	Occupation	Address
1	Dr. Lalit Pande (Chairman and Chief Executive)	Social work	Manorath Sadan, Champanaula, Almora 263601
2	Dr. H. C. Pande (Member)	Former Vice Chancellor	1/97 Vijay Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
3	Dr. B. K. Joshi (Member)	Former Vice Chancellor	217, Indira Nagar, Phase 1, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun
4	Ms. Ratna Sudarshan (Member)	Trustee & Former Director, ISST, New Delhi	C-96 (third Floor), Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi 110017
5	Mr. Ranjan Joshi (Member)	Ex. Corporate Executive, Community Advisor	Belvedere, Brighton Corner, Almora 263601
6	Mr. Indu K Pande (Member) from 01-01-2025	Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand	12-A, USHA Colony, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Special Invitees:

6	Shri Arun Singh	Former M.P. and Union Minister	MA 1/3-2D Garden Estate, MG Road, Gurgaon.
7	Ms. Manini Chatterjee	Editor	B-27, Press Enclave, New Delhi - 110017
8	Sri Suman Dubey	Former Editor	N-125, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110017
9	Shri K. S. Malik	Retd Civil Servant	Ganga Niwas, Kasar Devi, Almora 263601
10	Smt. Anuradha Pande	Social worker	USNPSS, Almora
11	Col C. S. Pant (Retd)	Consultant Radiologist	Green Park, New Delhi
12	Shri Deb Mukherji	IFS Retd, Former Ambassador	C-71 IFS Apartments, Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi -91
13	Dr O.P. Yadava	CEO, National Heart Institute	Kasar Devi, Almora
14	Sri Kiran Joshi	Retd. Bank Manager	Tilakpur, Link Road, Almora

Staff Profile

Staff 2024-25 USNPSS Almora

Sl.	Name	Sex	Qualifications	Work experience in USNPSS
1	Dr Lalit Pande Director	M	Ph.D.in Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University S.M.in Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. USA B. Tech (with distinction) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Awarded <i>Padma Shri</i> by the President of India IIT Delhi Distinguished Alumni Award 2014 Outstanding Mechanical Engineer OME Award Purdue University (2017)	39 years
2	Anuradha Pande	F	M. Sc. (Geology), Kumaun University Nainital, Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management, Lucknow	33
3	Dr G. P. Pande	M	M. Sc., Ph. D. (Botany), Kumaun University Nainital	25
4	Rama Joshi	F	Intermediate, U. P. Board	32
5	Kamal Kumar Joshi	M	M. A. (History), Kumaon University, Almora campus	32
6	Jeevan Chandra Joshi	M	Inter science	37
7	Suresh Bisht	M	Intermediate	32
8	Himanshu Kandpal	M	MA, MS in Rural Development	02
9	Kailash Papanai	M	MA (Education), MA (Political Science) Kumaun University	18
10	D. S. Latwal	M	B.A. Kumaun University	21
11	Mohan Singh	M	Class 8	17
12	Mohan Singh Jr.	M	Class 8	02

20. Accounts

An audited statement of accounts is attached.

मनीष खन्ना एण्ड क.
समदीक्षेयाकार

30, 1st Floor, Pichari Bazaar, Mallital, Nainital 263001, Uttarakhand

Manish Khanna & Co
Chartered Accountants
Telefax: +91 5942 238757
email: manish@mkca.net
website: www.mkca.net

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Members,

Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the Balance sheet Income and Expenditure Account, and Receipts and Payments Accounts of Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan for the period ended 31 March 2025. In our opinion, and according to the information and explanations given to us, the accompanying said financial statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, give a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matter

We have determined there are no Key Audit Matters to communicate in our report

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about the entity's presentation and fair representation of the financial statements and that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to



Influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements the entity's presentation and fair representation of the financial statements

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

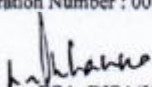
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

For Manish Khanna & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration Number : 008584C


Manish Khanna, FCA, DISA(ICA)
Partner
Membership Nos- 077858
Place: Nainital
Dated: 29 August 2025
UDIN - 25077858 BH4246 6858



Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

Sources of funds

	Current Year	Previous Year
Corpus Fund		
Opening balance	1,94,20,152.47	1,93,50,151.47
Add: Corpus donations	-	70,001.00
Total corpus fund	1,94,20,152.47	1,94,20,152.47

General Funds

General Reserves		
Opening Balance	1,00,47,072.03	82,55,346.20
Add: Transfer from Corpus Fund	-	-
Add: Current year's appropriation	10,54,535.21	17,91,725.83
Total general reserves	1,11,01,607.23	1,00,47,072.03

Designated Funds

Specific Reserves		
Opening Balance	97,85,510.93	1,06,19,548.22
Less: Expenditure met from reserves	(20,88,218.00)	(23,29,180.00)
Add: Current year's appropriation	30,93,110.96	14,94,742.71
Total Specific reserves (i)	1,07,90,403.89	97,85,510.93

Restricted Funds

Unspent grants in aid [Annexure A]	38,75,446.27	51,51,594.33
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Total sources of funds

4,51,87,609.86	4,54,04,329.76
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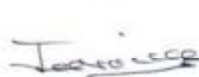
Utilization of funds

Current assets		
Cash in hand	570.00	-
Cash in bank	18,04,284.91	15,81,668.91
Balance in bank in fixed deposits	4,13,09,751.00	4,20,09,751.00
Accrued Interest	12,67,095.14	8,27,812.04
Income tax deducted at source	8,05,908.81	9,85,097.81
Total Current assets	4,51,87,609.86	4,54,04,329.76
Total utilization of funds	4,51,87,609.86	4,54,04,329.76

(0.00)

Notes to accounts and significant accounting policies - Annexure - "B"

For Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan



Jeewan C. Joshi
Accountant



Dr. Lalit Pande
Chairman

This is the balance sheet referred
to in our report of even date

For Manish Khanna & Co
ICAI FRN 008584C
Chartered Accountants



Manish Khanna, FCA, LL.M, DISA (ICAI)
Partner

Membership Nos 077858

Dated: 29 August 2025

Place : Nainital - 263001

UDIN: 25077859 & H6Z446859

Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora
Income and Expenditure Account
for year ended 31 March 2025

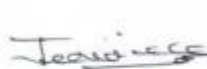
<u>Income</u>	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Previous Year Amount (Rs)
Administrative charges	1,30,000.00	1,30,000.00
Excess recovery of expenditure in training workshops	47,586.80	581.74
Donations	10,25,744.00	12,86,355.00
Interest on bank deposits	30,86,711.10	19,46,562.10
Miscellaneous income	3,816.00	
Income other than grants	42,73,857.70	33,63,538.84
Add: Grant funds (Schedule 1)	27,56,377.00	85,81,300.00
Total Income	70,30,234.70	1,19,44,838.84

<u>Expenditure</u>	Current Year Amount (Rs)	Previous Year Amount (Rs)
Grant Expenditure (Schedule 1)	25,14,222.53	64,62,057.80
<u>Expenditure other than grants</u>		
Bank Charges	3568.54	3,066.64
Electricity and water and municipal taxes	60,812.00	19,487.00
Insurance	16,338.00	16,727.00
Miscellaneous expenses	3,760.00	3,090.76
Postage and telephone	16,891.00	20,330.80
Printing and Stationery	21,678.00	
Society Renewal Expenses	2,800.00	
Software updation	374.00	4,248.00
Travel		10,120.00
Expenditure other than grant expenditure	1,26,211.54	77,070.30
Total Expenditure	27,40,434.07	65,39,128.10

<u>Current year's surplus</u>	<u>42,89,800.63</u>	<u>54,05,710.74</u>
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<u>Appropriation of surplus</u>		
a) General Reserves	10,54,535.21	17,91,725.83
b) Grant obligations	1,42,154.47	21,19,242.20
c) Specific Reserves	30,93,110.95	14,94,742.71
	<u>42,89,800.63</u>	<u>54,05,710.74</u>

For Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran


Jeewan C. Joshi
Accountant


Dr. Lalit Pande
Chairman

This is the income and expenditure account referred to in our report of even date
For Manish Khanna & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Manish Khanna, FCA, LL.M, DISA (ICAI)
Partner
Membership Number 077858
Dated: 29 August 2025
Place : Nainital - 263001
UDIN: 25077858 RMG 266 6859



Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Parjyaran Shiksha Sansadhan, Almora
Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Receipts	Current Year Amounts [Rs.]	Previous Year Amounts [Rs.]	Payments	Current Year Amounts [Rs.]	Previous Year Amounts [Rs.]
Opening balances			Utilization of grants		
Cash in hand	15,81,668.91	37,26,748.17	Rajeshwar Sushiksha Dayal Charitable Trust	22,53,474.24	25,07,327.30
Cash in bank	4,20,09,751.00	3,69,89,751.00	National Philanthropic Trust	9,36,537.42	27,59,344.70
Fixed Deposits	4,35,91,415.91	4,07,16,498.17	Association for India's Development	3,12,066.00	2,50,000.00
			New Venture Fund	14,00,447.40	9,45,385.80
Sub total			Total utilization of grant	50,32,525.06	64,62,057.80
Grants received			Revenue Payments related to:		
Rajeshwar Sushiksha Dayal Charitable Trust	24,15,590.00	24,12,175.00	Sanskriti	3,568.54	3,066.64
New Venture Fund	3,40,787.00	61,69,125.00	Bank Charges	21,678.00	-
National Philanthropic Trust			Printing and Stationery	60,812.00	19,487.00
Total grants received	27,56,377.00	85,81,300.00	Electricity and water and municipal taxes	16,338.00	16,727.00
Revenue Receipts			Insurance	3,750.00	3,090.76
Administrative charges	1,30,000.00	1,30,000.00	Miscellaneous expenses	16,891.00	20,330.90
Excess recovery of expenditure in training workshops	47,596.60	581.74	Society Renewal Expenses	2,800.00	-
Donations	10,25,744.00	12,86,395.00	Software updation	374.00	4,248.00
Interest on bank deposits	26,27,428.00	19,46,562.10	Travel	1,26,211.54	10,120.00
Miscellaneous income	3,816.00	-			77,070.30
Total revenue receipts	38,54,574.60	33,63,538.84	Payment from reserves	13,33,522.00	12,79,599.00
Corpus donations			Safety	1,73,347.00	2,71,300.00
Income tax refund	4,74,671.00	70,001.00	Rural development	25,000.00	3,35,341.00
			Scholarship	1,91,280.00	3,95,800.00
			Maintenance	47,200.00	47,200.00
			Village Learning Center Program	6,500.00	-
			Auditor's remuneration	20,88,218.00	23,25,180.00
			Assets Purchased	2,59,482.00	2,71,611.00
			Local payments from reserves	570.00	-
			Income tax payments	18,64,284.91	15,81,668.91
			Closing balances	4,13,69,791.00	4,20,09,751.00
			Cash in hand	4,31,14,005.91	4,35,91,415.91
			Cash in bank		
			Fixed Deposit receipts		
				5,06,67,642.51	5,27,31,338.61

For Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Parjyaran Shiksha Sansadhan

This is the balance sheet referred
 For Manish Khanna & Co
 Chartered Accountants
 (FRN 006594C)

Manish Khanna
 Dr. Lalit Pande
 Chairman

Manish Khanna
 Manish Khanna, FCA, DCA(ACA)
 [Membership Nos 077859]
 Partner
 Date: 29 August 2025
 Place: Nainital - 263001
 UDIN: 25033559BHG246687



Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi Prayavaran Shiksha Sanshan, Almora

Financial Year ended 31 March 2025

Schedule "1" to Balance sheet - Grants-in-aid

Name of the grant	Receipt Current Year			Amounts spent		
	Balance as at 1.4.2024	Amount received during the year	Interest credited to grant	Total grant funds available	Carried forward amount utilized in current year/ interest from reserves	Current year's utilization
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	20,038.71	24,00,000.00	15,590.00	24,35,628.71	20,038.71	22,73,435.53
New Venture Fund	52,23,739.20			52,23,739.20	14,90,447.40	-
National Philanthropic Trust	5,95,750.42		3,40,787.00	9,36,537.42	5,95,750.42	3,40,787.00
Association for India's Development	3,12,066.00			3,12,066.00	3,12,066.00	-
Total	61,51,594.33	24,00,000.00	3,56,377.00	89,07,971.33	24,18,302.53	26,14,222.53
						3,12,066.00
						50,32,525.06
						38,75,446.27

Name of the grant	Receipt Current Year			Amount spent/ refunded/ adjusted		Balance as on 31.3.2024
	Balance as at 1.4.2023	Amount received	Interest credited to	Total grant funds available	Amount spent/ refunded/ adjusted	
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	1,15,191.01	24,00,000.00	12,175.00	25,27,366.01	25,07,327.30	20,038.71
New Venture Fund	61,69,125.00	61,69,125.00		61,69,125.00	9,45,385.80	52,23,739.20
National Philanthropic Trust	33,55,095.12			33,55,095.12	27,59,344.70	5,95,750.42
Association for India's Development	5,52,066.00			5,52,066.00	2,50,000.00	3,12,066.00
Total	40,32,352.13	85,69,125.00	12,175.00	1,26,13,652.13	64,62,057.80	61,51,594.33



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Udanku

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UDIN - 2507258NM6244857

SCHEDULE NO. "B"

Financial year 2024-25

(a) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Assets acquired by Sansthan out of surplus accumulated in earlier years for the purpose of purchase of capital assets are treated as utilization of reserves. Assets acquired out of current year surplus are treated as application of income for charitable purpose and charged to revenue in the year of acquisition. Assets acquired out of grant funds are treated as application of grant monies
2. Amounts received by way of Grants and their relative expenditure is considered as revenue items and routed through the Income & Expenditure Account. Amount of underutilized grant as at year end is transferred from the year's surplus to Unspent Grants Account which is reflected as a liability under "Restricted Funds" in the balance sheet.
3. Investments, if any, are stated at lower of cost or realizable value.
4. Interest on deposits with bank – Interest earned in deposits made out of non grant funds is considered as income to the extent credited by bank whether by accrual or otherwise. Interest on deposits made out of grant funds is treated as income in the manner aforesaid if the terms of grant permit, and if terms require interest to be treated as part of grant funds, then the interest is treated as part of grant and accounted in the same way as grants received
5. Cash basis of accounting is followed in preparing the statements except interest on time deposits which is accounted in terms of paragraph 4 above.

(b) NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Assets acquired by Sansthan and in use as at 31 March 2025 out of grant funds and own funds are :

Description of asset	Amount
Office Equipment	6,46,174.96
Vehicle (net of disposals)	9,20,481.00
Furniture and Furnishing	1,05,505.00
Library	4,37,178.50
Solar Water Heating System	23,938.00
Multifunction system	88,200.00
Portable hard drive	5,600.00
Water purifier	8,500.00
Inverter with battery	29,900.00
Computer, printer, scanner, projector	2,35,923.00
Total assets	25,01,400.46



Teerath

Chilander