

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2020-2021**

**Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan**  
**Almora**

## Acknowledgements

### Project Grants:

Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust, New Delhi

Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust, New Delhi

GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Kosi-Katarmal  
(National Mission on Himalayan Studies NMHS, MoEFCC, Govt of India)

The National Philanthropic Trust, USA (The Micky and Vinita Pant Charitable Fund)

---

### Donations were received from:

Yuka and Tomoki Hashimoto

Geeta Pande

Sudhir Kumar

K. J. S. Chatrath

Manish Pande

Niranjana Pant

Anand & Sujata Jagota

Madhuri Pant

Uma Joshi

Sheila Mehta

Total: Rs 2, 21,000=00 (Indian donation); Rs 3, 99,533=00 (Foreign donation)

Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS)

Jakhan Devi, Mall Road

Almora 263601 (Uttarakhand)

Telephone : 05962-231100

Email: [sevanidhi.almora@gmail.com](mailto:sevanidhi.almora@gmail.com)

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

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	1
1a. Preparation and distribution of masks.....	4
Posters and Arogya setu .....	5
2. Survey to understand the impact of Covid-19 lockdown, 2020 in villages of Uttarakhand .....	8
3. Survey to understand interest and aspiration of youth enrolled at SSJ Almora University.....	11
4. Village learning centres.....	13
4a. Creating groups on digital media to encourage learning among students and teachers .....	15
4b. Profile of Shikahikas .....	19
4c. Visits to learning centres .....	21
4d. Material given to centres.....	22
5. Computer learning centres .....	23
5a. Bal mela.....	27
6. Women development .....	28
6a. Village Palyun, district Almora .....	28
6b. Gwadi village, district Pithoragarh.....	29
6c. Village Surna, district Almora .....	31
6d. Jankande village, district Champawat.....	31
6e. Goom village, district Champawat .....	32
6f. Gogina village, district Bageshwar .....	32
6g. Village Khalla and Devaldhar, district Chamoli .....	33
7. Strengthening and improving rural livelihoods .....	36
7a. Ecological and environmental issues.....	36
7b. Benefits of polyhouses.....	37
7c. Protected farming initiatives by USNPSS .....	37
Banthok cluster.....	38
Pati village cluster.....	42
Gwar village.....	45
Experience from other projects.....	46
Limitation of protected farming .....	47
Recommendations .....	47
7d. Agricultural Produce processing and marketing centre at Badhani village .....	48
7e. Silai-Sewing and knitting centres .....	49
Gogina village.....	49
Badhani-Jakh village .....	50
Village Palyun.....	50
Village Maniagar.....	51
Jankande village.....	53
Material given to the centres .....	61
7f. Root trainers .....	62
8. Water tanks .....	62
9. Collaboration with other institution .....	64
9a. Ambedkar University Delhi .....	64
9b. Late Alka Dhawan Chatrath Scholarship .....	64
10. Resource Centre .....	64
11. Meeting of the Governing Body.....	64
12. Lectures/Meetings .....	64
13. Accounts .....	64
14. Visitors .....	65
15. Members of Governing Body.....	66
16. Staff Profile.....	67
17. Audited Accounts .....	68-74

## 1. Introduction

The year 2020 has been an unusual and unique time impacting everyone in the world. Challenges posed by Covid-19 have been unprecedented and the nature of its spread and subsequent impact has caused a lot of uncertainty and confusion among people. The year has been a challenging phase for USNPSS because a major portion of the work is rooted in rural communities. Though the organization has been involved in educating communities on prevention and treatment of common infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, typhoid, cold, dysentery, diarrhea etc. the covid-19 pandemic required a new set of measures in our ongoing efforts towards building resilient communities in Uttarakhand.

Much before the first patient appeared in Uttarakhand, the media was reporting rising numbers of covid-19 cases from many other parts of the country and the world. Many countries were already following various safety measures, isolation, quarantine and even lockdown. Since experiences from already infected areas were loudly shared, especially via social media, people were familiar with the issue and the state government had got some time to alert, organize and prepare the medical sector to manage and offer treatment to covid-19 patients. However, an existential threat to people that the virus was capable of striking in a short period and inadequate health care facilities in villages, multidimensional support at many levels was required.

As soon as the Covid-19 first burst onto the scene in Uttarakhand, USNPSS began spreading awareness in rural areas by envisioning strategies to make covid appropriate behavior a norm, introduce simple surveillance methods such as observation and reporting of any symptom emerging in the community, build up immunity, maintain cleanliness to make living spaces safer and so on. Details are presented in the report.

With the announcement of the country-wide lockdown in March 2020, reverse migration of people from the cities to villages started. The migrant population was desperate to reach home hoping that the mountains will provide them safety and solitude. As people working in the formal as well as informal sector, with or without contracts, started coming from different parts of the country the state as well as the village residents had before them the challenge of hosting and providing adequate care during quarantine and afterwards.

Migrants returning from various states of the country needed quarantine of at least 14 days. In case the whole family had decided to come back, the returnees included women, children and the elderly. To contain the spread of Covid-19 and to protect the local residents from infections, the state took several measures and quarantine procedures were just a small part of the whole process.

The returnees needed a welcoming gesture, empathy, care and compassion from people back home. Many of them were distraught by the journey that they had made back home from the cities. There were instances of young men walking to the hills from the cities, reaching home after two-three days. Many had come in small groups in cars and jeeps by

sharing expenses amongst themselves. In some villages vehicle owners had organized a system of transport by taking people/tourists stuck in the hills to Delhi and bringing the locals back home. Tired and anxious, these groups required continued assurance and care back home. As fear of catching infection from the migrants spread with rising numbers in the cities, few instances of hostility and exclusion were also reported.

In light of these foregoing situations, USNPSS and its partner organizations volunteered to contribute towards the mission of the government to contain the spread and provide a safety-net to people in rural areas. Several measures were taken to raise awareness and to provide practical solutions to problems that people were facing in their daily life due to the unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic.

The women's groups showed solidarity and made hands-on arrangements for people coming back to villages from the cities from all over the country. In many villages, the partner organizations of USNPSS and the women's groups took the lead and in consultation with the panchayat members made arrangements for safe stay of returnees during quarantine. Members of the women's groups offered safe drinking water, food, bedding and other provisions of daily use to people in quarantine centres. In many villages, the local administration had offered the panchayat ghar, community centres, school buildings as quarantine centres to returnees, but many such centres had inadequate facilities to accommodate people for two weeks. For example, in some villages the panchayat ghars were in dilapidated conditions, in many centres water and electricity were not available. In some, toilets were either dirty or dysfunctional or not available.

The challenge was multidimensional as it also required inclusion of children and youth into community ways of being. The issue was apparent among families that came back from the cities after two-three decades. Children born and brought up in the cities neither spoke the local dialect nor recognized the local culture of their homeland. A young boy from a village in Chamoli district wrote a small piece for a magazine "Nanda" that we publish every year from Almora. A few lines from his note are translated in English: *when they came home there was a wedding in the village. The children were not happy because Garhwali rituals were being followed. The local instruments were being played which was nice. But they were missing the DJ, special band and baahar ka khana (catering). The girl was not at all happy in the village. She felt nauseous when someone would clean the cowshed.* Given this socio-cultural reality of difficulty in integration, it was apparent that people required more than what the state and the experts in general were advocating and debating in television channels during the lockdown.

The participatory approach that USNPSS has nurtured for almost three decades came in handy while dealing with covid-19 issues in villages. USNPSS and its partner organizations began coordinating with women's groups, youth and adolescent groups and the panchayat representatives to administer measures for safety of hosting population and of returnee migrants. As interaction with communities deepened, details began to appear giving us indications for planning and execution of activities. In cognizance with the guidelines to

NGOs sent by the NITI Aayog, Government of India, and from our own understanding and feedback from villages, we took the following measures:

The first and foremost measure was to ensure regular payment of honorarium to all shikshikas, supervisors and the others in CBOs as a means of extending support in this difficult time. We utilised our reserves/savings to pay salaries/honoraria to the staff at Almora and 70 field workers in villages during April-June 2020. All organizations and individuals who have been supporting the work continued funding USNPSS and we thank them all for their generosity and understanding. With this support, USNPSS could make timely and regular payments to people involved in the programme. This support also helped USNPSS to keep women, girls and the poor at the centre of planning during the pandemic. In villages, everyone helped to prevent spread of covid-19 pandemic and came forward to take care of the migrants in quarantine and afterwards.



**Figure 1.** Cleanliness drives and awareness generation through putting up messages regarding prevention from covid-19 in villages.



**Figure 2.** Children attending village learning centres expressed their views in villages.

## Preparation and distribution of masks

USNPSS and its partner CBOs spread over villages of Kumaon and Garhwal including Maichun (Almora), Pati (Champawat), Badhani (Chamoli) and Ganai Gangoli (Pithoragarh) made cloth masks and distributed them among children and women in the Village Learning Centres (VLC). Also, motivated villagers to use mask/face cover and taught them to make a simple mask with new/old cotton cloth pieces.

A total of 4,275 cloth masks were prepared by USNPSS at Almora. Initially, old, torn cotton clothes were used to make masks. The advantage of using old cotton fabric was that the masks were soft, could be held in place using simple elastic bands or fabric ties and breathing was easy. The issue of easy breathing was important because people walk long distances uphill and downhill and need deep inhalation and subsequent exhalation of air. Masks were stitched in such a way that these would fit closely over the nose, chin and cheeks of the users.

In addition, masks were stitched in sewing and knitting centres in Maniagar, Palyun and Danya in Almora district, Badhani in Chamoli district, Pati in Champawat district and in Gogina centre in district Bageswar.

Masks stitched at Almora and in various other locations were distributed locally for use by children, women and the facilitators, supervisors involved in the programme. From Almora stitched masks were sent to Maniagar, Pati, Danya, Badhani and Gopeswar regions for distribution and use in villages.

**Table 1.** Number of masks provided to various agencies during the summer of 2020.

Sl	Village/institution	District	Number of masks
1	Maichun	Almora	452
2	Danya	Almora	712
3	District Magistrate office	Almora	500
4	SP office	Almora	250
5	Municipality office	Almora	250
6	Ganai gangoli	Pithoragarh	150
7	Gopeswar	Chamoli	250
8	Pati	Champawat	360
9	Badhani	Chamoli	530
10	Shama	Bageswar	250

USNPSS also made a contribution of 500 stitched masks to the office of the District Magistrate Almora, 250 masks to SP office Almora and 250 masks to the Municipality office at Almora. Table 1 exhibits the details.





**Figure 3.** Stitching masks at USNPSS, Almora for distribution in villages.

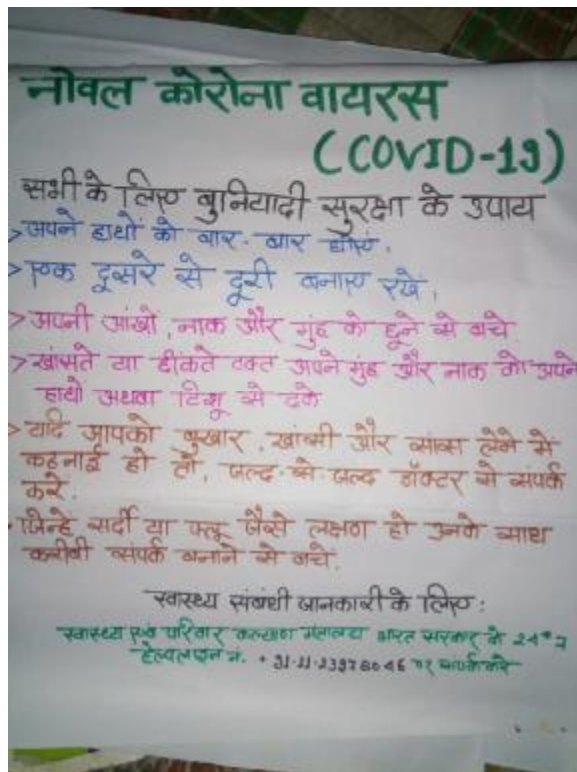


**Figure 4.** Stitching and distributing masks at Badhani, Chamoli district.

### **Posters and Arogya setu**

- USNPSS printed Xerox copies of 2 selected posters published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and distributed to our field workers for circulation among the village residents
- Asked our CBO workers to download the 'Arogya Setu' App in their mobile phones and also motivate people in their areas to do so.





**Figure 5.** Posters issued by Government of India and also prepared locally were distributed in villages.

The covid-19 pandemic has brought before us many new issues in the mountains. Till this pandemic had surfaced, communities used to deal with disasters such as landslides, cloudbursts and floods, earthquakes etc. by being together, both physically and in emotional fronts. The experience this time was very different because physical proximity was not advisable and yet the community was to somehow respond to the challenges in a collective manner.



Figure 6. Children at Pati, district Pithoragarh, were motivated to put on masks.



Figure 7. Children used masks when the centres reopened at Gopeswar, district Chamoli.

## ग्रामीण बच्चों तथा महिलाओं को बांटे मास्क

■ गोपेश्वर/एसएनबी ।

कोरोना महामारी से रोकथाम के लिए ग्रामीण बच्चों तथा महिलाओं को मास्क वितरित कर लोगों को बचाव के टिप्स दिए गए।

उत्तराखंड सेवा निधि अल्मोड़ा तथा नवज्योति महिला कल्याण संस्थान के तत्त्वस्थान में संचालित ग्राम शिक्षण केंद्र बगद्वारा, कोटेश्वर, खल्ला तथा मंडल के बच्चों तथा महिलाओं को कोरोना संक्रमण बीमारी से बचने के उपायों की जानकारी दी गई। इस दौरान बच्चों व महिलाओं को मास्क वितरित कर अपने क्षेत्रों में साफ सफाई बनाए रखने तथा समय-समय पर कोटेशनशक दवाओं के छिड़काव पर जोर दिया गया।

लॉकडाउन के कारण स्कूलों के बंद होने से बच्चों पर पड़ रहे प्रभाव के बारे में जानकारी हासिल की गई। संस्था के सचिव एमएस बिट ने कहा कि इस बीमारी के कारण बच्चों की जीवनशैली

कोरोना से बचाव के लिए लोगों को दिए टिप्स

बदल गया है। स्कूल बंद होने से बच्चे घरों में कैद हो गए हैं। कहा कि हालांकि ग्राम शिक्षण केंद्रों की सामग्री का लाभ बच्चे उठा रहे हैं। अपने-अपने घरों में बच्चे गतिविधि में शामिल होकर दिनचर्या बढ़ा रहे हैं। इस मौके पर महिलाओं ने बताया कि समय-समय संगठन द्वारा साफ सफाई का कार्य निरंतर किया जा रहा है। इस मौके पर समन्वयक सुमन नेगी, रेखा बिष्ट, बगद्वारा की प्रधान सरोजनी देवी, खल्ला के प्रधान अरविंद बिष्ट बिष्ट, पूर्व प्रधान उर्मिला देवी, सरिता देवी, उमा देवी, महिलापाल सिंह नेगी, धूमा देवी, देवेश्वरी देवी, मंगा देवी आदि मौजूद रहे।

### मास्क व सेनेटाइजर बांटे

कोटद्वार। नगर निगम की पार्षद आशा चौहान व पूर्व सभासद गुडू चौहान ने मालवीय उद्यान में कोरोना वरियर्स को मास्क, गलब्स व सेनेटाइजर्स का वितरित किया। इस दौरान शारीरिक दूरी का ध्यान रखा गया। उन्होंने लोगों से घरों में रहकर सौशल डिस्टेंस का पालन करने की अपील की। इस मौके पर पार्षद सोनिया नेगी, विजेता रावत, वीणा नेगी आदि मौजूद थे।

Figure 8. A Newspaper note from Gopeswar (district Chamoli).

## **2. Survey to understand the impact of Covid-19 lockdown, 2020 in villages of Uttarakhand**

The aim of this study was to understand the impact of COVID-19 lockdown in villages where we have been working. A simple questionnaire prepared by USNPSS was shared with our partner organizations in villages of Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts. Information was collected by facilitators and supervisors of VLCs during April to July 2020. A total of 58 respondents provided the required information.

Possibly, there could be certain caveats in the process of preparing and filling the questionnaire, but it still reflects the main effects of COVID-19 lockdown in villages of Uttarakhand. The following points emerged:

A total of 2020 migrants returned to their villages after the lockdown was announced in March 2020. Though the number of migrant returnees varies in different villages, the overall percentage figure is 8.5% of the total population of 24,135 in villages covered by the study.

By September 2020, 34.6% of migrant returnees had gone back to the cities. People who had stayed back also wanted to leave as and when job opportunities were available in the cities. However, 16% of them had already settled at home and expressed no desire to leave again

Back at home, a majority of migrant returnees were working as daily wage laborer's especially under the MNREGA programme. Rather reluctantly, some of them were involved in agricultural work but wanted to leave as soon as the situation normalized. A few of them had opened tea shops. The number of customers had dwindled due to covid-19 pandemic and business was not profitable.

One of the examples of a small private enterprise was reported from Danya village in Almora district where two young men opened a hair salon in the market. Since hair cutting was an issue during the lockdown, they could generate some business from this activity

Since the returnees found it difficult to sit idle at home and wanted to generate some income, livelihoods attained centre-stage in informal dialogues relating to the impact of lockdown in villages. This point became pertinent with expressions like “कोरोना हो या न हो, रोजगार होना ज़रूरी है” (Doesn't matter whether Corona remains or not, but employment must remain) in Goom village of Pati block in Champawat district. In other villages too, people said that if they do not get success in work locally, then they will be forced to flee again.

**Table 2.** Migrants who came back to villages after the COVID-19 lockdown, Survey: January 2021.

Location	Population	Number of returnees						Total (% of population)
		Men	%	Women	%	Children	%	
<b>Karnaprayag, Chamoli</b>	<b>5200</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>417 (8)</b>
Sunargwar	348	17	52	8	24.2	8	24.2	33 (9.4)
Bainoli	1352	70	67.9	12	11.6	21	20.3	103 (7.6)
Kaflodi	400	34	75.5	5	11.1	6	13.3	45 (11.2)
Chaundali	530	28	70	5	12.5	7	17.5	40 (7.5)
Sundargaon	209	28	87.5	2	6.2	2	6.2	32 (15.3)
Jakh	820	21	67.7	5	16.1	5	16.1	31 (3.7)
Kukdaee	350	23	92	1	4	1	4	25 (7.1)
Pudiyani	478	55	73.3	12	16	8	10.6	75 (15.6)
Chhatoli	398	19	86.3	2	9	1	4.5	22 (5.5)
Badhani	315	8	72.7	1	9	2	18.1	11 (3.4)
<b>GOPESWAR, Chamoli</b>	<b>5604</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>269 (4.8% )</b>
Banadwara	395	15	44.1	10	29.4	9	26.4	34 (8.6)
Bamiyala	365	24	60	7	17.5	9	22.5	40 (10.9)
Devaldhar	1115	54	90	2	3.3	4	6.6	60 (5.3)
Gwar	900	17	70.8	1	4.1	6	25	24 (2.6)
Kandai	230	11	78.5	1	7.1	2	14.2	14 (6)
Kathoor	272	2	25	2	25	4	50	8 (2.9)
Khalla	650	12	40	10	33.3	8	26.6	30 (4.6)
Mandal	610	12	63.1	4	21	3	15.7	19 (3.1)
Koteswar	267	6	60	2	20	2	20	10 (3.7)
Siroli	800	19	63.3	6	20	5	16.6	30 (3.7)
<b>MAICHUN, ALMORA</b>	<b>2414</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>281 (11.6)</b>
Palyoun	692	31	53.4	11	18.9	16	27.5	58 (8.3)
Maniagar	900	91	60.6	30	20	29	19.3	150 (16.6)
Kasoon	327	16	57.1	4	14.2	8	28.5	28 (8.5)
Mauni	215	19	63.3	4	13.3	7	23.3	30 (13.9)
Banthok	280	10	66.6	4	26.6	1	6.6	15 (5.3)
<b>PATI, CHAMPAWAT</b>	<b>4323</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>310 (7.1)</b>
Garsari	276	36	72	10	20	4	8	50 (18.1)
Goom	167	32	80	4	10	4	10	40 (23.9)
Jairoli	120	16	76.1	2	9.5	3	14.2	21 (17.5)
Bisari	170	10	66.6	2	13.3	3	20	15 (8.8)
Bhatyura	115	12	100	0	0	0	0	12 (10.4)
Lakhanpur	100	16	88.8	2	11.1	0	0	18 (5.6)
Raulmel	320	18	75	4	16.6	2	8.3	24 (7.5)
Kamlekh	650	12	40	10	33.3	8	26.6	30 (4.6)
Jankande	1200	32	64	14	28	4	8	50 (4.1)
Maragaon	200	6	75	2	25	0	0	8 (4)
Ladhaun	250	6	60	2	20	2	20	10 (4)



Location	Population	Number of returnees						Total (% of population)
		Men	%	Women	%	Children	%	
Katwalgaon	125	8	88.8	1	11.1	0	0	9 (7.2)
Dhoonaghat	350	8	53.3	5	33.3	2	13.3	15 (4.2)
Toli	280	4	50	2	25	2	25	8 (2.8)
<b>Shama: Gogina-Namik</b>	<b>2757</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>519 (18.8)</b>
Ratir (Malkha Dugarcha VP)	714	125	53.1	37	15.7	73	31	235 (32.9)
Gogina VP	1400	104	55.9	28	15	54	29	186 (13.2)
Namik VP	643	67	68.3	13	13.2	18	18.3	98 (15.2)
<b>Ganai Gangoli: Pithoragarh</b>	<b>3837</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>224 (5.8)</b>
Gwadi	615	20	76.9	4	15.3	2	7.6	26 (4.2)
Rugadi	736	19	63.3	5	16.6	6	20	30 (4)
Fadiyali	348	17	73.9	2	8.6	4	17.3	23 (6.6)
Bhanyani	615	28	80	3	8.5	4	11.4	35 (5.6)
Kakada	247	6	75	1	12.5	1	12.5	8 (3.2)
Bhaloogada/Nayal	300	14	58.3	4	16.6	6	25	24 (8)
Kimtola	210	10	71.4	1	7.1	3	21.4	14 (6.6)
Chaunaliya/Kunalta	224	22	73.3	4	13.3	4	13.3	30 (13.3)
Dhigarkoli	332	14	82	2	11.7	1	5.8	17 (5.1)
Bhatgada	210	10	58.8	3	17.6	4	23.5	17 (8)
<b>Total (52 villages)</b>	<b>24,135</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>2020 (8.5)</b>

Table 3 shows the number of people infected by the virus in villages studied till July 2020, when the first phase of the survey was completed. There was no covid-19 deaths reported from villages covered by the study.

**Table 3.** Reported number of persons infected by COVID 19 till July 2020.

Category	People infected by the virus (as reported by village residents)			
	Men	Women	Children	Areas/cluster
Migrants who returned to their villages after the lockdown	3	3	0	Pati-2 men and 2 women Karnaprayag-1 man, Maichun-1 woman
Local villagers	11	1	3	Gopeshwar-5 men and 2 women Karnaprayag-6 men, Pati 1-woman Maichun-1 woman
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	

Reported cases of COVID 19 deaths in 2020: Nil

Owing to the arrival of migrants many families were reporting shortage of enough space to accommodate everyone at home. Also, travelling was restricted due to the lockdown and increase in bus/taxi fare. Since social distancing norms were observed inside the vehicles too, the owners were finding it difficult to transport passengers to and from the villages. Besides, affecting shopping, this problem trickled down to people not being able to sell agricultural produce, milk etc. in nearby towns. Taking the sick to hospitals was a major concern too.

People were aware of the pandemic and its varied effects on individuals and communities. However, it is interesting to note that they were more fearful of Covid-19 than other ailments such as water-borne diseases (diarrhea, typhoid, jaundice etc.) and other virus-related diseases (for example tuberculosis) that they grapple with on a regular basis in villages. On a positive side, awareness on health and hygiene related issues improved. Cleanliness drives were run in several villages.

By and large, no negative effect on farming was noticed. The permanent residents as well as the migrants paid more attention to farming. Since lockdown had affected non-farm work, such as shops, roadside restaurants, taxi-driving etc. in the local context and businesses in the cities too, people found some respite in farming both as a means of satisfying economic as well as psychological needs.

No shortage of supply/availability of grains/other essential items was noticed during lockdown. Availability of LPG cylinders etc. was not an issue as the state had ensured regular supply of essential items. However, health care services, inadequate as these are in the mountains, were significantly affected.

Closure of schools and the village learning centres (VLCs) had significant negative impact on education of children.

As long as liquor shops remained closed and alcohol was not available, social atmosphere of the villages remained peaceful. However, the situation reversed as soon as the sale of liquor was restored

Auspicious ceremonies such as wedding, thread ceremony etc. were postponed by many families. People followed the Covid-19 guidelines and observed pandemic appropriate behaviour during cremation etc. There was an atmosphere of fear in villages. People were fearful that an epidemic may break out in villages causing deaths and agony in society.

In all villages, people appeared satisfied and happy with relief work-cash and rations-provided by the government.

### **3. Survey to understand interests and aspiration of youth enrolled at SSJ University Almora**

During the last two decades Uttarakhand has witnessed increasing migration of adolescents and youth from villages to the cities, both within the state and outside. A major proportion of these migrants move out of their homes to study in schools and colleges.

This year, two young women, Mala Arya, PhD Scholar-History and Savitri Joshi- PhD Scholar-Sociology at SSJ University, Almora approached USNPSS with a request to work on some project with the organization. After many meetings with them emerged the idea of conducting a small survey among college-going students in Almora. The purpose was to understand interests and aspirations of young men and women on issues relating to career



and employment, interest in social and political matters and attitudes towards work carried out in the non-government sector.

A questionnaire developed by USNPSS was used to conduct interviews with students enrolled in graduation, post-graduation and PhD programmes in the university. The questionnaire focused on discerning responses re practice and aspiration about education and career choices, family background, economic opportunities and their interrelated impact on young people's lives. Since the students had migrated from the villages to the town of Almora, an important concern was to map how gendered space-use affects movement of young people and whether they consider it a hurdle or not.

The researchers drew upon qualitative data from 120 students (60 men and 60 women). Out of these 68% students had rented a room/home and the remaining 23% were either living with their families or relatives. 2.5% students were living in hostel accommodations. An interesting observation made during the survey was that a majority of students who had finished schooling from Almora town had gone out to the cities to pursue their graduation degree whilst the students enrolled in SSJ Almora University were from schools located in villages and other small towns around Almora.

The survey revealed that young people perceive education as a means to obtain employment and an opportunity to live away from their village in an urbanized location. Yet, a majority of students were aware of difficulties in finding jobs even if they obtain a college degree.

Gender-based segregation of data showed that male and female students face several overlapping but also distinct challenges during their stay at Almora. One of the commonly cited reasons was their disenchantment with agriculture and forest-based activities. Whilst both men and women aspire for education and subsequently some employment in cities, girls have to make more efforts in persuading their families to enroll them in college.

When asked whether young female students had any goals for the future especially after completing their studies 46.6% preferred teaching whilst 30% male students also prioritized teaching as the most desirable occupational choice. 12.5% students were ready to take any government job that they could get in the future. Another interesting finding was the preference among boys for recruitment in the army. No girl student desired a job in the army but there was a clear preference amongst girls for a job in the police department. Further, male students were found to be more aware and working towards achieving their aforesaid goals. 21.6% female students said that had not yet thought about their future goals whereas the number among male students was much lower (3.3%).

Many of the desired occupational choices were named by both young men and women but a few remained gender-specific. For example, no men aspired for nursing, fashion designing and working as a homemaker in future. None of the girls wanted to become a forester, a writer/author, a musician or a politician. As mentioned earlier, girls were not willing to join the army either. None of them wanted to start their own business. Across

gender, none of the respondents aspired to work in agricultural fields or cited any agricultural related occupation as a preferred choice for future.

How do the rural students experience the town of Almora? Are there spaces in the town-landscapes that remain gender-segregated from movement point of view or does the space offer equal opportunities for free movement to all students and others in the town? 17% male students said that they were afraid of moving freely in the town. Out of these 40% were scared of stray dogs, monkeys and wild animals, 30% were claustrophobic, acrophobic or hydrophobic. Male students also mentioned that they were scared of going to the cremation grounds and near the liquor shops. 30% girls expressed their concerns regarding free movement in the town. 67% female students reported fear in going to certain places/gullies in the town. Reasons for these concerns were either harassment or alcoholism among men which could lead to use of abusive language and violence against them. Two women said they were afraid of walking through places called “ghostly” by the locals and 4 respondents were either aquaphobic or acrophobic.

#### 4. Village learning centres

As per the Government guidelines on Covid -19 pandemic, the village learning centres (VLC) were closed during the middle of the year. Since social distancing was the only way to protect children and other village residents from the threat of covid-19 virus, people were advised to follow the lockdown norms. Schools and colleges were also closed. Many migrant families had come home to protect themselves from covid infections in the cities and towns.

Education of children was commonly and severely affected by the pandemic. As school teachers were instructed by



Figure 9. Children at village learning centre, Gopeswar.

the government to take on-line classes, the young students were left out. A majority of students did not have cell phones. Further, internet facility was not available to many and several villages had no mobile phone coverage either. Children who had just started going to school were severely hit by all-round closure of institutional educational opportunities. It did cause frustration among young children. A girl from Sunder gaon village in Chamoli said,

"I want to read and write. Schools are closed. Please open the centre. Otherwise, I will forget what I learnt last year."

**Table 4.** Children in village learning centres.

SI	VLC Village/VP	Place	Total		Pre primary		Primary		Classes 6-8		Classes 9-10	
			G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Cluster: Maichun (Almora)												
1	Banthok	Panchayat bhawan	10	8	0	0	3	7	7	1	0	0
2	Mauni	Barat ghar	11	10	0	0	6	2	5	8	0	0
3	Maniagar	Panchayat bhavan	10	11	0	0	4	3	6	8	0	0
4	Kasoon	panchayat ghar	8	11	0	0	4	9	4	1	0	1
5	Palyoun	Barat ghar	15	12	0	0	9	8	6	4	0	0
Cluster: Danya (Almora) Up to September 2020												
6	Gauli	Private house	10	14	1	0	1	3	8	8	0	3
7	Munauli	Private house	14	6	1	1	9	5	3	0	1	0
8	Takoli	Panchayat bhavan	16	9	0	2	9	7	7	0	0	0
9	Dasili	Baal bhavan	13	12	0	0	10	5	3	6	0	1
10	Dharagad	Panchayat bhavan	11	11	0	0	7	6	4	5	0	0
11	Basaan	Primary School	10	11	0	0	8	8	2	3	0	0
Cluster: Binta (Almora)												
12	Binta	Panchayat bhavan	8	15	3	0	5	6	0	9	0	0
13	Borkhola	Panchayat bhavan	11	7	2	2	3	0	6	2	0	3
14	Godgaon	Private house	10	7	1	2	6	3	3	2	0	0
15	Suma	Private house	15	6	0	2	12	4	3	0	0	0
16	Bhataura	Panchayat bhavan	11	6	0	0	10	6	1	0	0	0
Cluster: Pati (Champawat)												
17	Jankande	Panchayat bhavan	9	4	0	2	4	2	2	0	3	0
18A	Dhoonaghat till Dec 20	Primary School	12	8	0	3	10	5	2	0	0	0
18B	Koon Jan- Mar 21	Primary School	9	11	4	5	2	4	3	2	0	0
19	Kamlekh	Temple compound	12	10	3	2	5	5	3	3	1	0
20A	Goom till Sept 20	Private house	20	15	0	3	8	6	4	2	8	4
20B	Sirmoli Oct 20-Mar 21	Private house	14	7	6	3	8	4	0	0	0	0
Cluster: Shama (Bageshwar)												
21	Malkha Dugarcha	Primary School	15	10	1	2	10	5	3	3	1	0
22	Hinari	Private house	9	8	2	1	4	7	3	0	0	0
23	Dhari	Urja Bhavan	7	11	1	2	5	9	1	0	0	0
24	Namik	Panchayat bhavan	12	12	0	0	11	10	1	2	0	0
25	Talla Namik	Panchayat bhavan	11	10	1	3	7	4	3	2	0	1
Cluster: Ganai Gangoli (Pithoragarh)												
26	Fadiyali	Temple compound	15	11	0	0	13	6	2	5	0	0
27	Bhaloogada	Private house	11	11	0	0	1	3	7	6	3	2
28	Gwadi	Panchayat bhavan	13	15	3	2	4	7	6	6	0	0
29	Bhanyani	Private house	8	12	2	0	0	5	3	3	3	4
30	Kimtola	Private house	9	14	1	2	6	5	2	7	0	0
Cluster: Kamprayag (Chamoli)												
31	Pudiyani	Panchayat bhavan	14	6	0	0	9	5	5	1	0	0
32	Sunargwad	Private house	30	20	4	2	17	12	6	6	3	0
33	Chaundali	Panchayat bhavan	6	14	0	2	3	8	3	3	0	1
34	Jakh	Panchayat bhavan	16	11	4	2	8	5	4	4	0	0
35	Badhani	Panchayat bhavan	9	15	0	1	4	8	3	4	2	2
36	Kafiodi	Panchayat bhavan	11	11	3	0	7	9	1	2	0	0
37	Chhatoli	Panchayat bhavan	9	13	1	2	5	5	4	5	0	0
38	Bainoli	Panchayat bhavan	10	12	0	0	7	7	3	5	0	0
39	Kukadai	Panchayat bhavan	9	11	0	0	7	7	2	4	0	0
40	Sundargaon	Panchayat bhavan	12	14	2	0	3	6	2	2	5	6
Cluster: Gopeswar (Chamoli)												
41	Khalla	Panchayat bhavan	13	24	1	2	5	7	1	14	6	1
42	Bamiyala	Panchayat bhavan	16	11	4	5	9	5	3	1	0	0
43	Kathood	Panchayat bhavan	15	13	3	2	4	3	7	5	1	3
44	Kandai	Panchayat bhavan	14	11	6	2	2	5	2	2	4	2
45	Siroli	Panchayat bhavan	15	15	4	3	5	4	3	4	3	4
46	Bandwara	Panchayat bhavan	12	8	1	1	5	2	3	3	3	2
47	Gwad	Panchayat bhavan	19	11	1	1	8	3	4	4	6	3
48	Koteswar	Panchayat bhavan	6	10	0	0	3	7	2	1	1	2
49	Mandal	Panchayat bhavan	9	9	1	1	5	4	3	4	0	0
50	Devaldhar	Panchayat bhavan	15	15	5	2	6	10	2	3	2	0
Total			629	579	72	67	326	291	176	175	56	45

Since the effect of corona infections was very limited in villages and children were getting edgy at home, there was a demand in communities to open the village learning centres. Responding to this demand, USNPSS advised the CBOs and the shikshikas to let children borrow story-books, autobiographies, novels etc. from the centre. Subsequently, children and adolescents in almost all villages borrowed books to read at home.

In many villages, the migrants returned to the cities in August/September 2020. Depending on the situation in each village, the CBOs began to open the village learning centres. As a result, centres were functional from August-September in some villages whilst in others children began to attend on a regular basis from November 2020. For example, centres in Shama area, district Bageswar were functional much earlier than the other villages. Awareness programmes on the pandemic were conducted through all the centres to spread information and to generate knowledge on prevention and containment related issues. Shikshikas and adolescent children were actively involved in putting up posters on the walls and in public places.

Village-level campaigns on health and cleanliness related issues were conducted as a preventive measure to deal with covid-19 pandemic. Children and youth practiced yoga every morning in many villages, especially in Badhani region.



**Figure 10.** Children and youth practicing yoga at Badhani village, district Chamoli.

#### **4a. Creating a group on digital media to encourage learning among students and teachers**

As mentioned, all schools were closed during the lockdown. Fortunately, there were no patients suffering from Covid-19 in villages where VLCs are functional. Since, training, meetings and visits to villages were not possible, a digital group was created on 21 May 2020 to connect with shikshikas and partner organizations. A total of 56 people were involved in the group. However, a few limitations persisted as mobile network was not available in Shama-Gogina area. Further, many shikshikas had no mobile phone available to them and they could not directly participate in various activities. Children and adolescent girls were connected to the network through their shikshikas and supervisors.

**Table 5.** Caste-wise distribution of children attending village learning centres.

SI	VLC Village/VP	Place	SC		OBC		Gen caste		Govt school		Private school		Special need	
			G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Cluster: Maichun (Almora)														
1	Banthok	Panchayat bhawan	10	8	0	0	0	0	10	8	0	0	0	0
2	Mauni	Barat ghar	5	5	0	0	6	5	11	10	0	0	0	0
3	Maniagar	Panchayat bhavan	10	11	0	0	0	0	10	8	0	3	0	0
4	Kasoon	panchayat ghar	8	11	0	0	0	0	8	11	0	0	0	0
5	Palyoun	Barat ghar	15	12	0	0	0	0	15	12	0	0	0	1
Cluster: Danya (Almora) Up to September 2020														
6	Gauli	Private house	0	0	0	0	10	14	5	1	5	13	0	0
7	Munauli	Private house	0	0	0	0	14	6	12	2	2	4	0	0
8	Takoli	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	16	9	9	5	7	4	0	0
9	Dasili	Baal bhavan	0	0	0	0	13	12	8	9	5	3	0	0
10	Dharagad	Panchayat bhavan	3	4	0	0	8	7	11	11	0	0	0	0
11	Basaan	Primary School	7	9	0	0	3	2	8	8	2	3	0	0
Cluster: Binta (Almora)														
12	Binta	Panchayat bhavan	1	9	0	0	7	6	0	8	8	7	0	0
13	Borkhola	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	11	7	5	3	6	4	0	0
14	Godgaon	Private house	0	0	0	0	10	7	6	1	4	6	0	0
15	Suma	Private house	0	0	0	0	15	6	11	3	4	3	0	0
16	Bhataura	Panchayat bhavan	4	0	0	0	7	6	7	1	4	5	0	0
Cluster: Pati (Champawat)														
17	Jankande	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	9	4	5	0	4	4	0	0
18A	Dhoonaghat till Dec 20	Primary School	0	0	0	0	12	8	9	5	3	3	0	0
18B	Koon Jan- Mar 21	Primary School	0	0	0	0	9	11	9	11	0	0	0	0
19	Kamlekh	Temple compound	0	0	0	0	12	10	12	9	0	1	0	0
20A	Goom till Sept 20	Private house	3	3	0	0	17	12	19	9	1	6	0	0
20B	Sirmoli Oct 20 -March 21	Private house	0	0	0	0	14	7	14	5	0	2	0	0
Cluster: Shama (Bageshwar)														
21	Malkha Dugarcha	Primary School	15	10	0	0	0	0	15	10	0	0	0	0
22	Hinari	Private house	0	0	0	0	9	8	9	8	0	0	0	0
23	Dhari	Urja Bhavan	0	0	0	0	7	11	7	11	0	0	0	0
24	Namik	Panchayat bhavan	12*	12*	0	0	0	0	10	10	2	2	0	0
25	Talla Namik	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	11	10	11	10	0	0	0	3
Cluster: Ganai Gangoli (Pithoragarh)														
26	Fadiyali	Temple campus	15	11	0	0	0	0	15	10	0	1	0	0
27	Bhaloogada	Private house	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	9	0	2	0	0
28	Gwadi	Panchayat bhavan	2	0	0	0	11	15	12	9	1	6	0	0
29	Bhanyani	Private house	0	0	8	12	0	0	8	12	0	0	0	1
30	Kimtola	Private house	9	14	0	0	0	0	9	14	0	0	0	0
Cluster: Kamprayag (Chamoli)														
31	Pudiyani	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	14	6	5	1	9	5	0	0
32	Sunargwad	Private house	0	0	30	20	0	0	29	20	1	0	1	0
33	Chaundali	Panchayat bhavan	1	3	0	0	5	11	6	14	0	0	0	0
34	Jakh	Panchayat bhavan	4	1	5	5	7	5	11	6	5	5	0	0
35	Badhani	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	9	15	7	8	2	7	0	0
36	Kafodi	Panchayat bhavan	1	1	0	0	10	10	7	7	4	4	0	0
37	Chhatoli	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	9	13	6	3	2	11	0	0
38	Bainoli	Panchayat bhavan	1	1	0	0	9	11	8	12	2	0	0	0
39	Kukadai	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	9	11	9	11	0	0	1	0
40	Sundargaon	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	12	14	12	14	0	0	0	0
Cluster: Gopeshwar (Chamoli)														
41	Khalla	Panchayat bhavan	4	5	0	0	9	19	7	16	6	8	1	2
42	Bamiyala	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	16	11	16	11	0	0	1	1
43	Kathood	Panchayat bhavan	6	3	0	0	9	10	15	13	0	0	0	2
44	Kandai	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	14	11	14	11	0	0	0	2
45	Siroli	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	15	15	11	12	4	3	0	1
46	Bandwara	Panchayat bhavan	1	1	0	0	11	7	12	8	0	0	1	0
47	Gwad	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	19	11	17	11	2	0	1	0
48	Koteshwar	Panchayat bhavan	0	3	0	0	6	7	9	7	0	0	1	1
49	Mandal	Panchayat bhavan	3	1	0	0	6	8	8	6	1	3	3	0
50	Devaldhar	Panchayat bhavan	0	0	0	0	15	15	11	6	4	9	1	1
	Total		136*	138*	43	37	450	404	528	443	100	137	11	12

\* Includes ST Children





**Figure 11.** Children were kept busy during the lockdown in summer 2020.

**Table 6.** Shikshikas involved in digital learning programme.

Sl	location	Total shikshikas	Shikshikas and supervisors who could participate	
1	Maichun	7	5	4 shikshikas and 1 supervisor
2	Danya	8	8	All shikshikas
3	Binta	6	3	Supervisor and 2 shikshikas
4	Pati	6	4	CBO, supervisor and 2 shikshikas
5	Ganaigangoli	7	4	CBO and 3 shikshikas
6	Badhani	12	12	CBO, supervisor and all shikshikas
7	Gopeswar	14	14	CBO, supervisor and all shikshikas

A simple method was used to channelize the process of digitized learning in villages. The theme was sent to 56 shikshikas and supervisors involved in the programme who in turn contacted the children in villages. After completion of activities, the same group was to share the material and send it to USNPSS too for assessment and record keeping. In addition, USNPSS staff prepared the following activities as audio and shared it with all participants. In all villages, the shikshikas shared these activities with children. Table 6 shows the activities suggested by USNPSS.



**Table 7.** Activities suggested by USNPSS to the group.

Sl	Date	Description
1	22.05.2020	My lockdown diary- writings on experiences of Covid-19 pandemic
2	26.05.2020	The book that I like the most-summary note
3	02.06.2020	Computer centres-what and why did I learn it-any impact on my life
4	08.06.2020	Write about or take photos of birds in your locality, identify them
5	13.06.2020	Current agricultural related work in your village. How do you help?
6	25.06.2020	Insects that you see around during monsoon, identify and describe them
7	June-early	Soil erosion-Interns from Ambedkar university
8	July 2020	Identifying wild and domestic animals through games
9	13.07.2020	Expressing impact of Covid-19 through poems, charts, essays or drawings
10	15.09.2020	How do we describe a good forest? What indicators can be used? How do forests help in water conservation? Group discussion followed by sending of articles, photos or videos.

**Table 8.** Material sent by USNPSS to the group.

Sl	Date	Description
1	26.05.2020	Story- audio by Kailash -Chaalak agula by Somya Vyas
2	29.05.2020	All India Radio Almora-audio- discussion with Dr. Lalit Pande
3	02.06.2020	Story- audio by Kailash -Yatra ek raat ki by Kamla Chamola
4	05.06.2020	Video - Protection of wild animals in Hemalkansa village, Nagpur Maharashtra-Baba Amte's legacy
5	07.06.2020	Maatraaon ki trutiyan-article by Om Thanvi
6	09.06.2020	Puzzle
7	10.06.2020	Video-Ramlila Manchon by rural children
8	13.06.2020	Story- audio by Kailash-Bhagya apna-apna by <b>Tembuku Chibuku</b> (Japan ki lok Kathayen)



**Figure 12.** During the lockdown children came to read books.



Figure 13. Children's creations during the lockdown in summer 2020.

#### 4b. Profile of Shikshikas

Out of the total of 52 shikshikas running the centres this year 56% are young girls representing the age group 18-22 years and 15% belong to the age category of 23-27 years. 96% of the total facilitators are female, 38% are married and the remaining 62% are not married. A majority of the young, unmarried shikshikas work for 2-3 years. In that context, an indirect offshoot of the VLC programme is delayed/late marriage of girls in villages. During the year, 38% girls had worked for about 2 years, 46% for 3-5 years and the remaining 15% were running the centres for the last 5 years. All shikshikas, except one, have completed their high school. 88% had completed their intermediate and 23% were enrolled in college. In addition, about one-third of the total shikshikas were trained on working in computers.

**Table 9.** Profile of shikshikas (2020-21).

Sl	Name	Village	Age	Education
1	Km. Mamta Banaula	Banthok	21	Intermediate
2	Shri Girish Ch. Joshi	Mauni	56	Intermediate
3	Km. Bhagwati Arya	Maniagar	18	Intermediate
4	Km. Poonam Arya	Kasoon	21	Intermediate
5	Smt Jeevanti Devi	Palyoun	40	Intermediate
6	Km. Pooja Bhatt	Gauli	24	Intermediate
7	Smt Tara Sanwal	Munauli	27	BA
8	Km. Babita Joshi	Takoli	19	Intermediate
9	Smt Kavita Dasila	Dasili	23	Intermediate
10	Km Lalita Pandey	Dharagad	20	Intermediate
11	Smt Vimla Pandey	Basaan	25	Intermediate
12	Km Gayatri Kaira	Binta	22	BA final
13	Smt Maya Bora	Borkhola	31	MA
14	Smt Pushpa Bisht	Godgaon	32	Intermediate
15	Smt Shanti Rawat	Surna	34	High School
16	Smt Nirmala Kaira	Bhataura	21	BA final
17	Km Krishna Bohra	Jankande	23	MA final
18	Km Seema Bohra	Dhoonaghat	19	BA 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
19	Km Manisha Bisht	Koon	21	Intermediate
20	Smt Renu Bohra	Kamlekh	23	Intermediate
21	Km. Manisha Bhatt	Goom	21	BA 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
22	Km. Jyoti Mahra	Sirmoli	20	BA final
23	Km. Savitri	Malkha Dugarcha	18	Intermediate
24	Km. Nandita	Hinari (Gogina)	22	Intermediate
25	Smt Kaushalya Devi	Dhari	25	Intermediate
26	Km. Mala Arya	Namik	20	High School
27	Km. Neera Kandari	Talla Namik	20	High School
28	Km Manisha Mahra	Fadiyali	18	BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
29	Km Poornima Mishra	Bhaloogada	20	MA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
30	Km Priyanka Pathni	Gwadi	20	BA
31	Smt Uma Bora	Bhanyani	30	8 <sup>th</sup>
32	Km Isha Beri	Kimtola	18	BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
33	Smt Pooja Negi	Pudiyani	24	Intermediate
34	Smt Sonam	Sunargwar	21	BA 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
35	Km Rekha Rawat	Chaundali	26	BA
36	Km Rachna Negi	Jakh	20	BA
37	Shri Deepak Gusain	Badhani	23	MSc
38	Shri Shubham Juyal	Kaflodi	19	Intermediate, ITI
39	Km Ritu Negi	Chhatoli	18	BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
40	Km Santoshi Chaudhary	Bainoli	20	Intermediate
41	Km Kareena Bisht	Kukdai	20	Intermediate
42	Km Neema Sagoi	Sundargaon	24	BA
43	Km. Sundari	Khalla	44	MA



Sl	Name	Village	Age	Education
44	Smt Urmila Devi	Bamiyala	26	BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
45	Km Asha	Kathood	19	BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
46	Smt Poonam Rawat	Kandai	24	BA 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
47	Smt. Arti	Siroli	24	BA
48	Km Priyanka	Bandwara	20	BA 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
49	Smt Neeta Bisht	Gwar	22	BA 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
50	Km Payal	Koteshwar	20	BA 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
51	Smt Pushpa Bisht	Mandal	43	MA
52	Smt Kusum Bisht	Devaldhar	24	BA 3 <sup>rd</sup> year

The shikshikas/facilitators

#### 4c. Visits to village learning centres

This year, the process of visiting the centres to provide hands on assistance to shikshikas was hampered due to the pandemic and the lockdown. However, as soon as the situation seemed to be normalizing, the USNPSS staff began visiting the villages (Table 10). The following observations were made:

All centres were functioning well in Ganaigangoli area. The centres and the surrounding area were clean and shikshikas had put in lot of efforts to decorate the rooms. During the lockdown, children took story books home to read. During the visit, children and the shikshika demonstrated the process of soil erosion and discussed the negative impact of deforestation and soil erosion on the hill slopes.



**Figure 14.** Children trying to understand the process of soil erosion at Ganaigangoli

In Shama-Gogina region, the supervisor had made a lot of efforts to ensure that children in primary stages of schooling remember alphabets and numbers and keep practicing at home. As soon as the situation improved, parents began to make requests for opening the centres. The shikshikas and the supervisor had ensured that all covid norms are followed in villages.

In Gopeswar and Badhani clusters, shikshikas made incredible efforts to ensure that all children borrow books from the stock kept in village learning centres and read at home. In addition, children were asked to write essays, draw and paint either at home or in the fields (maintain social distancing) in front of the centre. Similar efforts were made in Pati cluster of villages in Champawat district.

**Table 10.** Visits made by USNPSS staff.

Sl	Centre	District	Date of visit	Number of children present		Observations regarding performance		
				Girls	Boys	Very good	Good	Satisfactory
1	Surna	Almora	13-12-20	12	11	-	1	-
2	Goginadhari	Bageswar	17-12-20	14	8	1	-	-
3	Namik	Bageswar	17-12-20	20	15	-	1	-
4	Hinari	Bageswar	17-12-20	6	5	-	1	-
5	Sunargwad	Chamoli	07-01-21	24	14	-	-	1
6	Kukdai	Chamoli	07-01-21	15	10	-	1	-
7	Maalai	Chamoli	07-01-21	6	6	1	-	-
8	Bacher	Chamoli	08-01-21	11	8	1	-	-
9	Kandai	Chamoli	08-01-21	18	8	-	1	-
10	Bandwara	Chamoli	08-01-21	10	8	1	-	-
11	Kathur	Chamoli	08-01-21	9	11	-	-	1
12	Bamiyala	Chamoli	08-01-21	11	14	-	1	-
13	Mandal	Chamoli	09-01-21	7	9	-	1	-
14	Siroli	Chamoli	09-01-21	11	8	-	1	-
15	Jakh	Chamoli	10-01-21	8	9	1	-	-
16	Chaundali	Chamoli	10-01-21	4	8	-	1	-
17	Chaatoli	Chamoli	10-01-21	11	8	-	-	1
18	Badhani	Chamoli	11-01-21	5	9	1	-	-
19	Sundergaon	Chamoli	11-01-21	4	4	-	1	-
20	Binta	Almora	12-01-21	Meeting	-	-	-	-
21	Bhatoura	Almora	09-02-21	8	8	-	1	-
22	Binta	Almora	09-02-21	3	4	-	-	1
23	Gorgaon	Almora	09-02-21	9	7	-	1	-
24	Palyun	Almora	11-02-21	9	6	-	-	1
25	Moni	Almora	20-02-21	8	7	-	1	-
26	Gwadi	Pithoragarh	04-03-21	9	11	-	-	1
27	Bhanyani	Pithoragarh	04-03-21	8	6	-	1	-
28	Kimtola	Pithoragarh	05-03-21	7	8	-	-	1
29	Fadiyali	Pithoragarh	05-03-21	12	8	-	1	-
30	Bhalugada	Pithoragarh	05-03-21	5	6	-	-	1
31	Sirmoli	Champawat	17-03-21	12	8	-	-	1
32	Jankande	Champawat	17-03-21	4	6	-	1	-
33	Goom	Champawat	18-03-21	4	7	-	1	-
34	Koon	Champawat	18-03-21	4	5	-	-	1

#### 4d. Material given to the centres

This year, a set of 46 books was given to each centre. In addition, a separate set of 55 books each was provided to the centres in Gopeswar, Badhani and Ganaigangoli. Further,

each centre received 2 copies of Muskaan, the biannual publication of village learning centres. Copies of Muskaan were also given to all partner organizations.

## 5. Computer Learning Centres

Though incorporated in the school education system, imparting skills to use computers still poses a challenge to teachers in rural areas of Uttarakhand. Given time and resource constraints, often computer education is offered as a set of theoretical lectures to students. In remote villages children have very little or no access to computers. USNPSS has tried to address this issue by starting a computer literacy programme in rural areas of Uttarakhand.

A sixty-day computer literacy programme for each child/learner is visualized. With the first computer installed in a village in 2010, the programme is now operational for about a decade. Each child has access to a computer for half an hour daily. Children start with learning Hindi and English typing and working on a paint brush programme. Each center is equipped with 2-5 desktops or laptops, an inverter, printer and table and chairs.

A center opens for two hours every day in the evenings. However, the CBOs keep the timings flexible depending on the season and the number of children wanting to work on computers. For example, in some villages, children want to come to the centre in the morning before going to school. Also, during holidays in schools and colleges, the centres open for a longer duration. Currently 9 centers are operational in Kumaun and Garhwal regions.

This year, two new centres were started at Bacher village near Gopeswar and Chaatoli village near Badhani in Chamoli district. Besides computers, printers and inverters other accessories such as tables, chairs, inverter trolley, battery, almirah, pen drive, mattress, cable wire, LED bulbs etc. were also provided.



**Figure 15.** Computer centre at Bhanyani village, district Pithoragarh.



**Table 11.** Facilitators at computer learning centres.

Name	Age	Centre	Edu cati on	Training	Comments
Pooja Pant	22	Danya Chalmorigada	BA	Training at USNPSS November 22-25, 2018	Children from 6 villages- Kulauri, Takoli, Basan, Thali, Chalmorigara and Dharagad are enrolled and learning
Garima Pandey	23	Danya	MA final	Training at USNPSS March 2018	Since Nov 201924 (G-10, B-14) children have acquired skills re working on computers
Deepa Arya	23	Maniagar	BA	Informal training at the Centre	Worked till June 2020
Rajni (till December 2020)		Gogina (Shama)	10th	Training at CLC Gogina and at USNPSS	Studying in 12 <sup>th</sup> class
Sita Rautela (January to March 2021)	19	Gogina (Shama)	12 <sup>th</sup>	Informal at the centre	She passed 12 <sup>th</sup> from Delhi and was doing BCom but returned due to the COVID19 pandemic.
Laxman Kumar	25	Namik (Shama)	12 <sup>th</sup>	Informal	He was working in Delhi but returned to his village after the lockdown in 2020.
Mamata Bora (up to February 2021)	26	Bhanyani (Ganai gangoli)	12 <sup>th</sup>	6 months training from a private institute in Ganaigangoli	Reopened in June 2020. The trainer is an elected member of the block panchayat.
Manisha Bora March 2021	20	Bhanyani	BA	Informal training for 6 months at the Sanstha office and computer literacy centre Bhanyani	Doing BA from Degree College Ganaigangoli
Babita Deo November 2020 to March 2021		Jankande (Pati)	12 <sup>th</sup>	6 months' course from a private institute at Kheti khan	Pursuing BA (correspondence)
Deepak Gusain till February 2021	23	Badhani (Karnprayag)	M. Sc	1 year diploma on computers from Karnprayag	Reopened in July 2020. Timing 10 am to 12 pm and 4.30pm to 7pm
Shivani March 2021	21	Badhani	B.C om.	1 year diploma from Karnprayag	Studying- M.Com. 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Rekha Rawat	26	Chaundali (karnprayag)	MA	3 months training in the Computer literacy centre	Reopened in July 2020 after COVID19 lockdown. Timing 10am to 11 am, 2pm to 4 pm
Ritu Negi November 2020 to March 2021	19	Chhatoli (Karnprayag)	12 <sup>th</sup>	6 month's training in a private institute at Nauti (Chamoli)	Studying-BA 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Anuj Singh Bisht	20	Bamiyala (Gopeswar)	BA 1st year	CCT Computer Centre Gopeswar	
Gautam Singh Panwar	28	Bacher (Gopeswar)	BA, ITI	6 months' diploma and 3 months typing CCT Gopeswar	The migrants, returned to the village after the lockdown, also learnt.

The USNPSS staff visited 7 centers to review progress and provide hands-on assistance to CBOs running the centres. The following observations were made:

- All computer centers were operational. Children and young girls were coming to learn to work on computers
- In Chhatoli village, district Chamoli, the power supply was disturbed and the centre was closed for a few days

- In Bhanyani village, district Pithoragarh and Jankande in Champawat district, the trained teachers were getting married and the CBOs were looking for new appointments to be made in the near future
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, USNPSS is currently not holding any training courses for the facilitators but most of them have received some training in nearby towns and cities
- All centers had fully functional computer systems with printers and inverters. Computer hardware was found in good condition.
- In all centres, children were learning Hindi and English typing and basics of computer operation. However, the prescribed 60 days course structure was either not followed completely or replaced by a new course as thought out by the facilitator herself. The reasons for this deviation from the original course design were many. The facilitators said that due to Covid-19 pandemic schools were closed and additional children were attending the centers. In addition, facilitators were yet to be trained by USNPSS. It is encouraging to observe that despite several problems caused by the pandemic, centers were fully functional. Parents were satisfied with the fact that children were learning something in the centre especially at times when schools were closed for about a year.

**Table 12.** List of computer centres visited.

Sl	Center	District	Cluster	Name of the trainer	No of students currently enrolled	Remarks
1	Bhanyani	Pithoragarh	Ganaigangoli	Manisha	8	Current teacher leaving, Centre is not functional for some days
2	Jankande	Champawat	Pati	Riya	4	Current teacher leaving, Training of new teacher is in progress
3	Badhani	Chamoli	Karnprayag	Shivani	16	Center functional
4	Chaundali	Chamoli	Karnprayag	Rekha	12	Center functional
5	Chaatoli	Chamoli	Karnprayag	Ritu	15	Due to power failure center was not functional for some days
6	Bacher	Chamoli	Gopeshwar	Gautam	20	Center functional
7	Bamiyala	Chamoli	Gopeshwar	Anuj	18	Center functional

**Table13.** Equipment at Computer Learning Centers

Sl	Village	District	Village Cluster	Total number of functional Computers	Computer Types			Printer	Scanner	Table	Chairs	Inverter		Almirah
					Desktop	All in one	Laptop**					Inverter	Trolley	
1	Bhanyadi	Pithoragarh	Ganai	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	3	1	0	0
2	Jankande	Champawat	Pati	3	3	-	-	1	-	4	4	1	1	1
3	Badhani	Chamoli	Karnprayag	4	3	-	1	1	1	6	6	1	1	1
4	Chondali	Chamoli	Karnprayag	2	-	2	-	1	-	3	3	1	1	0
5	Chhatoli	Chamoli	Karnprayag	3	3	-	-	1	-	4	4	1	1	1

Sl	Village	District	Village Cluster	Total number of functional Computers	Computer Types			Printer	Scanner	Table	Chairs	Inverter		Almirah
					Desktop	All in one	Laptop**					Inverter	Trolley	
6	Bacher	Chamoli	Gopeshwar	5	5	-	1 (NF)	1	-	5	5	1	1	1
7	Bamiyala	Chamoli	Gopeshwar	3	2	1	-	1	-	3	4	1	0	0
8	Bandwara*	Chamoli	Gopeshwar	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	0	0
9	Gogina	Bageshwar	Shama	3	3	-	-	1	-	4	4	1	1	1
10	Namik	Pithoragarh	Shama	2	-	-	2	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

\* Not functioning as a computer learning center; \*\* With additional Mouse and keyboard; NF– Not functional



**Figure 16.** computer centres at Badhani and Gopeshwar, District Chamoli.

## 5a. Bal mela

Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic, large gatherings were avoided. Therefore, *balmelas* and *mahila sammelans*, in which children and women from all villages of the cluster used to participate, were not organised this year. Only village level small *balmelas* (total 21) were held in different clusters. Most of the events were organised during January to March 2021.

In Fadiyali village, Ganai Gangoli, the gram pradhan was the chief guest. Shri Rajendra Singh, key worker of the CBO, spoke about the COVID-19 prevention. Posters and charts made by the children had been displayed. Competitions on mathematical/language skills, GK, posters/ charts had been organised. Besides action songs, storytelling, skits were presented by the children. In another Balmela at Kimtola village children of only one VLC did participate. The programmes were almost the same. The event was followed by a meeting of *mahila sangathan* in which issues of children's education and *kishori sangathan* were discussed.

In Maichun village, cultural programmes, skits on the COVID-19 awareness and other social issues, storytelling, folk dance by local women were the main programmes. The trainers of the sewing/knitting centre at Maniagar told the audience about the training programme and asked the women and girls to come to the centre for learning these skills. In Gopeshwar 8 Balmelas were organised. In Badhani cluster, a bal mela was organized in each village learning centre (total 10 balmelas). Storytelling, speeches, poetry, skits on social and environmental issues were held.

**Table 14.** Bal mela in villages.

Cluster/Village	Date	Place	Children	women	Men
Malai	24.01.21	Panchayat Ghar	21	20	9
Chaundali	25.01.21	Village learning centre	26	47	08
Badhani	26.01.21	Barat Ghar	31	17	-
Chhatoli	29.01.21	Panchayat Ghar	16	30	-
Sunargwar	31.01.21	Village learning Centre	42	25	10
Kukraee	03.02.21	Temple premise	30	43	01
Sunadargaon	07.02.21	Govt. Primary School	25	51	10
Pudiyani	09.02.21	Panchayat Ghar	21	25	05
Bainoli	11.02.21	Panchayat Ghar	20	26	06
Jakh	14.02.21	Village learning Centre	34	09	-
Khalla	21.02.21	Village learning centre	35	70	-
Bandwara	27.02.21	Village learning centre	30	40	-
Kandai	28.02.21	Village learning centre	25	52	-
Koteshwar	07.03.21	Village learning centre	22	24	-
Devaldhar	14.03.21	Village learning centre	40	50	-
Gwar	21.03.21	Village learning centre	35	31	-
Bamiyala	26.03.21	Village learning centre	60	92	-
Mandal	05.04.21	Village learning centre	30	30	-
Mauni	02.04.21	Village learning centre	50	40	10
Fadiyali	14.03.21	Village learning centre	80	40	-
Kimtola	24.03.21	Government Primary School	26	24	8





Figure 17. Bal mela at Kimtola was held in the premises of the Government primary school.

## 6. Women's Development

This year, meetings and training programmes for women's groups could not be held at Almora. However, the USNPSS staff was in contact with women's groups through CBOs and shikshikas, margdarshikas all through the year. Visits to villages were made as soon as the lockdown was lifted and the USNPSS staff could travel. The following note provides a brief description of activities happening in some of the villages where women's groups are functional.

### 6a. Village Palyun, district Almora

In Palyun village, district Almora, the women's group was formed in 2017. Uphill, the village is inhabited by socially disadvantaged section of society while some general caste families live in the lower half of the village. A small part of the agricultural land is irrigated and hence fertile whilst the remaining plots depend on the rains for irrigation. For the last ten years, the village residents have been facing considerable damage to their crops as monkeys and wild boars frequently wander through agricultural fields.

During the initial meetings with USNPSS staff, the village residents raised the issue and asked for some solution to the problem. USNPSS has been raising this issue in various national and global forums but no practical solution has come so far. However, from experience in talking with many women's groups in Kumaon and Garhwal, USNPSS has learnt and implemented several measures to save crops from wild animals and pests. In Palyun village, a consensus was built during meetings and members of the women's group agreed to take care of the crops in rotation.

Initially, everyone in the village was not agreeing to the system of women/villagers taking turns to protect the fields from monkeys during the day. The following reasons were cited:

- Everyone did not own the same size of plots. People who had smaller plots were of the view that they need not spend the whole day shooing away monkeys from the fields
- A few families had their fields in the middle of the village while wild animals were causing more damage in the periphery
- Socially advanced and relatively affluent families were not ready to spend time in wandering through the village trying to protect crops in fields that they were little concerned about

However, after repeated meetings with USNPSS staff, women's group took a decision to implement the idea in the village. It was decided that by turn two women will guard the fields every day. The results of this initiative were encouraging. The agricultural production was good and each family harvested more than that they had expected. A few families were able to sell wheat and pulses in the nearby markets too. This impact on agricultural yield inspired even the skeptical families to appreciate and get involved in activities of women's groups. Now, people take interest in protecting their land from wild animals and co-operate with each other. We have reported some other changes in the village in our last year's report.

This year, the USNPSS staff made visits to Palyun to attend meetings of women's groups in February. During the meeting, the women said that even if monkeys do not come every day, the person responsible should be in the fields as it is her turn to be there on that particular day. Also, there are times when groups of monkeys come and invade the fields. In that case, just two women cannot sue them away. Therefore, in such cases, other women should also go for help.

The other issue was regarding road construction and widening of the existing road in the region. The contractor was using a JCB machine and the debris was being dumped either on the road side or on the mountain slope. Women were concerned about damage caused to the irrigation canal. Two women from the group did ask the machine operator to open the canal as it was debris from the road that had fallen all over it. The operator paid no attention to their request and continued working as before. The next day, all members of the women's group went down to the roadside to talk with the operator. Looking at the large group of women the operator promised to open the canal.

## **6b Gwadi village, district Pithoragarh**

Manju was elected as the gram Pradhan in village panchayat with the support of the women's group in Gwadi village, Ganaigangoli, district Pithoragarh. The USNPSS staff attended meetings of the women's group in November 2020 and March 2021. Progress in the village learning centres was reviewed. In addition, members of the women's group talked about their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic. The women's groups in



Ganaigangoli not only helped the local administration in the process of quarantining the migrants who had come home after the lockdown but also ran major campaigns on cleanliness and personal hygiene in villages.

The meetings of the women's group are held in the panchayat ghar in Gwadi village. Women have been discussing maintenance and repair of the building for some time now. This year, they wrote to the local administration to take action on this matter. Further, women are concerned about spreading of Lantana in the fields. Once fully-grown, Lantana bushes are difficult to uproot and subsequently lead to loss of soil fertility. In addition, these bushes serve as perfect sites for wild animals to hide in. The issue was discussed during meetings of the women's group in Gwadi. Women took the decision to cut them and clean the village surroundings so that crops can be protected from invasion of wild boars, porcupines and other animals.



**Figure 18.** Women and children were encouraged to use masks at home.

## **6c. Village Surna, district Almora**

The meeting of the women's group of Surna village is held on the 7<sup>th</sup> every month. During the pandemic, the village learning centre was shifted from the new panchayat ghar to the old panchayat ghar in the village. This was done to reduce walking time for the children and to maintain social distancing in the village. The old building, however, required restoration as the door was dilapidated and the walls had to be cleaned and white washed.

The shikshika at Surna had raised the issue in meetings of the women's group but no solution had emerged. The shikshika and the president of the women's group, Preeti Rawat, had talked with the village panchayat representatives also but they said that during the pandemic development funds were halted as the state was dealing with unprecedented pressure mounted on the health department. As no solution was coming up the members of

the women's group sought the help of USNPSS staff and called them for a meeting in the village.

The meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 was attended by 56 women and 6 adolescent girls. Listening to the experience of the women's group, the USNPSS staff asked them how they would have reacted if the door of their own house had broken. After some discussion, women themselves said that they can collect money from the village itself and put a new door in the building. It was decided that the women group would take 50 rupees from each family. In case, the amount was not enough to buy and install the door, the women's group would take out money from its own savings. Subsequently, an amount of 2500 rupees was collected in the village itself. Very poor families were asked not to contribute any money. Later, the president and the treasurer of the women's group bought an iron door from the nearby town of Bagwali-pokhar. The centre is now fully operational and the members of the women's group keep an eye on all activities happening in the centre as well as the village.

#### **6d. Jankande village, district Champawat**

The women's group of Jankande works in close cognizance with shikshika and the local organization at Pati, district Champawat. Responding to the request of women's group, a tailoring centre was opened in the village in November 2020. Since, many women were interested in learning, it was decided that the centre would run training classes in two separate batches.

The young girls, however, began to insist that a separate batch should be made for them. They argued that the older women were old fashioned and take a lot of time in learning. The young girls were interested in new designs of women's garments whilst the older women wanted to stitch blouse-petticoats for daily use. The older women, however, became conscious of the issue and felt that they were being marginalized. The problem could not be resolved in the village though several meetings were held. The local organization sought help of USNPSS.

Meeting with older women and young women were held in Jankande during 17-18 March 2021. Two separate batches were run for the women and the girls for two months. However, again mixed groups are formed as the young girls came up with the view that they needed help of their mothers and other relatives to practice tailoring at home.



**Figure 19.** Meeting at Goom village, district Champawat.

### 6e. Goom village, district Champawat

The residents of Goom village are very unhappy about the fact that the state has not taken any concrete steps towards protecting crops and also human life from wild animals. In addition, women are troubled by damage to crops caused by cattle straying in the fields. The USNPSS staff shared many anecdotes during the meeting and encouraged women to do the same in their village too. Listening to the work of women's group in their neighboring village of Lakhanpur, women of Goom village found a lot of courage and tried to use the same strategy in their own village to sue away monkeys and wild boars from cultivated field.

#### 6f. Gogina village, district Bageshwar

During the meeting with women at Gogina village, the USNPSS staff raised the issue of tailoring centre at Loharkuda hamlet. Women were very happy with the fact that the centre was started in the village where no other facility for off-farm activities is available for women. Three women showed their dresses to others as they had stitched the dresses themselves. Others said that they had learnt to stitch salwar kameez of different designs, blouses, petticoats and frocks for girls.

The members of the women's group of Gogina were appreciative of the fact that USNPSS has started a computer centre in the village. Children and young people want to learn to work on computers and since there is no facility available in the region, they either go to Bageswar or Haldwani. This being an expensive endeavor, parents face difficulties in sending children to learn computers. Now, that the centre has opened in Gogina almost all children are familiar with the machine.

Recently, the computer centre was shifted to Namik village as members of the women's group were of the view that the facility should be available in their village too.

In Rungadi village, the women's group took a lead to help the local administration in the process of quarantining people who returned from the cities to their villages during the lockdown.



**Figure 20.** Women's group of Rungadi village did commendable work in quarantining migrants during the lockdown.



## 6g. Village Khalla and Devaldhar, district Chamoli

Every year, the women's group of Khalla celebrates national festivals in the village itself. This year too, women kept the tradition and the whole village gathered to celebrate Independence Day. In addition, the women's group of Devaldhar invited everyone to celebrate teacher's day. These events brought some joy and strengthened a sense of community in an environment that was marked by pandemic related stress among people.



**Figure 21.** Women's group of Khalla village, district Chamoli, celebrates Independence Day every year.



**Figure 22.** Women's group of Devaldhar village celebrates teacher's day.

**Table 15.** Visits to villages to hold meetings with women.

SI	Date	Cluster	Place for meeting	Number of participants				Theme
				Total	Women	Girls	Others	
1	22.05.2020	Maichun	Maniagar	20	15	15	0	Mask distribution
2	23.05.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	20	15	15	0	Mask distribution
3	22.06.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	35	18	17	0	Tailoring, knitting
4	29.06.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	65	20	45	-	Meeting in two groups
5	30.06.2020-06.07.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara 11 villages	54	54	0	0	Meeting in two groups
6	14.07.2020-24.07.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	50	50	0	0	Meeting in two groups
7	30.07.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	35	20	13	2	Opening of computer centre, sewing training
8	13.08.2020	Maniagar	Maniagar	31	12	19	0	Tailoring, knitting centre
9	18.08.2020-26.08.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	28	17	11	0	Training on tailoring, knitting
10	17.09.2020	Maichun	Maniagar	27	8	19	0	Tailoring knitting
11	13.10.2020	Danya	Chalmorigara	12	5	7	0	VLC shikshikas meeting
12	02.11.2020	Maniagar	Maniagar	4	2	1	1	Searching a new room for centre
13	03.11.2020	Maniagar	Maniagar	4	2	1	1	Searching a new room for centre
14	06.11.2020	Ganaigangoli	Ganaigangoli	8	1	5	2	VLC shikshikas meeting
15	09.11.2020	Pati	Jankande	30	20	8	2	Training tailoring and knitting
16	09.11.2020	Pati	Jankande	13	11	2	0	Women's group, covid-19 conflict of wild animals
17	10.11.2020	Pati	Jankande	30	18	12	0	Tailoring knitting
18	44.12.2020	Maichun	Maniagar	18	8	10	0	Tailoring knitting
19	12.12.2020	Palyun	Palyun	9	4	5	0	Tailoring knitting
20	12.12.2020	Maichun	Maniagar	23	11	11	1	Tailoring knitting
21	16.12.2020	Shama	Gogina	30	20	10	0	WVG, Covid-19, wildlife conflict, violence against women and children
22	17.12.2020	Shama	Dhari	22	20	2	0	Covid-19, wildlife conflict, WVG strengthening, place for tailoring centre
23	17.12.2020	Shama	Loharkuda	18	15	3	0	Covid-19, opening a tailoring shop after training, wildlife conflict, WVG strengthening
24	18.12.2020	Shama	Gogina	26	11	15	0	Interaction with women of 4 villages trained in tailoring
25	29.01.2021	Maichun	Palyun	8				Tailoring, strengthening WVG
26	7.01.2021	Badhani	Malai	9	6	2	1	Strengthening WVG
27	7.01.2021	Badhani	Jakh	13	3	10	0	Strengthening WVG
28	8.01.2021	Gopeswar	Kanadi	18	10	8	0	Review of women's group work use of educational material in VLC
29	09.01.2021	Gopeswar	Siroli	12	10	2	0	Review of women's groups work, place for VLC, Adolescent girls and the VLC
30	10.01.2021	Badhani	Jakh	14	3	11	0	Review of women's groups work
31	11.01.2021	Badhani	Jakh	14	3	11	0	Tailoring, knitting



SI	Date	Cluster	Place for meeting	Number of participants				Theme
				Total	Women	Girls	Others	
32	12.01.2021	Binta	Binta	9	2	5	2	Shikshikas meeting
33	23.01.2021	Maichun	Maniagar	28	18	9	1	Tailoring centre
34	24.01.2021	Danya	Aati	8	6	2	0	Women's restaurant
35	25.01.2021	Danya	Chalmorigada	7	7	0	0	Meeting of committee members
36	04.02.2021	Maichun	Maniagar	27	14	13	0	Tailoring, knitting
37	09.02.2021	Binta	Surna	56	50	6	0	Repair of VLC room, wildlife conflict, Panchayati raj
38	11.02.2021	Maichun	Palyun	23	20	3	0	Panchayati raj, VLC review, irrigation canal
39	15.02.2021	Maichun	Maniagar	17	10	7	0	Tailoring
40	20.02.2021	Maichun	Banthok	23	20	3	0	Vegetable cultivation and sale, polyhouse, panchayat
41	20.02.2021	Maichun	Moni	18	15	3	0	Income activity for women, wildlife conflict, polyhouse
42	24.02.2021	Maichun	Maniagar	18	11	7	0	Tailoring, knitting
43	24.02.2021	Maichun	Alai	22	20	2	0	Village profile
44	04.03.2021	Ganaigangoli	Gwadi	35	30	5	0	Link between VLC and women's groups activities, Adolescent girl development, panchayat ghar, cleanliness in village
45	05.03.2021	Ganaigangoli	Bhalugara	22	20	2	0	VLC and women's group linkage,
46	07.03.2021	Danya	Chalmorigada	10	8	2	0	Meeting at Chalmorigada
47	08.03.2021	Danya	Chalmorigada	441	300	60	41	Mahila divas
48	15.03.2021	Maichun	Maniagar	21	8	13	0	Tailoring, knitting and income, alcoholism among men
49	17.03.2021	Pati	Jankande	17	10	7	0	Tailoring centre, income generation for women
50	17.03.2021	Pati	Jankande	14	12	2	0	Off-farm income, wildlife conflict
51	18.03.2021	Pati	Jankande	18	10	7	1	Tailoring, knitting, wildlife conflict, SHG and WVG, Strengthening WVG activities
52	18.03.2021	Pati	Goom	27	23	4	0	Protection of crops from wild animals, SHG and WVG, women in panchayat, cooperation among women
53	19.03.2021	Pati	Toli	14	4	7	3	Knitting centre, Protection of crops from wild animals,
54	19.03.2021	Pati	Bhatyura	24	22	2	0	Difference between WVG and SHG, nurturing cooperation among women

## **7. Strengthening and improving rural livelihoods**

The term protected farming refers to the technique of growing plants in a controlled environment. The method typically involves raising plant nurseries or cultivation of agricultural, floricultural, horticultural crops and herbs by regulating temperature, humidity, ventilation etc. to maximize production. A greenhouse is the most practical structure available to practice protected farming where micro-environment is regulated to achieve optimum plant growth in a relatively shorter time. Generally, greenhouses are covered by transparent or translucent materials such as glass or plastic sheets.

A greenhouse covered with plastic sheets is called a polyhouse. Polyhouses are of different types; low cost-naturally ventilated polyhouses, medium cost-partially controlled polyhouses, and high cost-fully controlled polyhouses. In the hills of Uttarakhand, all these three types of polyhouses are in use depending on the size of the land, availability of water, investment etc. However, low-cost, small-sized polyhouses are popular with farmers because the land is terraced and fragmented in hill villages. In addition, small, plastic low-tunnels are common specially to raise off-season plant nurseries and saplings. Besides iron-based framework, bamboo poles are used to construct polyhouses and polytunnels.

In recent times, polyhouses are being promoted by the government and the voluntary agencies on a large scale to diversify livelihood options and to improve income of farmers, especially women. The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and the centrally sponsored scheme of Horticultural Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) are large scale interventions coordinated by the state governments to promote protected farming in Uttarakhand. These schemes provide heavy subsidies (up to 80%) and offer additional incentives like free seeds and maintenance support to farmers. In addition, the watershed development programme promotes protected farming by offering support for installation and cultivation in polyhouses and polytunnels.

### **7a. Ecological and environmental issues**

An ecologically fragile and economically disadvantaged state, Uttarakhand faces major environmental challenges. Reduced agricultural production, crop depredation by wild animals, migration of rural people to the cities in search of paid jobs are major concerns. With erratic rainfall surfacing as periods of short-term, intense precipitation amid drought-like conditions, frost, floods caused by cloudbursts etc. the risk of climate change issues is evident. With increasing man-animal conflicts, farmers are constantly facing problems of damage to crops by monkeys, porcupines and wild boars. These issues have necessitated some response from the government and the non-government organizations to think of and initiate some practical work that could help the rural population face the problems. Therefore, diversification of land-based livelihoods is often discussed as overarching response to climate change, sustainable development and economic growth in Uttarakhand.

Growing saplings and vegetables in polyhouses has emerged as one of the solutions to improve incomes of the local population in villages. The structure not only provides protection to small plants from extreme cold but also wards off wild animals. In addition, high-altitude villages face the challenges of harsh climatic conditions with short agricultural seasons. Polyhouses offer an opportunity to farmers to raise nurseries and grow off-season vegetables for their own consumption during the long winter months and for sale, if markets are available nearby.

## **7b. Benefits of polyhouses**

- Plants are grown under controlled temperature. Warmth ensures better survival of plants in cold climatic conditions
- In a protected environment, crop loss and damage to seedlings is minimal
- Crops can be grown throughout the year. The farmers need not wait for a particular season to grow crops
- Off season crops can be grown
- Water loss by evaporation is reduced
- In protected structures, production of vegetables and flowers is more than in open fields
- A polyhouse provides favorable environment to plants to grow steadily. Crop is protected from hail and thunderstorms and suitable temperature ensures better germination and early maturation of yield

## **7c. Protected farming initiative by USNPSS**

Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS) has long been experimenting with communities, especially women, to diversify and improve livelihood options using polyhouses and arc-shaped polytunnels in different districts of Kumaon and Garhwal. In many villages, these initiatives were accompanied by digging tanks nearby to store water for irrigation. The focus is on enabling communities to learn, design and construct polyhouses depending on the size of their fields, availability of water and the location of the village. In the valleys, a polyhouse would require proper ventilation which comes either through small windows or using shade nets. A polyhouse made in higher altitudes requires more sun, therefore, shade-nets are not used. In warmer climate, both windows and shade-nets are used to maximize airing. Further, both iron-based infrastructure and bamboo poles have been used by USNPSS to install small polyhouses and polytunnels in various locations in Uttarakhand.

This note focuses on the work carried out during 2016-2019 in Banthok and Pati clusters of villages in Almora and Champawat districts. In Banthok village cluster polyhouses were made whilst polytunnels were introduced in Pargosni and Kamlekh villages in Pati cluster with the objective of diversifying livelihood option for women farmers. During February-March 2021 visits were made by USNPSS staff to these villages to meet the farmers and to review progress. A brief report is presented below:

### **Banthok village cluster**

Situated in a valley, Banthok village is located about 35 km from the town of Almora. About 45 families inhabit two hamlets called Malla Banthok and Talla Banthok. A total of 9 polyhouses of dimension 10 x 20 feet were installed in Banthok during 2016-17. In addition, a polyhouse was installed in a nearby village of Maniagar in 2017. All these polyhouses were constructed on bamboo poles.

A visit was made to Banthok village on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to see the current status of polyhouses installed 4 years ago and to assess the impact. All the nine farmers who had made polyhouses in their fields were approached for their feedback.

In Banthok village, agriculture has never been a commercial activity as the land holdings are very small. Moreover, land is fragmented and most of it is not irrigated. In unirrigated land, agriculture is carried out with very little inputs. Just the time-tested and well-adapted crops such as mandua (ragi), gahat daal etc. are grown. On the other hand, protected farming requires new methods and more inputs, which the farmers have little or no access to.

The women of Banthok village appreciate this activity because it protects crops from wild animals especially monkeys and porcupines. In addition, a polyhouse can produce good yield in a shorter time. It also helps farmers to grow saplings during winters enabling them to produce some off-season vegetables.



**Figure 23.** A view of Talla Banthok village



**Figure 24.** Polyhouse made from bamboo poles and plastic sheet.

**Table 16.** Polyhouses in Banthok village.

Sl	Name of the farmer	Observation	Crop grown
<b>Malla Banthok, Almora</b>			
1	Smt Hema Devi	Functional, in good condition	Local seasonal crops
2	Smt Degari Devi	Functional, in good condition	Local seasonal crops
3	Smt Shanti Devi	Functional, in good condition	Local seasonal crops
4	Smt Neema Devi	Unfolded for place change	Local seasonal crops
5	Smt Maduri Devi	Unfolded for place change	Local seasonal crops
<b>Talla Banthok, Almora</b>			
6	Smt Bhagwati Devi	Functional, in good condition	Local seasonal crops
7	Sri Nandan Singh	Functional, in good condition	Cabbage, Garlic, Coriander
8	Sri Jeewan Singh	Functional, in good condition	Local seasonal crops
9	Sri Bishan Ram	Functional, in good condition	Cabbage, Cauliflower, Pea
<b>Maniagar, Almora</b>			
10	Sri Amar Singh	Uninstalled	N.A.

### Reflections

1. Protected farming has been a new experience for the residents of Banthok village. Farmers appreciate the initiative because it helps them to protect their crops from wild animals. Also, good production of vegetables was obtained in a shorter duration of time.
2. It was observed that all polyhouses were well maintained and utilized properly. Traditional seasonal vegetables were growing inside polyhouses.
3. Almost all farmers did multiple experiments with seasonal crops and seem to have optimized their experiences to improve production over time. Most of the polyhouses were used to grow multiple crops, sown separately.
4. Cultivating traditional mixed crops, as in open agricultural fields, has helped in maintaining soil health. Also, this practice has reduced easy infestation of pests inside the structure.
5. None of the farmers had used pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the polyhouse. Cow-dung based compost available in plenty in Banthok is used to nourish the



**Figure 25.** Protected farming in villages.



soil.

6. A majority of the farmers were growing vegetables for their own consumption. Crops like coriander, potato, garlic, onion and leafy vegetables were found to be grown on a regular basis. Only a few farmers did cash cropping of cabbage, cauliflower and cucumber. However, some of the farmers of Malla Bantok had sold vegetables in the nearby town of Barechhina.



**Figure 26.** Inside a polyhouse.

7. Two farmers in Malla Bantok had decided to shift the polyhouses to other fields as monkeys were damaging the plastic sheet coverings.
8. Three farmers in Malla Bantok hamlet, Smt Shanti, Smt Hema and Smt Bhagwati said that it was a very useful asset. They could produce more seasonal vegetables in polyhouses. All of them made requests for plastic-sheets for bigger polyhouses.
9. New farmers (Smt Hema, Smt Prema, Smt Ganguli and Smt Mamta) were also interested in installing polyhouses in their fields and made requests for assistance and guidance on the issue.



**Figure 27.** A farmer shows cabbage crop cultivated inside a polyhouse.

10. Sri Amar Singh of Maniagar village was found to have discontinued cultivation after two years. He said that his experience was not good.

After a year of good production, the plastic sheet was damaged by a local man. He also felt that the soil was losing productivity. Subsequently, he decided to uninstall the structure.

This programme is successful in the sense that no middle man is involved and despite little monitoring by USNPSS, women continued growing vegetables and plant saplings in polyhouses. They discussed the issue in village meetings, educated themselves and began growing vegetables on their own. This approach is different from the mainstream projects because no hybrid seeds and cash-cropping methods were offered through the programme.

Material for a low-cost polyhouse was provided and the women gained knowledge through direct interactions with USNPSS staff and from experience-sharing in the community. It was a demand driven learning exercise carried out by people themselves.



**Figure 28.** Polyhouses in Banthok village.



### Pati village cluster

In Pati village cluster USNPSS collaborated with its partner organisation Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti or PSS to set up low height, arc-shaped poly tunnels. During discussions on the issue, Mr Pitambar Gahtori of PSS had advocated the approach of installing poly tunnels to raise plant nurseries and to grow green leafy vegetables as the region receives heavy frost during winters. Mr Gahtori designed a 10 x18 x 6 feet tunnel shaped structure erected on iron rods. This structure could be moved quickly and required little effort to install again in another location. For example, depending on the angle of the sunrays in different seasons, the farmers could put it in the best position to optimize production. Earlier he owned two polyhouses but his experience was not good as he felt the yeild was going down and soil was losing fertility over time. Therefore, instead of polyhouses he preferred low cost poly tunnels which could be moved in case the soil becomes unproductive.



**Figure 29.** Low height arch shaped poly tunnels at Pati, district Champawat.

Two villages - Pargosani and Kamlekh - were selected for installing 49 poly tunnels during 2018-19. Out of these, 31 were in Pargosani and 18 in Kamlekh village. During our visit in March 2021, 73% polytunnels were found in good functional conditions. The remaining 27% were either partially used or dysfunctional.

Almost all poly tunnels were used to raise saplings of vegetables such as tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal, capsicum and chilly. In addition, some farmers grew green leafy vegetables, coriander, spinach, onion, peas etc. during winters which otherwise would not have been possible in the village. During the visit discussions were held with the following farmers.



**Figure 30.** Arch shaped polytunnenls.

Unlike Banthok, villages in Pati region have long been involved in vegetable production on a commercial scale. Potatoes, tomatos, capsicum, cabbage, cauliflower etc. are grown for sale in nearby market of Lohaghat town. In Pargosani village, a small group of farmers is actively collaborating to improve their income by collectevily purchasing seeds and marketing of produce. Large poyhouses are used by farmers to raise vegetable seedlings such as tomatos and capsicum which after sometime are transplanted in open fields.



**Table 17.** Discussions were held with farmers.

Sl	Name of the farmer	Observations	Crop grown
<b>Pargosani, Champawat</b>			
1	Sri Nilambar Kharkwal	Functional, in good condition	Saplings of tomato and capsicum
2	Sri Deepak Kharkwal	Functional, in good condition	Saplings of tomato
3	Sri Mohan Oli	Functional, in good condition	Cabbage and cauliflower saplings
4	Sri Sagar Mishra	Functional, in good condition	Tomato and cabbage saplings
5	Sri Yogesh Oli	Functional, in good condition	Pea's crop
<b>Kamlekh, Champawat</b>			
1	Smt Chani Devi	Functional, in good condition	Tomato and capsicum saplings
2	Smt Rama Devi	Functional, in good condition	Capsicum saplings and cabbage plants
3	Sri Suraj Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, capsicum and brinjal saplings
4	Sri Chhatra Singh	Not in use as family had migrated	n. a.
5	Sri Kishan Singh	Uninstalled for installation to another field	n. a.
6	Sri Raghubar Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato saplings and onion crop
7	Sri Durban Singh	Functional, in good condition	Cabbage and capsicum saplings
8	Sri Prakash Singh	Not in use	n. a.
9	Smt Maya Devi	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, chilly and capsicum saplings
10	Sri Kailash Singh	Not in use	n. a.
11	Sri Dev Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, brinjal and capsicum saplings
12	Sri Narayan Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato and capsicum saplings
13	Smt Dhani Devi	Not in use	n. a.
14	Sri Dileep Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, cabbage & capsicum saplings
15	Sri Rajendra Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato and capsicum saplings
16	Sri Mohan Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, chilly and capsicum saplings
17	Sri Kishan Singh II	Functional, in good condition	Tomato, brinjal and capsicum saplings
18	Sri Bablu Singh	Functional, in good condition	Tomato saplings and coriander crop



**Figure 31.** A demand-driven open ended learning exercise for farmers to generate income.

In addition, over the last decade the famers of Pati region have shown considerable interest in horticulture. In view of this demand USNPSS has supported plantation of fruit trees such as apple, kiwi, peach, guava and citrus varieties in villages.



## Gwar village

Gwar village is situated near Gopeshwar town in Chamoli District. Locally, the village is one of the regular suppliers of vegetables to the town of Gopeshwar. USNPSS introduced polyhouses in Gwar village during 2017-18. A total 45 bamboo-based polyhouses were constructed by Navjyoti Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Gopeshwar, a partner organisation of USNPSS.



**Figure 32.** Polyhouses in Gwar village, district Chamoli.

During a visit to Gwar in April 2021, it was observed that about 55% polyhouses were fully functional. 33% of farmers had discontinued growing vegetables for various reasons, especially decrease in production. 11% of farmers were not using the polyhouse this year due to water scarcity.

**Table 18.** Discussions held with the farmers at Gwar village, district Chamoli.

Sl	Name of the farmer	Observations	Crop grown
Gwar, Chamoli			
1	Sri Ajay Kuwar	Functional, in good condition	Strawberry, Onion
2	Sri Jai Pakash Singh	Functional, in good condition	Bean
3	Sri Rajwar Singh	Functional, in good condition	Bean

SI	Name of the farmer	Observations	Crop grown
<b>Gwar, Chamoli</b>			
4	Sri Vinod Lal	Functional, in good condition	Coriander
5	Sri Pushkar Singh	Functional, in good condition	Bean
6	Sri Dabul Singh	Functional, in good condition	Coriander
7	Sri Shamsher Singh	Functional, in good condition	Coriander
8	Sri Akhilesh Lal	Functional, in good condition	Bean
9	Sri Purushottam Singh	Uninstalled	N. A.
10	Sri Shishupal Singh	Functional, in good condition	Bean, Onion
11	Sri Prem Singh	Not in use due to water scarcity	N. A.
12	Sri Mohan Singh	Not in use due to water scarcity	N. A.
13	Sri Servendra Singh	Functional, in good condition	Bean

### Experience from other projects

To learn about the experiences of other agencies' discussions were held with two concerned institutions in Almora. The state Horticulture Department and Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (VPKAS) were approached to understand their approach and experiences on the issue.

The Chief District Horticulture Officer (CDHO) reiterated the benefits of the scheme stressing on the issue that any farmer can install polyhouses of dimension 100 square meters using GI pipes and good quality plastic sheets with an incentive of 80% subsidy offered by the government. Support for seeds and maintenance is also offered under the scheme. He stressed on issues of networking among the farmers and availability of a market nearby.

In view of difficulties faced by farmers in large polyhouses, scientists at VPKAS have developed portable and movable structures. In case of infestation by pests and of soil-borne diseases, these structures can easily be moved.

A common understanding that has emerged in these institutions from experience is that small polyhouses are not economically viable unless all farmers of the locality grow the same crop and sell it in a market nearby. Under various projects low cost small polyhouses are constructed but these offer limited space for planting and the produce is not enough for sale in the market. Non-availability of water for irrigation is another problem. Since farmers cannot grow enough for sale, they might use the structure as a storage area. In some cases, farmers use the plastic-sheets on their house roofs once the project is complete.

Considering production, a large polyhouse is better but its initial costs and maintenance pose many problems. Due to non-availability of suitable land and high initial capital costs most of the farmers find it difficult to make use of large polyhouses. Also, after 4-5 years of continuous monocropping (which is essential for commercial activity) soil-borne diseases and reduced fertility may threaten the possibilities of more production. In such cases, either the farmers need to change the soil or shift the structure elsewhere, which requires additional financial inputs.

## **Limitations of Protected farming**

Protected farming does not offer a viable income generation option to the marginal farmers of Uttarakhand. The following reasons could be cited:

- High cost of infrastructure especially for 100 m<sup>2</sup> size polyhouses promoted by various agencies (Rs 22000 capital cost even after 80% subsidy).
- Non availability of land for installation of large polyhouses in the hills.
- More fertilizers and pesticides are required in the long run.
- Non availability of good quality seeds in villages.
- Requires continuous and close supervision and monitoring.
- Repair and maintenance of polyhouses poses problems.
- Plastic-sheets used as cover are expensive, have a short life and need to be purchased from markets outside the region.
- Severe quick infestation by insects and nematodes. Pests and some soil-borne pathogens are difficult to manage as they grow very rapidly in the warmth of a polyhouse
- Since the investment of resources like time, effort and finances is expected to be high, assured marketing options are needed
- Marketing constraints such as perishability of crops, lack of minimum support price, high price fluctuations and lack of information in villages are some other constraints.

## **Recommendations**

Keeping in mind the experience of USNPSS in villages of Uttarakhand and of other concerned agencies the following recommendations emerge:

- Income generation through polyhouses is not a viable commercial activity for small farmers in the hills. Like in a kitchen garden, multi-cropping in low-cost small polyhouses is a successful activity but it does not produce enough for sale. Therefore, marginal increase in income is observed. At the most, polyhouses offer good quality yield for self-consumption. Multi-cropping also maintains soil health in a long run.
- Big polyhouses are also not practical as these require high investment and need to be replaced over time. Initial costs and maintenance make it difficult for small farmers to take any initiative on their own to improve their livelihoods using polyhouses
- Polyhouses are appreciated by women farmers in view of the fact that crops are protected from wild animals such as monkeys, wild boar and porcupines that cause a lot of damage to saplings as well as ripened crops in the fields
- Low cost, replaceable poly tunnels are very useful for raising saplings of vegetables during winters as the structure would protect the nursery from frost, snow and hail storms.

## 7d. Agricultural produce processing and marketing centre at Badhani village

The processing and marketing centre at Badhani village, district Chamoli, began as an initiative to reinstate and energize the idea and activities of sale of surplus agricultural produce in villages, particularly in the valleys where some surplus produce is actually available. Developing such a centre in Badhani was a perfect fit because of its geographical location, relatively less migration of people to the cities and good production of ragi, millets and pulses in agricultural fields.

A total amount of 8,60,000 rupees was spent in construction of rooms and in availing other amenities such as electricity to the centre. USNPSS provided a support of rupees 1 lakh for the centre and of 54,600 rupees for processing equipment under the NMHS programme in 2018. This includes equipment relating to cleaning, drying, grinding and packaging of food grain items such as ragi flour. The landlord, also the head of the CBO at Badhani, spent the rest of the money. In addition, a madua (raagi) thresher machine was provided to ease labor and provide some respite to women during agricultural peak periods. The centre became functional in November 2019.



**Figure 33.** Centre at Badhani village, district Chamoli.

Surplus agricultural produce is procured from nearby villages of Badhani, Jakh, Diyarkot, Pudiyani, Chaundali etc. Cleaned, dried and neatly packaged items are sold locally. The buyers are the local residents from the nearby town of Karnaprayag, school teachers who commute to villages every day etc. The following table exhibits the details during November 2020-March 2021.

**Table 19.** Agricultural produce processing and marketing centre at Badhani.

Item	Quantity bought in kg	Amount spent	Transportation charges and processing, packaging costs (per kg)			Total costs (kg)	Income from sale	Net profit Rupees
			Transport	Cleaning, grinding	Others			
Ragi	1,500	22,500 @15/kg	5	3	-	34,500 @23/kg	49,500@33/kg	15,000
Barnyard millet	300	6,300 @21/kg	2	2	Loss during processing- 100 kg	7,500 @37.50/kg	16,000@80/kg	8,500
Pulses Urad, gahat, tuar etc.)	70	145	2.5	2.5	-	10,500 @150/kg	11,900@170/kg	1,400
Total net profit (rupees)								24,900
Income from grinding (wheat flour etc.)								6,000
Total net income (rupees)								30,900

A paddy thresher has been bought from the income earned. Now the centre has also started the work of grinding of rice.

## 7e. Silai-Sewing and knitting centres

This year, centres were functional in six different locations spread over four districts in the hills. A total of 172 women and a man learnt sewing and 29 women learnt knitting. Table shows the details.

**Table 20.** Sewing and knitting centres.

Sl	Village	District	Number of learners	
			Sewing	knitting
1	Gogina	Bageswar	25	-
2	Jankande	Champawat	30	10
3	Maniagar	Almora	27	12
4	Danya	Almora	47	7
5	Jakh	Chamoli	30	-
6	Palyun	Almora	14	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>173</b>	<b>29</b>

### Gogina village

The tailoring centre is functional in Loharkuda hamlet of Gogina village in Bageswar district. Loharkuda is inhabited by ironsmiths representing a scheduled caste community. Being a remote place, the tailoring centre is the only off-farm income generating opportunity available to women. The centre is attended by women from 6 neighborhood villages. During the lockdown last year, school and college going girls also attended the centre. They made masks for distribution in all villages in the area. Since there is no cloth shop available in Gogina-Loharkuda area, women took old washed clothes to the centre to prepare masks. Further, old saris are used to practice designing and tailoring women's clothes.

Women who have learnt the skill very well are Meera Arya, Laxmi Arya, Raveena Arya, Babita Arya, Dhana Arya, Bhagirathi Arya, Basanti Arya, Manisha Arya, Yashoda Arya, Mamata Arya, Beena Arya and Sunita Arya.

Meera Arya belongs to a poor family but she has a lot of interest in tailoring. After finishing her household duties, she comes to the centre. Getting cloth from nearby town of Shama and from Bageswar is not easy. She says that women in her village are always busy with agricultural and forest related work. It is difficult for them to find time to make visits to the markets and buy cloth of their own choice. Despite many problems, women are interested in tailoring because they can stitch their own clothes and of their family members at home and save money.

The supervisor, Pushpa, is very happy and satisfied with activities in the centre. Earlier she used to stitch clothes of women and girls in Gogina village. Overburdened with work, she used to think of having more women learning tailoring so that she could focus on other



things in life. Now, that others have learnt the skill, she is able to find some time for herself. She has been encouraging women and girls to open a cloth and tailoring shop in Gogina village. Currently, people have to go to Bageswar, about 75 km away from Gogina, to get their clothes stitched especially during weddings and other social occasions.

### **Badhani-Jakh village**

In Jakh village, Badhani, district Chamoli, the tailoring centre was opened last year. A total of 30 women and girls have learnt stitching. The centre is operational in a panchayat ghar which has a large verandah attached with it. The participants cut the cloth inside the room and then spread over the space available there. The trainer is an experienced tailor respected for his work in the region.

The women say that they have learnt to make masks, sameez, plain salwar kameez, blouse petticoat of different designs and a variety of kameez-salwar which include Patiala suit, frock-suit, rumali frocks, different types of dresses for young girls, school uniform etc. Currently, 10 women and girls are stitching clothes of their own families and relatives in Jakh village. A detailed analysis of the work was published in the women's magazine, "Nanda" in November 2020.



**Figure 34.** Tailoring centre at Jakh village, district Chamoli.

### **Village Palyun**

In Palyun village, district Almora, currently 13 women and girls are being trained. Poonam Arya is the trainer in the centre. During the lockdown in the summer last year the centre was closed for a few months. The trainer, however, stitched masks for distribution in villages. In addition, she worked as a trainer in Danya during July-September 2020. A boy trained in Palyun centre also stitched masks and sold in nearby markets. He also kept

getting orders from people and stitched clothes during the lockdown. He says that had he not learnt tailoring in the centre, nobody would have given him work. In the centre, he learnt the skill of sewing but also made friends and got to know other people in the village. This contact with others in villages has helped him get work. A girl who has completed her ITI is also coming to the centre.

Out of the 13 learners currently enrolled in the centre, 7 have learnt to cut and stitch women's apparel and getting orders from nearby villages. All of them now stitch clothes of their families and save money.

The women's group of Palyun has made a decision in village meetings that they will generate enough business in the village itself and won't let any woman go outside to get her clothes stitched.

Since, women of two different castes come to the centre, a new channel of communication has opened in the community. Earlier, women of socially advanced caste would not speak with the rest in the community but now all of them sit and learn together. This ease of communication has diluted and lifted the age-old tradition of people of different castes not sitting together in the village.

Another offshoot of the programme in the village is reflected in less numbers of trips that the women had to make to the forest. The young daughters-in law have been happy with the fact that now they do not have to go to the forest twice a day in winter and thrice a day in summer as their mothers-in law did.

### **Village Maniagar**

The centre at Maniagar village is functional since 2017. As reported last year, many women trainees have either opened their own shops or working from home. The range of income is between about rupees 1000-12,000 per month.

This year, the centre was closed for about four months during lockdown. However, the trainers stitched masks for distribution in nearby villages. In addition, USNPSS gave them work to stitch masks which were later provided to the district administration and the municipality Almora. The trainers from the centre also spent a lot of time training women in Danya centre.



**Figure 35.** Knitting and tailoring centre, Maniagar village.

When the centre at Maniagar was reopened after a closure for four months, women from five villages joined the programme. The villages were Sankniyani, Dhamera, Aartola, Bina and Toli.

From Kasoon village two women and two girls representing a socially disadvantaged caste come on a regular basis to learn tailoring. When The USNPSS staff asked them the reasons for coming so late they said that initially they were afraid to come. "Being women of scheduled caste families, we were not sure whether we will be allowed to come, says Kiran Arya." However, once they saw other women of the region going to learn, their own inhibitions were removed.



**Figure 36.** Knitting and tailoring centre, Maniagar village.

A group of six girls came from Saknayani village, near Nagarkhan. The village is situated about 3 km from Maniagar. In Saknayani village, A young girl used to stitch clothes of almost all families. Over-burdened with work, she asked other girls from the village to learn tailoring at Mani agar centre. In view of the long distance between the village and the centre, the girls made a decision to make a small group. Out of these six girls, Deepa Arya, Aarti Arya and Jyoti Arya have started stitching clothes of women in Saknayani village. Deepa has a sewing machine at home. In the centre, she has also learnt to use a pedal machine. Jyoti and Arti come to the centre to stitch clothes.

From August onwards 8 women and girls came from Toli village to learn tailoring. After completing her training Renuka got married but continued stitching clothes in her new house. Gunjan, Suchita and Chandani stitch clothes of their families and also receive work from the village.

Bina village is situated about 4 km away from the town of Panuanaula. Pooja Joshi learnt about the centre from her relatives but she had a major challenge ahead. She belongs to a poor family and her parents would have found it difficult to bear the expenses of

commuting every day to Maniagar. She stayed at Sela village for about six months and learnt tailoring. Now, she is stitching clothes of women in her own village.

Sita Bhainsora completed her intermediate from Panuanaula. Her husband works in a company in Noida. During the lockdown he came back to his village and the family started facing difficulties as they had no other source of income. Sita thought of going to her parental home in Aartola village for some time. She learnt about the tailoring centre from her relatives at Aartola. The next day she made a visit to Maniagar.

Sita says, “the atmosphere at Maniagar was so different. Upon getting down at Maniagar bazar, I asked a shopkeeper where the centre was. There were some women buying groceries from the shop. They told me a lot about the centre. I reached the centre and saw that everyone was busy at work. I watched them working and then made a decision to learn knitting. Back home, I shared my thoughts with the family. My husband did not say yes but did not say no either. So, I started going to the centre. It was an expensive endeavor because I had to commute every day. I could not help it because I have small children at home and needed to be back in the evening. After two months of regular training, I bought my own machine and started knitting at home. Now, I knit sweaters on demand. Also, I have started working as a teacher in a private school here. Now, we earn enough and also remain busy all through the day.”

Rima Banoula lives in Girchola village. She opted for training on knitting and learnt on a regular basis for about 7 months. Besides sweaters, Rima has learnt to knit woolen frocks, caps of different designs, muffler, socks etc. She is able to earn about 2000-2500 per month from knitting related work.

Radha Bisht lives in Kwiti village near Panuanaula. She is very interested in knitting and a fast learner too. However, she says that commuting every day to Maniagar is expensive for her, especially during the lockdown when the local jeeps are either not going or charging exorbitantly.

Deepa Paenwal, village Simkhliya, is learning both tailoring and knitting at Maniagar centre. She has received orders from her village and also made sweaters for her relatives. She says that by selling sweaters she is earning money each month.

Divya Chamiyal and Priya Chamiyal live in Chanoli village. Both of them are enrolled in college. During the lockdown they were at home and therefore decided to join the centre. They stitched clothes for themselves and for their friends at Almora.

Five women come from Maichun village to learn tailoring. Uma Banaula has mastered the skill and stitching clothes to earn money. Vidya Banaula, Neetu Banaula, Laxmi and Chandra, Anjali Bagadwal are stitching clothes of their own and of their families.

### **Jankande village**

In Jankande village 30 women come regularly to the centre to learn tailoring. Two women come from Harodi and Tyarson village and walk a long distance every day to reach

the centre. Out of these 15 women are determined to open their own shops. Others intend to save money by stitching clothes of their own and of their families. On an interesting note, many adolescent girls also came to the centre but they were asked to wait because girls who have completed 18 years of age are made eligible for training.

**Table 21.** Details of the participants at Jankande village, district Champawat.

Villages	Participants			Why tailoring			
	Total	Women	Girls	Want to open shop	Stitch clothes in the village	Stitch clothes for the family	Will think later
3	30	13	17	15	4	7	4

During the visit to the area, the USNPSS staff organized the centre so that each participant receives enough time and attention from the trainer. Discussions were held to strengthen the women's groups activities in the village. In addition, issues relating to maintenance and repair of machines, cleanliness in the centre were discussed. The women agreed that they will take turns to sweep the floor and keep the centre orderly in future.

The trainer, Rita Bohra, had learnt tailoring in Himanchal Pradesh and had worked in a tailor's shop for four years. She knew tailoring but expressed her inability to handle a group of women learners. She said that she herself needs training on how to interact with rural women and how to conduct training for them.

In view of the above concerns, USNPSS asked Rita Bohra and Krishna Bohra to attend a training programme at Danya and spend some time with the women there. Both of them attended the programme and stayed at Danya for 8 days. During this period, they learnt the methods of conducting training for a group of women. They also learnt to differentiate between basic units of measurement such as the difference between centimeter, meter, inch and feet. Repair and maintenance of sewing and knitting machines was another feature that all women were exposed to during training at Danya. In addition, group discussions were held to improve understanding of various issues of women's development. This exposure was much appreciated by Rita and Krishna. Rita said that she had gained enough confidence and was ready to conduct training for women back in her village. She found the method of group discussions very interesting and said she would like to use the same approach in her centre at Jankande.

Rita worked as a trainer for 3 months and had gained some experience when USNPSS staff thought of making a visit to her centre to offer further guidance and encouragement. It was evident that Rita had effectively used the approaches she herself had learnt in Danya and was successful in organizing women in a group. The head of the organization at Pati had helped her a lot in the process of organizing and instilling a sense of pride and confidence among women learners.





**Figure 37.** Girls at Pati, district Champawat.

This is the first time that such an initiative on income generation has been taken for rural women in Pati area. One of the participants, an elderly woman from Jankande village says, “Since we cultivate and sell vegetables, we do not get any time to go to the market. In this region, women are over-burdened with farming and forest related work. However, these days monkeys and wild boars have started coming to the fields. We get very little income from farming now. The young women are not interested in agriculture either. So, we have been thinking of some change now. Seeing a tailor stitching clothes used to overwhelm me. I used to wonder how such a small machine can stitch clothes so fast. When the centre was opened, I was the first person to go and touch the machine. Now we come here every day to learn tailoring.”

All participants have learnt to work on sewing machine in Jankande village. However, a majority of them find it difficult to use a pedal machine. Pati region in Champawat district is known locally as one of the most underdeveloped regions in the state. Farming is done by women using traditional methods. A majority of women learners do not find time to practice tailoring at home. Therefore, each training programme needs to be of a longer duration here. In addition, maintenance of sewing machines remains an issue. The trainer can resolve minor problems but in case of major faults, machines need to be brought to Almora.



**Figure 38.** Women sit out in the sun and learn, Pati, district Champawat.

This year, Tara Bohra stitched clothes in the village and earned 2100 rupees. In addition, Manisha, Tanuja and Reena have been stitching clothes and earning. The trainer is enthusiastic and makes efforts to run the centre well. Recently, she made an enquiry about the price of cloth in the market and helped women buy at wholesale rates from the nearby town of Lohaghat. Even the town of Lohaghat is far away from the village. She asked the college going girls to buy cloth from there and bring it along on their next visit home.

The knitting centre at Toli village in Pati was shifted to the sanstha bhavan in February 2021. A total of 10 women and girls attend the centre. In the first phase all participants made sweaters for themselves and their families. Deepa Bohra received some orders and has earned 2500 rupees in April 2021. Owing to the cold climate and a small bazar at Pati, women are hopeful of receiving many more orders soon.

**Table 22.** Why girls want to learn tailoring.

Sl	Village	Name	Motivation for tailoring
1	Dharagad	Lalita Pandey	I like sewing but do not have a machine at home. I will learn in the centre, buy a machine and then open a shop.
2	Dharagad	Rekha Pandey	Just learning, at this point no plans for the future
3	Dharagad	Dipika Pandey	After completing my intermediate, thought of having some vocational skills and then came here to the centre
4	Dharagad	Deepa Pandey	I am married now. Since my childhood I wanted to learn sewing. The centre has given me the opportunity
5	Dharagad	Munni Pandey	I will develop a new skill- it is a step towards self-sufficiency and empowerment
6	Takoli	Manju Joshi	I come from a poor family. My parents are farmers but the plot of the land is very small I will learn sewing and knitting and use that money for household expenditure.
7	Takoli	Deepa Joshi	I want to be independent.
8	Takoli	Babita Joshi	First, I will stitch my own clothes. Later, I will take orders from the village
9	Takoli	Nirmala Joshi	Reaching here to the centre has not been easy. I have crossed many hurdles. I will learn sewing and will do something in my life
10	Basaan	Hansa Pandey	I want to earn money. I am learning so that I could earn money
11	Basaan	Sarita Pant	As a deserted woman, things have been difficult for me. I live in my parental home now. There is no employment. I will earn some money by stitching clothes
12	Basaan	Mahima Arya	Will earn money and use it as household expenditure
13	Basaan	Shobha Arya	I have a strong desire to earn and be independent
14	Basaan	Anita Arya	I belong to a poor family. I will earn money and give it to my parents
15	Munoli	Uma Bhatt	I want to do something different in my life
16	Munoli	Kavita Pandey	I have enormous interest in sewing and knitting related work
17	Munoli	Tanuja Pandey	I want to stand on my own feet
18	Kotyura	Deepa Joshi	I would like to open my own shop
19	Kotyura	Geeta Joshi	I always wanted to learn sewing. Never got an opportunity. Now, the centre has come to our village and I do not want to miss this chance
20	Kotyura	Kavita Bhatt	I plan to open a shop in the market
21	Rampur	Kavita Joshi	I will stitch clothes and earn money
22	Rampur	Janki Pandey	I will work from home. We have space in our house. Will convert a

Sl	Village	Name	Motivation for tailoring
			room into a shop
23	Rampur	Priti Bhatt	I just want to learn a vocational skill
24	Rampur	Mamta bisht	Will earn money by stitching and knitting
25	Rampur	Navya Arya	I want to be perfect. Will stitch good clothes and earn money
26	Rampur	Puja Arya	I will stitch my own clothes and also take orders from the neighbourhood
27	Gauli	Soni Pandey	I will open a shop
28	Gauli	Puja Pandey	There is nothing growing in the fields. What can we do except learning this trade?
29	Gauli	Anjali Arya	I will learn meticulously and then open a shop
30	Gauli	Puja Bhatt	I want to open a shop of my own
31	Rampur	Ganga Pandey	Will stitch clothes of my family
32	Dasili	Shanti Dasila	Will earn money, that is the reason why I come to the centre everyday
33	Dasili	Himani Dasila	I do not want to work in the fields and forests. Will be a tailor instead
34	Dasili	Tanuja Bisht	I will stitch good clothes for myself and family
35	Dasili	Mamta Gaira	I did MA but remain unemployed. Currently, I assist my father-in law who owns a restaurant. I will expand the work and open a tailoring shop there
36	Dasili	Bhavna Gaira	I am a student. Will think of something later
37	Dasili	Kavita Dasila	We have a road now in the village. Will open a shop on the roadside
38	Dasili	Tanuja Bisht	Will think of generating some income from this trade
39	Ruwal	Kanchan Joshi	I will design new clothes and open a shop in Dhapoli-Danya
40	Ruwal	Puja Joshi	Let me learn this first, then I will think of something
41	Kulori	Bhavna Pandey	I learn this as a hobby
42	Ukal	Puja Joshi	First, I will stitch clothes for my family. Then think of expanding the business
43	Ukal	Kanchan Joshi	Just got an opportunity to learn something different. I will think of something later-might open a shop
44	Padaai	Radha Patwal	My husband came home due to pandemic in the city. Now, we have a cash-crunch at home. So, I want to generate some income now
45	Danya	Puja Pant	I will stitch clothes in the village itself
46	Basaan	Hansi Arya	I will stitch clothes and save money for the future
47	Gogina	Meera Arya	I want to stitch my own clothes
48	Gogina	Malti Arya	I will stitch clothes for the village
49	Gogina	Dhana Arya	I will stitch clothes and save money at home
50	Gogina	Durga Arya	I would like to stitch clothes for the neighbourhood
51	Gogina	Saraswati Arya	I will open a shop because I need to earn and save money
52	Gogina	Manisha Arya	I want to generate some income of my own
53	Gogina	Padima Arya	I want to improve economic status of our family
54	Gogina	Savitri Arya	I will stitch my own clothes and of my family too.
55	Gogina	Bhagirathi Arya	I do not like spending our hard-earned money in stitching clothes in the market. I will save money
56	Gogina	Sarita Arya	I will wear clothes that I like. I will stitch my own clothes and design those differently
57	Gogina	Mala Arya	I am studying as well as learning to stitch clothes. I make good use of the time available to us
58	Gogina	Mamata Arya	I want to earn some money by stitching clothes of people in the village
59	Pati	Savita Tamta	I will stitch clothes of my family and neighbours
60	Pati	Nisha Tamta	I want to design my own clothes

Bimla lives in Basaan village in Almora district. Owing to her poor economic status, she thought of generating some income through tailoring. She learnt sewing for about seven months for two hours every day in a tailor's shop. She says that she could learn stitching salwar-kameez, plain blouse and petticoat during those seven months. She has been stitching clothes of women in her village. When the centre was opened, she motivated four girls from socially disadvantaged families to learn sewing. Bimla's house is located in such a way that while going to the centre these girls used to meet her almost every day. Bimla says that she was surprised to see their work because what she had learnt in the tailor's shop in seven months, the learners in the centre could do the same in about two months. Also, seeing these girls attending the centre, two married women also began going there. Bimla also joined the group because in the centre the participants were taught to stitch different types of women's apparel. For example, they learnt to stitch eight different types of salwar.

Tara Sanwal lives in Munoli village, district Almora. In her village, young girls were the first to enroll themselves for tailoring classes. In the winter when agricultural work is low, married women also began to attend the centre. Tara reiterates, "in our village Neetu and Uma Bhatt have become very good in sewing. Uma is taking orders from the village and also from the neighboring villages. Uma has undergone a personal transformation during this period. She used to be very quiet earlier. Now she has to take orders from the village and needs to communicate with other women". Listening to Tara Uma added, "yes, I have changed a lot. Here in the centre, we learn stitching but more than that we learn to talk and develop confidence in ourselves. Tara had asked her father that she wanted to open a sewing shop. He laughed at first but after about a week found a place for her. Tara says, "I will take it up later. Right now, I will continue going to the centre and develop perfection in stitching women's clothes."

Shanti Dasila, village Dasili, district Almora, is one of the first girls who enrolled themselves in the tailoring centre at Danya. Along with them four young daughters-in law also joined the group. Shanti says that she has already stitched eight pairs of salwar-kameez, twelve pairs of blouse-petticoat and earned 2,000 rupees. She has started getting orders from her own village. Shanti says, "I am committed to this work. In the centre, I practiced a lot and now work with confidence. I learnt about the parts of a machine too. After gaining confidence in sewing, I have now moved on to work on a pedal machine." Shanti and her friend want to open a shop on the roadside. The gram Pradhan of her village has also shown a lot of interest in the work. He has made a request to the CBO to open a centre in Jogyura village also.

Trudging a precarious path every day five women from Dharagad village came to the centre. Out of these, two young women have shown a lot of interest and learnt the skill very well. However, the focus which a poor woman from the village has kept is remarkable. Munni Pandey, has two buffaloes at home. She takes them for open grazing in the forest. Munni took out some time from her busy schedule to learn sewing in the centre. She does not have a machine of her own at home. So, she would cut the pieces of cloth at home and

take it along to the pasture. While the cattle graze, she would stitch the pieces by hand. Back home, she would give the stitched piece to a woman for sewing in the centre. She says, "Now, I stitch clothes for my family and save a lot on money. If I find time I would like to work in a shop so that more income is generated."

In Takoli village, Babita said that five women from her village learnt sewing. Manju and Deepa have started getting orders from the village. Following her training in the centre, Manju began to work in a tailor's shop to further improve her income. However, she did not find it remunerative enough to continue there and left after two months. She partnered with Deepa and now both of them stitch clothes in the village. Her work is commendable in many fronts but the most relevant to this story is the fact that every day she walked five kms to reach the centre.

In Gauli village, Soni Pandey stitched clothes for her family. Her sister lives in Almora town. Soni stitched clothes for her sister's family. The neighbors liked the clothes that she had stitched and she got more orders from Almora. The process had ripple effects and many more women started to stitch clothes for their relatives in nearby towns.

Six women learnt tailoring in Rampur Lamapouli village. Navya Arya did not have a sewing machine at home. She got some orders from the village and continued attending the centre as it provided her an opportunity to use the machine. Navya's friends, Priti learnt tailoring in a tailor's shop. However, the tailor would cut the cloth himself asking her to stitch and finalize by tugging buttons etc. So, she could only learn to use a machine. Priti appreciates the methods used in the centre as everyone gets a chance to learn everything required to become a business woman in the village. Sarita Pant lives in the same village. Being a deserted woman, life has been difficult for her. She is coming to the centre so that she could generate some income for her daily needs.

From Padai village, Radha Patwal came to the centre when her husband came home due to the Covid-19 lockdown in the city. She owns two buffaloes and a few goats. Being poor, the family started to face difficulties during the pandemic. Radha thought of generating some income from stitching clothes. She walked about 2.5 kms every day to reach the centre. She wants to open a shop of her own in Chaapar bend, Danya in Almora district.

From Kotyura village three girls joined the tailoring programme. Deepa began to cut the cloth in the centre and took it home for stitching. This way she could work quickly and started getting some income by stitching clothes in her village. She is determined to open a shop after marriage. Geeta's mother in-law is very happy with her work. Not only she helps Geeta find work but also does a lot of image-building by publicizing her work in the village.

After retirement, Bhavna's father-in law had built a house on the road side in Kulori village. Earlier, they used to have enough production from a plot of irrigated land that the family owned in Kulori. They were able to sell the agricultural produce in the nearby markets of Danya and Almora. However, increasing wildlife menace has caused substantial loss of yield in agriculture. Distraught, Bhavna's father in-law asked her to think of some



other means of generating income. When the centre opened, Bhavna thought of tailoring as a means of income generation. She is determined to open a shop in the new house that the family now owns on the roadside.

Uma is also a resident of Kulori village. She preferred knitting over tailoring and opted for a knitting course in the centre. She has made arrangements to open a shop in the market. She plans to open the shop when the pandemic wanes and normality is restored in the market.

Seven women learnt knitting in Danya bazar. Out of these, Babita Darmyal has bought a knitting machine. Besides practicing at home, she is knitting sweaters for her relatives and earning some money. She plans to expand her activities in the future.

Kavita Goswami works as a beautician in Danya. She plans to expand her activities in near future by keeping a knitting machine in her shop. She comes to the centre on a regular basis and shows a lot of interest in learning and designing new knitting patterns.

Hema Solanki used to knit sweaters by hand. She thought of learning knitting in a machine to make more sweaters in a short time. Her husband has a shop in Danya market. She is trying to persuade him to buy a knitting machine for her. She plans to knit sweaters at home and sell those from the shop in the market.

Suman Joshi is the gram Pradhan of Munoli village. She comes to the centre with Diksha and Dipika who live in the same village. They want to work from home and sell knitted garments to their relatives and acquaintances in Almora, Haldwani and beyond.

**Table 23.** Reasons for learning knitting:

Sl	Village	Name	Reasons for knitting
1	Danya	Suman Joshi	First, I want to learn it well. Then I will think of generating income from knitting
2	Danya	Babita Darmyal	I will open a shop and sell sweaters and other woollen garments
3	Danya	Hansa Solanki	I want to open a shop of my own
4	Kulori	Uma Pandey	I will open a shop in Chalmori-gada
5	Ukal	Dipika Pant	I want be independent and earn some money of my own
6	Danya	Puja Pandey	I knit sweaters by hand. Machine will make the job easier
7	Jogyura	Kavita Goswami	I run a beauty parlour of my own. I will knit and sell sweaters and expand my work

A quick survey was carried out to know the reasons to learn sewing and knitting in the centres. A total of 28 girls were chosen on a random basis to participate in this exercise. Out of the 28 participants, 11 women cited the need to earn money as the reason for them coming to the centres. 11 women wanted to stitch their own clothes and of their families. 5 women were coming to the centre to learn new patterns and designs of cloth and woollen garments. One woman mentioned that she always had an interest in sewing and knitting but had never got an opportunity. She has planned to open a shop in the market.

Significant among the responses were the types of apparels that the participants thought they could make perfectly after training in the centre. Table 24 gives details of those responses.

A total of 15 women wanted to open their own tailoring and knitting shops, taking orders from the neighborhoods. Four women also wanted to sell cosmetic items through their tailoring shops. They said that when women come to the market to give cloth to the tailor, they also like to buy bangles, hair accessories and other such items. The woman working as a beautician also confirmed this pattern of purchasing and said she would keep her knitting-machine in the beauty parlor.

**Table 24.** Responses of women on the type of garments they can make with confidence.

Sl	Tailoring		Knitting	
	Number of women	Item	Number of women	Item
1	16	Sameej	3	Sweaters
2	13	Dhoti salwar	3	Woolen caps
3	15	Mask	1	Different patterns for woolen garments
4	14	Plain salwar	-	-
5	12	Children's clothes	-	-
6	18	Petticoat	-	-
7	9	Frock suit	-	-
8	19	Blouse	-	-
9	22	Plain salwar-kameej	-	-
10	13	Rumali frock	-	-
11	8	Topi	-	-
12	1	Baby frock	-	-
13	5	School uniform for girls	-	-

### Material given to the centres

This year, a knitting machine and 5 sewing tables with pedals were provided to the centres. In addition, other accessories such as hooks, needles, buttons of different sizes, machine lubricating oil, elastic etc. were provided



**Figure 39.** A sewing machine and a knitting machine was presented to Chandra Arya who was trained at Maniagar centre and has opened her own shop after marriage.

## 7f. Root trainers

This year, a root trainer was given to each village learning centre for children to grow seedlings. In addition, a total of 50 root trainers were given to Mr. Naveen Pangtey, village Salla.



Figure 40. root trainers were used to sow seeds in villages.

## 8. Water tanks

Activities on ecological restoration bring an emphasis on deep rootedness of communities in natural systems in villages. This statement has the following two implications:

1. The focus is on considering people as integral to the place that they dwell in. Human beings are one part-in fact at the core- of ecosystems because they can adapt and also change their surroundings to suit their needs
2. The socio-cultural and economic activities evolve in congruence with the type of natural resources available in a place that people occupy. Though this point could be seen as opposite to point 1, in practice the community ways of life are a continuum of both

By fostering integration between the earth and the human beings and by recognizing the fact that people adapt and change their socio-cultural and economic activities over time, the work aims at nurturing thoughts and practice towards community-centered approach for sustainability and development.

With this thought in mind, USNPSS has been encouraging and supporting several activities regarding conservation and provision of water and other natural resources. In Galla-Pata village cluster, Ramgarh block in Nainital district, communities have for long suffered from shortage of water. The problem has become so acute that the village residents have to call water tankers in

the event of weddings etc. It is a horticulture-based area and people grow vegetables (peas, cabbage etc.) to supplement their income. During 2017-2018, USNPSS installed about 130 plastic-lined water tanks in Pata village. This initiative has proved very effective in boosting their income because water collected in the tanks was used for irrigation. The village residents grow various types of vegetables such as off-season peas, cabbage, capsicum, tomatoes etc. which fetch a good price in the market.



**Figure 41.** Meeting at Pata village.

Looking at the success in Pata village, the residents from surrounding areas have been requesting for some tanks now. The USNPSS staff visited the area and held discussions with the village residents in February 2021. Subsequently, 8 large bundles of plastic sheets of 250 GSM-50m X 18 feet and net 50% - 50m X 4m and 50m X 3m (total 5 bundles and an additional sheet of 31 m) were provided to the person in-charge at Galla village. The gram Pradhan is also involved in the programme. People in the vicinity of village Pata are installing tanks.



**Figure 42.** Meeting with community at Pata village.



## **9. Collaboration with other institutions**

### **9a. Ambedkar University Delhi**

On a request made by Prof. Monimalika Day, Ambedkar University Delhi, USNPSS took a group of five students as part of their summer field attachment re MA Education ECCE. The objectives of this internship were to provide students an opportunity to engage with a non-school based educational organization to understand the implications of Covid-19 on educational practice especially the transition of institutional work to online mode. The students were to develop an understanding of various agencies through interaction with them and make linkages between field-based understanding and educational concepts taught.

The interns worked during June- July 2020 and developed a booklet on activities for children attending village learning centres.

### **9b. Late Alka Dhawan Chatrath Scholarship**

During 2020-2021, this scholarship was offered to Mala Arya, PhD Scholar-History and Savitri Joshi- PhD Scholar-Sociology at SSJ University, Almora. Both did a survey of students enrolled in Almora University to capture aspirations of youth re their career and to understand their interests and views on socio-political happenings in society.

## **10. Resource centre**

During 22.12.20 to 03.02.2021 repair of bathrooms attached to the dormitory was carried out.

## **11. Meeting of the Governing Body**

Meeting of the Governing Body was held on 12 November 2020. Some members attended virtually.

## **12. Lectures/meetings**

The annual B D Pande memorial lecture, the Samvaad programme and Sangosthis could not be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year.

## **13. Accounts**

An audited statement of accounts is attached.

## **14. Visitors**

Mr. Abadhesh Verma came from Kasaar Devi on 12.05.2020

Mr. Mandeep Soni, Himali and David visited on 22.06. 2020

Ms. Shalini Pathak came to consult the library on 02.05.2020

Mr. Naveen Pangtey, village Salla, visited on 30.06.2020 and on 19.08.2020 to take some root-trainers for raising seedlings in his village

Ms. Namrata Rawat, researcher, Germany, came on 28.07.2020

Mr. Gemini Sharma, IAS retired, visited on 28.07.2020

Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Delhi, came on 21.08.2020, 15.09.2020

Ms. Prema Bisht, Officers colony-Almora visited on 26.09.2020

Mr. Ricky Suri, Ramgarh, visited on 03.10.2020

Ms. Kamala Bisht, Ganaigangoli, district Pithoragarh, visited on 06.10.2020

Mr. Manish Khanna, Nainital, visited on 08.10.2020

Ms. Mala Arya and Ms. Savitri Joshi, Almora College, came on 12.10.2020, 21.10.2020 to discuss the survey form

Ms. Anila Pant and Pushpa Punetha, Danya, visited on 12.10.2020

Mr. Gopal Prasad, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bhimtal came on 07.11.2020

Ms. Manini Chatterjee, Dr. O.P. Yadava, Dr. Usha Yadava, Mr. Ranjan Joshi, Mr. Kiran Joshi visited on 12.11.2020 regarding the meeting of the Governing Body

Mr. Rajesh Bhatt and Surabhi Bhatt came on 15.11.2020

Ms. Bhoomika Joshi, came on 10.12.2020

Prof. Dharmendra Singh Sengar delivered a lecture on 15.12.2020. About 50 people attended

Ms. Amita Sharma, IAS retd. and Mr. Gemini Sharma, IAS retd. came on 16.12.2020

Ms. Amita Joshi, Mr. Ranjan Joshi came to talk to a group of girls from Maniagar on 02.01.2021

Mr. Mahesh Galia, Galla village, came on 08.01.2021

Mr. Arvind Kumar and Sharmaji from Chaatola visited on 11.01.2021

Ms. Mansi and Khusbu Joshi, Seva Bharat came on 15.01.2021, 18.01.2021

Mr. Ranjan Joshi came on 30.1.2020 regarding work on USNPSS Fellowship programme

Mr. Gobind Singh Koranga, Shama Bhanar, came on 18.02.2021 requesting a VLC in his village

Ms. Chandra Joshi, Danya visited on 23.02.2021

Ms. Shalvi Sinha, Ms. Asmita Singh came on 01.03.2021 regarding the fellowship programme

Mr. Niranjana Pant, Divya and Juhi from Bombay visited during 15.03.2020-16.03.2020

Mr. Ashok and Rajesh Bhatt visited on 20.03.2021

## 15. Members of Governing Body

### Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora

#### List of Governing Body members for year 2020-21

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	Shri Suman Dubey (Member)	Former Editor	N-125, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi- 110017
5	Ms. Ratna Sudarshan (Member)	Advisor, ISST, New Delhi	C-96 (third Floor), Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi 11017
6	Mr Ranjan Joshi (Member)	Former IT consultant	Belvedere, Brighton Corner, Almora 263601

#### Special Invitees:

7	Shri Arun Singh	Former M.P. and Union Minister	MA 1/3-2D Garden Estate, MG Road, Gurgaon.
8	Ms. Manini Chatterjee	Editor	B-27, Press Enclave, New Delhi - 110017
9	Late Prof K. S. Valdiya, F.N.A. (Till 29-09-2020)	Scientist	Shubhangan, Longview Compound, Nainital
10	Dr. M.G. Jackson	Former Professor	Flat no H-1101, Pioneer Park Sector 61, Gurgaon 122001
11	Shri K.S. Mallick	Retd Civil Servant	Ganga Niwas, Kasar Devi, Almora 263601
12	Smt. Anuradha Pande	Social worker	USNPSS, Almora
13	Shri Vikram Mehta	Brookings, Delhi	Binsar, Almora
14	Col C.S. Pant (Retd)	Consultant Radiologist	Green Park, New Delhi
15	Shri Deb Mukharji	IFS Retd, former Ambassador	C-71 IFS Apartments, Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi -91
16	Dr O.P. Yadava	CEO, National Heart Institute	Kasar Devi, Almora

## 16. Staff Profile

### Staff 2020-21 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)	34 years
2	Ms Anuradha Pande	F	M. Sc. (Geology), Kumaun University Nainital, Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management, Lucknow	28
3	Ms. Rama Joshi	F	Intermediate, U. P. Board	27
4	Sri Kamal K. Joshi	M	M. A. (History), Kumaon University, Almora campus	27
5	Sri Jeevan C Joshi	M	Inter science	32
6	Sri Suresh Bisht	M	Intermediate	27
7	Sri Kailash Papanai	M	MA (Education), MA (Political Science) Kumaun University	13
8	Sri D. S. Latwal	M	B.A. Kumaun University	16
9	Sri Divan Matiyani	M	Class 11	21
10	Sri Mohan Singh	M	Class 8	12
11	Dr G. P. Pande	M	M. Sc., Ph. D. (Botany), Kumaun University Nainital	20



मनीष खन्ना एण्ड क.  
सनदी लेखाकार

**Manish Khanna & Co**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
30, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Pichari Bazaar, Mallital, Nainital 263001, Uttarakhand  
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 2021.

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(ICAI)  
Partner  
Membership Nos- 077858  
Place: Almora  
Dated: November 16, 2021  
UDIN -20077858AAAFD1966

**Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora**  
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

<u>Sources of funds</u>		<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Previous Year</u>	
<b>Corpus Fund</b>					
Opening balance		1,95,10,151.47		1,86,71,877.47	
Current year's appropriation of surplus		2,40,000.00		2,40,000.00	
Add: Corpus donations		10,000.00		8,96,274.00	
Total corpus fund		2,00,60,151.47		1,98,10,151.47	
<b>Reserves</b>					
<u>General Reserves</u>					
Opening Balance	42,84,246.83		38,02,495.11		
Add: Current year's appropriation	4,74,066.27	47,58,313.10	4,81,751.72	42,84,246.83	
<u>Specific Reserves</u>					
Opening Balance	87,38,253.66		80,36,903.27		
Less: Expenditure met from reserves	-16,13,996.48		-15,92,705.26		
Add: Current year's appropriation	22,48,912.77	93,73,169.95	22,93,595.67	87,38,253.66	
Total reserves		1,41,31,483.05	1,30,22,500.49		
Total sources of funds		3,41,91,634.52	3,28,32,651.96		
<u>Utilization of funds</u>					
<u>Current assets</u>					
Cash in hand			19.00		
Cash in bank	1,28,89,718.55		22,81,341.60		
Balance in bank in fixed deposits	3,08,39,349.00		2,94,55,674.00		
Accrued interest	8,35,044.15		11,97,924.11		
Sundry advances			3,850.00		
Income tax deducted at source	7,96,872.51	4,53,60,984.22	5,41,190.00	3,35,79,998.71	
<u>Less Current liabilities</u>					
Income tax deducted at source payable			3,850.00		
Sundry creditor	6,750.00		10,000.00		
Unspent grants in aid (Annexure A)	1,11,62,509.70	1,11,69,349.70	7,43,496.75	7,57,346.75	
Net current assets (Current assets less current liabilities)		3,41,91,634.52	3,28,22,651.96		
Total utilization of funds		3,41,91,634.52	3,28,22,651.96		

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

For Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan

*Jeewan C. Joshi*  
Jeewan C. Joshi  
Accountant

*Dr. Lalit Pandey*  
Dr. Lalit Pandey  
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*  
Manish Khanna, FCA, DISA(ICAI)  
Partner  
Membership Nos 077856  
Dated: November 16, 2021  
Camp Almora  
UDIN: 21077858AAAFD1968





Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora  
Income and Expenditure Account  
for year ended 31 March 2021

<u>Income</u>	<u>Current Year</u> Amount [Rs]	<u>Previous Year</u> Amount [Rs]
Administrative charges	7,18,888.65	2,70,000.00
Receipts from imparting training workshops	-	1,62,100.00
Donations	6,10,533.00	8,20,064.00
Interest on bank deposits	18,28,820.15	21,21,734.11
Miscellaneous income	2,200.00	1,300.00
Income tax Refund- Sansthan	-	36,480.00
	<u>31,60,441.80</u>	<u>32,11,678.11</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>31,60,441.80</b></u>	<u><b>32,11,678.11</b></u>

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Current Year</u> Amount [Rs]	<u>Previous Year</u> Amount [Rs]
Bank Charges	3,447.76	3,411.72
Books	3,950.00	22,436.00
Covid prevention expenditure	32,605.00	-
Electricity and water and municipal taxes	47,446.00	56,280.00
Insurance	17,089.00	20,500.00
Legal expenses	21,280.00	-
Miscellaneous expenses	6,602.00	5,382.00
Postage and telephone	35,704.00	11,568.00
Society renewal fee	-	1,000.00
Seminars	-	22,306.00
Scholarship	20,000.00	33,700.00
Stationery	9,139.00	19,347.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u><b>1,97,462.76</b></u>	<u><b>1,95,930.72</b></u>

**Current year's surplus appropriated**

	<u><b>29,62,979.04</b></u>	<u><b>30,15,747.39</b></u>
a) Towards corpus funds	2,40,000.00	2,40,000.00
b) General Reserves	4,74,066.27	4,81,751.72
c) Specific Reserves	<u>22,48,912.77</u>	<u>22,93,995.67</u>
	<u><b>29,62,979.04</b></u>	<u><b>30,15,747.39</b></u>

This is the income and expenditure account referred to in our report of even date

For Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan

For Manish Khanna & Co.  
FRN : 008584C  
Chartered Accountants



*Jeewan C. Joshi*

Jeewan C. Joshi  
Accountant

*Dr. Lalit Pande*

Dr. Lalit Pande  
Chairman

*Manish Khanna*

Manish Khanna, FCA, DISA(ICAI)  
Partner  
Membership Number 077858  
Dated: November 16, 2021  
Camp Almora  
UDIN: 21077858AAAAFD1966



**Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31 March 2021**

Receipts	Current Year	Previous Year	Payments	Current Year	Previous Year
<b>Opening balances</b>			<b>Utilization of grants</b>		
Cash in hand	19.00	50.00	Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	27,38,340.48	28,38,245.64
Cash in bank	22,81,341.60	32,51,303.16	Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust	8,12,499.92	13,39,512.52
Fixed Deposits	2,94,55,674.00	2,81,96,244.00	Association for India's Development	-	4,95,000.00
Grants received	3,17,37,034.60	3,14,47,687.16	National Philanthropic Trust NMHS	5,92,273.00	-
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	24,35,987.00	24,74,204.70		3,41,640.65	3,87,967.80
Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust	9,07,897.00	13,38,409.00		44,84,754.05	50,66,725.96
National Philanthropic Trust NMHS	1,10,85,880.00	-	<b>Revenue Payments related to</b>		
	4,74,093.00	3,49,629.00	Bank Charges	3,447.76	3,411.72
	1,49,03,857.00	41,62,242.70	Books	3,950.00	22,436.09
<b>Revenue Receipts</b>			Covid prevention expenditure	32,805.00	-
Administrative charges	7,18,888.66	2,70,000.00	Electricity and water and municipal taxes	47,446.00	56,280.00
Receipt from imparting training workshop	-	1,62,100.00	Insurance	17,089.00	20,500.00
Donations	6,10,533.00	6,20,064.00	Legal expenses	21,280.00	-
Interest on bank deposits	21,91,700.11	10,72,385.00	Miscellaneous expenses	6,602.00	5,382.00
Miscellaneous income	2,200.00	1,300.00	Postage and telephone	35,704.00	11,568.00
Income tax Refund- Sansthan	-	36,480.00	Society renewal fee	-	1,000.00
	35,23,321.76	21,62,329.00	Seminars	-	22,306.00
<b>Corpus donations</b>	10,000.00	8,98,274.00	Scholarship	20,000.00	33,700.00
<b>Excess grant received</b>	6,750.00	10,000.00	Stationery	9,139.00	19,347.00
				1,97,462.76	1,95,930.72
			<b>Payment from reserves</b>		
			Rural Development	63,055.00	-
			Excess Grant Spent	1,17,248.00	-
			Educational aids	-	68,364.00
			Boarding & Lodging	35,779.48	1,45,861.28
			Maintenance	14,677.00	48,759.00
			Travel	23,327.00	85,791.00
			Village Learning Center Program	12,72,000.00	11,69,500.00
			Auditor's remuneration	47,200.00	45,430.00
			Assets Purchased	40,710.00	29,000.00
				16,13,996.48	15,92,705.28
			<b>Income tax payments</b>		
			Tax deducted at source (net of)	1,55,682.51	94,136.30
			<b>Closing balances</b>		
			Cash in hand	-	19.00
			Cash in banks	1,28,89,718.56	22,81,341.60
			Fixed Deposit receipts	3,08,39,349.00	2,94,55,674.00
				4,37,29,067.56	3,17,37,034.60
	5,01,80,963.36	3,86,80,532.86		5,01,80,963.36	3,86,80,532.86

*Jeewan C. Joshi*  
 Jeewan C. Joshi  
 Accountant

*Dr. Lalit Pandey*  
 Dr. Lalit Pandey  
 Chairman

*Manish Khanna*  
 Manish Khanna, FCA, DISA(ICA)  
 [ Membership Nos 077858]  
 Partner  
 Dated: November 16, 2021  
 Camp Almora



Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora

Financial Year ended 31 March 2021

Annexure "A" to Balance sheet - Grants-in-aid

Name of the grant	Balance as at 1.4.2020	Receipt Current Year			Amount spent/ Adjusted	Amount met from Sansthan's sources	Balance as on 31.3.2021
		Amount received during the year	Interest credited to grant	Total grant funds available			
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	8,49,468.29	24,00,000.00	35,987.00	32,85,455.29	27,38,340.48		5,47,114.81
Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust	10,470.81	9,00,000.00	7,897.00	9,18,367.81	8,12,499.92		1,05,867.89
National Philanthropic Trust	-	1,10,11,578.00	74,302.00	1,10,85,880.00	5,92,273.00		1,04,93,607.00
ONGC	16,010.00	-	-	16,010.00	-		16,010.00
NMHS	-1,32,452.35	4,74,093.00	-	3,41,640.65	4,58,868.65	1,17,248.00	-
Total	7,43,496.75	1,47,85,671.00	1,18,186.00	1,56,47,353.75	46,02,002.05	1,17,248.00	1,11,62,599.70

Name of the grant	Balance as at 1.4.2019	Receipts during previous the year			Amount spent/ Adjusted	Balance as on 31.3.2020
		Amount received during the year	Interest credited to grant	Total grant funds available		
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	12,13,509.23	24,00,000.00	74,204.70	36,87,713.93	28,38,245.64	8,49,468.29
Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust	1,574.33	13,18,000.00	20,409.00	13,39,983.33	13,39,512.52	470.81
Association for India's Development	4,95,000.00	-	-	4,95,000.00	4,95,000.00	-
ONGC	16,010.00	-	-	16,010.00	-	16,010.00
NMHS	-94,113.55	3,47,851.00	1,778.00	2,55,515.45	3,87,967.80	-1,32,452.35
Total	16,31,980.01	40,65,851.00	96,391.70	57,94,222.71	50,60,725.96	7,33,496.75

Note : Opening balance of Hari Krishna Kamla Trivedi Memorial Trust has been increased by Rs 10,000 on account of income tax deducted at source by donor but grant given gross of TDS. In earlier year Rs 10,000 was reflected as sundry creditor which is now added to grant

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*





**SCHEDULE NO. "B"**

Financial year 2020-21

**(a) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

1. Assets acquired by USNPSS are treated as application of income for charitable purpose and charged to revenue in the year of acquisition.
2. Amounts received by way of Grants are reflected in the Balance Sheet until utilized and upon utilization, the balance if any, is transferred to the Income and Expenditure Account. Unutilized grant is considered as income if not refundable and conversely, excess expenditure on grant if not recoverable is treated as expenditure.
3. Investments, if any, are stated at lower of cost or realizable value.
4. Cash basis of accounting is followed in preparing the statements except interest on time deposits with banks which is accounted on accrual basis

**(b) NOTES TO ACCOUNTS**

(i) Assets acquired by Sansthan and in use as at 31 March 2021 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
Inverter with battery	29,900.00
Computer, printer, scanner,projector	2,20,923.00
Total assets	24,77,900.46



*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*