

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

JANUARY 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

JAGORI RURAL CHARITABLE TRUST

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ABOUT



Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, A Non-Governmental Organization is located in Rakkar, a village near Dharmshala, Himachal Pradesh. Our engagement with the community addresses all forms of discrimination based on gender, class, caste, religion, sexual identities, disability, and all other forms of social exclusion and seeks to protect the individual and collective dignity of the most marginalized. The major involvement of JRCT is with communities that fall under the marginalized category, within which there is a special focus on women and young girls. Established in the year 2003 with just 12 girls and working in 25 villages JRCT has extended its work to 6 Blocks and 300 villages of Kangra and Chamba district. Our outreach programs cover a population of 150000 in the field area.





VISION



To create just and equitable society

MISSION



We address discrimination on gender, class, caste, religion, disability, sexual identities and all other forms of exclusion. We seek to protect the individual and collective dignity of the most marginalised and strengthen the voices of women and girls and ensure people's right to life and safety.



ABHA BHAIYA

This year marks our 22nd year of engagement with the communities of the Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh. What began as a pilot project in 2003 with 10 young fellows and 25 villages has now expanded to a dedicated team of 65 members, primarily from the community, and has reached nearly 300 villages across 7 administrative blocks. Our primary focus remains on working with marginalized communities to build a just society.

Community intervention presents its own challenges—progress can sometimes feel slow, with setbacks along the way. However, our deep engagement with the community has provided valuable learning experiences. We have developed a process of action, reflection, and more considered action that we continue to implement on the ground.

Guided by a strong feminist perspective, our work with adolescent girls and women has fostered a pool of local leaders who serve as community voices. The formation of 7 Nari Adalats (women's courts) has contributed significantly to the elimination of violence against girls, women, and individuals of diverse sexual and gender identities.





We are also in the process of forming a federation to gradually transfer ownership of the program to trained and informed community members. Each block now has a monitoring committee composed of committed local members who support the work of Jagori Rural (JR).

Over the past three years, JR has actively collaborated with 40 Panchayats (local governance institutions) to bridge the gap between the community and the governance system, ensuring accountability to citizens, particularly those most in need.

On behalf of the Jagori Rural team (commonly known as Jagori Grameen), I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Without it, we would not have come this far. We deeply appreciate your trust in our commitment to transforming human relationships and our connection with nature.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our organic campus, nestled in the lap of the Dhauladhar Himalayan Mountains, at any time.

Wishing you peace within and harmony.....

Abha Bhaiya

Founder trustee and the ED

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust



**WHERE
WE
WORK**



COMMUNITY INTERVENTION FOR RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

The program aims to strengthen the participation of women in the decision- Making processes in homes and the village governance system by making them Aware of the importance of participation for the overall development of the Village and communities.

In order to ensure effective monitoring and community representation, Monitoring Committees were established, consisting of proactive individuals from diverse backgrounds. These committees were inclusive, encompassing Members from marginalized communities, individuals with disabilities, retired Government officials, and even individuals representing different sexual Identities. The composition of these committees aimed to ensure a Comprehensive and inclusive approach to monitoring and decision-making Processes. This also facilitated a platform for dialogue and sought redressal for the identified challenges, ensuring that the voices and grievances of the Community were acknowledged and addressed through proper channels. The Involvement of diverse committee members and the active participation of Community members in these democratic processes contributed to fostering Transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making within the Community.



VILLAGE LEVEL MEETINGS

A total of 339 village-level meetings were conducted across four blocks — Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, Rait, and Tissa— with 5,439 participants in attendance. Of these, 5,009 were female, demonstrating strong female engagement, while 430 were male. In terms of social categories, the majority of participants were from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), comprising 4,055 individuals. The Scheduled Caste (SC) community was represented by 1,048 participants, while 336 came from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community. Additionally, 680 participants were Single Women (SW), This diverse participation reflects the commitment to engaging a wide range of community members in important discussions and initiatives.

339 Village-Level Meetings Conducted Across Four Blocks

5,439 Participants in Attendance

Participants by Gender



5,009



430

Participants by Social Category

OBC

4,055

SC

1,048

ST

336

SW

680

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

140 eligible people got benefits for various social security schemes Mother Teresa Scheme, Beti Hai Anmol Yojana, Shagun Yojana, Social Security Pension, Pradhan Mantri Vandana Yojana, Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana,

A total of 281 needy women workers from the Rait, Kangra, and Chamba blocks were provided employment under the MGNREGA scheme. And Pending payment of MGNREGA issued to 26 women in Chamba District.

Proposals of soak pits were also approved by Panchayats and around 30 soak pits have been constructed in Rait and Kangra blocks.

Installed 98 solar lights through public cooperation. In Rait block different 10 panchayats 29 street lights were successfully installed in dark places of villages.

During the baseline survey, the problem of lack of community toilet in gram panchayat Bandi was told by PRI and community people, after whom a proposal for community toilet was put in GPDP 2023 and the community toilet was built in March 2024.

Women's participation in governance increased by 40%, with 95 women actively taking on leadership roles in Gram Sabha meetings, Ward Sabha discussions, and social audits. This has led to stronger advocacy for gender-inclusive policies at the local governance level.

The Federation called SATHI has been officially registered, which is an important step towards creating formal grassroots leadership and supporting community advocacy. SATHI is made up of women leaders, Panchayat members, and community monitors who are working together to protect the rights of marginalized groups. They are also helping these communities take part in decision-making processes in a fair and democratic way.

Federation leaders successfully raised 12 critical community issues, including delays in pension disbursement, lack of drinking water facilities, and grievances related to MNREGA wage payments. As a result, 7 issues have been addressed by local government bodies, with commitments made to resolve the remaining concerns in the upcoming fiscal period.



PANCHAYAT LEVEL MEETINGS

In our ongoing efforts to engage communities, a total of 125 Panchayat-level meetings were successfully conducted across the blocks of Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, and Rait & Tissa. These meetings saw a total of 2,746 participants:

- 2,486 females
- 260 males
- 745 participants from marginalized communities
- 2,001 participants from other communities

These meetings fostered active participation and valuable discussions on local governance, empowering individuals to voice their concerns and contribute to decision-making processes.

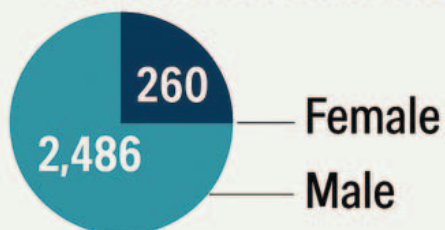
MEETINGS CONDUCTED

Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra and Rait & Tissa

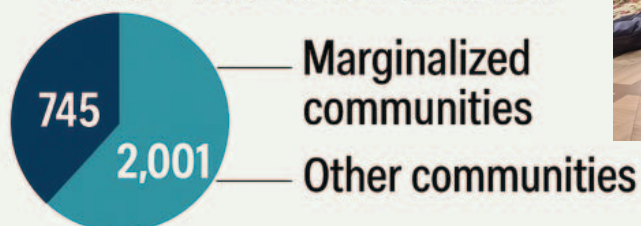
125



PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



CASTE-WISE COMPOSITION

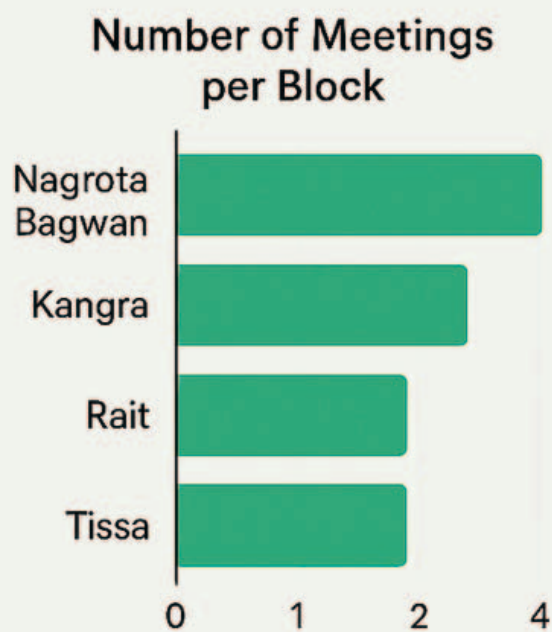


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

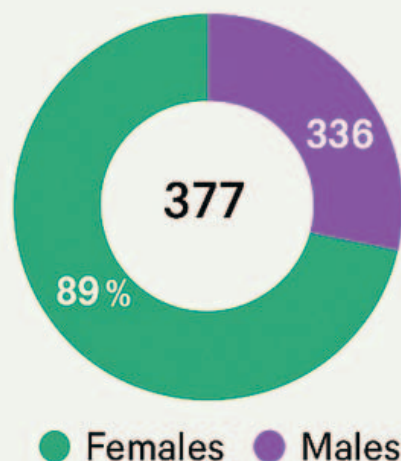
- 25 women from Ghana and Lalehad Panchayat completed applications for benefits under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Smridhti Yojna and the Honor Scheme.
- 7 women from Jamanaavad, Ghana, and Ichi Panchayat applied for sewing machines provided by the Welfare Department.
- Cleanliness drives were successfully organized in 3 Panchayats (Ansoli, Ghana, Nandehar) within the Kangra block, promoting better community hygiene.
- 178 people participated in disaster management awareness sessions in May, enhancing personal and family safety, and strengthening the community's ability to respond effectively during emergencies.
- 56 community members gained a deeper understanding of the Right to Information Act, 2005, empowering them to demand transparency and accountability.
- Panchayat-level meetings played a key role in encouraging women's active participation in local governance. Women's involvement in Gram Sabhas increased, with more women engaging in discussions on MGNREGA and other community issues. These meetings also provided a platform to address challenges, such as delays in MGNREGA work due to local elections. With Jagori's support, women successfully secured work provisions, benefiting their families and communities.

CLUSTER LEVEL MEETINGS

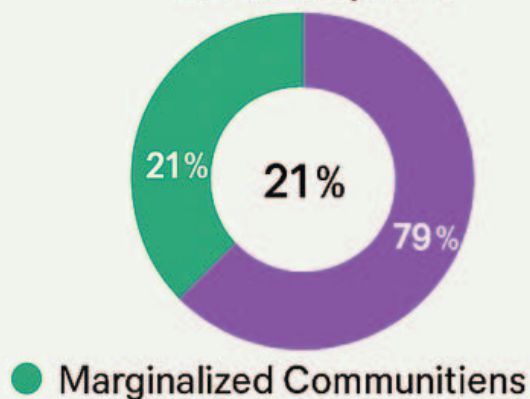
- A total of 13 Cluster-level meetings were held across the blocks of Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, Rait, and Tissa. These meetings saw a total of 377 participants:
- 336 females
- 41 males
- 79 participants from marginalized communities
- 298 participants from other communities
- These meetings served as an important platform for fostering community engagement and discussing key issues affecting local development.



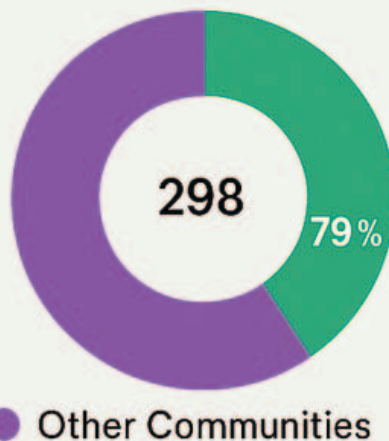
Gender-wise Participation in Cluster-Level Meetings



Caste-wise Composition of Participants



Other Communities



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **SATHI Federation Registration:** SATHI, a federation of women leaders, Panchayat members, and community monitors, was officially registered to foster grassroots leadership and advocate for marginalized groups' rights, promoting their participation in democratic decision-making.
- **Addressing Community Issues:** Federation leaders raised 12 critical issues, such as pension delays, water scarcity, and MNREGA wage grievances. Seven have been addressed by local authorities, with the remaining concerns to be resolved in the next fiscal year.
- **RTI Awareness:** Community meetings educated members on the RTI Act, enabling them to file an average of 5 RTIs monthly to access government scheme information and promote transparency.
- **First Aid Training:** 60 community members completed basic first aid training, enhancing emergency response capabilities and promoting safety, with participants committing to maintain first aid kits at home.
- **Exposure Visit to MKSS, Rajasthan:** 12 JR team members visited MKSS to learn about its successful methodologies, the struggles for urban employment, and the MGNREGA, emphasizing the importance of constitutional education and social justice for children.
- **Commitment to SDGs:** Panchayat heads and ward members pledged to incorporate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into local development plans, ensuring coordinated, long-term progress.

INTER-PANCHAYAT LEARNING VISIT

On April 29-30, 2024, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized an Inter-Panchayat Learning Visit to Murhaag Panchayat, Block Gohar, Mandi, for 37 participants (16 men, 21 women) from District Kangra. This visit provided an opportunity to explore the Greenhouse Village and the MGNREGA-funded Tourism Park, showcasing innovative community-driven development.

The event aimed to highlight sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly practices. Participants toured the Greenhouse Village, a model for modern agriculture using renewable energy, water conservation techniques, and organic farming methods. This initiative not only boosts agricultural productivity but also promotes environmental sustainability.

The visit also featured the MGNREGA Tourism Park, which transformed barren land into a vibrant green space with walking tracks, recreational facilities, and native plantations. The park exemplifies community-led development and provides a recreational space for locals.

The success of the visit was driven by the proactive leadership of the Murhaag Panchayat Pradhan, whose support ensured smooth organization and active participation. Inspired by these initiatives, the visiting Panchayat representatives are keen to replicate similar projects in their own communities to promote sustainable development.



DIALOGUE MEETING ON STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

On September 10 2024, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a one-day dialogue meeting with 60 participants from the blocks of Kangra, Rait, and Nagrota Bagwan, including Panchayat representatives, monitoring committee members, and officials from key government departments.

The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration between local governance bodies and administrative departments, and to provide updates on government schemes and legal reforms. Officials from DRDA (including NRLM and Swachh Bharat Mission), District Program Office, Tehsil Social Welfare, DLSA, and ICDS shared critical information on schemes and recent amendments.

The dialogue enhanced awareness, improved communication, and reinforced the commitment to effective and participatory local governance.



WORKSHOP AND SESSIONS

A series of workshops were held to empower Panchayat Representatives, federation members with essential knowledge on governance, rights, and welfare programs. Topics included the RTI Act, MGNREGA, child welfare schemes, just governance, and the Constitution. These workshops aimed to strengthen the leadership of Block Monitoring Committees, Panchayat representatives, PRIs, and JRCT team members.

Participants learned about transparency, human rights, social security schemes, and the role of local governance in community development. With sessions focusing on key programs like MGNREGA and child welfare, attendees gained valuable tools to enhance their leadership and better serve their communities.



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Topic of Workshop	Participants	No. of participants
RTI Act, MGNREGA, Right to Education, Pension Plans	Block Monitoring Committee Members	33
Monitoring and evaluation, Theory of Change	JR team members	35
MGNREGA, Child welfare scheme	Panchayat representative and administration	55
Law, Constitution and Just Governance	JRCT members	34
Just Governance and Human Rights	Monitoring committees and PRIs	52
Right to Information (RTI) & MGNREGA	Block Monitoring Committees	33
Just Governance and Human Rights	PRI Representatives & Monitoring Committees	52
Law, Constitution, and Democratic Governance	JRCT Members	34
MNREGA and Child Welfare Schemes	Panchayat Representatives	55
Panchayati Raj & Local Governance	Elected Panchayat Representatives & Community Leaders	60

LEARNING EXPOSURE VISIT TO THE SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY, RAJASTHAN

From February 7 to 12, 2024, team members from Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (Kangra and Chamba), along with Monitoring Committee members, undertook a Learning Exposure Visit to the School for Democracy in Rajasthan. The objective of the visit was to gain insights into the organization's functioning and explore ways to integrate similar approaches into their own community work.

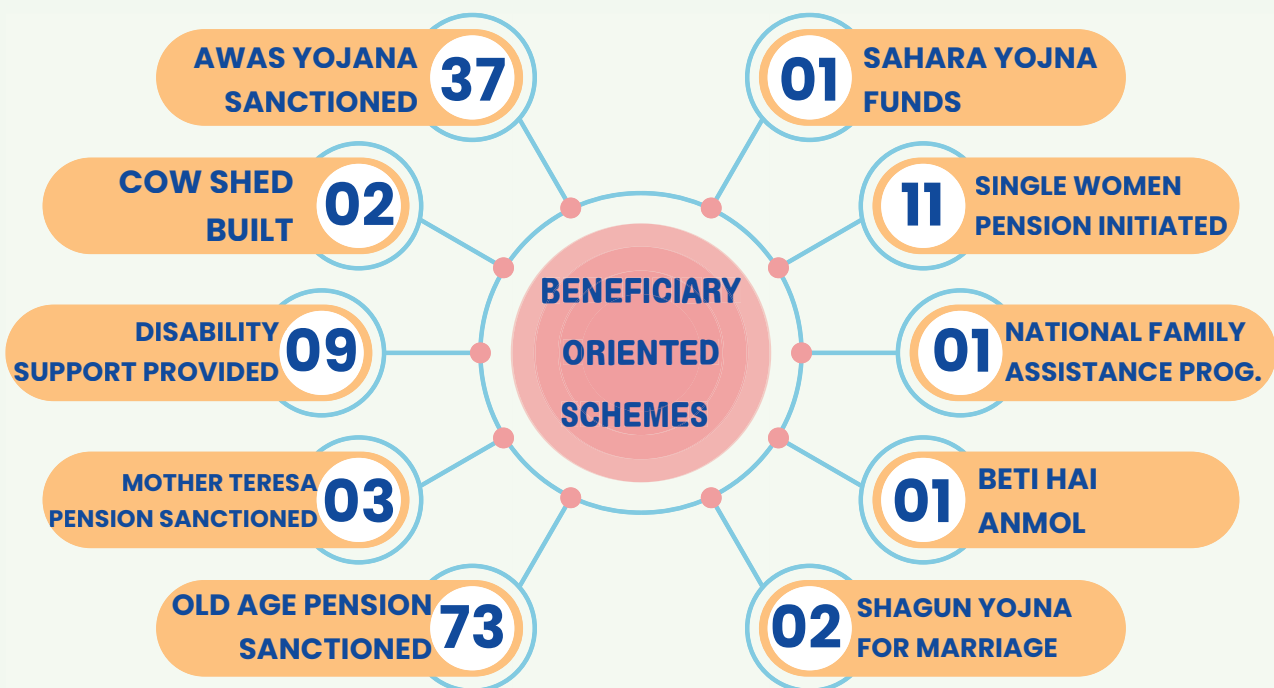
During the exposure, participants engaged with a range of grassroots initiatives and community struggles, including the ongoing women-led protests demanding an urban employment guarantee, as well as efforts centered around the Indian Constitution, public information access, community ration shops, and public libraries. In-depth discussions also focused on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005, and broader rights related to information and employment.

This immersive experience deepened the participants' understanding of democratic rights, accountability, and participatory governance—tools they are now better equipped to bring back and apply within their local contexts.



BENEFICIARY-ORIENTED SCHEMES (BOS)

Beneficiary-oriented schemes (BOS) are vital in providing support and assistance to marginalized communities. However, a significant challenge is the lack of awareness among intended beneficiaries, often resulting in these schemes not reaching those who need them the most. Recognizing this issue, the Junior Team (JR Team) has consistently carried out interventions and community engagement activities to identify eligible individuals. During the reporting period, the team successfully.



WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION AND CLAIMING OF HEALTH ENTITLEMENT

In 2024, Jagori continued its commitment to empowering women and strengthening community health initiatives under the Women's Health Education and Claiming of Health Entitlement program. This initiative aimed to enhance awareness, improve access to health services, and build the capacity of community stakeholders to advocate for women's health rights effectively.



NEWLY WEDDED COUPLES SESSIONS

Three interactive sessions were conducted with newly married couples to foster healthy relationships, strengthen communication, and enhance awareness of reproductive and overall health. These sessions focused on:

- Encouraging open communication between partners to support emotional well-being.
- Educating couples on reproductive health, family planning, and maternal care.
- Highlighting the importance of nutrition, mental health, and preventive healthcare for women.

These engagements created a platform for couples to share experiences, ask questions, and understand the importance of shared responsibility in health and well-being.



HEALTH FEDERATION MEETINGS

Two meetings were organized with the Health Federation, which comprises ASHA and Anganwadi workers who play a crucial role in community health at the grassroots level. The purpose of these meetings was to strengthen their capacities, address challenges, and enhance their efficiency in serving the community. Key outcomes included:

- Identifying critical challenges faced in community health outreach and collectively finding solutions.
- Providing training on effective health communication, early detection of health issues, and government health schemes available for women.
- Strengthening the collaboration between community health workers to ensure better service delivery and outreach.

By engaging frontline workers, the federation meetings helped bridge gaps in healthcare accessibility and equipped health workers with essential knowledge and skills to support women's health needs more effectively.



ANGANWADI WORKERS TRAINING, HEALTH WORKERS WORKSHOP, AND MIDWIVES HEALERS TRAINING

Workshops were conducted for Anganwadi workers, health workers, and midwives to build their capacities on critical aspects of healthcare. The focus areas included:

- **Gender and Patriarchy:** Understanding how gender roles and social norms impact women's health and well-being.
- **Emotional and Mental Health:** Recognizing the importance of mental well-being and equipping workers with skills to support emotional health within the community.
- **Reproductive Health:** Enhancing knowledge on maternal health, safe childbirth practices, and reproductive rights to ensure better health outcomes for women. These workshops played a crucial role in equipping health workers with essential knowledge and advocacy skills, enabling them to support women's health holistically.



HEALTH CAMPS

Twelve health camps were held across Kangra and Chamba districts, providing essential health screenings and awareness sessions. The key services included:

- Screening for blood pressure (BP), hemoglobin (Hb), weight, and blood sugar levels.
- Raising awareness on preventive healthcare, hygiene, and nutrition. These camps ensured that women and marginalized communities had access to essential health checkups and early diagnosis, improving their overall health outcomes.



INSPIRING VISITS TO MUHEEM AND KIRAN SOCIETIES

Our visits to Muheem Society and Kiran Society were deeply inspiring and reaffirmed the power of community-driven initiatives. At Muheem, we experienced firsthand the impact of inclusive educational leadership through Pathshala, the advocacy of #WomenWithPocket, and the economic empowerment fostered by the Sui Dhaga Center, all of which highlight resilience and creativity in marginalized communities. Similarly, at Kiran Society—founded in 1972 and dedicated to empowering children with special needs—we witnessed their commitment to inclusive classrooms, rehabilitation, and active parental involvement. During our visit, Jagori's team also conducted a session on personal safety for adolescent girls, supporting Kiran's holistic approach. These encounters strengthened our resolve to continue fostering inclusive spaces and meaningful social change in partnership with organizations committed to justice and empowerment.



FINANCIAL AID AND BENEFICIARY SUPPORT

In addition to the above activities, financial aid was provided to 19 patients, ensuring they received necessary medical treatments. Furthermore, Jagori facilitated their association with beneficiary-oriented government schemes, helping them access crucial healthcare services and support systems.

CONCLUSION

Through these comprehensive health initiatives, Jagori has significantly contributed to enhancing women's health awareness, strengthening community healthcare mechanisms, and improving access to essential medical services. By engaging community health workers, conducting awareness programs, and facilitating access to financial and medical aid, we have taken concrete steps toward ensuring women's right to health. Moving forward, Jagori remains committed to expanding its efforts, deepening its impact, and continuing its mission of empowering women to claim their health entitlements effectively.

VIOLENCE RESOURCE TRAINING AND INTERVENTION CENTER

A Year of Listening, Action, and Feminist Justice

In 2024–25, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust deepened its work on addressing gender-based violence by combining legal literacy, psychosocial support, community justice mechanisms, and public campaigns. The focus remained on building safe, inclusive, and informed spaces where survivors of violence could speak up, seek redressal, and heal — while simultaneously engaging systems of governance to become more responsive and gender-just.

Over the reporting year, 141 new cases of violence and rights violations were supported. These included physical and emotional abuse within households, workplace harassment, child marriage prevention, and land-related disputes that disproportionately impact women. These cases were handled with a survivor-centric approach — offering mediation, legal aid, referrals, and community-led resolution where possible.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

92 NEW CASES

72 RESOLVED

20 ONGOING

NEW CASES **22**

RESOLVED **17**

ONGOING **05**

WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

CHILD MARRIAGE

16 NEW CASES

13 RESOLVED

03 ONGOING

NEW CASES **11**

RESOLVED **08**

ONGOING **03**

LAND DISPUTES

JUSTICE AT THE GRASSROOTS: NARI ADALATS IN ACTION

At the core of Jagori's VAW strategy is the Nari Adalat model — a community-based women's court that combines legal knowledge with grassroots accountability. These forums are not merely alternatives to formal justice systems; they are feminist spaces of listening, mediation, and transformation.

Operating across seven blocks, the Nari Adalats handled a wide range of cases — from domestic violence and property disputes to denial of entitlements and emotionally abusive relationships. Survivors received legal counselling, emotional support, and in many cases, resolution through community-backed mediation.



During this year:

- 49 cases were resolved directly at the Nari Adalat level.
- 11 cases were referred to District Courts for formal legal intervention.
- 3 cases were referred to the Police for further action.
- 22 cases remained ongoing, with continuous follow-up and legal assistance.
- 92 follow-ups were conducted to ensure that mediated agreements were honoured and that survivors remained supported in their healing process.

The Nari Adalat process was guided by barefoot lawyers – women from the communities trained in legal processes – who walked with survivors every step of the way.

49



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11



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3



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22



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92



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LEGAL AWARENESS & GENDER LITERACY: SHIFTING POWER THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Jagori's outreach efforts went beyond crisis response, placing strong emphasis on legal literacy and gender justice education. This year, focused trainings and awareness campaigns were organized across panchayats, colleges, and community clusters to:

- Build understanding of laws such as:
 - Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)
 - POCSO Act (2012)
 - Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013)
 - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)
- Equip women and youth with the tools to identify abuse and understand their rights.
- Encourage community members — especially frontline workers and elected women leaders — to speak up and support survivors.

A notable highlight was the three public hearings held in Nagrota, Kangra, and Chamba, where survivors gave testimonies in the presence of legal authorities, PRIs, and DLSA representatives. These forums, with over 1,200 participants, catalyzed discussions on the responsibility of local systems in ensuring safety, justice, and access to entitlements.

CAMPAIGNS THAT INSPIRE RESISTANCE: ART, VOICE & VISIBILITY

Throughout the year, Jagori used creative mobilisation and public campaigns to raise visibility around gender-based violence and to create spaces for healing and protest.

Under the banner of the One Billion Rising (OBR) campaign, Jagori coordinated with 35+ organisations from 23 states, hosting more than 100 events that engaged with themes of violence, environmental justice, food sovereignty, and bodily autonomy.

A major cultural intervention was the Swara Mountain Arts Festival, held in Dharamshala. This four-day festival brought together over 3,000 participants — including artists, survivors, students, and activists — under the theme "Love, Peace, and Harmony." Events included:

- Community workshops on dance, theatre, and storytelling
- "Open Gate" evenings with music and poetry
- A grand public performance on the final day with renowned artists and a well-known film personality

Swara became a powerful space where art, resistance, and collective healing converged — amplifying the voices of women who have long been silenced.

From Crisis to Stability: Legal Aid and Economic Empowerment

Jagori understands that violence is deeply linked to economic insecurity and systemic exclusion. Many cases supported this year involved not just interpersonal violence, but structural denial — of land rights, pensions, and basic government entitlements.

In response, the team facilitated:

- Legal aid clinics in collaboration with the DLSA, educating women on free legal services and digital tools to access justice.
- A financial empowerment workshop with the State Bank of India, introducing savings, investment options, and government-backed schemes for women — especially survivors trying to rebuild autonomy.
- Claim-filing support under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) for tribal and forest-dependent women, many of whom face dual forms of exclusion — from both their families and the state.

These interventions bridged the gap between state services and marginalized women, reinforcing Jagori's commitment to not just legal redress but holistic well-being.

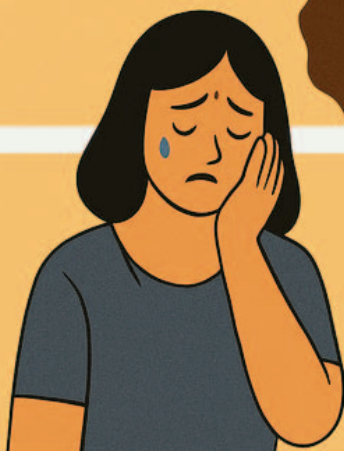
**PROTECTION OF WOMEN
FROM DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE ACT
(2005)**



**SEXUAL
HARASSMENT
OF WOMEN AT
WORKPLACE
ACT (2013)**



**SEXUAL HARASSMENT
OF WOMEN AT
WORKPLACE ACT
(2013)**



CONCLUSION: THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE FEMINIST PRAXIS

This year, the Violence Against Women program demonstrated that meaningful change happens when communities are mobilised, when women are heard, and when systems are made accountable through pressure from below.

Every domestic violence case addressed, every child marriage prevented, every survivor who reclaimed her voice — is a testament to the collective strength of feminist organising. Jagori's Nari Adalat model, legal literacy sessions, public hearings, and creative campaigns together created an ecosystem of care, accountability, and resistance.

While challenges remain, the path is clear: deepen the work, center survivors, and continue building a gender-just Himachal — village by village, story by story.



COMMUNITY INTERVENTION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

From January 2024 to December 2024, Jagori Organization, in collaboration with local male and female farmers from the development blocks of Rait, Kangra, Nagrota Bagwan, and Chamba district's Tissa, is promoting organic farming. Currently, the organization is working under the "Sustained Organic Farming and Environmental Community Intervention Program" with 79 farmers' groups of 1586 farmers in 40 Panchayats across 4 blocks. Jagori's goal is to promote organic farming alongside local farmers, improving soil and human health while encouraging the community to take action for environmental conservation. To achieve this, regular meetings with farmers, Panchayat and cluster-level meetings, demonstrations, workshops, exposure visits, farmer melas, food festivals, and campaigns such as Van Mahotsav and plantation drives have been organized.

Through these meetings, the improvement of soil health, new advanced organic farming techniques, Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF), button mushroom and oyster mushroom production, millets, Azolla, medicinal plants/organic products, earthworm compost, organic fertilizers, and methods for creating and using bio-pesticides have been shared with farmers. Special emphasis has been placed on adopting indigenous seeds. To revive nutritious foods like millets and integrate them into daily diets, the organization has provided millet seeds to farmers. Additionally, to help farmers sell their organically grown produce and connect them with farming-related businesses, the organization has facilitated their membership in Farmer Producer Organizations (FPC).

The Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Sericulture Department, Forest Department, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kangra in Himachal Pradesh are collaborating with Jagori by participating as resource persons in cluster meetings, food festivals, Van Mahotsav, and exposure visits. They are also providing farmers with information about government schemes, climate change, and its impacts, helping farmers access government services and benefits.

For environmental conservation, Jagori is raising awareness about climate change and its effects through meetings with local people. In collaboration with the Horticulture, Sericulture, and Forest Departments, during Van Mahotsav, the community has undertaken planting and maintaining trees on their fields, forests, and community land. The local Panchayats' Biodiversity Management Committees are conducting meetings with members to create People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) and starting processes for conserving and sustainably using the local biodiversity around them.

PANCHAYATS

40

246

**VERMICOMPOST
PITS PREPARED**

**FARMERS
COLLECTIVES**

79

124

DEMONSTRATIONS

**NO. OF
FARMERS**

1586

632

**FARMERS
PRACTICING
ORGANIC FARMING**

**FARMER MASTER
TRAINERS**

66

632

**TOTAL LAND UNDER
ORGANIC
FARMING (BHIGA)**

MONTHLY MEETING WITH FARMER COLLECTIVE

Over 476 farmer meetings were held in which 6476 participants were present to discuss various aspects of organic farming, soil health, indigenous seed adoption, seed treatment, organic manure, and other agricultural practices.

- 493 farmers from each block decided to cultivate millets in their field crops.
- 18 farmers were asked to treat seeds with Beejamrit before sowing the crop, which resulted in reduced pests and high germination percentages.
- 246 farmers revived their vermicompost pits and used organic fertilizers
- 632 Farmers practicing organic farming methods
- 93 farmers planted cedar saplings to prevent land erosion
- Through 124 demonstrations, farmers learned about organic farming and the use of vermicompost manure in farming
- 6476 farmers participated in the meetings and successfully learned and became aware about sustainable agricultural practices, introducing new organic farming techniques that improve soil health and enhance crop yields. Farmers

expressed a better understanding of how to care for their crops using organic methods and showed enthusiasm to continue these practices for better agricultural results.



PANCHAYAT LEVEL MEETINGS

117 Panchayat level meetings were held with a total of 2631 farmers. In these meetings, information was given about soil fertility, herbal products, plantation during Van Mahotsav, schemes of government departments and also gave awareness to promote Livelihood.

- 904 farmers produced 3271 buttons and 215 farmers produced 385 bags of oyster mushrooms through organic methods.
- 145 farmers planted 5000 mulberry plants on their land. 19 farmers who farmed silkworms received 1.8 lakh (1,80,000) rupees from the government to build permanent sheds.
- In Kangra block, 8 kg of Ragi seeds distributed to 24 farmers and cultivated in 29.5 kanal land with the total yield of 119.5 kg of Ragi

- 20 FARMERS FROM NAGROTA BLOCK PLANTED 1500 CHAMOMILE PLANTS AND STARTED USING THEM FOR DOMESTIC USE.
- THE PROJECT ALSO AIMED TO PROVIDE TRAINING SESSIONS FOR HERBAL TULSI SOAP, REETHA SOAP, AND PAIN RELIEF OIL, WITH 40- LOCAL FARMERS CONTRIBUTING RAW MATERIALS.

117 Panchayat level meetings were held with a total of 2631 farmers



information given at:

- soil fertility
- herbal products
- plantation during Van Mahotsav
- government department scheme
- Livelihood promotion awareness



904 farmers produced 3271 buttons through organic methods



215 farmers produced 385 bags of oyster mushroom through organic

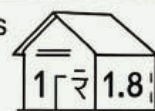


145 farmers planted 5000 mulberry plants



19 farmers received perman

9 farmers received 1.8 lakh rupees from government to build permanent sheds



In Kangra block 24 kg of Ragi seeds cultivated 29.5 kanal land a total yield 119.5g Ragi



20 farmers planted 1500 chamomile plants for domestic use 40+ focal farmers contributed raw materials



Training sessions also provided for herbal tulsi soap, reetha soap and pain relief oil Raw materials



CLUSTER LEVEL MEETINGS

In these 36 meetings, the officers of Himachal Pradesh Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), forest department, AYUSH department participated in the meetings as resource persons and gave information to 1346 farmer participants about the government schemes being run by the departments and methods of organic farming. Farmers were informed about the benefits and production of millet, mushroom and to promote livelihood.

- Farmers in the area are promoting plantations to reduce soil erosion, control air pollution, and strengthen soil for crop preservation.
- During Van Mahotsav, 714 farmers planted 4731 fruit bearing plants on their private land. Planting 55- Peepal trees across 10 panchayats in Kangra Block. The project also focused on reducing plastic waste and promoting local green cover through tree-planting activities.
- The AYUSH department distributed medicinal plant saplings like Harad, Behada, Moringa, Tirmira, Amla, Lasyada to Kangra and Rait Block, with 20 farmers planting 1500 plants on their own land.
- The farmers gained a better understanding of Dhingri production benefits and techniques through practical demonstrations. 215 farmers produced 385 bags of oyster mushrooms through organic methods.
- In Kangra Block, Each Panchayat will plant 3- Peepal sapling during Van Mahotsav, with monitoring committee members and Jagori team. The retired forest guards Subhash planted a nursery of Peepal sapling in their land.
- Active Monitoring Committee members pledged to be aware of community members about climate change.

- Farmers will cultivate fields each by using the SRI method in Paddy cultivation
- In District Chamba, 30 farmers from Tissa block join the FPC and sale their products
- Herbal soap making training and practical demonstration given to 135- community members of District Kangra through which Veena and Neetu from Rait and Kangra block start their earning through the gaining knowledge of Herbal Soap.



PROMOTING PLANTATIONS



1346 farmer participants

Es officers of Himachal Pradesh Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), forest department participated in the meetings as resource persons and gave information to farmer participants about the government schemes being run by departme-



VAN MAHOTSAV

714 farmers plantant



4731

fruit bearing plants on their private land



MEDICINAL PLANTS DISTRIBUTED

The AYUSH department distributed medicinal plant saplings like Harad, Behada, Moringa, Tirmira, Amla, Lasyada to Kangra and Rait Block, with



215 farmers produced 385 bags

HERBAL SOAP MAKING TRAINING

VAN MAHOSTAV (160 PARTICIPANTS)

The Environmental Conservation Dialogue, organized by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust on June 29, 2024, at Neevia Hotel, Gaggal, brought together 160 participants, including community members, farmers, Peer Leaders, Panchayat Pardhans, and representatives from various departments like Agriculture, KVK, ATMA, and Horticulture. The event focused on promoting environmental conservation and sustainable practices through informative discussions and presentations. Key topics included government schemes for horticulture, organic farming, water conservation, the impact of chemicals on health and the environment, and climate change. The event also featured cultural performances, including poems and dances, and concluded with the distribution of guava plants to encourage environmental sustainability. Overall, the dialogue successfully raised awareness about environmental issues and fostered a sense of collective responsibility for preserving the environment.



BUZZING INTO PROSPERITY: A DAY OF GROWTH WITH KVK, HORTICULTURE & BEEKEEPING EXPERTS

On July 15, 2024, the Jagori Organization held a one-day session for 50 farmers from Kangra, Rait, and Nagrota Bagwan to educate them on government schemes and plans for self-reliance. The session was held by the Horticulture Department Kangra, Agricultural Science Center, and Beekeeping Department. The session featured experts from Horticulture Department Kangra, Agricultural Science Center, and Beekeeping Department. The Horticulture Department head, Mrs. Sarita Verma, discussed modern horticultural techniques, irrigation, and fertilizer management, while Dr. Ashok Sharma, head of the Agricultural Science Center, discussed advanced agricultural practices, crop rotation, and protection techniques. Beekeeping Department head, Mr. Rakesh Gupta, discussed modern beekeeping methods, honey production, and marketing. The session was successful, as it made farmers aware of government schemes and resolved their queries, fostering a commitment to applying knowledge to their agricultural practices.



SUN & SEED: HARNESSING SOLAR ENERGY AND MILLETS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

On July 18th -19th, 2024 , The Jagori organised a session on Sustainable Living with Padma ShriJanak Pala McGilligan, a prominent advocate and activist known for her dedication to promoting gender equality, women's rights and social justice. Janak ji introduced the concept of seed banks and millets and the critical role they play in sustainable agriculture. They provide resilience against climate change and support sustainable agriculture practices by preserving traditional seeds that are well-adapted to local conditions and resistant to pests and diseases. The responses revealed that most of the seeds used were genetically modified. Following this, a documentary featuring Varun Raheja and his work with solar dryers was screened. Solar dryers are valuable tools in food preservation because they harness solar energy to dry foods efficiently and hygienically. They utilise renewable solar energy reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering operational costs. Solar dryers can be designed to accommodate various types of food products, from fruits and vegetables to grains and herbs, adapting to local food preservation needs.



ROOTED IN WELLNESS: EMPOWERING RURAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH AYUSH AND MEDICINAL PLANT CULTIVATION

The workshop aimed to promote the benefits of AYUSH practices (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) and the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, focusing on empowering farmers and enhancing their livelihoods. Dr. Arun Chandan highlighted the advantages of integrating AYUSH into daily life and the potential for value-added products and market linkages. Discussions also emphasized biodiversity conservation and the role of Biodiversity Management Committees. The introduction of the e-chark.in app offered resources to support the cultivation of these plants and create new livelihood opportunities for farmers.



WORKSHOP ON PROMOTING BENEFITS OF AYUSH PRACTICES AND CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS

AYUSH



**EMPOWERING FARMERS,
ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS**

Dr. Arun Chandan
integration into daily life, value added
products, and market
linkages



AYURVEDA



YOGA



UNANI



SIDDHA



HOMEOPATHY



**BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION**
ROLE OF
BIODIVERSITY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEES



**INTRODUCTION OF
E-CHARAK.IN APP**
SUPPORT FOR CULTIVATION,
NEW LIVELIHOOD

**INTRODUCTION OF
E-CHLIVATXIN,**
NEW LIVELIHOOD
OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST FESTIVAL (VAN MAHOTSAV) – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2024

Jagori Grameen's Community-Led Conservation Initiative

Jagori Grameen, in collaboration with the Forest Department, Panchayat representatives, and the Departments of Sericulture and Horticulture, celebrated the Forest Festival across four blocks — Kangra, Rait, Nagrota Bagwan, and Chamba. The campaign aimed to promote environmental conservation through community-led plantation and cleanliness drives.

Community Engagement:

Prior to the festival, JRCT mobilized communities through awareness campaigns on the ecological importance of trees in combating climate change, reducing erosion, and supporting biodiversity. People were encouraged to plant on personal land to contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.

This initiative reflects JRCT's commitment to ecological restoration and rural livelihoods through collective action.



PLANTATION OVERVIEW

13,614 saplings planted, including:

-  **6,846 herbal plants** (e.g. Amla, Harad, Baheda, Reetha, Arjun)
-  **2,583 fruit plants** (e.g. Guava, Mango, Orange, Lemon, Pomegranate)
-  **800 mulberry plants** planted in Rait with support from the Sericulture Department
-  **3 herbal gardens** (Kangra, Rait, Nagrota Bagwan) established with 1.150 plants (Basil and Indian Snakeroot)

47 plantation drives conducted across all blocks

Block-Wise Plantation

Block Name	Fruit Plants	With Forest, Horticulture and Sericulture Department	Plantation with AYUSH department/ Herbal Plantation
Rait	645	5.000	1.000
Kangra	1.445	330	500
Nagrota Bhagwan	1.005	384	2.180
Chamba	400	725	0
Total	3.495	6.439	3.680

TRADITIONAL FOOD FESTIVALS TO PROMOTE LOCAL, NUTRITIOUS DIETS

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a series of traditional food festivals across Himachal Pradesh, with a focus on promoting the benefits of nutritious, locally sourced meals. These events were held in Districts Kangra and Chamba and showcased a variety of traditional Himachali dishes such as Ragi Kheer, Gulgule, and Arbi Leaf Fritters.

A total of 546 participants—including school students, teachers, and community members—took part in the festivals. The gatherings served not only as culinary celebrations but also as educational platforms to raise awareness about the health advantages of natural, homegrown foods compared to processed fast food. Educational sessions led by the Jagori team and invited guests enriched the experience with insights on healthy eating and sustainable practices.

One of the key highlights was the "Farm to Plate" festival held in Rakkar on January 17, 2025. Centered around the theme "Rise for the Rights of Nature & Earth," the event welcomed 183 participants and emphasized the importance of sustainable food systems, environmental stewardship, and reconnecting with traditional agricultural knowledge.



Total Participation: 546 individuals, including youth, educators and local residents

Focus Regions: District Kangra and Chamba

Key Themes: Nutrition awareness, traditional knowledge, food sovereignty

Community Engagement: strong participation from schools and local institutions

Special Event – Farm to Plate Festival

An Rakkar, January 17, 2025
'Rise for the Rights of Nature & Earth'

Attendance: 183 participants

Focus: Sustainable food practices, ecological responsibility, and celebrating local food traditions

Activities: Interactive food stalls, awareness sessions, and community sharing on sustainable agriculture



AWARE GIRLS ACTION FOR JUSTICE AGAJ

Introduction

The AGAJ program made significant progress in 2024, empowering adolescent girls across 120 villages in Kangra and Chamba districts. Through initiatives in education, livelihood, environment, and health, AGAJ promoted leadership, gender awareness, and essential life skills. Key interventions included digital literacy, career guidance, vocational training (plumbing, car washing, lamp-making), Kishori Panchayats, libraries, plantation drives, and health camps. The program nurtured confident young leaders dedicated to challenging societal norms and building an equitable society in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Key Highlights

Baseline Survey

The Baseline Assessment Report 2024 analyzes the socio-economic, educational, health, and environmental conditions in the intervention areas of Kangra and Chamba. Conducted under the AGAJ Program by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (JRCT) in partnership with the Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative, the report provides critical insights into the lives of rural adolescents.

Key Findings:

- Education: Math and English are major challenges; financial barriers and sibling discrimination hinder learning.
- Health: Menstrual health awareness and healthcare access remain limited.
- Environment: High climate change awareness, but low understanding of policies.
- Livelihood: Interest in vocational training (driving, tailoring) is strong; formal job registrations are low.
- Empowerment: Awareness of legal rights is limited.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen education infrastructure and family support.
- Expand health and menstrual hygiene education.
- Promote environmental awareness and disaster preparedness.
- Improve access to vocational training and employment registration.
- Scale up legal and civic education.



REGULAR & NETWORKING MEETINGS

352 meetings were conducted in 110 villages, and a total of 1500 AGs participated in the meetings. These meetings were conducted with old and new collectives. During these meetings, the topics covered were as follows:

1. Nutrition and balanced diet, personal hygiene and menstruation, mental health, and emotional well-being change during adolescence.
 2. Financial literacy and management, importance of education, career guidance, and skill development.
 3. Strengthening relationships, promoting gender equality, challenging patriarchy, and developing leadership skills.
 4. Effects of social media and cybercrime, addressing violence against women and ensuring online safety.
 5. Constitution, fundamental rights and duties, POCSO Act, Kishori Panchayat, and local village issues.
 6. Organic farming and climate change, cleanliness drives, and environmental protection.
 7. A balanced diet and nutritional food, personal hygiene and menstruation, and physical and emotional changes during adolescence.
 8. Understanding gender roles and equality, safe and unsafe touch, and patriarchy.
 9. Importance of relationships and communication, collectiveness, group formation, and the role of Jagori.
 10. Addressing village issues and challenges.
 11. Effects of social media and cybercrime, violence against women, and online safety.
 12. Environmental protection and global warming; waste management.
 13. Importance of education, career guidance, and skill development.
- Constitution, rights and laws, POCSO Act, Posh Act.

KISHORI PANCHAYAT MEETINGS

In 2024, the Kishori Panchayat initiative was launched to enhance young girls' understanding of the Panchayati Raj system and to actively engage them in local governance. The initiative aimed to promote increased female representation and participation within panchayat spaces.

As part of this effort, 10 Kishori Panchayats were established across 7 development blocks in the Kangra and Chamba districts. These forums served as platforms for adolescent girls to identify and discuss village-level issues, as well as conduct community-based surveys to better understand local needs.

To build a strong foundation for this initiative, 5 networking meetings focused on the Panchayati Raj system were conducted. These meetings played a crucial role in strengthening the girls' knowledge of governance structures and laid the groundwork for the successful formation and functioning of the Kishori Panchayats.



MEETINGS CONDUCTED BY PEER LEADERS

Over the past year, 28 dedicated peer leaders facilitated a series of impactful village-level meetings aimed at educating, engaging, and empowering adolescent girls at the grassroots level. A total of 64 meetings were conducted across 20 villages, reaching 656 adolescent girls, along with four boys and eight men.

These interactive sessions provided a participatory platform for learning, dialogue, and awareness-building on key social issues. By fostering open discussions and community involvement, the meetings helped strengthen knowledge, build confidence, and encourage active participation among adolescents.

Beyond empowering the participants, the initiative significantly enhanced the leadership capabilities of the peer leaders themselves, equipping them to lead change within their communities. By promoting personal growth and collective action, these meetings have contributed meaningfully to village-level progress in areas such as health, education, and social equity—laying a strong foundation for long-term, sustainable development.



ENGAGEMENT WITH BOYS

Over the past year, a series of meaningful engagements were conducted across eight blocks in the Chamba and Kangra districts, focusing on fostering awareness and promoting social responsibility among adolescent boys. A total of 38 meetings were held, reaching 353 boys, along with 21 peer leaders, adolescent girls, and two men. Twelve boys' groups actively participated in these sessions.

These discussions played a pivotal role in advancing gender equality by highlighting the shared responsibility of both boys and girls in shaping an inclusive and respectful society. By addressing gender stereotypes and encouraging reflection, the initiative supported boys in recognizing their role in challenging discrimination and promoting equity.

Participants reported increased awareness and demonstrated positive behavioural changes, underscoring the transformative impact of the program. This initiative not only empowered individual participants but also contributed to building more equitable communities through collective learning, dialogue, and action.



MAA-BETI MELA: CELEBRATING THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOND

As part of a heartwarming initiative to strengthen family ties, the "Maa-Beti Mela – Harmonious Hearts: A Mother-Daughter Harmony Fair" was organized across Kangra and Chamba districts. The event provided a safe, inclusive space for mothers and daughters to celebrate their relationship, encouraging open communication, emotional connection, and mutual understanding.

Held under the empowering themes "Maa Beti Ka Judaav—Layega Badlaav" and "Maa Beti Ka Pyaar—Rishton Mein Nikhaar", the mela highlighted the mother-daughter bond as a cornerstone of family and community harmony. By fostering dialogue and shared experiences through interactive activities, games, and cultural performances, the initiative paved the way for stronger and more empathetic relationships.

Event Overview:

- Total Melas Conducted: 6
- Total Participation: 579
 - Adolescent Girls: 233
 - Mothers: 310
 - Boys: 36



Voices from Mothers:

- *"This event reminded me of my childhood and gave me a chance to bond with my daughter in a way I never imagined. We need more such opportunities."*

- *"The open platform helped me express emotions I had never shared with my daughter before."*
- *"I want to give my daughter freedom and also want her to seek my advice; we need to work together."*

Voices from Daughters:

- *"Through this event, I saw my mother not just as a parent but as a friend and guide. I feel more connected to her now."*
- *"Participating in the games and skits made me realize the importance of spending quality time with my mom."*

The Maa-Beti Mela served as a meaningful step toward nurturing intergenerational trust and understanding, reinforcing the importance of family dialogue and emotional well-being in adolescent development.



KISHORI-KISHOR UTSAV: FOSTERING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

The Kishor-Kishori Utsav (Adolescents' Fair) was a vibrant and inclusive initiative aimed at addressing gender discrimination by engaging both adolescent girls and boys in interactive, reflective, and participatory activities. Recognizing that achieving true gender equality requires the involvement of all genders, the Utsav adopted a holistic approach to inspire dialogue, empathy, and action among young people.

Held across four locations, the Utsav reached a total of 575 adolescents—including 427 adolescent girls and 148 boys—through dynamic games, role-reversal exercises, and interactive stalls. These activities served as powerful tools to challenge conventional gender norms, spark open discussions, and promote mutual understanding and respect.

Event Overview:

- Total Utsavs Conducted: 4
- Total Participants: 575
 - Adolescent Girls: 427
 - Boys: 148



A key highlight of the event was the confident participation and leadership of adolescent peer leaders, who successfully planned and facilitated various activities and stage events. Their active involvement not only showcased their organizational capabilities but also reflected their growing sense of agency and empowerment.

The increasing participation of boys signaled a positive shift toward collective responsibility in promoting gender equity. By offering a safe and supportive environment for self-expression, learning, and collaboration, the Kishor-Kishori Utsav emerged as a transformative platform—planting the seeds for a more just, inclusive, and violence-free society.



EXPOSURE VISITS: BROADENING HORIZONS THROUGH REAL-WORLD LEARNING

In 2024, a series of eight Exposure Visits were organized to provide adolescent girls with practical, real-world learning experiences across diverse sectors. These visits were designed to deepen their understanding of governance, law enforcement, scientific research, environmental conservation, and education, while fostering confidence, curiosity, and civic awareness.

Key Highlights:

- **Army Cantonment, Yol:** 45 adolescent girls explored military life, discipline, and the values of service and nation-building.
- **Police Stations in Tissa, Dharamshala, Jawali, and Kihar:** Girls engaged directly with police personnel, learning about their rights, the legal system, and community policing.
- **Rice and Wheat Research Centre, Malan:** 13 girls gained insights into agricultural research, innovation, and food security.
- **Aavishkaar Centre, Kandbari:** 29 girls were introduced to creative educational practices, scientific thinking, and innovation.
- **Gopalpur Zoo (Prakriti ki Sair):** 15 girls and 6 boys participated in an environmental awareness program focused on wildlife conservation and ecological balance.



These exposure visits not only enhanced participants' understanding of key institutions but also inspired them to view themselves as active contributors to society. By interacting with professionals, observing real-life applications of knowledge, and stepping outside their everyday environments, the girls developed a broader worldview and a greater sense of agency. Through these experiences, participants emerged more informed, confident, and motivated—ready to take on leadership roles and advocate for change within their communities. The visits were a vital step in empowering the next generation of informed and responsible citizens.



RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOPS

The adolescent and peer leader residential workshops played a crucial role in fostering awareness and equipping participants with knowledge on gender equality, health, leadership, fundamental rights, and safety. Designed to cover both foundational and advanced topics, these workshops encouraged adolescents and peer leaders to challenge stereotypes, understand their rights, and take proactive steps toward societal change.

A total of seven workshops were conducted, addressing key themes such as gender and health, leadership, patriarchy, masculinity, child protection laws, and cybercrime. The sessions were interactive and discussion-based, enabling participants to explore the intersections of gender and society while deepening their understanding of fundamental rights and responsibilities.

The involvement of both adolescent girls and boys helped promote shared accountability in addressing patriarchal norms and advocating for gender equality.



Total days of workshops: 15 days

Total participants:

- Adolescent Girls (AGs): 118
- Boys: 77
- Peer Leaders (PLs): 80

The impact of these workshops was evident in the participants' reflections. They questioned societal norms and engaged in critical discussions on issues such as media representation, biological and social identities, and legal frameworks including the POCSO Act. Peer leaders, in particular, emerged as key advocates for gender equity, demonstrating increased confidence and leadership skills.

These workshops contributed significantly to fostering a more informed, empowered, and progressive outlook among adolescents and peer leaders, laying the foundation for continued community-level change.



LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS

The livelihood trainings were designed to equip girls with practical skills in fields traditionally dominated by men, such as plumbing, car washing, and electrical work. These hands-on sessions aimed to break gender stereotypes, enabling girls to explore non-traditional career paths and expand their opportunities for economic independence.

The workshops included Plumbing Training (30 days), Car Washing Training (3 days), and Electricity Training focused on lamp making (2 sessions, 3 days each). Through these sessions, participants not only acquired technical skills but also developed greater confidence and self-reliance, reinforcing the idea that girls can succeed in any profession.

The impact of these trainings was reflected in the success stories shared by participants. Diksha applied her plumbing skills to fit pipes and taps in her new washroom, challenging the notion that such work is only for men. Tanisha expressed how the training helped her bond with her father and contribute to her family's livelihood. Shivangi shared that her newly gained skills helped meet a shortage of plumbers in her community, making her training both personally and socially valuable.

These workshops not only helped participants gain useful and employable skills but also empowered them to question social norms. By enabling adolescent girls to pursue opportunities in unconventional fields, the trainings contributed to a more equitable society where gender is not a barrier to success.

LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS

Plumbing Training



Days: 30
Total participants 19
adolescent girls and
women

Car Washing Training



Days: 3
Total participants:
20 adolescent girls

Electricity Training (Lamp Making): Session 1



Days: 3
Total participants 17
adolescent girls

Electricity Training (Lamp Making): Session 2



Days: 3
Total participants:
10 adolescent girls

In total, the workshops were
conducted over 39 days.



DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING

To bridge the digital divide and empower adolescent girls with essential technology skills, two Digital Literacy Workshops were conducted during the year. Each session spanned three days and collectively trained 31 girls. The workshops were designed to build foundational digital competencies, including the use of MS Office applications, resume writing, internet navigation, email drafting, and online form submission.

These practical, hands-on sessions aimed to boost participants' confidence in using digital tools, enabling their personal, academic, and professional development in an increasingly technology-driven world.

The impact was evident in the enthusiasm and engagement of the participants. One girl shared, *"For the first time, I saw a disassembled CPU and saw the components inside it and where they were located."* This experience not only demystified technology but also sparked a deeper interest in learning more about the digital realm.

By the end of the workshops, the girls had gained critical skills that will help them seize future opportunities and participate more fully in the digital age. These workshops marked a meaningful step toward digital inclusion and empowerment.



TEAM CAPACITY BUILDING: STRENGTHENING SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Strengthening Skills and Knowledge for Effective Community Engagement

As part of our ongoing commitment to building a skilled and resilient team, a series of capacity-building workshops were conducted to enhance the practical and technical abilities of our staff. These sessions focused on four key thematic areas essential for effective community initiatives: Disaster Risk Reduction, Photography, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Library Management.

Training Focus Areas

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Participants gained foundational knowledge in disaster preparedness and first aid, enabling them to respond effectively during emergencies. The training highlighted the role of DRR in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering a proactive approach to community safety.

2. Photography Training

This session developed participants' skills in visual storytelling, equipping them to document fieldwork and project activities in a compelling and impactful manner. The training aimed to enhance internal reporting and external communication.

3. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

Team members were trained in essential M&E techniques to assess program performance and measure impact. This ensures accountability and supports data-driven decision-making for ongoing project improvements.

4. Library Management

The training covered efficient organization and maintenance of educational resources. This supports knowledge sharing and improves community access to learning materials.

Outcomes and Impact

The capacity-building sessions resulted in tangible improvements in team performance:

- Enhanced Emergency Response: Staff are better prepared to act during crises with increased confidence and capability.
- Improved Communication: Photography skills have strengthened documentation and helped communicate program impact more effectively.
- Stronger Program Oversight: M&E training has enabled the team to track project outcomes more systematically and make informed decisions.
- Efficient Resource Management: Improved library management ensures better access to and use of educational resources in the community.

These sessions have significantly strengthened the team's ability to implement high-quality, impactful, and sustainable initiatives. By investing in team development, we continue to build a foundation for long-term community empowerment and resilience.



HEALTH CAMPS: PROMOTING ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Over the past year, health camps were conducted across all seven blocks of Kangra and Chamba, benefiting 119 participants, including 105 adolescent girls and 14 boys. These camps provided a crucial platform for discussing essential health issues that are often considered taboo, creating a safe space for young girls to openly address their concerns. The sessions focused on educating adolescents about reproductive and menstrual health, anemia, nutrition, and balanced diets. By imparting essential health knowledge, the workshops empowered participants to make informed choices about their well-being. Through these initiatives, the program successfully contributed to improving awareness and promoting healthier practices among adolescents in the community.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Environmental and Community Initiatives focused on enhancing cleanliness and green cover through plantations and cleanliness drives, fostering active community participation and environmental responsibility. A total of 2,480 plants were planted in schools, panchayats, and community spaces, with the involvement of 195 adolescent girls, 50 peer leaders, 50 boys, 70 community members, and 120 school students and teachers. These drives, conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department, Panchayats, and Schools, aimed to increase green cover and in still a sense of ownership in preserving natural resources. Additionally, 18 cleanliness drives were carried out, engaging 120 adolescent girls, 25 peer leaders, 30 boys, and 85 community members in cleaning natural water sources, roads, school premises, and public spaces. These efforts contributed to reducing pollution, maintaining hygiene, and promoting a culture of cleanliness. By encouraging sustainable practices and community-driven action, these initiatives played a vital role in fostering environmental awareness and collective responsibility.



ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Nine school sessions were conducted across Dharamshala, Kangra, Nagrota Bagwan, Rait, and Nagrota Suriyan, engaging 665 students in discussions on adolescence and mental health, menstrual hygiene, climate change, and environmental protection.

These sessions provided crucial awareness of health and environmental issues, equipping students with knowledge to make informed decisions about their well-being and surroundings. By fostering proactive attitudes, the program encouraged youth to become advocates for personal and environmental health, contributing to a more informed and responsible generation.

CAREER GUIDANCE SESSIONS AND INDUSTRY TALKS

The Career Guidance Sessions and Industry Talks were organized to provide adolescent girls (AGs) and boys with valuable insights into career opportunities and practical knowledge in various fields. These sessions covered crucial themes such as mental health, scholarship programs, social media careers, and technical skills, helping participants make informed career choices while addressing personal challenges like mental stress. The initiative focused on empowering youth by equipping them with essential tools to navigate academic and professional pathways.

SPORTS TRAINING

This year, a series of football training sessions were organized to provide adolescent girls with the opportunity to engage in sports and challenge traditional gender norms. With sports grounds often dominated by boys and men, these sessions aimed to inspire girls by creating a space for them in football, a sport typically perceived as male-oriented. A total of three training sessions were conducted over six days, with 74 girls actively participating. Beyond improving their physical skills, the initiative fostered teamwork, leadership, and confidence among the girls. By breaking stereotypes and promoting gender inclusivity in sports, the program encouraged them to explore new opportunities and redefine societal expectations, paving the way for greater gender equity in athletics and beyond.



MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

Two mental health sessions were conducted with 44 adolescent girls participating. The second session included 18 girls from the first session, ensuring continuity and deeper engagement. These sessions aimed to address stress-related issues and provide emotional resilience strategies. During these sessions, the facilitator identified 3 to 4 girls experiencing significant stress due to personal challenges. These girls were provided with counselling and therapy sessions, helping them manage stress effectively and build emotional resilience.



CAREER AND SCHOLARSHIP SESSIONS

Career and scholarship sessions focused on guiding adolescents toward educational and professional opportunities. A session on scholarship programs, particularly the Shikhar Dhawan Foundation initiative, was attended by 50 adolescent girls. Another session on social media as a career opportunity attracted 30 adolescent girls and 16 boys. These sessions provided insights into leveraging digital platforms for professional growth and securing educational funding.

Key Outcomes

- **Scholarship Achievement:** Vasundhra, one of our dedicated Peer Leaders, successfully secured a scholarship from the Shikhar Dhawan Foundation. She is now pursuing her graduation at a well-known college in Chandigarh, furthering her academic and career aspirations.
- **Employment Success:** Two Peer Leaders, Dishali and Shivangi, transitioned into the workforce after completing a Basic Computer Training session. Their newly acquired technical skills enabled them to secure jobs, highlighting the importance of digital literacy in today's job market.

Impact and Future Directions:

These career guidance sessions and industry talks have played a transformative role in shaping the futures of AGs and boys. By addressing critical topics such as mental health, scholarships, and digital career opportunities, the initiative has helped young individuals unlock new possibilities, overcome personal challenges, and prepare for their professional journeys. Moving forward, the program aims to expand its scope by introducing more industry-specific sessions, mentorship opportunities, and skill-based training programs to further empower youth in their career pursuits.

LIBRARY: A KEYSTONE OF EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION

The libraries have become vital resources for adolescents across both districts, offering access to a diverse collection of books that enhance academic performance while also empowering them with essential life skills and knowledge. With a total of 10 libraries strategically located across the districts, these spaces ensure easy access for children, allowing them to visit regularly, study in peace, and borrow books for home reading.

Adolescents have shared that story-based books, particularly those centred around women's empowerment, have provided them with valuable insights and inspiration. Books on gender equality, women's health, and home remedies have been especially impactful, broadening their understanding of crucial topics and promoting a healthier, more informed mindset.

The libraries are more than just spaces for reading—they are cornerstones of empowerment and education. By promoting a love for reading and providing knowledge on a wide range of topics, the libraries continue to inspire and shape the lives of adolescents, helping them to build brighter futures.

Voices from the Library

"One adolescent girl shared that while she has read many books in the library, her favorite is Chuppi Todo because it taught her that girls should not stay silent. She also learned about Childline Number 1098 and gained awareness about safe and unsafe touch through this book."

"Another adolescent girl mentioned that the library's central location in the village has been highly convenient for children. They can visit anytime and study peacefully."

ONE BILLION RISING RISE FOR FREEDOM

Over the past decade, since its inception in 2013, One Billion Rising (OBR) has grown into a powerful global campaign rooted in the call to “Rise for Freedom.” What began as a bold initiative to end violence against women and girls has evolved into a sustained movement for justice, equality, and dignity for all.

In 2024, as the campaign celebrated its eleventh anniversary, OBR India witnessed a renewed wave of collective action and solidarity. A total of 224 Risings were organized across 21 States, by 66 Organizations, creating vibrant spaces for dialogue, resistance, and celebration. These events brought together thousands of participants—including women, adolescent girls, LGBTQ+ community, Dalit and Adivasi communities, and other severely marginalized groups—amplifying voices that are often excluded from mainstream narratives.

What made this year’s Risings particularly powerful was the deep engagement of grassroots organizations working with minority and underserved communities. From remote rural villages to urban informal settlements, diverse groups came together to shape and lead the events. These organizations—many of them long-time allies in the struggle for gender and social justice—played a crucial role in ensuring that the campaign remained inclusive, intersectional, and grounded in the lived realities of people on the margins.

The Risings were organized by a strong and diverse network of NGOs, community-based groups, youth collectives, and feminist alliances from across India. Together, they reaffirmed the core message of OBR: that true freedom is only possible when every individual, regardless of gender, caste, class, or identity, can live a life free from violence and fear.

This year's commemorations were more than symbolic—they were a powerful reminder of the strength of collective action and the ongoing struggle for a just and equitable world.

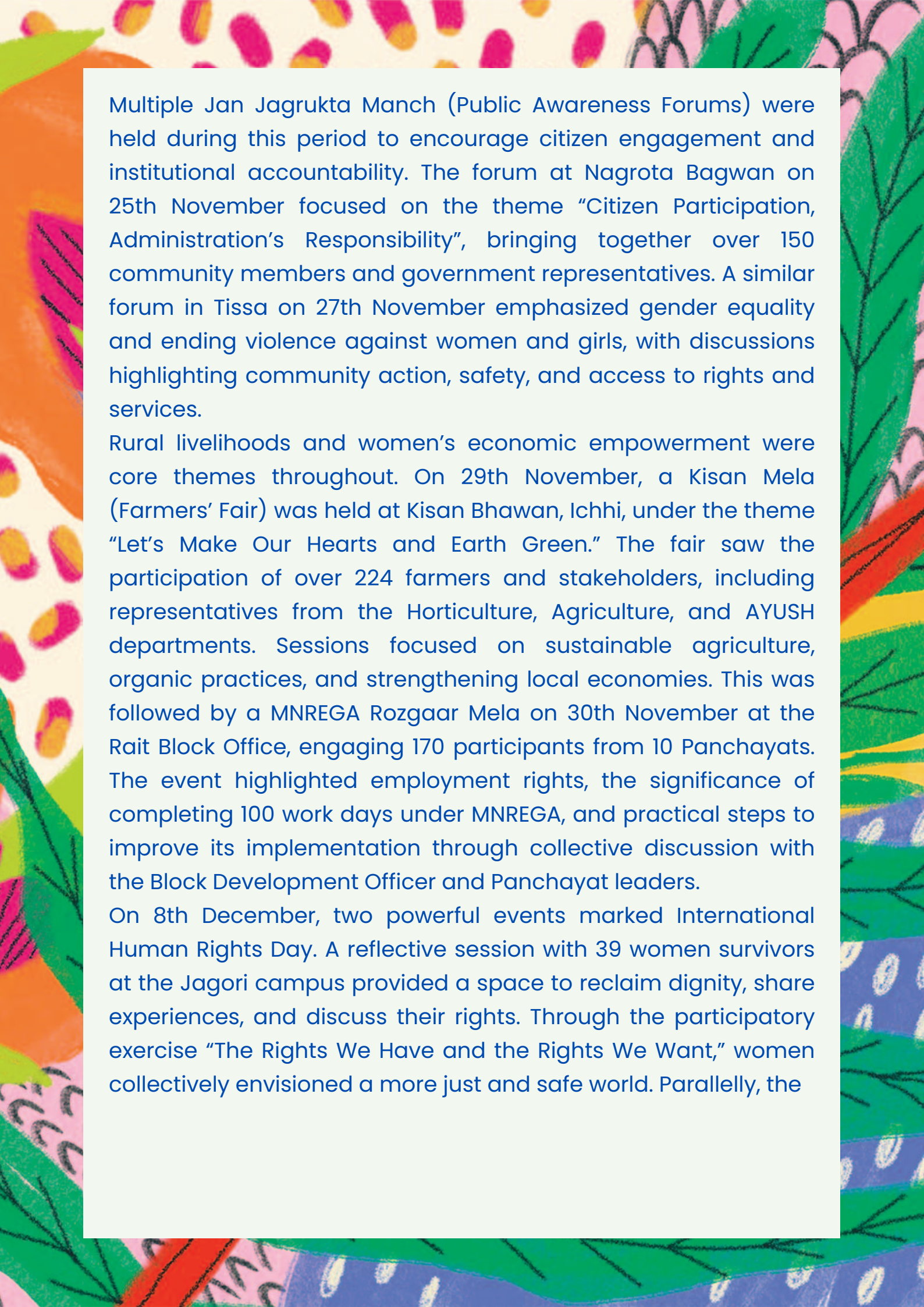


ONE BILLION RISING 2024: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR EQUALITY, DIGNITY, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

In 2024, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, as part of the global One Billion Rising (OBR) campaign, organized a wide array of impactful programs and community events across Kangra and Chamba districts in Himachal Pradesh, aimed at deepening awareness on gender justice, promoting sustainable development, and strengthening grassroots participation in governance and rights-based frameworks.

The month-long engagement began with the Maa-Beti Mela on 10th November at Chambi Ground, Kangra, bringing together 230 mothers and daughters from five blocks under the theme “Maa Beti Ka Pyaar, Rishton Mein Nikhar” (“Mother-Daughter Love: Strengthening the Bond”). Through cultural performances, interactive games, and thematic stalls, the event celebrated the emotional and generational connection between women, symbolically concluding with the distribution of fruit saplings to emphasize the nurturing of relationships.

Youth engagement and rights awareness were central to this campaign. On 17th November, a large-scale event with 207 adolescent girls created a dynamic platform for leadership, education, and empowerment through creative activities, performances, and discussions. This was followed by a focused Body Literacy Session on 24th November, which engaged 58 schoolgirls in open conversations on menstrual health, consent, body autonomy, and gender equality—promoting body confidence and self-worth.



Multiple Jan Jagrukta Manch (Public Awareness Forums) were held during this period to encourage citizen engagement and institutional accountability. The forum at Nagrota Bagwan on 25th November focused on the theme “Citizen Participation, Administration’s Responsibility”, bringing together over 150 community members and government representatives. A similar forum in Tissa on 27th November emphasized gender equality and ending violence against women and girls, with discussions highlighting community action, safety, and access to rights and services.

Rural livelihoods and women’s economic empowerment were core themes throughout. On 29th November, a Kisan Mela (Farmers’ Fair) was held at Kisan Bhawan, Ichhi, under the theme “Let’s Make Our Hearts and Earth Green.” The fair saw the participation of over 224 farmers and stakeholders, including representatives from the Horticulture, Agriculture, and AYUSH departments. Sessions focused on sustainable agriculture, organic practices, and strengthening local economies. This was followed by a MNREGA Rozgaar Mela on 30th November at the Rait Block Office, engaging 170 participants from 10 Panchayats. The event highlighted employment rights, the significance of completing 100 work days under MNREGA, and practical steps to improve its implementation through collective discussion with the Block Development Officer and Panchayat leaders.

On 8th December, two powerful events marked International Human Rights Day. A reflective session with 39 women survivors at the Jagori campus provided a space to reclaim dignity, share experiences, and discuss their rights. Through the participatory exercise “The Rights We Have and the Rights We Want,” women collectively envisioned a more just and safe world. Parallely, the

Kishori Utsav – Adolescent Fest in Chamba district brought together young girls from Mehla, Tissa, and Salooni blocks. Themed “Rise for Constitution, Secularism, and Freedom for All,” the festival featured bold performances like “Bekhauff Azad Hai Jeena Mujhe” and “Rape Victim’s Life,” inspiring action against gender-based violence and reinforcing the principles of equality and freedom.

Additionally, an exposure visit during November engaged 32 women farmers from Mehla, Salooni, and Tissa blocks, providing practical insights into organic farming, innovative techniques, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The visit aimed to equip women with knowledge and confidence to take leadership roles in agriculture and rural development.

Collectively, these diverse yet interconnected events reinforced Jagori Rural’s unwavering commitment to gender justice, community empowerment, and inclusive development. Through dialogue, education, celebration, and collective reflection, the campaign succeeded in strengthening voices at the grassroots and building resilient, informed, and empowered communities.



SWARA MOUNTAIN ARTS FESTIVAL

RISE FOR FREEDOM FROM WAR AND CONFLICT & EMBRACE PEACE, HARMONY AND LOVE

Now in its third successful year, the Swara Mountain Arts Festival continues to grow in scale and spirit, deepening its impact on communities through a vibrant celebration of freedom, love, harmony, and peace. Organized by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust in collaboration with One Billion Rising, Swara 2024 was held from 21st to 26th April and brought together a diverse gathering of participants, artists, and community members from across the country.

Since its inception in 2022, Swara has evolved into a unique festival that seamlessly blends residential workshops, live performances, local food, and cultural exchange—all grounded in a strong commitment to justice, non-violence, and creativity. The initiative is part of Jagori Rural's broader vision to embed artistic expression into its core work of social transformation and community empowerment.

This year's edition featured an extraordinary lineup of acclaimed artists and facilitators, including:

- **Piyush Mishra** – Indian actor, writer, and thinker
- **Navtej Johar** – Renowned yoga exponent, dancer, and activist
- **Tejaswini Gautam** – Odissi dancer
- **Neeraj and Palash Dholakia** – Indian classical musicians

Their contributions sparked profound conversations, creative experimentation, and powerful moments of connection and learning.

As **Abha Bhaiya**, Festival Visionary and Founder of Jagori Rural, aptly described:

"Swara is an amalgam of music and movement, exploration and expression, curiosity and creation—a cosmic dance of the seven musical notes."

Swara continues to be a space where art meets activism, and where individuals and communities come together to imagine and co-create a more just, joyful, and inclusive world.



EMPOWERING CHANGE: A JOURNEY OF LEARNING AND ACTION

11-DAY RESIDENTIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

DECEMBER 20-30, 2024

From December 20th to 30th, Jagori Rural and Jagori Sangat organized an intensive 11-day Residential Training Program, bringing together a diverse and passionate group of participants from across India. The program offered an immersive learning experience focused on human rights, sustainable development, and women's empowerment, equipping individuals with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to become catalysts for social change within their communities. Each session was thoughtfully designed to unpack the interconnected structures of power and inequality—including patriarchy, caste, gender, sexuality, and the framework of feminism. The training emphasized the importance of intersectionality, fostering critical thinking, emotional resilience, and physical well-being as essential components of holistic social transformation.

The participants engaged in reflective and interactive learning guided by a distinguished panel of facilitators and experts, including:

- **Sarika Sinha**
- **Rituparna Borah**
- **Manjula Pradeep**
- **Gauhar Raza**
- **Afsar Jafri**
- **Dr. Anita Thakur**
- **Dr. Kusum Thapa**

Through a combination of dialogue, group work, creative expression, and structured activities, the program became a space of deep learning, solidarity, and personal growth.

The overarching goal of this initiative was to build a cadre of grassroots educators and trainers, capable of initiating awareness and collective action on critical issues within their local contexts. More than just a training, it was a transformative journey—an inspiring space of connection and shared purpose.

Participants left the program with renewed energy, sharpened understanding, and strengthened commitment to justice, ready to take forward the movement for a more equitable and inclusive society.



SOLIDARITY MARCH FOR JUSTICE: RESPONDING TO THE KOLKATA DOCTOR CASE

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala, organized a powerful solidarity march through the streets to demand justice for the horrific Kolkata doctor rape case. The demonstration resonated with unwavering resolve as participants raised impactful slogans such as

“Kahi ka bhi anyay, har jagah ke nyay ke liye khatra hai” (Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere) and ***“Beti padhi par bachi nahi”*** (Daughters may be educated, but are not safe).

Chanting calls for justice—***“We want justice,” “Nyay do, nyay do,”*** and ***“Sharm karo, sharm karo”***—the community stood united and firm against violence and injustice, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding women’s rights and demanding accountability.



JAGORI RURAL IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE DELHI CHALO PADYATRA

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust had the privilege of meeting **Mr. Sonam Wangchuk** during his Padyatra in Manali. **Mr. Wangchuk** is a renowned environmental activist and education reformer from Ladakh, widely recognized for innovative initiatives such as the **Ice Stupa** project and his advocacy for constitutional safeguards to protect Ladakh's unique environment and cultural heritage.

Demonstrating remarkable courage and determination, **Mr. Wangchuk**, along with hundreds of fellow Padyatris, marched to Delhi demanding the implementation of the 6th Schedule to safeguard Ladakh's ecology.

During the Padyatra stop in Manali, **Jagori Rural's Executive Director, Abha Bhaiya**, and team members presented Solidarity Statements from **Jagori Rural and Vikalp Sangam** to Mr. Wangchuk. In addition, Jagori Rural organized a signature campaign in support of the Padyatra and handed over the collected signatures alongside the Solidarity Statement.

On September 17th, members of the Jagori Rural team also joined the march, walking several kilometers in solidarity with the Delhi Chalo Padyatra.

Jagori Rural remains hopeful that the legitimate demands of the people of Ladakh will be addressed promptly and effectively before the peaceful Padyatra concludes.



GENDER EQUITY SESSION AT KLB COLLEGE, PALAMPUR

On June 6, 2024, the Jagori Rural team conducted a meaningful session on Gender Equity at KLB College, Palampur, engaging 140 BEd students. Led by Abha Bhaiya, the session covered essential topics such as the distinction between gender and sex, the origins and impacts of patriarchy, the socialization process, and the concept of intersectionality. The discussion also emphasized the crucial role of women within families and their autonomy in making life decisions.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants for their enthusiasm and thoughtful contributions. Together, we continue to work towards fostering a more just and equitable society.

