



**JAGORI RURAL CHARITABLE TRUST**

# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JAGORI RURAL  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

**January 2023 - December 2023**



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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, Chamba and Sirmour district. Our outreach programs cover a population of 150000 in the field area.







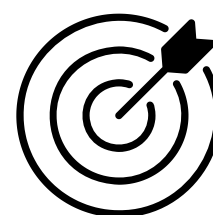
## Vision

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.



## Dear Friends, Supporters, and Well-Wishers,

This year marks our 21st 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.

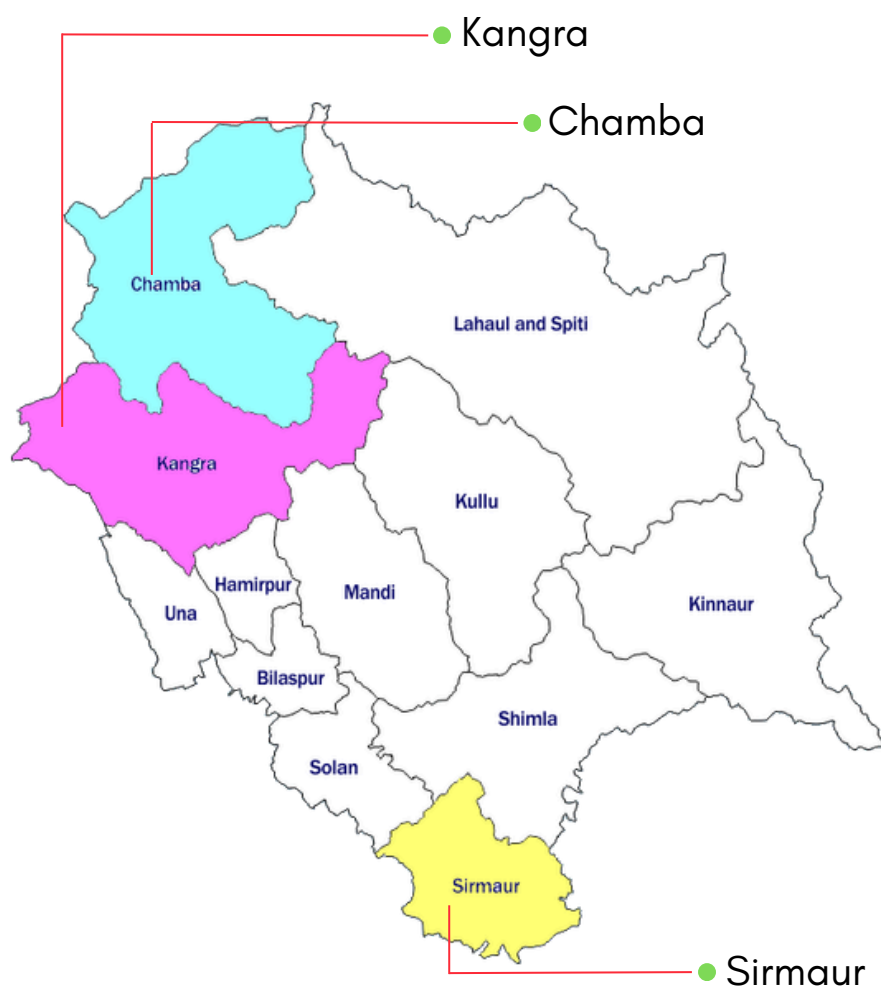
We would be delighted to welcome you to our organic campus, nestled in the lap of the Dhauladhar Himalayan Mountains, at any time.

Wishing you peace within and harmony.....

**Abha Bhaiya**

**Founder trustee and the ED**

**Jagori Rural Charitable Trust**



## WHERE WE WORK

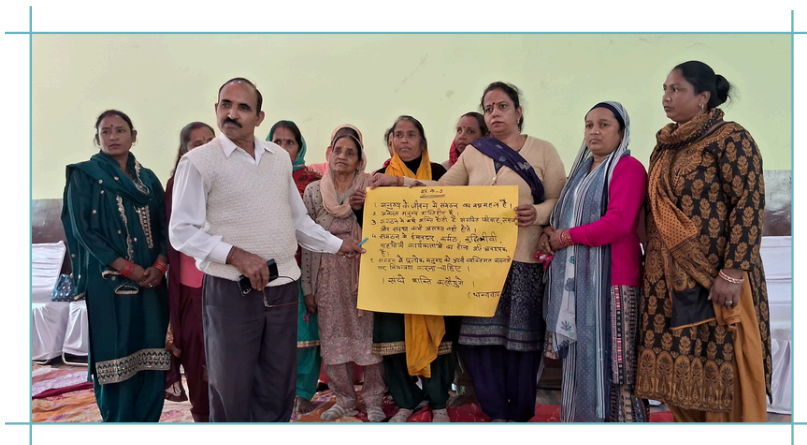


## COMMUNITY INTERVENTION FOR RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS



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 776 meetings were conducted across four blocks: Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, Rait, and Chamba. The current data shows a gender-wise and category-wise composition based on the profiles of 14,418 participants from various villages within these blocks.

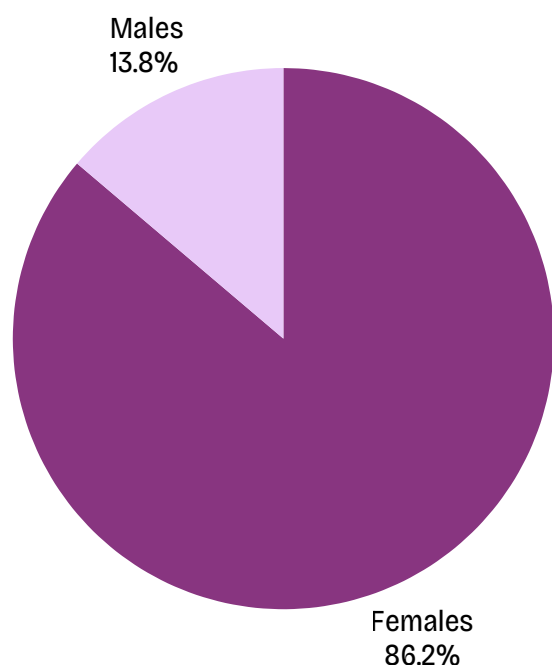


Chart 1 : Genderwise composition of Village Level Meetings

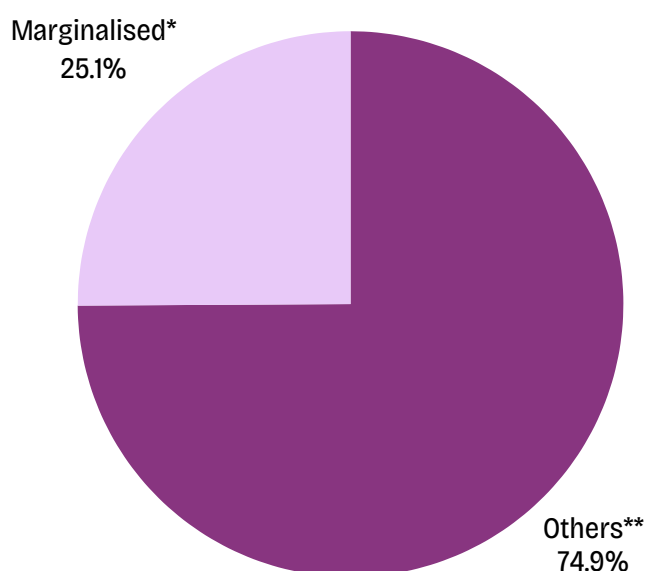


Chart 2 : Categorywise composition of Village Level Meetings

Out of the total 14,418 participants, 12,432 females and 1,986 males attended the village-level meetings. The caste-wise composition includes 3,612 participants from marginalized communities and 10,806 from other communities.

\*Includes Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribe (ST) only

\*\*Includes Non SC-ST communities



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During a baseline survey in the Kangra block, it was observed that the gram panchayats had minimal solar lighting on the roads, and the few existing installations were in poor condition. Persistent efforts with panchayat representatives over the past two years led to the installation of 180 solar lights across all seven wards of Gram Panchayat Nandehar.

To address the water problem, five women from the Rajol Nari Shakti Sangathan met with the Junior Engineer (JE). Prompt action was taken, and broken pipes were replaced, resulting in a regular water supply to Rajol village. The women of Nari Shakti Sangathan from Gram Panchayat Bandi met with the Electricity department authorities and the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) to address the electricity problem. A new transformer was approved and installed in December, resolving the issue in Bandi.

Four families from Kangra block successfully applied for a grant of Rs 1,80,000 under the sericulture department of Himachal Pradesh.

JRCT assisted in securing funding for the construction of houses for seven families through the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme and facilitated housing construction for 15 families affected by excessive rain.

Jagori played a crucial role in facilitating benefits for 282 eligible individuals under various government social security schemes, including Sahara Yojna, old-age pension, and Janani Suraksha Yojana. In collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Aadhaar registration for 134 people from nine Panchayats of Kangra ensuring Development Block was completed, uninterrupted pensions. The Jagori team also successfully met with the local MLA to secure Rs. 15,000 for health-related expenses for a cancer patient and assured assistance in constructing a house for the patient. Additionally, 461 women applied for work under MGNREGA and gained employment.



## PANCHAYAT LEVEL MEETINGS

A total of 80 meetings were conducted across three blocks: Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra and Rait. The current data shows a gender-wise and category-wise composition based on the profiles of 2414 participants from various villages within these blocks.

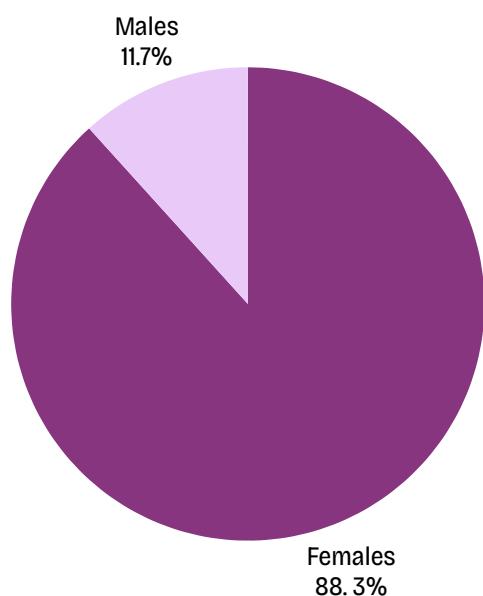


Chart 3 : Genderwise composition of Panchayat Level Meetings

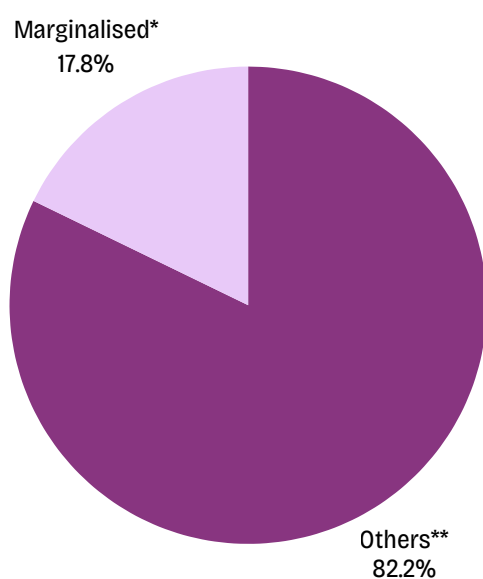


Chart 4 : Categorywise composition of Panchayat Level Meetings

Out of the total 2414 participants, 2132 females and 282 males attended the village-level meetings. The caste-wise composition includes 428 participants from marginalized communities and 1986 from other communities.

\*Includes Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribe (ST) only

\*\*Includes Non SC-ST communities



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

To ensure effective community participation in the planning process, Gram Sabha meetings were regularly convened with the requisite quorum, representing all sections of the community, including women, Dalits, and other backward classes. These meetings were held at both the ward/village level and the Panchayat level, ensuring broader community engagement and enabling individuals to voice their concerns and opinions. Panchayat-level Working Committees were encouraged and facilitated to actively engage in Panchayat activities, thereby enhancing the performance of the village Panchayat.

Monitoring Committee members organized awareness drives focused on environmental conservation and initiated cleanliness campaigns in their respective villages/wards. In Badai, Tharu, Sunehar, and Majehtali villages, Monitoring Committee members conducted a cleanliness drive to clean natural water resources. A total of 93 women participated in the drive and pledged to maintain cleanliness by conducting it twice a month.

The Gram Panchayat Vikas Yojna 2023-24 was established in the Ansoli and Nandehad Panchayats with the intervention of the JR team, incorporating activities for youth empowerment and cleanliness initiatives.

Kamla and Bimala Devi from Chamba met with the Deputy Director of Education to address the issue of vacant teaching positions at the primary school in Dugli. Kavita disseminated the public distribution system's rate list to the residents of Chhajot village. Dilawanti raised concerns about fraudulent attendance and online attendance issues in MGNREGA with the Ward Panch.





Hemraj facilitated E-KYC for two individuals in Kalai village, resulting in the release of their installments under the Prime Minister's Farmer Honor Fund. Jano Devi ensured payments for ten individuals under MGNREGA and facilitated the inclusion of Jahanfar Ram, Devi Singh, and Naresh Kumar from Choli Gram Panchayat in the housing scheme. Shakti Prasad, Jayanti Devi, and Alka coordinated the construction of a vermiculture pit in Lesui village, Chamba district. Subhash Chand from Kangra advocated for social security pensions, assisting eight individuals from his Panchayat in completing the necessary forms over the past year.



## CLUSTER LEVEL MEETINGS

A total of 32 meetings were conducted across four blocks: Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, Rait and Chamba. The current data shows a gender-wise and category-wise composition based on the profiles of 851 participants from various villages within these blocks.

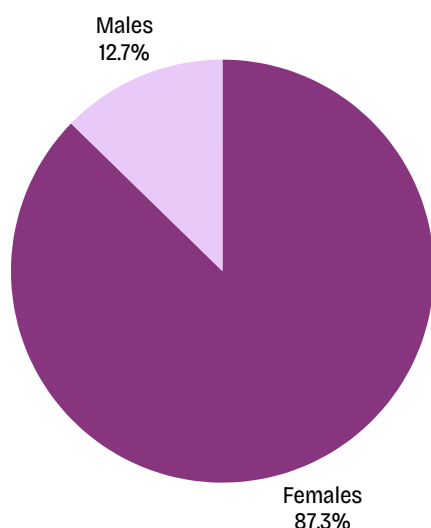


Chart 5 : Genderwise composition of Cluster Level Meetings

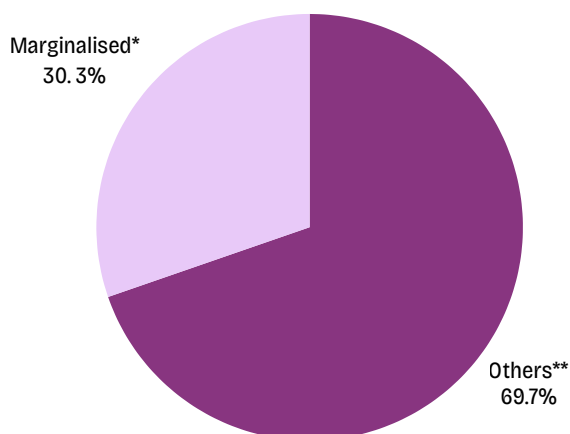


Chart 6 : Categorywise composition of Cluster Level Meetings

Out of the total 851 participants, 743 females and 108 males attended the village-level meetings. The caste-wise composition includes 258 participants from marginalized communities and 593 from other communities.

\*Includes Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribe (ST) only

\*\*Includes Non SC-ST communities



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Most Panchayat Gram Sabha meetings are now being conducted successfully, with increased participation from women, indicating a positive shift towards gender-inclusive decision-making processes at the village level. Women are increasingly asserting themselves in village meetings, actively engaging in discussions concerning village affairs.

The meetings focused on raising awareness about the Right to Information (RTI) Act, encouraging community members to be vigilant and proactive in filing RTIs to obtain information about government schemes and policies being implemented in their areas. On average, five RTIs are filed by community members each month to obtain relevant information.

An exposure visit to Godhpeeth Panchayat was organized, attended by 30 active members from District Kangra. This visit highlighted Godhpeeth Panchayat's achievements, including winning the national award for rural economy improvement, implementing effective water management practices, and establishing a self-help group for milk collection to enhance local livelihood options.

Through cluster meetings, awareness about the "Mere Ghar Aake To Dekho" campaign was disseminated among members of the monitoring committee and the broader community. Following this awareness-raising effort, members of the monitoring committee visited individuals from marginalized communities, such as Dalits, Muslims, and other oppressed groups, as part of the campaign.



## OTHER VISITS AND INITIATIVES

### LEARNING EXPOSURE MEETING

The team members of Jagori Rural Charitable Trust from Kangra and Chamba, along with the Monitoring Committee members, visited the School for Democracy in Rajasthan for a Learning Exposure from February 7 to February 12. The purpose of the visit was to understand the organization's functioning, methodologies, strategies, and best practices that can be implemented in their work.

Through the Learning Exposure, the Jagori team and Monitoring Committee members had the opportunity to learn about and understand the struggles of women sitting in collective action for urban employment guarantees. They also gained insights into the Constitution, public information portals, ration shops opened for the convenience of the general public, libraries, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, the RTI Act 2005, and the rights to information and employment.

During this learning exposure visit, the group decided that the Jan Soochna portal should also be implemented in their state. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of using libraries to educate children about the Constitution, gender discrimination, diversity, and equality from childhood.



## OTHER VISITS AND INITIATIVES

### MGNERGA PROGRAM

Jagori initiated the MGNREGA program in 30 panchayats in District Kangra after continuously monitoring the budget cuts in the MGNREGA program and the challenges arising from online attendance. During the program, discussions were held with 1,632 people, and a letter, including signatures of MGNREGA laborers, was sent to the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and the Central Government.

At the end of the program, 46 MGNREGA laborers (41 women, 5 men) from 30 panchayats participated in the national-level MGNREGA meeting in Delhi. Women shared the difficulties and challenges in using the Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) application as MGNREGA workers. They highlighted that it requires very specialized skills and access to the internet, which most women do not have. JRCT initiated a signature program to demand a simpler attendance process from the Panchayat Secretary.







## OTHER VISITS AND INITIATIVES

### MERE GHAR AA KE TO DEKHO

During the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program, the JR team raised awareness among 1,667 people from Kangra and Chamba districts, representing various socially excluded communities, including 1,253 women and 414 men. Throughout this initiative, individuals were informed about the purpose of the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program and the necessity of its implementation in today's society.

The objective of the program is to bridge the gap and animosity among people based on caste, religion, race, class, and gender while fostering love, unity, and humanity in their hearts. Through discussions during the program, community members were reminded that although our country embraces diversity in religions, languages, and cultures, recent years have seen an alarming trend of turning this diversity into hatred and violence.

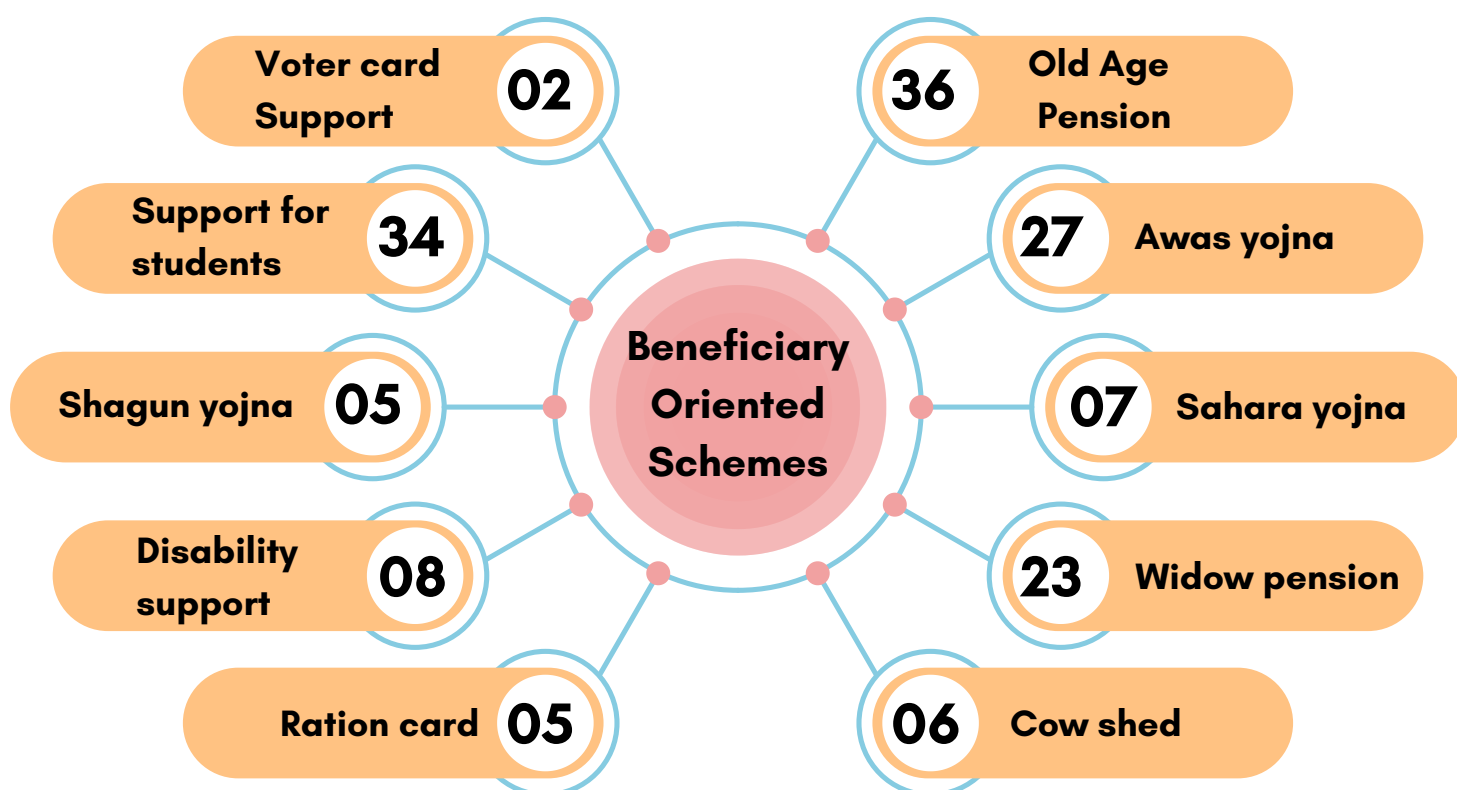
Therefore, it was emphasized that through the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program, individuals should visit the homes of those who differ from them in terms of religion, caste, or class in order to engage in dialogue, build understanding, and cultivate friendships.

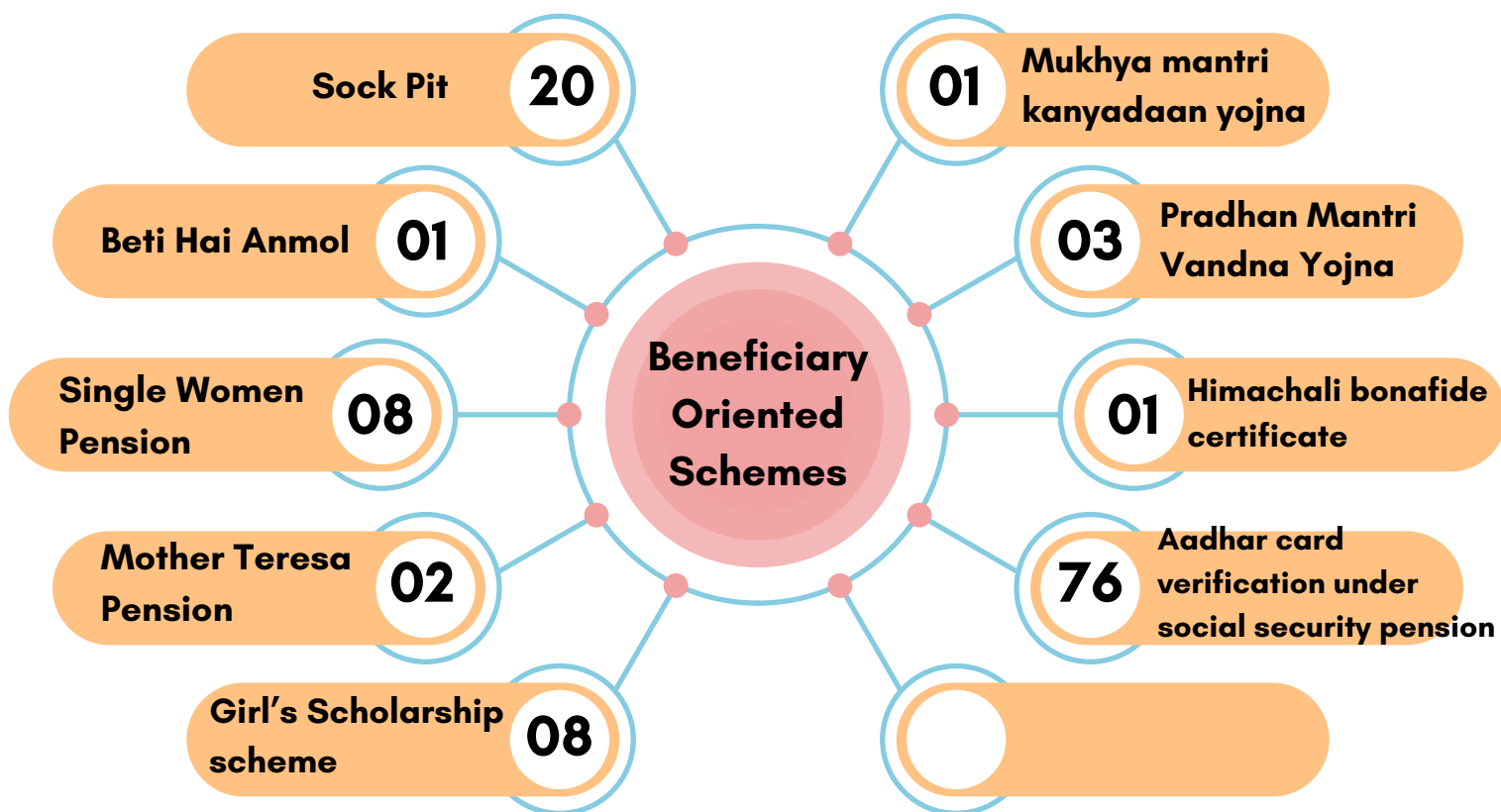




## BENEFICIARY ORIENTED SCHEMES (BOS)

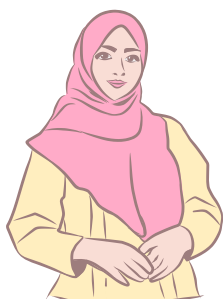
Beneficiary-oriented schemes (BOS) play a crucial role in providing support and assistance to marginalized community members. However, one of the significant challenges faced is the lack of knowledge and awareness among the intended beneficiaries, resulting in the schemes not reaching those who truly need them. Recognizing this gap, the Junior Team (JR Team) diligently carries out regular interventions and community engagement activities to identify individuals who are eligible for these schemes. In the reporting period, the team successfully





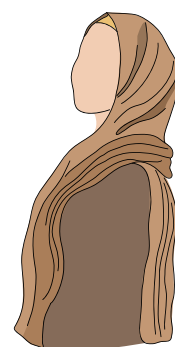


## VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY



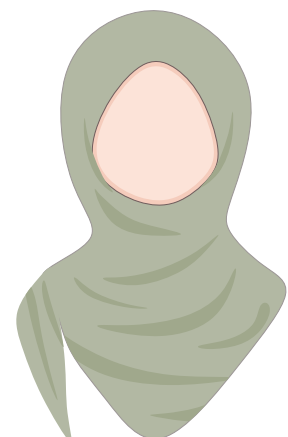
"My name is Bajida. I am very happy to be associated with the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program. Through the program, I want to convey the message that no religion is wrong; it is the people spreading hatred in the name of religion who are wrong. Therefore, we all should stop fighting in the name of religion; only then will our country progress."

"My name is Sunita Bibi, and I am from a Muslim family. There is no difference between Hindus and Muslims in our village. Whenever there is a wedding or an event in the village, our family is invited, and when there is an event in our house, the villagers come, and we all sit together and eat." There are often incidents of violence in the name of caste discrimination in our country, so through the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program, I want to say that there should be no caste discrimination, and all communities should live together."



"My name is Ajay Kumar, and I belong to the Scheduled Caste community. I am very grateful to all of you for coming to our homes and having tea with us through the program. Because even today, people do not even drink water in SC households in the name of caste discrimination."

"My name is Salma. I am from a Muslim family. Through the 'Mere Ghar Aa Ke To Dekho' program, I want to say that there should be no fighting in the name of religion in our country. Our country is a secular country, so people of all religions should live in peace and harmony. There is no discrimination in the name of religion here. But sometimes, when an incident happens in the name of religion in the country, people's perspectives change, and they find something to blame, which we don't like at all. I want people not to associate the mistake of one individual with the entire religion. I believe that no religion gives a wrong message. Governments should focus on issues like unemployment, women's safety, and increasing drug addiction, leaving aside religious issues, and people should live in harmony with each other."







## VIOLENCE RESOURCE TRAINING AND INTERVENTION CENTER



Jagori's violence intervention program is a cornerstone of its mission to combat domestic violence and support survivors. This comprehensive program includes case registration, resolution, court case management, fact-finding, and continuous follow-ups, ensuring that each case receives the attention and support it needs. Integral to this program are the Nari Adalats, or women's courts, which provide a participatory forum for addressing grievances. These courts empower women to seek equity in a supportive environment, leveraging the collective strength of the community to resolve conflicts and promote gender equality. By integrating legal awareness meetings at village, Panchayat, and cluster levels, Jagori ensures that women are informed of their agency and the resources available to them, fostering a culture of resilience and policy engagement.

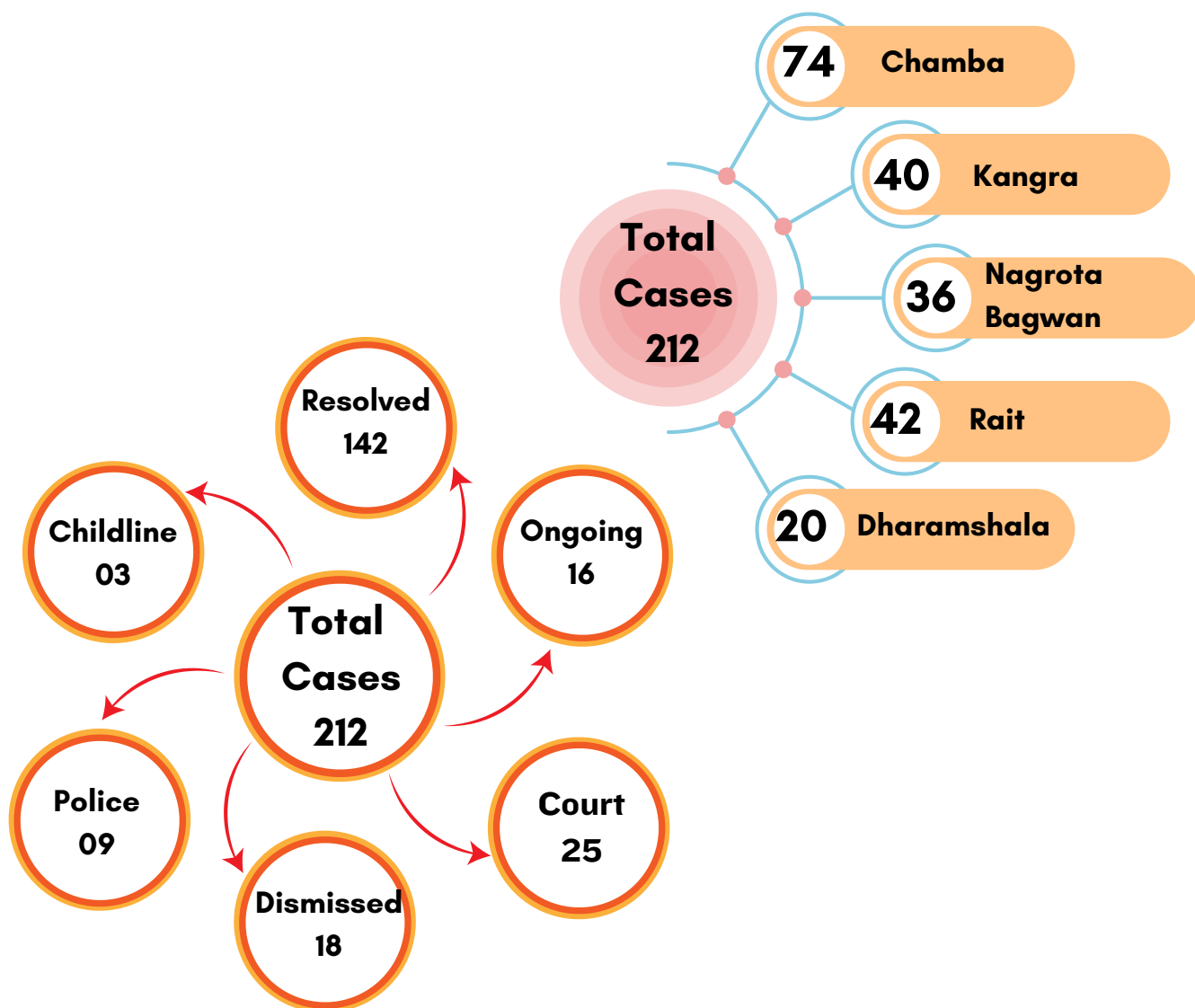
The past year has been a period of significant impact and outreach for Jagori Rural Charitable Trust. Our commitment to addressing domestic violence, empowering women, and promoting legal awareness has resulted in meaningful interventions and community engagements across multiple blocks.





## CASE MANAGEMENT

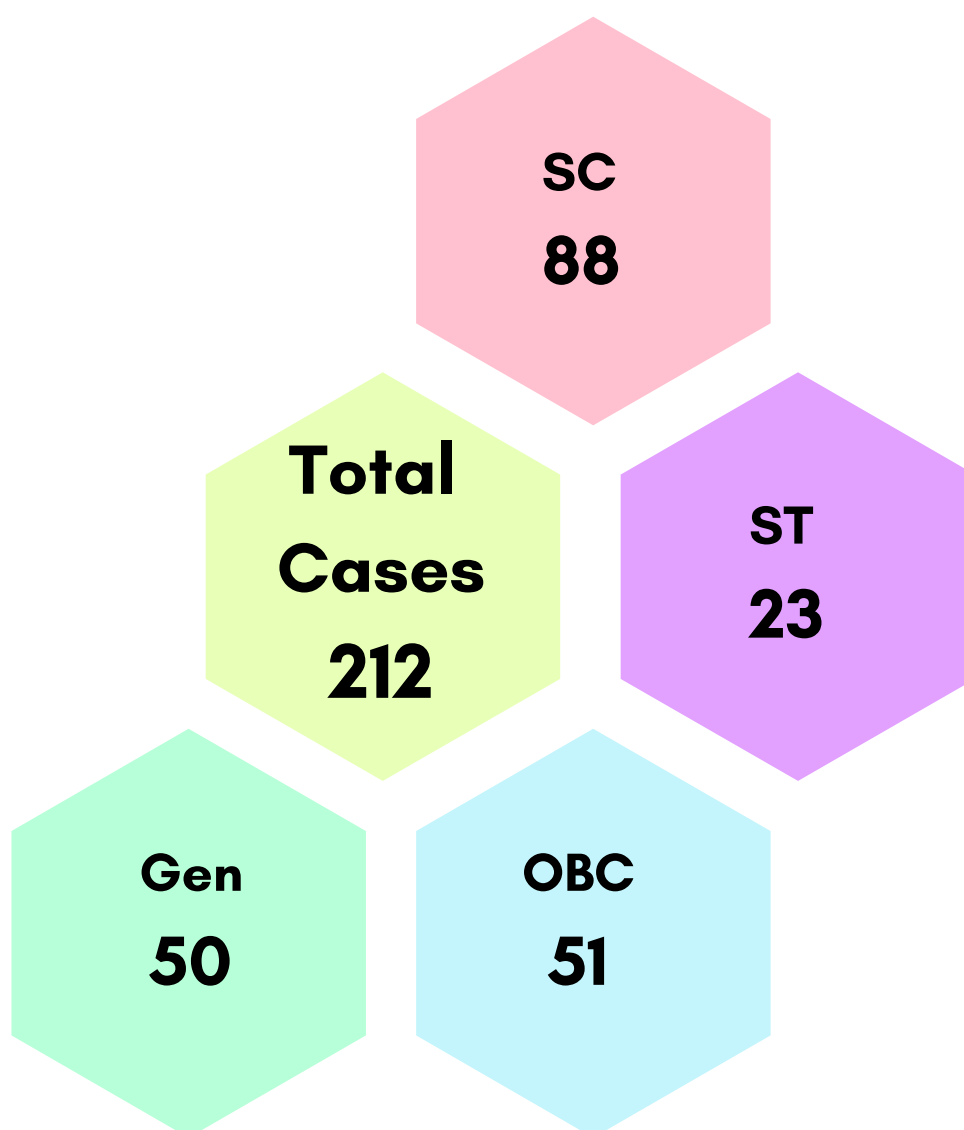
Throughout the year, Jagori handled a total of 212 cases. The distribution of these cases across different blocks highlights the pervasive nature of domestic violence and the varied needs of our communities. We successfully resolved 142 cases, indicating a robust support system and effective intervention strategies. The high resolution rate underscores our commitment to providing timely and effective assistance to survivors.





## DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Understanding the social backgrounds of our cases is vital for tailoring our interventions





## SUBJECT MATTER OF CASES

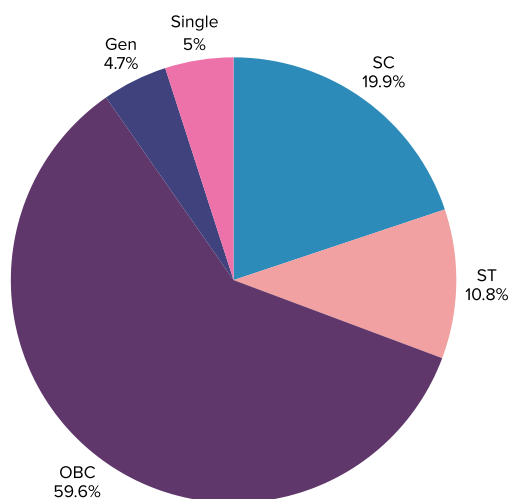
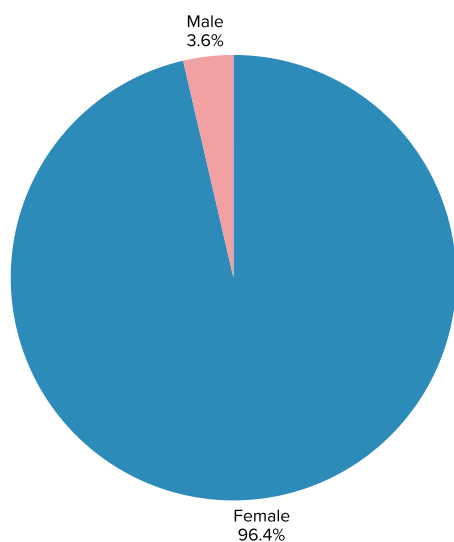
The nature of the cases we handled provides insight into the prevalent issues within our communities. The overwhelming majority of cases (162) were related to domestic violence, underscoring the urgent need for continued policy engagement and support in this area.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MEETINGS

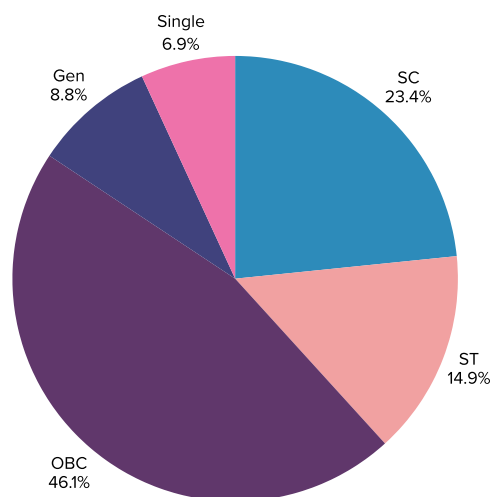
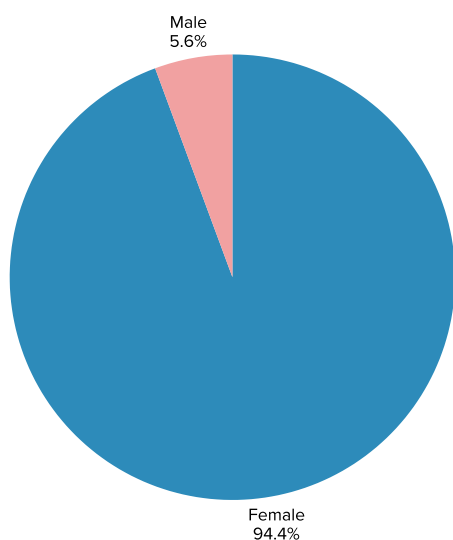
Our community outreach efforts through meetings and awareness programs are pivotal in preventing violence and empowering individuals



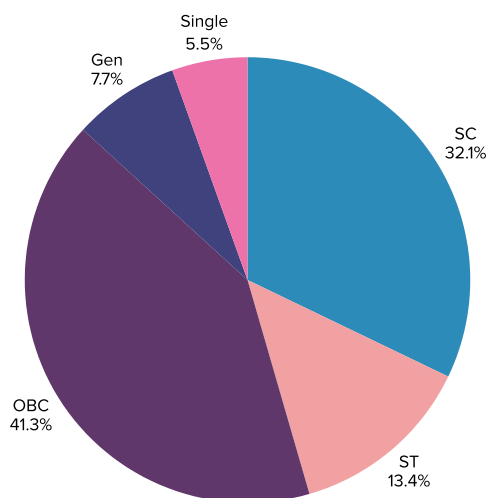
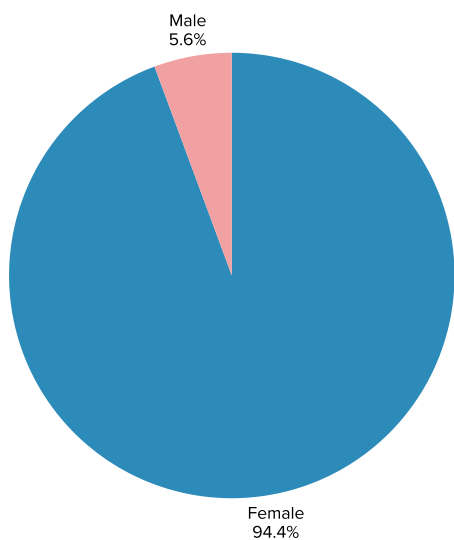
**Total Participants - 441**

**29**

## Panchayat Level Meetings

**Total Participants - 975****91**

## Village/community level

**Total Participants - 1951**





## COMMUNITY INTERVENTION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT



Jagori has been actively promoting organic farming in collaboration with local farmers through its community intervention program for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. Currently, Jagori works with 79 farmer groups, comprising 1,583 farmers across 40 Panchayats in 4 blocks of Kangra and Chamba districts. The program aims to enhance organic farming practices, improve soil and human health, and engage in environmental protection.

To achieve these goals, Jagori organizes regular meetings with farmers, Panchayats, and clusters, along with demonstrations, workshops, and exposure visits. These gatherings provide farmers with valuable information on soil health improvement, innovative organic farming methods, Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF), mushroom cultivation, medicinal plants, organic fertilizers, and eco-friendly pest control solutions. Emphasis is placed on adopting indigenous seeds, and millet (Shri-An) seeds have been distributed to reintroduce nutritious foods into the local diet. Additionally, Jagori is in the process of forming Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO/FPC) to help farmers market their organically grown produce and connect with agriculture-related businesses.

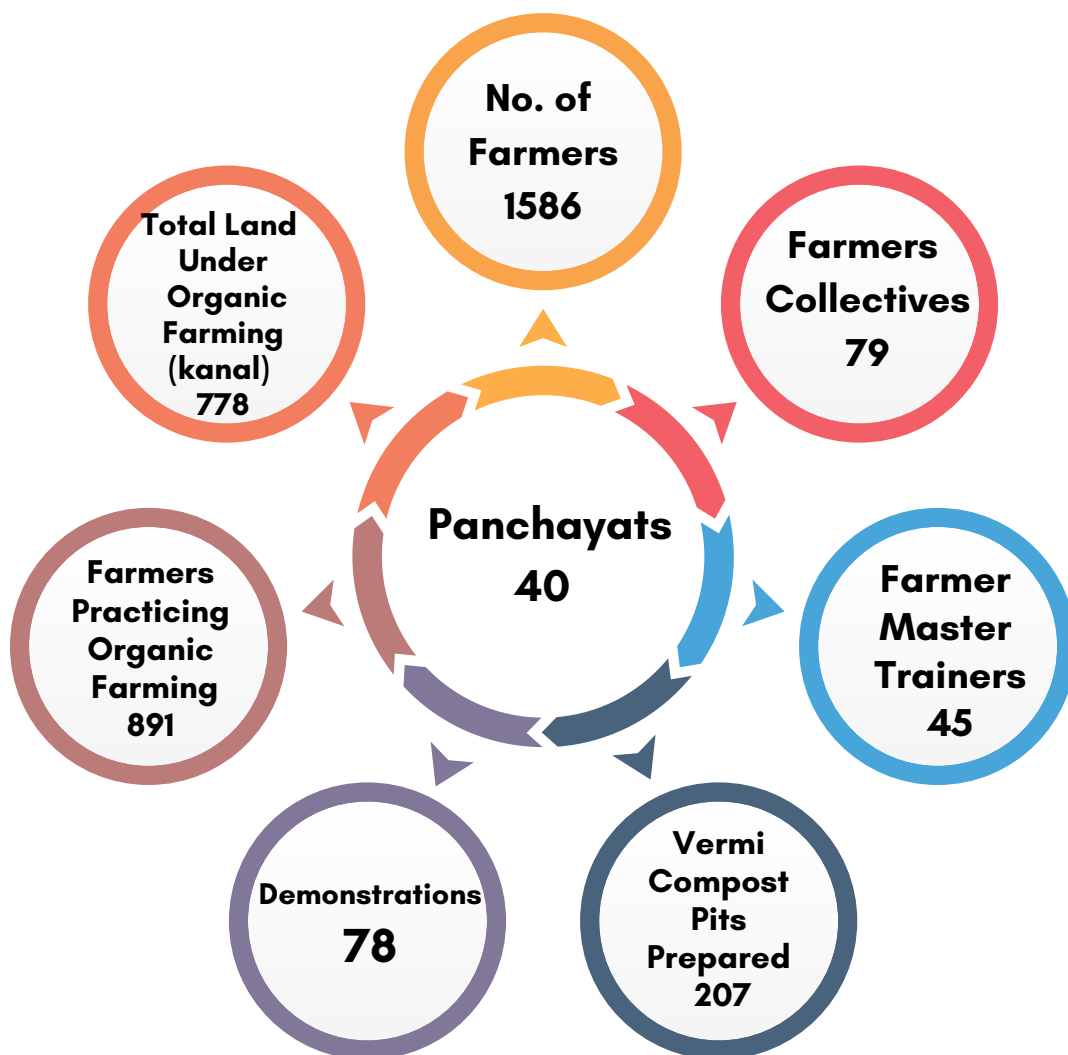
Government officials from departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, and the Agricultural Science Center (KVK) in Himachal Pradesh have actively participated as resource persons in these meetings, providing farmers with crucial information about government schemes and programs, thereby improving their access to these services.



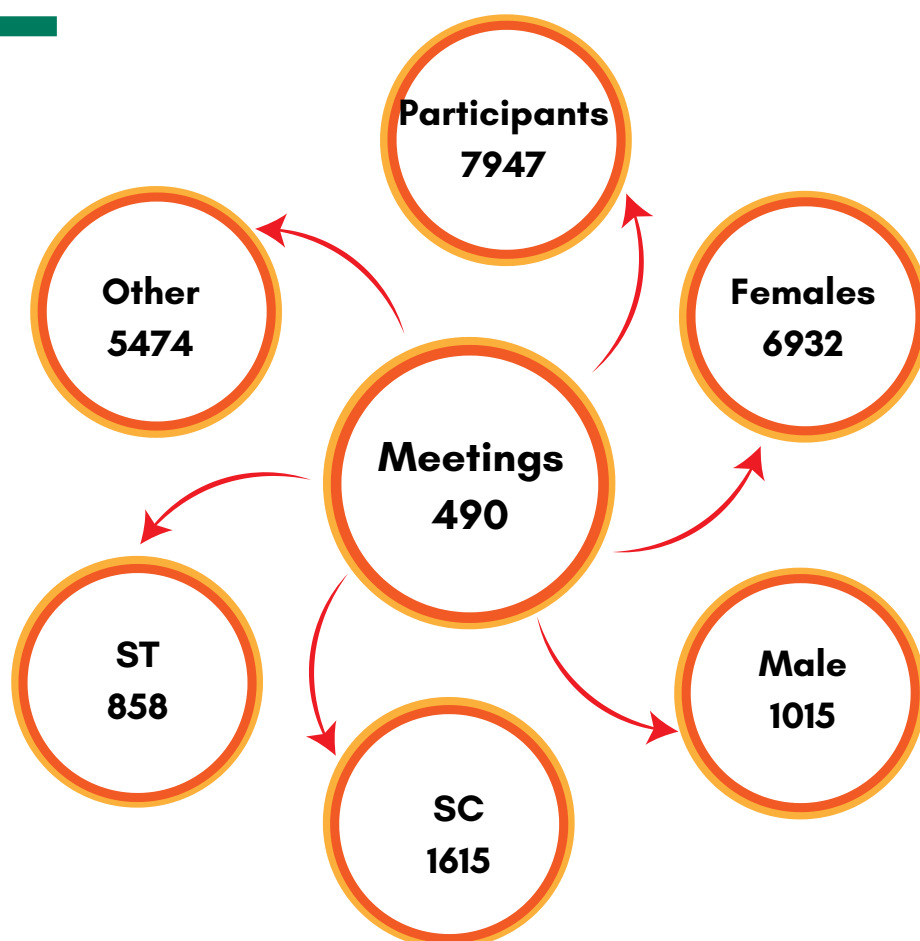
In its efforts toward environmental protection, Jagori has engaged local communities in discussions on climate change and its impacts. During the Forest Festival, community members planted trees in their fields, forests, and communal lands, taking responsibility for their care, thus fostering a collective commitment to environmental conservation.





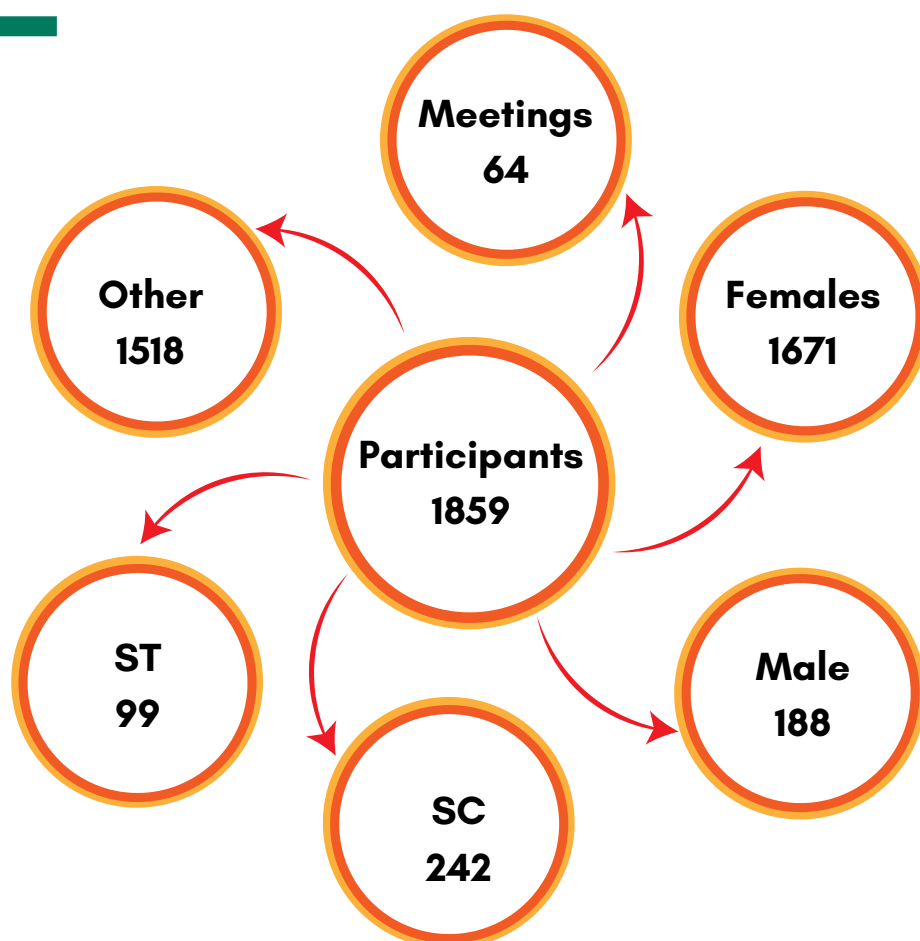


## FARMER’S MONTHLY MEETINGS



A total of 490 meetings were organized with farmer groups, focusing on zero-budget natural farming, soil health, the adoption of indigenous seeds, seed treatment, organic fertilizers, and pest control solutions. As a result, 863 farmers gained practical knowledge in seed treatment, organic fertilizers, and pest control techniques through hands-on demonstrations. The Agriculture Department of Himachal Pradesh supported 375 farmers by providing them with 485 packets of seasonal vegetable seeds. Notably, seven farmers achieved an economic benefit of ₹2.5 lakh by producing peas through organic farming. Additionally, ten farmers have initiated beekeeping, and in Tissa block of Chamba district, 100 farmers have transitioned to using organic fertilizers instead of chemical alternatives in their fields.

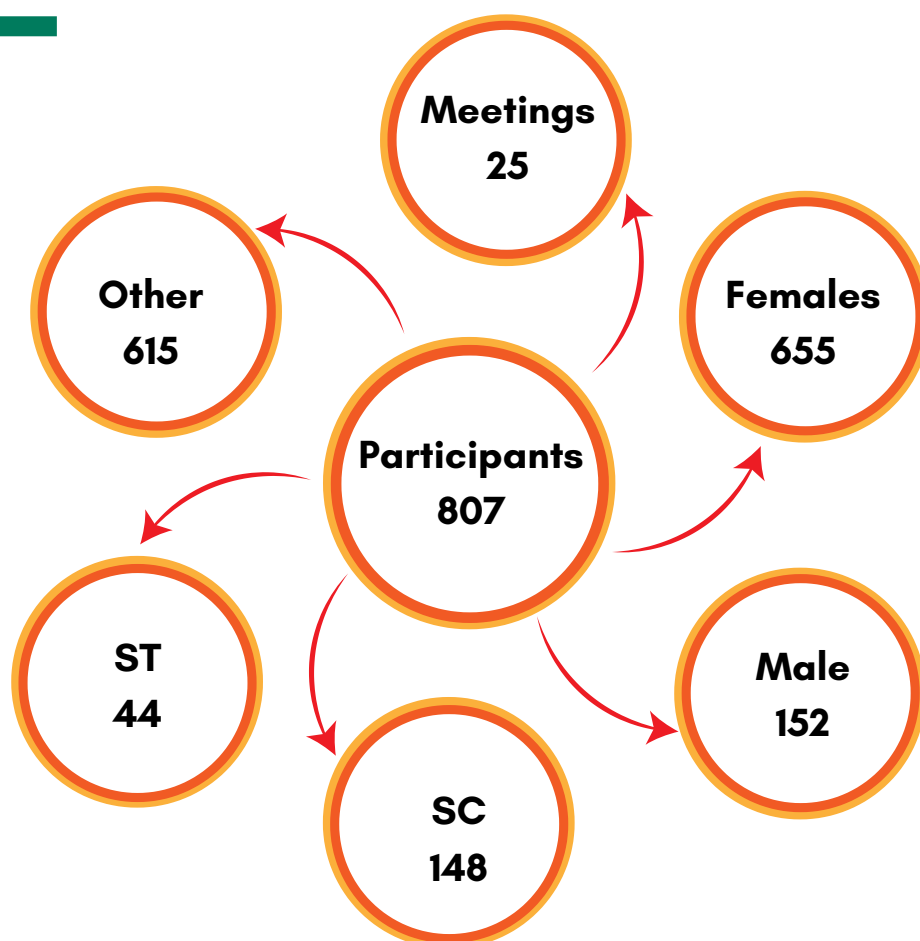
## FARMER’S PANCHAYAT LEVEL MEETINGS



64 panchayat-level meetings were organized, focusing on soil fertility enhancement, herbal products, tree planting during the Forest Festival, and raising awareness about government schemes and millet. Through these efforts, 234 participants learned effective methods to improve soil fertility. Five farmers received 15 agricultural tools from the Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Department. Additionally, 52 farmers were educated on the cultivation and production of herbal plants, leading to 20 farmers planting 1,500 chamomile plants for domestic use. During the Forest Festival, 714 farmers planted 4,731 fruit trees on their private land. Furthermore, using organic methods, 904 farmers successfully produced 2,756 bags of button mushrooms, while 215 farmers cultivated 385 bags of oyster mushrooms.



## FARMER’S CLUSTER LEVEL MEETINGS



25 cluster-level meetings were organized, featuring officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, and Agricultural Science Center (KVK) departments as resource persons. These officials provided valuable information on government schemes and organic farming methods. In celebration of the International Millet Year 2023, information about the benefits and production of millet was shared with farmers, leading to 118 farmers cultivating millet for the first time. With the support of the Agriculture Department, farmers received drums for preparing organic solutions, and 77 farmers were provided with 280 packets of seasonal vegetable seeds. Through KVK Kangra, 25 farmers received 50 neem plants. Additionally, the Sericulture Department educated 142 farmers on sericulture, and 19 farmers engaged in sericulture received



financial support from the department for building new homes. Farmer Veena Devi was awarded ₹50,000 by the Agriculture Department to create a resource inventory for organic farming.

On June 5, World Environment Day, 675 people were educated on environmental conservation and plastic waste management. The community came together to plant 10,579 trees across four development blocks. During the Kishori Utsav, 170 adolescent girls were informed about organic farming. Through workshops, 53 farmers learned organic farming techniques and motivated others to adopt these practices. Furthermore, 40 farmers were educated on organic farming methods and the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO/FPC) to connect with markets and sell their organic products.





## FOREST FESTIVAL (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023)

Jagori Grameen celebrated the Forest Festival by organizing cleanliness and plantation drives across four blocks—Kangra, Rait, Nagrota Bagwan, and Chamba—in collaboration with the Forest Department, Panchayat representatives, the Sericulture Department, and the Horticulture Department. During this program, 10,579 saplings were planted on both forest and private lands associated with JRCT. This included the planting of 6,846 herbal plants and 2,583 fruit plants.

In the lead-up to the festival, the JRCT team motivated community members to engage in environmental conservation through plantation and cleanliness drives. They encouraged people to plant trees on their personal land and educated them on the critical role trees play in reducing global warming and maintaining ecological balance. Trees provide oxygen, reduce stormwater runoff, prevent erosion, minimize pollution in waterways, and support wildlife by offering food, protection, and habitats.

Following this awareness initiative, community members started plantation and cleanliness drives. JRCT organized 47 plantation drives from July to September 2023 across the four blocks. With the support of the Forest Department, seven types of herbal plants were planted, including harad, bheda, amla, reetha, arjun, and timber plants like deodar cedar, sheesham, and tahli. Fruit plants such as guava, mango, orange, lemon, and pomegranate were also planted, sourced from the Horticulture Department with JRCT's assistance. In the Rait block, 800 mulberry plants





were planted with the help of the Sericulture Department. Additionally, three herbal gardens featuring basil and Indian snakeroot were established in Kangra, Rait, and Nagrota Bagwan, with a total of 1,150 herbal plants planted on the personal land of individuals associated with JRCT.





## WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND CLAIMING OF HEALTH ENTITLEMENTS



Our primary endeavor within the project has been the initiation of community-based health awareness initiatives, aimed at fostering robust community engagement and empowerment, particularly in the realm of women's health and well-being. A significant stride has been the gradual formation of women's collectives, which are now progressing towards establishing a federation. This endeavor seeks to enhance the capacity of public institutions by instilling a gender-sensitive perspective concerning women's health, violence prevention, and policy engagement. Additionally, it aims to imbue these institutions with a sense of responsibility towards addressing community needs and demands.

Under this project, we strategically selected 15 Village Councils (Panchayats) across Kangra and Chamba districts to spearhead the various project components. Initially, engaging with these new Panchayats posed challenges, primarily due to prevalent resistance, particularly among male community members, towards the concept of gender equality. Consequently, we adapted our strategies to sensitize Panchayat representatives, fostering a feminist perspective within the Panchayat system. This involved equipping them with knowledge and understanding of the significance and advantages of gender equality, particularly in the context of health rights and entitlements within the Panchayat framework.





## MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the reporting period, a series of community engagements were organized to facilitate meaningful dialogues and collaborations aimed at addressing diverse health-related issues within the community. These engagements, spanning across various demographic groups including adolescent girls, their mothers, and women, served as crucial platforms for sharing information, exchanging ideas, and collectively strategizing to tackle prevalent health challenges.

Meetings with these community members were conducted with the intention of fostering a participatory approach, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all stakeholders were heard and valued. These gatherings provided a space for open discussions, where individuals could express their concerns, share experiences, and contribute insights towards devising effective health interventions tailored to the specific needs of the community.

Furthermore, these interactions served as valuable opportunities for capacity-building, where community members were empowered with knowledge and skills necessary to take charge of their own health and well-being. Workshops, training sessions, and awareness programs were organized to impart essential information on topics ranging from reproductive health to disease prevention and nutrition.

Moreover, these community engagements not only facilitated the dissemination of information but also fostered a sense of solidarity and collective responsibility towards improving health outcomes. Through collaborative efforts and mutual support, community members were encouraged to actively participate in health-promoting activities, thereby strengthening the overall resilience and well-being of the community.

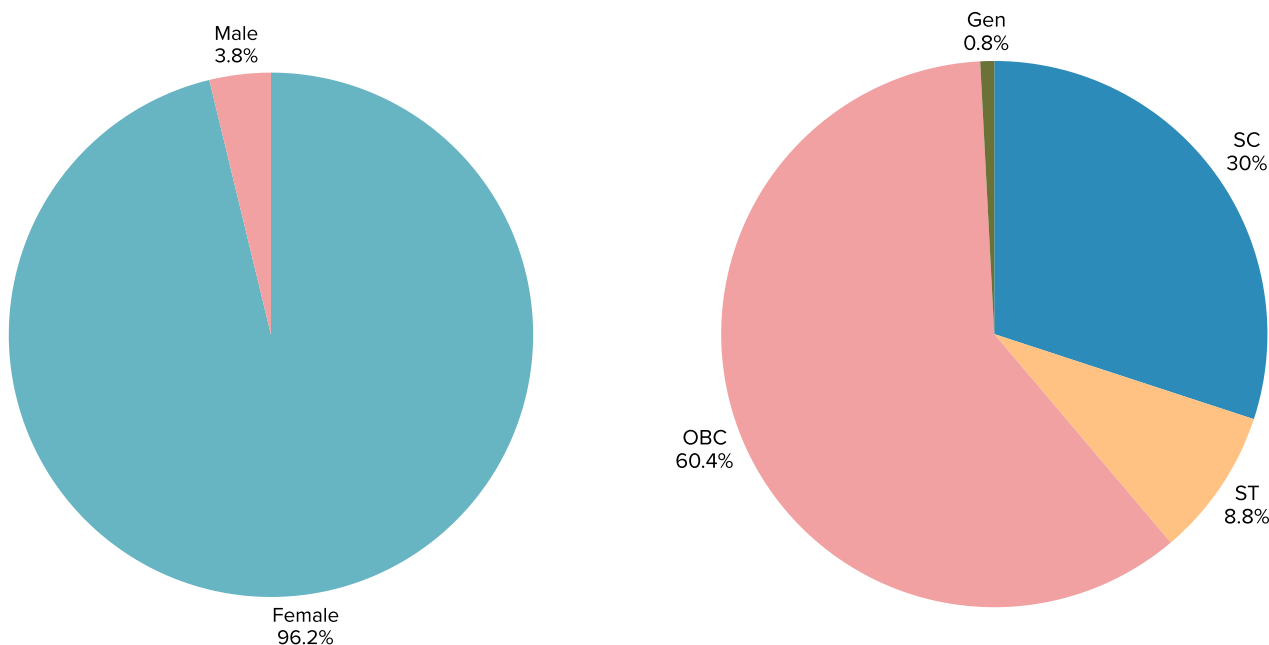


## MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

In essence, these community engagements served as catalysts for positive change, igniting a sense of empowerment and agency among individuals to take proactive steps towards enhancing their health and quality of life. Through ongoing dialogue and collaboration, we aspire to continue nurturing a culture of health consciousness and community participation, ultimately striving towards the collective goal of achieving improved health outcomes for all.

**203**

### Regular Meetings

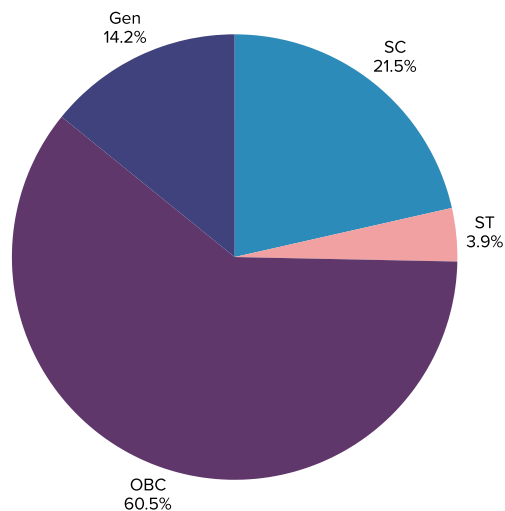
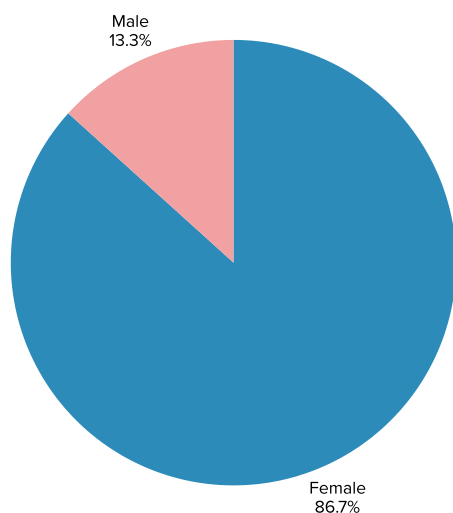


**Total Participants**  
**3279**



**14**

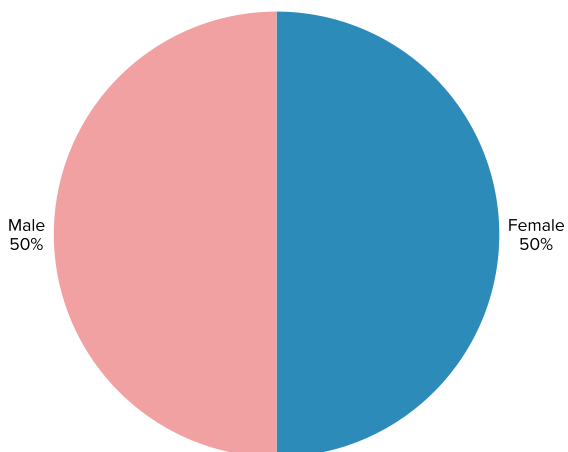
**VHSNC Meetings**



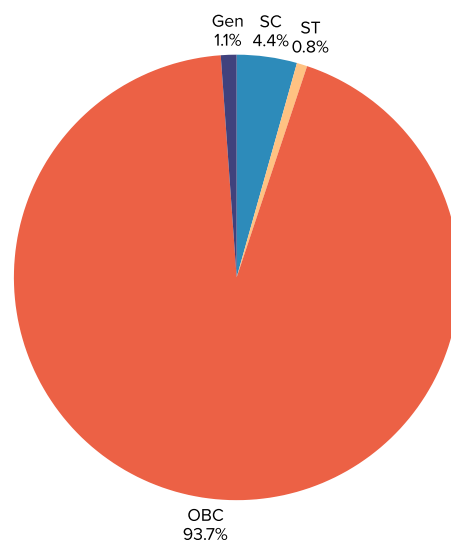
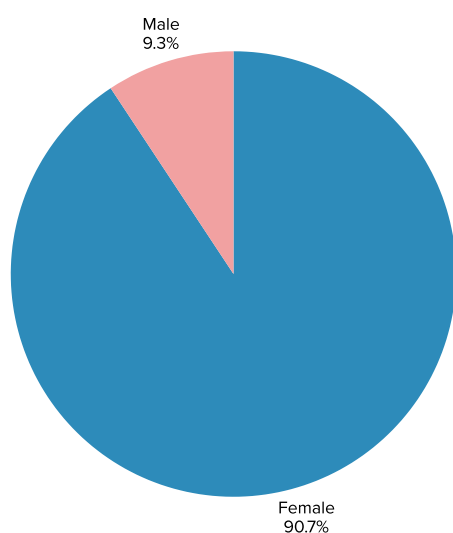
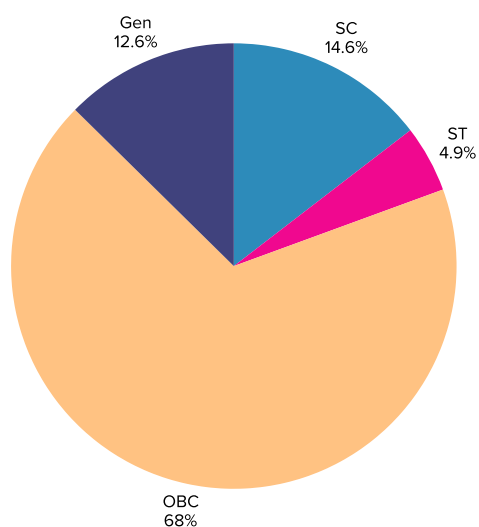
**Total Participants - 233**

**01**

**Newly weds session**



**Total Participants - 24**

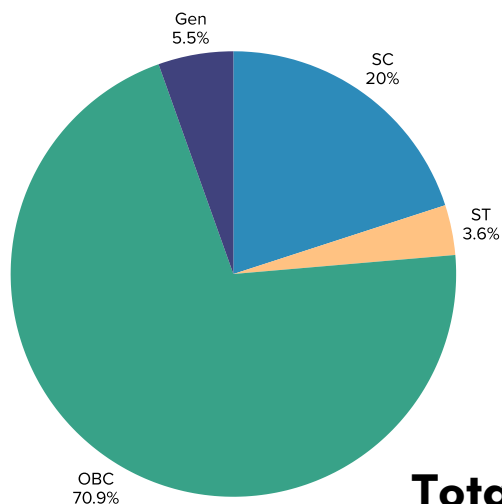
**14****Cluster level meetings****Total Participants - 527****03****AWWs workshop****Total Participants - 103**





02

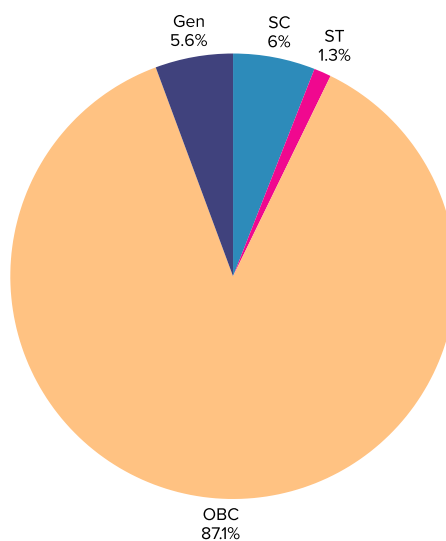
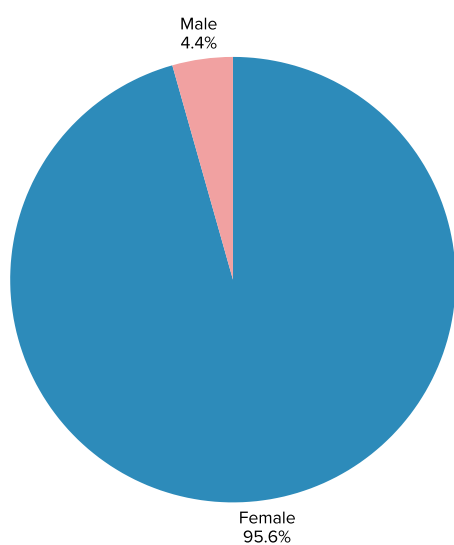
## ASHA worker workshop



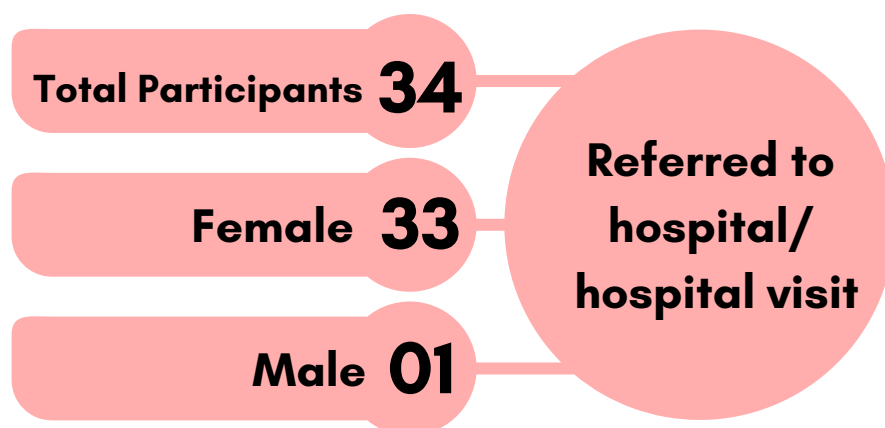
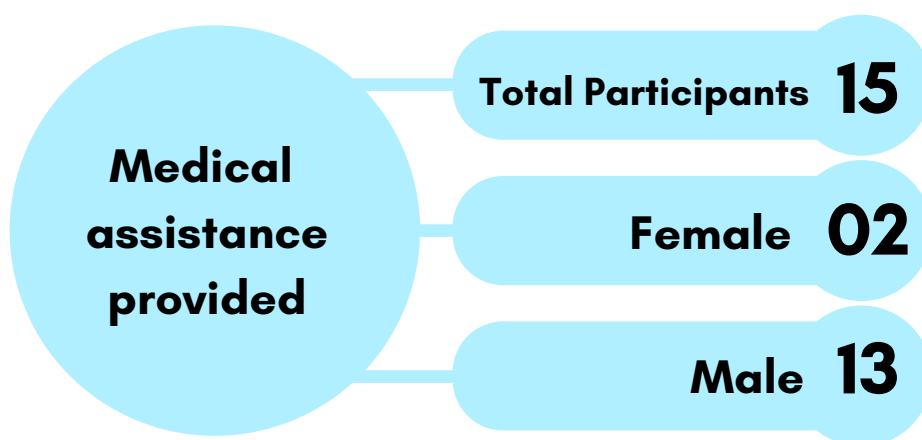
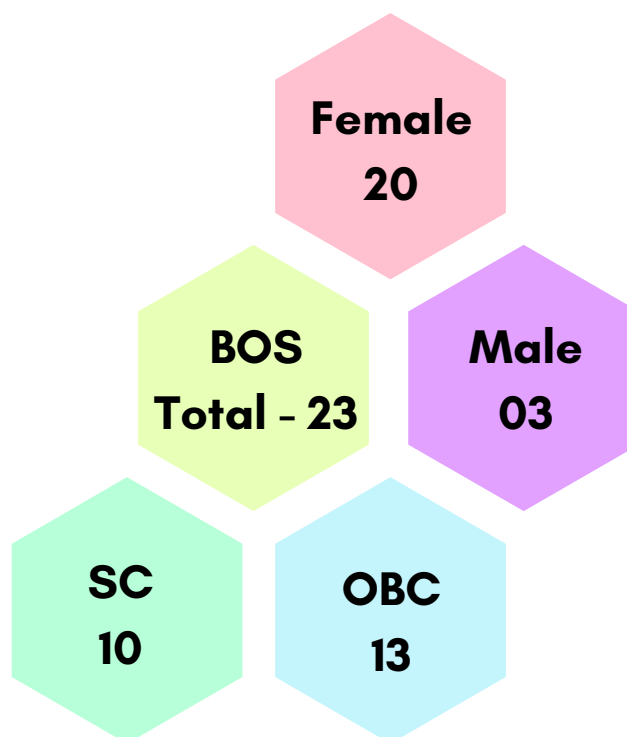
**Total Participants - 55**

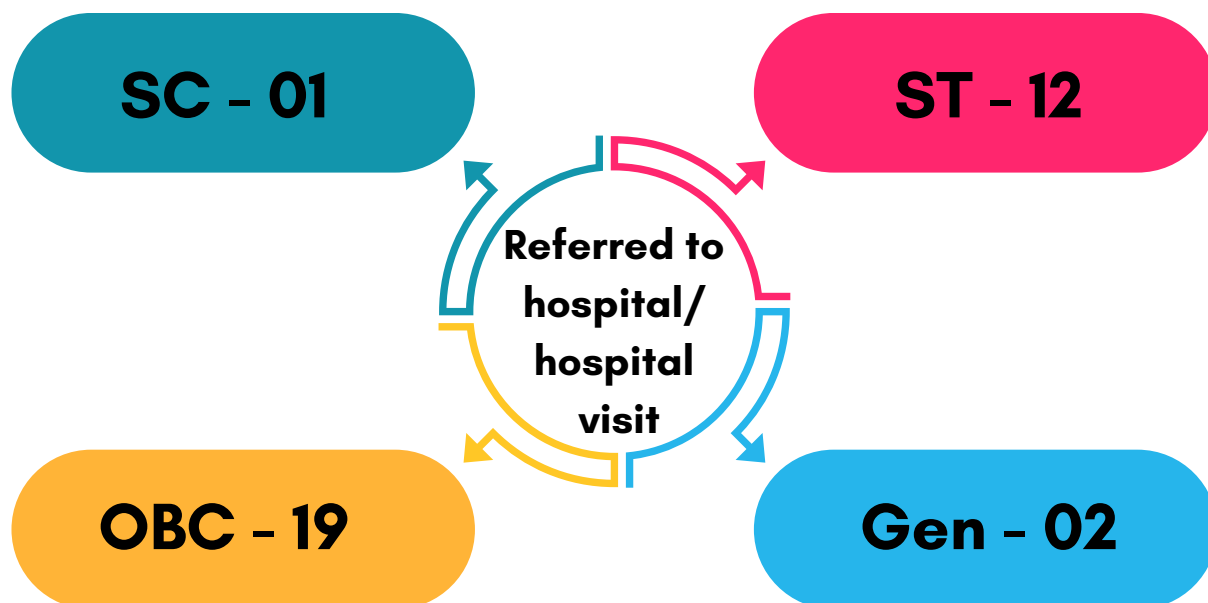
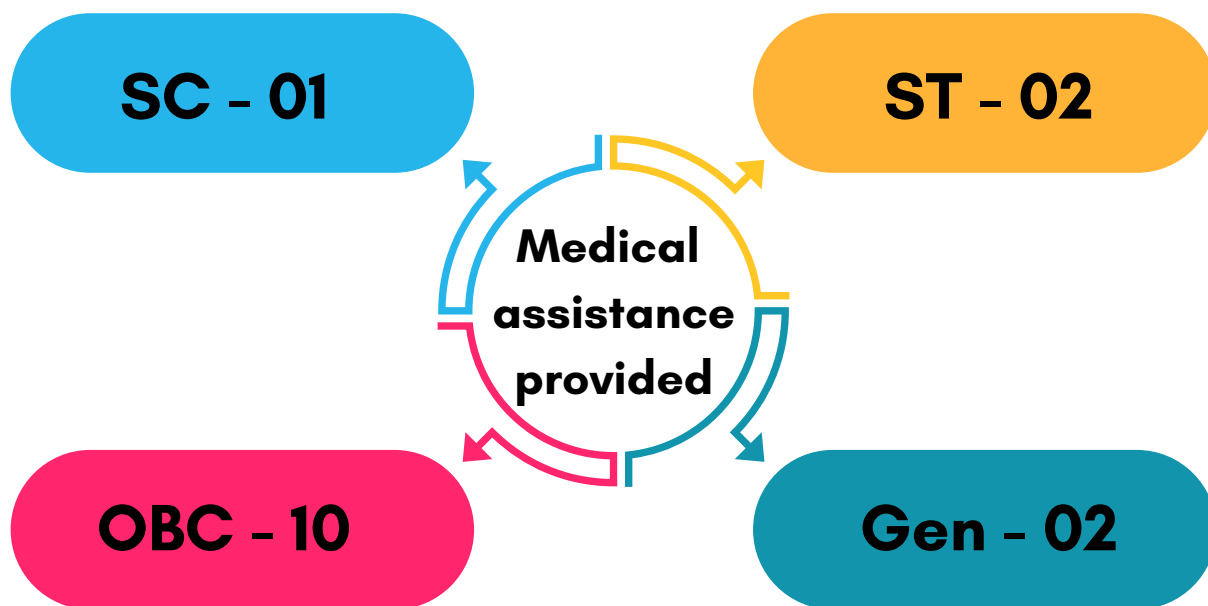
10

## Health Camps



**Total Participants - 319**





**Midwives session - 01**  
**Total Participants - 24**



Throughout our sessions, a diverse array of topics were explored to address the needs of our community members. In addressing minor ailments, 40% individuals saw significant improvement through the provision of home remedies and tailored advice. Notably, many of these community members encounter challenges accessing healthcare facilities due to distance and associated costs. By offering accessible solutions, we alleviate the burden of medical expenses and long journeys, thereby promoting well-being within the community.

For more serious cases involving physical illnesses, 34 patients were promptly referred to hospitals for specialized treatment. Understanding the necessity of comprehensive medical care, diligent follow-ups were conducted to ensure these patients received the necessary attention and care from healthcare professionals. Provided financial medical assistance to 15 patients suffering from paralysis, kidney failures, etc.





## HEALTH CAMPS

In the past year, our commitment to the well-being of marginalized communities has been unwavering. Through our dedicated health camps, we have strived to make a meaningful impact by providing essential medical services, informative sessions, and access to herbal medicines.

These health camps served as a beacon of hope, offering much-needed medical consultations and distributing vital medications to those in need.

Moreover, we prioritized education, conducting informative sessions to empower community members with knowledge about preventive healthcare and the benefits of herbal medicines. By fostering understanding and awareness, we aimed to promote long-term health and wellness within these underserved populations.

As we reflect on the outcomes of these health camps, we are inspired by the resilience and gratitude of the individuals we had the privilege to serve. Their stories reinforce our commitment to continue expanding our outreach and enhancing the quality of healthcare accessible to all.







## VILLAGE HEALTH SANITATION AND NUTRITION COMMITTEE

The health project's intervention focused on strengthening the Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC) by delineating their roles and responsibilities in health planning and monitoring endeavors. Through three targeted awareness sessions, Total 14 meetings were held where 233 VHNSC members were enlightened about the pivotal role they play in driving community health initiatives. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of their active involvement in delivering healthcare services at the grassroots level.

## EXPLORING HERBAL GARDENS: CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION

Throughout the year, we have embarked on a journey of discovery through our herbal garden exposure visits. These visits were designed to deepen our understanding of herbal and medicinal plants, fostering a greater appreciation for their therapeutic potential and ecological significance.

Participants had the invaluable opportunity to witness firsthand the diversity of plant species, learn about their unique properties, and understand their traditional and modern applications in healthcare. These visits not only enriched our knowledge but also inspired us to explore sustainable practices in cultivating and utilizing herbal resources.

As we reflect on these enriching experiences, we are grateful for the partnerships that have made these visits possible and for the enthusiasm shown by participants in embracing herbal wisdom. Moving forward, we remain committed to promoting the conservation and utilization of herbal plants for the benefit of our community's health and well-being.



## SESSIONS WITH NEWLY WEDS

Over the past year, we have had the privilege of conducting sessions with newlyweds focused on relationship building, reproductive health, and effective communication. These sessions aimed to provide essential guidance and support during this transformative phase of life.

We emphasized the importance of building strong, nurturing relationships through open communication and mutual understanding. Topics such as conflict resolution, family planning, and reproductive health were explored to empower couples with knowledge and confidence.

The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from attendees underscored the relevance and impact of these sessions.





## WORKSHOP AND SESSIONS

Throughout the reporting period, a series of workshops and training sessions were conducted, targeting Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). These sessions were meticulously designed with a dual focus: firstly, to integrate gender mainstreaming principles into their roles, and secondly, to enhance their expertise within their respective domains. By empowering ASHA and AWWs with advanced knowledge and skills, we aim to catalyze positive change at the grassroots level, promoting holistic community development and gender equity.

| <b>Sr. No.</b> | <b>Theme of the workshop</b>                    | <b>ASHA AWW</b> | <b>Total Participants</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1              | Gender inequality, equality, patriarchy and VAW | AWWs            | 45                        |
| 2              | Reproductive health                             | AWWs            | 30                        |
| 3              | Mental health                                   | ASHA            | 27                        |
| 4              | Gender sensitisation, VAW and types of violence | AWWs            | 28                        |





## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this annual report, we reflect on the journey of our health program over the past year with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. Through unwavering dedication and collaborative efforts, we have made significant strides in advancing healthcare accessibility, promoting wellness, and fostering community empowerment.

Our achievements stand as a testament to the commitment of our team, the resilience of the communities we serve, and the invaluable support of our stakeholders and partners. From implementing innovative interventions to addressing emerging health challenges, we have remained steadfast in our pursuit of improving the lives of individuals and families.





## AWARE GIRLS ACTION FOR JUSTICE (AGAJ)

Aware Girls Action for Justice (AGAJ) is a holistic initiative that aims to increase gender awareness and build adolescent girls to be confident and self-aware, as well as develop them into responsible human citizens aware of their rights and entitlements. In the last year (2023-24), the AGAJ program gained momentum and intensified its intervention in 110 villages of the Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh. The program completed its final phase in the past year, and the workshops and meetings held were focused on inspiring young leaders to initiate purposeful activities and actions in their communities.

Over the past year, workshops were organized on the Constitution of India, leadership, intersectionality, creative communication and public speaking, and gender and storytelling. Several cluster and networking meetings were also held.







## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

411 meetings were conducted with new and old collectives of seven blocks of Kangra and Chamba district, with a total of 3,000 adolescent girls.

### Main themes covered during the meetings

- Gender Inequality & Discrimination
- Fundamental Rights and leadership at the grassroots level
- Health & Nutrition
- Menstrual Awareness & Breaking Stereotypes
- Legal Awareness – Cyber Crime, violence against women & children, RTI and POCSO etc.

## ENGAGING YOUNG BOYS

After facing challenges and persistent efforts with young boys, we began to achieve success as boys started joining us and attending regular meetings. This was made possible through the successful efforts of peer leaders in the villages, who formed groups of boys and helped us conduct meetings with them. In total, 421 Boys participated in 22 meetings. During these meetings, the adolescents gained an understanding of topics such as gender, masculinity, cybercrime, ill effects of social media, the harmful effects of substance abuse, consent, Healthy and unhealthy relationships, the RTI Act, and the POCSO Act.



## EXPOSURE VISITS

To enhance the basic knowledge of AGs and break the gender-based practice of avoiding male-dominated government systems, we initiated a program where adolescent girls (AGs) visit police stations, newspaper press offices, and village-level enterprises (women's collectives making eco-friendly products from pine cones and bamboo).

In the past year, 6 exposure visits were conducted, with 138 AGs participating from the Rait, Kangra, and Nagrota blocks. In the Rait block, 18 peer leaders visited a Muslim community for the first time, where they celebrated Eid with 60 community members.

Additionally, a total of 8 peer leaders from different blocks traveled outside Himachal to enhance their skills and gain new knowledge. 5 of them visited Bhopal, while the other 3 went to Bengaluru. Both of these trips were facilitated by Azim Premji University.





## KISHORI PANCHAYAT MEETINGS

Kishori Panchayat was conducted to enhance peerleader's understanding on panchayat structure, also to engage them into the local governance system to empower & increase the number of female presence into the panchayat premises.

This year 2023 We have two kishori panchayats set up in Nagrota block of District Kangra & in Chamba. Here peer leaders share their local village level issues like transportation issues, road safety, social library etc. Also they have done a village level survey in their village and gathered information like- how many old people didn't receive govt schemes, they made a list of Aged who did not receive educational schemes & scholarships, prepared a total count on people who are suffering from health issues etc. After collecting all the data they prepared a report & organized a meeting with sarpanch, where they discussed different topics and sought attention of the local governance to resolve these issues.

### Achievement:

1. Panchayat has given a separate room for forming an open library for the adolescents in the village after the kishori panchayat's application.
2. They were invited to participate in the Gram Sabha meeting by the Panchayat.
3. Panchayat has involved kishori panchayat members on different occasion's like- Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti etc.







## ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS

In the this year (2023), 27 School & 2 College sessions were conducted in Kangra & Chamba districts; a total of 2483 students attended these sessions. The main aim is to sensitize adolescents about the ongoing physical, behavioral & mental changes they go through during adolescence, the understanding on sex and gender, sexuality, POCSO, cyber security & other social causes.

It has been noticed that school & college sessions are successful mediums of creating awareness on different topics with a large number of AGs together under one roof. Through these sessions we also reach out to the individuals indirectly who are not able to join our collectives or participate in our regular meetings.







## RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOPS

Residential workshops provide an immersive learning experience, often spanning multiple days, where participants share a safe space. These workshops aim to enhance AGs leadership qualities, facilitate in depth learning, skill-development and networking within a focused and concentrated environment.

This year (2023) a total 6 residential workshops for 22 Days were conducted with a total of 178 participants in District Kangra and Chamba on different themes such as:

- Intersectionality and Leadership (29 Participants)
- Gender, Sexuality, relationship, consent, leadership and self-defense training (22 Participants)
- Leadership and constitution of india (26 Participants)
- Advance Gender, Sexuality, relationship, consent, leadership and self-defense training (22 Participants)
- Creative, Communication and public speaking (33 Participants)
- Gender & storytelling (46 Participants)





## SPORTS TRAINING & TOURNAMENTS

100 AGs participated in 9 days of football training across three blocks Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra and Rait in Kangra district. This initiative promoted physical and mental fitness while challenging gender stereotypes associated with sports. A one-day sports tournament was also organized for 43 AGs in Kangra district, fostering inclusivity and encouraging girls' participation in sports.

The objective of organizing sports tournaments for AGs concerning gender is to promote gender equality, empower girls through sports participation, break stereotypes, and provide them with equal opportunity to engage, compete and excel in sports. These tournaments aim to foster inclusivity and encourage girls to pursue their interests in sports without discrimination.







## MAA-BETI MELA (MOTHER DAUGHTER FAIR)

This activity was specially formed to strengthen the bond between mother & daughter to create a safe space where daughters can share their thoughts & issues freely with their mother as friends. Here they also share ideas & practices with other people where the mothers also received a platform to present themselves. The ideology behind this activity is to provide a shared platform to the mothers & daughters which they don't get generally.

During these events they also install small conceptual stalls where we discuss with both the age groups on sensitive topics like, gender & sexuality, women's health, healthy relationships etc.

This year (2023) 3 Maa beti mela & 1 follow up were conducted in District Kangra in which total 202 daughters & 95 mothers participated.





## KISHORI UTSAV

Kishori utsav provides a space where fun & learning go hand in hand. Ags are given a stage to show their talents in singing, dancing, debating & acting etc. at the same time they have the opportunity to learn about different issues concerning them such as- reproductive & sexual health, nutrition & gender discrimination. In this way Kishori utsav not only makes it possible for the Ag to socialize & develop peer networks but it also enhances their self-esteem.

In 2023 there were 2 Kishori utsav were conducted in District kangra where 395 Ags & peer leaders along with villagers participated.

### Achievements:-

1. Entire activity was managed & coordinated by the Peer leaders by the back support of AGAJ team members. From anchoring the event to taking care of setting up stalls & conducting different activities they came forward to take the initiative by themselves.
2. By this event peer leaders' capacity of leadership & accountability was enhanced.







## HEALTH CAMPS

These camps were aimed at checking the BMI of the AGs for a better monitoring & evaluation of health indicators, to check their hb levels & identify cases of anemia & provide them enough information to cure it & aware them about its preventions. These camps also provide information on nutrition & healthy eating habits of adolescents.

These camps were conducted under Kangra and Chamba districts, where 256 AGs, 14 boys total participants attended the 5 health camps.

In the district Kangra one major health camp was organized in collaboration with APEX hospital. This health camp includes routine eye checkup, HB level and physiotherapy.





## EMPOWERING ANGANWADI WORKERS

**Meetings:** 354 Anganwadi workers participated in meetings to enhance their skills and knowledge. These sessions focused on gender sensitization, patriarchy, health, nutrition, child care, and early education, empowering them to better support girls in their communities.

**Workshops:** Total 5 residential workshops were conducted for 139 Anganwadi workers in Dharamshala block (Kangra district) and Mehla block (Chamba district). These in-depth workshops covered themes like gender, patriarchy, reproductive health, menstruation, and mental health, equipping Anganwadi workers to provide more comprehensive support to AGs.

**Follow-Up Sessions:** A follow-up session was held for Anganwadi workers to ensure the effective implementation of learnings from the workshops.





## ENDLINE & BASELINE SURVEYS

As the previous phase concluded, an endline survey was conducted with 258 girls. A new phase began in January 2024, focusing on livelihood opportunities and expanding to new areas in Kangra and Chamba. A baseline survey was conducted with 349 participants.

## OVERALL IMPACT

The AGAJ program has demonstrably empowered adolescent girls in Himachal Pradesh. Key achievements include:

- Development of leadership skills in AGs
- Increased awareness of responsibilities and social issues
- Initiatives promoting social change, such as filing a cybercrime case and using RTI
- Increased confidence to challenge social norms and advocate for themselves and their communities

## CONCLUSION

The AGAJ program's success in fostering leadership, awareness, and social action among adolescents in Himachal Pradesh is a testament to its effectiveness. The program's new phase focusing on livelihood opportunities promises to further empower AGs and contribute to a more equitable society.



## 13TH TWO WEEK COURSE

21 SEPTEMBER TO 5 OCTOBER 2023

The workshop on "Gender, Fundamental Rights, Just Governance, and Sustainable Development - Immersing into the Politics and Practice of Feminist social action," organized by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust and Jagori Sangat, brought together a diverse and dedicated group of 35 participants from India and Nepal. Their passion and commitment to gender equality, people's rights, and social equity fostered a vibrant and supportive community.

Throughout the workshop, participants explored a wide spectrum of topics, from understanding the nuances of gender to dissecting complex issues of patriarchy, intersectionality, and feminism. These sessions ignited new ideas, challenged old beliefs, and enriched participants' understanding of the world. This workshop was not just about theory; it was about action. Together, participants explored practical approaches to fostering dialogue, strengthening networks, and promoting collective action.

Heartfelt thanks go to the incredible facilitators, whose dedication and expertise made this workshop possible. They inspired and empowered everyone, and their guidance was invaluable.

While this workshop lasted 15 days, the journey toward a better world is ongoing. Let us continue to challenge norms, advocate for change, and work tirelessly towards a future where equity and sustainability prevail.









## ONE BILLION RISING

Over the course of the past decade since its inception in 2013, One Billion Rising (OBR) is a global initiative dedicated to Rise for Freedom, has undergone a significant transformation. In 2023, as the initiative reached its tenth-year milestone, OBR India organized a series of impactful events across 18 states in the country. These events attracted a substantial number of participants, often comprising thousands of women, girls, transgender people, caste-based communities, and other severely marginalized groups. Notably, numerous organizations dedicated to working with minority communities, both in remote villages and urban slums, actively collaborated in organizing these events. These risings were organised by a diverse range of NGOs and networks from various parts of India, coming together to commemorate this momentous day of collective uprising.





## SWARA MOUNTAIN ARTS FESTIVAL

The second edition of Swara Mountain Arts Festival 2023 held from 11th - 15th April at Jagori Rural truly brought together and celebrated multiple identities - those with special abilities and diverse gender identities, artists from various corners, our friends from different parts of the world, community members, women, children, youth - and thus included everyone in raising voice and rising together for Freedom. Freedom from inequality, from discrimination, from injustice and oppression of all kinds & Freedom to express and be ourselves the way we are...spreading love and humanity in the world.

Imbibing the spirit and guidance of Saint Kabir, the festival was successfully able to weave together inclusivity, intersectionality and collective action for entitlements and freedom. Through workshops on different art forms - music, theatre and creative storytelling, the participants at the festival learnt to use 'Art' for telling their own story as well as raising voice for social justice and equality. There were evening celebrations on each day of the festival and we saw a diverse range of performances including singing, dances, poetry, clowning, theatre etc by artists from in and around Dharamshala. The finale of the festival had performances by Aditi Mangaldas and Shabnam Virmani that were a perfect culmination and crescendo taking the festival's message and hope to its peak.

We are immensely grateful to each and everyone who contributed their energies and presence in adding so much meaning to the festival. Hoping that this journey continues to touch many more hearts and lives in future and the magic of 'Swara' reaches every corner in the world!



