



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust

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jagorigrameen

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 250 villages of Kangra and Chamba district. Our outreach programs cover a population of 150000 in the field area.



OVERVIEW



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.



This year (2025) marks the 23rd year of Jagori Rural's engagement with communities in the Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh. What began in 2003 as a pilot initiative with 10 young fellows across 25 villages has grown into a community-rooted organisation with a team of 65 members, primarily from the communities themselves, working across nearly 250 villages in 7 administrative blocks. Our work remains focused on partnering with marginalized communities to build a just and equitable society.

Community-based work is complex and requires sustained commitment. Progress is often gradual and accompanied by challenges, yet our long-term engagement has generated deep learning. Over the years, we have evolved a practice rooted in action, reflection, and informed action, which continues to guide our interventions and strengthen community ownership.

Guided by a strong feminist perspective, our work with adolescent girls and women has nurtured local leadership and strengthened collective voices. The establishment of seven Nari Adalats (women's courts) has contributed significantly to addressing

violence against girls, women, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities. We are also in the process of forming a federation to gradually transfer programme ownership to trained community members, supported by block-level monitoring committees.

Over the past three years, Jagori Rural has collaborated with 40 Panchayats to bridge gaps between communities and governance systems, promoting accountability and access to rights and entitlements. On behalf of the Jagori Rural team (Jagori Grameen), we sincerely thank you for your continued trust and support. We warmly invite you to visit our organic campus in the lap of the Dhauladhar Himalayan mountains and share in our journey toward peace, justice, and harmony.

Abha Bhaiya

**Founder trustee and the ED
Jagori Rural Charitable Trust**

HIGHLIGHTS



250
Villages in
Kangra &
Chamba



150000

Our
Reach



AWARE GIRLS ACTION FOR JUSTICE AGAJ

The AGAJ programme is currently active across 98 villages in 8 blocks of Kangra and Chamba districts, working with 93 village-level adolescent groups at different stages of growth. This includes 37 newly formed groups, 31 growing collectives strengthening participation and leadership, 13 youth collectives, and 12 stable groups demonstrating sustained engagement and peer-led action.

Between January and December 2025, a total of 569 meetings were held with existing adolescent collectives, engaging 1,494 adolescents—both girls and boys. In addition, meetings with newly formed groups reached 438 adolescents, fostering deeper participation, shared learning, and a growing sense of collective belonging across villages.

To expand learning spaces and encourage open dialogue, the programme facilitated 7 community libraries across 6 blocks. These spaces brought together children from mixed groups, creating safe and welcoming environments for reading, discussion, and curiosity.

Focused efforts to engage boys included 34 sessions on gender equality, emotional well-being, and respectful relationships. At the same time, Kishori Panchayat meetings held across 6 blocks brought together 74 girls, nurturing early experiences of democratic leadership, collective decision-making, and active participation.

BREAKING BARRIERS: YOUTH REIMAGINING GENDER & LEADERSHIP

Conversations spark curiosity, stereotypes are questioned, and young people start reimagining a world rooted in equality and inclusion.

In a workshop, Jagori created a safe and dynamic space for adolescents to think critically, express themselves freely, and reflect on their roles as emerging leaders. Through dialogue and shared learning, participants began to recognize their potential to challenge norms and contribute to meaningful social change.

This workshop marks an important first step in their journey—one that nurtures confidence, collective thinking, and a commitment to building more just and inclusive communities.



WHEN HEARTS FOUND THEIR CANVAS: A JOURNEY THROUGH ART

Under the AGAJ Programme, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust hosted a transformative two-day Art Therapy Workshop (5th–6th April), facilitated by Shikha Aggarwal.

Over the two days, participants gradually moved beyond the hesitation of “I can’t do art,” discovering new ways to express themselves. Scribbles evolved into meaningful creations, and collaborative exercises encouraged connection, trust, and shared growth. The use of colours, textures, and simple materials helped create a safe, reflective space where creativity could flow freely. As the workshop deepened, participants engaged in activities around identity and self-expression, reflecting on questions like “If you were a season or a flower, who would you be?” They created personal tokens of self-worth, inscribed with words such as “Resilient,” “Caring,” and “Driving Girl,” turning their art into affirmations of strength and hope.

The workshop concluded with a small exhibition and collective reflection, where each creation told a unique story. It became a space of healing, connection, and self-discovery—leaving participants feeling more confident, expressive, and empowered.



BUILDING AWARENESS, CONFIDENCE & HEALTHY CHOICES IN SCHOOLS

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust conducted a series of engaging school outreach sessions across Government Senior Secondary Schools in Kachiyari, Paddar (Nagrota Surian), and Samloti, reaching nearly 480 students.

Across these sessions, adolescents explored critical themes such as drug abuse prevention, gender equality, health, nutrition, and menstrual awareness. Boys engaged in discussions on the risks of substance abuse and the importance of making healthy, informed choices, while girls participated in open conversations on hormonal changes, menstrual health, and breaking related taboos.

Younger students were introduced to foundational ideas of gender, respect, and self-care, helping nurture equality and awareness from an early age. The sessions created safe spaces for dialogue, where many students shared their experiences and perspectives with confidence—often for the first time.

Marked by curiosity, openness, and active participation, these interactions reflect a meaningful step toward building informed, confident, and responsible young individuals.



BEYOND BOUNDARIES: ADOLESCENTS EXPLORE MEANINGFUL CAREER PATHS

On April 27, 2025, 22 adolescents from Kangra district participated in a transformative career guidance session facilitated by Manu Dhiman from the CII-MCM Trust.

Through interactive activities and engaging discussions, participants explored the meaning of a “career” beyond conventional notions, reflecting on their interests, strengths, and aspirations. The session encouraged them to align their passions with long-term goals while addressing common fears such as judgment and self-doubt.

A key highlight was the development of individual 10-year vision plans, enabling adolescents to think critically about their future pathways and the steps needed to achieve them. By the end of the session, participants demonstrated greater clarity, confidence, and self-awareness—marking an important step toward informed and empowered decision-making.



BUILDING EQUALITY: THREE DAYS OF LEARNING WITH ADOLESCENT BOYS

From June 1–3, 2025, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a three-day residential workshop on gender equality and power, engaging 34 adolescent boys from Kangra and Chamba districts. Participants represented seven blocks—Dharamshala, Kangra, Rait, Nagrota Bagwan, Nagrota Suriyan, Tissa, and Mehla.

Through interactive methods such as games, group discussions, and role plays, the boys explored critical themes including gender and power dynamics, discrimination and notions of masculinity, the unequal distribution of work borne by women, and the role boys can play in advancing equality.

The workshop created a reflective space for participants to question stereotypes, build empathy, and develop a sense of responsibility as allies in promoting gender justice. It marked an important step towards nurturing informed, sensitive, and proactive young leaders committed to building a more just and equal society.



EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS: AWARENESS SESSION ON HEALTH, EQUALITY & WELL-BEING

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust conducted an awareness session with 43 adolescent girls, focusing on gender equality, health, and overall well-being. Through open dialogue, participants reflected on gender discrimination and shared their experiences in a safe and supportive space.

The session addressed key aspects of adolescent health, including busting myths around menstruation, introducing simple breathing techniques for stress management, and promoting the importance of balanced nutrition. Discussions also highlighted the need for digital discipline and mindful use of mobile phones.

The interactive approach encouraged girls to ask questions, express themselves confidently, and build greater self-awareness. Jagori continues to remain committed to nurturing informed, confident, and healthy young girls.



EMPOWERED VOICES, SHARED PURPOSE: AWARE YOUTH LEADING CHANGE

The AWARE Youth Network Meet 2025 brought together young changemakers from Kangra and Chamba, creating a space for reflection, connection, and collective action. Girls and boys, shaped by grassroots experiences, shared cross-learning and celebrated their local initiatives.

Centered around five pillars—health, education, environment, livelihood, and leadership—participants discussed key issues such as menstrual dignity, equitable education, environmental responsibility, economic independence, and youth leadership.

More than a networking meet, it became a moment of renewed resolve. Together, participants developed action plans for gender equality, public health, environmental awareness, inclusive education, and leadership—reaffirming that awareness is power, and action drives change.



FROM FOREST TRAILS TO JUSTICE TALES

Two institutions, one vision — responsibility and rights go hand in hand.

Twenty-four adolescents from Kangra district participated in an exposure visit combining environmental learning and legal awareness. At the Kotla Forest Range Office, they explored eco-initiatives such as water harvesting structures, nurseries, and wildfire mitigation, gaining insight into ongoing conservation efforts during Van Mahotsav.

An interactive session with police officials introduced them to key legal concepts including Zero FIR, POCSO, and cyber safety. Through open discussions, participants learned how to report crimes, understand their agency & entitlements, and the legal protections available to minors.

The experience helped transform complex ideas into practical knowledge—encouraging young participants to ask questions, build confidence, and see themselves as responsible and informed citizens.



A DAY OF HOPE, DREAMS & DETERMINATION

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust hosted an inspiring session with 44 fellowship students from across Kangra district, representing diverse marginalised backgrounds.

The session featured Asha Sharma, a former Jagori Fellow, whose journey highlighted the transformative power of education. Students also engaged in “Mere Sapne”, sharing their dreams and aspirations with honesty and courage.

More than a session, it was a moment of reflection and renewed hope—where young individuals reaffirmed their commitment to build dignified, self-reliant futures.



EXPLORING ROOTS & REIMAGINING FUTURES

Our young changemakers embarked on an enriching exposure visit to the Agriculture University and Science Centre—an experience filled with learning, curiosity, and inspiration.

At the university, an engaging session with Sri Lav Bhushan, Director of Extension Education, introduced students to key themes like soil health, hydroponics, organic farming, and climate-smart agriculture. A guided visit to the Education Museum by Dr. Parmar, along with practical demonstrations at the Agriculture Technology Information Centre (ATIC), offered hands-on insights into modern agricultural practices.

The day continued at the Science Centre, where students explored interactive exhibits, museums, and an immersive 3D show—bringing science to life.

More than just a visit, it was a transformative experience—encouraging students to think sustainably, explore new possibilities, and envision greener futures.



MAA-BETI MELA (AANGAN SE AASMAN TAK)

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organised vibrant Maa-Beti Melas across Kangra and Jawali blocks, bringing together over 300 mothers and daughters from multiple villages in spaces of trust, dialogue, and celebration. The gatherings created a safe and joyful environment to reflect on relationships, explore identity, and challenge patriarchal norms.

Through creative activities like “Ma ki god mein” and “Humare sapno ki patang”, participants shared stories of growing up, changing roles, and aspirations. Two key activities—Nivdaan (Generational Trees) and Mere Sapne Aur Samaj Ki Deewar—encouraged women and girls to reflect on inherited strengths and barriers, while symbolically reclaiming their dreams.

Group songs, open mic sessions, cultural performances, and interactive games added energy and inclusivity, fostering deeper understanding and connection between mothers and daughters. The melas concluded with collective slogans for equality and the distribution of saplings, symbolising care, hope, and shared responsibility for change.



FROM DREAMS TO DETERMINATION – AN INSPIRING JOURNEY TOWARDS CHANGE

Under the AGAJ program, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized an exposure visit from 12–17 September for 16 adolescent girls from remote areas of Kangra and Chamba, accompanied by four team members. The visit included learning interactions with Doosra Dashak (Ajmer), Azad Foundation (Jaipur), and Action India (Delhi), organizations known for their work in education, gender equality, and women's empowerment.

The exposure aimed to connect participants with inspiring grassroots initiatives and strengthen their role as changemakers in their communities. At Doosra Dashak, they learned how out-of-school children are supported through education, digital skills, and access to government schemes. At Azad Foundation, they met women challenging gender norms by becoming professional drivers and reclaiming public spaces. At Action India, they witnessed women-led community initiatives and local governance in action.

The visit expanded their perspectives and reinforced a simple yet powerful idea: when courage meets opportunity, change becomes possible. This initiative marks a meaningful step in nurturing confident, aware, and empowered young leaders.



BUILDING A FUTURE OF EQUALITY & RESPONSIBLE MASCULINITY

Over three powerful days, 27 boys from hill districts came together to question stereotypes, rethink masculinity, and reflect on their role in building a more equal society.

Held from November 1–3, 2025, at D Canal Hotel, Dharamshala, the workshop brought together participants from Dharamshala and Nagrota Suriyan (Kangra), and Mehla and Tissa (Chamba). Facilitated by Byomkesh Parida from The YP Foundation and organized by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, the sessions explored gender, patriarchy, power, and evolving ideas of masculinity.

Through discussions on “real man” stereotypes, toxic vs. positive masculinity, and digital safety, participants reflected on personal experiences—from cyberbullying to online scams—leading to deeper awareness and responsibility.

Using films, storytelling, and group activities, the workshop created a space for honest dialogue, reflection, and change.

From silence to action. From stereotypes to sensitivity. From norms to leadership.



KISHORI-KISHOR UTSAV: SAMVAAD SE BADLAAV KI ORE

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organised three Kishori-Kishor Utsavs—two in Chamba and one in Kangra—bringing together 256 adolescents, including 182 girls and 74 boys. Centered around the themes “Samvaad se Badlaav ki Ore” and changing forms of gender discrimination, the Utsavs created engaging spaces for dialogue, reflection, and shared learning.

At the Jagori Campus, a three-day residential Utsav with 62 adolescent girls further deepened these conversations. Under the theme “ACTIZENS: Samvaad se Badlaav ki Or,” participants explored identity, aspirations, and sustainable futures through interactive methods such as drama, music, games, and group reflection.

Across all Utsavs, each dialogue sparked new perspectives, and every activity nurtured awareness, empathy, and a spirit of action—strengthening young voices as emerging changemakers committed to building a more equal and just society.



POLICY ENGAGEMENT & INFORMATION-SHARING MEETING

On 12 December 2025, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organised a policy engagement and Information-Sharing Meeting at DRDA Hall, Dharamshala, under the AGAJ Programme. The meeting brought together 17 peer leaders from five blocks of Kangra district along with officials from key government departments.

The platform enabled meaningful exchange on social security schemes, child and women's safety services, livelihoods, skill development, sanitation, environmental protection, and access to free legal aid. Peer leaders actively engaged with officials, raising important community concerns—particularly the lack of proper sanitary pad disposal facilities in schools and panchayats.

The session strengthened participants' understanding of government provisions and access mechanisms. Equipped with this knowledge, peer leaders will now take these learnings back to their communities, continuing local engagement on health, safety, and environmental issues.



THAPI – A FEARLESS STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

Thapi, a 16-year-old girl from Chillli village in Tissa block, Chamba district, comes from a conservative and financially weak family where girls were expected to remain silent and confined to the home. Earlier, she lacked confidence and rarely spoke in public. Her life changed after joining Jagori Rural Charitable Trust's AGAJ Programme and becoming part of the Kishori Group.

Through regular meetings and leadership training, Thapi emerged as a Peer Leader. She began facilitating discussions on gender, agency & entitlements, and violence, and soon became a trusted support for other adolescent girls in her village.

A significant moment in her journey was when she intervened in a case of violence against a young girl in her village. The survivor was facing emotional and physical abuse but was afraid to speak out. Thapi listened to her, documented her concerns, and brought the case to the Kishori Panchayat. With support

from Jagori, she accompanied the girl to the Nari Adalat and helped connect her with the police and counseling services. Her courage ensured that the girl's voice was heard and that she received protection and support. This incident marked a turning point not only for the survivor but also for the community. Girls began to approach Thapi for help, and parents started recognizing the importance of safe spaces and collective action. Today, Thapi is known in her village as a fearless young leader who stands against injustice.

Thapi's journey from a quiet girl to a strong voice against violence shows how awareness, leadership training, and community support can empower adolescent girls to protect themselves and others. Her story reflects the impact of the AGAJ Programme in creating young change-makers who challenge silence and stand for justice.



PALAK – FROM A VILLAGE GIRL TO A MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADOR

Palak, a determined young woman from Lunta village, is currently a first-year graduate student who has grown into a confident youth leader despite limited opportunities for girls in her community. She joined Jagori Rural Charitable Trust in 2020 and quickly became an active participant, encouraging other girls to engage as well. Palak, a determined young woman from Lunta village, is currently a first-year graduate student who has grown into a confident youth leader despite limited opportunities for girls in her community. She joined Jagori Rural Charitable Trust in 2020 and quickly became an active participant, encouraging other girls to engage as well.



Through regular sessions, workshops, and exposure visits, Palak developed a strong understanding of gender equality and leadership. She also took the initiative to involve adolescent boys in conversations around patriarchy and equality, fostering dialogue within her village.

As a Peer Leader, Palak contributed to community initiatives such as advocating for street light repairs, leading cleanliness drives, and helping establish and manage a community library. She is also an active member of the Kishori Panchayat, promoting youth participation in local governance.

In 2024, during mental health sessions conducted by Jagori in collaboration with the Aloka Foundation, Palak began her own healing journey with counseling support. This experience inspired her to work in the field of mental health.

Today, Palak serves as a school-level mental health facilitator with the Aloka Foundation, supporting children and adolescents while earning an income that contributes to her independence. Her journey reflects the impact of sustained support, safe spaces, and opportunities—highlighting how young girls can emerge as strong agents of change within their communities.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD - BFTW

The Bread for the World (BFTW)-supported programme implemented by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (JRCT) adopts a rights-based, feminist, and community-centred approach. It focuses on strengthening women-led institutions, improving access to agency and entitlements, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and supporting climate-resilient development in Himachal Pradesh.

The programme was implemented across Kangra and Chamba districts, in collaboration with PRIs, SHGs, CBOs, and government stakeholders. Women from marginalised groups remained central to all interventions.

Coverage and Approach (Jan-Dec 2025)

The programme ensured continuous engagement at village to block levels through activities such as community meetings, legal awareness camps, livelihood trainings, exposure visits, and voter awareness programs. Women were the primary participants, with selective involvement of men and Panchayat representatives to strengthen accountability.

Key Thematic Areas

- Agency & Entitlements, Legal Awareness, and Governance
- Women-led Livelihoods and SHG Strengthening
- Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Community Mobilisation and Panchayati Engagement
- Voter Awareness and Democratic Participation

AGENCY & ENTITLEMENT, LEGAL AWARENESS AND GOVERNANCE

The programme strengthened women's access to agency and equity across Kangra and Chamba by creating safe spaces for discussing violence, discrimination, and entitlements. Women were sensitised on legal provisions, including the Domestic Violence Act and child protection laws, and supported to see themselves as rights-holders.

Legal Awareness Camps, conducted with government stakeholders, covered legal aid, social schemes, health rights, and constitutional entitlements, while addressing barriers like fear and mistrust.

A key outcome was the emergence of Nyay Sakhis, who provided community-level support, referrals, and strengthened local equity mechanisms.



WOMEN-LED LIVELIHOODS AND SHG STRENGTHENING

Through The programme Jagori Rural addressed women's economic vulnerability by promoting collective, women-led livelihoods through Self-Help Groups. Regular meetings enabled women to reflect on income challenges, unpaid care work, debt, and dependence, while fostering solidarity and collective decision-making.

Skill-building initiatives—such as bag making, herbal products, food processing, knitting, and enterprise development—were combined with inputs on pricing, packaging, and market access, strengthening women's economic capacities.

Exposure visits to Baijnath and Udaipur demonstrated successful collective enterprises, inspiring women to explore similar models.

As a result, women showed increased confidence, interest in collective enterprises, and stronger economic agency, laying the foundation for sustainable livelihoods.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOREST AND LAND

Jagori Rural recognised women farmers as key to food security and ecological sustainability, while addressing their exclusion from decision-making. Through group meetings and trainings, women engaged in discussions on climate challenges, chemical farming impacts, and market constraints.

Capacity-building focused on organic farming, seed conservation, medicinal plants, mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting, and natural pest control. Collaboration with government departments improved access to schemes, crop insurance, and agricultural information.

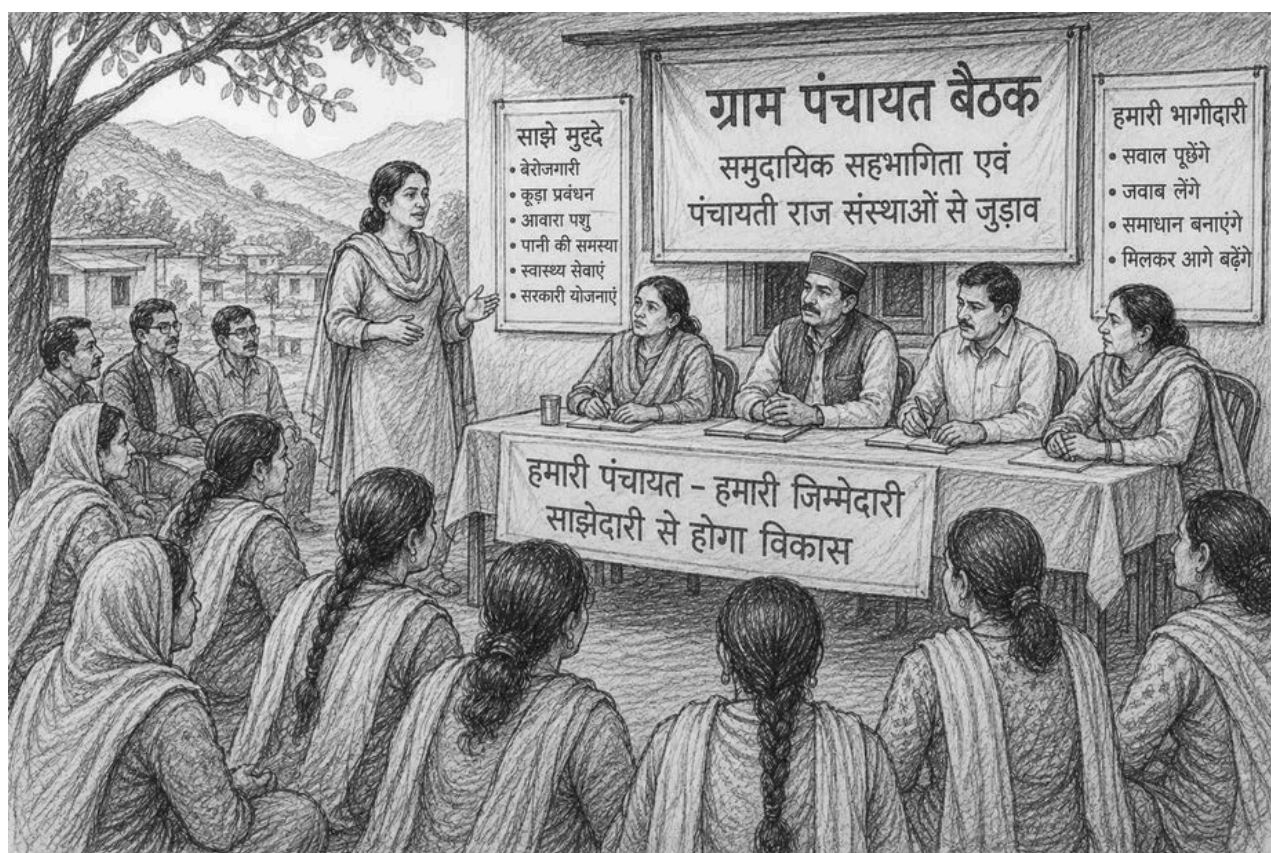
These efforts strengthened women's knowledge, promoted sustainable practices, and reinforced the link between ecology, livelihoods, and community well-being.



COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND PANCHAYATI ENGAGEMENT

Jagori Rural strengthened community engagement with Panchayati Raj Institutions, promoting accountability and participatory governance. A total of 47 MoUs were signed with Gram Panchayats, CBOs, and training institutes to support women's rights, livelihoods, and capacity building.

Stakeholder meetings brought together Panchayat representatives, SHGs, officials, and community members to address issues such as unemployment, waste management, and service gaps. These platforms enabled women to raise concerns, demand accountability, and actively participate in local governance processes.

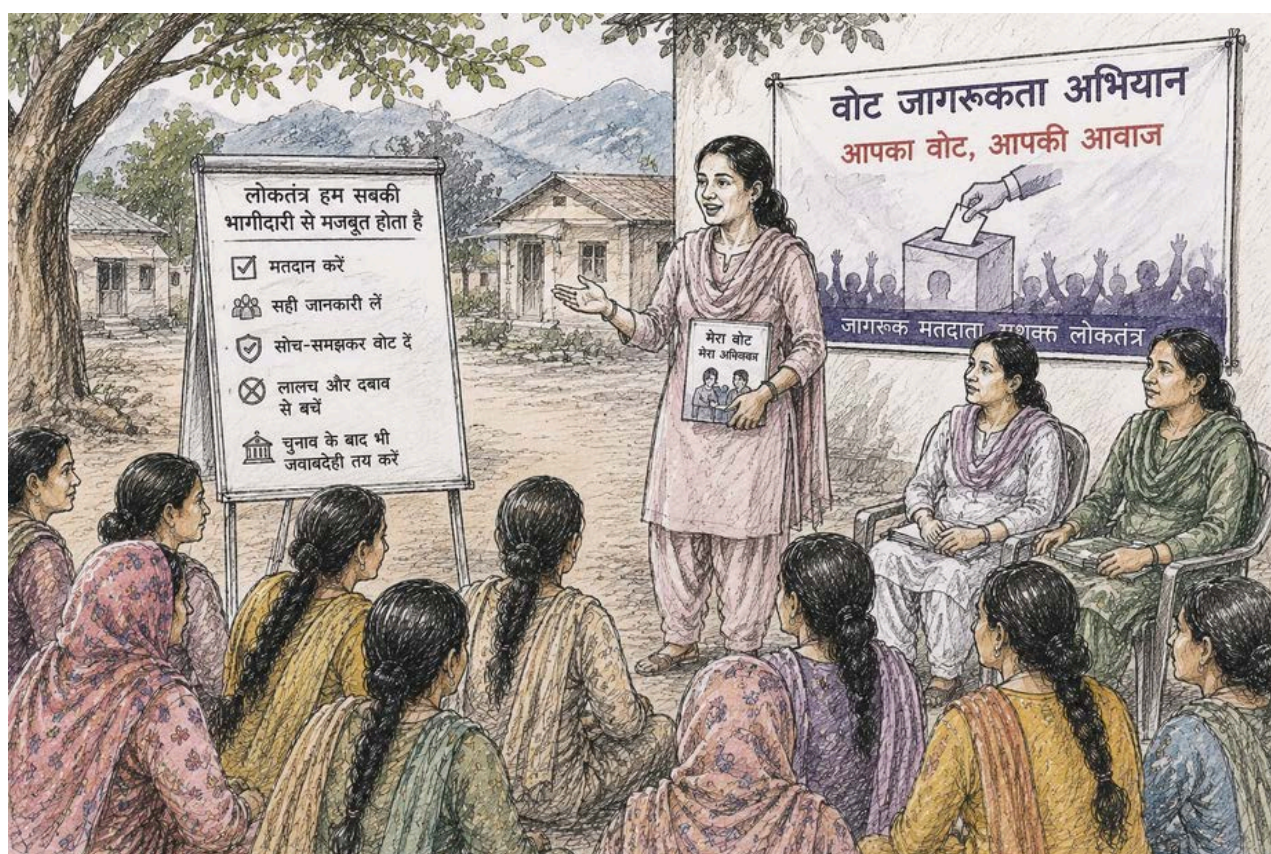


VOTER AWARENESS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

Jagori Rural promoted voter awareness and democratic participation across all blocks, emphasising the link between political engagement and social inclusion.

Over 500 participants, including women and first-time voters, engaged in discussions on voter registration, informed decision-making, and resisting misinformation and coercion.

The initiative encouraged viewing voting not just as a one-time act, but as an ongoing responsibility to question, monitor, and hold institutions accountable.



STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS GOVERNANCE FOR INCLUSIVE CHANGE

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust successfully concluded a dynamic three-day residential workshop at Rakkar, bringing together 60 Panchayat representatives from Kangra and Chamba districts.

The sessions were facilitated by experts Ruchi Yadav and Ganga Gupta from The Hunger Project, Delhi, who guided participants through key aspects of effective local governance, optimal use of government schemes, and strategies for fostering inclusive and equitable development.

A highlight of the workshop was the sharing of inspiring success stories—from the construction of ambulance-access roads and development of children's parks to the establishment of health centres and community-led cleanliness drives. These real-life examples sparked meaningful dialogue and encouraged participants to envision similar initiatives in their own Panchayats.

The workshop concluded on a note of renewed energy and commitment, with participants pledging to take forward impactful, community-driven initiatives and work towards building model Panchayats rooted in progress, participation, and inclusivity.



REVIVING HIMACHAL'S FOOD HERITAGE: FROM LOCAL KITCHENS TO YOUNG MINDS

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, in collaboration with local schools, organized a series of Traditional Food Festivals across Kangra and Chamba districts, engaging over 500 participants, including students, teachers, and community members.

Celebrating the spirit of “खेतों से थाली तक”, the festivals highlighted the richness, nutritional value, and cultural significance of traditional Himalayan foods. Community women showcased local dishes such as Patrode, Ragi ki Kheer, Sidu, Kulath ki Daal, and Kaddu ki Sabzi, sharing both recipes and traditional knowledge with younger generations.

A special Millets Fiesta in Tissa Block, Chamba, brought together 103 participants, promoting millet-based diets, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly living practices.

Through interactive sessions, discussions on traditional vs. junk food, and vibrant cultural performances, the events encouraged children to reconnect with local food traditions. More importantly, they created spaces for intergenerational learning and strengthened community bonds.

These festivals not only celebrated heritage but also reinforced the importance of local food systems in building healthier and more sustainable communities.



STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH MGNREGA

On January 24th, as part of the One Billion Rising campaign, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a Jan Jagrukta Manch in Kangra Block to highlight the impact of MGNREGA as a vital support system for rural communities.

The event brought together 174 MGNREGA workers, Panchayat representatives, and officials, creating a space for sharing experiences, discussing agencies, and strengthening awareness around the programme.

Women workers, in particular, shared powerful stories of how MGNREGA has contributed to greater financial security, dignity, and positive change in their lives.

The gathering reinforced the role of MGNREGA in promoting livelihood security, social equity, and inclusive rural development.



EMPOWERING CHANGE THROUGH LEGAL AWARENESS

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust conducted a two-day workshop focused on strengthening knowledge of legal rights and promoting safe, just communities.

Day 1 introduced participants to the Moot Court process and the POSH Act, building understanding of court procedures and workplace safety frameworks.

On Day 2, community leaders, PRI members, Anganwadi workers, and local participants engaged in sessions on the Domestic Violence Act and the Forest Rights Act. Interactive discussions and a Moot Court exercise helped deepen their understanding of legal provisions and their practical application.

The workshop equipped participants with essential knowledge and confidence to advocate for equity, contributing to safer workplaces and more equitable communities.



CELEBRATING STRENGTH, SOLIDARITY & SISTERHOOD: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust celebrated International Women's Day with 96 women and adolescent girls from Rait, Kangra, Dharamshala, and Nagrota Bagwan, creating a vibrant space of joy, reflection, and collective strength.

The day was filled with songs, dance performances, and powerful expressions of equality, highlighting the resilience and spirit of women. Fun activities like tug-of-war and musical chairs added energy and laughter, strengthening bonds of sisterhood and shared joy.

Beyond the celebration, the event reaffirmed a deeper message—that the journey toward equality, respect, and empowerment continues every day. Participants left inspired to carry this spirit forward in their voices, actions, and dreams for a more just and fearless world.



AWARENESS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD EQUITY

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized an insightful legal awareness session at its campus in Block Nagrota Bagwan. The session was facilitated by Advocate Naresh from District Bilaspur and brought together a diverse and engaged group of community members, including Anganwadi and ASHA workers, the Pradhan of Malan, adolescent girls and boys, Kishori Panchayat members, Jagori's Monitoring Committee, and other active women from the area.

The discussion focused on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, helping participants understand its key provisions, legal procedures, and the importance of awareness and vigilance at the community level. Advocate Naresh also shared important insights on the Domestic Violence Act, highlighting women's rights and available legal protections. The session created a safe and interactive space for dialogue, encouraging participants to break the silence around sensitive issues, challenge harmful social norms, and collectively stand against violence.

Such initiatives play a crucial role in building informed, empowered, and resilient communities.



CREATING SAFER SPACES

At Jagori, we are committed to fostering workplaces grounded in dignity, respect, and safety. Our recent POSH session encouraged open dialogue and reflection, strengthening our collective responsibility to build a gender-just and inclusive environment.

Creating safe spaces is an ongoing journey—one that calls for awareness, empathy, and action.



SEEDS OF CHANGE ARE SPROUTING

A 2-day residential workshop on organic farming was held at Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, Rakkar, led by Gurpreet Singh Dabrikhana. Bringing together 27 farmers and community members from Kangra, Rait, Dharamshala, and Nagrota Bagwan, the workshop focused on soil health, water conservation, and sustainable farming practices.

The sessions encouraged farmers to adopt organic methods while strengthening their role in building climate-resilient communities. We thank Gurpreet ji and all participants for their valuable contributions.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

We're excited to share that 28 members of our Monitoring Committee participated in a 2-day residential workshop on Climate Justice (17–18 July 2025) at Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, Rakkar. Facilitated by Soumya Dutta, the workshop brought together participants from Rait, Dharamshala, Kangra, and Nagrota Bhagwan.

Over two days, participants explored the concept of climate justice, reflected on local climate challenges, and developed strategies for community-led action. The sessions created a space for dialogue, learning, and collective visioning.

This workshop marks an important step towards building a more just and sustainable future. By strengthening the capacities of local leaders and communities, we aim to promote resilience, support sustainable practices, and drive meaningful grassroots action.

The insights and learnings from the workshop will guide future community initiatives and advocacy efforts—creating a ripple effect of positive change.

We remain committed to supporting community-led climate action. Join us in this journey—share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences in the comments below. Let's work together towards a climate-just future.



3-DAY WORKSHOP ON GENDER SENSITIVITY & LEGAL AWARENESS

Hosted at Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, Rakkar, this three-day workshop brought together 21 police officers for an intensive and reflective learning experience.

The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Milind, a social worker with over 30 years of experience, and Advocate Nitika, a human rights lawyer.

Key focus areas included:

- Understanding gender and patriarchy
- Exploring power structures and social roles
- Legal provisions and different forms of violence
- The critical role of police in ensuring equity

Through role plays, group discussions, and interactive exercises, participants examined how gender inequality operates in everyday contexts—and how they can actively challenge it within their roles.

Officers engaged openly, shared real-life experiences, asked difficult questions, and left with a renewed commitment to act as agents of change.

The workshop concluded in the presence of Dr. IPS Khushal Sharma and Abha Bhaiya, whose words encouraged participants to carry this learning forward into their daily work.



ENGAGING MEN FOR EQUALITY & SAFER COMMUNITIES

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organized a three-day workshop with 25 community members from Chamba and Kangra, facilitated by Praveen from Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA).

Through interactive games, films, group activities, and open discussions, participants engaged with themes of gender, equality, sexuality and consent, transgender and intersex identities, and the social construction of masculinity.

A key focus was rethinking what it means to be a “mard” and how positive expressions of masculinity can contribute to respectful, violence-free families and communities.

The workshop encouraged honest sharing and reflection, with participants exploring their role in advancing equality in their everyday lives.



KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Enhanced awareness among women regarding legal rights, entitlements, and access to equality mechanisms
- Strengthened Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with increased readiness for collective livelihood initiatives
- Improved confidence among women farmers to adopt sustainable and organic agricultural practices
- Increased participation of women in Panchayati Raj processes and local governance
- Greater political awareness and democratic engagement among marginalised communities

WAY FORWARD

In the coming period, the programme will focus on deepening women-led enterprises, strengthening market linkages, and expanding Nyay Sakhi networks. Efforts will also be directed towards scaling sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient livelihood models. Continued collaboration with Panchayats, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and training institutions will remain central to ensuring accountability, resilience, and long-term impact.

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION

Where Resilience Begins

In the hills of Kangra and Chamba, resilience is rarely spoken of as a concept. It shows up instead in everyday gestures—in women gathering after a night of heavy rain to check on one another, in elders slowly returning to routine after illness, in families rebuilding not just homes but a sense of safety. Over the past year, Jagori's work unfolded alongside these quiet acts of endurance.

The year was marked by uncertainty—erratic rainfall, distress after disasters, economic strain, and growing health concerns. Yet it was also shaped by conversations: in village meetings, health camps, school sessions, and informal community spaces. These conversations revealed not only immediate needs but deeper questions of dignity, care, and collective responsibility. Jagori's engagement during this period focused on listening, responding, and strengthening the capacities that allow communities to withstand crises and recover together.

During the reporting period, Jagori implemented the Misereor-supported project Building Resilient Communities and Enhancement of Social Coherence in Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh. The project aims to strengthen individual and community resilience, improve access to inclusive health and well-being services, and foster collaboration between communities and government systems.

Building on work initiated in Rait Block, the project expanded into Dharamsala Block this year. This allowed Jagori to deepen engagement in existing areas while responding to emerging vulnerabilities in new locations, particularly in the context of post-disaster distress, health access gaps, and social isolation among women, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

Throughout the year, Jagori worked closely with households, Panchayat representatives, community groups, and local institutions to address the interconnected challenges of health, disaster preparedness, and social well-being. Post-disaster surveys and focused group discussions helped document lived experiences of distress, coping strategies, and community support mechanisms. These insights informed targeted interventions, including physiotherapy support, mental health awareness, and home-based follow-up for individuals facing mobility issues, chronic illness, or psychological distress.

Health and well-being remained a central focus of community engagement. Jagori organized health camps and mobile outreach services that provided preventive care, basic diagnostics, counseling, and information on government health schemes. Particular attention was given to reaching elderly persons, women, and persons with disabilities who often face barriers to accessing formal healthcare services. Alongside this, Jagori initiated steps toward establishing an Inclusive Health and Wellness Centre, engaging with government officials and potential partners to ensure long-term sustainability.

Capacity-building activities were woven into ongoing community interactions rather than delivered as standalone events. Sessions with women's groups, adolescents, Panchayat members, and community committees addressed disaster preparedness, reproductive and mental health, gender equality, and rights-based access to services. Schools, village institutions, and informal community spaces served as key platforms for dialogue, reflection, and learning.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY, EQUITY & HEALTH

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust conducted a series of capacity-building workshops with Friends of Health and Friends of Justice, focusing on gender equality, legal awareness, and community health. A three-day



deepened participants' understanding of gender, patriarchy, and the Domestic Violence Act, while strengthening their ability to support survivors and engage in grassroots advocacy for justice.

This was complemented by a two-day health workshop (24–25 November) with 21 participants, covering essential topics such as nutrition, mental well-being, reproductive health, and lifestyle-related conditions. Through interactive methods like body mapping, breathing exercises, and practical demonstrations, participants learned simple, actionable ways to manage common health concerns and improve overall well-being. Health kits were distributed to support continued practice.

These initiatives strengthened participants' confidence, knowledge, and leadership, enabling them to promote healthier practices and challenge inequality within their communities—contributing to the vision of a just, equitable, and violence-free society.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

A three-day workshop on Conversation, Understanding, and Mental Health brought together Nyaay Sakhis and Anganwadi workers, creating a meaningful platform for shared learning, reflection, and collaboration.

Day 1 focused on building trust and deepening participants' understanding of each other's roles through interactive activities, group discussions, and creative expressions such as poetry.

Day 2 explored the concept of mental health, highlighting its significance in everyday life and equipping participants to recognize signs of emotional distress in themselves and within their communities.

Day 3 introduced the fundamentals of counselling, including its purpose, processes, and practical relevance in providing support to individuals in need.

The workshop enabled participants to understand the strong interlinkages between effective communication, mental well-being, and counselling support. It strengthened their capacity to respond with empathy and awareness, contributing to the development of more resilient and compassionate communities.

Overall, the workshop was highly engaging and impactful, fostering stronger connections among participants and enhancing their confidence to address mental health concerns at the community level.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH HEALTH & HEALING

Jagori Rural organized a Health and Skill-Building Session aimed at promoting women's wellness alongside opportunities for economic empowerment. The session brought together women from the community to learn practical massage therapy techniques and simple exercises to manage common health concerns such as knee pain, backache, headaches, and cervical discomfort, reducing reliance on pain medication. The training included hands-on practice in basic massage techniques, enabling participants to explore these skills as potential livelihood options. In addition, the session introduced natural pain relief approaches using locally available Ayurvedic remedies such as tulsi and giloy, reinforcing the value of traditional knowledge systems.

A key focus of the session was promoting self-care, encouraging women to dedicate 30–45 minutes daily to their own physical and mental well-being. Participants reported feeling relaxed, rejuvenated, and more aware of their health needs. The session also inspired many to consider new pathways toward self-reliance through skill development.

Overall, the initiative contributed to increased health awareness, strengthened confidence, and the promotion of economic independence among women, making it a meaningful step toward holistic empowerment.



HEALTHCARE TO THE FIELDS: STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTH

At Jagori, we believe health is a right, not a privilege. Through community health camps in remote villages and follow-up camps in Sukker and Kohala, we brought essential healthcare directly to those with limited access to services. Women received free check-ups, consultations, medicines, and support through services like physiotherapy, acupuncture, and counselling. Alongside clinical care, interactive sessions on nutrition, menstrual health, anemia, and regular check-ups created safe spaces for dialogue. Many women shared challenges related to stress, ageing, and untreated conditions such as blood pressure, diabetes, and joint pain—often normalized or neglected.

These camps not only provided immediate relief but also encouraged women to adopt small, meaningful lifestyle changes and support one another. They reaffirmed a simple truth: when healthcare reaches people where they are, it becomes an act of solidarity—strengthening not just individuals, but entire communities.





REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING

The year reaffirmed that resilience is not built through one-time interventions but through sustained presence and trust. Communities demonstrated a strong willingness to engage, share experiences, and support one another when provided with safe and inclusive spaces. At the same time, the work highlighted the importance of phased planning-particularly in household-level assessments-to ensure depth, quality, and ethical engagement.

The integration of mental health, physical well-being, and disaster preparedness emerged as a critical strength of the project, allowing Jagori to respond holistically rather than through isolated activities. Collaboration with local institutions proved essential in ensuring continuity, relevance, and ownership of interventions.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the project moves forward, Jagori will focus on consolidating learnings, strengthening the operational framework of the Inclusive Health and Wellness Centre, and deepening community-based preparedness efforts. Continued engagement with government systems and local stakeholders will remain central to ensuring that the work contributes not only to immediate relief and support, but also to long-term resilience and social cohesion.



WOMEN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

- WWDP

With the kind support from Women World Day of Prayer (WWDP), Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (JRCT) initiated the project “Jagori Rural- An expansion of physical and programmatic horizons into newer areas- Himachal Pradesh”. The project aims to empower women and girls by addressing critical issues related to reproductive health, wellness and education, and providing girls and women with key skills and knowledge through meetings, trainings and workshops for self-sustainable livelihoods.

GIRLS LEARNING, LEADING, AND GROWING

A total of 159 monthly meetings were facilitated with local village adolescent girl groups which saw active participation from 1,655 participants. The meetings saw critical discussion upon issues concerning the overall wellness, progress and development of girls, women, society and the nation. Some of the major issues of discussions included Gender Equality, Reproductive Health and Wellness, Mental Health, Holistic Health, Menstrual Hygiene, Importance of Education and Self-Dependence, need to fight for Equality and Equity, Climate Change, Environment Conservation, People's Rights, Child Rights, Indian Constitution, Democracy, Local Self-Government.

Also, it was ensured that the use of various charts, aprons was done and the sessions involved various participative brain-storming activities, games and discussions, so that the adolescents learn and grasp the new concepts with ease and in a playful manner.



WOMEN COMING TOGETHER, CREATING CHANGE

A total of 173 monthly meetings were convened with village women's groups, engaging 2,349 participants. These forums strengthened women's awareness of their rights and entitlements and improved their understanding of government schemes and public services available for women, children, the elderly, and marginalized communities. Increased information access enabled many women to better navigate institutions and claim benefits.

The meetings addressed critical dimensions of women's everyday realities, including patriarchy and gender inequality, reproductive and sexual health, family planning, anemia, and mental and physical well-being. Conversations linking lifestyle practices to chronic diseases helped women recognize prevention and care strategies. Regular dialogue on leadership and governance motivated women to see themselves as active stakeholders in local decision-making processes.

A consistent emphasis was placed on agency and economic empowerment. Women reflected on the importance of financial access, independent decision-making, and exploring livelihood pathways. Discussions around skills development, confidence building, and collective problem-solving encouraged participants to consider self-initiated income generation and greater control over their lives.

Importantly, these meetings nurtured solidarity and collective voice. Women openly raised concerns related to violence, safety of women and children, inadequate health facilities, and village development priorities. The platform has become a trusted space where hesitation is replaced with dialogue, mutual support deepens, and women increasingly move from sharing problems to seeking solutions — with continued facilitation from the Jagori team.



TWO DAYS OF DIALOGUE, AWARENESS & EMPOWERMENT

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (JRCT) organized a two-day interactive workshop with 33 women participants, focusing on health, gender equality, and overall well-being—key pillars of social equality. The workshop covered women's rights and entitlements, the need for gender-sensitive healthcare, challenging patriarchal norms, and the importance of social support, particularly for older women, while also creating safe spaces for open conversations on health and sexuality.

For many participants, the workshop provided a rare and meaningful opportunity to speak openly about issues often constrained by stigma. Personal experiences were shared in a supportive environment, encouraging dialogue, reflection, and collective learning. The process fostered greater awareness, confidence, and solidarity among women, reinforcing JRCT's ongoing commitment to advancing dignity, knowledge, and empowerment within communities.



CELEBRATING THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP

Two Maa-Beti Melas (Mother-Daughter Fairs) were organized in September and December 2025 across the districts of Kangra and Chamba. The events brought together 276 participants, including 159 daughters and 105 mothers, creating a vibrant intergenerational space for dialogue and connection.

The melas aimed to nurture stronger bonds between mothers and daughters by promoting relationships grounded in trust, respect, understanding, and shared responsibility. The gatherings encouraged open communication and helped create a supportive and caring environment within families.

Through songs, games, interactive activities, discussions, and thematic stalls, participants reflected on the value of each other's presence in their lives. The platform fostered mutual acceptance, emotional support, and expressions of unconditional care, while also allowing mothers and daughters to learn together in a joyful setting.

The events further served as important opportunities to raise awareness on health, gender equality, violence against women, and equity and opportunities. Emphasis was placed on valuing and nurturing girls with the same love and encouragement as boys, and on collectively challenging discrimination and violence in all forms.



FRIENDS OF HEALTH AND JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Patriarchal norms continue to marginalize women's health needs and restrict their access to equity, often leaving survivors of violence without support. To address this, Jagori Rural conducted a series of capacity-building workshops with selected community women identified as Friends of Health and Justice. The programme aimed to strengthen their knowledge on health, agencies, legal provisions, and entitlements, and prepare them to act as a bridge between Jagori and their villages.

Four workshops were organised at the Jagori Head Office, Rakkar (Kangra district): 1–3 February 2025 (30 participants), 17–18 June 2025 (33), 17 September 2025 (23), and 24–25 November 2025 (22), reaching a total of 108 women.

The workshops created a safe space for women to share experiences of discrimination, courage, and change. Participants enhanced their awareness of available laws, schemes, and support systems; were encouraged to prioritise their health and well-being; and built confidence to raise their voices against inequality. A strong emphasis was placed on collective solidarity, with women motivated to act as support persons and catalysts for change within their communities.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CAMPS

Limited access to affordable healthcare continues to disproportionately affect women and marginalised families. To address this gap, Jagori Rural organised community health camps to expand access to basic medical services while promoting preventive health practices.

Participants received free medical check-ups, consultations, and prescriptions from qualified doctors. The camps also emphasised awareness on nutrition and healthy living. Community members were encouraged to reduce consumption of foods high in oil, sugar, salt, and processed ingredients, and to adopt sustainable habits such as timely meals, yoga and exercise, regular walks, routine health screening, and the use of locally available herbal remedies for common ailments.

During the reporting period, seven camps were conducted across Kangra and Chamba, reaching 243 villagers, the majority of them women. The camps were held on 19 January 2025 in Kandhrer (33 participants), 25 January in Panela (36), 16 March in Tiara (40), 16 June in Kohala (30), 12 October in Dadh (36), 23 November in Kohala (20), and 28 November in Jaladi (48).

The initiative strengthened community awareness on preventive healthcare, enhanced individual responsibility towards well-being, and encouraged the adoption of low-cost practices that can significantly reduce avoidable expenditure on treatment.



HERBAL PRODUCT AND SOAP-MAKING TRAININGS

Promoting women's economic empowerment through sustainable livelihood opportunities remained a key priority during the reporting period. Jagori Rural conducted six herbal product and soap-making trainings, engaging 143 village women and building their capacities to transform locally available natural resources into marketable products.

The trainings were designed as intensive, hands-on learning spaces, with live demonstrations enabling participants to confidently practice and reproduce each process. Women gained practical knowledge about the use of medicinal plants and strengthened their understanding of traditional, low-cost, and environmentally responsible production methods.

Participants learned to prepare herbal bath soaps using aloe vera, basil, and aromatic oils, along with Tulsi bathing soap and ash-reetha utensil cleaning soap. Importantly, the sessions went beyond technical skills to highlight pathways for entrepreneurship, collective production, and local market engagement. Women were encouraged to view these products as viable income-generating opportunities that could supplement household earnings.

By enhancing skills, confidence, and awareness of enterprise possibilities, the initiative contributed to advancing women's financial independence, leadership, and long-term resilience within their communities.



WOMEN'S TECHNICAL DRIVING SKILLS TRAINING

Expanding access to non-traditional livelihood options for women is critical to challenging gender barriers and advancing economic independence. Under the project, five women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds were supported to undergo technical driving skills training to build employable competencies and open pathways for future income generation.

Driving continues to be widely perceived as a male domain. By enabling women to enter this space, the initiative aimed not only to enhance livelihood prospects but also to question restrictive social norms and create visible role models within the community.

The month-long training was conducted from 15 November to 15 December 2025. Participants first obtained learner's licences and then received structured practical and theoretical instruction from a certified trainer, with strong emphasis on road safety, traffic regulations, and responsible driving behaviour. By the end of the training, all participants reported significantly improved confidence and a clear understanding of driving techniques and rules. They committed to continued practice to further strengthen their skills.

Following additional practice over the next few months, the women will appear for their driving tests to obtain permanent licences. Once licensed, they will be supported to explore self-employment and other appropriate livelihood opportunities, with continued guidance from Jagori Rural.

The initiative marks an important step toward diversifying women's economic roles, enhancing mobility, and promoting greater autonomy and decision-making power.



BAG-MAKING AND UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS

To promote sustainable livelihoods and strengthen women's access to income-generating skills, Jagori Rural organised three bag-making and patchwork workshops, engaging 38 village women during the reporting period.

The trainings focused on transforming old and discarded fabrics into attractive, marketable products, reinforcing the principles of reuse and environmental responsibility. Through structured, hands-on demonstrations, participants developed skills in cutting and stitching materials accurately, creating appealing designs, and ensuring high-quality finishing.

Women were further trained to incorporate functional features such as pockets, zippers, and straps, enhancing both the utility and market value of the bags. The participatory format ensured continuous engagement, enabling learners to quickly gain confidence and improve precision.

By the end of the workshops, participants had acquired practical competencies that can be translated into home-based production and micro-enterprise opportunities. The initiative contributed to enhancing women's economic agency while promoting low-cost, eco-friendly entrepreneurship models.



SCHOOL SESSIONS

A total of five school sessions were conducted in Chamba district, engaging adolescent girls across different Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Bagheigarh, with a cumulative participation of 304 girls.

These sessions provided a valuable platform to interact with adolescent girls and address issues relevant to their lives and society. The Jagori team ensured effective planning and coordination with school authorities for smooth implementation. Key themes covered included body literacy, importance of education and self-reliance, decision-making, gender inequality and discrimination, as well as an introduction to the Indian Constitution and basic people's rights. The sessions were participatory in nature, encouraging girls to express their views and engage actively through discussions, activities, and learning aids such as charts.

Overall, the sessions contributed to enhancing awareness, critical thinking, and confidence among the participants, enabling them to better understand their equity and advocate for equality and equity in their lives.



CLEANLINESS DRIVES AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

A total of 13 cleanliness drives and related community activities were conducted across villages in Chamba and Kangra, with the participation of 198 community members, including 55 adolescent girls and 143 women.

These initiatives aimed to promote hygiene, environmental responsibility, and collective community action. Participants were sensitized on maintaining clean surroundings, adopting sustainable practices, reducing plastic use, and improving waste management. The drives also encouraged plantation activities, particularly during the monsoon season, contributing to environmental conservation and improved community health.

World Environment Day & Key Outcomes

World Environment Day was observed at Ghana through a cleanliness and plantation drive, engaging 32 participants (9 girls and 23 women). The activity promoted awareness on environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

Key Outcomes:

- Improved awareness on hygiene and cleanliness
- Reduced use and burning of plastic
- Better understanding of waste management
- Increased focus on tree plantation
- Strengthened community participation

Celebration of Important Days

A) Indian Constitution Day

Observed during November–December through community meetings and school sessions, including Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, the initiative focused on the Constitution of India, fundamental rights, and democratic values. Participants were encouraged to understand their entitlements, challenge injustice, and promote equality.

These efforts enhanced awareness of agency and responsibilities, fostering informed and active citizenship.

B) World Human Rights Day

Observed on 10th December 2025 and throughout the month in Gram Panchayats Kachyari and Maned, with 73 participants. Sessions were led by Advocate Neelam Jariyal (legal rights, labour laws, gender equality) and Dr. Manika (health awareness and government schemes).

Additional sessions with girls and women's groups emphasized people's rights, equality, and equity through participatory methods. Overall, the initiative strengthened awareness, access to information, and community empowerment.



ONE BILLION RISING INDIA

One Billion Rising (OBR) is a global initiative to end violence against women, girls, and marginalized communities, and to promote gender justice worldwide.

Launched on February 14, 2012 by playwright, author, performer, feminist, and activist V (formerly Eve Ensler), the initiative is named after the statistic that 1 in 3 women worldwide—about one billion—face physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Over the past 12 years, about 120 countries have joined the network. In India, the Jagori Rural Charitable Trust (JRCT) has been a key part of OBR since 2013.

Abha Bhaiya, the National Coordinator, leads the network through JRCT, which serves as the OBR Secretariat.

Through this powerful initiative, JRCT leads one of India's largest gender justice mobilizations, amplifying the voices of marginalized and diverse communities—across caste, religion, disability, sexuality, and regional identities—in pursuit of equality, dignity, and freedom from violence.

Since 2013, over 150 grassroots organizations have collaborated with JRCT covering 90% of India's states, to organize thousands of 'RISINGS IN INDIA.' In 2025, 66 Organizations across 21 States have held 224 RISINGS. Through art and activism, the network is tackling intersecting issues like environmental justice, LGBTQ+ rights, labor rights, and disability rights.

OBR is committed to ending violence against girls, women, marginalized communities, and Mother Earth.



SWARA MOUNTAIN ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

Rising for the Dancing Mother Earth and the Harmony of Five Elements

From April 8–12, 2025, the 4th Swara Mountain Arts Festival, hosted by Jagori Rural Charitable Trust and One Billion Rising India, transformed the Jagori campus in Dharamshala into a vibrant space of art and activism. Centered on the theme of ecological balance, the festival brought together communities through creative expression inspired by the five elements.

The celebration opened with immersive workshops: Thangka painting with Tsering Norbu (Earth), clown theatre with Sukhmani Kohli (Water), Yangshak movement with Surjit Nongmeikapam (Fire), and Raaga music with Palash Dholakia and Neeraj Dholakia (Air).

The festival culminated in a powerful finale anchored by Sayeda Hameed. Performances by Shovana Narayan, Mangka Laihui, Mayanglambam Mangangsana, Sonam Kalra, and Aaditya Vardhan enriched the evening, alongside folk traditions from Ladakh.

Chief Guest Penpa Tsering endorsed the festival's message of harmony, closing a deeply moving tribute to Mother Earth.





BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & INCLUSIVE ACTION

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust led a series of focused initiatives to strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience across Nagrota, Suriyan, and surrounding areas—bringing together Anganwadi workers, adolescents, and team members in a shared journey of learning and leadership.

A 3-day workshop with Anganwadi workers built practical skills in disaster response, risk mapping, and community-level preparedness. Through hands-on sessions, participants explored types of disasters, first response techniques, and strategies for strengthening family and village resilience—reinforcing their vital role as frontline leaders in times of crisis.

Parallely, a 2-day learning programme with adolescents, facilitated by Dolphi Raman, combined disaster awareness with pathways in environmentally rooted livelihoods. Participants engaged with local risks such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires, while also exploring careers in disaster management and green sectors—sparking both preparedness and purpose.



On 23rd August 2025, a capacity-building workshop for 30 Jagori team members focused on disability inclusion in disaster contexts. Sessions led by Surya Udaya Charitable Trust and Sudesh Bedi emphasized legal awareness, early identification, and inclusive preparedness through HVRC mapping—promoting a shift from charity to dignity.

Under the Himalayan Hub: Disaster Preparedness initiative, Community Preparedness Committees (CPCs) have been formed, including an all-women group in Boh village. Young girls have emerged as Community Resilience Leaders, with local trainers identified for advanced capacity-building.

Together, these efforts are nurturing informed, inclusive, and community-led resilience—ensuring preparedness that leaves no one behind.



REWIRING FUTURES: BUILDING SKILLS, BREAKING BARRIERS

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, conducted six hands-on technical workshops across Kangra and Chamba, engaging a total of 133 participants (99 girls and 34 boys) and equipping them with practical, livelihood-oriented skills.

The electrical training, led by Ingrid from Tools for Life Foundation (Germany), introduced participants to electricity basics, safety, wiring, and tool handling. From fixing plugs to creating handmade lamps, many—especially girls using tools for the first time—gained confidence and challenged gender stereotypes in technical spaces.

Alongside, the auto repair and maintenance training, facilitated by Michael from the same foundation, focused on engine mechanics, tire and brake systems, fuel efficiency, and vehicle inspection. Participants developed hands-on skills essential for mobility, safety, and livelihoods.

Together, these workshops fostered technical knowledge, confidence, and self-reliance—opening new pathways for rural youth toward economic independence.



MOSAIC WORKSHOPS AT JAGORI: CREATIVITY IN COLLECTIVE EXPRESSION

At the Jagori Rural Campus in Dharamshala, two Mosaic Art Workshops brought together 21 participants, including adolescent girls and Jagori team members, for an inspiring journey of creativity and collaboration. The workshops were led by Gala Greenwood, founder of Mosaics for Life, in collaboration with Tools for Life Foundation and One Billion Rising.

Through hands-on sessions, participants created personal mosaics—transforming small fragments into vibrant expressions of identity and imagination. They also engaged with the One Billion Rising campaign and co-created a collective mosaic of its logo, symbolizing unity, strength, and shared voices against violence.

The workshops concluded with reflections from participants, celebrating creativity, collaboration, and the power of collective expression. Each mosaic stands as a testament to resilience and the spirit of women and girls rising together.



CELEBRATING SAVITRIBAI PHULE'S LEGACY

On 6 January 2025, Jagori Rural Charitable Trust observed Savitribai Phule Week with a candlelight march dedicated to promoting girls' education and gender equality.

The event drew inspiration from Savitribai Phule, India's first female teacher and a pioneer of women's rights. Participants came together in solidarity, using songs and collective expressions to highlight the transformative power of education.

The candlelight march symbolized hope, equality, and a shared commitment to ensuring that every girl has access to education and opportunities to thrive. The initiative reinforced the importance of continuing efforts toward inclusive and equitable education for all.



FROM DIALOGUE TO DIRECTION: STRENGTHENING JAGORI'S PATH FOR CHANGE

On 16 September 2025, the Jagori team participated in an engaging session with Dr. Manisha Gupte, a noted feminist, health, and civil rights activist and Co-Founder of MASUM, Pune. Drawing on her extensive experience in the women's initiative, Dr. Gupte facilitated a discussion on patriarchy, gender equality, and emerging social challenges in Himachal Pradesh. The session combined dialogue and group work, enabling participants to reflect on current realities and collectively envision Jagori's role in addressing these issues in the coming years.

The session served as both a reflective space and a strategic exercise, encouraging critical thinking, collective analysis, and future planning. It concluded with a renewed sense of purpose among team members, strengthening their commitment to deepening community engagement and advancing gender equality.



TWO-WEEK RESIDENTIAL COURSE ON GENDER, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Jagori Rural, in collaboration with SANGAT-SWAYAM, organised the 15th edition of the Two-Week Residential Course on “Gender, Sustainable Development & Women’s Empowerment” from 5–19 September 2025.

The course brought together 32 participants from across Northern, Central, and Western India, including Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh. Participants, many of whom are engaged in grassroots work on gender equality and community empowerment, contributed diverse perspectives and experiences.

Over two weeks, the programme created a space for critical reflection, dialogue, and shared learning. Key themes included patriarchy and power, intersectionality (gender, caste, class, sexuality, and disability), feminist networks, the impact of privatization on health, rising violence and social transformation strategies, and issues of environment and sustainability.



Using a participatory and experiential approach, the course encouraged exchange of lived realities, collective analysis, and peer learning. It strengthened participants' understanding of social equality issues while fostering solidarity and collaboration across regions.

The course reaffirmed that empowerment is an ongoing, collective process, rooted in dialogue, trust-building, and sustained engagement for equality and equity.



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2025

On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2025, observed under the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health,” Jagori Rural Charitable Trust collaborated with Surya Uday Charitable Trust to promote wellness, inclusion, and community solidarity.

A large-scale yoga session was held at the Indoor Stadium, Dharamshala, with participation from over 100 individuals, including children from Surya Uday School & Vocational Centre for Special Needs, students from Army Public School, B.Ed students, teachers, and members of the Jagori team.

Simultaneously, a parallel session was conducted at Jagori’s Block Office in Pathiar (Nagrota Bagwan), engaging ASHA and Anganwadi workers. The session focused on the importance of yoga for mental well-being, balanced lifestyles, and inner peace. Through guided practice and active participation, the initiative highlighted yoga as a tool for holistic health and collective harmony, reinforcing its relevance in building healthier communities.



CLOTHES DONATION DRIVE

Jagori Rural Charitable Trust organised a Clothes Donation Drive from 20 August to 20 September to support slum communities with essential clothing and promote dignity and wellbeing.

The drive invited contributions of clothes for all age groups, along with footwear and bags, which were collected at the Jagori office in VPO Pathiar, Kangra. Supporters were also encouraged to contribute financially through digital payment options.

The initiative aimed to mobilize community support and ensure that basic needs are met with care and respect. It witnessed encouraging participation,

reflecting collective efforts to extend warmth, hope, and solidarity to communities in need.

For further information, Jagori provided contact support via phone and email, facilitating wider engagement in the initiative.

