

Himalayan Village School

IND-REJ-HVS-P03



Tehri Garwhal, India



Education

Total Budget

\$39,200

Project Timeline

JUL 18

JUN 21



Overview

Tehri Garwhal is situated in Northern India, high up in the Himalayas. It is an extremely remote area, with poor infrastructure. School opportunities are limited. The local families are very poor which usually means that children do not receive an education. The closest government school is so far away, the youngest children cannot travel the distance by themselves. Our partners have established a school for a growing number of children who would otherwise not receive an education. The school started in 2014 with 4 students and currently has more than 60 students from pre-nursery to fifth class. Starting school at the right age and progressing through the years can potentially break the cycle of poverty for so many families.

Objectives



Total of 65 students enrolled

Impact

65 students (34 female and 31 male) enrolled in school this past year. Remote learning was made accessible for all students with different modes of teaching from hard copy syllabus, WhatsApp, Zoom and Google Meet.



Parent-teacher meetings

Online learning raised challenges for parents such as there being 2 or more children at home but only one device, parents unable to provide technical or educational support and parents unable to contribute towards tuition fees.



Remote learning and exams

Teachers made regular home visits, providing hard copies of the syllabus and assignments. All the children in Grade 5 successfully cleared the entrance exams for other schools, thereby advancing their education journey.



COVID-19 pandemic response

COVID-19 prevention information, promotion and assessment for vaccinations, medical and hygiene kits as well as ration kits for the most vulnerable families in the area were distributed during this period.



Life change

- Education with a high level of literacy gives children the opportunity to gain a better career and break free of poverty
- Students and teachers both felt empowered and encouraged to keep striving despite the challenges of remote learning
- Both boys and girls, children living with disabilities and other vulnerable children are learning together in an all inclusive environment



Cousins' Story

Purvi and her cousin, Sita, are both 9 years old and have been attending school for more than 3 years. Last year, when the school closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the girls' parents decided not to continue with online learning. However, this year, during home visits, the teachers showed them how other children were keeping up with their studies and attending lessons regularly through Google meet and on Zoom. Now, the parents are eager for their girls to continue with their education, creating time every day to sit with them to help them complete their homework and sending it to the WhatsApp class group.



Home schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown

Himanshu's Story

I have been working at this school for 2 years now. This is my first job since I finished my teaching degree. My father passed away and my mother is unable to work so the responsibility of the household rests with me. I have enjoyed using my applied knowledge in a real teaching situation and I think the other teachers appreciate the newer methods and skills that I bring. I am also curious to learn new things so the experience of the other teachers is helpful. It has been a very challenging time to teach during lockdowns especially to keep the children motivated and inspired. I am tutoring some of the students one-on-one so that they do not fall behind.

