

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



## RUCHI

### Rural Centre for Human Interests

Village- Bandh, Bhaguri – 173233

District- Solan, Himachal Pradesh, INDIA

Tel: 91-1792-207002/8679078500

Email: [info@ruchin.org](mailto:info@ruchin.org)

Website: [www.ruchin.org](http://www.ruchin.org)

Registered as a society at village Shalana, Rajgarh 173101, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh

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# From the Executive Director's desk

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Yet another year has passed adding more maturity, skills, good governance and specialization to the organization.

Since my early days in the voluntary sector during late seventies the voluntary action has seen sea change making it more skilled and professional. The recent enactments have demanded the sector to be more transparent and show good governance. There is no denying that overall the environment is not very conducive for all NGOs to work efficiently to their optimum. The worldwide economic recession coupled with the thinning out of national as well as international aids is adding to the woes of NGOs. However, this is also a testing time for real grass roots organizations to show their worth and come out with a clean image.

RUCHI continues to be responsible in grooming hundreds of professionals from the country's most economically and socially backward areas to become leaders in their own areas of operation. It is only with a rich experience at the grass roots level that RUCHI is acting today more as a resource agency than an implementing organisation.

I and our team of social workers are glad to present our annual report for the financial year 2014-2015.

Dharamvir Singh  
Executive Director

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

# 1. About the Organization

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## 1. Background

The Rural Centre for Human Interests (popularly known as RUCHI) has incessantly worked towards uplifting the living conditions of the underprivileged section in selected regions of Himachal Pradesh, India. RUCHI through active grassroots participation and empowerment of the communities in all aspects of their development strives to minimize their dependence on external agencies. RUCHI's focus on promoting **sustainable anthropocentric development through environmentally, socially and economically integrated activities** ensures the improvement and sustainability of rural communities and their environment.

RUCHI began as a non-profit, voluntary organization in October 1980, set up in the Himalayan foothills of the state of Himachal Pradesh. It was registered as a Society on 16 February 1983 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

A new Technology Resource Centre of RUCHI came up in 1994 in a small village of Bandh in Dharampur Block of Solan District which also houses the headquarters of RUCHI. This great achievement was made possible through the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. RUCHI is currently working in the southeast part of Himachal Pradesh in the districts of Solan and Sirmour, in the Dharampur and Rajgarh development blocks respectively.



From the onset, RUCHI realized the importance of providing assistance and technical support to facilitate and aid the process of development by encouraging individual and community participation in the process. Accepting and overcoming the various challenges is the key to RUCHI's successful progress which today looks back on its past achievements with pride and at the one ahead with hope.

Thirty three years on, the organization is continuing with its commitment to instill an ambience of improved quality of life, a new scenario of social and economic progress and minimal dependence on others on the part of the communities. RUCHI has remained successful in achieving this only through an integrated, multi-disciplinary and participatory sustainable development.

## 1.1. Mission Statement

***RUCHI's Mission Statement: Integrated rural development through people-centered, environmentally sustainable action.***

With this in mind (and a view towards social and economic independence), RUCHI introduces technologies deemed appropriate to the conditions, and uses health and resource management education to socially empower and uplift rural communities.

## 1.2. Vision

**A society which is armed with information and knowledge to achieve comfortable living standards; which believe in good governance, equality and respect for each other.**

## 1.3. Belief System

- People have an inherent capacity to achieve - even in the face of adverse conditions - provided they are given with help and guidance.
- Resources, goods, information and technology should be shared amongst and between communities.
- People should be empowered to demand services by virtue of being human and as a basic human right.
- Women play an important catalytic role in development.
- Both development and management should be participatory.
- Social change can occur through economic stability and independence.
- Economic stability and independence can be achieved through optimal and *sustainable* use of local resources.

## 1.4. Strategic Objectives

1. Promote and protect the environment and natural resources, through adoption of appropriate resource management techniques, generally focused at the micro-level of watersheds.
2. Promote education and awareness as a tool to improve the plight of the underprivileged rural poor.
3. Ensure that a participatory approach is used in the conservation and promotion of natural resources.
4. Catalyze the transfer of low-cost agricultural and construction technologies which will aid in environmental protection and community development.
5. Empower women and eradicate gender inequality, namely through micro-credit and self-help groups.
6. Extend our services to the vulnerable section of elderly, and promote independence amongst this section.

7. Develop areas of mutual cooperation amongst Government agencies and NGOs.
8. Improve the community health standard, mainly through preventative measures.
9. Foster an understanding of, and focus on, integrated rural development in the young rural workforce, promoted through non-formal education.

## 2. Management and Administration

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### 2.1. Structure

RUCHI's daily activities are administered by an executive director. Over and above this, the management of RUCHI rests with the Governing Body, comprised of six members, each of whom is elected for a two-year term.

RUCHI lays great emphasis on 'people's power'. The consequence can be noticed in the environment of team spirit, collective experience, hard work and commitment in which and on the basis of which the whole organization runs. Very essentially this is manifested through the 17 full-time staff who proficiently strives to achieve the objectives mentioned above. Now, more than ever before, RUCHI has long- and short-term volunteers participating in the project activities injecting fresh ideas and knowledge into the strong RUCHI team.

### 2.2. Finance and Accounts

The details are outlined in Annexure 1 of the audited statement of accounts.

**Besides project based funding in terms of grants-in-aid, RUCHI generates income from the following sources:**

- Consultation fees.
- Infrastructure usage charges.
- Agricultural activities.

**At present, RUCHI is receiving funds from the following international funding bodies:**

- RNZWCS-NZAID New Zealand
- Rotary Clubs of New Zealand.
- Charities Aid Foundation, India
- Lionex GmbH, Germany

**RUCHI's Indian sources of funding include:**

- Ministry of Women & Child Development
- CSR activities fund



## 3. Projects 2014-2015

### 3.1 : Women in Agriculture:

A Workshop on Women in Agriculture was held at RUCHI Bandh on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014. It was conducted by RUCHI in collaboration with YFA Hyderabad and Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Kisan Mahasangha in order to sensitise women and media on the plights of women farmers and to advocate for their recognition and rights as “farmers”. 126 women of Dharampur and Baddi tehsil participated in the workshop. Workshop was presided over by BDC member, Mrs. Durgawati Sharma. Mrs. Susheela Mehta, Mr. Ghanshyam Tanwar, Mr. Dharamvir Singh and Mr. Vekat Ramnaya addressed the women as resource persons.

The women stressed that though they are full time involved in agriculture along with men they are still not recognised as farmers and not allowed certain privileges available to other “farmers”.



### 3.2 Empowering Women Economy:

5 new SHGs were organised by RUCHI under a Dharampur Development Block sponsored scheme of watershed development. Under the scheme, the SHG members are eligible to apply and get rupees 5,000/- as interest free loan for some small economic activities.



### 3.3. Farmers Training Camp:

In collaboration with the Agriculture Office, 3 farmers training camps were held in villages of Kaindol, Tujhar and Mali.

Information on various schemes available to farmers was disseminated and farmers were encouraged to avail them for their farm production. Seeds of peas, spinach, coriander etc and minor tools were also distributed to participant farmers.



### 3.4: Baddi Integrated Development Water, Health and Agriculture.

The township of Baddi is in an underdeveloped part of the District of Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The majority of the villagers in the rural communities are of the “Scheduled Caste” and most are what is defined as “BPLs” (Below Poverty Line) i.e. they live on less than NZ\$1.50 per day.

The situation presents the opportunity to resolve key underlying vulnerabilities to poverty and poor health of 30 communities in both the informal settlements and neighbouring villages. High levels of poverty affect the urban slum residents and the nearby village members, the majority of whom are “scheduled caste” and live below the poverty line. Lack of access to irrigation water impacts severely on those with land who attempt to subsist in the absence of paid



work. Communities, both with and without agricultural land, experience extreme hardship through lack of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and are vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Further health priorities have been identified such as TB and diabetes which are similarly both preventable and treatable.

The Activity will facilitate community members to increase their productivity and economic status. It will emphasise the organisation and mobilisation of community members around health issues and the encouragement of the children to enrol for elementary education, particularly among the families who



live in the informal settlements. In the short and medium term, the Activity will improve sanitation and drinking water facilities for all communities. The surrounding villages will be supported to implement water conservation techniques which will impact positively on the water table and at the same time increase water available for irrigation. This along with training and resources for crop diversification will increase the productivity and yield from the land.



A three-year project that will benefit 30 communities in the Solan District in Himachal Pradesh in northern India was launched in March 2015. It will deliver the following results:

- Water infrastructure and irrigation
- Agricultural training and inputs including crop diversification
- Economic strengthening through savings and loans clubs and establishing savings habits
- Health promotion and disease prevention through Community Health Worker outreach and referrals
- Partnership with government agencies which respond to Violence against women
- Education of children through referrals to community education
- Increasing access to statutory social protection and assistance where available
- Strengthened community leadership and organisation through participation in local governance
- Promoting gender equality and women and leaders and role models

#### Project Objectives:

1. Improve community health and well being of the residents of 30 Villages and slums through extension education and provision of clean drinking water.
2. Increase farm production through introduction of crop diversification, organic farming and integrated pest management
3. Empower people through capacity building and information dissemination

In March 2015, an exposure of 15 farmers was organized to learn of diversified agricultural practices and share experience of farmers who have already benefitted from soil and water conservation practices in the area in past.

# 4. Volunteers

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## 4.1. International Voluntary Services (IVS)



RUCHI has been supporting both national and international students for internships as this promotes sharing available information and resources. RUCHI has already joined hands with international networks like CCIVS, NVDA and European alliance and their sub-networks. The volunteers placed through the network members help initiate inter cultural exchange, exposures/experience in community development at grass root level besides academic pursuits.



International volunteers find visiting RUCHI a learning experience. They come on study visit for a short or a long term basis to learn, exchange ideas & perspectives between RUCHI's staff and other participants and the communities they work with. Their small donations also help the organization to cover its administrative expenses and become independent of agency funding. Depending on funds generated small projects are also taken up with this fund.

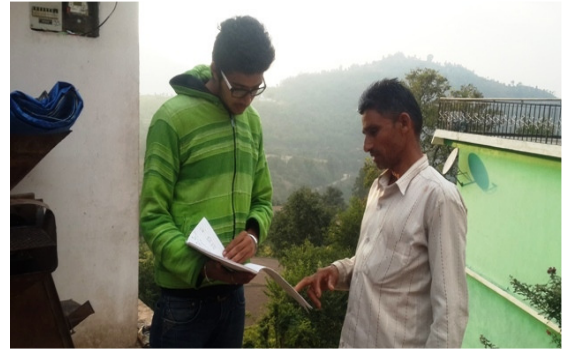
During the year, RUCHI also sent one Indian volunteer to Wales, U.K. to participate in a one-month long volunteer project and another one to Spain for short term (2-weeks) cultural project.

## 4.2. Student Placements

Students from various national universities doing their graduation and post-graduation in various disciplines also join RUCHI projects as interns during their university breaks. This extends opportunities to gain first hand knowledge at grass roots level and develop an insight in the practical problems of the rural communities. This broadens their horizons and develops a positive attitude for initiating more innovative humanitarian projects for communities' sustainable development.

Like the previous years, this year too, 15 PG students of IRMA, Anand (Gujrat), visited RUCHI for two months to complete their field work segment placement. 15 MA first year students from IRMA were with RUCHI from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 as a part of their Field Work Segment placement. Placed in 5 villages in a group of 3 each. This was meant for their orientation to grass roots level issues and orientation.

2 IRMA final year students did their MTP in July-August 2014. They were involved with data collection under Baddi project.



## 5. Seminars/Conferences

One of RUCHI staff attended the Technical Meeting of European Alliance, a European network of NGOs involved in international voluntary services, held in Armenia during March 2014.

This is a very important platform of European Alliance to promote community development projects through international volunteers. More than 100 NGOs from all over the world meet during this TM.



RUCHI was also a partner of a European Commission approved project through CAZALLA Intercultural Association Spain. Two staff members participated in the initial training under the project organized at Lorca, Spain.

In yet another project, another RUCHI staff attended the meeting as coordinator of the project in Hungary in March 2015.





**Independent Auditors' Report**

**To the Members of Rural Centre for Human Interests (RUCHI), Bandh (H.P.)**

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Rural Centre for Human Interests (RUCHI) ("The Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Society's Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Society in accordance with the Accounting Principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Society's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- (a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015; and
- (b) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the income and expenditure of the Society for the year ended on that date.

We report that:

- (a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- (b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- (c) The Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account.

Place: Parwanoo  
Date: May 22, 2015

For R. Ahuja & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No.: 003228N  
*Rajiv Ahuja*  
Rajiv Ahuja, Proprietor  
Membership No.: 082182



**RURAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN INTERESTS (RUCHI), BANDH (H.P.)**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2015**

| Prev. year<br>2013-14 | Liabilities  |                                       | ₹         | Prev. year<br>2013-14 | Assets  |                     | ₹         |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|
| 15,21,512             | <b>CAPITAL FUND</b><br>As per last account<br>Sale of fixed assets<br>Depreciation of fixed assets | 15,21,512<br>(4,75,000)<br>(1,38,336) | 9,08,176  | 15,12,012             | <b>FIXED ASSETS</b><br>As per schedule attached                       |                     | 8,98,676  |
| 8,60,897              | <b>CORPUS FUND</b><br>As per last account  |                                       | 8,60,897  | 22,00,000             | <b>INVESTMENTS</b><br>Fixed deposits<br>Interest accrued              | 17,73,994<br>67,229 | 18,41,223 |
| 9,15,952              | <b>RESERVES &amp; SURPLUS</b><br>As per last account<br>Deficit for the year                       | 9,15,952<br>(8,98,641)                | 17,311    | 10,86,623             | <b>GRANTS RECEIVABLE</b><br>As per statement attached                 |                     | 6,97,134  |
| -                     | <b>GRANTS UNUTILISED</b><br>As per statement attached  |                                       | 53,990    |                       | <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b><br>Cash in hand<br>Cash at bank                 | 23,096<br>1,45,651  | 1,68,747  |
| 20,77,648             | <b>REVOLVING FUND</b><br>As per detail attached  |                                       | 20,52,169 | 74,410                | <b>LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b><br>TDS recoverable<br>Amounts recoverable | 90,102<br>2,18,261  | 3,08,363  |
| 61,155                | <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b><br>Expenses payable   |                                       | 21,600    |                       |   |                     |           |
| 54,37,164             |  |                                       | 39,14,143 | 54,37,164             |   |                     | 39,14,143 |

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

As per our report of even date attached.

For RUCHI

Director

For R. Ahuja & Associates

Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No.: 003228N

Rajiv Ahuja, Proprietor

Membership No.: 082182

Parwanoo, May 22, 2015



**RURAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN INTERESTS (RUCHI), BANDH (H.P.)**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

| Prev. year<br>2013-14 | Expenditure  |          | ₹         | Prev. year<br>2013-14 | Income                                   |             | ₹         |
|-----------------------|--|----------|-----------|-----------------------|--|-------------|-----------|
| 31,75,141             | Expenditure met from grants  |          | (60,356)  | 32,46,851             | Grant-In-Aid<br>Received during the year | 3,83,123    |           |
|                       |  |          |           | -                     | Unutilised as on 1.4.14.                 | -           |           |
|                       |  |          |           | (11,58,333)           | Receivable as on 1.4.14                  | (10,86,623) |           |
| 10,49,994             | Expenditure met from other sources                                 |          |           | 10,86,623             | Receivable as on 31.3.15                 | 6,97,134    |           |
|                       | Excess expenditure on projects over and above the sanctioned grant | 2,85,779 |           | -                     | Unutilised as on 31.3.15                 | (53,990)    | (60,356)  |
|                       |  |          |           | 9,29,337              | Income from other sources                |             |           |
|                       | Audit fee and expenses   | 16,750   |           |                       | Interest income                          | 1,91,517    |           |
|                       | Bank charges   | 289      |           |                       | Publications                             | 3,000       |           |
|                       | Insurance  | 14,621   |           |                       | Public contribution                      | 38,588      |           |
|                       | Administration   | 2,31,498 |           |                       | Sale of vehicle                          | 4,75,000    | 7,08,105  |
|                       | Professional fees  | 4,000    |           |                       |  |             |           |
|                       | Staff salary   | 9,39,500 |           |                       |  |             |           |
|                       | Campus maintenance   | 61,987   |           |                       |  |             |           |
|                       | Vehicle running & maint.   | 52,322   | 16,06,746 | 1,20,657              | Deficit for the year                     |             | 8,98,641  |
| 42,25,135             |  |          | 15,46,390 | 42,25,135             |  |             | 15,46,390 |

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

As per our report of even date attached.

For RUCHI

Director

For R. Ahuja & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Regn. No.: 003228N

*Rajiv Ahuja*  
Rajiv Ahuja, Proprietor.  
Membership No. : 082182  
Panwano, May 22, 2015