

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



## Rural Centre for Human Interests

Village- Bandh, Bhaguri – 173233  
District- Solan, Himachal Pradesh, INDIA  
Tel: 91- 7560078500  
Email: [info@ruchi.org.in](mailto:info@ruchi.org.in)  
Website: [www.ruchi.org.in](http://www.ruchi.org.in)

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

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# 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.

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 five 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 believes in and practices peace, 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 12 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.
- Public contribution/donations
- IVS projects

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

- RNZWCS-NZAID New Zealand
- Rotary Clubs of New Zealand.
- Lionex GmbH, Germany

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

- Shamdasani Trust

# 3. Projects 2017-2018

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

This 3-year integrated project which was started from 1st March 2015 officially ended on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. RUCHI embarked on this ambitious project with a holistic approach with a focus on improving quality of lives of communities through their overall empowerment, improved farming, health care and environmental sanitation. The project was financially supported by RNZWCS under a New Zealand aid programme.

The project outputs included development of

- Irrigation tanks: 6
- Percolation tank: 10
- Springs development: 12
- Check dam construction: 4
- Individual water storage tanks: 40
- Trash bins: 10
- Composting units: 32
- Tree plantation: 5920
- Gully Plugging: 601Cum
- SHG formation/training: 23
- Farmers trained through exposures: 390
- Farm demonstrations: 12
- People tested against TB: 7553

A final evaluation of the project was conducted by an Anthropologist of Delhi University, Delhi, Dr. Mary Grace 'D' Tungdim. The report confirms that The construction of percolation tanks /earthen ponds, irrigations tanks, protection of natural springs and ferro-cement tanks for individual household water storage tanks, etc. were very



relevant to the villagers. The development of water bodies have increased soil moisture and accessibility to water for irrigation, provision of clean and safe drinking for both humans and their cattle. It is a humble start towards the agendum of the Sustainable Development Goals of India 2030. The trainings and farm visits organised by RUCHI for farmers have enriched their knowledge and encouraged them to start growing cash yielding vegetables/crops. In general, the farm income for each farmer family increased from an average of Rs. 13,000/- per annum in the year 2016-17 to Rs.24,000/- per annum during 2017-18. There is also an increase in irrigated cultivated area in each village from average 6.3 bigha to 8 bigha. Her report is available on our website.

### 3.2 : CHARGER –Fighting Youth Employment by Developing Employability Skills under Erasmus+ Programme of EU:

This project aims to improve the competences of the youth workers and develop the tools in the area of the employability skills, and finally work on the improvement of the employability skills of young people – NEETS from 6 participating countries. 6 EVS volunteers from 3 countries (Spain, France and Hungary) stayed in RUCHI for 6 months under the project.

During the year, the final Dissemination Event on NEETS was held at Delhi University which was attended by more than 55 students. Starting with video tutorials on NEETS, experiences were shared by both incoming (overseas volunteers) and outgoing students/volunteers (Indians who have been overseas). The sessions were interactive and generated lot of interest on various aspects of volunteering among students.



### 3.3: Volun-tour Project under Erasmus+ programme of EU:

The main objective of this project is to develop a new format of international mobilities for young people, fully organized and implemented by NGOs. By valuing the know-how of the partners involved, the aim of the project is to develop the organisations’ competences to create a new and sustainable entrepreneurial concept arising from non-formal education principles and to promote particular volunteering experiences with common quality standards and change making goals.

The goal of “VolunTour” project is to empower local and international NGOs in the management of “volunt-tourists” groups, following an educational path and offering the chance to develop an economically sustainable model to impact local societies through responsible volunteerism.

3 EVS volunteers from Hungary and Italy stayed in RUCHI for 6 months under the project where as 2 Indian EVS volunteers from RUCHI went to Hungary to promote and work on this project for 5 months.

During the Study Visit of European partners and volunteers to India a conference with all stake holders was arranged in the office of



Town & Country Planner at Baddi. 2 senior staff of RUCHI attended Study Visits in Nepal, Italy and Hungary for 15 days. Study visit in Europe was basically meant to experience youth mobility, non-formal education projects and change makers' activities before a final meeting for the production and dissemination of the intellectual output.

The final evaluation meeting of the project was done in Milan, Italy in February 2018. This was attended by Executive Director and Project Coordinator of RUCHI.

### 3.4 STEPS TO CHANGE PROJECT:



The aim of this project is to strengthen IVS organisations globally with trainings and practice, according to each regions' needs, in the areas of organisational management and impact assessment. The first activity will be an international training on organisational management and impact measurement. Each international training will be followed by visits to projects in the countries of the regional participants/partners, to implement impact measurement with

hosting communities and complete the training with the host organisations. As a whole, 4 regional trainings, and 20 countries and organisations will be covered.

2 RUCHI staff attended a week long Training of Trainers workshop in Phnom-Penh, Cambodia during August 2017. The External Expert from Hong Kong then visited RUCHI during September 2017 to train staff and use impact measurement tools. The field interviews conducted revealed interesting facts and how effectively the IVS movement has been bringing about changes within the communities.

### 3.5 Equal Start Project under Erasmus+ programme of EU:

The project consists of eight activities that corroborated will allow the consortium to develop and publish a guide for educator in entrepreneurship education targeted to marginalized young women (further referred to as the Guide), ensure a local impact and secure the project sustainability. There are 6 partners in the project, 3 from Asia and 2 from Denmark, Europe.

The first Kick-off-Meeting (KOM) under the project





was organized by RUCHI at Chandigarh from 18-23 February, 2018. The meeting was attended by 11 people of 5 participating organizations.

### 3.6 LACE FOR SDGs Project under Erasmus+ programme of EU:

“Learning, Acting, Creating and Educating for Sustainable Development Goals” (LACE for SDGs) is an innovating project that aims to address and give solution to the issues that are mentioned in 17 SDGs by involving youth initiative through a complete cycle of raising awareness of SDGs, training course and project piloting and evaluating. The project mainly targets at youth, NGOs and the community, where youths live and struggle with problems in term of environment, human rights, poverty, etc. with the implementation between the two continents Europe and Asia in order to have the variety of innovation ideas to deal with problems that occur in daily lives.

By using non-formal education methodology and youth-approach techniques, LACE for SDGs will encourage and inspire youth to contribute in achieving SDGs in their own community particularly, and their country in general. The first Kick-off-Meeting under the project was held in Italy during November 2017.



### 3.7 Waste Force:

During October 2017, RUCHI embarked on an innovative project called **Waste Force** with the help of 2 Italian interns and made efforts in educating slum dwellers, rural communities and school children to minimize waste generation, waste segregation and proper disposal. With the ongoing education of people through SHGs we have decided on 10 collection points where people keep their trash ready to be picked up on pre-fixed dates by RUCHI. 6 schools are also involved and their children educated to segregate and put trash in different bags. The trash is then brought to RUCHI where that is further segregated and kept to increase volume. Once we get a truck load ready, we shall take it to Baddi and sell it to Trash Collectors for recycling besides recovering the cost of transportation.





### 3.8 Advocacy and Linkages:

RUCHI's focus has always been on empowering communities for their sustainable development. Therefore, a lot of stress is laid on disseminating information on government plan and policies, schemes and their rights. Keeping in view their needs, following activities were organized for them:

- A. Education on Labour Laws: A camp was organized through Labour Welfare Board in 5 village on 19-20 May, 2017 which was attended by 45 women.
- B. New Farming Practices: 12 women from the project area attended a 5-days camp during September 2017 at Himachal Agriculture University, Palampur where they learned new farming practices.
- C. Kisan Mela: A Kisan Mela was organized by BDO, Dharampur on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 which was attended by 30 farmers of our project area.
- D. Skill Development Training: A 2 week long training was conducted through BDO, Dharampur during 14-28 June 2017 in Kendol village where 33 women were skilled in knitting and weaving household items.
- E. Animal Care: A day camp was organized by Animal Husbandry Department, H.P. in Kotla-Barog (Solan) in February, 2018 which was attended by our 40 farmers. Farmers were educated on taking care of milch animals during the camps.

## 4. International Voluntary Services:

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### 4.1. International Voluntary Workcamps:

Since its inception in February 1983, RUCHI has been encouraging Indian students to take part in social services. It got involved with IVS (international voluntary services) movement since 1998 and promoted participation of both national and international students in community development process. 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. More than 120 students/volunteers visited RUCHI projects in Himachal Pradesh during this year.

## 4.2. Student Placements

28 students from Universities of Karnataka, Dibrugarh (Assam), Ahmedabad and Aga Khan Academy visited RUCHI during their university breaks to do their internship. They have been finding the experience valuable in better understanding the contributions of NGOs in community development besides gaining first hand knowledge on needs, problems and low cost solutions at grass roots level.



# 5. Seminars/Conferences

## 5.1 Conference on Stop Climate Change:

Preparation Meeting of SCC Campleaders and Hosting Representatives was held in Tokyo, Japan from 17-21 May 2017. The Executive Director and IVS Coordinator of RUCHI attended the conference.

The final concluding meeting to evaluate the project was conducted at Cebu, Philippines on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. This was attended by the Executive Director of RUCHI.



## 5.2 NVDA GA:

This year the General Assembly of NVDA network was held in Hong Kong during January 2018. Mr. Mahip Dagar, RUCHI Coordinator attended the meeting and was elected as the Vice-President of NVDA for the next 2 years. As a Vice President, Mr. Dagar will be responsible for External Relations and further strengthening of NVDA network during his term from 2018-2020.





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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

Prev. year 2016-17	Liabilities		₹	Prev. year 2016-17	Assets		₹
859,058	<b>CAPITAL FUND</b> As per last account Additions to fixed assets Depreciation of fixed assets	859,058 - (131,462)	727,596	849,558	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> As per schedule attached		718,096
860,897	<b>CORPUS FUND</b> As per last account		860,897	7,975,081	<b>INVESTMENTS</b> Fixed deposits Interest accrued on FDs	3,800,000 4,850	3,804,850
415,839	<b>RESERVES &amp; SURPLUS</b> As per last account Surplus for the year	415,839 230,635	646,474	94,659	<b>GRANTS RECEIVABLE</b> As per statement attached		-
7,200,570	<b>GRANTS UNUTILISED</b> As per statement attached		664,780	51,062 2,089,564	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b> Cash in hand Cash at bank	32,973 2,545,268	2,578,241
2,288,173	<b>REVOLVING FUND</b> As per detail attached		4,324,298	100,363 500,000	<b>LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b> Tax deducted at source Advance/imprest	137,042 96,346	233,388
35,750	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> Expenses payable		110,530				
11,660,287			7,334,575	11,660,287			7,334,575

For RUCHI  
Director



AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

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

Rajiv Ahuja, Proprietor.  
Membership No. : 082182  
Panveloo, June 30, 2018





**RURAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN INTERESTS (RUCHI), BANDH (H.P.)**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

Receipts	₹	Payments	₹
Opening balance		Expenditure met from grants	11,239,079
Cash in hand	51,062	Expenditure met from other sources	561,318
Cash at bank	<u>2,089,564</u>	Tax deducted at source	36,679
Grant in aid received	4,797,948		
Interest income	512,354	<b>Closing balance</b>	
Publications	60,000	Cash in hand	32,973
Public contribution	147,400	Cash at bank	<u>2,545,268</u>
Volunteering India	70,199		
SHG income	2,000		
Increase in revolving fund	2,036,125		
Advances/imprest received	403,654		
Decrease in FDR	4,170,231		
Increase in expenses payable	74,780		
	<u>14,415,317</u>		<u>14,415,317</u>

For RUCHI

Director



**AUDITORS' REPORT**

Audited and found in accordance with the books of account & other records produced before us.

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

Rajiv Ahuja, Proprietor.  
 Membership No. : 082182  
 Parwanoo, June 30, 2018

