ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



RUCHI

Rural Centre for Human Interests

Village- Bandh, Bhaguri – 173233
District- Solan, Himachal Pradesh, INDIA
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Registered as a society at village Shalana, Rajgarh 173101, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh

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1. About the Organization

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 nine 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 though 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

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:

- EU under Erasmus+ programme
- Give Foundation
- Prof. Mahavir Singh

RUCHI's Indian sources of funding include:

- Shamdasani Foundation
- Dabur India Ltd.
- Abhay Dan Trust

3. Projects 2025-2026

3.1 Empowering RUCHI for Sustainable Development:

Abhay Dan Trust, New Delhi has continued to support and empower RUCHI during this year as well to deliver need based support to rural communities for environmental actions and livelihood improvement. With this financial support, RUCHI has managed to undertake following activities:

Environment & Global Warming: With people's participation, 300 odd trees were planted in village panchayats land and 300 fruit trees were distributed to be planted on private land. Visiting students/volunteers were also involved in tree plantation. RUCHI Team along with university students also took time to educate children in some schools besides village communities on environmental concerns and check global warming. Some ornamental plants were also planted in our campus as a part of landscaping and increase green cover.









With the changing climate change we all continue to face rising temperature and heat waves especially during summer months. With financial resources from Abhay Dan, RUCHI installed water coolers with purifiers at strategic places for community use/welfare of people. Steel insulated water bottles were also distributed to some needy children.



Promotion of natural farming: To promote natural farming, RUCHI has been involved in creating community awareness through village meetings and carrying our small demonstrations on organic manuring, crop rotation, kitchen gardens etc.





Water Conservation for livelihood, health and hygiene:

Despite good rainfall, the communities around our office in Solan district continue to face severe water shortage for drinking as well as watering agriculture land. Therefore, periodic cleaning maintenance of water bodies in villages is an ongoing process for us. We organized water cleanliness campaigns during this year also and cleaned 6 natural springs, storage tanks, community water filters. The Sili stream check dam close to our office and Bandh village also needed desilting to restore water catchment. However, this task is now getting beyond the capabilities of an NGO due to high costs involved in the forest area but we were able to restore the catchment partially and conducted regular maintenance of the structure. We plan to take up cleaning work on the Tujhar village heritage pond in the coming months (photo given below).









Slums around Baddi township were covered under the water conservation, hygiene and sanitation drive where a lot of stress was laid on nutrition, safe water and protecting water bodies for a healthy life. Packets of juice and other cereals were distributed during last summer. Sessions with parents were also taken to disengage their children from trash collection and send them to schools.

3.2 Women Power:

The empowerment of women and adolescent girls in villages and schools is an ongoing process for us. They were educated on not only provisions of POSH, menstrual hygiene but on WASH component of health. The main focus of this education is to empower women and young girls to gain power and control over their own lives, develop self-confidence and acquire the ability to make strategic choices. Business ideas were shared with the women in Shaktighat.





The SHGs organized through RUCHI have been doing commendable work. RUCHI keeps in touch with them through regular meetings. Some of them have taken wonderful initiatives for economic empowerment. One such group is of Dhar village where women make cloth bags as an enterprise. The Indian and international volunteers have been trying to assist them in marketing their products. Dhanyon SHG is still engaged in cultivating flowers and dry them in natural sunlight and sell the dried bucket of flowers.

3.3 Corporate Social responsibility

(CSR): Dabur India Ltd. has continued to help the formal and informal communities by its generous donation of “Real” Juices of various variants, coconut water, candy, cough syrups and other items. Before the consumable items were distributed, we organized talks on personal hygiene, nutrition and balanced diet in schools and communities.








3.4 Local Governance: RUCHI continues to pass on information to people at the community level and assist people to take benefits of the available schemes. This year we helped in

- Updation of Aadhar cards for roughly 25 people.
- Donation for an automatic wheel chair for a disabled person is under process. .
- MNREGA job cards were generated for 10 families

4. Capacity building of Youth: Since its inception, it has been our endeavor to train and expose young professional to grass roots situations in the community development process. We encourage both Indian and International students/interns to visit RUCHI to get first hand knowledge of local needs, issues and work out, if possible, low cost solutions to their problems.

4.1. Student Internship/Placement:

This year, 35 students from Dayal Singh College, Delhi, Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, Mumbai, SPJMR Mumbai, St. Joseph's College, Christ Nagar College of Kerala, Dhirubhi Ambani University, Gujrat in India visited us to do their internship lasting from one to two months during their holidays as their academic requirement. They were involved in areas of sustainable development through community interaction and education. They also assisted young students in preparing their resume and prepare them to face job interviews.





4.2. Placement of International Volunteers for Personal Development:

The number of international volunteers/interns are stagnating at a minmum for a couple of years now. Hogh costs of travelling, stringent visa regulations and reduced financial affordability are some of the reasons responsible for reduced interest of youth for volunteering. Volunteers get engaged in activities



of their interest keeping in view the requirement for their academic pursuits as well as their personal development. There are many wo are interested in environmental concerns and education where as other are interested in education communities through educational and art materials. The number of volunteers who are attracted to experiencing and learning from Buddhist culture is on the rise. 26 international volunteers visited us this year.







5. Webinars/Conferences

Mr. Mahip Dagar, RUCHI Coordinator for IVS programme attended two international conferences this year. He participated in 19th TNW and 20th General Assembly of NVDA hosted by MNCYA Macao, China from 12 May to 18 May. He later participated in 38th General Conference and General Assembly of CCIVS from 11-17 November hosted by SAVWA at Pretoria in South Africa. Both these meetings are important platforms to create new alliances, share vision and IVS projects with all members.

NVDA GA Macao, China	CCIVS GA at Pretoria, South Africa.
	

In addition, our long time IVS team leader Mr Arjunsing Rajpoot was invited to join Stop Climate Change (SCC) project leader training at Yokohama, Japan between 4th to 8th July hosted by NICE from Japan. The training emphasized on creating understanding on project objectives and successfully running camp hosted by us in India.



