

**REPORT OF
CONCURRENT EVALUATION**

CONDUCTED BY

**NATIONAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HUB
TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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NATIONAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HUB, RESEARCH TEAM

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Prof. Venkatesh Kumar

Director

PROJECT CO-COORDINATOR

Ms. Neha Yadav

Program Manager

DATA ANALYSIS and REPORT WRITING

Ms. Neha Yadav

RESEARCH INVESTIGATORS

Mr. Dynaneshwar Doifode

Mr. Abhay Jichkar

Mr. Nirvesh Kumar

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B. Venkatesh Kumar

Director, NCSR Hub, TISS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 CSR: A Historical Perspective

The concept of CSR in India is not new, the term may be. The process though acclaimed recently, has been followed since ancient times albeit informally.

Philosophers like Kautilya from India and pre-Christian era philosophers in the West preached and promoted ethical principles while doing business. The concept of helping the poor and disadvantaged was cited in much of the ancient literature.

The idea was also supported by several religions where it has been intertwined with religious laws. “Zakaat”, followed by Muslims, is donation from one’s earnings which is specifically given to the poor and disadvantaged. Similarly Hindus follow the principle of “Dhramada” and Sikhs the “Daashaant”. In the global context, the recent history goes back to the seventeenth century when in 1790s, England witnessed the first large scale consumer boycott over the issue of slave harvested sugar which finally forced importer to have free-labor sourcing.

In India, in the pre independence era, the businesses which pioneered industrialisation along with fighting for independence also followed the idea. They put the idea into action by setting up charitable foundations, educational and healthcare institutions, and trusts for community development. The donations either monetary or otherwise were sporadic activities of charity or philanthropy that were taken out of personal savings which neither belonged to the shareholders nor did it constitute an integral part of business.

The term CSR itself came in to common use in the early 1970s although it was seldom abbreviated. By late 1990s, the 3concept were fully recognised; people and institutions across all sections of society started supporting it. This can be corroborated by the fact that while in 1977 less than half of the Fortune 500 firms even mentioned CSR in their annual reports, by the end of 1990, approximately 90 percent Fortune 500 firms embraced CSR as

an essential element in their organisational goals, and actively promoted their CSR activities in annual reports (Boli and Hartsuiker, 2001).¹

1.2 CSR: Definition:

There is no one fixed definition for CSR and can be comprehended differently by different people. Some perceive it to be a commitment of a company to manage its various roles in society, as producer, employer, customer and citizen in a responsible manner while for others it is synonymous to Corporate Responsibility (CR) or Corporate Citizenship or Social Action Programme (SAP). Of late, the term has also been started to link up with Triple Bottom Line Reporting (TBL) which essentially measures an enterprise's performance against economic, social and environmental indicators.

There are several theoretical definitions for CSR. Some of the definitions are given as follows:

Definition 1: Philip Kotler and Nancy Lee (2005) define CSR as “a commitment to improve community well being through discretionary business practices and contributions of corporate resources” whereas Mallen Baker refers to CSR as “a way companies manage the business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society.”

Definition 2: According to World Business Council for Sustainable Development “Corporate Social Responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large”

Definition 3: Archie Carroll in 1991 describes CSR as a multi layered concept that can be differentiated into four interrelated aspects – economic, legal, ethical and philanthropic responsibilities.

Carroll presents these different responsibilities as consecutive layers within a pyramid, such that “true” social responsibility requires the meeting of all four levels consecutively.

¹ Corporate Social Responsibility – Towards a Sustainable Future, A White Paper, KPMG IN INDIA

The model probably is the most accepted and established. While the definitions of CSR may differ, there is an emerging consensus on some common principles that underline CSR:

CSR is a business imperative: Whether pursued as a voluntary corporate initiative or for legal compliance reasons, CSR will achieve its intended objectives only if businesses truly believe that CSR is beneficial to them.

CSR is a link to sustainable development: businesses feel that there is a need to integrate social, economic and environmental impact in their operation; and CSR is a way to manage business: CSR is not an optional add on to business, but it is about the way in which businesses are managed.

1.3 DPE Guidelines and National Corporate Social Responsibility Hub

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises has introduced the CSR Guidelines in March, 2010 for the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to commit themselves to the concept and practical implementation of Corporate Social responsibility. The revised guidelines of DPE (effective from 1st April 2013) pertaining to CSR looks deeper into the matter of Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility. Under these guidelines, the CSR interventions are required to be thoroughly and scientifically researched and on this basis the intervention programmes have to be formulated and implemented.

In order to accomplish this, a National Corporate Social Responsibility Hub (NCSR Hub) was created by the DPE at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. As per the revised DPE Guidelines 2013, the NCSR Hub has been mandated to fulfill following broad objectives-

1. Nationwide compilation, documentation and creation of database;
2. Advocacy on concepts;
3. Research on subjects including publishing of research papers/articles/concept papers on specific issues;
4. Preparation of Panels of implementation organization/monitoring and valuation agencies;

5. Promotional Activities, including production of short films, printing of brochures, pamphlets etc.;
6. Act as a Think Tank – Being carried out;
7. Organizing Conferences, Seminars, Workshops- both national and international;
8. Setting up a National Data base;
9. Any other matter pertaining to CSR and Sustainability as entrusted to it from time to time by the DPE

The NCSR Hub has undertaken numerous research studies which include Needs Assessment, Impact Assessment and Proposal Evaluation. The objective of these studies is to fine tune the existing policies and structures in place and also recommend possible areas of intervention with regards to CSR. The Hub has been proactively engaged in empanelling implementing partners and has so far created a database of 150 organizations. To conduct several activities related to capacity building, mindset changing, empowerment of women and children, health awareness and preventive measures, the Hub recommends credible civil society organisations to the CPSEs to engage with. This helps the PSUs to collaborate with credible partners and undertake CSR activities in needs based areas found as per the respective study.

In fulfillment of it's above mentioned responsibilities the NCSR Hub acts as a facilitator to help the PSUs to effectively carry out their CSR projects.

1.4 THDC India Limited:

THDC India Limited is a Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. The Equity is shared in the ratio of 3:1 between GoI and GoUP for the Power Component. The Company was incorporated in July' 88 with the initial mandate to develop, operate & maintain the 2400 MW Tehri Hydro Power Complex (comprising of 1000 MW Tehri Dam & HPP, 1000 MW Tehri Pumped Storage Plant & 400 MW Koteshwar HEP) and other hydro projects.

The wide range of technical, environmental and social proficiency and experience of THDCIL places it in leading position to take up challenging Hydro Power Projects. THDCIL

is entrusted with new projects for execution/preparation/updating of DPR for hydro power projects, Pump Storage Schemes in India and abroad.

THDCIL has now grown to a multi project organization having 15 projects totaling to an installed capacity of 8,770 MW under operation/ various stages of development in Uttarakhand, U.P, Maharashtra and Bhutan. As a further step ahead towards renewable energy resources, THDCIL is venturing into Solar and Wind energy areas.²

THDCIL also plans to diversify into non conventional and renewable sources of energy viz. solar and wind power. THDCIL has taken initiatives to venture into the Wind Energy sector. THDCIL is looking forward to install 50MW Capacity wind farm initially as an Investor. THDCIL has taken initiative for establishing grid connected Solar Power Project in U.P. The State Nodal Agencies have been requested to allot the required land for the Solar Power Project.

THDCIL has been conferred SCOPE '**Meritorious Award for Corporate Social Responsibility and Responsiveness**' in April 2012.

1.5 THDCIL- CSR Concept:

The scheme sets out the commitment of THDCIL as a company to operate in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, while recognizing the interest of its Stakeholders. This commitment is beyond statutory requirements. CSR is, therefore, closely linked with the practice of Sustainable Development. CSR extends beyond philanthropic activities and reaches out to the integration of social and business goals. These activities need to be seen as those which would, in the long term, help secure a sustainable competitive advantage.

THDCIL has primary responsibility to maximize shareholder profits, but a shift in corporate mindset led by social expectations and pressure has caused rethink with respect to corporate performance measured in terms of economic impact, social impact and

² http://thdc.gov.in/English/Scripts/Lookingahead_Futureplan.aspx accessed as on 3rd July 2013

environmental impact- commonly called the Triple Bottom Line. Economic growth is possible only through consumption of inputs available in the environment and society. The harnessing of natural resources has a direct impact on the economy, the environment and society at large. CSR is a concept whereby organizations serve the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities and the environment in all aspects for their operations.³

1.6 The Challenge:

SEWA-THDC started efforts to improve livelihood condition around Tehri Reservoir area mainly in 'cut-off areas' of Gajna Patti Pratapnagar of Tehri Garhwal and Uttarkashi. SEWA-THDC team has contacted various experts in the social field for taking expert suggestions for implementing and monitoring of CSR works. For finding the ground reality of the cut off area, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Shri Pooranchand Ramola, Block Pramukh, Pratapnager on May 27, 2010. Representatives of Honorable M.P. Tehri, MLA Pratapnager, BDO Pratapnager, and about 100 no's. Gram Pradhans, social experts, people from nearby villages and officers of SEWA-THDC were present in the meeting. As the meeting proceeded with serious discussion, Smt. Jabra Ranaa stormed in and disrupted the meeting with approx 200 local people of Gajna Patti and Pratapnager Block. The protesters made 'Gheraav' of officers, social experts and threatened that they will not allow any CSR work to be undertaken in cut-off area.

Smt. Jabra Rana, President, Tehri Bandh Sangarsh Samiti, Gajna Patti, Pratapnager sat for 'Dharna' with her colleagues on 15.02.2011 in front of THDCIL's gate at Rishikesh. She raised unrealistic demands that Rs. 5.0 Lac be paid for each family of the cut off area for compensating their inconvenience due to disruption in road communication.

SEWA-THDC assessed the basic requirements of people of Cut-off Areas through one to one contact and data obtained from social experts. SEWA-THDC has taken the view that direct cash compensation as demanded by Jabra Rana's Samiti is not desirable. Instead welfare activities for the cut-off areas with emphasis on income generation schemes have to be

³ <http://thdc.gov.in/writereaddata/english/pdf/THDCCSR-CDScheme-2010.pdf> accessed as on 3rd June 2013

initiated for implementation. Historically the public had negative perception about THDCIL. In this backdrop, CSR was started with entry level activities such as distribution of items of community utility such as utensils, chairs and tents etc. to the village panchayats. The communities rent out these items to local families for use during family functions and earn some income. The proceeds can be used for common benefit of communities. This would minimize the commuting effort and reduces cost to villagers for arrangement of marriage and other community functions. The village committee issues the utensils, chairs and tents to the needy villagers on payment of Rs. 1000/- for each function and the same is deposited in the village fund. The accumulated fund so earned could be utilized for the developmental activities of the villages.

1.7 CSR Initiatives Summary:

SEWA -THDC organized Skill **Development / Vocational Training** and other training programs to improve the skills and employability of the local people in various vocational fields i.e. computer, Digital Photography, Hospitality - Chef and steward, security guards, ITI trades etc. THDCIL had adopted two ITIs -one in Chamba Distt. Tehri Garhwal & other in Gopeshwar Distt. Chamoli for development of skilled manpower in the area.

For Promotion of Sustainable livelihood of the rim area villages of Pratapnagar and Jakhnidhar Block, a program is being implemented through Department of Geography, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar (Garhwal) i.e. **“Natural Resource Management and Livelihood promotion Program for the Rim Area 30 Villages of Pratapnagar & Jhkhaniidhar Block in Distt. Tehri Garhwal”**. This project is based on **Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (U-COOST)** recommendation for Rim Area villages. 30 self-help groups have been formed in the target villages for water conservation, vegetable production, agriculture based activities etc. For providing assistance to the farmers, initially Rs. 10,000/- was given as revolving fund for each group in 20 villages and further the same was extended to 10 more villages Under this project, income increase of Rs 24000 per annum by one of the beneficiary was recorded during the primary data

collection⁴. For promotion of organic farming, total 143 vermi compost pits have been made and 200 No's. **Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Tanks** of 3000 liter capacity of each have been installed in the target villages under this project. The response for vermicompost was good and the beneficiaries claimed that it helped the crop and produce had improved with the use of vermicompost. Considering the encouraging results of increased income of the targeted villagers the self-help groups and revolving fund schemes developed under this project by HNB Garhwal University, further 20 villages of Rim area have been entrusted to Delhi University and 20 villages have been entrusted to "Project Directorate of Farming System & Research" (PDFSR), Modipuram for livelihood promotion.

For **Conservation & Management of Water**, SEWA-THDC has taken several Initiatives. Digging of water pits (Tal - Taliyan) have been taken up for ground water recharge and ambient humidity and regeneration of vegetation around the villages. Based on the experimental model of Shri Sachidanand Bharti, at Ufrainkhal, Pauri, SEWA-THDC has taken initiatives for Dry Stream Treatment (Gadhera) and vegetation regeneration program in the remote villages of Tehri Garhwal, under the able guidance of Shri Sachidanand Bharti, Adviser Planning Commission, Govt. Uttarakhand.

SEWA -THDC opened **Homeopathic Dispensaries** in the remote villages of Pratapnager Block for providing basic facilities towards health & hygiene and organizing specialized health check-up camps for poor through super-specialty & specialist doctors. For women empowerment we had started 5 Sewing Centers at Pratapnager Block and the result is as per the desired expectation in terms of increased income. It was decided to continue the operation of these centers for another 6 months. SEWA-THDC established a Research and Development (High-Tech Nodal Centre) at DEEN GAON to carry out CSR activities and their market linkage.

SEWA-THDC requested National Herbal Plant Mission, Gopeshwar, Distt. Chamoli to provide financial assistance for development of a small nursery in THDCIL's campus at Rishikesh for providing herbal plants free of cost to the farmers in nearby area so that they

⁴ The names and the contact details cannot be revealed due to ethical considerations.

could be benefited. In this context National Herbal Plant Mission, Gopeshwar, Distt. Chamoli sanctioned Rs. 4, 00, 00 0/-and released 1st. installment of Rs. 2,00,000/-in March 2011.

The CSR initiatives also include **employment linked vocational skills training programs** for unemployed youth and suitability to promote sustained livelihood, overall development and well being of the target communities. SEWA-THDC is also supporting the proposal of IL&FS Education for Partnership to SEWA -THDC for jointly implementing Employment linked vocational skills training programs for Rural BPL youth from Tehri Dam Project, Koteswar Dam Project affected area or any other critical target segments as jointly identified by SEWA (THDC and IL&FS)Education. Training areas finalized with IL&FS Education are BPO, Retail, Customer Service Associates and Hospitality.

UP is one of the densely populated states of India with Per Capita Income below national average. The state of U.P. is share holder of THDCIL and provides approximately 45 percent of Revenue to THDCIL. The state has also allocated Dhukuwa SHP and Khurja Thermal Project to THDCIL. CSR activities were undertaken in UP in Majhwara (Sultanpur), Jaise (Raibareli), Hajratpur (Raibareli), Itonjaa (Lucknow), Old Lucknow, Nagram (Lucknow), Tanda (Ambedkar Nager) and Miranpur (Ambedkar Nager) for minorities and Other Weaker Sections, Women & Girls with a view to upgrade skills and enable them to start income generation on their own or get gainful employment. **Cutting, Tailoring & Knitting, computer training, Chicken Embroidery and English speaking** programs for six months duration of each program are being implemented on the basis of recommendation given by social experts and PRA reports generated by communities in **Sultanpur**, Barabanki District.

With the shift towards sustainable livelihood, Budget allocation for infrastructure augmentation has been downsized barring THDC Engineering College which forms a part of major fund allocation in terms of CSR. Ideally this is the function of Government. Construction of community centers etc. through district administration in various villages has been minimized. Only few critically beneficial activities i.e. construction of classrooms in schools, construction of delivery rooms in hospitals are being continued for execution

under CSR. Now the main target areas under CSR are promotion of sustainable livelihood, Agriculture / Agriculture Related Activities and Women Empowerment Activities for economic strengthening and social upliftment.

1.8 Structure of the Study:

The study began after consultation with the THDCIL officials and after procuring all the information regarding the projects. The project details were provided by THDCIL which helped in preparing a broad structure of the study and designing the study tools. After developing tools for the study, the study commenced on 4th April 2013 and continued till 18th April 2013. The Research Team consisted of One Program Manager and 3 Research Investigators who were extensively involved in interacting with various stakeholders which included THDCIL officials, beneficiaries, implementing agencies and gram panchayat officials.

The lists of Projects given by THDCIL were considered under Impact assessment and Evaluation of Projects. For the Projects which have completed their duration, an Impact Assessment and Concurrent Evaluation study was conducted and for projects which are still in their continual phase an evaluation was conducted.

The process of Data collection was followed by the Process of Data analysis and Report writing. The data analysis and Report writing were taken up after the completion of primary data collection.

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

The broad objective of the study conducted in Tehri Garhwal for THDCIL looked mainly at monitoring and evaluating of the CSR projects implemented by THDCIL and how those projects have helped in fulfilling the needs of the community at large. The objectives of the Study were as follows:

- To look at the implementation process
- To look for opportunities and possibilities for strengthening the existing programmes
- To assess the progress and possible impacts

2.2 Research Design:

The research Design of the study is **Exploratory** in nature. Exploratory research keeps the scope open for gaining new knowledge with the information already available. Since the projects covered under this study are varied and look into different thematic areas it was understood that Exploratory research design would suit the study.

The study also was an evaluation study and was an **Evaluation** research as it *“is designed so that the findings will provide information useful for decisions about public policy or private issues”*⁵.

2.3 Methodology

The Study included projects from environment, health, education and infrastructure in different villages. Since, the geographical location of the study area was difficult the methodology followed was in two ways i.e. Interviews and Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs).

⁵ Online: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~judithjf/kinds%20of%20research.htm> accessed as on 3rd June 2013

In-depth Interviews were conducted for beneficiaries, implementing agencies and THDCIL officials. The interviews were semi structured and provided opportunity to look and evaluate aspects which may not have been covered in the interview schedule. (See Annexure)

Focus group Discussions were a crucial part of the study and the main method used with the stakeholders. Since the projects implemented are mostly in SHG form it was important to conduct FGDs to understand and look into all the participants' perspectives and ideas. A semi structured FGD guide was formulated for the same purpose.

The sampling used for the study was not fixed and depended on the collection of data till the saturation point. Saturation point is a point where the researcher starts getting repetitive responses. Also, since largely the beneficiaries were in form of SHG there was no fixed sampling used.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

- All the Gram Panchayats and implementing agencies were informed about the research study and the design.
- The names of the beneficiaries are not mentioned in the report so as to maintain decorum of anonymity.

2.5 Limitations

Geographical location was one of the main limitations of the study and a large amount of time was spent in travelling. Due to the mountainous terrain the houses in the region were step houses and a large amount of time was spent reaching the beneficiaries.

Another limitation was that while the study was conducted the farmers were on their fields as it was the season for cutting crops.

CHAPTER III

Empowerment and Enhancement of livelihood programme for the 30 RIM area villages of Pratapnagar block in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand -HNB PROJECT

3.1 Description of project and Agency

Inception of Garhwal University on Dec. 1st 1973 was the fulfillment of a long cherished dream of the local people .The University was established under the provisions of Uttar Pardesh State Universities Act (Act No. 10 of 1973) on 1.12.1973 and the Act come in force w.e.f 1st December 1973.

The name of the university was rechristened to Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University in 1989 in commemoration of the memory of a leading statesman of the country, the son of the soil Shri Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, and subsequently established as Central University under the provision of the Central Universities Ordinance, 2009, No.3 of 2009 published in the gazette of India, extraordinary Part-II, Sec-I, New Delhi, 15 January 2009. Our University is among the ten largest Universities of the country with 3 campuses and more than 180 affiliated colleges and institutes (both state run/aided and self financed) and examining approximately 150000 students annually, providing higher education services in 7 out of the 13 Districts of the state of Uttrakhand.

The University is blessed with state of art research facilities, some of the best teachers and close academic relations with a number of premier institutions. With its Headquarters at Srinagar some 108km from Rishikesh along the Delhi-Niti National Highway, Birla Campus at Srinagar (bisected into two halves. the Srinagar Campus and the Chauras Campus by the river Alaknanda), BGR Campus set on enticing mountain slopes at Pauri (29 K.M. from Srinagar and some 100 K.M. from Kotdwar, the nearest railway station) and SRT Campus at Badshahi Thaul amidst dense pine forest (some 85 K.M. from Srinagar and 65 K.M. from Rishikesh on the route to Gangotri). The University offers a variety of higher learning

courses and academic programmes through 10 Faculties. As a mark of the appreciation of its importance and achievements it has been upgraded as a Central University.⁶

The project named “**Empowerment and Enhancement of livelihood programme for the 30 RIM area villages of Pratapnagar block in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand**” was initiated to create sustainable livelihood for the villagers of the Rim area of Tehri Dam Reservoir under the THDCIL CSR-CD scheme. The project was initiated in February 2011 and was undertaken in three phases. Currently Phase III is going on.

3.2 MoU References and Timelines

An official Memorandum of understanding was signed between HNB Garhwal University and SEWA-THDC. According to the MoU the head was project coordinator who would also look into the financial matters and manage them. The responsibilities of the project coordinator consists of maintaining all the financial accounts of the project in line with the project description and provides an insight into the proper spending of the contribution made by SEWA-THDC.

An up to date quarterly project report had to be submitted to SEWA-THDC by the project coordinator. Apart from this a final narrative report and financial report had to be given which would include the work accomplished, improvements, achievements, project modifications, project results, evaluations and any policy recommendations.

The activities proposed by HNB Garhwal University for one year were decided after a series of discussion with SEWA-THDC officials, experts from THDCIL, experts from various universities about particular fields, community members and local representatives of the proposed 30 RIM village areas. The **proposed activities** by HNB Garhwal University were:

A. Promotion of Sustainable livelihoods

1. Baseline Survey of 30 villages
2. Promotion and strengthening of 30 Self Help Farmers Group
3. Establishing 30 Poultry units in 30 Villages

⁶ http://hnbgu.ac.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=552 accessed as on 29th May 2012

4. Vermicompost for promoting organic farming

B. Reduce Drudgery and Stress among women

1. Plantation Activity
2. Management and conservation of water
3. Promotion of off seasonal vegetables in the village
4. Capacity building on packing and marketing of Gao-Mutra and its buy back
5. Exposure visit to Sachidanand Bharti Ji's Project in Uffrainkhal Pauri and Sri Jagat Chaudhri Jangli Ji mix forest at Kotla Malla Rudraprayag

C. Capacity Building Programmes for the community and CBSOs

1. Motivation and capacity building training of villagers for growing traditional dry land organic crops
2. Environmental awareness, Yoga health and ayurvedic medical awareness camps
3. Awareness generation camps on Replication of success stories as mix forest, water conservation, land consolidation, conservation of natural resources, income generation activities to propagate these activities through camps and audio visual presentation in the area

D. Workshops and feedbacks from the experts

1. Midterm review workshops
2. Sharing and learning workshop with the user groups and experts from different background, District Administration, Panchayat representation, Local NGOs, SEWA-THDC officials, practitioners and local leaders

Interaction with SHG in Kansali village



3.3 Objectives

The objective of the long term project undertaken by SEWA-THDC was to empower and enhance the livelihoods of the 30 RIM area villages of Tehri Dam Reservoir through integrated development. Under this project activities for livelihood promotion and income generation were undertaken, capacity building of local people was also undertaken in Pratapnagar and Jhkhaniidhar block of Tehri-Garhwal. All the above activities have a timeline of one year.

3.4 Performance and Observations

The performance and observations of the project are depicted through case studies which clearly depict the objectives being achieved and the benefits they received from the cumulative efforts of HNB Garhwal University and SEWA-THDC

Case Study I:

In Gandoli village the Swayam Sewak Krishak Samooh, a Self Help Group of 11 members was formed in 2010. *They were given seeds of Potato, onions, peas, coriander, fenugreek seeds, spinach, wheat, mustard, carrot and radish. They had also recently received seeds of Napier grass, gooseberry, apple and mango.*

The members were given an orientation on how to use the seeds and produce them into healthy crops. Also they were told about SHGs and how they would have to work together to attain a higher level of empowerment and livelihood. **One of the key factors of all the SEWA-THDC projects is their Revolving Fund. Through the revolving fund the SHGs can take a loan of desired amount and will have a stipulated time period to return the loan with zero percent interest. A loan of Rs 20,000 was taken from SEWA-THDC in 2010 and in 2011 another loan of Rs 10,000 was taken.** The members had got seeds according to the season and they were explained about different types of crops which would help them increase their livelihood.

Interaction with SHG in Gandoli village



The members claimed that through all the guidance and revolving fund the SHG has been able to save time on farming as they could work together and help each other out and it was more convenient for them as they did not have to buy seeds but get packets of seeds in the village itself by HNB Garhwal University. The team work had helped the SHG to increase their production and last year they had earned Rs10,000-12,000 for one crop of potatoes within six months of sowing. Each members earns and income of Rs.4,000 per crop of onions in a year and there is a double crop grown of the

same. **The production is used for both domestic and commercial purposes.** This has not only led to an increase in the income but also the produce can be given to their relatives. Members also claimed that it is more motivation and energizing to work in a group rather than individually as in a group one has many factors to give a positive push.

They also said that looking at their success story 50 new females are ready to form SHG and work together to increase their livelihood. It would also give them a positive boost as they can be financially contributing and would learn a lot more by working together as a team. This would also give them a different kind of exposure which would lead to their overall development.

The members also said that the major problem faced by them is that pigs spoil their farms. Pigs enter their farms and it eats the roots of the crops which completely destroys their crops. Apart from one of the main practical problems faced by them they also said that market linkages are very important as they do not have any. There is a major transportation problem in the area and the markets closest to them are Rajakhhet market and Madan negi which is 5kms away. To increase their livelihood through crops it is therefore important to have market linkages so that their SHG can expand and progress. Help like pesticides and more seeds of fruits were demanded by the SHG members. They also said that more guidance and information should be given by THDCIL and HNB Garhwal University about the latest technology and also how innovative methods of farming can be incorporated.

Case Study II:

In Talla Gaon the SHG was formed in 2009 with 14 members and started with agriculture and animal rearing. Later they were provided seeds by SEWA-THDC which included seeds of mustard, Ladyfinger, spinach, potato, garlic, turmeric, peas, fenugreek seeds, cucumber, bitter gourd and capsicum.

The SHG was also **given training** on how to grow crops and how vermi compost can be used for organic farming. Various cropping patterns, seasons and processes were explained and which one would suit their land requirements. The training was useful to them as they learnt new techniques and about line sowing. The members also said that it

is good to work together as they can help each other and in case somebody is absent due to any reason they can help each other. The member's lands are next to each other and therefore it is easier for them to work together and have a high production rate. Their crop production had improved over the last years and now they produce crop which goes beyond their domestic consumption. The produce of pulses they claim is very good and the increase in production has further motivated them to work together. Each member earns a minimum profit of Rs1000 over pulses each season.

Apart from the benefits the members also face certain challenges and said that the construction of dam had led to major acquisition of land. Since all the families are agriculture dependent losing their lands led to a decrease in their livelihoods. Since, earlier villagers of Talla Gaon lived near the river bank they had a rich source of water and direct access to markets. Later the way to the market was open through the dam route which is now not allowed due to security concerns. This had led to crisis of market linkages and lack of transportation. In any case of emergency and livelihood matters now they have to travel double the distance which costs them more. Therefore, market linkages are very important to strengthen the SHG.

The following table describes the SHG activities followed in two other villages.

Table 1: Summary of findings – HNB Activites

S.no	Name of the SHG and Village	Main Activities	Benefits	Scope for improvement
1.	Krishak Mahila Samooh, 2009, Kansali	Farming. Seeds given of Mustard, spinach, fenugreek seeds, Coriander, chilli, potato, peas and radish Seasonal vegetables like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working as a team Motivating and helping each other Savings account Average income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create market linkages Sources of transportation Improved quality of seeds Seeds should be given

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		onions and ginger	Rs.2000 per member per season	<p>according to type of soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the horizon of activities • Guidance and motivation
2.	Saraswati Krishak Samooh,2010, Koldhar	Farming. The group of 10 members were given seeds of Potato, onions, ginger, coriander, mustard, garlic, turmeric, plantation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in a group leads to less stress • Work gets divided • Increase in produce • Profit increased by Rs2000 per member • Less time consumed • Motivated and making the SHG sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Monkeys and pigs spoil the crop • Market linkages • Widen activities of the SHG • More diverse seeds to be given

Apart from providing seeds to the Self Help Groups there were other activities which were undertaken like plantation work, making of pits for soil and water conservation and making of vermicompost.

In Koldhar villagers were also involved in making of **vermicompost**. The activity was sponsored by THDCIL on a 50-50 basis. The villagers interested in vermi compost also contributed an amount of Rs.1500. They worked for 2 days in building the vermicompost in form of Shram daan (voluntary) and for 5 days they worked on a daily wage basis i.e. Rs.125 per day. There were 5 people in the village who were interested in building the vermicompost. Before building the vermicompost all the villagers were told about its benefit and how organic farming can help increase the produce and were also informed that that once the vermi compost is built the onus of repair and maintenance lies on the owner. On enquiry more people were keen on building the vermicompost as the experience had to lead to a healthy and improved crop. However, the maintenance clause was not very clear and villagers wanted information regarding the same.

In Bisaatali there were pits made and also check dams for soil and water conservation. This model was adopted from Shri Sachidanand Bharti Ji who is known as the tree man in Uttrakhand is key activist in Chipko movement and is an environmental crusader. For the past 25 years he has been dedicated in planting trees and once barren hills of Uttrakhand are all lush and green today. His techniques are to halt famine and degradation of forest lands through locally initiated and managed initiatives.⁷

The key element of the plantation work was also to reduce drudgery and stress among women by creating livelihood and providing new opportunities to ensure sustainable source of income. Through plantation work plants for medicinal, fodder and soil retention were provided. Plantation work was also undertaken in Rajkiye Mahavidlaya Agroda, a villager had requested HNB Garhwal University to take up plantation work in the college and students form NSS were involved in plantation work. Although the students were not involved in any specific training but were guided through the plantation work and help was given to them. According to the principal of the college more information and awareness needs to be given to students on how to plant more trees and save them for a better future. **An educational institute is one of the best platforms to provide such information and bring in sensitization. He also said it was a wonderful initiative and there was a sense of satisfaction in the students after planting trees.**

⁷ For more information: <http://india.ashoka.org/fellow/sachidanand-bharati> accessed as on 29th May 2013

Nursery developed in Degree College, Agoda



He also gave in **suggestions for improvement** which are as follows:

- Tool kits like gloves, dress, and boots for plantation work to be given so that students take more interest and also for the safety factor.
- Have a belt around the college boundary for show and during summers will work as shade
- Plantation work should increase
- Put more flowers for a scenic view.
- Have fruits plants and medicinal plants
- Develop a course work on plantation work
- Inter colleges also have NSS and can do plantation work by involving the students
- Link with livelihood: children can be paid some amount and information regarding agriculture from primary school
- School authorities should be involved in all the processes.
- Coordination with geologist and soil scientist to understand what type of soil, fertility and which plant will be successful

Oregano Plantation (Dark green patch) undertaken by SHG in Bisaatali village



*Gadheras*⁸ were also dry in the region due to degradation in the environment. The local livelihoods were dependent on these Gadheras as they were the source of water. Due to the dry Gadheras many families lost livelihood and had to migrate from the region. Therefore, Gadhera treatment through stone check dams and digging of small percolation tanks was undertaken. On the sides of the Gadheras there were local plant species sowed which would help rejuvenating the Gadheras.

In Bisaatali there were around **150 pits** made for water conservation and the local people from the village were involved in the whole process in 2012. Total numbers of villagers involved in the process were 20 out of which 15 were females and 5 were male. They were given a daily wage of Rs150 per day and the work was completed in 60 days.

The villagers were made aware of the whole process of plantation and how it would help increase the water level in the village. There would be no soil erosion and therefore their crops would not get spoiled during monsoons. This awareness session had taken place in a gram sabha meeting and villagers for the livelihood work were taken on a transparent method.

⁸ **Gadhera** means a small stream of water flowing downwards from top of the hill

The villagers involved in the process said that it was very beneficial to them and it has helped them increase the water level and water is also available to them in summers. It also provided them a source of livelihood and lemon grass is also grown in the village which is used in shampoos and soaps widely. This can be used to engage in other livelihood options too. Also, the increase in the water level has provided them with a source for irrigation.

According to one of the beneficiary, 20 years ago the water level in the village was satisfactory but since the last 5-6 years the water level had gone down majorly and there was a family which had to sell their cow for Rs5000 only instead of Rs.25,000 as they had to buy more water for survival. He said that since the pits and check dams have been made the level of water has risen. **This has been noticed as there is more water in the hand pumps and even in summers there is water.**

3.5 What Worked

As the name of the Project indicates the main objectives undertaken by SEWA-THDC i.e. to enhance the livelihoods and also empower the villagers to be able to sustain the benefits received.

The project helped the villagers attain an increase in livelihood and through awareness sessions they became more aware of the latest knowledge in the sector. Some of the benefits are broadly mentioned as follows:

- 1.) Revolving fund provided a helping hand to the farmers in initiating their activities in SHG. This was a big support to them**
- 2.) Increase in Livelihood**
- 3.) Women Empowerment**
- 4.) Water management**
- 5.) Soil conservation**
- 6.) Increase in the produce**
- 7.) Transparent and interactive methods involved**

CHAPTER IV

POULTRY FARMING AND GOAT REARING

4.1 Description of Project and Agency

4.1.1 Gramin Kshetra Vikash Samiti (RADS)

Gramin Kshetra Vikash Samiti (RADS), Ranichauri, is a voluntary organization registered under Indian Society Registration Act 1860, Sec XXI. Society Registration No 758/13236 D on dated 24/06/1999. Although the society was registered in June 1999 but its length of service is quite long. It has been carrying out its social services in rural areas of District Tehri Garhwal of Uttaranchal state. Society was registered with basic aim of providing social services to all community but particularly to youth, women, children and Handicapped person residing in rural areas of Uttaranchal for Empowerment of women, Improvement Health of the people with focus on mother and child health care have been the goals to which the organization is committed. In order to get the targets society has been carrying out activities for the welfare of women, children and handicapped Person These activities include organization of awareness camps, vocational training program family planning program etc. the society is well experience in SHG's formation.

The society has experience in this field and has also joined hands with IGSSS Delhi, UNDIO, HRD cell, UP JAL NIGAM Lucknow, UNICEF, IFAD, Ministry of Social Justice, World Bank funded Project Swajal and Plan India.

4.1.2 Himalayan Educational and Resource Development Society (HERDS)

Himalayan Educational and Resource Development Society (HERDS) is a voluntary organization registered under the Society registration Act of 1860 in Uttrakhand State. It was established in 1998-99 and works in the field of rural development since 1999 at Tehri Garhwal. The organization was formed for the betterment of the society and particularly towards the upliftment of the poor and down trodden members who belong to the weaker

sections of the society. HERDS have successfully completed many projects in water shed management, livelihood, health and Environment awareness in the past 10 years.

The poultry farming project undertaken by HERDS consists of Administrative cost and training and programme intervention costs. The beneficiaries were provided 100 chicks in the beginning of the project. After one year the beneficiaries have to return the chicks and if there are any fewer chicks than 100 then in the next phase they get (100-x) amount of chicks.

In the first phase of the project water tanks of 500 liter was also given to the beneficiaries but it was exceeding the cost of the project and it had to be discontinued. In the first phase 60kg of feed was given which is now discontinued too and the house for the chicks have to be made by the beneficiaries.

4.2 MoU References and Timelines

4.2.1 Goat Rearing(RADS)

The total project proposal given to SEWA-THDC by RADS had a budget of Rs.30, 42,000/-. The budget included their administrative costs and costs incurred in goat husbandry. The project included:

1. Selection of village
2. Formation of 30 SHGs
3. Opening SHG saving bank accounts
4. Selection of beneficiaries for training
5. Linkages with bank
6. Establishing Goat Units
7. Return of Goats by the beneficiaries to maintain a sustainable model.

RADS had committed to give 50 goats and a revolving fund of Rs42,000 was used to purchase the goats. Initially 12 goats and 1 buck (male goat) was given to each beneficiary and a total of 13 beneficiaries were selected. After completing 1 year the beneficiaries will

have to return the goats to RADS and they will be given to another set of beneficiaries. The kids born by the goats will be kept by the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries were given a training and orientation session of how they have to take care of the goats and how they can adopt goatery as a livelihood source.

4.2.2 Poultry farming

The project proposal for Poultry was submitted by RADS and the total budget amounted to Rs. 35,35,000/- . The Project included Administrative costs, forming Poultry Units and providing training to the beneficiaries.

Interaction session with official from RADS



The Project aimed at the following:

- 1.) Selection of beneficiary
- 2.) Training of beneficiary
- 3.) Identifying new units
- 4.) Return of Poultry by beneficiary
- 5.) Establish new units

In the 1st Phase RADS gave a total of 100 chicks and feed with 50% subsidy (3 quintal for a month), drinkers, medicines and a steel net for goat house. Training was given to selected beneficiaries on how to take care of the poultry and how to feed them etc. The poultry had to be returned to RADS after completing a year so that more units could be formed. In case there are health concerns and the hen dies then a formal post mortem is conducted by the doctor and the beneficiary receives a new hen. The beneficiaries were selected in a gram sabha meeting and the interested people were selected for the Project.

The main **objectives** of the both the projects were to enhance the livelihood status and bring about sustainable growth. It also aimed at empowering the community to develop.

4.3 Observations

4.3.1 Goat Rearing

Gadbattiyar:

The SHG called Gadd Devi RADS consists of 7 members who are involved in Goat Rearing. The SHG Started on 3rd August 2012 and later in the year one of the member had expired so they have 7 members. As per rules a group can be formed into a Self Help Group if there are a minimum of 8 members. The SHG will now add another member.

Earlier all the members were involved in agriculture, household work or manual labour. Members joined as they wanted financial independence. The SHG was given 13 goats and 1 buck. The goats have been given tags to differentiate from other goats. Before the project was started they were **given training about team work, how to handle the goats and how to open saving accounts through SHG**. Apart from the goats the members got feed for the goats. The members said that at times it is problematic as the goats have to go to the jungle to get feed and at times they eat weed so they fall ill, due to this three goats of the SHG have died and 5 kids have also died.

The SHG opened a saving account of Rs. 30 per month by each member and it will benefit the members as they can take money whenever they require it. The members of the SHG feel that they have got a benefit as their goat had kids and they can sell the milk even after returning the goats back to THDCIL. It was also noted that the members of the group were aware of RADS and THDCIL both.

For improvements:

- The goats should not be asked to return and members should be allowed to keep them.
- If a goat does not give kids they should be changed.
- Feed should be given.
- Profit is very limited as 8-10 members in the group have to divide the benefits so in a larger sense it is not very beneficial

Khurmola:

Bhairav RADS started in July 2011 with 10 members and received 12 goats and 2 bucks. The current number of goats is 26. Earlier the members were involved in agriculture and business. The members interested were told that they would get goats and when they have kids they will benefit by selling their milk. The members were also given training in which they were told that they have to work in teams and take care of the goats, how team work helps in making work easier and multi tasking is possible. The members said that if the goats have male kids then it will not be so beneficial and by having female goats they can keep them in the future and by that they can have more kids as well. The SHG had decided that each member will get one goat each and 4 goats together will be taken care of. It was said that a male goat can reproduce in 6months and female goats can reproduce in a year. The members had to buy feed from outside.

For Improvements:

- Good quality feed should be given to the goats so that they remain healthy and have kids soon. Feed is not affecting so they can provide subsidized good quality feed. During monsoons they can't go to field to get feed. Last year during monsoons members went to another village to get feed for Rs.800/50kg and have to buy twice a week. So weekly expenditure is Rs.1600
- If there are any health problems then they should be provided help or referred to a doctor. Time period for returning goats should be increased so that the benefit is maximized.

Deengaon:

Lal Singh RADS was started in May 2011 with 10 members. The members were aware that the project was started by THDCIL and RADS. They were earlier engaged in activities like farming, animal husbandry. The members in the SHG take care of the goats on a daily basis and the turns to take care are divided daily. Feed for the goats are got from a nearby jungle and they also buy from the local market for 10-15kg like Jau, Jhamura and Soybean.

According to members the goats that they gave birth to 4 kids and at the end a total of 18 goats were there. The members said that the goats given by THDCIL should not be taken back and only then will they have a profit as in the stipulated time span it is very difficult to attain a profit as benefit can be seen only in a year's time. SHG members also save Rs.50 each month in their savings account and now have Rs.14,000 collected. They use this amount to loan within the SHG and charge 25% interest on the loan given.

For improvement:

- Feed should be provided

4.3.1.1 Challenges

There are many challenges faced in the implementation of the Goat Rearing Project. They are as follows:

As per the beneficiaries:

- Feed should be provided
- Health care for goats should be provided or they should be referred to a doctor
- The goats have to be given back as per the clause but the benefits start coming only after a minimum of one year. Hence, the time frame of returning the goats should be increased
- No large scale impact as the benefit is divided among all the members of the SHG

As per RADS:

- Doctors are very difficult to be made available as not many want to stay here due to geographical area

- Monitoring is difficult due to mountainous terrain
- Market linkages should be created as they enter the 3rd phase
- Behavioral change needs to be brought in as beneficiaries do not take ample care of the goats and they might fall sick/die. In some cases beneficiaries have also consumed the goat and claimed that they have died.

4.3.2 Poultry rearing- RADS

For poultry farming, the beneficiaries were selected through an open gram sabha meeting and interested candidates had taken chicks from RADS. On an average 50 chicks were given to each beneficiary. In Deengaon, Khurmola and Uniyal Village there were beneficiaries who had received 100 chicks each on demand.

The beneficiaries were involved in different activities like animal husbandry, self employment, farming before taking the chicks. Mostly the beneficiaries were self employed and had shops and on an average earned approximately Rs.3000-4000 per month. They were interested in poultry rearing as this could be an additional source of income and they can take care of the chicks in their house itself. Also, the beneficiaries had to have arrangement for making the shed for the chicks. RADS had provided chicks, steel net, feeder, drinker, feed of a quintal each month and basic calcium medicines. All the beneficiaries were given a day's training on how they have to take care of the chicks and how to feed them and in case they have queries later they can consult the local coordinator.

Interaction with beneficiary in Khurmola



The beneficiaries claimed that they had seen a rise in income levels due to poultry farming. In Kirgani village, the beneficiaries said that the chicks gave eggs after 6 months and they can sell eggs at a rate of Rs.8-10 per egg. Both the beneficiaries had their own shop. **Another beneficiary in Selur village owned a dhaba and earned Rs.400 each day,** with the poultry farming he said that there was an increase of Rs.100 each day i.e. Rs.3000 per month and it is convenient for him as he sells the eggs in his own dhaba. He claimed that after deducting all the expenditures on feeds and other costs, he still got a benefit of Rs.7000 per year.

In Uniyal Village, the two beneficiaries were given 100 chicks each and they sold it through proper linkages in Uttarkashi market and Chinihal market which are 4 kms away. On an average the increase in income was Rs.300 per day i.e. Rs.9000 per month. Similarly in Khandar, Deen gaon and Kharmola the beneficiaries had seen a rise in their livelihood.

This rise in income had attracted other members in the village also to start poultry farming. Apart from the financial benefit it was also convenient for the beneficiaries to take care of the chicks.

Hut built for hens and Net given by SEWA_THDC and RADS to a beneficiary in Uniyal Village



Apart from the benefits that the beneficiaries had received they also gave in suggestions for improvement and as to how the project can be strengthened. Three beneficiaries said that they should be given more feed and feeders. Another concern was medical facility, it was said that when the chicks are growing they want more and more calcium intake and sometimes they bite each other. In such cases medical help is required and there are no facilities available in the villages. Therefore, a round the clock help should be available to the beneficiaries.

Four beneficiaries were keen on expanding the poultry farming and said that it would be good if they could get help either financially or by providing material such as a bigger space for the chicks or more feed etc. also, one of the most important things is creating market linkages. Currently all the beneficiaries interacted with during the study had their own shop and it was convenient for them to sell eggs. However, in a situation otherwise and even currently they can create market linkages such that the livelihood option can be wider.

OBSERVATIONS:

Table 2: Summary of Findings – HERDS Poultry farming

S.n	Name of the beneficiary and Village	Commitment earlier of the beneficiary	Material provided by HERDS	Benefits	Scope for improvement
1.	Dheeraj, Bansali Village	Owns a departmental store and also works as a tailor. Earned Rs.12000 per month before poultry farming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I- 100 chicks in 2012 Phase II- 44 chicks in 2013 Feed- 60kgs in 2012 500 liter water tank in 2012 Awareness session on how to take care of the chicks and give medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs. 19000 increase in income last year in 2012 Sold 4 chickens for Rs.3000 each.⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for chickens to live. Therefore, should have a poultry farm Trainers from village to build trust factor Feed should be provided No help in case of health problems
2.	Chander Singh Pawar, Kudga	Teacher, earned Rs.10000/- per month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I- 100 chicks in 2012 Phase II- 35 chicks in 2013 Feed- 50kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced income of Rs5000 per year through poultry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend Rs.60 per day on buying feed for the chicks Subsidized

⁹ However, under the project beneficiaries are not allowed to sell chickens

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicines like calcium• Training	<p>farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An engagement after being retired	<p>rate for feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health provision to be provided• Market linkages for selling eggs
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Poultry farming being done by the beneficiary in Bansali Village



CHAPTER V

Ensuring Livelihood Security through Farming System approach in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand- PDFSR

5.1 Project Directorate for Farming Research Systems (PDFSR)

The project titled “*Ensuring Livelihood Security through Farming System approach in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand*” was undertaken by SEWA-THDC and PDFSR, Modipuram in the year 2011.

The **Project Directorate for Farming Systems Research (PDFSR)** has its origin from the Stewart Scheme of Simple Fertilizer Trials on Cultivators’ fields, which was initiated in 1952-53. In 1955-56, Model Agronomic Experiments Scheme was also added to it. Both the schemes were further merged with All India Coordinated Agronomic Research Project (AICARP) in 1968 with two components viz. Model Agronomic Experiments and Simple Fertilizer Trials. Henceforth the objectives of Model Agronomic Experiments were broadened to encompass studies on the response of high yielding varieties of cereals to high input use (fertilizer, irrigation, weed control, liming etc.). The system-based research was also initiated in the project during early sixties as a part of the AICARP. However, to strengthen all aspects of research in cropping systems **Project Directorate for Cropping Systems Research (PDCSR)** was established at Modipuram (Meerut) in April 1989.

During past, extremely useful work has been done at PDCSR on various aspects of cropping systems in the country. The information related to region-specific new cropping systems with better productivity, profitability and/or resource use efficiencies, cropping system-based nutrient and resource management aspects have been generated. So far, the contributions of PDFSR and its coordinated/network programmes have been well appreciated by the users/ development agencies. The significant contributions have been made on various aspects of region-specific system-based technologies for crop-diversification and intensification, cropping systems management, site-specific nutrient management, balanced nutrition, integrated nutrient management, farm mechanization,

precision farming, tillage and crop establishment, precision farming, organic farming, farming systems and resource characterization, delineation of cropping systems zones, on-farm technology assessment and refinement and development of agricultural resources information system for crops and cropping systems.¹⁰

5.2 Objectives

The broad Objectives of the project are as follows:

- To characterize prevailing cropping/farming systems, their constraints and estimation of effect of Tehri Dam Reservoir in Tehri Districts
- To improve the productivity of crops and other components of farming systems including Agri-horticulture crops, Livestock and Fisheries through appropriate component technology.
- To improve household activities involving women farmers through post harvest management and value addition.
- To undertake capacity building of Rural youth and Farm women to create better linkage with market for sustainability

SEWA-THDC had approached PDFSR to implement the project and a baseline survey was conducted by PDFSR to understand the canal and water based seed production.

The Project was implemented in August 2011. PDFSR provides seeds to farmers which do not consume much water like Soyabean, Jhamura, Mardhwa etc. The interested farmers are selected by SEWA-THDC and those farmers can take seeds from the local coordinator of PDFSR. Each farmer is given 2kg of seeds and the farmers have to give back 4kg of seeds to PDFSR which can be used on a rotational basis to provide seeds to more and more farmers. After providing seeds the farmers are also given herbicides spray, nutrient spray, line sowing technique, horticulture etc. The aim of the project is to cover all the households in the selected villages in the next 3years.

¹⁰ <http://www.pdfsr.ernet.in/genesis.html> accessed as on 30th May 2013

Training was not given to farmers in their local region and 10 selected farmers had gone to Pune for training on information of farming like medicinal plants, fodder plants etc and extracurricular activities like Agarbatti making.

5.3 Know How

All the respondents in Sain, Uniyal Village, Jasspur and Dharwal were engaged in farming earlier and had been given information about the project and how different kinds of seeds would be provided to the farmers which would increase their yield. Seeds of pulses, vegetables like peas, lady finger, French beans, onions, spinach etc were given. Wheat and rice were also given to the farmers. Apart from the seeds the farmers said that they had also got fertilizers and mineral mixtures which had increased the yields of the crop.

In Sain and all the other villages basic orientation was given to the farmers. In Sain, the farmers became more aware of medicinal plants and were told about horticulture and spraying fertilizers and animal husbandry. Farmers said that they get guidance from the implementing agency i.e. PDFSR. In other villages the farmers were aware of the project through an orientation session.

5.4 Benefits

The project had immensely helped the farmers in getting a higher yield and the crop produce was much healthier than before. This could be noticeably seen through thicker and greener produce. In Sain, one of the respondents was very happy with the seeds, mineral mixture, medicines and medicines that were given to them. Others said that the quality of seeds is better and can also give to other farmers in the village. One respondent also said that there are no more insects in the crop and DAP and Urea that was given was very helpful. In Bhangar, the respondent claimed that the seeds were good and the produce had improved. There has been a 5% increase in the profit by using the new produce. The produce can be used for domestic and commercial purposes and can support livelihood also. In Uniyal village the respondent said that 2kg of wheat seeds were given to them and the produce was 15kg as compared to 10kg earlier. It was also evident that the quality of the crops had improved as respondent said that the hair of the wheat was very thick which

indicated the quality of the seeds. However, this year due to lack of rainfall the produce had not been exceptionally good.

Picture of good produce in Sain after seeds given by PDFSR



In Dharwal, the major concern was water and source of irrigation. The respondents said that the seeds have for sure benefitted the farmers but that cannot be measured on a large scale as the produce is rain dependent and the rain was not as expected.

Interaction with beneficiaries in Dharwal village



The respondents had benefitted from the project but the degree of the project was very wide. However, respondents claimed that they can use the increase in produce as they can keep more grains at home or sell them.

Crop Production with Seeds given by PDFSR in Sain village



There was local guidance provided to all the beneficiaries.

11.5 Challenges and loopholes:

There are loopholes and scopes of improvement in each project. There were two main issues and concerns that farmers had got in all the discussions. One is very interesting and a challenge that needs to be dealt with strategically. Farmers claimed that at night pigs and monkeys spoil their crops and all the hard work goes to waste as all the crops are spoilt. Also, it is not possible to guard the farm whole night. In Sain one of the respondents had to keep a check on the farm at night too but it is not possible to keep awake the whole night every day.

Another main concern was of water. Respondents claimed that without water and irrigation sources the crop would be as healthy and successful as imagined. In Sain, there is a canal but since the distance is too much that farmers cannot use the canal for irrigation purposes. Also, in summers like May-June the water supply is even less and it is not possible to have a very healthy crop. In Bhangar village, there is a new pipeline of 2.5km long which will be very helpful for irrigation purposes, before that the crop was rain dependent.

In Sain a respondent also mentioned that the seeds are not much successful and traditional seeds were much better than the seeds given to them and this was mostly due to water problems.

It was also told that there was a Kisan mela in Kandisaud in which seeds were distributed by THDCIL but not all the villagers knew about it. In this case, there should be awareness and information about such events so that all the farmers can make the best use of such opportunities.

5.6 Awareness of the implementing agency:

One of the very important points to be noted is that all the respondents were aware of THDCIL and in one way or the other had heard about the implementing agency. The

respondents were also aware of PDFSR as their local coordinators had been interacting with the farmers for some time.

CHAPTER VI

ACTIVITIES IN UTTAR PRADESH- MAJHWARA and HAZRATPUR

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1

SEWA-THDC has activities running in Lucknow and in its nearby regions. A PRA study was conducted by Professor K.N. Bhatt who is from Allahabad University and has completed his PhD from the same university. He has worked extensively in areas of natural resource management and environment and development. A PRA study was conducted by Prof. K.N. Bhatt and his team in Hazratpur and Majhwara, Barabanki and Sultanpur respectively. Hazratpur is a village in which there are 6 clusters and 609 households and Majhwara has a population of 4317 (Census 2001). After conducting the PRA study by Prof. Bhatt and his team recommended on the following **activities**:

- The village should be developed and especially families belonging to BPL category should be helped
- Building the social cultural aspect in the village
- Improving livelihood and agricultural activities
- Improving women empowerment
- Bringing about equality in the village

After conducting the PRA study a gram sabha meeting was organized in which the findings and the way forward was decided. A long term plan from 2-5 years was provided and various activities were decided on the basis of the PRA study. Some of the activities that were taken up post study were:

Table 3: Summary of activities undertaken in Uttar Pradesh by THDCIL

<p>Hazratpur- Agricultural activities and Banana Cultivation</p>	<p>Components: Lemon cultivation, fish farming, vermicompost, goat rearing, wheat production methods etc.</p> <p>PRA survey was done beforehand by Dr. K.N. Bhatt. Initially there was banana farming in which plants and techniques of growing were taught, this was the first time the farmers were taught banana cultivation. The soil testing was done and the produce was said to be remarkably good by the farmers involved. 6 farmers who were interested had cultivated bananas and devoted 15-16 months for the cultivation. Earlier there were 2 farmers who were given banana seeds and now there are 6 farmers involved in banana cultivation. 10 farmers were given training on how to have banana cultivation and increase the produce of the crop. Professional assistance was also given to the farmers three times and farmers used the produce for commercial purposes too.</p>
<p>VERMICOMPOST</p>	<p>40 vermicompost pits were built in the village and 100% work was done by THDCIL in the process. The vermicompost has been used in the fields and have seen fruitful results as the produce is now healthy.</p>
<p>FISHERY</p>	<p>There have been 5 ponds made by THDCIL under sustainable development projects and fishes were put in the ponds. This project for fishery was brought up as a consequence of the PRA. There were 5SHGs made for the implementation of the fishery project and each group had 5 people each. People from the village who were interested were chosen and 25 people volunteered in 2011. Before the year 2000, the fishing was heavily dependent on rain for 15 years and after 2000 there was no fishing left in the village. So to revive the fishery again in the village 5 ponds were made under Sustainable Development</p>

branch of THDCIL. Due to the financial benefits 200 people from the village are interested in fishery and want to be engaged in the project. The fishes are sold in Lucknow fish market.

GOATERY

Meeting with THDCIL and gram panchayat led to the goat rearing project and initially 20 people from the village were selected who were interested in the project. Each person was given 2 goats which they have to return after 3 years and the goat milk and meat is sold in the Palehri Bazaar which is 10kms away from the village. There is insurance also on the goats.

AGRICULTURE

7 farmers were given seeds of ginger, wheat, rice, chilly and mustard. The produce as a result of the seeds was visibly healthy and benefits were double commercially. Current number of interested farmers has gone up to 30. The farmers were given training in Kisan Vikas Kendra in Haidargarh which is 50kms away about farming techniques and methods.

STITCHING

In 2011 three batches of 50 students each was started in Hazratpur. In 2012 embroidery training was also given. The students belonged to financially poor families and earlier they had no source of income but after the training the girls are working in the production unit started by THDCIL and each girl approximately earns Rs. 500 per month. Due to high demand now the Zari training has also begun and the girls will be absorbed in the production unit after the training.

6.1.2 Significance of selecting the Locations

Majhwara: Majhwara village is said to be around 500 years old and people belonging to 'Bhar' community lived there. Since beginning there was a dispute between the Brahmins and the Bhar community. Few families in the village have vast spread of land and have agricultural labour on their field. Apart from that, the families are engaged in farming,

agricultural labour and animal husbandry. The disputes regarding land are very prevalent in the village. 40% of the families migrate to Delhi, Punjab, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Kanpur for livelihood and few families have permanently migrated from the village.

The village is ruled by the upper class and caste and has full control over the village. The village is divided on the basis of class and the upper class has more political hold in the village. For elections, candidates belonging to lower class and caste are not entertained and are threatened to withdraw their candidature. In recent elections, Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav, Husband of the Gram Pradhan Ms. Kamla devi was killed due to election politics. It was also shared by the villagers that the system and police are also involved with the upper class and pleas of the lower class go unheard. Usually the villagers do not raise their voice against the abuse and harassment but the murder of Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav stirred a reaction from the villagers and all the lower caste and class got united and struggled due to which many politicians and administrators were forced to fulfill their demands.

It was also noticed that elders and women in the village had difficult living. Mostly to take care of the elders in the family, children had to drop out from school and earn a livelihood and in some cases the families had left the elders in the village while they migrated for livelihoods elsewhere. This made standard of living worse for them. Also, women are mostly unemployed and work as agricultural labour when they want work. Women showed interest in stitching and embroidery and lot of women already knew the basics. But due to lack of opportunities and financial backing they could not use their skills. Therefore, THDCIL decided to support these women by forming SHG and supporting them financially.

Hazratpur: The village is said to be 548 years old and was developed during the Mughal rule. The Defence minister of Aurangzeb resided in the village with his army and that is how the village was formed. The village is well known across borders for having 989 wells and old palaces. The village has various castes of people living here and both Hindu and Muslims celebrate their festivals together. However, there are disputes regarding land ownership between the Shia's and Sunni's in the village. due to this there is discomfort in some families in the village.

The village has vast amount of land, however the land owned for farming belongs to very few people. The families who do not own land work as agricultural labour on others land. During off season villagers migrate to Barabanki, Lucknow, Delhi, Ujjain, Punjab, Gujarat etc. to work as labour and earn a livelihood. **There were families which could not even afford two meals per day. Poverty, unemployment, health concerns, disability etc were major concerns in the village.**

Under the MNREGA scheme 550 families were given job cards and 321 ration cards were distributed in the village. Considering the background THDCIL decided to undertake CSR activities in the village.

6.1.3 Implementing Agency

Addrace India Foundation is a voluntary organization established in the year 1989 in the name of Youth club. Incorporated under Indian Societies Registration Act 1860, the society is managed by a dedicated team of women artisans/social activists and volunteers. It is working for holistic development of the rural community by promoting livelihood enhancement, women empowerment, Child development, Health care and education promotion, conservation of environment. The organization has its Registered Office at Miranpura, Tanda-Ambedkar Nagar, U.P. and Branch Offices are in Badosaray-Barabanki, Dhanpat Ganj-Sultanpur U.P.

Main objectives: The objectives of Addrace India Foundation are to meet the socio-economic developmental needs of the deprived and poorer sections of the society with a focus to women and children particularly in rural areas.

Details of activities:

- Skill development training on Cutting and stitching of Garments, Chikan embroidery and Zari Zardosi craft supported by SEWA – THDC (Thdc India Ltd. A Govt. of India undertaking), Rishikesh, Uttarakhand under their CSR initiative.

The project locations are as follows: *Badosaray, Zaidpur, Aalapur-Barabanki, Akbarpur-Ambedkar Nagar, Training on cutting and Stitching of garments.*

Hazratpur - Barbanki, Dhanpat Ganj-Sultanpur - Agriculture Development Programme

The organization has achieved the following under various activities:

- ❖ More than 50% of the beneficiaries joined production units established by the organization.
- ❖ Achieved financial and marketing linkages with Banks, financial institutions, domestic and international markets.
- ❖ Established a retail shop styled '***SEWA Handi Craft*** in Lucknow. it aims to coordinate with all training centers of cutting and tailoring and their production units across Uttar Pradesh run by ARIF other partner organizations of SEWA-THDC and provide retail outlet for fast movement of finished garments.
- ❖ Beneficiaries trained under various skill development programme have actively participated in Exhibition-cum-sale of garments conducted by ARIF in the district Barabanki. They have also got opportunities for orders for preparation of garments form various outlets and buyers.
- ❖ More than 1350 poor and disadvantaged women and girls of Minorities and backward classes have been given skill development training on cutting and tailoring, Chikan embroidery and Zari Zardosi craft for livelihood enhancement.
- ❖ The follow-up action enabled more than 80% of the beneficiaries to achieve employment opportunities in Public and Private sectors /self employment venture and their livelihood picked-up and showing steady improvement (Income of Rs. 2500-3000 per month) up to December, 2012.
- ❖ Formation of SHGs: The trainees were apprised of many advantages of SHG – style of working and enabled formation of 4 SHGs per session at each centre. In total there are 50 SHGs working under various activities.

- ❖ Conducted monthly camps and awareness programmes for health care, family planning, personal hygiene, functional literacy, legal aid services, institution building etc. during the training period.
- ❖ Some of the trainees were introduced to value added training classes on Screen printing, Multiple designs, Block printing, EDPs for attracting up-market buyers of garments.
- ❖ Environment awareness and plantation drive at Sultanpur and Barabanki

6.2 Observations

In Hazratpur, Goat rearing was taken by a farmer who got 2 goats in 2012. According to the respondent there was no official training given on how to manage and make the project sustainable. The system of revolving fund was explained and the beneficiaries were told that there would be zero interest on the revolving fund. The money taken from revolving fund to expand the livelihood had to be returned after two years time.

The respondent said that in 2012, 9 goats that he owned died and currently he has 9 goats. He said that there was no medical facility and insurance available and if goats die then there is not much benefit to the beneficiary. **He suggested that training and awareness session should be given on how to take care of the goats and how they can expand their livelihood. Health and other concerns should also be addressed like feed and medical facilities.**

The second respondent had also received Rs.8200 from the **revolving fund** and had bought one goat. He had attended the training session given by THDCIL and were given the basic information about goat rearing. The respondent claimed a benefit of Rs.100000/- in a year due to goat rearing by selling milk. He also said that there was no health insurance on the goats and in case of emergency there was no support. Feed also has to be bought by the beneficiaries and this brings about a financial constraint to the beneficiaries. The

respondent suggested market linkages for increase in livelihood and opening a dairy market where the beneficiaries can sell milk easily.

Another respondent had engaged in **Fish cultivation** and has received a total of 6000 tadpoles in 2011. 1kg of seeds were worth Rs150/-. There are 11 ponds which are built by THDCIL in Hazratpur and fish cultivation is taking place in a few ponds by the interested people. The respondent claimed that there was benefit to him as he sells the fishes in Lucknow Market and since the quality of fish is good, he can sell it for a higher price. A glitch in the project according to the respondent was that there is lack of water due to erratic rainfalls and the ponds had dried up and therefore, the respondent had to get a boring done to pump up the water into the ponds which cost him Rs.5,000/-. In this context the respondent claimed that the benefit was negated and could have been much more.

In Hazratpur, farmers were also distributed seeds by the center and the seeds were brought from “Beej Vikas Nigam’ in Lucknow. The farmers had an awareness and training session before they were given seeds. In Kintur, the respondents said that they were told about how seeds of Rice, wheat, Mango, Litchi will be beneficial for the farmers and how to plant crops. One respondent claimed that he did not attend the training but can approach the center for any kind of help and the staff is always supportive. In Madhosaraya and Naseempur, farmers were taught about farming techniques and were given training in Faizabad Krishi Kendra. There was a specialist from the field who took sessions on planting crops and using best methods to grow them.

Farmers had taken seeds of wheat, rice, Coriander etc. based on their requirements and before the center they had to buy seeds form the market which cost them more. **The seeds had benefitted the beneficiaries and one of the respondents in Kintur said that as the seeds and crops had improved their livelihood has also increased. Earlier the cost of Rice was Rs5. And now it has increased to Rs.10 due to the quality.**

Distribution of Seeds by Addrace India Foundation and SEWA THDCIL



Last year he sold rice for Rs950 for 100kg and had earned a profit of Rs.25,000/-. As the produce has improved the price of the produce has also gone up. But one of the advantages that the farmers have got is getting good quality seeds at subsidized rates. One of the respondent said that earlier they used to buy seeds at 27.5Rs. Per kg but now they get it at Rs.7.5 per kg which is a big difference to the farmers.

In Naseempur also the respondent claimed an increase in price of rice due to quality and he said that earlier on 8biga land his produce was around 15-20 quintal but since he has used the improved seeds the produce has been 35quintals. In Madhosaraya, the respondents claimed that the increase of income per season had gone up. One respondent claimed to have had a profit of Rs.8000 last year and another respondent claimed a profit of Rs.9000 every season.

Apart from the benefits received from the facilities provide by THDCIL, the farmers faced a few challenges. They said that there should be more facilities available in the center and a

specialist should be provided to the farmers who can help them for their crops anytime. The specialist should also study the land and the crop and suggest methods of growing crops for optimum yields.

Another challenge was that the crops catch insects very soon and water is also a challenge as if there is not enough rain then the crops are not good and profitable. In this concern it was suggested that better quality seeds should be provided and should be given on time. Also, there should be awareness sessions and specialist who can be consulted while farming for effective growth. There should be timely seminars and discussions such that the farmers are more aware. In order to increase livelihood options farmers suggested that other activities like animal husbandry can be started and different trees like mango and guava should be given.

In Majhwara, the benefits of seeds provided had shown fruitful results. **One of the respondents claimed that even though there was problem of water last year the rice crop had grown perfectly and without breaking. He has sold rice at Rs.15/kg and had a profit of Rs.7000/-.** He also mentioned that earlier there were seeds but they were not certified and now the seeds have been researched and therefore the output is more effective. Another beneficiary claimed that the training session was very good and learnt about new farming techniques. He said that even if there is not much profit, there is no loss and it is a win win situation.

The farmers were very satisfied with the center and the seeds provided. The crop had grown and the produce was much healthier than before. The income had also increased as the improved quality produce was sold at a higher price. In Majhwara, training was given to farmers by officials from Krishi Vigyan Kendra and official from Beej Vikas Kendre had come to inspect the land and soil types to understand what crops would be successful on the land. Also, the importance of vermi compost, irrigation, how to plant seeds and fertilizers were given. The activities undertaken if continued will help the community to understand and in the future increase their crop produce and livelihoods.

CHAPTER VII

Ecological Restoration and Socio-economic empowerment of Rural Communities for Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Management in Upali Ramoli of Pratap Nagar Block In Uttarakhand

7.1 Introduction

Kirori Mal College, Delhi University is an institution of academic excellence and was established in 1954. The college has built a strong array of academic facilities and research. Department of Geography is one of the best departments in India. The programme on Ecological restoration for sustainable livelihood at Deen Gaon is sponsored by THDCIL through their CSR and Sustainable Development initiative. The Programme is managed by Kirori Mal College, D.U. The MoU was signed in March 2012 and it is a long term project with micro planning for 5 years.

It is a practical management strategy that would restores ecological processes to maintain ecosystem composition, structure and function. **The programme covers 12 villages in Upali Ramoli Patti of Block Pratapnagar of District Tehri Garhwal. The programme is being run through a well established center at Deen Gaon with adequate staff for the day to day interaction with rural communities. Scientists, social workers, environmentalists, agriculturists, professional, policy makers etc. are roped in to strengthen the programme.**

Some of the activities undertaken are as follows:

- Local communities are mobilized to adopt scientific agriculture practices to raise their income.
- Supporting non agricultural activities through SHGs approach added for generating extra income.
- Women and child health is taken care through organizing health camps.
- Computer education is imparted to all those who want to learn.

- Girls are given training in stitching for economic empowerment.
- Eco tourism is being promoted and people are motivated to make this as another avenue for economic benefits.

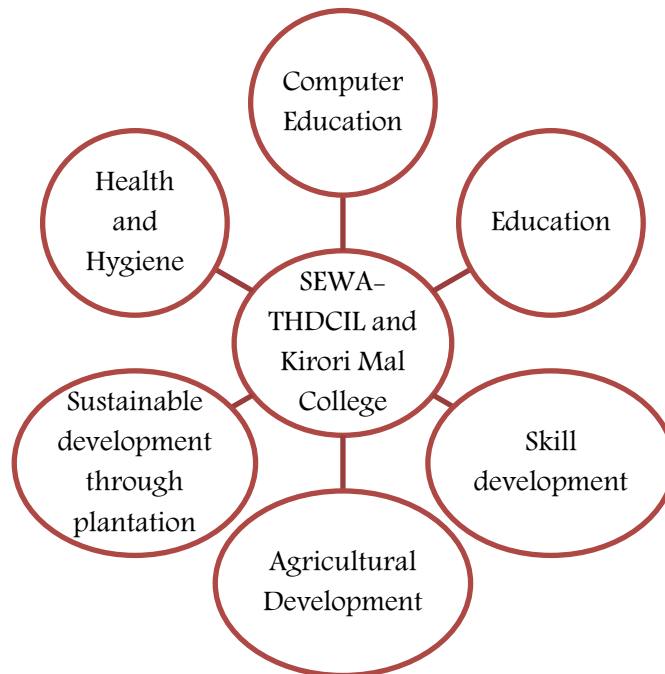
7.2 Deen gaon:

Deen gaon is one of the most remote villages in Upri Ramoli Patti which is situated at northern front of Their Garhwal District. It comprises of distinct features of social, economic and ecological attributes. Most of the population in the village is engaged in primary activities like agriculture, manual labour etc. young population after finishing their senior secondary education tend to migrate in some nearby cities like Jalandhar, Dehradun and various other cities of Punjab in search of livelihood.

Locals depend on natural source of water for their domestic usage and also for their irrigation purposes. The produce is just enough to fulfill their family demands with nothing left to sell in the local markets. Central government policies, programs and plans are not implemented efficiently and locals are not happy with them. Health is also a major concern as there is no sanitation and this makes villagers vulnerable to illness and diseases.

7.3 Initiative by SEWA-THDC and Delhi University:

More than 70 major and minor programmes have been identified for the next 5 years for the society. All the programmes are discussed with the stakeholders and then put to practice.



Through the holistic approach of development the aim is to bring about a large social and economic change in Deen Gaon through all the above initiatives. The aims and objectives of the programme are as follows:

- Establishing research and development at Deen Gaon to carry out CSR activities of SEWA-THDC.
- This centre will work as the nodal center and will be used to carry out all the activities
- Carry out awareness camps, training programmes, awarding progressive farmers etc from time to time
- Infrastructure would help strengthen the local communities
- Training programmes for empowering youth male and female through various primary activities for jobs/business

- Suggestive measures in livestock management for milk production, fodder development to raise production and income.
- Develop progeny-cum-demonstration farms related to horticulture, food crops, herbs, medicinal plants, ginger, off season vegetables etc. as educative centers for other farmers to adopt such techniques
- Explore mechanisms for market channels for quick disposal of produce
- Evaluate activities for empowerment from time to time with the help of the experts and local communities
- Promote improved methods of cooking, cleaning, clean drinking water, soil management
- Check the penance of social evils
- Promote eco-tourism and village tourism
- Ecological restoration programme would develop strategies on water management, forest development, wasteland management, water harvesting, fodder development, slope management, stream ecology

7.4 Response on Plantation Work:

Ecological restoration is one of the most important components of the programme. Most of the resources base is declining due to heavy population pressure from historical past to present. In this regard, plantation work was undertaken to manage the resources in 2012.

A total of 10,000 plants in both Deen gaon and Kandiyal Gaon were planted.

5000 trees were planted in Deen gaon and the whole village was involved in the process. Around 200 people were involved in the plantation work. Full record was maintained as to who planted and how many trees with signatures. Wage of Rs.12 per plant was given to the people.

The plants which were planted included fodder tress, Baanj, Mulberry, Devdaar, Aanga which would maintain an environmental balance and also provide fodder and wood to the villagers. Fruits trees were also given, 5000 orange trees were given to households separately. The trees planted are on either side of the road and therefore there are a lot of animals who graze the premature plants. Therefore, fencing around the road is required so

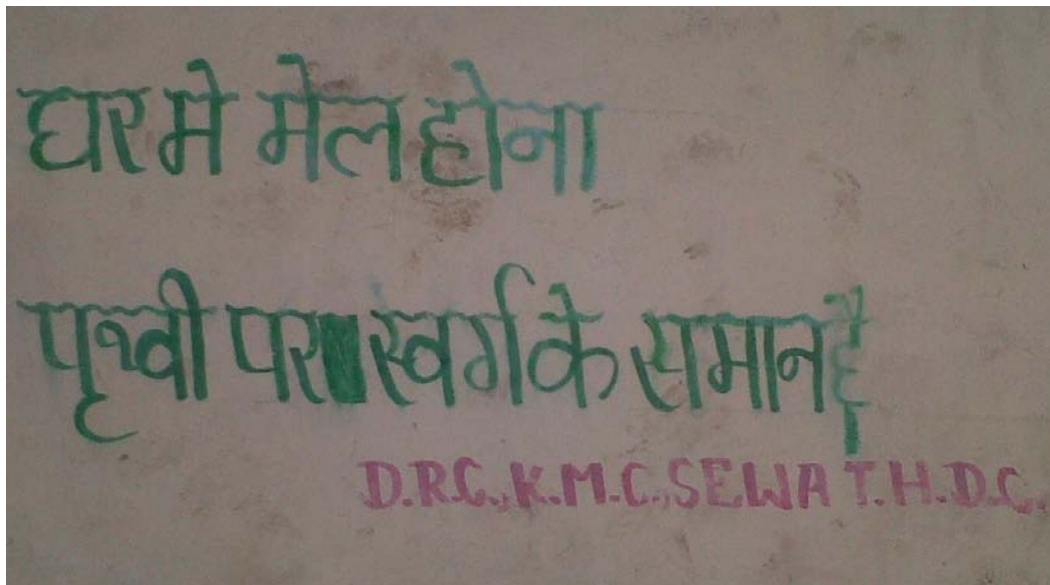
that animals are not able to go up to the trees and feed on them now. Therefore, initiative by the villagers can also be undertaken to have some basic and traditional method of fencing and protecting their crop. **The benefits said were to be environmental, would increase fodder and Jal Srott would go up. It will take a minimum of 5years to see the impact of the plantation work done.**

7.5 Awareness and Education Project:

Drinking and smoking were major constraints in the village and villagers spent a lot of money on it also. This led to many diseases also and it was decided to have a de-addiction center and a slogan programme.

Slogans were put up for awareness in the Village by painter Mr. Hemraj Rana. The themes were electricity usage, Health, Smoking and Alcohol, Social elements like dowry, girl child etc. the Slogans were collected by the KMC and the villagers. The painter was paid Rs. 30000 which were a source of livelihood to Mr. Hemraj. Two students were given training by Mr. Hemraj also while he was working on the slogan program. He got trainer fees also; this will further generate livelihood opportunities for those students.

Slogans painted on the wall



Slogans painted on the wall by SEWA-THDC and DU



Sanitation program was also run under slogan program, there was a team made which cleaned the whole nearby area. **For alcohol and smoking there were strict rules against drinking in public and there was a decline in number of alcoholic incidences. There was a fine on the person who drinks in public places of Rs. 500 for the 1st time, Rs. 1000 on the 2nd time and Court case on the 3rd time. Counseling was also given to the people engaged in smoking and drinking and were told the ill effects and that they would be fined by the gram sabha if caught doing any unwanted action in public. 15-20 people were fined and after being fined they drastically reduced drinking.**

7.6 Livelihood and empowerment through Stitching:

For girls and women the cutting and tailoring programme was started which would help them increase their livelihood opportunities and also increase the confidence levels in the girls. The programme was started in 2011 and the admission process was done in the village as the trainer had gone to households in the village. The basic course of 6 months and no fee is charged from the students. The girls and women are welcome to come to the stitching center and based on interest and age group (should be above 15years) they are allowed to learn cutting tailoring and spend 2 hours on the machine practically every day.

In a group discussion the girls said that they were taught the basics of stitching like buttons, basic stitches, paper cutting, making samples and then eventually to stitching clothes for both men and women. They said that the trainer was good and it was easy to understand as the trainer explains very patiently.

The girls and women were interested as they were studying, sitting idle at home or looking for more livelihood options. **They also claimed that they can stitch for themselves and also earn by stitching for others. This would generate a good livelihood option for them in the village and they would not have to go outside the village.**

It was very evident that the girls were enthusiastic about the training and took complete interest. In one case a girl travels 8kms each day just to learn how to stitch so that she can support her family and also learns a skill.

A few challenges that the respondents told were that the machines are not ample and one machine there are more than one student and hence they don't get ample time for practicals. Practical in this case are very important as it is skill which has to be practically executed and mastered slowly. Also, students do not attend regularly due to the distance concern.

One of the respondent also said that the center should not be closed as it is providing a great opportunity for the villagers to learn and they can approach the center anytime. Also, the skill development activities should be widened and more activities like beautician, designing, henna designs can be taught. Another respondent said that financially poor families cannot buy a machine and therefore they should be provided such that a livelihood option can start right from home.

7.7 Computer Education:

Computer education was taken up for 100 students who belong to the age group of 10-40 years and the educational standards have been kept from 6th class level to post graduate level. The batches are taught basics of computers like MS Office, Photoshop and Internet.

The batch consisted of 10-15 students and the students in a batch belonged to different standards. The students got to know about the programme from the trainers who had gone to the village to spread awareness about the same. The class is both a mixture of theory and practical's and more focus is given on practicals. A major concern for practical was the electricity as there were more power cuts and students could not work on the computer.

Computer education being imparted in Deengaon



Computers nowadays are considered essential for work in every sphere whether it is education, research or services. The respondents were also very keen on getting and acquiring this knowledge which led to joining the programme. The respondents said that they wanted to learn how to use a computer and had not learnt it earlier. One of the respondent who was in 12th standard said that she wanted to use the computers as she wanted to become an engineer and realized that in the future she will require computer skills.

The classes were said to be regular and students also attended regularly. One of the respondent said that he really likes the curriculum and can use it in the future. The trainers

were also said to be good. Two respondents said that the trainer is strict at times but explains well. The trainer explains well and there are no problems concerning to the trainer.

The training has been beneficial for the students and apart from acquiring a new skill they have also become confident and could very flawlessly work on the computer. **One respondent said that now he can type properly and has learnt it from this programme. Another respondent said that she can use this skill for getting a job and working in excel is very essential and she has learnt how to use excel in this programme.**

The only challenge faced by the students was the electricity problem in the hills. This hinders with their practicals and can learn much more if there is proper electricity supply. This would be even more satisfactory for the students.

CHAPTER VIII

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

8.1 CONCURRENT EVALUATION

8.1.1 Environment and Socio-Economic Empowerment Programmes

These projects would include:

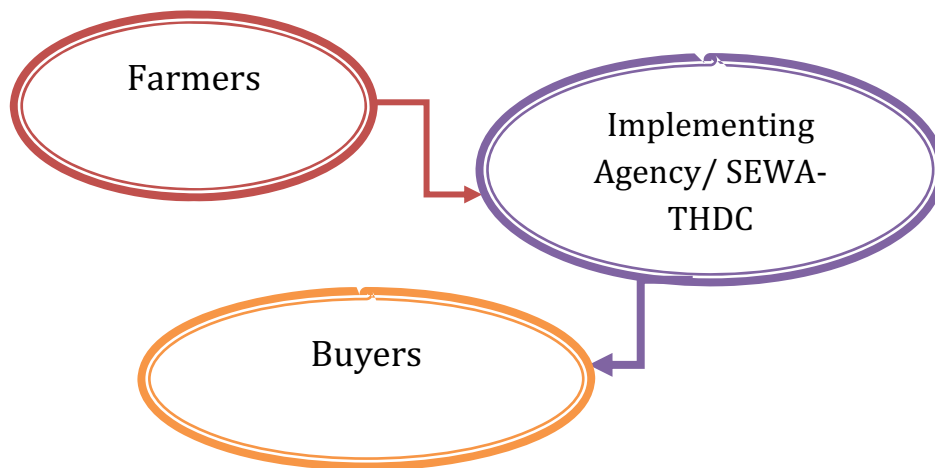
1. Ecological Restoration and Socio-economic empowerment of Rural Communities for Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Management in Upali Ramoli of Pratap Nagar Block In Uttarakhand, being implemented by Kirori Mal College, Delhi university.
2. Empowerment and Enhancement of livelihood programme for the 30 RIM area villages of Pratapnagar block in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand, being implemented by HNB Garhwal University.
3. Activities undertaken in Hazratpur and Majhwara, Uttar Pradesh
4. Ensuring Livelihood Security through Farming System approach in Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand, being implemented by PDFSR, Modipuram

These are long term projects which aim to have a holistic development in the selected villages. Following are the recommendations for the long term projects.

- 1.) **Monitoring:** Since the scope and nature of the projects are very wide and varied it is essential to have a monitoring mechanism for the projects. Timely monitoring and evaluation should be conducted to judge the progress. **For this a monitoring module or format can be created so that it is easy for both THDCIL and implementing agency.**
- 2.) **Timelines:** the MoU has defined objectives and timelines for each of the projects and it should be kept in check while executing the projects. Modules can be developed to keep the progress of each project in check.
- 3.) **Expert Opinion:** The projects have involved research experts belonging to different fields and this has helped them to execute activities in each area based on the expert

opinions. This is a very important aspect as the activities in each project are varied and are executed in different areas at the same time. For the activities to be conducted in the coming future should also be conducted on the same format.

- 4.) **Interaction:** Since these projects aim at empowering the community and making them sustainable, it is essential to have a continuous dialogue with the community and local bodies like gram sabha officials. This would not only give timely feedback about the projects being executed but will also help build a cordial relationship with the community.
- 5.) **Market Linkages:** *The model applied by Kirori Mal College for selling the product of the farmers can be replicated and expanded.* This would help create market linkages and the farmers would be able to sell their produce through a smooth system. The produce can be collected at a center and from there the implementing agency can create linkages to sell the produce. The farmers would be paid their dues by the implementing agency. It is also essential in this case to keep a close check on the transactions that happen.



THDCIL can develop a clear model of market linkage. The farmers can be directly associated with THDCIL through the Implementing Agency. THDCIL can identify potential buyers in the market who will be willing and able to buy desired product from THDCIL. The prices can be fixed by THDCIL in presence of the implementing agency and a community member. This will include transparency and accountability.

- 6.) **Skill development:** For holistic development it is important to enhance the skills of the villagers so that their livelihood can increase. Computer training and stitching are already being implemented in the centers. A comprehensive market research and patterns of migration can be noticed so as to understand the patterns and then implement skill development courses.

8.2.2 Poultry and Goat rearing

Goat rearing:

- 1.) **Increase in timeline for return:** the goats have to be returned to THDCIL in order to follow a rotational method. However, it was said that the timeline fixed by THDCIL to return the goats by the beneficiaries is not helping them to get good revenue. The goats have to be returned after a period of one year. However, it was said that the profits can be seen by the beneficiaries only after 8-12 months. Therefore, the time frame to return the goats should be increased.
- 2.) **Additional Support:** Beneficiaries claimed that feed and medical facilities were a major challenge. Feed was not given to beneficiaries and the amount spent on feed was affecting the profit earned by the beneficiaries as the profit has to be divided between the members of the SHG. Therefore, subsidized feed should be provided to the beneficiaries.

There was also no medical facility available to the beneficiaries and there should be contact detail which should be given to the beneficiaries in case there is a health concern.
- 3.) **Training and Awareness:** Extensive training on how the SHG model will work and how villagers can benefit from the activity should be given. Apart from that awareness and sensitizing sessions can be held in which beneficiaries can be explained how by working together they can make a sustainable livelihood. There were also cases where the beneficiaries had consumed the goats for personal use. Therefore, there should be strict monitoring but most important there has to be a sense of responsibility that has to be inculcated in the beneficiaries. This can be done through regular interaction and awareness camps.

Poultry:

- 1.) **Medical facility:** For poultry there was no immediate medical facility available in the villages and also there were cases of death of the chicks. Medical facility is very important as beneficiaries would not be able to do anything in emergency case. Therefore, either a veterinary should be appointed or a customer care service round the clock can be started. That would be a method by which expert advice can be given to the beneficiaries without having to travel and look for medical help.
- 2.) **Market linkage:** Most of the respondents covered in poultry farming had their own source of selling eggs. They were largely shop owner who had a network to sell eggs. However, in the absence of same a market linkage should be created so that eggs from the village can be transported to a market. In Uniyal Village, two beneficiaries had 100 chicks each and had a vast produce of eggs. However, they claimed that selling eggs through their own links was tough and expensive. Therefore, a market linkage to make the project successful should be developed.
- 3.) **Monitoring:** While conducting the study it was observed that poultry farming being implemented by HERDS did not have a strong check on monitoring and the activities undertaken by the beneficiaries. In one of the case the beneficiary had sold the hen which is not allowed under the MoU clause. Therefore, a close check on the activities of the beneficiary should be kept. Also, THDCIL should have a rigorous monitoring process.

8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THDCIL:

1. **Monitoring:** Since the scope and nature of activities undertaken by THDCIL is very vast. It is essential to have a robust monitoring mechanism in place. The activities are spread over more than 100 villages and the projects are very vast. Also, the activities are spread to Uttar Pradesh where there is no official workspace. Monitoring is essential to assess if the progress is on expected lines in terms of

timelines, budgetary expenditure and achievement of physical targets. Monitoring should be done periodically with the help of identified key performance indicators. The reports are received on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis by the implementing agencies. However, apart from that practical monitoring of each project is very important. SEWA-THDC is already dedicated towards the task of monitoring but due to the capacity it has to a smooth and systematic process of monitoring. The projects for monitoring should be assigned to the officials based on either location or projects. ***Efforts should be made not to confuse the monitoring process and have an official format for the same. Only, through effective monitoring the quality of projects will improve and the relationship between THDCIL, implementing agencies and the community.***

2. **Convergence Model:** The projects executed by THDCIL are vast and their scope is also vast. THDCIL has undertaken a major project by building the THDC IHET engineering college and most of the funds are directed towards the college. This leaves very less amount to be disbursed on other projects. It was also mentioned in an interaction session with the THDCIL officials that a convergence model would serve the vision of having sustainable and meaningful projects. ***THDCIL is already joining hands with Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (RECL) to provide support for a project. This model can be replicated for other projects. This would also serve the aim of having sustainable and quality projects.***
3. **Branding:** THDCIL has proven to be an excellent example in terms of branding and maintaining relationship with the beneficiaries. Branding is very essential to have a stronghold and have a presence in the public domain. In all the projects that were assessed most of the beneficiaries were aware about THDCIL implementing the projects along with the Implementing agency. The THDCIL official had their presence in all the locations and it was heartening to see that regular site visits were done. This was also proven by the relationship that THDCIL and implementing agency shared with the beneficiaries. There are boards put up in the project selected sites and the officials have a strong connection.

This model should be replicated in the future and efforts should be made to maintain it. Also, new innovative ideas of branding can be thought about. Having

logos put up on sites and materials with THDCIL Logo on it can be distributed to create a more visible branding.

Therefore, it can be seen that THDCIL has made a significant effort in executing its CSR and the concept of understanding is also an integrated outlook at holistic and sustainable development. THDCIL has actively involved its staff right from the top management and the effect has trickled down to the other employees too.

The interventions undertaken by THDCIL have the objectives, vision and mission in place and the projects are implemented effectively. Also, involving Academic institutions for implementing projects is a great step towards having well researched and thought about projects. Experts are involved in each project which has given a new meaning to projects undertaken. It is hoped that the initiative undertaken by THDCIL continues to make a difference in the lives of people.

ANNEXURES

Annexure I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SKILLS BENEFICIARIES_HNB Project

- A01 What were you doing before joining the Program?
- A02 Describe your socio-economic status prior to the program
- A03 Are you aware of the livelihood and natural resource management program?
- A04 If Yes, How did you find about the program?
- A05 What are the components of the program that you know about?
- A06 Which activities of the HNB program are you engaged in?
- A07 How do you think the program benefits the **environment**?
- A08 How do you think the program enhances your **livelihood** options?
- A09 Describe the process of the activities in detail.
- A10 What was the procedure to join and did you pay any fees?
- A11 What was the mode of training and skills provided?
- A12 Are there any improvements that can be made in the mode?
- A13 If yes, then how can it be improved?
- A14 Was there any material support provided? If yes, then what?
- A15 How did the material support help you?
- A16 What are the improvements that can be made?
- A17 Did you successfully complete the program?
- A18 If no, what were the reasons?
- A19 What was the duration of the program?
- A20 What benefits have you got from the program?
- A21 Is there a development from the knowledge you had earlier?
- A22 Has the program enhanced your livelihood status?
- A23 If yes, how? Describe
- A24 Was it comfortable finding a livelihood after the program?
- A25 If no, then what were the problems faced?
- A26 Is your livelihood status better/worse than before you joined the program?
- A27 If not satisfied then what are the reasons?
- A28 Are you aware of who is providing the skill development program to you?
- A29 If yes, then name the implementing agency
- A30 What are the loopholes in the program?
- A31 What better can be done to improve the program?

Annexure II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT BENEFICIARIES

A :: SEED PRODUCTION and TISSUE CULTURE

- A01 What is the socio-economic structure of your family?
- A02 What is the amount of land owned in acres?
- A03 What is the amount used for agricultural produce?
- A04 Is your family entirely agriculture dependent?
- A05 If not, then what are the other occupations involved in?
- A06 What are the crops grown?
- A07 Are the crops for commercial or domestic use?
- A08 What is the pattern of crops?
- A09 What is the irrigation pattern?
- A10 What are the problems faced due to lack of irrigation?
- A11 What is the agricultural produce?
- A12 What are the problems faced in agriculture?
- A13 From where do you get the seeds?
- A14 What is the expenditure on the seeds?
- A15 How has the seed production impacted the agricultural growth?
- A16 Is there an increase/decrease in the income earned from agriculture?
- A17 What was the expenditure on agriculture prior to the project?
- A18 Has the project helped reducing the expenditure on agriculture?
- A19 How has the tissue culture helped the agriculture pattern?
- A20 What have been the disadvantages due to tissue culture?
- A21 What are the loopholes in the implementation of the project?
- A22 How can the projects be strengthened for future implementation?

B :: RAIN WATER HARVESTING

- B01 What is the land owned for kitchen garden?
- B02 What are the crops grown?
- B03 What are the challenges faced for the irrigating the kitchen garden?
- B04 What is the number of cattle feed owned?
- B05 Is it for domestic/commercial purposes?
- B06 If commercial, then what is the income earned?
- B07 What were the challenges in providing water to the cattle feed?
- B08 What was the source of water prior to the project?
- B09 How has the rain water harvesting helped the kitchen gardening and cattle feed?
- B10 Was there an awareness session about the techniques?
- B11 How did rain water harvesting solve the challenges?

- B12 What are the loopholes in the project?
- B13 How can the project be further strengthened?

C :: PLANTATION WORK:

- C01 What was the damage caused to the ecology? If any.
- C02 Has the presence of THDCIL led to the ecological misbalance?
- C03 What were the challenges faced due to ecological misbalance?
- C04 What was the procedure used for plantation work?
- C05 Does the plantation work have any effect on the nearby surroundings?
- C06 If yes, how?
- C07 How will the plantation work help restore ecological balance?
- C08 What are the loopholes in the project?
- C09 How can the project be further strengthened?