



IND-REJ-HVS-P01, Northern India
Reporting Period: October 2018 to September 2019

Himalayan Village School

Budget: \$11,000 fully funded

Update:

Tehri Garwhal is situated in northern India at the foothills of the Himalayas. It is an extremely remote area with poor infrastructure. Most schools are far away and the poverty of the local families means that many children miss out on an education. The children here are young and so many cannot travel the distance to the next closest school. Our partners have established a school for an increasing number of children who would otherwise not receive education. By growing the school in their midst, the children can begin at the right age, and have the potential to break the cycle of poverty.

The school has continued to build its capacity and raise awareness of the value of education. As part of its professional development program for staff, our partner ran staff training sessions on positive classroom management, child protection awareness and introduced new curriculum. General awareness sessions on sanitation, hygiene and nutrition were held for local villages as a way to broaden the impact of the school's education program. A survey of 70 new families was completed to assess the number and ages of children currently not in school resulting in 25 children being identified who could benefit from enrolling in the school. Village meetings were also held to discuss ways to encourage children into school as well as ways to provide fee-support for poor families.

It is encouraging to see the difference the school has made in individual's lives. Eight year old Sahiba comes from a Muslim family of six children. Her family's financial insecurity meant she lacked access to quality education. Sahiba had previously attended a basic government school but had discontinued because of its lack of teachers and resources, leaving her unable to read or write by third grade. Since joining our partner's school, Sahiba is so much happier about going to school. She embraces all her classes with enthusiasm and is making good progress in all areas of study, including English. And then there is Megha, the first student to graduate from 5th grade. Her father is a farmer, the sole breadwinner for the family, and while her parents are uneducated, they are passionate about Megha getting an education and the opportunity to attend the only English medium school among the surrounding 25 villages. After completing grade 5, Megha sat the entrance exam for grade 6 at a city school and scored the top mark out of 200 students. Her parents are so proud of Megha's hard work and dedication and the new path she has taken. She is a source of inspiration for her younger siblings and other children in her village.

This school meets a very real need in the community. Thank you for your part in helping to transform this region by investing in the future of these children.

