



Himalayan Village School

Budget: \$14,000 fully funded

The Project:

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 potentially break the cycle of poverty.

Outcomes and Impact:

- A total of 63 students (34 female and 29 male) were enrolled for the school year.
- 8 Teachers (6 female and 2 male) met with parents monthly to share and discuss student progress. Community meetings were also held monthly to educate the locals and build awareness about the importance of education.
- Half-yearly exams were conducted from November 4-20, 2019 and report cards were distributed to all students on November 29.
- After exams, preparations began for the Christmas program and winter vacation. Both students and parents joined the Christmas program – singing, dancing, refreshments and a gift for each child (photo, above).



COVID19 Update:

Annual exams were scheduled for March 16, 2020 but were cancelled because of COVID19 and the national lockdown. Teachers were trained in using online platforms like GoogleMeet, WhatsApp groups and Zoom apps for holding classes and making teaching materials. These rural areas have poor internet and not all students have access to devices so online learning has been a challenge. The staff were involved in COVID19 relief work, distributing provisions to the most vulnerable school families in the area.

Ananya Negi lives in Jadipani Chamba 10kms from school. He is studying in Class 5 and is 10 years old. He says



“Rejoice Academy is my first schooling place. I started 2 years ago and I am very glad to be part of this school. If I talk about online classes, I can say that this is a new experience for me. It’s very difficult to learn because there are network problems. Sometimes the video stops playing and the sound does not come. So I cannot understand many questions. But something is better than nothing. I hope that very soon the lockdown will end and I will be able to go to school again.”

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