

ANNUAL

REPORT 2022-23

Donate to make education accessible to remote villages in Uttarakhand



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AITYS is an NGO with 12A, 80G, CSR & FCRA Certifications

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Foreword from the Managing Trustee



We are grateful and humbled to all those who supported our cause and our initiatives during 2021 and 2022 in helping the people of Uttarakhand to overcome the aftermaths of the unprecedented tough times. The pandemic affected all of us equally across the rural-urban landscapes leading to widespread unemployment, lack of basic amenities - such as food, shelter, clothing, medical aid and sanitization.

The Uttarakhand region has also survived devastating natural disasters through 2021 and 2022. While we have come back to our regular pace of life in the urban areas, the humble mountain dwellers of the region still struggle to keep pace.

In 2022-2023 we wanted to ensure we continue to bring back pre-covid normalcy

to the lives of the students, teachers, and the schools we support since 2012. Normalcy for the students at this point meant ensuring basic needs are taken care of so they could focus on their growth.

Thanks to its dedicated AITYS team and supportive stakeholders, we were able to make some on-the-ground changes to our Ongoing initiatives to improve the Infrastructure of the schools, provide for students' education aid with the right tools such as books, clothing, shoes, etc. for them to thrive along with providing for their health and sanitation needs.

Teachers and Principals have informed that It's a welcome change to see regularity in attendance, improved health of children, higher confidence in students reflecting in their performance in exams, inter school competitions and other co-curricular activities. This only goes to say that we have a lot more responsibility going forward to ensure each of these bright minds has our support to prosper.

With this defined path ahead of us for seva, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy, abundant, and safe year ahead! Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, the AITYS team, and the

people of Uttarakhand who, together,
continue to give strength and trust in our
work.

Madhu Chowdhry
Founder & Managing Trustee

About An Initiative Touch Your Soul(AITYS)

AITYS is an all-volunteer charitable trust, helping the underprivileged and works towards providing them with a better life. AITYS was founded by Madhu Chowdhry in 2012, with the belief that “No one should be deprived of education and basic healthcare facilities because of poverty.” The intended aim is (but is not limited) to provide education sponsorship for children, infrastructure support for schools, and free medical camps for the villagers. Over the years, AITYS has grown organically and gained success in all its initiatives. Since its inception, AITYS has conducted 68 medical camps across 337 villages, treated more than 15788 people in the region (no medical camps were conducted in 2020-2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic) and completed 5160 annual education sponsorships for students. The reach of our initiatives is primarily focused in the area of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand state, epicenter being between Devprayag and Pauri. AITYS today supports 40% of higher secondary schools in this region.

Vision

No child should be deprived of Education due to poverty.

Mission

To inspire hope and help the underprivileged living in the rural areas of Uttarakhand achieve their true potential.

Objective

To enable completion of secondary education by all school children, upgrade school infrastructure with modern amenities and provide preventive healthcare for all students and the local population of the area ensuring the rural urban divide is bridged.

AITYS Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives of the specific project fall within the purview of the larger objectives of AITYS. The goal is to aim for an equitable approach towards all students, the school and the local community at large through various elements in our initiatives.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Promote the completion of secondary education by all school children countering the dropout rate in schools
- To help the most deserving students, who cannot afford going to school through scholarship opportunities
- Upgrade school infrastructure with modern amenities
- Provide preventive healthcare for all students and the local population

Background and Premise of our Initiative

AITYS is a non-governmental organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for underprivileged individuals across India. Founded as a volunteer-driven charitable trust, AITYS operates with the goal of addressing the diverse needs of marginalized communities, particularly in the Pauri Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.

Drawing from extensive ethnographic research and on-the-ground assessments, AITYS employs a flexible and adaptive approach to understand and tackle the multifaceted challenges faced by the local populace. By engaging in comprehensive site visits, the organization adopts a holistic view of the region's socio-economic landscape, allowing for tailored interventions that promote sustainable development.

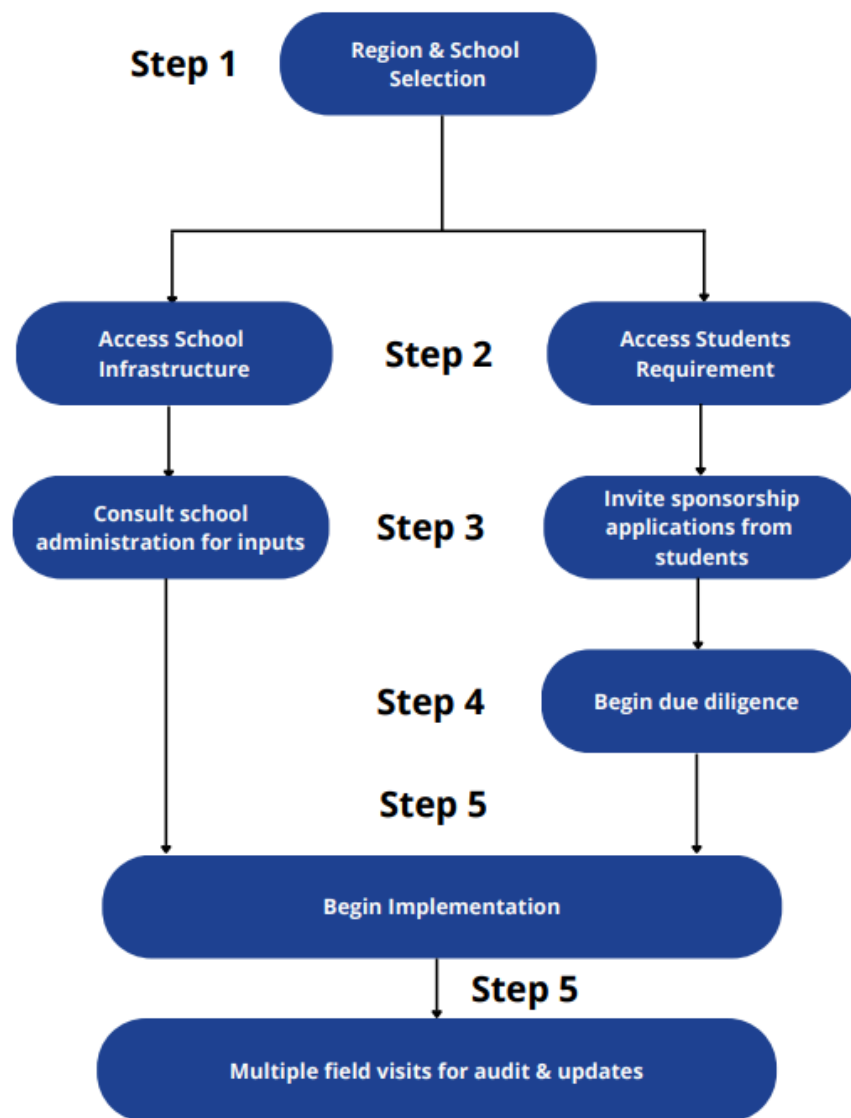
The impetus for AITYS's founding was fueled by a deep-seated commitment to social justice and equitable access to opportunities. In recent years, Uttarakhand has faced a series of environmental challenges, including devastating floods and landslides, which have disproportionately affected vulnerable communities in remote mountainous areas.

In response to these crises, AITYS continues to mobilize resources and expertise to provide emergency relief and long-term support to affected populations. Through initiatives focused on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery, the organization seeks to build resilience and empower communities to sustain.

As part of its broader mission to promote holistic development, AITYS also prioritizes initiatives in education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods. By investing in human capital and

community infrastructure, the organization aims to create pathways out of poverty and foster inclusive growth across the region.

Through collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders and government agencies, AITYS endeavors to catalyze positive change and build a more resilient and equitable society in Uttarakhand. By harnessing the collective strength and ingenuity of communities, the organization is working towards a future where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive and realize their full potential.



Area of Operation



AITYS operates within the heart of the Devprayag to Pauri corridor, an area renowned for its unique geographical blend of the Gangetic plains and the majestic northern Himalayas. Pauri Garhwal district spans an expansive 5,230 square kilometers, while Almora covers a picturesque 3,082 square kilometers in Uttarakhand, India.

With a longstanding commitment to the region, AITYS has made Pauri Garhwal its primary focus since its inception. Through ongoing collaboration with local teams and stakeholders, we continuously assess and address the evolving educational needs of the communities in these areas. Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, AITYS remained steadfast in its mission, ensuring the uninterrupted provision of essential educational resources, ancillary support, and financial aid to students in Almora. This dedication underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering young learners, even in the face of adversity.

Engagement with Stakeholders

Schools as Partners:

Government schools serve as vital partners in AITYS' initiatives, acting as central hubs for engaging with students and their families across various villages. Through partnerships with 31 schools, AITYS extends its reach to 347 villages in Pauri, Uttarakhand. Proactive school teachers and village representatives play a pivotal role in coordinating with students and families, facilitating the collection of forms, conducting spot checks, and ensuring the smooth flow of information to AITYS. Additionally, they play a crucial role in promoting and maximizing participation in AITYS' free medical camps by disseminating information within their communities.

AITYS as Facilitator for Students:

AITYS actively supports students by providing guidance and assistance throughout the application process for its sponsorship programs. Communication begins via phone to streamline the submission of applications, overcoming challenges such as network connectivity issues and varying school schedules. AITYS meticulously plans logistics nearly ten months in advance, ensuring the timely procurement, organization, labeling, and delivery of sponsored goods to each school. The infrastructure team at AITYS meticulously assesses sizing and quantity requirements for each school, ensuring efficient distribution of items such as T-shirts, shorts, socks, shoes, and tracksuits.

Preventive Healthcare for Village Population:

Professionally qualified doctors play a crucial role as core volunteers at AITYS' medical camps, conducting consultations and providing free non-prescription medicines to villagers during 68 visits. AITYS proactively informs village representatives, such as Pradhans, about the scheduled dates for medical camps through posters and word of mouth, maximizing community participation. The consistent presence of dedicated medical professionals has enabled AITYS to gain invaluable insights into the ongoing medical needs of the region, allowing for the strategic stocking of medicines for future visits. As a result of AITYS' sustained efforts and positive impact, an increasing number of families from remote areas seek support, leading to a rise in applications for school sponsorship and attendance at medical camps each year.

Donors and Sponsors as Enablers:

While AITYS initially relied on funds from friends and family, the organization has expanded its reach with the support of individual and corporate donors over the past years. This increased support has enabled AITYS to scale its initiatives and benefit a larger number of individuals within the community.

Achievements Since 2012

THE IMPACT



As on 31st March, 2022.

Our Impact in 2022- 2023

OUR IMPACT 2022-2023

Health & Hygiene



25,000+ Sanitary pads



18 Incinerators



23,000+ Multi-vitamins

Infrastructure



4 Girls Toilets + 5 Boys Toilets



11 Classrooms + Lab



1 Playground

As on 31st March, 2023.

Projects Undertaken

In the post-pandemic landscape of 2023, the focus of organizations like AITYS has shifted towards revitalizing communities and uplifting the lives of individuals in the

Pauri Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. As the region strives to recover from the challenges brought forth by the pandemic, AITYS has emerged as a beacon of hope, dedicated to improving the well-being and educational opportunities of students in rural areas. Through a multifaceted approach encompassing healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, AITYS has been instrumental in fostering resilience and empowerment among the local populace.

Enhancing Student Life:

One of the primary objectives of AITYS in 2023 has been to enhance the quality of life for students in Pauri Garhwal and Almora. Through targeted interventions, the organization has implemented initiatives aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, and essential resources. Students have witnessed tangible improvements in their daily lives, with increased access to educational support, medical services, and infrastructure enhancements. By addressing the diverse needs of students, AITYS has played a pivotal role in nurturing the potential of the next generation and laying the foundation for their future success.

Continued Support and Empowerment:

Throughout 2023, AITYS has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing ongoing support and empowerment to communities in the region. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the organization has persisted in delivering critical services such as medical camps, educational aid, and infrastructure repairs to schools. This sustained effort reflects AITYS' unwavering dedication to the well-being and advancement of the communities it serves. As the region looks towards a brighter future, AITYS continues to stand as a catalyst for positive change, driving progress and prosperity in Pauri Garhwal and beyond.

Year	Villages Covered	Medical Camps	Patients Attended	Students Sponsored	Government Schools	School Infrastructure
2015-2016	117	40	7918	466	5	
2016-2017	165	49	9867	983	10	
2017-2018	210	53	10705	1621	14	

2018-2019	219	62	13330	2606	19	
2019-2020	337	68	15788	3497	20	
2020-2021	337	68	15788	5160	20	
2021-2022	337	68	15788	5228	20	15
2022-2023	337	69	15881	5228	20	31

Education Aid:

Post-pandemic, the families in the Pauri Garhwal region have shown remarkable resilience and stability, gradually overcoming the challenges posed by the global health crisis. As the community regains its footing, the focus has shifted towards sustainable solutions that promote long-term development and empowerment. In this context, AITYS has recognized the importance of education aid in kind, such as school bags, shoes & socks, clothing, stainless steel bottles & tiffins and library books etc. as the need of the hour.

Unlike monetary aid, which may provide temporary relief, in-kind assistance serves as a catalyst for lasting change by addressing the fundamental needs of students and motivating them to actively engage in their educational journey. By providing essential resources directly to students, AITYS aims to create a conducive learning environment that fosters academic success and personal growth. This strategic shift in approach reflects AITYS' commitment to promoting self-reliance and empowerment within the community.

In line with this principle, monetary aid was discontinued in 2023, with investments redirected towards infrastructure and education aid. By investing in tangible resources that directly benefit students, AITYS aims to instill a sense of pride and ownership in their education, ultimately paving the way for a brighter future for the youth of Pauri Garhwal. This holistic approach underscores AITYS' dedication to fostering sustainable development and empowering individuals to realize their full potential in a post-pandemic world.

In the wake of the pandemic's aftermath, AITYS embarked on a mission to fortify educational opportunities in Pauri Garhwal and Almora. With a focus on bridging the rural-urban education divide, the organization intensified its efforts to support students in remote areas.

Through targeted interventions, AITYS provided education aid to 31+ schools, affecting and impacting 5000+ students in the 2022-23 academic year, a significant increase from the previous year. 5000+ T-Shirts, 3600 Carry Bags, 3000+ School Bags, 2400+ Canvas Shoes, 2700+ Bottles, 2900 Tiffin, 5400+ Socks, 3000+ Tracksuits, 6000+ Sweaters and 60+ bicycles were distributed across 31+schools in the Pauri Garhwal region in the year 2022- 2023.

This support empowered students to access vital resources such as books, bags, clothing, etc. enabling them to engage in distance learning and seek guidance from educators despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Principals of local schools emphasized the importance of sustained educational support, advocating for initiatives that fostered continuous learning regardless of external circumstances.

Sustaining the Toiletiquette Project

Ensuring clean toilets with access to water is a fundamental necessity for every school. Under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India initiated the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, aiming to eradicate open defecation in rural areas through widespread behavioral change, construction of household and community toilets, and implementation of monitoring mechanisms. However, there is still much progress to be made, particularly in government schools in rural Uttarakhand, which lack adequate funding for sustainable sanitation facilities.

AITYS is dedicated to partnering with stakeholders to provide safe, clean, and hygienic toilets, ensuring that no child misses out on valuable learning opportunities critical for shaping their future. Aligning with WHO recommendations, AITYS continues the pledge of ensuring a socio-cultural shift in the defecation habits and therefore in 2022-2023 the team was committed to construct a minimum of three toilets in each of the 20 schools it supports, catering to the needs of over 100 children per school.

Persevering and Scaling The Gift a Pad Project

Through the "Gift a Pad" project, bolstered by support from Give India, AITYS has played a pivotal role in de'stigmatizing and promoting the use of sanitary pads in rural regions. Prior to the initiative, many girls often missed school due to the challenges posed by menstruation. However, over the past year, significant strides have been made in normalizing menstrual hygiene practices. As a result, we have witnessed a remarkable regularization of attendance among girls, accompanied by a notable increase in confidence levels. Additionally, the introduction of incinerators for proper disposal has further facilitated this positive shift, ensuring hygienic and environmentally friendly management of menstrual waste. Through concerted efforts, AITYS continues to empower girls by enabling them to manage their periods with dignity, thereby promoting gender equality and educational equity in rural communities. This year 2022- 2023, 25000+ pads were distributed and 18 incinerators were installed for disposal of pads.

Enduring the Multivitamin project

The impact of providing multivitamin bottles to schools has been nothing short of magical for the students. With access to essential vitamins and nutrients, students have experienced a noticeable improvement in their overall health and well-being. Regular consumption of multivitamins has boosted their immune systems, resulting in fewer sick days and increased energy levels. As a result, students are more alert and focused in class, leading to enhanced academic performance. Moreover, the positive effects of multivitamins have extended beyond the classroom, contributing to a happier and more vibrant school community. By prioritizing the health and nutrition of 23000+ students in 2022-23, AITYS has not only enriched their lives but also set them on a path towards a brighter and healthier future.

This year a medical camp in the region was conducted and 100+ patients were treated, making the overall total impact of 15881 patients treated over 70 medical camps since 2012.

School Infrastructure and Aid

In fiscal year 2022-2023, AITYS prioritized infrastructure support as its primary focus. This strategic direction followed the stabilization post-pandemic, aiming to restore

normalcy to communities. Significant infrastructure damage occurred due to the abandonment during COVID-19 and recent natural calamities. Recognizing the pivotal role of infrastructure in community development, AITYS dedicated substantial efforts and resources to rebuild and enhance infrastructure. This concerted focus on infrastructure support underscores the importance placed by AITYS on revitalizing communities and ensuring their long-term resilience and prosperity.

AITYS continues to support the 31 government schools that we have scrutinized based on the needs of the students and our continuous impact is exemplary of the contributions made by the team. Over FY 22-23 with the help of our donors AITYS has built four girls toilets, five boys toilets, eleven classrooms, science labs and one playground.

Project ID	School	Project
CN-02	GIC Kaleshwar	Block of Two Classrooms
CN-03	GIC Nahsain	Block of Two Classrooms
CR-04	GIC Ghindwara	Reconstruction Physics Lab
CR-04	GIC Ghindwara	Reconstruction Chem Lab
CR-04	GIC Ghindwara	Reconstruction Bio Lab
CR-04	GIC Ghindwara	Reconstruction of Class room
CN-06	GIC Sajwankanda	Boys Toilet
CN-07	GIC Kaleshwar	Boys Toilet
CN-08	GIC Maharjali	Girls Toilet
CN-09	GIC Ujjari	Boys Toilet
CN-10	GIC Ujjari	Girls Toilet
CR-14	GIC Nahsain	Girls Toilet
CR-15	GIC Nahsain	Boys Toilet
CN-16	GIC Devprayag	Girls Toilet
CN-17	GIC Devprayag	Boys Toilet

Challenges

In FY 2022-2023, one of the significant challenges encountered by AITYS was destigmatizing menstruation and normalizing the use of sanitary pads within the school community. While we had the necessary infrastructure in place, shifting attitudes and perceptions surrounding menstruation required dedicated effort and time. Bringing teachers and students to a level of confidence where they could openly discuss and request pads was not an overnight task. The normalization of periods and the usage of pads necessitated ongoing work to establish a new societal norm. Through continuous advocacy and education, AITYS endeavored to break down barriers and foster an environment where menstruation is viewed as a natural and healthy aspect of life.

Outcomes

Health & Hygiene, Education and Infrastructure support in GIC Ghindwara



Sweaters and tracksuits sponsored in FY 22-23



Umbrellas distributed to students and teachers in FY 22-23

Repairs and reconstruction work done in Ghindwara

Before reconstruction:





After reconstruction and repairs:

Extensive work undertaken across classrooms, bathrooms, labs, playgrounds, rest rooms and recreational areas reestablishing the school and it's infrastructure was our primary goal



New toilets and bathrooms constructed

New physics, chemistry and biology labs constructed

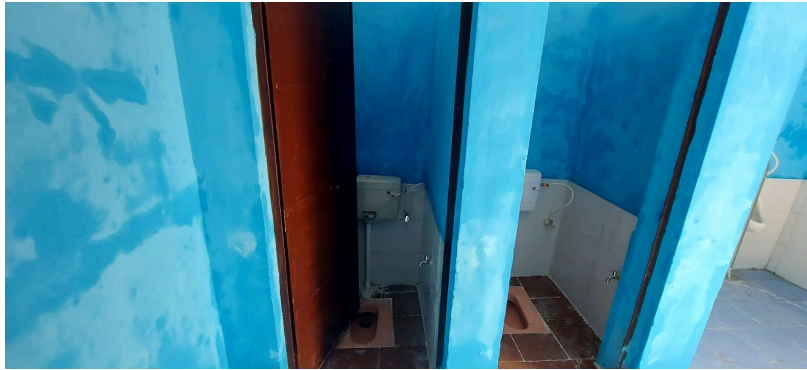


Health & Hygiene, Education and Infrastructure support in GIC Kaleshwar

Inauguration of 2 classroom blocks



Toilets and bathroom construction at Kaleshwar



2 toilet blocks constructed at Kaleshwar



Bathroom construction at Kaleshwar



Education and well being support to students at Kaleshwar

Construction and infrastructure support in GIC Nahsin

Nahsin school infra before repair



Nahsin school after AITYS infrastructure support in rebuilding the school



Construction and infrastructure support in GIC Ujjari

Ujjari before repair and reconstruction



Ujyari school after AITYS infrastructure support in rebuilding the school



Donors

This year, AITYS received the majority of its funding from Indian donors, with generous contributions from individuals, foreign and corporate CSR initiatives. Our focus is on increasing CSR funding to catalyze positive change in schools and enhance the lives of children. The substantial support from Indian donors underscores the trust they have in AITYS and reflects their belief in our impactful initiatives aimed at benefiting schoolchildren. We are deeply grateful to all our donors for their generosity and unwavering support, which motivates and inspires our team. Their contributions, made with humility and a spirit of service rather than seeking recognition, align with AITYS's core ethos of sewa, or selfless service, and are instrumental in driving our mission forward.

		Amount	Percentage
Domestic Donors	Individuals	₹ 4,722,446.00	30.0%
	Corporate - CSR	₹ 6,986,000.00	44.4%
	Via Online Campaigns	₹ 383,622.00	2.4%
	Trustees	₹ 25,000.00	0.2%
FCRA	Foreign Donors	₹ 3,601,660.00	22.9%
	TOTAL	₹ 15,718,728.00	100.0%

Credibility & Transparency

	Salary Paid	Remarks
All Board Members	NIL	NIL

AITYS BOARD MEMBERS	
Chairperson	Mrs. Madhu Chowdhry
Treasurer	Ms. Manisha Chowdhry
Secretary	Mr. Aashish Shehgal

Reach us

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