

Study Report on Women of Rural Area of Ranichauri (Uttaranchal) (Visited from 14th Jan.'07 to 17th Jan.'07)

"Mahila Mandal" in the villages of the Himalaya

In this area of the pre-Himalayas women have built up an organized net of self-help groups (in Hindi so called "Mahila Mandals") during the last years. The idea of this visit is to meet different women groups to:

1. Investigate their structure and organization of the groups
2. Improve function and enhance impact for the future.

It seems like out of tradition and history, women in these mountain villages bring a lot of "women power" with them and behave very pro-active in many ways. A part from the usual responsibilities of a housewife and mother, it is common that also the monthly income question gets solved by them. Their mindset reflects independent and energetic power. In the four examples of Mahila Mandals studied and examined, all the SHG came to the meetings thanks to the active assessment of the women themselves out of some problem confrontation. More then 50 different "Mahila Mandal" exist only in the district of Chamba.



Team Draupadi
Trust in Ranichauri



Julia
Schwarzenberger,
Management Trainee
from Germany
interacting with the
local women



Training Center at
Ranichauri



SWOT - ANALYSIS

Strength	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good education - Strong Willpower - active women, - less domination of men - good fertile land, - positive climate - great natural and human resource - women rich in knowledge of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no English Knowledge - lack of job opportunities - no marketing of products, - no skills for manufacturing quality products, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - product innovation - organize marketing Training - converting human natural and human resource to sustainable small enterprises for Agro and Tourism - enthusiastic young population, - Progressive thinking mindset, - problem awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructute, - insufficient connectivity - less exposure to the outside world, - electricity, - job migration to the cities, - Political corruption - government scheme not reachable - lack of information