Chapter IV

NGOs and Environment Conservation

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ROLE OF NGOS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN UTTARAKHAND: A CASE STUDY OF A DISTRICT ALMORA OF KUMAUN REGION
CHAPTER IV

NGOs and Environment Conservation

The present chapter discusses the profile of the non-governmental organizations historically involved and currently working in the field of environmental conservation and development in the study area i.e. Almora district situated in the hills of Kumaun region of the state of Uttarakhand of the present study. The chapter also assimilates, analyses and tabulates the data collected to assess the role, working and impact on the selected NGOs in the field of environmental conservation and development in the study area. Thus, the present chapter addresses the following aims of the present study:

- To identify the NGOs based in the study area, i.e. Almora district in the hills of Kumaun region of the state of Uttarakhand as well as the NGOs based outside the study area but are presently running or had previously implemented the environment based projects through other agencies as their ground partners.

- To understand the role of NGOs and the impact of their work in addressing the environmental concerns particularly in their areas of work and in the hills of Kumaun in general.

In the light of above given aims, the present chapter also discusses the following objectives of the study:

- To evaluate the level of community participation in the conservation of environment and

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the NGOs as agencies for environmental conservation and development in Uttarakhand.

The present study is be carried out in a hill district i.e. Almora of Kumaun region in Uttarakhand. The NGOs registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and working in the field of environmental conservation and development in the area constitutes the universe of the study.

In Uttarakhand the Registration and administration of societies under Societies Registration Act 1860 partnership firm under Partnership Act 1932 and chits under Chits Act 1892 is done by Registrar of firms, societies and chits Dehradun through its
regional offices at Dehradun/Haldwani and the Assistant Registrar Haldwani has territorial jurisdiction of Kumaun region consisting of Pithoragarh, Champawat, Bageshwar, Almora, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts. Therefore, to identify the registered NGOs working in the study area, the researcher visited the office of Assistant Registrar of Firm, Society and Chits, Government of Uttarakhand which is located at Heera Nagar, Jail Road, Near Uthan Manch, Haldwani and the Office of Treasury which is located in Almora. The list of registered societies and NGOs obtained from the offices at Haldwani and Almora is provided in the appendix.

From the obtained list of registered societies only those NGOs which are either located in the study area or based outside but working in the field of environmental conservation and development in the district Almora of the Kumaun region in Uttarakhand were shortlisted by the researcher. Further to verify the shortlisted NGOs, the researcher collected the requisite information on the profile of the selected NGOs from the secondary sources of data. The sources of secondary data mostly included books, journals, magazines, newspapers, published reports and the websites. This list of shortlisted NGOs was again verified by the researcher on the basis of inputs from the personnel having years of experience and knowledge regarding the working and development of non-governmental organization in the field of environmental conservation and development in the study area of the present study.

On the basis of data obtained from reliable and credible sources, some of them were not currently operational in the field of survey i.e. district Almora of Kumaun region, some of the NGOs could not be verified for the dearth of credible data available, some could not be contacted due to the difficulty in locating them through the addresses or non-functionality of contact numbers as mentioned in the list provided by the Treasury, Almora.

Henceforth based on the first and secondary round of verification, the researcher limited the number of NGOs to be assessed for the purpose of study to only those that are presently operational and renowned for their functioning in the field of environmental conservation and development in the district Almora as represented in the below given table.
### Table 4.1  The Profile of Environmental Non-governmental Organisations Shortlisted after First and Second rounds of Verification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the NGO</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Thrust Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Central Himalayan Environment al Association (CHEA)</td>
<td>06, Waldorf Compound, Mallital, Nainital, 263001 Uttarakhand, India tel. 91-05942 233099 <a href="mailto:cheaindia@gmail.com">cheaindia@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:office@cheaindia.org">office@cheaindia.org</a></td>
<td>Integrated and innovative solutions for overcoming the environmental, economic and social vulnerability of the Mountain people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Institute of Himalayan Environment al Research &amp; Education (INHERE)</td>
<td>Village &amp; P.O Masi, Masi Bazar-263 658, Distt. Almora, Uttrakhand (India) Tel : +91- 5966-217005, 246342 Fax: +91-5966-257217 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:inhere.masi@rediffmail.com">inhere.masi@rediffmail.com</a></td>
<td>Climate smart agriculture Sustainable community based businesses Climate change Water and sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Himmothan Society</td>
<td>Head office- 65, Vasant Vihar, Phase II, Dehradun, 248006 Uttarakhand t. 91-135-2760728</td>
<td>Livestock and Fodder Water and sanitation Forests Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.No</td>
<td>Name of the NGO</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Thrust Areas</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | **Field Office**- Dr. Rajendra Singh Negi | Mohalla Talla Galli, Jakhan Devi, Almora t. 91-9412036654 e. rajusnegi@gmail.com | • Education  
• Energy  
• Communities- microfinance  
• Disaster Management |
| 6.   | Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi | Dr. Lalit Pande, Director Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan Jakhan Devi, Mall Road ALMORA – 263 601, Uttaranchal, India Tel: +91-5962-234430 Fax: +91-5962-231100 | • Rural communities and livelihood issues- land degradation, water scarcity, crop yield, fuel wood, fodder scarcity, drudgery, poor nutrition etc.
• Designing and introducing environmental educational course for school curriculum of classes 6,7,8.
• Regional resource agency for National Environmental Awareness Campaign.
• Grants for specific environmental related projects to non-governmental organizations and school. |

Thereafter, the researcher contacted the offices of the selected NGOs to seek permission from the concerned authorities for visiting their offices and conducting interviews with the officials and the field coordinators working on the village project sites. After obtaining the permission, the researcher visited the offices of the selected NGOs and interviewed the officials to enhance the understanding of the researcher about the functioning of the NGOs working in the field of environmental conservation and development.

Keeping in view the suggestions and recommendations made by the officials of the NGOs interviewed, the format of the questionnaire and interview schedule to collect information from the field sites of the NGOs were redesigned in order to incorporate necessary changes in them and to obtain relevant information.
Next the researcher sought permission and assistance from the NGOs for visiting the project sites in the study area where the NGOs are presently working or had previously implemented the projects. During the field survey the researcher interviewed the field coordinators handling the projects on the village sites and the stakeholders of the community who were working in the projects currently running or previously implemented by the NGOs to objectively assess the role and impact of the NGOs in improving the environment of the project sites, which generally comprises of one or more villages in the study area i.e. Almora district.

4.1. Profile of the NGOs Selected for the Present Study

The profile of the NGOs given hereunder has been obtained from the websites and annual reports of the respective NGOs.

I. The Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)

The Central Himalayan Environment Association, CHEA in short, was founded on 2nd October 1981. The society was registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 1860 in May 1982. CHEA is one of the earliest societies founded in Northern India which had ‘the environment and the livelihood of the people in the Himalayas’ as its core concern. CHEA has since espoused many mountain causes, engaged itself actively in scores of action-researches on human and environmental aspects and livelihood-related projects and continues to be so involved to this day.

CHEA is a member of Mountain Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and of Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (Facilitation unit-based at FAO). It is also accredited as Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) by DSIR, Government of India (GoI). The NGO has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Department of Forestry and Environment Science, Kumaon University, Nainital and with GBPIHED, MoEF, GoI, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora for Lab-to-Land approach. The NGO is also a founder Member
of Himalayan Rive Alliance (HIRA), a South Asian Alliance for working on livelihood and environmental issues of Ganga and Brahmaputra River Basin.

The Vision of CHEA is to, “Ensure the development of prosperous and secure mountain communities that are peaceful, equitable, and environmentally sustainable.”

And the Mission statement of CHEA is, “The Himalayas are the principal home of glaciers and the source of water for over one billion people living in connected river basins. They are also extremely vulnerable to climate change. Thus, there is a critical need to guide development that incorporates and is compatible with the threat of a changing climate.

- To integrate rural livelihoods and sustainable conservation practices to reduce the environmental, economic, and social vulnerabilities of the mountain people.
- In cooperation with regional and international partners, and working with the communities, its aim is to develop and provide integrated and innovative solutions that guide policy change and inspire action to directly benefit the mountain people and their environments.”

Even the emblem of CHEA is representative of the sensitive ecology of the region being embodied in the leaf of the oak tree, the species occupies nearly 20,000 km² area in Uttarakhand between 1000-3000 m elevations. The oak forest is associated with water, humidity, biodiversity and life in general in the hills and is the tree of the masses and is the lifeline of village communities.

CHEA’s Thrust Areas of Work

The area of activity of the association is the Himalaya and adjacent areas in general, and Kumaun and Garhwal Himalayan regions in particular. The thrust areas of working are as follows:

- Creating the environment to help Himalayan village communities to protect and enrich their environment and to contribute to addressing regional and global issues by exploring all positive linkages between environmental conservation and economic growth.
- Addressing basic human needs to support capacity building of communities for enabling them to ensure basic needs by economic stability.
• Ensuring active women participation in sustainable development and livelihood initiatives.
• Extending infrastructure services to help developing countries deliver environmentally sound infrastructure services.
• Promoting human rights, democratic development and good governance
• Providing development alternatives for youths, ensuring investment in our future for channelizing the energy in productive ways.
• Applying participatory methods to restore the self-sustained system of village communities by optimum utilisation of traditional wisdom and knowledge.

CHEA’s Areas of Activities

a. Research and Documentation of the Mountains and the Regional Best Practices

CHEA identifies, documents and disseminates the case studies and best practices in the Indian Himalayan region. Under this, the emphasis is not only on organising workshops, summits, research and documentation of mountains and its concerns, it is also to promote good practices for ensuring sustainable development of mountains in context of social, economic and environmental indicators with the use of modern Information Communication Technologies (ICT).

b. Art, Culture & Handicraft Promotion of Mountain's Art and Craft.

Tribes of Uttarakhand have a unique art and culture along with handicraft which they have been practising since generations. Handlooms and handicrafts are usually one of the main occupations of the communities to earn their livelihood. Hence the association has implemented several projects to promote the cultivation of Bamboo and livelihood enhancement through providing markets for bamboo handicraft in the state and their exhibition at Dilli Haat, New Delhi etc., carpet weaving in Munsyari (Pithoragarh).

The NGO has also launched a brand under the name of “Kailash - Truly Sacred” to promote products produced by Mountain People residing in Kailash Sacred Landscape. The initiative is under the project Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation
& Development Initiative (KSLCDI) and another brand under the name of “Nainital Natural (NaNa)” to promote natural Himalayan products produced by mountain artisans.

c. Rural Livelihood Initiatives in Mountain Regions for Mitigating Rural Poverty.

The peculiar scenario of out migration has resulted in lessening of skilled and valuable working hands and creates additional pressure on women's shoulders. The availability of livelihood resources at village level would be helpful to restrict migration rates as well as the induction of appropriate technologies which will improve the livelihood status of the rural community. To address the aforesaid issues, the NGO has initiated and successfully implemented a number of projects for generating sustainable livelihood options and building capacity through promoting beekeeping practices, cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP), introducing horticultural and floricultural farming, organic farming techniques, value addition to the different produce, and providing better networks for marketing of products.

d. Climate Change with specific reference to Mountains and Adaptation Interventions for Mountain.

Climate change and forests are intrinsically linked: climate change is a threat to forests, and protecting forests from conversion and degradation helps mitigate the impacts of climate change. The organization has been engaged in devising several ways to fight this particular problem and to ensure sustainability of the mountains by engaging rural hill communities in decision making and building their capacities along with improvement in their awareness level. One noteworthy example is CHEA’s Carbon Assessment project in Lamgarha block in Almora District to educate and train the local community for building a cadre of community youth as Self Employed Change Agents (SECA) for ecosystem restoration as a means to achieve Mission Target of the National Mission of Green India, an ambitious mission of Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of India (GoI). The cadre of community youths will help Mission activities at the local level with active support of FD and other agencies. This will also augment capacity of Forest Department to facilitate Mission activities with existing regular staff.
II. The Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)

The Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE) is working for holistic development of the region with active involvement of local communities since 1982. Its main office is at Masi, Almora, in the picturesque Ramganga valley of Kumaun region of Uttarakhand in India.

INHERE focuses on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, diverse safe and nutritious food, sustainable rural livelihoods, water and sanitation and above all community empowerment. Working with small mountain communities, INHERE reaches out in solidarity to international and global communities, movements and activities sharing common concerns in endeavour to create a better world.

The Vision of INHERE is a people centred sustainable process of development based on security, equity and harmony in society with equal opportunity and participation of women and men.

The Mission Statement of INHERE is to:

- Explore, support and provide opportunities of development for a better quality of life to socially and economically marginalized mountain people, especially women.
- Lead and create sustainable development models.
- Share its learning, experiences and development ideas with the wider community of socially and economically marginalized across the world and fellow development organizations to contribute to an economically, socially and environmentally just and equitable global society.

INHERE’s Area of Activities:

INHERE believes in an integrated, balanced and sustainable approach to development encompassing social, political, economic and human facets of development. The NGO works as Research and training organization, Grass root level implementing NGO and Support and anchor NGO for multi partner development initiatives.
The NGO provides its services for knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination in order to strengthen the competence of people and to enable them to play an important and effective role in planning, implementation, maintenance and mentoring of the development process; organizes training and exposure visits for interested organizations and community groups. It has three well established training centres at different locations. Several organizations have availed these services such as Uttarakhand Livelihood Programme for the Himalayas funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Programme of the World Bank, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Sikkim; takes up research and consultancy on areas related to rural development, community issues, socio-economic issues, natural resource development and management, agriculture, rural livelihoods, corporate social responsibility issues, development impact monitoring and evaluations. Both National and International organizations have availed these services such as Department of Tribal Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, PRADAN, New Delhi, National Education Centre, New Delhi, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Policy Research Institute of India, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, India Canada Environment Facility Project of India and Canada, Directorate of Watershed Management, Govt. of Uttarakhand, UNDP and Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India, IDRC, New Delhi, UNDP and Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India.

**INHERE’s Areas of Activities**

The Ngo focuses on the current development issues of Environment, Livelihood and Basic Infrastructure: Education, Health and Water. Several New Initiatives has also been undertaken by the NGO:

- Foresight in Agriculture
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Sustainable community based businesses
- Youth in Agriculture
- Innovation, experimentation and technology transfer for retaining rural communities in agriculture
a. Environment

The organization have also worked to restore the capacity of land to absorb and hold water, increase ground water recharge, restore vegetation cover, arrest rapid soil erosion and bring back some of the native tree species. Community awareness and responsibility for the surrounding forests and wilderness areas has been increased. And above all successful models for demonstration and replication have been developed to inspire and help other village communities through trainings and exposure visits.

b. Water

Since 1990, the Ngo has worked on making available of safe drinking water to numerous communities through identification and development of new water sources by adopting a variety of appropriate technologies relevant to hill terrains. The technologies used are gravity, minor lifts, roof rainwater harvesting tanks with filtration units, low cost hand pumps, and traditional naula rejuvenation.

c. Livelihoods

To promote diversified, all-encompassing, ecologically friendly and organic agricultural practices in the project area for better land sustainability, increased food and nutrition security, and improved marketability of surplus produce of the indigenous and native produce, the NGO has implemented a Third party certification on behalf of farmers for which an internal certification system (ICS) has been set up. Entire villages have been certified following a ridge to valley approach to prevent contamination. Collection and promotion of traditional seeds, more resistant to changes in weather conditions due to climate change, is being encouraged. Farmers are encouraged to produce and use on farm inputs. INHERE has promoted organic processing centres in which local produce is bought and processed into branded products for sale in domestic and external markets.

INHERE has been encouraging and providing trainings for mushroom raising, beekeeping, poultry keeping and various other on and off farm activities including promotion of eco-tourism.

Two campuses with training facilities and demo units of organic agriculture, vermin compost, liquid manures and growth promoters, bio dynamic preparations, bio gas,
poultry, dairy, fishery and fruit and forest plant nurseries are maintained. Meetings and trainings are organized for villagers and teams from other development organizations, government, and non-government, national and international.

d. Empowerment

INHERE has worked as a Resource Centre for the promotion of elementary education focusing on development and propagation of child centred teaching-learning methodology based on local resources and knowledge. It has focused on the development of low cost reading and learning material to make education more enjoyable. It has provided trainings to pre-primary and primary school teachers and organizes children’s activities like debates, sports and cultural programmes. INHERE has organized meetings with community members, parents and village government bodies to encourage local involvement in the management of schools and education.

INHERE conducts trainings, workshops and meetings for capacity building of community groups in various areas of relevance to their lives including specific knowledge and skill building trainings for livelihood enhancement and quality of life and environment.

Community participation, social inclusion, local economy, sustainability, technology and innovations are central elements in every activity and initiative of INHERE. Working for over 25 years with communities of the Himalayan region, the NGO has created community based living models on watershed development, safe drinking water, water technologies suitable for mountain areas, community health, water harvesting, use of Ferro cement for multi-use low cost structures, community forestry, organic agriculture, organic food processing, medicinal plants cultivation, value addition to medicinal plants etc.

III. Society for Uttaranchal Development and Himalayan Action (SUDHA)

Society for Uttaranchal Development and Himalayan Action (SUDHA) has been serving the cause of people-centred, people-managed, people-controlled and people-owned development process. SUDHA was established on 1st October 1999. The organization is based in Almora, Uttarakhand having its work presence throughout the
state of Uttarakhand. SUDHA’s work has been spread over the entire state however some key assignments executed are confined to mainly three Districts Almora, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh. Recently we have also amended our bye-laws for working at all India level.

The organization has been working in the state of Uttarakhand for more than a decade and has multi-sectoral experience especially in the field of capacity building and training, support agency for planning under various government programs, as well as Monitoring and Evaluating Agency empanelled with Uttarakhand Institute of Rural Development (UIRD) in Uttarakhand.

SUDHA has also been a partnering and implementing agency for various external aided projects, some of the major collaborators being MoRD (GoI), MoHFW (GoI), UWCD-State Government, NABARD, PLAN-UK, UDWDP/World Bank, State Government, District Industries Center, UIRD, SBMA, MCF. In the area of Strengthening Community based Institutions and promoting Livelihoods SUDHA with agencies viz. NABARD, BASIX, DRDA, UWCDS, UDWDP etc. has formed and strengthened around 250 Community Based Institutions including SHGs, FIGs, Kisan Clubs, Federations which are apex bodies for grassroots development activities and sustainable growth.

SUDHA received the ‘2nd Excellence Award 2011’ instituted by the State Bank of India, Delhi Circle. The Award recognizes SUDHA’s outstanding performance/contribution in the field of Capacity Development of Rural people. SUDHA has also received Plan Global Awards 2010 for Best Project Design & Implementation for UMANG Project which focuses on Child Rights and Child Centred Community Development.

The Vision of SUDHA is, every human is born equal and has the right to partake in moulding the surrounding natural, social and economic environment. In view of this, ‘SUDHA’ strives to build a cadre at the grassroots level for acquiring and propagating knowledge to foster equality and generate ecologically sustainable livelihood opportunities.
And the Mission statement of SUDHA is to,

- Empower the rural masses through building their capacity for sustainable livelihood.
- Elevate the living status of the rural masses through promotion of income generating activities.
- Promote equality among women and other underprivileged sections of the society through their active involvement in the mainstream activities.
- Augment the existing knowledgebase through training and research development activities.
- Contribute towards environment and biodiversity conservation through proactive involvement of the masses.
- Advocate the needs of the people and coordinate closely with government for bringing about policy changes.

SUDHA’s Areas of Activities

SUDHA’s work has been spread over entire state however some key assignments executed are confined to mainly all Hill Districts, wherein the area is marked by characteristics like Inaccessibility, Fragility, Marginality and Diversity.

a. Knowledge Enrichment

SUDHA fosters documentation and dissemination of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) to build up the regional knowledge through resource dynamics, to develop need-based literature in an easy-to-understand format for the rural masses, to set-up cluster level ‘Village Information Kiosks’ (VIKs) using modern technologies such as Internet to disseminate information on market trends and prices, developments in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, etc.

b. Capacity Building

On the behalf of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), SUDHA has been appointed as Nodal Agency in Uttaranchal for promoting and organizing ‘Open Learning Programme on Business Entrepreneurship’ which is especially designed to develop entrepreneurial traits and motivation in the learner along with the spirit of enterprise, to augment their decision-making capabilities, to set up their individual
business venture as well as develop the expertise to manage an enterprise. National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Dept. of Science and Technology, GOI and National Entrepreneurship Development Board, Dept. of SSI & ARI, GOI supports the course.

SUDHA is persistently making efforts towards developing a cadre of Para-Technicians as facilitators for enhancing the capacities of the hill-people in order to advance their social and economic status by proper management, utilization and conservation of available resources.

c. **Venues for Sustainable Livelihood**

SUDHA is encouraging the processing of the local produce and value addition to it. The organization focuses on building the strengths of local masses both as individuals and in groups/federation and motivating them to undertake off/on-farm micro-entrepreneurial activities for generating alternative sources of income. To promote a self-sustaining alternative of better marketing and distribution system for SHGs produce, the organization runs an outlet ‘Agri-Hub’ through its consortium with Partner NGOs.

d. **Transfer of Contemporary Technologies**

SUDHA is striving to bring the relevant technologies viz. water management technologies such as low-cost rainwater harvesting tanks, polythene storage tanks, protected cultivation through polyhouse/ polytunnels, bio-composting measures etc. to the field and link the farmers to the research institutions of the region so that they can benefit from their experiences.

The organization is playing its part in transferring latest organic preparation technologies to farmers like bio-fertilizer production, bio-formulations, bio-crop management, organic farming and post-harvest management etc.

e. **Women and Child Development**

In this direction SUDHA has collaborated with Shri Bhuwneshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA), Dehradun to form Mountain Children’s Forum Chapter at Almora, which serves as a platform for children to learn about their rights, culture, environment protection, biodiversity conservation etc. and to cultivate their knowledgebase.
f. **Health and Sanitation**

Through Health and Sanitation Campaigns the organization sensitizes the community at grassroots on important aspects of health & hygiene, birth registration, child immunization, family planning, female foeticide elimination etc. The organization also recognizes and addresses the health and nutrition needs of women and children of the region.

g. **Strengthening of Community Based Institutions**

The organization is actively involved in formation, strengthening, streamlining and skill upgradation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs), Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), Farmer Federations (FFs) etc., with the needs of the times. SUDHA is also empanelled member under Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) Uttarakhand. Recently SUDHA prepared Five Years Panchayat Perspective Plan under Rajeev Gandhi Panchayati raj Shashaktikaran Abhiyaan (RGPSA) scheme.

Few other notable projects implemented by the organization include World Bank aided UDWDP Project, consulting assignments under ULIPH (IFAD aided), Strengthening of Community based Organizations under Diversified Agriculture Support Project (DASP), Bee Keeping Project under NABARD’s Rural Innovation Fund, SHGARD Livelihood Improvement through DRDA-NRLM, DIC-DRDA supported IGA Skill Upgradation Programmes, etc. All of these endeavour at grooming and empowering the community towards socio-economic upliftment through self-fortification and self-reliance.

h. **Planning and Management of Natural Resources and Conservation**

To optimize the utilization of natural resources by the use of resource planning and management mechanisms, to ensure environment protection and biodiversity conservation, and to inculcate eco-friendly attitudes, the organization undertakes afforestation, restoration of natural water resources and awareness generation programmes/campaigns with the active involvement of rural masses.

i. **Socio-economic Research and Policy Advocacy**
SUDHA is conducting socio-economic researches/studies, agro-ecological situational based analysis to develop plans and strategies encompassing a bottom-up approach to address the most emerging issues of the region. The organization also provides a channel of communicating the needs of the region to the policy-making bodies at block, district and state levels to beget necessary changes in the government’s perspective.

IV. Himmothan

Registered in 2007, Himmothan was born out of a desire of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, the oldest private philanthropic organization in the country, to work intensively in the Central Himalayan region. The Trust (Sir Ratan Tata Trust) implements scaled rural development programmes across the country, and had initiated work in Uttarakhand in 2002.

In 2004, the Trust's activities in Uttarakhand received due recognition from the Government of Uttarakhand. A MoU was signed between the Trust and the state government in which both parties agree to collaborate on rural development issues in the state for an initial ten year period. The agreement was renewed for another ten years in 2014.

The Vision of Himmothan is to, build, together with its partner organization, a prosperous and self-sustained mountain communities which live in harmony and sympathy with their natural surroundings.

Himmothan’s Areas of Activities

The Himmothan Society works among the rural mountain communities by organizing and developing sustainable enterprises linked to livestock, agriculture, non-timber forest produce, and intervening for better education, access to safe water and sanitation and energy. The reach of Himmothan's programmes has extended to over 75,000 households.

Himmothan initiatives currently operate in Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Nainital and Tehri-Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand and in each district a different methodology is adapted to suit the individual needs of community and the target group population.
a. Water and Sanitation

Himmotthan has been since past many years, on working to address the problem of water resources conservation and the provision of safe drinking water supply and sanitation and to strengthen the financial status of the people of Uttarakhand. This initiative is divided into two main water related areas: "Conservation of Water" and "Wise Use & Sanitation".

In order to ensure a sustained water supply, conservation and management of spring's catchment areas of water sources forms an integral component of the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) project. Various water and soil conservation activities such as plantation of saplings for long term sustainability of spring sources, construction of gabion check dams, loose boulder dams etc. under the WATSAN initiative have been implemented in several districts of the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Himmotthan strategizes, coordinates, manages and provides hands on support to the WATSAN program in collaboration with various district level line departments such as Jal Nigam, Irrigation and Public Health, Rural Development and the Forest Department. ENV-DAS (Pvt) Ltd. provided construction and software support to facilitating organizations and village level management societies which are involved in the WATSAN project.

A community based participatory approach is the hallmark of WATSAN projects. Therefore, the safe drinking water supply and sanitation projects, with an added focus on hygiene are being implemented through village based water and sanitation committees, which plan, design, implement and manage their own schemes. So also the village communities contribute around 10% of the total capital cost incurred in the project in order to give them a sense of ownership in the projects.

Another initiative is the revival of the indigenous technology of Gharats in Uttarakhand which is based on the hydropower energy from perennial streams and rivulets. The Gharats are the indigenous water mills used extensively by the people of the hills for the grinding of grain into flour. The NGO has been involved in the reviving and upgrading this age old environmentally friendly sustainable technology in order to reduce women drudgery as well as creating an additional source of income for the community.
b. Forests

To promote forest conservation and to provide sustainable alternative livelihood options to villagers, the organization has brought both the private and common land in the selected villages of Chamoli, Almora and Pithoragarh districts under cultivation, standardization and marketing of Non-timber forest produces (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic plants (MAPs). Himmothan’s Himalayan Nettle Fibre Project is another community based initiative towards development of a rural enterprise through sustainable harvesting, processing, value addition and marketing of products made out of the fibre of nettle which is a commercially important species grown in some high altitude pockets of the state. The organization also promotes innovative research in Natural Resource Management (NRM), planting of commercially important varieties including bamboo and training of artisans, rejuvenation of springs through catchment interventions, institutional development and community based and managed eco-tourism.

c. Organic Agriculture

Himmotthan in partnership with the Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB) is enhancing organic activities in agriculture and allied sectors. The Centre for Organic Farming (COF) project which is sanctioned by the Trust facilitates the UOCB with professional, managerial and technical support. The project also focusses on the development of Integrated Farming Systems Approach Research (FSAR) and market oriented commodity clusters. Overall, the project is expected to cover 135 villages in 16 village clusters spread across all the 13 districts of Uttarakhand and its country wide focus on farmer and officials trainings is visualized to reach over 5400 farmers through direct trainings.

Another initiative of the organization “The Natural Resource based Livelihood Project (NRLP)” is a strategic approach to integrate various on farm income generating activities with improving the productivity of the natural resources. Through efficient management of agriculture, forests, water and integration of better practices, this initiative aims to convert them into viable community led eco-friendly and sustainable business enterprises.
d. Energy

For the development of decentralized, renewable and sustainable energy options at a small scale, low cost, and free of impacts on local ecology and environments, the organization has been engaged in different specific projects, including livestock (biogas plants), drinking water (solar lift pumps), agriculture (solar lift for water), gharats (water mills for grinding and small enterprises) etc.

e. Disaster Initiatives

Uttarakhand was hit with flash floods and landslides due to cloudbursts and heaving rainfall on 16-17th June 2013. Himmotthan initiated two major post disaster livelihood programmes – the Tata Strategic Group and the STAR TV consortium which will cover 80 villages impacted by the June disaster in a period of three years.

V. Sanjeevani Vikas Evam Jan Kalyan Samiti (Sanjeevani)

Sanjeevani Vikas Evam Jan Kalyan Samiti (Sanjeevani) is based in Almora District in Northern India (Himalyan Region). Since its formation in 2000, Sanjeevani has been providing voluntary services for women empowerment and awareness, expansion of education, development science & technology awareness in common people, and creating livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

Sanjeevani has got “Nirmal Gram Puraskar” twice from the President of India for its successful attempts in improving public health and sanitation in rural villages. The organization has also been rewarded by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India for spreading awareness of science and technology in the promising rural students.

The Vision and Mission Statement of SANJEEVANI is to,

- To work with governments, communities, and other key partners to extend the reach of health systems, rural development and improve the quality of services in effective and sustainable ways.
- To attain general development through Education, Health Care, Empowerment of Women and Watershed Development.
SANJEEVANI’s Areas of Activities

a. Organic Farming

The NGO has facilitated development of more than 13431 farmers by engaging them in organic agriculture, value addition, quality control and marketing of organic produce. The organization has also been working as a Local Implementing Agency in collaboration with Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB), which is the state nodal agency for organic agriculture, in the Centre for Organic Farming (COF) - 3 project under SRTT funded Himmothan Pariyojna since 2003.

b. Green Livelihood

Green Livelihood programme is supported by CBM India Trust. The NGO is working on the Green Livelihood project for implementing disability inclusive sustainable green livelihood for persons with disabilities including women in the state of Uttarakhand in India. In this project more than 200 persons with disabilities will be covered under skill development on farm and non-farm income generation activities like horticulture, apiculture, mushroom production, diary, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plantations, spice production and processing. Financial inclusion and local self-governance, development of Disability Producer Organisations and establishment of linkage with government programmes for sustainability is the major part of the project proposal.

c. The Hunger Project

Sanjeevani has been executing The Hunger Project in development block Takula, district Almora (Uttarakhand). The Hunger Project is a global, non-profit, strategic organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger.

d. Jute Service Centre

The NGO has diversified the income sources of rural communities by various non-farm activities such as dairy, floriculture, weaving, handicraft etc. The organization worked as a collaborating agency in Almora District with the National Jute Board Kolkatta, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to generate employment opportunities for the village community especially women SHGs through progression of the use of jute and its application in any diversified form for production of market
worthy articles. The organization carried out various promotional works such as arrangement of awareness Workshop, Basic Training, Advance Training, Technical Demonstration, Design Dissemination Workshop and Buyer Seller Meet etc. in the respective region.

VI. Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS)

The Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi is a public charitable trust founded in 1967. Over a period of time, the organization has been consolidated under a new body, the Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPSS), a registered non-profit society. In English, the name means the Uttarakhand Environmental Education Centre (UEEC). USNPSS’s office and training centre are located in Almora, in the mountain state of Uttarakhand. It supports the activities of rural schools, women’s groups, NGOs and Community Based Organisations throughout Uttarakhand, in the central Himalayas. In the year 1987, the NGO was appointed a nodal agency by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to undertake environmental education programmes in schools and villages in the mountain districts of Uttar Pradesh, now Uttarakhand.

The Mission Statement of USNPSS is to,

- To develop, through education and action, cohesive communities empowered to create rich, sustainable lives for themselves and future generations.
- To develop a deeper understanding of the interactions among the different parts of the village ecosystem, but also of the conflicts being generated by modernity in traditional ways of living.
- To engage with the communities, particularly women and children, to enables a participatory way of making and implementing decisions about what is best for them, their families and their villages.
- To plan, organise and implement programmes that respond to various issues like Environment, Climate Change, Education, Women’s Empowerment, Health, Livelihoods, Energy, Water and Sanitation.
USNPSS’s Areas of Activities

a. Environment and Energy

The organization have been working to provide alternative sources of energy for domestic uses since the 1990s. Smokeless chulhas, which are energy efficient and safe for health and environment, were installed for demonstration in a few villages (Ratirkethi, Jaintikethi in Bageshwar district) and the method of making a smokeless chulha has also been popularised in the workbook entitled ‘Our Land Our Life’ which is introduced by the NGO in schools.

Another initiative in the direction of popularizing the use of eco-friendly sources of energy for domestic purposes is the distribution of Solar in the villages of Ukhimath development block (Rudraprayag district) which were affected by the Kedarnath disaster of June 2013 and in a remote village Kimu, near Shama (district Bageshwar).

b. Eco-Works

Under Eco-works, the organization is actively engaged in tree plantation and protection of afforested sites in the villages. The NGO has also made some grants to the village organizations (NGOs, Mahila Mangal Dals, Yuva Mangal Dals) and schools for tree plantation in village common land and tree nurseries in order to rehabilitate the village support areas (uncultivated lands) and to ensure an adequate local supply of saplings for afforestation.

With the active participation of the village communities, the NGO has successfully banned or restricted the traditional practice of free grazing of cattle, the nurseries and afforestation are carefully protected by the community and stone wall/barbed wire fence have also been constructed in some places. Under the guidance of the NGO, the villager community has selected and planted the native broad leaved species (Baanj-Tyuni-Oak, Utees, Bhimal, Kharik etc.) which are not commercial but important locally for fodder, manure and helpful in soil and water conservation.

c. Adaptation Programmes

Under the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) of the ICAR, the NGO carried out a study covering issues of community perceptions about climate change, exploring health of the village ecosystems and leading to the concept of
resilience index. During September-December, 2011, the NGO implemented a project, “Up-scaling Community Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation” in collaboration with Germany’s Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit-GIZ in Danya, Dwarahat, Bhikiyasain (Almora district), Pati (Champawat district), Seraghat, Ganai Gangoli (Pithoragarh district), Karnprayag, Gopeshwar (Chamoli district) and Ukhimath (Rudraprayag district).

d. Water Management

The organization has implemented and supervised several water and soil conversational activities such as renovation of traditional sources e.g. mountain springs (naula/dhara), construction of chal-khal and jal-talain (rain-water harvesting percolation trenches), plantation of broad leaved trees around the trenches, contour bunds to improve the availability of water in mountain villages and prevent soil erosion. Another initiative by the NGO is the introduction of Regulatory systems for water use in the villages where conflicts over water were common. Low cost polythene lined water tanks have been constructed for water storage and use for for domestic purposes, irrigation and fish culture.

e. Environmental Awareness

From 1993 to 2006, the NGO has acted as a Regional Resource Agency for the ‘National Environment Awareness Campaign’ (NEAC) sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. As such the organization had organized several meetings, workshops, seminars, group discussions, slide-shows, padyatras (walking tours), plays and puppet shows. Preliminary orientation workshops were conducted for more than 300 NGOs, CBOs, government schools, college/university professors and the others.

The organization had also served as a State Resource Agency for Uttarakhand on the behalf of the ‘National Green Corps’ programme conducted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and thus organised training programmes for the master trainers and teachers in charge of eco clubs in schools and also developed resource material for eco clubs. For raising awareness among the village community regarding environmental issues and climate change, environment camps, meetings, goshthi, sammelans, padyatras, children’s fairs are organised in the villages and schools.
f. Environmental Education

The NGO has developed and implemented two of the programmes, Balwadis and Environmental Education, for all age groups which have led to government policy reforms and subsequent adoption by the State education system. The NGO developed an environmental education course, *Our Land Our Life*, focusing on village land rehabilitation and sustainable management. This course which is now part of the regular school curriculum in classes 6, 7, and 8 in the state of Uttarakhand had begun in 1988 and gradually expanded to cover some 500 schools and Intermediate colleges; approximately 65,000 students and 1000 teachers by the year 2000. In 2002, the state’s Department of Education introduced this course into the regular school curriculum.

The organization has also been engaged in training master trainers and government teachers for the course, supplying workbooks and tools to the students, and undertaking school visits to give on-the-spot guidance and to evaluate progress. Orientation programmes too were conducted for principals, education department officials and supervisory staff.

g. Livelihood

In order to improve livelihood strategies of village communities the NGO is supporting installation of poly-houses and low cost water tanks for off-season vegetable growing, promoting fruit trees and nurseries, and apiaries. The NGO is conducting workshops and training programmes and exposure tours for youth on fisheries, beekeeping, horticulture, vegetable growing and fruit processing. A project for promoting livelihood skills along with functional literacy was also carried out from 2008 to 2012 with support of the UPS Foundation.
4.2. Tabulation of the Findings Based on the Assessment of the NGOs Selected for the Present Study

The present chapter further discusses and analyses the responses to the questionnaires on the assessment of the role of NGOs in the field of Environmental conservation and Development in the hill district of Kumaun region in Uttarakhand. The given questionnaire on assessment of the role of NGOs comprises of twenty-five questions as provided in the appendix. The officials working in the selected NGOs’ head offices and branch offices and the field co-ordinators handling the projects on the village sites where the NGOs are working or had earlier worked individually or in collaboration with other agencies constitutes the ‘unit of investigation or enquiry’ for the present study. The primary data collected from the field sites visited as per the designed questionnaire, recorded interviews as well as the secondary data obtained from the publications of the NGOs has been tabulated in this chapter.

1. NGOs’ Thrust Areas of Work

It was observed that almost all the NGOs who were assessed for their role and impact in the field of environmental conservation and development were working in all those thrust areas which the researcher has obtained after consulting the NGOs officials, referring to their websites and published reports on the projects implemented by the NGOs in the study area and other relevant secondary sources and thereafter mentioned in the questionnaire. The NGOs selected and interviewed were currently running or previously implemented projects on Improving agriculture productivity through promoting green manuring of soil, or preparing of vermin compost, or prevention of diseases and raising nutritive value of crops through techniques of organic farming etc.; Tackling the problem of soil-erosion in the fields by terracing, building check-dams etc.; Combating the water crisis by reviving natural water springs or traditional water harvesting structures, locally known as johads (check-dams), or building structures for rain-water harvesting; Forest conservation by checking tree-felling and encouraging plantation and natural resource management; Addressing the provision and management of proper waste/sewage-disposal by building public utilities like sewage system etc.; Providing alternative sources of energy requirements
by solar panels, harnessing wind energy, constructing bio-gas plants, micro-hydel projects etc.; Conducting workshops for equipping the locals with the knowledge of natural resource management, disaster management/environmental emergencies and natural disasters like land-slides etc.; Creating Self-help Groups for community capacity-building or enabling self-sustenance; Conducting Research for identification and conservation of plants of medicinal use; Imparting environmental education at school and colleges through lectures, seminars and demonstrations etc.; Dissemination of information about environment conservation among the locals through brochures, leaflets etc.; Others such as climate change etc.

On the basis of responses to this query the results obtained were affirmative and homogenous and hence the data analysed could not be graphically represented in the chapter.

2. **Number of Environmental Projects being run by the NGO in the region**

It was observed that the percentage of the NGOs running 1-2 environmental projects were 46.7%, which was less by 6.6% than the percentage of the NGOs running 3-4 environmental projects (53.3%) as represented in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.1. This clearly indicates that NGOs are increasingly taking up projects that directly or indirectly address the environmental concerns of the region.

Majority of the NGOs currently running 3-4 projects are involved in the implementation process in various village sites of the district Almora. These NGOs have been working in the field of environmental conservation and development in the hills of Uttarakhand for more than a decade.

The NGOs running 1-2 environmental projects have almost completed the implementation and monitoring of their previously started projects or are in the initial phase of developing and implementing new projects in their sites (Table 4.3).
Table 4.2: Number of Environmental Projects currently run by the NGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid 1-2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.1
Table 4.3  Details of the environmental development projects currently run or implemented by the NGO in the past few years.

### Projects under Different NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1. CHEA</th>
<th>2. SUDHA</th>
<th>3. INHERE</th>
<th>4. HIMMOTHAN</th>
<th>5. SANJEEVANI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Uttarakhand Livelihood Improvement Project for the Himalayas (ULIPH) (AAJIVIKA PROJECT)</td>
<td>2005-2012</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Local Innovation and Experimentation: An Entry Point to Climate-Change Adaptation for Sustainable Livelihoods in Asia (LINEX-CCA)</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Water Catchment Area Protection and Finalization of Individual Items of the entire water construction Works, Implementation Phase of the Water Supply and Sanitation Project of Himmothan Pariyojana Phase-II, supported by Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai.</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Implementation cum Operation and Maintenance Phase (Part 2) of the Water supply and Sanitation Project under Himmothan Pariyojana Phase III (WATSAN PROJECT) supported by Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai.</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Sustaining Rural Livelihoods Through the Cultivation and Conservation of Non-Tiber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Uttarakhand under Common Livelihood and Market Project (CLMP)</td>
<td>2010-2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Natural Resource based Livelihood Project (NRLP)-Maximising Mountain Agriculture Project (MMAP)</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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<td>8. Direct Sowing of Oak Acorn and Appropriate Fodder Species</td>
<td>2014-Extended</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Expanding the Natural Resource Base for Easy Access to Water and Green Fodder: Supplementing Marginal Community for Livelihood Promotion</td>
<td>2014-Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Improving Livelihood of Bamboo Dependent Communities and Enhancing Forest Conservation Through Promotion of Bamboo Plantation in Himalayas</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1. CHEA</td>
<td>2. SUDHA</td>
<td>3. INHERE</td>
<td>4. HIMMOTHAN</td>
<td>5. SANJEEVANI</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas, and Human Use sustenance in a Warming Climate</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Strengthening Rural Community Managed Natural Resource Institutions (Van Panchayats) For Enhancing Rural livelihood in Uttarakhand</td>
<td>2008-2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Sustaining Rural Livelihoods Through the Cultivation and Conservation of Non-Tiber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Uttarakhand under Common Livelihood and Market Project (CLMP)</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management project (UFRMP)</td>
<td>2015-ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Watershed development Projects (DPAP, IWDP, HARIYALI)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drone Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project (UDRP)- Owner Driven Construction of Houses (ODCH)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Mobilizing and supporting youth in sustainable agriculture in the Kumaon and Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand.</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Community livelihood promotion by maintaining biodiversity in the mountain agriculture in the villages of Kumaun Himalayas</td>
<td>2008-2011</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Integrated Fodder-Livestock Development Project (IFLDP)- Phase II and Phase III</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1. CHEA</td>
<td>2. SUDHA</td>
<td>3. INHERE</td>
<td>4. HIMMOTHAN</td>
<td>5. SANJEEVANI</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Promotion of High Value-Low Volume (HVLV) crops based enterprise in the higher Himalayas of Uttarakhand under CLMP programme</td>
<td>2009-2011</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Centre for organic Farming (COF) Project Phase I and II</td>
<td>2004-2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26. CDM Project of Fair Climate Network, Bangalore</td>
<td>2013-2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. Saturation of Selected Blocks (SSB) Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Project for Poverty alleviation and employment generation through floriculture (Scented Rose and Marigold cultivation and Woollen felt items). funded by Uttarakhand Gram Vikas Samiti (UGVS)-IFAD Project</td>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Total Sanitation Campaign in Bhikyasen and Syalde Block under National Programme supported by Rural Development Ministry</td>
<td>2003-2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Green Livelihood programme supported by CBM India Trust</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Centre for Organic Farming (COF) Phase III- SRTT funded Himmothan Pariyojna in Collaboration with (UOCB)</td>
<td>2013 onwards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. The projects implemented by the NGO monitored or not

Almost every NGO acknowledged that the environment based projects currently running or previously implemented have been monitored by the NGO at regular intervals such as monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually. The projects are/were also being monitored by the agencies working in collaboration with the NGO such as concerned government authorities such as Forest department, Horticulture department, Agriculture department of the State or the Funding Agency and experts or specialists hired by them. It was observed that the responses were homogenous as well as affirmative so graphs produced no variation for this query. Hence it has not been tabulated in the chapter.

4. Agency carrying out the monitoring of the projects implemented by the NGO

The percent of NGOs using multiple agencies to monitor their projects was observed at 66.7% showing the definite trend of the NGOs to be as much transparent in their functioning as possible. Only 6.7% of the NGOs used a singular external agency for monitoring while 26.7% of them did only self-monitoring as is presented in Table 4.4 and Figure 4.2. The government sponsored schemes /projects are mostly monitored by the NGOs and the government authorities involved in running the projects. While the projects funded by the Private trusts are being monitored by the NGOs working as their ground partners, the external experts hired by the Funding agency and the trusts themselves. In case of projects where there is no provision for monitoring the NGOs conduct self-monitoring for such projects in order to evaluate the running of the project.

Table 4.4: Agency monitoring the projects implemented by the NGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Frequency of monitoring the projects by the agency**

It was observed that 66.7% of NGOs were monitoring the progress of the environmental projects run by them either quarterly, half-yearly or both. Only 26.7% of them were monitoring the projects annually. A very small percentage (6.7%) are visiting the project sites twice every month to conduct monitoring as shown in the Table 4.5 and Figure 4.3. It indicates that most NGOs are following a general trend of monitoring their projects twice or thrice in duration of one year while a few at the completion of one year. While the percentage of 6.7% is constituted by those NGOs who run their projects through other NGOs working as their ground-level partners, and hence their frequency of monitoring is higher than the others.
Table 4.5: Frequency of the monitoring done by the Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid Bi-monthly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.3

6. The projects previously implemented by the NGO monitored post-project completion

It was reported by all the NGOs that they have been monitoring the progress of their village project sites even after the completion of the projects. This trend
has been generally followed by the NGOs post-project completion inorder to continue supervision of the activities related to capacity building, livelihood enhancement and environmental protection that were initiated by the NGO intervention. This practice is to ensure that the villagers remain aware and motivated towards continuing the environment friendly endeavours. These village project sites are also approached by the NGOs for implementing another environment based projects and conducting cross-visits of communities of other project sites.

The analysis of the data obtained from the answers to this question produced no variation in results and owing to homogenous and affirmative response this query has been excluded from tabulation in the chapter.

7. **Agency conducting the follow-up monitoring post-project completion**

As evident from Table 4.6 and Figure 4.4, the majority of the NGOs conduct the follow-up self-monitoring of their project sites after the completion of the environmental project. About 86.7% of the NGOs are conducting the follow-up self-monitoring. While the percentage of NGOs using either multiple agencies or government agencies for the follow-up monitoring is about 6.7%. It shows that most NGOs keep track of the progress of their project sites even after project completion on their own; few others let either private agencies hired by the funding agencies or the government agencies funding the project to do the follow-up monitoring of the sites as per the requirements of the funding agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.6: Agency conducting follow-up monitoring post-project completion
8. Rating the level of Community Participation at the time of Project Development and Implementation in the area

With the growth of awareness among the hill community towards the need to protect and conserve their environment for their survival, there has been a significant rise in community participation in the process of development and implementation of environmental projects. Table 4.7 and Figure 4.5 clearly indicate that about 66.7% of community population participated significantly in developing and implementing the environmental projects run by the NGOs. While in at a few project sites the villagers contributed very significantly while working with NGOs due to their very high level of awareness (33.3%).
Table 4.7: Community Participation in Project Development and Implementation

<table>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.5

9. Status of the projects being run by the NGO in the area

About 46.7% of the environmental projects are towards the stage of completion and about 26.7% of them have nearly completed as shown in Table 4.8 and Figure 4.6. An equal percentage of 6.7 are either half-done or one-fourth completed. Only a couple of them have projects in their initial phase of planning and development.
Table 4.8: Status of the projects currently run by the NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
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<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
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</thead>
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<td>13.3</td>
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<td>26.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>26.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>done</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost Finished</td>
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<td>46.7</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.6

Status of the projects currently run by the NGOs

Status of the projects currently run by the NGOs

Figure 4.6
10. **Status of the Projects previously implemented by the NGO in the area**

It was observed that majority of the environment based projects which have been previously implemented by the NGO in the area i.e. Almora district of the Kumaun region of the state of Uttarakhand were already completed with review. The responses to this question were homogenous and produced no variation in the results. Therefore the data assimilated on the basis of answers to this question has not been tabulated in the chapter.

11. **Rating the effectiveness of the NGO in Voicing People’s Concerns to the Government Authorities**

Since most of the NGOs are working in convergence with the governmental departments, they are able to draw the attention of the concerned authorities towards the needs of the community. This has not only greatly helped in building trust between NGOs and the village community but also increased their willingness to work with NGOs in developing the region. As indicated by Table 4.9 and Figure 4.7 forty percent (40%) of the NGOs have been “effective” in voicing people’s concerns while a majority of them (60%) are considered “good” in drawing government attention towards the needs and concerns of the community.

| Table 4.9: Effectiveness of the NGO in voicing people’s concerns |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                     | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| ValidGood           | 9         | 60.0    | 60.0           | 60.0                |
| Effective           | 6         | 40.0    | 40.0           | 100.0               |
| Total               | 15        | 100.0   | 100.0          |                     |
12. Environmental concerns of the people represented by the NGO with the Government

It has been observed that almost every NGO has been very effective in voicing the concerns of the community of their village project sites. The NGOs have been successful in drawing the attention of the concerned government authorities towards the needs and concerns of the villagers. The NGOs have also been able to provide insights (inputs, facts and figures, data, suggestions and recommendations) on policy formulations and planning and developing projects to the government for building capacity of the people of hill district, addressing the issues of outmigration and employment regeneration for agriculture dependent societies of the hills, making provision for health and sanitation, improving and conserving the natural environment of the hills in Uttarakhand.

Most NGOs are working and implementing projects in collaboration with the government agencies. Of the NGOs which were surveyed and assessed by the researcher, Himmothan Society has a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
with the State government of Uttarakhand; Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) has been working on several projects in collaboration with the State’s governmental agencies and has been constantly making efforts towards seeking convergence with the concerned governmental authorities on the currently running projects in the study area i.e. Almora district; Society for Uttaranchal Development and Himalayan Action (SUDHA) has been working as support agency for planning various government programs in the state of Uttarakhand and also empanelled as Monitoring and Evaluating Agency with Uttarakhand Institute of Rural Development (UIRD) in Uttarakhand for more than a decade; Sanjeevani (Sanjeevani Vikas Evam Jan Kalyan Samiti) has been endeavouring with the government to extend the reach of health systems, rural development and improve the quality of services in effective and sustainable ways; the Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan (USNPS), or the Uttarakhand Environmental Education Centre (UEEC) working as nodal agency of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to organizes environmental education programmes for schools and villages in the mountain districts of Uttarakhand. The environmental education course, *Our Land Our Life*, developed by the NGO focuses on village land rehabilitation and sustainable management and is also incorporated in the curriculum of classes 6, 7, and 8 of the governmental schools in the state of Uttarakhand.

Some of the NGOs also serve the communities beyond the scope of their project based activities and provides other relevant information to the needy villagers about governmental schemes such as Widow Pension Scheme, MNREGA in their work areas.

It has been reported by the Gram-Pradhan of village Maniyagar, Dhauladevi Block, Almora District that the presently SWAJAL project on spring rejuvenation and water conservation in their village has been implemented after a span of 35 years and this World Bank aided NGO-Government collaborated project running in their village is the outcome of successful efforts on the part of another NGO Dharohar. The NGOS also avail their services for knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination. They provide trainings and organize exposure visits of students from other interested organizations or educational institutions from all over the state and the country to study and review the work done through the environment based projects run by them. This endeavour serves as a medium for the students to work towards drawing the attention of the governmental authorities on issues, concerns and grievances of the hill communities.
13. NGO perception on the aspects that still need consideration in the process of environmental conservation and development particularly in the study area of the present study and in the hills of Kumaun region in general

On the basis of the data assimilated from the responses to this query and inputs from the recorded interviews of the officials working in the NGOs, the following are the aspects that still need consideration in the process of environmental conservation and development, particularly in the study area of the present study, and in the hills of Kumaun region in general.

- The success of any conservational and development activities on the part of both government and non-governmental sector is feasible only when they are oriented on need-based approach and not the bureaucratic target-based approach. One of the fundamental flaws in the formulation of such policies and schemes is the limiting their implementation period to just a standard span of three to five years. Considering the general lack of environmental awareness among the mountain people and their sceptical attitude towards governmental and NGO projects, often prolongation of the time required to solicit community participation in the implementation of the environment and development based projects. Thus, it has been time and again emphasized by the project implementing agencies, such as NGOs, to formulate any such schemes on long term basis.

- Another aspect highlighted by the NGOs is the need of dovetailing of all concerned government departments, such as department of agriculture, forest, water, land to address any environmental issue effectively. Also due to the lack of transparency, accountability and bias of the officials to few favoured parties, the benefits of such schemes or projects do not trickle down to the real needy of the community.

- The mountain communities are suffering harsh environmental degradation and dearth of resources of daily needs such as food, fuel, water, fodder etc. Consequently this has led to the out-migration of the rural mountain people, particularly males to the urban areas in search of employment which adds to the hardships and vulnerabilities faced by women, children and the elders of the village communities. This rapid pace of outmigration needs to be addressed by providing alternative means of livelihood to the community which not only adds to the income of the families but also promotes the conservation and development of the natural environment in the region.
• The region is known for acute shortage of water not only for agriculture but even for domestic purposes as well. In order to combat this water crisis, the need of the hour is to revive the traditional resilient ways of water conservation such as rejuvenation of the natural springs by constructing khaal-khantis, check dams, and recharge pits in the upper reaches of the forests. This will not only check the loss of fertile soil of the forest land and agricultural fields but also prevent the drying up of natural springs in the region.

• One of the most potent tools in the hands of the state government and the non-governmental organizations which are engaged in the developmental and conservational activities in the region is to make the children aware and compassionate towards their environment. This calls for making environmental education not only a part of child’s education from the early years of his learning at school but also to inculcate an environment friendly attitude into their lifestyle.

• The geographic features of the region, demographic reality and high dependence on agriculture, forests and its resources make this region extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. There has been a direct adverse impact of climate change on agriculture and livelihood of the mountain people. The unnatural alterations in seasonal cycle and other climatic conditions in the hills has impacted the agricultural and horticultural productivity. For example, the quality of agricultural produce, such as local fruits, malta and gadhmahl has declined. The ripening season of these fruits, which are produced in the higher and colder regions of the hilly areas has accelerated due to unnatural rise in temperature during their fruiting season and as such the quality of harvest has declined in terms of taste and nutrient value as told by the NGO representatives.

• The protection of forest cover in the hills of the Uttarakhand has always been an issue for the government authorities in view of the fact that the rural communities are heavily dependent on the forest and its resources as fuelwood, animal fodder and mulching material. The natural regeneration of forests has also been a problem in the hills of Kumaun due to chronic disturbances caused by humans and humans related activities, such as animal grazing and trampling of seedlings which is aggravated by the rampant forest fires during the dry seasons in the hills. Hence, averting of forest fires and their dowsing should be made an integral component of all watershed management plans.
14. The experiences of the NGO working in the field of environment conservation and development over the years

a. CHEA

The NGO has also launched a brand under the name of “Kailash - Truly Sacred” to promote products produced by Mountain People residing in Kailash Sacred Landscape. The initiative is under the project Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation & Development Initiative (KSLCDI) and another brand under the name of “Nainital Natural (NaNa)” to promote natural Himalayan products produced by mountain artisans. The NGO initiative to promote the unique art and culture of the tribes of Uttarakhand has led to the issuing of Artisans cards by the Government of Handicrafts to the traditional bamboo artisans in the state. This has enabled them to easily access the raw materials from the forests, as well as attend various exhibitions such as Dili Haat in New Delhi, workshops conducted and access the markets for their products all over the country.

b. HIMMOTHAN Society

A community based participatory approach is the hallmark of Himmothan’s WATSAN projects. Therefore, the safe drinking water supply and sanitation projects, with an added focus on hygiene are being implemented through village based water and sanitation committees, which plan, design, implement and manage their own schemes. So also the village communities contribute around 10% of the total capital cost incurred in the project in order to give them a sense of ownership in the projects. Another successful initiative is the revival of the indigenous technology of Gharats in Uttarakhand which is based on the hydropower energy from perennial streams and rivulets. The Gharats are the indigenous water mills used extensively by the people of the hills for the grinding of grain into flour. The NGO has been involved in the reviving and upgrading this age old environmentally friendly sustainable technology in order to reduce women drudgery as well as creating an additional source of income for the community.

c. SANJEEVANI

The NGO has diversified the income sources of rural communities by various non-farm activities such as dairy, floriculture, weaving, handicraft etc. The organization worked as a collaborating agency in Almora District with the National Jute Board
Kolkatta, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and generated employment opportunities for the village community especially women SHGs through progression of the use of jute and its application in any diversified form for production of market worthy articles. The organization carried out various promotional works such as arrangement of awareness Workshop, Basic Training, Advance Training, Technical Demonstration, Design Dissemination Workshop and Buyer Seller Meet etc. in the respective region.

d. Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi

The NGO has developed and implemented two of the programmes, Balwadis and Environmental Education, for all age groups which have led to government policy reforms and subsequent adoption by the State education system. The NGO developed an environmental education course, Our Land Our Life, focusing on village land rehabilitation and sustainable management. This course which is now part of the regular school curriculum in classes 6, 7, and 8 in the state of Uttarakhand had begun in 1988 and gradually expanded to cover some 500 schools and Intermediate colleges; approximately 65,000 students and 1000 teachers by the year 2000. In 2002, the state’s Department of Education introduced this course into the regular school curriculum. The organization has also been engaged in training master trainers and government teachers for the course, supplying workbooks and tools to the students, and undertaking school visits to give on-the-spot guidance and to evaluate progress. Orientation programmes too were conducted for principals, education department officials and supervisory staff.

e. SUDHA

SUDHA has provided transparency in the implementation of the World Bank aided project “Owner Driven Construction of Houses” (ODCH). In the aftermath of flash floods of 2013-2014, the Government of Uttarakhand released housing policy for the Owner Driven Housing Construction (ODHC) in Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar and Uttarkashi districts of Uttarakhand. The ODHC policy incorporates disaster resilient structures in construction of houses. The Government of Uttarakhand assisted by the World Bank has appointed SUDHA as Consulting Agency for Technical Support and Supervision for “Owner Driven Construction of Housing (ODCH)”. SUDHA will facilitate
the support and supervision towards reconstruction of about 2,402 Owner Driven Construction of Houses (ODCH).

15. The better funding agency- National/International/Both

A majority of the NGOs consider funding by both National and International agencies, amounting to 80% of the NGOs working in the region, as being good in funding. A much lower percentage of the NGOs (13.3%) consider the International agencies as better funding partners owing to their more transparent and hassle-free channelization of funds and more effective monitoring and evaluation procedures as is evident from Table 4.10 and Figure 4.8. Only 6.7% of the NGOs consider National funding agencies as better one as they are concerned mostly with implementation of government schemes and projects.

Table 4.10: Better funding agency- National/ International/ Both

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<td>Both</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. The Better Funding Agency - Government/ NGO/ Other/ Collaboration

In the Table 4.11 and Figure 4.9, it can be observed that 53.3% of the NGOs have indicated a greater inclination towards the collaboration of multiple funding agencies for better progress of their projects. While 40% of them consider private trusts as better funders and the remaining 6.7% prefer other NGOs as better being the funding partners. The collaboration model implies that the funding structure would be streamlined because of the formalities undertaken while finalising the financing agreement.
Table 4.11: Better funding agency- Govt./ NGO/ Other/ Collaboration

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</table>

Figure 4.9