Asha SV is working with the Savidya Upasamiti, an NGO based in Champawat, Uttaranhcal towards improving the schools in the region. As a first step, the Savidya Upasamiti has adopted the Prathamik Pathashala (Primary school) in Kulethi village, Champawat district, Uttaranchal. The aims of the project are specified on the project webpage and the additions planned are mentioned in the project proposal.

The project got underway in Oct 2005. On 7 Oct 2005, Dr. GB Bisht, an eye specialist in a govt. district hospital in Nainital, conducted a medical checkup of the students in the school. One student was detected with cataract problems, and he will be treated in Nainital to rectify this problem. Three teachers have been appointed to the school as per the project objectives. The school now has five teachers. 261 books have also been bought for the school library. A one-hour reading period involving the teachers appointed with the help of the SU and the school children takes place after school hours every day.

On 14 Nov 2005, on the occasion of Children’s Day, the project was formally inaugurated by the local MP (Member of Parliament), Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, who was also the ex-Minister for Science & Technology in the Govt of India. Shri Rawat presented the school with a new computer and 261 books for the library. He also presented all school children with one set of school uniforms, shoes, ties, a set of copies for Hindi and English, and a pencil rubber and school bag.

Figure 1  School board on the road leading to the Primary School, Kulethi village. The board reads – “Model Primary School Project, Kulethi Village (Champawat), supported by Savidya Upasamiti of HWSTVAPSS (Darah village, Champawat), with financial support from Asha Silicon Valley USA”
Figure 2  Side-view of the Primary School, Kulethi Village

Figure 3  Three new teachers, with the school principal (seated). The 3 teachers were appointed as per the project objectives.
Figure 4  The medical examination by Dr. GB Bisht, an eye specialist in the Govt. district hospital, Nainital

Figure 5  The children of Primary School, Kulethi Village.  Mr. RD Joshi, member of the Savidya Upasmiti, is seen standing on the right.
Figure 6  Front-view of Primary School before the Children’s Day celebrations on 14 Nov 2005

Figure 7  The school children, along with parents / guardians, at the function organised in the school on Children’s Day
Figure 8  The chief guest at the Children’s Day function, Shri BS Rawat (MP), presenting the school children with school uniforms, shoes, tie, school bag etc., to formally launch the project.

Figure 9  Shri BS Rawat (MP) presenting a computer to Mrs. Pandey, principal of the Primary School
Figure 10  Books bought for the school library

Figure 11  Books bought for the school library
Figure 12  School prayer before the Childrens Day function

Figure 13  Play organised by the school children on Children's Day

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Figure 14  Cultural programme organised on the occasion of Children's Day

Figure 15  Cultural programme organised on the occasion of Children's Day
Figure 16 School children wearing the uniforms provided as part of the project

Figure 17 School children wearing the uniforms provided as part of the project
Figure 18 Article about the launch of the project appearing in the New Delhi edition of the Sunday Hindustan Times on 13 Nov 2005.