AshaSV has been working with Savidya Upasamiti, an NGO based in Champawat, Uttaranchal towards improving the education provided in the district. In 2005-06, Savidya adopted a rural primary school in Champawat district and augmented its resources. In 2006-07, the project was expanded to include two more schools – a primary and a middle school. In 2007-08, five initiatives were undertaken, and this report details the progress made in each endeavor.

Note: The 1st set of funds for 2007-08 were sent in Jan 2008 after Savidya had received permanent FCRA registration from the Govt. of India. Some of the tasks proposed in the project proposal could only be undertaken after the money was received. Therefore, this midterm report was delayed.

Support-A-School program
Under the Support-A-School program, Savidya helps to improve the educational resources in the schools by appointing additional teachers, distributing school uniforms and study kits to the students, organizing health camps, distributing multi-vitamin tablets to students after the mid-day meals, organizing sporting and cultural events in the schools, field trips etc.

• Savidya has appointed additional teachers to the various schools as given below:
  1. Govt. Primary School, Kulethi – 3 teachers
  2. Govt. Primary School, Dhakna – 3 teachers
  3. Govt. Primary School, Dungra Sethi – 2 teachers
  4. Govt. Middle School, Khark Karkee – 2 teachers
  5. Girls Junior High School, Dungra Sethi – 2 teachers
  6. Subhash Nagar Govt. Primary School, Haldwani – 3 teachers

➢ Note: The appointment of teachers to the schools is a little different from Savidya’s initial estimate. This was due to changed requirements in the schools and the availability of teachers.

• School infrastructure improvement
  1. 40 sets of chairs and tables have been ordered for the Dungra Sethi primary school. These are expected to be delivered to the school by 4 May 2008. Due to increased prices, the chairs and tables will cost a little more than initially estimated.
  2. 2 new computers were supplied to the Khark Karkee middle school on 29 Feb 2008. At the Kulethi primary school, loudspeakers were purchased to enable educational CDs to be played on the computers, and some broken/old computer accessories were replaced.
  3. Savidya has placed an order for educational CDs to improve the children’s language skills, and hopes to receive them by the first week of May 2008.

• A full set of school uniforms and shoes will be distributed to the children in the schools in the Champawat region (ie. at Kulethi, Dungra Sethi, Dhakna and Khark Karkee) at a function on 6 May 2008. The boys shall receive shirts, trousers and sweaters. The girls shall be given sweaters and skirts / bloomers (primary school) or salwar-kameez / dupatta (middle school). Every student shall receive a set of shoes, socks, ties, and belts.

• The five schools supported by Savidya regularly organize cultural and sporting events in the school. Savidya plans to organize inter-school sporting meets between the schools, and is planning to purchase 180 medals (gold, silver and bronze) for these meets.

• A health camp was organized at Haldwani on 5 Mar 2008. A team of 4 doctors form the Govt. Medical College and the Sushila Tewari Forest Hospital, Haldwani, participated in the camp. They also organized a workshop to educate the children about the importance of hygiene. A similar camp shall be organized in Champawat in June 2008.

• Savidya has distributed Liv-52, multi-vitamin and de-worming tablets to the children in Haldwani. The same shall be distributed to the Champawat schools on 6 May 2008.

• Savidya is still looking for a suitable project manager to oversee the project in Haldwani.
Learning Resource Center
- A librarian was appointed to manage the library at the Kulethi primary school. The library was further strengthened with the purchase of about 500 books. In addition, the school received 123 books from Dehradun under the Prodh Shiksha Program, and 150 books from the Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi. No charges were incurred in the transportation of the books.
- The Science Resource Center building, built with the funds granted under the MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme), is now ready for use. Tables and racks have been installed in the rooms. As per the project mandate, 130 science experiments have been fabricated at IIT Kanpur. Various charts and models have also been purchased for the Science Center. On 28 Feb 2008, 25 science experiments were demonstrated at a function organized by Savidya under the Siddha Jagaran Seva program.
- A manager and a curator have been appointed to manage the Science Resource Center. Prof. Harish Verma, Dept. of Physics, IIT Kanpur, and Prof. HD Bist shall conduct a workshop to train the manager, the curator and a few teachers from the Savidya-supported schools to conduct the science experiments.

Continuous Teacher Education Program
- Savidya has formed a 2-member committee to organize a 15-day Teachers’ Training Workshop at the Kulethi school beginning 21 May 2008. The two members in the committee recently retired from the post of Principal in a local college and high school.
- 20 teachers are expected to participate in the program.

Siddha Jagaran Seva Program
- Savidya celebrated the National Science Day on 28 Feb 2008 at the Ban Panchayat Hall in the Goral Chor grounds of Champawat. Students and teachers from 19 schools attended the celebrations. A local contractor, Mr. Satish Pande, provided lunch to the 500 participants on the day. Ms. Beena Maharana, Minister for Children’s Development in the Govt. of Uttaranchal, was the Chief Guest. Mr. AK Seth, Joint Director in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, was present at the function.
- Two seminars / sessions were organized on the day. In the first session, a group of teachers from IIT Kanpur conducted 25 science experiments using the kits supplied to the Science Resource Center. In the second, a seminar on “Elementary education and social development in Champawat” was organized for teachers from various schools in the region.

Vocational Educational Program
- 6 computers, 10 sewing machines and equipment for food processing have been purchased for the program.
- Savidya is currently interviewing the teachers for the program, and they hope to start the classes by the first week of May 2008.
- Savidya is currently selecting the 140 students for the program.