

Health and Hygiene Virtual Training

virtual Health and Hygiene training was organised by Development Alternatives Group on 19 November 2020 for the local community of Mandi and Uttarkashi, a naturally endowed touristic place with immense natural, culture, and heritage in the state of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand respectively. The training was supported by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in partnership with Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) aimed at building the capacity of the community to maintain safety and health precautions during the pandemic. It also shed light on the role of Anganwadi and ASHA Health workers.

The training addressed hygiene precautions and guidelines for the community as a unit and also at the household level. It saw the participation of 40 people from the village cluster of Mandi and Uttarkashi. The training especially focused on Homestay owners, who are now ready to host travellers with all necessary precautions and guidelines. The training gave a general introduction on COVID-19 health guidelines for Homestay owners, staff, and travellers and it also explained the steps to make effective sanitisers by using local ingredients, and showed the step-by-step process of cleaning drawing hall, room, washroom, and verandah.

During the discussion, Homestay owners also shared their experiences of hosting the travellers in the past which motivated other community members to convert their house into a homestay. Both the



village clusters have witnessed a negative impact on livelihood due to the pandemic and they are now motivated to build back better through Homestays and Ecotourism model.

A short session also focussed on Anganwadi and ASHA workers who are responsible for the health and hygiene of each individual within the village. Each ASHA worker represented a village cluster and shared the importance of hygiene during the pandemic. They also shared the facilities that are available within the village to battle the spread of the virus.

The training conducted for the hill communities was a knowledge enriching session for all the participants. The session helped in cross-learning for both the village clusters, and demonstrated enhanced participation for the growth of developing a successful replicable Ecotourism model in Mandi and Uttarkashi.

