

Stakeholder Consultation under Skills Training for Employment Preparedness Programme in Haridwar, Uttarakhand

A Stakeholders Consultation was held on 16 September, 2022 in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, as part of the Skills Training for Employment Preparedness (STEP) programme, which is funded by WPP India CSR Foundation and implemented by Development Alternatives. The programme aimed to develop employability skills of girls studying in classes XI and XII at Government Girls Inter-College, Jwalapur, Haridwar and then link them with various vocational training programmes so that they become skilled professionals and avail various employment opportunities in future.



Participants awarded for their participation in the Stakeholder Consultation and the programme

The Consultation involved stakeholders such as school teachers, school principals, training partners, employers, parents, etc. The objective of this consultation was to share the learnings from the ground and explore pathways for future intervention. All feedbacks and opinions were well taken and incorporated in the implementation process.

The event began with a brief note on the programme's development and impact over the past 3 years given by Ms Shaurya Garg, Deputy Manager - Capacity Building, Development Alternatives. Further, Ms Divya Yadav, Senior Manager, Development Alternatives, highlighted the significant role parents, trainers, employers, vocational training partners, teachers, and school principals played in the programme's success.



Inauguration of the Stakeholder Consultation Ceremony by Ms Poonam Rana, Principal of GGIC, Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Mrs Poonam Rana, Principal, Government Girls Inter-College (GGIC), Haridwar, Uttarakhand highlighted the progress the school has made in the past 3 years in which the programme has been implemented. She informed that she has witnessed an increase in attendance of students because of the extraordinary hard work of the programme trainers.

We received some recommendations from stakeholders to improve the programme, such as (i) explore the market for new courses and job opportunities; (ii) provide special 10–15 days training to parents to make them aware about the importance of livelihood preparedness; (iii) vocational training courses should not be of less than 6 months as it restricts the learnings of students; (iv) more focus should be given on English readiness.

Students also gave suggestions such as (i) increased opportunities of public speaking should be provided; (ii) special sessions should be conducted by professionals from various fields; (iii) more field exposure visits for students; (iv) parents counselling should be included in the programme and (v) hobby courses including dance, music, etc. should be added.