



Training on Hospitality for Eco-tourism development in Mandi

25 women from our intervention villages in Mandi participated in a training programme on basic hospitality skills. These skills and exposure are crucial for development and functioning of homestays being developed as a part of our project. Our trainer, Mr. Lokesh Ohri and his team from 'Been There Doon That' focussed on essential topics such as- being a good guide and host, health and hygiene, basic first aid knowledge, delivery of walking trail along with the demonstration of the said activities with participation from the people.

They also sensitised the people about the importance of 'slow and responsible tourism' with the idea to 'see the place at a different pace'. Furthermore, significance of community's handholding and taking pride in their ways and culture was also emphasised. This training was a two-way process- it captured what the people already know and what they need to learn. With this basic training, they are skilled to be good homestay hosts without harming the environment while the entire process is also financially viable. The training also included many icebreakers to encourage an understanding between the trainers and the community members. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to all participants.