



HOPE FOR CHILDREN PROJECT



Half Yearly Report

Hope for Children Project

(November 2025– April 2026)

Background of the project

The “Hope for Children” project was successfully implemented in the Govindpur–Daulaghat area of Hawalbagh Development Block, Almora district, and in Betalghat Block, Nainital district.

The project is being jointly implemented by AMAN and VIMARSH organizations with the support of Trans Himalayan Aid Society (TRAS) Canada. In Hawalbagh Block, the project covers villages including Pankot, Bajgal, Rikhe, Vadla, and Chuana, while in Betalghat Block it includes Bajedi, Khairali, Unchakot Talla, and Unchakot Malla.

Launched in November 2023, the Hope for Children project is now in its third year of implementation, continuing its strong commitment to child rights, education, and community empowerment. During this period, the project has strengthened community-based structures such as women’s groups, children’s groups, and youth groups through awareness and capacity-building initiatives. At the same time, children have been directly supported through Education Support Centres and Computer Centres, ensuring improved access to learning opportunities and digital exposure.

A key achievement during this reporting period has been the sustained educational support to 69 children living in extreme poverty and at high risk of dropping out in Hawalbagh Block through fellowship support, enabling them to remain in education and continue their learning journey. The project stands as a strong source of hope and opportunity for children living in remote and geographically challenging areas, ensuring that no child is left behind.

The key activities organized with children during this period are as follows:

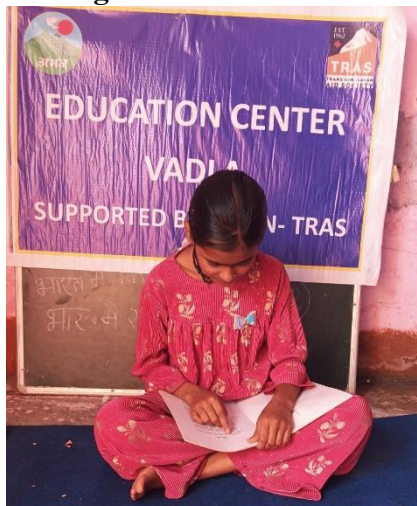
Key Activities (Nov 2025–Apr 2026):

Education Support

The Education Support Centres provided spaces within the villages where children received academic support, participated in various recreational activities, and enhanced their overall learning and development beyond regular school hours.

During the reporting period, nine Education Support Centres were operational across the villages of Pankot, Bajgal, Rikhe, Vadla, and Chauna (managed by AMAN) and Unchakot Talla, Unchakot Malla, Khairali, and Bajedi (managed by Vimarsh). Together, these centres engaged **238 children in daily educational and recreational activities, including 125 children enrolled through AMAN and 113 through Vimarsh.**

A Girl Once Considered Very Weak in Studies Became One of the Bright Students in Her Class Through the Efforts of the Education Centre



Garima Tiwari is a 12-year-old girl from Vadla village, Hawalbagh Block. She is studying in Class 7 at Government Inter College, Govindpur. She comes from a poor family of six members. Her father is a daily wage labourer and her mother is a homemaker. Garima had difficulty in reading and Mathematics. Because of this, she struggled in class, was often scolded, and started missing school. She joined the Education Center in Vadla village while she was in Class 5.

At first, she was not willing to attend the center and often made excuses. Even after joining, she stayed quiet and did not take part in activities.

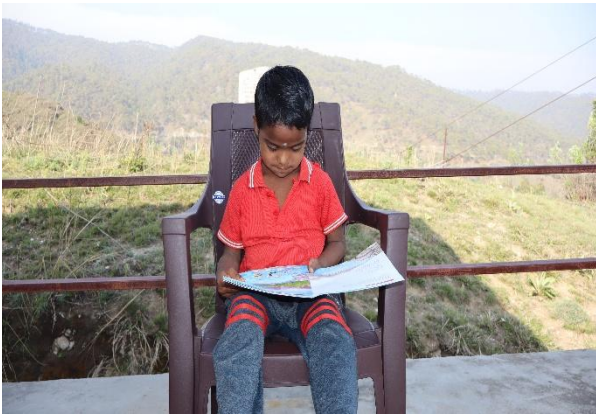
Later, with regular support, encouragement, and activities like games and group discussions, she slowly became more active. She also started visiting the village library and began sharing her study problems. With time, her confidence and learning improved. In Class 6 annual exams, Garima secured first position.



Case Study: With the Support of the Education Centre, a Child Deprived of Education Got Admission in School

Yogesh is a child from Pankot village in Hawalbagh block. He was very quiet, shy, and did not talk much to others. Because of his weak communication even school teachers ignored him and advised his parents not to send him to school for some time. Although he was 6 years old, he could not get admission in Class He comes from a very poor family of eight members. His parents work as labourers and live in a mud house, so they were not able to give much attention to his education.

In January 2026, during a village meeting at the Education Centre, Aman workers came to know that Yogesh was not going to school. They visited his home and found that he had stopped attending school after being teased by others. The school had also suggested that he should be prepared at home first.



After this, the workers started engaging with Yogesh at the Education Centre in Pankot. For one week, they regularly interacted with him, involved him in games and activities, and gave him small responsibilities. Slowly, he started speaking, participating, and showing interest in learning.

They also discussed his case with school teachers to support his re-admission. With continuous efforts, Yogesh was admitted to school again. He was also

provided notebooks and learning materials through fellowship support, which encouraged him further. Today, Yogesh attends school regularly, completes his homework, and also studies at the Education Centre. Earlier he used to cry about going to school, but now he goes happily and shares his school experiences with his parents and the Education Centre.

Case Study: Support Centre Helped a Girl Clear Navodaya Entrance Exam

Esha belongs to a rural family with limited financial resources, where access to quality education, academic guidance, and competitive exam preparation opportunities was limited. Her family was unable to provide additional coaching and study materials required for entrance examinations like Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Esha has been attending the Support Centre operated by Vimarsh for the past two years. Through the centre, she received regular academic support, preparation for the Navodaya entrance examination, mock tests, and personalized mentoring. The centre also helped strengthen her study habits, confidence, and academic discipline.

*With continuous guidance and support, Esha successfully cleared the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Entrance Examination and secured admission to **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nainital.***

Esha's achievement has reduced the financial burden on her family. Her success has also motivated other children and parents in the village to focus on competitive examinations and educational opportunities, especially for girls. The Support Centre has become an important educational resource for children in the community.

"The preparation and guidance I received at the Support Centre helped me clear the Navodaya examination. I now feel hopeful about better opportunities for my future."

- Esha Bisht

Case Study: Support Centre Helps Three Students Clear NMMS Examination

Vivek, Priyanka, and Ayush are students from Uchakot village in Nainital district. They belong to economically weaker families where continuing quality education was difficult due to financial problems and limited access to study resources. Lack of awareness about scholarship opportunities also made competitive exam preparation challenging for them.

Through the Support Centre run by Vimarsh, all three students received regular academic support for the NMMS examination. They were provided practice papers, mock tests, and continuous

mentoring. The community library also played an important role by giving them access to books and a quiet space for regular study and reading.

With consistent guidance and effort, all three students successfully cleared the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Examination. They are now eligible for a monthly scholarship of ₹1,500, which will support their further studies and reduce the financial burden on their families.

“Through the Support Centre and community library, our children received opportunities that were not available earlier. Their success has inspired many other families in the village.”

-Parent Feedback-

Parents Meetings-Monthly Parents meetings were organised to receive feedback from the parents on the functioning of the education support centers, various activities conducted with groups and also shared their ward learning with their parents. Through these meetings, parents were informed about the children’s academic progress, while also gaining a better understanding of their hygiene and overall personal development. In AMAN field areas out of 125 students, 103 parents/Guardians present these meetings. Some Guardians were not participated in the monthly meetings due to their daily labour work; our education support centres facilitators visited their home and shared their child progress and encouraged them to participate in the monthly meetings.

VIMARSH, also organised the monthly meetings with parents. In the VIMARSH field area, the main objective of these meetings is to work together with parents in setting goals for children’s progress, identifying the challenges faced by them, and finding appropriate solutions. These meetings help build trust and coordination between parents and the project team, which is important for the child’s development and well-being.

Digital Skills Development

Together, these efforts have benefited 51 children, Youth and women from remotest areas of the Hope for Children Project .

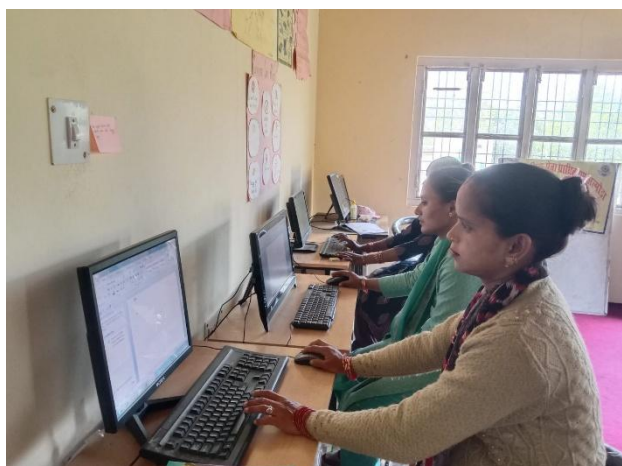
From November 2025 to April 2026, a total of 37 students attended computer classes at the Computer Center. Among them, 19 were girls (female) and 18 were boys (male). At present, 20 students have completed their classes and left, while 17 are still attending classes. Participants are coming not only from the five villages in the project area but also from nearby villages such as Daulaghat, Dangikhola, Galli Basyura, Chinona, Govindpur, Pathura, etc. to learn computers.

Along with children, women are also coming to the Computer Center to learn computer skills. Classes at the center are conducted in two shifts. The first shift runs from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and the second shift is conducted from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

During this period, the students are being taught basic computer knowledge, working in MS Word and PowerPoint, Hindi and English typing, creating email IDs, and online bill payment procedures. Regular theoretical and practical classes are conducted for the students. Based on the learning abilities of the students, MS Excel classes have also been started.

VIMARSH organisation is being operated computer center in the project area of Nainital district to connect children with technical education. The main objective of the center is to empower children

with technical knowledge and digital skills. Currently, 14 children are receiving computer education and basic computer training through the center.



Case Study: From Housewife to Digital Learner: Sapna Became a Support in Her Family Business Through Computer Education

Sapna, a housewife who lives in Govindpur, studied till Class 12. Her husband has a small jewellery shop in the village. After marriage, she became busy with household responsibilities and could not continue her education. Still, she always had a desire to learn something new.

This year, Sapna joined Aman's computer center in Govindpur. In the beginning, she wondered whether she would be able to learn computers or not. For her, typing on a computer, using a mouse, and other basic things were completely new. But Sapna learns every topic very carefully. Till now, she has learned MS Office and how to use the internet.

The biggest thing is that Sapna has now started using computers to help at her husband's jewellery shop. She prepares shop accounts in MS Excel, which has made the accounting work much easier. She is also learning how to fill online forms for government schemes.

While learning at the computer center, she also helps other women. She tells everyone coming to the center. Inspired by her, two more women have started coming to the center to learn computers. During this learning journey, Sapna's self-confidence has also increased a lot and She has also started taking part in her husband's small enterprise.

Case Study: Computer Centre Training Helps Tanuja Secure Employment as Business Promoter

Tanuja is from Simlakha village in Betalghat Block, Nainital district. She belongs to a financially weak rural family where access to technical education and job opportunities was very limited. Before joining the programme, she had almost no knowledge of computers, online applications, or digital platforms.

Through the Computer Centre run by Vimarsh, she received one year of training in basic computer skills, MS Office, digital literacy, and online application processes. Along with this, she was also part of an adolescent girls' group, which helped improve her confidence and leadership abilities.

During her training, Tanuja learned about a block-level employment opportunity. Using the skills she gained at the centre, she independently completed the application process and was selected as a Business Promoter in Betalghat Block.

This achievement boosted her confidence and encouraged other girls in the village to join computer training. It also helped parents and community members become more supportive of girls' education, digital learning, and employment opportunities.

The computer centre training gave me a new direction in life. I now feel confident in making decisions for my future and pursuing employment opportunities.

Education for All – Children Fellowship Programme

Under the Fellowship Program, notebooks and educational materials were distributed according to class levels to 59 selected students from the Daulaghat area. A total of 59 needy students from Classes 1 to 12 received notebooks and learning materials.

This year, 7 fellowship-supported students appeared for the Class 10 board examinations. Out of them, 6 students passed, including 4 students who secured first division and 2 students who secured second division. Kapil from Rankhila secured 72.6% marks.

In Class 12, 6 students appeared for the board examinations, of whom 5 passed with first division and 1 with second division. Divya from Rankhila secured 63.20% marks, while Ganesh from Kesta secured 63.40% marks. Lakshmi from Rankhila, Latika from Pathura, and Mansi Ghariyal from Dangikhola also achieved first division.

In the Vimarsh field area, they are in the process of selecting children for the fellowship programme and will distribute learning materials in the coming months.

Case Study: Fellowship Became a Support for an Underprivileged Child to Continue Education



Kapil, a resident of Rankhila village in Hawalbagh block, did very well in Class 10 despite many social and financial difficulties. He got first position in the Class 10 exams. He studies at GIC Govindpur.

Kapil scored 72.6 percent marks in the exam. He comes from a financially weak family. His father works as a labourer and has the responsibility of supporting a family of five members. Kapil also has a younger brother who is studying in Class 8.

Kapil is hardworking in studies and has been getting fellowship support from Aman since Class 6. Because of this support, he received notebooks and books from the organisation every year. After getting this help, Kapil focused fully on his studies and achieved very good results.

Kapil travels around 5 km every day to reach school. He has now taken admission in Class 11 Arts stream at GIC Govindpur. His achievement has become an inspiration for other children in his village and nearby areas too.

B- Village Gender and Education Resource Centre (VGERC)

A total of 1 disability certificate and pension support was facilitated, 1 labour card camp was organized with 8 women opening bank accounts, 3 pregnant women were supported under PMMVY, 6 women received Mahalakshmi Kits, Aadhaar support was provided to 5 children, 44 adolescent girls were trained in a two-day programme, counselling was provided in 9 cases of violence, and exposure visits were conducted for adolescent girls to 3 key locations.

Under the VGERC initiative, awareness was created in the area and support was provided to needy individuals in completing important tasks and accessing essential services.

As part of this effort, assistance was provided in obtaining a disability certificate for 18-year-old differently-abled youth Deepak Sinari from Bajgal village, and support was also extended in securing his disability pension.

In addition, a two-day camp was organized for the preparation of labour cards, during which bank accounts were opened for 8 women. People from other villages also opened their bank accounts through this programme.

Forms for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana were filled for 3 pregnant women, and assistance was provided to 6 women in receiving Mahalakshmi Kits (Provided to pregnant and lactating women under government or health initiatives. Its aims to improve the health and well-being of both mothers and their first two newborn girl children).

Support was also provided in preparing Aadhaar cards for 5 Children. Awareness meetings were organized in the villages on issues related to domestic violence, the POCSO Act, and women's rights through community gatherings and discussions.

A two-day training programme on adolescent health and gender equality was also organized in Govindpur on 21 and 22 March 2026. During the programme, adolescent girls were provided with awareness and practical knowledge on gender equality on the first day, while the second day focused on adolescent health and menstruation, including scientific and logical information related to menstrual health and hygiene. **44 participants** were trained on the health and gender issues.

In the VIMARSH field area, From October 2025 to April 2026, case work and counselling processes were carried out in the project area for women and girls facing issues such as online crime, domestic violence, and violence against children, with counselling support provided in **9 violence-related cases**.

Exposure visits were also organized for adolescent girls to increase their mobility, awareness, and access to various schemes and services. These visits included the Block office, Sathiya Centre, and Railway Station, helping the girls understand available services, address their concerns, and promote self-reliance, empowerment, and awareness about their rights and entitlements.

In addition, regular monthly coordination meetings were conducted with stakeholders such as Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, ANMs, doctors, teachers, and Panchayat representatives in the project area to strengthen their understanding of child-related issues and encourage their active support in addressing children's concerns. Information regarding child-related schemes and services was also collected from stakeholders and shared with children and community members to help them access available benefits and facilities

Case Study: VGERC Helped Deepak Get Disability Pension Through Disability Certificate

Deepak Sinari lives in Vajgal village of Daulaghat area. For Deepak, the VGERC (Village Level Gender, Education and Resource Centre) became a big support. Deepak comes from a very poor family, and

after an accident, his life became fully dependent on his family and others around him. Deepak is 18 years old. His father, Gopal Singh Sinari, is mentally unwell, and his mother, Pushpa Sinari, works as a labourer to run the household. Deepak has two sisters. Because of the poor financial condition of the family, one of his sisters also had to go out for work to help the family.

In 2012-13, Deepak got a serious injury in his left eye. Due to lack of money, the family could not get proper treatment for him at the right time. Because of this, he completely lost sight in one eye and became visually disabled.

Due to poverty and lack of awareness, Deepak could not get his disability certificate made for many years. Because of this, he was also not getting government support like disability pension. Later, with the help and efforts of the VGERC and support at the local level, Deepak was able to get his disability certificate made. After getting the certificate, his disability pension was approved by the Social Welfare Department.

Children Fair (Bal Mela) – This event will organise on the coming months

Community Awareness Meeting

Women Groups Meeting- Monthly meetings organised with the women groups. AMAN organised total 30 Meetings with the women group on the issued of MNGREGA Job Cards, e-KYC for ration cards, Domestic violence prevention, Personal Hygiene, Planning for Women's Day, selection of Fellowship support for children and education support center. Average 15 women were participated in each meetings. VIMARSH Organised the 26 meetings on the issues such as violence against women, discrimination, education, health, government schemes, legal rights, and women's empowerment. These sessions are helping to improve their knowledge, awareness, and skills. Average 13-14 women were participated in each meetings.



Case Study: Empowerment of Meenu Bhandari Through the Women's Group

Meenu Bhandari, lives in a Bajgal village, is a member of the women's organization. There are five members in her family. Meenu is an educated and aware woman. After joining the women's organization, she started actively participating in social activities as well.

Meenu regularly attends the organization's meetings and also shares the information she receives in the meetings with people in her village. After learning about labour cards and their benefits in one of the meetings, Meenu not only made her own labour card but also helped other women from the village by taking them to Almora to get their labour cards made.

She herself received the benefits and also helped Pushpa Sinari, Rama Bora, Laxmi Bhandari, Mamta Bhandari, and Shobha Negi in preparing documents and making their labour cards.

Along with being an aware woman, Meenu is also a skilled organizer. She regularly participates in meetings, conducts meetings herself, raises important issues, and also makes efforts to solve problems. Because of this, she has become very popular among the women's organization and the village community. Due to her popularity and active work, she was first elected as a Panchayat

member in the previous Panchayat elections and has now been elected as the Deputy Head (Up-Pradhan).

Adolescent Girls' Groups: Building Awareness, Confidence, and Mobility

In Both areas monthly meetings with Adolescent girls were conducted. Total 9 Adolescent groups were active in the project area

In AMAN area , a total of 5 adolescent girls' groups were active with a total membership of 47 girls. From November to April 2025, a total of 30 meetings of adolescent girls' groups were organized. During these meetings, adolescent girls were provided with information on gender issues, child marriage, the POCSO Act, the importance of nutrition during adolescence, personal hygiene, scholarships, and related topics.

In Nainital District, 26 monthly meetings are being organized with five adolescent girls' groups at the village level. These meetings focus on building their understanding and promoting empowerment, self-development, nutrition, health, decision-making abilities, and leadership skills. The groups also provide a safe platform for discussion and help raise awareness on various social issues.

In addition, exposure visits are being organized to places such as police stations, Community Health Centres (CHC), and Block offices to enhance their mobility, confidence, and understanding of public institutions and services.

Case Study: Hope for Children Project Improves Menstrual Health Awareness and Services

Priyanka is associated with the Hope for Children Project implemented by Vimarsh in Simlakha village, Nainital district. In her community, menstruation was surrounded by myths, silence, and discrimination. Adolescent girls and women had limited access to proper health information, hygiene products, and healthcare services, and often faced restrictions during menstruation.

Through regular community meetings and awareness sessions, the project created open discussions on menstrual hygiene, health rights, nutrition, and dignity. Girls and women were informed about safe hygiene practices and encouraged to speak about their health concerns. Families and community members were also made aware to reduce discriminatory practices. The project also raised issues of irregular doctor availability and shortage of medicines in the local hospital through community efforts.

As a result, awareness on menstrual hygiene increased, use of safe products improved, and discriminatory practices reduced. The local hospital also saw more regular doctor visits and better availability of medicines.

Overall, girls and women became more confident, started participating freely in daily and school activities, and families began open discussions on menstruation and health.

"The Hope for Children project helped us understand that menstrual hygiene is not only a health issue but also a matter of rights and dignity. We are now more aware and are also helping other women and girls become aware of their rights."

- Priyanka

Children's Organization Meetings

Regular meetings of children's groups were organized in both the AMAN and VIMARSH project areas to ensure active participation and effective functioning of the groups. During these meetings, children were made aware of issues related to balanced diet, hygiene, the Right to Education, child rights, child protection, child labour, child marriage, online safety, protection from cybercrime, and mental well-being, while leadership development activities were also conducted to strengthen their participation in village-level and community initiatives. A total of 30 meetings were organized in the AMAN field area, with an average participation of 15 children in each village meeting, while similar 31 regular meetings were also conducted in the VIMARSH area with an average participation of 15 children per meeting.

Staff Meetings and Capacity Building

Monthly review and planning meetings have been conducted with project staff to assess progress and strengthen their capabilities through capacity-building sessions.

Other activities organised by AMAN and VIMARSH - Along with the regular monthly meetings following programme also organised the project area of Hope for Children for raising the awareness of children, women and community groups.

Global Action Month (AMAN) – 12 Nov 2025: Under the theme *Reuse of Plastic*, AMAN organized a programme in Vadla village where youth created pen stands, flower pots, posters, etc. from waste plastic. This was followed by a cleanliness drive around the Panchayat Bhawan, with participation of 61 youth.

Red Hand Day (AMAN) – 12 Feb 2026: AMAN organized Red Hand Day at GIC Govindpur with 62 participants. The programme focused on awareness about the impact of war on children, and handprint activities on cloth were conducted as a symbol of solidarity, highlighting strong opposition to the use of children in any form of conflict or war-related activities.

International Women's Day (AMAN & VIMARSH) – 8 Mar 2026: International Women's Day was organized by AMAN and VIMARSH in the Hope for Children Field area. AMAN organized the celebration in Govindpur with 135 women from project and nearby villages, including women leaders, social workers, and representatives, along with awareness sessions and activities such as musical chairs and lemon-and-spoon races with prize distribution. VIMARSH organized district-level awareness and discussion sessions with women and adolescent girls focusing on gender equality, women's rights, and empowerment, encouraging active participation and dialogue on key issues.

16 Days of Activism Campaign – 25 Nov to 10 Dec: A campaign was conducted by VIMARSH to prevent violence against women and girls through village-level meetings, group discussions, and rallies.

OBR District-Level Discussion– 14 Feb 2026: A district-level dialogue session was organized with VIMARSH with women and adolescent girls to discuss key issues under the OBR initiative.