



SEWA-THDC

Sponsored



Elite Classes

An Educational Support Programme

For

Remote Area Students of Tehri Garhwal

Implementing Agency

Chaukhamba Society Dehradun

Near Choudhary Garden, Village-Majri Mafi, Post-IIP,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001

Background:

Uttarakhand is a state which has more than 80% geographical area as a hilly terrain so to provide all the basic amenities in every corner of human dwelling here is an uphill task for the State Govt. As per the Census 2011, the state average of literacy rate is 78.82% above the national average of 74.04% still it lacks in providing quality education at rural area and particularly at the remote areas of hills which becomes a leading cause of migration from the villages to the nearby towns and cities. Every year hundreds of Govt. Schools are being shut down due to less number of enrolments of students below the existing norms of 10 students per schools.

As per the news published in Hindustan Times on April 28, 2018, 748 schools were shut down by the Govt. of Uttarakhand in the academic session 2017-18 due to 0 number of students enrolled in these schools. It was disclosed in the reply to a query raised by BJP legislator Shri. S S Jeena in the assembly session by Shri. Arvind Pandey, the Hon'ble School Education Minister, Govt. of Uttarakhand. **Out of these 748 schools, 581 were from 10 hill districts and 167 from 3 plain districts of the state.** The minister also informed to the house that a process was being taken for handing over the empty schools to the respective gram panchayats for their upkeep and maintenance.

In another action on 27.08.2018, the Cabinet approved shutting down of 2716 schools in the state having less than 10 number of students enrolled in these schools. Out of these 2716 schools 2425 were Govt. Primary Schools and 291 Govt. Junior High Schools. The above description shows that every year a sizable number of schools are getting closed due to less number of students. The following reasons are less number of enrolments in Govt. Schools;

- Lack of quality of education in Govt. Schools in remote areas.
- Insufficient Teaching Staff in Govt. Schools.
- Difficulty in monitoring all Govt. Schools at Block /District level by a few numbers of officials.
- Preference of Private Schools in remote area too.
- Awareness of parents is comparatively low in remote area.
- Low income of parents prefers involving students in economic activities.

Those families who can afford to live in nearby clusters, towns and cities are shifting to these places for availing comparably better education for their children leaving a big socio-economic impact in rural areas as well in those places where this migration is taking place.

Taking note of the poor quality education in these remote areas with financial support from SEWA-THDC, Chaukhamba introduced the concept of Elite Classes in the month of July 2018 as a Pilot Project in Govt. Schools of Dwijilla Valley of Pratapnagar Block and villages nearby Uppu in Thauldhar Block of Tehri Garhwal.

Elite Classes: An Educational Support Programme

Elite Classes (ECs) is an educational support programme for the students of class 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th standard in 08 Govt. Schools in Pratapnagar and Thauldhar Blocks of Tehri Garhwal for providing quality education. **Funded by SEWA-THDC, ECs is a Pilot Project under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) activities of THDC India Limited a renowned PSU company of Govt. Of India and Govt . Of .Uttar Pradesh with total budget of 19.45 Lakh.** Chaukhamba, which is an All India Voluntary Society, is the Implementing Agency of ECs in the target schools.

The ECs were started in the month of July 2018 after prior permission of the concerned Education Departments of School Education in the state, district and block level as well.



Motivation of parents through PPT Presentation



Smart lecture of Elite Class through Projector

The concept of ECs is to focus on grooming of the underprivileged bright students in these schools aspiring for the entrance examination of prestigious institution like Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalay, Rajive Gandhi Navodaya Vidyalay, Sainik Schools ,Military Schools and RIMC through teaching of Science, Maths, Reasoning/ Aptitude Test, English, Hindi and Computer Education by Elite Faculties



DEO, Thauldhar extended full support to ECs



DEO, Pratapnagar visited and inspected ECs

The ECs are being conducted on regular basis free of cost during school hours and off school hours and on holidays including Sundays. The Elite

Classes are in support to the Govt. Education System during school hours without disturbing any subject periods, the Elite Classes being mostly held during off school hours and in those periods which are vacant by some reason during school hours. The duration of each period of EC is 45 minute during school hours in conformity with the duration of each class in Govt. System. During off school hours each period consists of 35 minutes and about 4 periods in each day. Apart from the periods for all the students of respective Classes we have the provision of Extra Classes; these extra classes are being conducted during off school hours mostly in the evening time for those students who perform well in the regular, quarterly and half yearly tests.



Extra class for bright students



Special Test for students of Uppu and Silari Centres

According to our experience in past six months, we have conducted a sizable number of EC lectures during school hours as some of the schools do not have sufficient teaching faculties. Even where there are no such issue, **we get the maximum cooperation from the parents, school authorities and govt. teachers as we could manage to make our own space by delivering the quality education and performance of the students availing elite classes got better after introduction of ECs** so mostly we got the maximum time there to deliver elite lectures. For example since beginning of ECs, there is only one Govt. teacher in GPS Saur Uppu so we get the sufficient time to deliver our ECs during school hours in GPS, Saur Uppu.

The concept of Elite Classes is to take out the best of every student of ECs and particularly of those deserving students who have potential to do well in studies but could not do so due to absence of quality education.

Schools where Elite Classes are being conducted

This Pilot Project was introduced in 5 Govt. Schools of Dojilla Valley in Pratapnagar Block and 3 Govt. Schools in area surrounding Village Uppu in Thauldhar Block of Tehri Garhwal. The selections of the schools were done after an initial survey conducted by chaukhamba the first priority was to cover those areas where the number of students are more and located at remote place.

The following schools are being covered under the ECs project;

1. Govt. Inter College, Silari Pratapnagar
2. Govt. Primary School, Silari Pratapnagar
3. Govt. Primary School, Gairi Pratapnagar
4. Govt. Primary School, Kordi Pratapnagar
5. Govt. Primary School, Haleth Pratapnagar
6. Govt. Junior High School, Saur Uppu Thauldhar
7. Govt. Primary School, Saur Uppu Thauldhar
8. Govt. Primary School, Math Uppu, Thauldhar

The List of total students of Elite Classes is given in the below table.

S.N	SCHOOL OF NAME	CLASS	TOTAL GIRLS				TOTAL BOYS				TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT
			GEN	SC	OBC	TOTAL	GEN	SC	OBC	TOTAL	
1.	G.I.C SILARI	6 th	15	02	00	17	17	3	00	20	37
		7 th	13	04	00	17	28	01	00	29	46
		8 th	27	00	00	26	33	02	00	35	62
2.	G.P.S SILARI	5 th	00	06	00	06	00	06	00	06	12
3.	G.P.S GAIRI	5 th	11	02	00	13	10	01	00	11	24
4.	G.P.S KORDI	5 th	22	00	00	22	24	00	00	24	46
5.	G.P.S HAIETH	5 th	06	00	00	05	01	00	00	01	07
6.	G.P.S SAUR UPPU	5 th	02	00	00	02	04	00	00	04	06
7.	G.P.S MATH UPPU	5 th	01	02	00	03	03	00	01	04	07
8.	G.J.H.S SAUR UPPU	6 th	07	02	00	09	05	00	00	00	14
		7 th	04	01	00	05	08	02	00	00	15
		8 th	06	01	00	07	03	02	00	05	12
TOTAL			114	20	00	134	136	17		153	287

There is one additional school, Govt. Primary School, Baithan the bright students of 5th standard of this schools are attending ECs at Govt. Primary School, Gairi, Pratapnagar on regular basis.

Since the introduction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalay Scheme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. Of India, only 3 students so far qualified in the entrance examination of Jawahar Navodal Vidhyalaya (JNV) Entrance Test in the Year 1987 in which it was introduced from Govt. Primary School Saur Uppu. After

1987 not a single student so far has been selected in JNV entrance test from the selected 8 schools in past 30 years.

Resources and Centres of Elite Classes



Elite Class Centre at Uppu , Thauldhar Block



Elite Class Centre at Gairi, Pratapnagar Block

We have two centres of Elite Classes one is at village Uppu in Thauldhar Block and another at Silari in Pratapnagar Block. Total 8 regular teaching faculties have been deputed for delivering ECs in each of the targeted School and 1 regular Elite Class Principal for managing the overall programme ensuring the effective implementation of the ECs in these Schools. **The teaching faculties for delivering ECs have been recruited through an advertisement published in newspaper by an interview panel constituted of the representatives of SEWA-THDC and Chaukhamba.**



Chaukhamba's faculties of Elite Classes



Project Director Reviewing at GPS Silari

There are 2 other facilitators for helping the implementation of ECs in the targeted Schools. The Project Director, Chaukhamba heads the Pilot Project of Elite Classes so in total 11 dedicated people are involved in effective implementation of the project. The teaching faculties deliver lectures on rotational basis for covering the syllabus of different competitive examinations.

Chaukhamba has kept a separate projector, screen and audio system for delivering the ECs lectures and motivational short films for students and their guardians. We have computers for occasional use of the rural students at our offices at two centres. Sometimes children films are also shown to the ECs students particularly when they perform well in a test.

Different Components of Elite Classes

Baseline Data:

Before the commencement of Elite Classes, Chaukhamba, organised a two hours Pre Entrance Tests (PET) in every schools where ECs are introduced for the students of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th standards. This PET comprised of very basic level **100 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) for checking the level of students in Maths, Science, Hindi, English and General Awareness subjects. The PET paper covered the syllabus of all previous classes of a particular class** for example for 5th standards the PET questions covered the syllabus of 1st to 4th class and so on. This was done because the PET was conducted in the early stage of Academic Session. The following Table shows the class wise average performance of the students in our PET before the introduction of ECs. The PET at Uppu centre was conducted on 10.07.2018 and at Silari Centre on 16.07.18

The average performance of the students of ECs in the PET is given in the following table;

S.No	Class	Average Marks in PET
1	Class-V	42%
2	Class-VI	37%
3	Class-VII	36%
4	Class-VIII	32%
Total Average		36.75%

The result of this PET served as our baseline data for ECs. After completions of this pilot project another Test will be conducted for checking the performance of all the students this time covering the syllabus of the particular class and also the level of questions will be at par with the level of different entrance examination for a particular class.

Motivation, counselling of students, parents and constant touch with the parents of ECs Students:

a). Before the introduction of ECs in the targeted schools, we knew that success of this Pilot Project depends a lot on the involvement of parents in our programme. So prior to introduction of these classes we had meetings with parents in presence of school authority for motivation and sensitization.

Though the ECs were commenced from July 06, 2018 but formally inaugurated by the Shri. Vijay Singh Panwar, the Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Pratapnagar on 15.08.2018 at GIC, Silari. Initially retaining some of the students of ECs were a tough tasks as education seemed to be a secondary choice for the families of those students.



Meeting at GPS Gairi



Meeting at GPS Silari

b). After the commencement of classes we found that still many of our students were being absent from their schools due to their involvement in household work and petty economic activities of rural household. We had special counselling session for those students and parents we approached for getting them sensitised it was indeed a very difficult task as whenever we visited to these parents they nodded in yes but after a few days they were back to square one.



Counselling of parents and students



counselling of parents and students

This exercise became our regular activity for about 3 months since we intervened through ECs, we really found it tough to convince the parents as every student seems to have a priority role defined in his household and going school was a secondary activity. By the end of September we had almost full strength on regular basis in our elite classes.

We have also found a kind of pessimism in a sizable number of parents at initial stage pertaining to education. A sizable number of parents/guardians were illiterate or less literate having low awareness for better education as a matter of fact some of their wards were comparatively performing well in their studies. When we increased our level of interaction with such parents we came to know that they have given up their hope of having quality education so it is better to get them involved in

petty economic activities of increasing household income. The following table shows the number of household students who were visited more than one in past 6 months, till the end of December 2018;

Class	Number of Household of the student visited twice	Number of household of the students visited more than twice
Class-V	35	15
Class-VI	15	5
Class-VII	10	4
Class-VIII	25	6
Total Visits	85	30

We have been covering more than 20 surrounding villages so making these 105 visits took a sizable time and effort of ECs staff. We have been tracking every student of EC and those who are absent being followed up and the parents are being informed through SMS and phone calls.

Routine Elite Classes:

A routine Elite Class has a fixed framework which consists of the following activities;

a). Meditation of 5 minutes: For increasing the concentration of the students we usually have 5 minutes meditation exercise on regular basis. During the early time of our intervention, we found that students were not able to concentrate in their study they were making noise in our classes but later on this exercise helped us and the students a lot for smooth functioning and now it is an integral part of ECs and there is huge difference in students' behaviour while paying attention in their classes.



Five minutes meditation is a routine exercise and an integral part of Chaukhamba Elite Classes

b). Deliverance of an interactive EC lecture and its 2 times revision in total, on 1st, 8th and 29th day: An EC lecture is more like an interactive session for the students where full participation of the students is sought by EC faculties. On every day, a two way communication based lesson plan is prepared by an EC faculty which gets verified by the EC Principal prior to its deliverance. The lesson plan

consists of practical example that could be understandable to a rural student which he faces on day to day basis.



Chaukhamba Elite Classes



Chaukhamba Elite Classes

Every topic that is being covered in a particular day also gets revised in 8th day and subsequently on 28th day from the day of its deliverance. This schedule is prepared while keeping in mind the nature of human brain for understanding a new thing and keeping this thing in its permanent memory for ever remembrance.



Chaukhamba Elite Classes

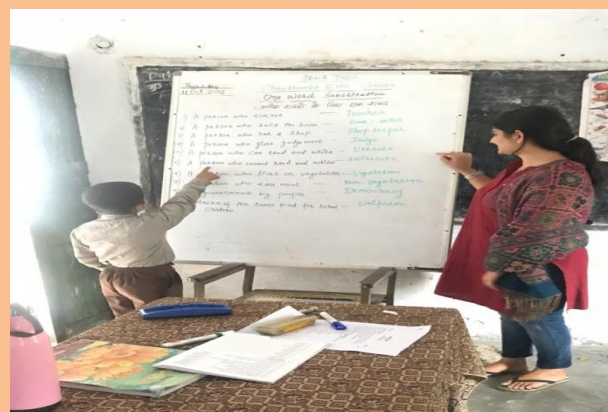


Chaukhamba Elite Classes

We have normally kept it as a benchmark that every topic should be understandable and retained by at least 75% strength of a particular class after 3rd revision.



Chaukhamba Elite Classes



Chaukhamba Elite Classes

More than six thousand five hundred such lectures have been delivered by the EC faculties in past 6 months.

c). Regular check up of given home work and follow up: Every day an EC student is given home work of the covered topic which gets checked by the faculties and randomly being verified by the EC Principal.



EC Faculty checking given home work



EC Faculty checking given home work

d). Revision of syllabus after completion: Once we complete the syllabus we make revision of topic till we could not achieve 80% scoring in that topic in different tests.

The following table shows total number of Elite Classes conducted in last six months;

S. N	SCHOOL OF NAME	CLASS	TOTAL NOS OF ELITE CLASSES TILL 31.12.18
1.	G.I.C SILARI	6 th	610
		7 th	610
		8 th	624
2.	G.P.S SILARI	5 th	440
3.	G.P.S GAIRI	5 th	720
4.	G.P.S KORDI	5 th	360
5.	G.P.S HAIETH	5 th	440
7.	G.P.S SAUR UPPU	5 TH	720
8.	G.P.S MATH UPPU	5 th	540
9.	G.J.H.S SAUR UPPU	6 th	360
		7 th	360
		8 th	410
TOTAL LECTURES			6194

Note: The duration of each Elite Class is 45 min

Extra classes for bright students

We have kept the provision of extra classes for those students who perform well in the unit tests, quarterly and half yearly tests. The purpose for such classes is to identify rural talent and get it nurtured for bringing out the best performance of the students.



Extra Class at Uppu Centre



Extra Class at Gairi Centre

At Uppu Centre the extra classes are being conducted at our office in Silla Uppu village. At Silari Centre the extra classes are being conducted in three places one at our office in Village Gairi Rajputon Ki the second at village Silari and the third at Village Kordi.



Extra Class at Gairi Centre



Extra Class at Uppu Centre

The total number of extra classes during past six months is given in the following table;

S.No	Class	Number of Extra Classes at Uppu Center	Number of Extra Classes at Silari Center
1	Class-V	153	302
2	Class-VI	40	75
3	Class-VII	33	75
4	Class-VIII	65	93
Total		291	545

Note: The duration of each Extra Class is about 90 min

Distribution of Study material to the students:

Chaukhamba has distributed study material to every student of Elite Classes. Also the students of Class V and VIII were given text book for JNV Entrance examination.



Distribution of Study Material



Distribution of Study Material

Weekly, monthly and other tests at regular interval Feedback of teaching faculties:

For evaluation of the ECs and in order to take the best performance we have the provision of Tests Series for the students.



Pre Entrance Test on the basis of JNV Exam



Half yearly Test of Elite Classes

The following table shows the number tests conducted during last 6 months;

Class	Total Unit Tests	Total Special Tests	Total Quarterly Tests	Half Yearly Test	Combined Test on JNV Pattern
Class-V	26	25	2	1	1
Class-VI	26	3	2	1	0
Class-VII	26	3	2	1	0
Class-VIII	26	5	2	1	0
Total	104	36	8	4	1

Therefore till December 31, 2018 we have conducted total 154 tests for all ECs this includes one additional test when we gathered baseline data of this project. The combined test for all students of class 5th was conducted at GPS Gairi on 03.12.2018. Total 93 students were present out of 102 students from both Silari and Uppu Centres.

The performance of the students in these tests is shared with parents and also discussed with the parents in monthly PTM. We also get the feedback of our teaching faculties from parents, students and the Govt. teachers.

Motivation to the best performing students:

Those students who performed well in the routine and special tests are being motivated through different kind of gifts.



Rewards given to best performing students



Rewards given to best performing students

Training of ECs Teacher:

From time to time Chaukhamba organises training programme for EC Faculties. one whole day teachers training programme for ECs faculties at GPS Gairi on 09.01.2019. Mr. Girish Badoni, an empanelled Master Trainer of Education Department and Mr.Alok Dangwal, Project Director Chaukhamba was the trainers in this workshop.



Regular training session are organised for Chaukhamba Faculties

Reporting Monitoring and Evaluation of Elite Classes:

There is systematic way of reporting in Elite Classes. The Project Director Chaukhamba is reported from the Principal of Elite Classes on day to day basis. **Also we have What's App group in which there are officials of THDC, SEWA-THDC and Chaukhamba staff involved in ECs.** All the faculties of ECs make their daily update in this group with photographs and text. **The project being monitored and evaluated though internal and external sources;**

a). Internal Process:

- The ECs are constantly being evaluated by performance of the students in routine tests.
- Project Director, Chaukhamba Elite Classes has been constantly evaluating faculties visiting the schools and interacting with the school students and parents.
- More than 40 visits by the Project Director in these schools.
- Routine visits of SEWA-THDC officials in both the centres of Elite Classes.



DGM (CSR) THDCIL, Tehri on monitoring visit Saur Uppu



Officials of SEWA-THDC monitoring at GIC Silari

Shri. Amardeep Singh , DGM (CSR) , THDCIL, Bhagirathipuram is the nodal officer of SEWA-THDC for Chaukhamba Elite Classes Project as per the LoA issued to Chaukhamba by between SEWA-THDC. Therefore, the officials from the office of DGM (CSR), keep on visiting ECs project for monitoring and evaluation.

Apart from regular visits of THDC officials and Project Director Chaukhamba, each faculty of Chaukhamba Elite Classes also gives day to day updates through a What's App Group in which there are about 17 group members from Chaukhamba, CSR Units of THDCIL and SEWA-THDC.

b). External Process:

- By the Govt. School authority in all these schools on daily basis
- Chairman of PTA in a particular school

- By Elected representatives like gram pradhan etc.
- By Deputy Education Officer of Pratapnagar and Thouldhar Block



DEO, Pratapnagar at GPS Kordi in Elite Class



Project Director evaluating at in EC Gairi Centre

The monitoring and evaluation of the project is also being carried out by the parents, and by the office of the local MLA and school staff as well.

Conclusion:

Elite Classes is an innovative Pilot Project of 1 year duration with financial support of 19.45 Lakh from SEWA-THDC as total budget dedicated to quality education for the educationally backward students in Pratapnagar and Thauldhar Blocks of Tehri Garhwal. The project is being implemented by Chaukhamba Society Dehradun in 08 schools of these two blocks with special focus on grooming school children for achieving success in different competitive examination like Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya etc. These schools are carefully chosen as not a single student so far from these 8 schools got selected in Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya. The ECs is earning a good reputation for SEWA-T.H.D.C in the target area that adding another feather in its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme.