



# Annual Report

2011- 2012

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## 1. FOREWORD

This year has been an exciting journey for AVANI on many fronts. AVANI gained recognition for its work on several forums this year.

To begin with, Rashmi was conferred with the prestigious 2011 Jankidevi Bajaj Award for rural entrepreneurship for creating rural employment in order to sustain rural life styles and strengthening local economy through revival of traditional craft.

AVANI's project on electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles has received recognition on many platforms this year. *Spark The Rise*, a platform propelling innovation, entrepreneurship, and positive change, gave us the second round winner award and the jury chose us as finalist for the grand finale. Rajnish was given the Amazing Indians Award by Times Now, a national television channel, for work on this project. AVANI also won Wantrapreneur 2011. The idea of Wantrapreneur is to identify enterprises with market ready solutions in start up or early growth stage that can positively impact rural lives. Our project on electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles won the award.

All these awards helped AVANI in being featured in many publications, including the national edition of The Hindustan Times, and The Entrepreneur, which brought substantial attention to our work from across the country.

The scaling up of the textile enterprise necessitated that a sound business plan is prepared, both from the perspective of raising necessary funds, implementation as well as institutional mechanisms to achieve this. Rashmi was invited by Villgro to participate in *DSI*, where the social businesses are mentored to prepare business plans. Having prepared this, the enterprise is in the process of taking the first steps for scaling up, by initiating dialogue with funders and developing concrete plans for infrastructure development and mechanization of some production processes.

Keeping in mind the idea of setting up village based power plants using pine needles; AVANI Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd. was registered during the year, with initial shareholding by AVANI founders. As the work starts, ownership of other stakeholders, especially the pine needle collectors, will be brought in.

It was a great beginning for Abhivyakti – a child friendly learning center that started this year on the AVANI Campus, where a total of seven children were enrolled. Many inputs from institutions and individuals involved in education along with volunteers made it an exciting first year.

AVANI's sericulture initiative on the other hand has not gained the momentum that we had hoped for, mainly due to technical problems arising out of the quality of the eggs supplied by department of sericulture. We would need to put in phenomenal efforts to revive the interest of the farmers due to successive failures over the years, but such is the nature of our work, we keep trying to develop strategies to find success. Lack of funding opportunities has also meant no substantial increase in pay packets of AVANI employees. In this period of high inflation, we continue to struggle to find ways of increasing our revenues, in the hope of increasing remunerations for our hard working team.

We would like to once again, extend a special word of thanks to the all the friends and well wishers who have helped promote AVANI's work and provided their invaluable support and contribution in our endeavors.

The table below provides a summary of the activities being coordinated by the five field centers of AVANI.

S.N.	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installations	Sericulture	SHG Savings and Credit	SHG working with IGP	Vermi Composting	Biogas	Girl Child Education	Community Health	Pine Needle Collection	Rain Water Harvesting
<b>DHARAMGHAR CENTRE</b>												
1	Simgarhi	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
2	Saukyura	✓	✓									✓
3	Dharamghar	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓
4	Mehrodi		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
5	Lamgingra		✓		✓	✓	✓					
6	Thuma	✓	✓									
7	Dhura	✓										
8	Darati	✓										
9	Basti		✓	✓	✓				✓			
10	Dudila				✓				✓			
11	Majhera		✓									
<b>DIGOLI CENTRE</b>												
1	Mana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
2	Digoli	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3	Dhoulani	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
4	Matkoli	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
5	Kaligar	✓										
6	Nayal	✓										
7	Dana	✓	✓	✓			✓					
8	Raitoli			✓								
9	Dewal		✓	✓								
10	Silingya		✓		✓	✓						
11	Chantola		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
12	Aulani	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓			
13	Simayal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
14	Thanga	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
15	Rawatsera		✓									
16	Bhanyun		✓					✓				
17	Nargoli			✓								
18	Devlet			✓		✓						
19	Dhanad			✓		✓						
20	Paithan					✓						
21	Dhura					✓						
22	Talara					✓						
23	Pata Dungari			✓								
24	Saniudiyar			✓								
25	Doula			✓								
25	Kanyagad			✓								
26	Letgari			✓								
27	Panigad			✓								
28	Bheta			✓								
<b>TRIPURADEVI CENTRE</b>												
1	Tripuradevi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
2	Bhandari gaon	✓										
3	Raiagar	✓							✓			✓
4	Bana	✓			✓	✓						
5	Manipur	✓										
6	Hasyuri	✓			✓						✓	
7	Borakhet	✓		✓								
8	Busail		✓									
9	Mungraon	✓			✓	✓						
10	Berinag	✓			✓							
11	Sera Pahar				✓	✓						
12	Rawalgaon				✓	✓	✓					

13	Sela				✓		✓		✓			
14	Kanurpani				✓				✓			
15	Julagaon				✓		✓		✓			
16	Pipli				✓							
17	Jakheri			✓	✓	✓			✓			
18	Syalve			✓	✓							
19	Varsayat	✓		✓		✓						
20	Hipa		✓	✓								
21	Jula			✓	✓				✓			
22	Salan		✓									
23	Gurena Rajwar		✓									

S.N.	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installations	Sericulture	SHG Savings and Credit	SHG working with IGP	Vermi Composting	Biogas	Girl Child Education	Community Health	Pine Needle Collection	Rain Water Harvesting
24	Bahilkote		✓	✓								
25	Seragada		✓									
26	Falaraao Kharchour		✓									
27	Rai			✓					✓			
28	Byati			✓					✓			
29	Bhingari			✓								
30	Balta				✓				✓			
31	Sainikhet			✓								
32	Musalgar			✓								
33	Nalli			✓								
34	Baisali			✓								
35	Kafali			✓								
36	Jhuni	✓										
37	Dobargara	✓	✓									
38	Pooussa			✓								
39	Kalasila	✓										
40	Chachret											
	<b>CHANKANA CENTRE</b>											
1	Chankana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
2	Muni	✓		✓								
3	Goda	✓										
4	Pungarkholi	✓										
5	Lingurani	✓		✓								
6	Majhera			✓								
7	Seena			✓								
8	Gadtir	✓							✓			
9	Bhanelgaon	✓										
10	Puring	✓										
11	Patoli			✓								
12	Belkote	✓?		✓				✓				
13	Puranathal			✓								
14	Dangigaon			✓								
15	Khaitijolli		✓	✓								
	<b>SUKNA CENTRE</b>											
1	Sukna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
2	Ghangal	✓	✓					✓				
3	Baneni	✓	✓						✓			
4	Rammandir	✓						✓				
5	Dhaulani	✓										
6	Gwal	✓										
7	Golti		✓	✓								
8	Chak			✓	✓				✓			
9	Okharani				✓							

Following are the details of the activities undertaken by AVANI during the year 2011-12.

## **2. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

During the year, almost 300 families benefitted from gaining direct access to solar lights. 1000 liters per day solar water heating system was also set up for Karm Marg, an organization working for destitute children.

### **2.1 Solar Photovoltaics**

Our work with solar energy development and dissemination, the entry point for AVANI in our project villages had undergone transformation over the years. We started our work as SWRC Kumaon, with a project funded by FORRAD, followed by the EU and Canadian High Commission respectively. UREDA, the state renewable energy nodal agency has also been supporting this work, and we have brought lights to almost 13000 people directly, set up power plants and water heating systems for hospital, schools, production centers and guest houses benefitting 25,000 people. This has been possible through the installation of 2500 solar lights, setting up of 12 KWp solar power plants, and 10,000 liters capacity of solar water heating systems. More importantly, this has been possible because of local capacity building, technical, managerial and financial, where in rural youth are trained both in technology and management, to disseminate, and user groups have developed financial systems for long term maintenance of the lights.

This program continues to be managed through a network of 24 village level solar committees (Village Energy and Environment Committee – VEEC) that are self-reliant financially and have access to trained technicians to repair and maintain the installed systems. This led to creation of a rural enterprise, where the lights are manufactured locally, sold by rural youth to the rural population, bringing lights, empowerment, and strengthening the local economy though in a small way.

With the increase in grid access to most of the villages in this region, our outreach strategy has changed completely. As opposed to making subsidized solar lights available to un-electrified villages in the past, we now need to reach out to members of the community who do not have access to the grid due to affordability issues and still depend on kerosene for lighting, or where unreliable power supply necessitates availability of supplementary source of energy.

We initiated a pilot to connect VEECs and banks with users to access finance for purchasing solar lights. VEECs have successfully demonstrated the microfinance model to disseminate solar lights to the needy families, but have limited potential due to funds as well as outreach. Uttarakhand Regional Rural Bank can actually provide microfinance through priority sector lending schemes, but the progress has been very slow due to either complicated and time consuming paper work or lack of interest on part of banks. We are trying to find ways to work with banks to make them more responsive to this priority sector lending.

The solar workshop set up at AVANI center, apart from manufacturing and repairing solar lights, also continues to support training of youth from other

regions of Uttarakhand. This year, 3 people from various places were trained at our center.

## **2.2 Solar Driers**

Solar driers are an excellent technology for drying high value crops. Affordability is a major impediment in popularizing this technology. They need to be made more affordable by using low cost locally available materials. We have made some efforts in this direction, but not with much success so far. We continue to strive towards this in collaboration with technology institutes. More work needs to continue in this direction to make this type of very inexpensive model functional for drying cash crops. We continue to try and find expert help in developing affordable and effective driers.

## **2.3 Cooking Charcoal and electricity from pine needles**

As we have been talking for the past few years, AVANI has set up the first of its kind power plant generating electricity from flammable pine needles. The fires spread by pine needles destroy biodiversity, and our intervention is aimed at giving economic value to these pine needles, so that biodiversity can be regenerated while generating clean and affordable energy as well as rural employment.

The 9 KW pine needle gasifier installed at AVANI center has continued to generate electricity for our needs. Our efforts of setting up 120 KW village based power plant are still progressing slower than we would have liked them to be. The village donated land for setting up of this power plant; and we signed agreements with van Panchayats, to collect pine needles for this power plant. We also signed a Power Purchase Agreement with UPCL to sell the generated power, but faced difficulties on the funding front. Acumen Fund was exploring the possibility of funding the first power plant through a grant, but due to technical difficulties could not go ahead with these plans.

We started exploring the investment and loan route with Acumen Fund, for which it was important to set up a new entity in which Acumen Fund could invest and which would be responsible for setting up power plants generating cooking charcoal and electricity with pine needles. After a lot of discussion and debate, it was decided that the new structure should facilitate scaling up of this work after successful installation of the first power plant, and the name should reflect work done by AVANI in this direction. AVANI Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd. was incorporated with share holding from two founders of AVANI until sound institutional mechanisms were developed to bring in other stakeholders, especially pine needle collectors. AVANI Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd. is now in the final stages of closing the deal with Acumen Fund.

In the mean time, the work done so far has been presented in various forums, and three awards were won for this project idea. This has given visibility to our efforts, and there is more interest shown in this project than ever before, both by state government, as well as national and international agencies.

Apart from generating electricity, we have also developed cooking charcoal briquettes from residual charcoal. Several cooking trials, both in our center and in the villages have been carried out, and the communities are enthusiastic about this new cooking fuel as an alternative to wood.

In the mean time, the 9 KW gasifier system continues to generate electricity for our center.

### **3. PRESERVING TRADITIONAL CRAFT THROUGH CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES: HANDMADE NATURALLY DYED PRODUCTS**

As it has already been reported over the years, this work has developed in to an enterprise involving over 1050 farmers and artisans. All the production and sales related aspects are part of EarthCraft, the artisans' cooperative. AVANI provides development support to EarthCraft such as product development, marketing related work as well as capacity building of the functionaries of EarthCraft.

This year, net proceeds from EarthCraft's sales surpassed Rs. 41 Lakhs and almost 16.5 Lakh Rupees were generated as direct wages/salaries for farmers, artisans and local staff involved in the management of the enterprise. During the year, 360 artisans and dye material collectors from 50 villages and hamlets participated in this program. 95 percent of these beneficiaries were women.

As a part of marketing support, many new interventions were made, and new customers contacted. Rashmi was invited to speak at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, where four institutions of Austria and Netherlands came together to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium of Hallstat Textiles. These institutions are the University of Applied Arts Vienna, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, the Austrian Society for Textile-Art-Research, and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. The aim of the symposium was to trace the use of natural dyes and natural fibers from pre-historic textiles until today. AVANI was also invited to participate in an exhibition held at the museum, which resulted in good sales and new customer contacts.

EarthCraft's textiles were showcased in the Ethical Fashion Forum in London in October in 2011. These textiles were much appreciated and a lot of companies and designers looking for ethically produced fair trade products expressed interest in our products.

AVANI also participated in the show organised by The Sustainable Angle, an organisation that promotes ethically produced fabrics and is affiliated with the London College of Fashion. EarthCraft's textile collection is a part of the sustainable textile collection at the London College of Fashion. This has helped to establish the brand AVANI as an ethical and sustainable fashion brand, which is slowly gaining strength.

Contact was established with Good Bye poverty, a US based group using craft to reduce poverty in the world. Good Bye Poverty has placed an order with EarthCraft for hand made textiles to be sold in US markets, and sale proceeds will be used. Contact was also reestablished with Osho World, and an exhibition was organized at their galleria in Ansal Plaza in Delhi, which was followed by the regular sale of EarthCraft products throughout the winter.

We are also proud to share that Rashmi was conferred with the prestigious Jankidevi Bajaj award 2011, for rural Entrepreneurship, for creating rural employment in order to sustain rural life styles and strengthening local economy through this work.



AVANI was also selected by Villgro to participate in Dasra Social Impact for preparing a business plan to scale up this program, to be able to reach out to more artisans and farmers, while increasing the market base. Rashmi participated in the event, where mentor support was provided to prepare the business plan, which will help us reach out to funders for scaling up.

We have approached EXIM bank for funding the up scaling of EarthCraft operations. As a beginning, we are negotiating a grant to mechanize the yarn dyeing, and a working capital loan. The grant cum loan assistance has been approved in principle and the paper work is being finalized to facilitate release of funds to EarthCraft.

We continue to intensify our efforts to train the traditional spinners in silk spinning as our work with cultivation of wild silks with local farmers is also gaining strength. Spinners continue to spin silk and wool. The silk yarn as a source of livelihood will support the local silk farmers and is likely to motivate more people in the area to take up sericulture. Lately, we are trying to explore the possibility of introducing multi spindle spinning wheels, so that the income of spinners can be substantially enhanced.

This year, knitting of woolen toys with naturally dyed wool was started with 80 knitters. These toys were a great success in the market and more knitters are being trained to produce toys for the urban markets. Knitting training has been completed in two new villages.

Finally, after a long wait and going through complicated transit procedures, the solar panels for recently established Chankana Center were received. These panels have been donated by TUV Rheinland Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory of Arizona state in the US. The challenge still is to find funding for battery bank and other accessories to make our last center completely solar powered

The list of villages associated with the textile program is given below in table 9.

Table 9

Name of center	Dharamghar Dist. Bageshwar	Digoli Dist Bageshwar	Tripuradevi Dist Pithoragarh	Chankana Dist. Pithoragarh	Sukna Dist. Pithoragarh
Villages associated	Simgarhi	Mana	Mehrodi	Chankana	Sukna
	Saukyura	Digoli	Bhandarigaon	Muni	Ghanghal
	Dhura	Dhaulani	Rai Agar	Goda	Dhaulani
	Dharamghar	Matkholi	Bana	Pungarkholi	Ram Mandir
	Majhera	Nayal	Tripuradevi	Lingurani	Baneni
	Thuma	Thanga	Mungraon	Gadtir	
	Darati (Munsiari)	Aulani	Manipur	Bhanelgaon	
	Basti	Simayal	Hasyuri	Puring	
		Kaligar	Berinag	Patoli	
		Dhanad	Pabhaya		
		Paithan	Varsayat		
		Dhura	Gobargara		
		Talara	Kalasila		
		Karariagaon			
	Nargoli				

## 4. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### 4.1 Self-Help Groups

The work that we initiated in the villages is mostly organized around village level institutions and women's self help groups (*SHG's*) are one such institution around which substantial farming and textile processing activity is organized. Presently, we are working with 36 *SHG's*, which are involved in various activities.

#### 4.1.1 Micro Credit

The *SHG* comprises of socially cohesive groups of women from the same hamlet who save money regularly through individual monthly contributions to a common fund, which is managed by some members from within the group. These groups provide loans for various needs to the needy members from this fund.

The details of the saving and credit activity of the women's groups are given in tables 10 and 11:

Table 10

Name of group	No. of Members	Meetings held	No. of women Present	Deposit up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 11	Deposit in 11-12	Refunded to members 10-11	Total Deposit	Loan given last year	Loan given in 11-12	Loan Refunded 11-12
Lamjhingra	16	6	70	51,532	3,360	0	54,892	0	30,000	0
Chantola	8	8	48	21,652	2,640	0	24,292	10,000	0	2,500
Simayal	16	8	80	27,241	3,840	23,401	7,680	20,000	0	20,000
Mana	12	8	70	48,954	2,160	0	51,114	0	0	10,000
Dhoulani	17	10	150	32,493	4,080	0	36,573	0	5,000	5,000
Mehrodi	14	0	0	27,452	0	0	27,452	0	0	0
Simgarhi	13	6	63	23,089	5,070	0	28,159	17,250	2,500	0
Tripuradevi	6	8	40	33,929	3,900	33,412	4,417	16,000	4,200	17,000
Digoli	14	12	108	30,089	4,825	0	34,914	9,000	0	9,000
Matkoli	6	7	42	7,103	630	0	7,733	0	0	0
Dharamghar	4	8	25	1,500	2,300	0	3,800	0	400	0
Berinag	23	8	43	64,275	2,400	0	66,675	25,500	0	0
Thanga	7	8	47	2,245	1,795	0	4,040	0	0	0
Sukna	7	10	55	30,552	1,680	1,440	30,792	5,000	0	3,000
Silingya	11	7	55	16,294	1,980	3,000	15,274	5,000	0	3,000
Mungraon	22	8	68	19,809	1,920	0	21,729	0	0	0
Hasyuri	8	0	0	7,400	0	0	7,400	0	0	0
Rawalgaon	16	0	0	19,934	0	0	19,934	0	0	0
Sera Pahar	9	5	36	9,058	1,200	0	10,258	6,000	0	6,000
Bana	12	0	0	13,744	0	0	13,744	0	0	0
Sela	14	6	55	16,716	1,200	0	17,916	0	0	0
Kanurpani	10	6	50	11,172	2,360	0	13,532	0	11,500	0
Jula	15	6	65	15,915	1,920	0	17,835	0	0	0
Banari	10	9	82	6,954	1,350	0	8,304	0	0	0
Aulani	12	8	83	18,795	3,600	0	22,395	3,000	0	2,800
Pipli	15	4	45	12,672	1,800	0	14,472	0	0	0

Jyoti Balta	11	0	0	2,663	0	0	2,663	0	0	0
Pragatisheel Balta	11	0	0	1,624	0	0	1,624	0	0	0
Chak	12	9	87	12,480	2,880	0	15,360	0	3,000	3,000
Basti	8	5	45	18,304	1,920		20,224	8,000		
Dudila	23	7	133	20,891	5,520	0	26,411	0	0	0
Okharani	10	9	84	8,791	2,470		11,261	0	5,000	0
Jakheri	12	7	60	8,637	2,400	0	11,037	0	0	0
Chetna Tripuradevi	9	0	0	34,690	9,300		43,990	33,000	15,000	10,000
Varsayt	10	3	30	0	600		600	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1819</b>	<b>6,78,649</b>	<b>81,100</b>	<b>61,253</b>	<b>6,98,496</b>	<b>1,57,750</b>	<b>76,600</b>	<b>91,300</b>

Table 11

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Total Groups</b>	39	36	35
<b>Total Members</b>	528	467	423
<b>No. of meetings held</b>	312	255	206
<b>Total attendance</b>	3,168	2413	1819
<b>Total Deposit in the year</b>	2,01,488	1,61,080	81,100
<b>Total collection of groups</b>	6,83,079	7,53,627	6,98,496
<b>Credit given</b>	1,75,500	1,56,750	76,600
<b>Recovery of the loan given by the groups</b>	64,900	1,81,400	91,300
<b>Total credit given by the groups in the last three years</b>	3,28,200	4,84,950	5,61,550

As can be seen from the table, the health of some of these groups is not very good, mostly due to lack of enthusiastic follow up and sustained guidance by our staff. Staff turnover in the team looking after this program has been a major reason and steps are being taken to address this issue. However, this is not the only reason; there are few groups that may need to be closed due to complete lack of interest on part of group members in getting associated with income enhancing activities. An analysis of the present situation and corrective measures will be taken during the next year.

#### 4.1.2 Income Generating Activities with the Self-Help Groups

##### 4.1.2.1 Collection and Cultivation of dye yielding plant material

After having tried promoting farm based activities for enhancing income of women farmers, the farmers seem to be more enthusiastic about the collection and cultivation of dye yielding plants and material for incomes.

The use of plant based dye materials in textile coloring has created opportunity for income generation to the women's groups by harvesting plants materials that were not of much use earlier. This has led to protection and plantation of useful species like soap nut, Myrobolan, pomegranate, madder etc. on one hand, and the uprooting of invasive species like Eupatorium on the other.

This has opened another stream through the extraction of pigments and using these pigments to make paints and crayons, and use of these pigments possibly in coloring of cosmetics and creating wood stains.

The sludge formed after precipitating the remains of the yarn coloring ingredients has been successfully used to make pigments for crayons. The shades produced by these crayons are exciting. The market for crayons is really big and could definitely be an important source of revenue. AVANI team continued to work with D-Lab students from MIT on making natural pigment crayons. A wide range of crayons were developed and tried, and 2 types have been finalized for production. Now the efforts are on to develop appropriate dye and a small machine to produce these crayons commercially.

We have been making painting colors for the past three years, which have sold across the major cities in the country. The response so far has been positive and we are looking forward to expand our work in this field. Extensive research is done at our center to ensure the quality of the colors. Due to the high oil content in our colors, it is very similar to the oil paint available in the market and can be used by professionals as well. Being organic in nature, the colors are non-toxic and can be used safely by children. We are looking at scaling up this work substantially in the coming years.

In order to promote natural watercolors for painting, several painting workshops were organized with school children and professional painters in Delhi's The Shri Ram School, Bandhej store in Ahemdabad, Bodhi store in Baroda, and 'Either Or' store in Pune. The natural painting colours received an overwhelming response from the painting community and paint worth Rupees 58,000 was sold during this year. However, the lower shelf life of the paint, and leak in bottles have been a detriment for transporting paints to other locations in the world. We need to improve both packaging and shelf life to increase the sale of paint.

The next step in this direction would be to set up a quality control laboratory to standardize our products and produce better results.

The fact that these plants have been used for so many commercial uses, the farmers are making an effort to save these plants and grow more instead of cutting them down, conserving and enhancing biodiversity while making income.

Though farmers continue to collect dye material from existing plants in the villages, not much progress has been made on cultivation of dye yielding plants. We are still in the process of standardizing cultivation practices. Once this is done, we will be able to disseminate farming practices through self-help groups so that the members can make more income by growing these plants. In the mean time, people continue to make an income by collecting dye yielding plants from the wild. Seeds of madder and *Indigofera tinctoria* were collected from the plants grown by us, and a nursery is being prepared for plantation of these species on waste lands. Seeds of both the species have been sown, and 300 – 400 plants of Indigo as well as 700 – 800 plants of madder are expected to be ready for transplantation in the coming monsoon season. Seeds of polygonum, another species giving indigo pigment, have also been sown, but have not germinated yet. The idea is to distribute saplings to farmers for planting on waste lands for cash income, as these are hardy plants which can easily withstand vagaries of weather and attack of monkeys. Successful cultivation will result in cash income to the farmers and assurance of pigment availability for dyeing as well as colors.

After many years of failure, we have successfully raised a nursery of over 50 saplings of the Indian soap nut tree, *Sapindus mukorossi*. This tree is an important part of the biodiversity and yields fruit, which has traditionally been used for washing clothes. We have prepared sachets of this material for direct use in washing machines, as well as liquid soap for dish washing. The liquid soap for dish washing needs to be stabilized before it can be marketed though. A demand for these products is providing cash income to the farmers as well as saving of these trees.

#### 4.1.2.2 Cultivation of wild silks

In order to meet the silk yarn requirement for the textile enterprise, cultivation of eri, muga, and oak tussar, the wild silks of India, was initiated with farmers many years ago. This program was started with the technical support of the Central Silk Board and Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttarakhand. As has been reported earlier, there were serious issues with supply of quality eggs, both in terms of scheduling and disease. After many years of failed crop of reared silk worms due to these issues, finally the Department of Sericulture was able to supply reliable quality eggs, and we hope that they will continue to do so in future. However, in the mean time, the farmers, who were very enthusiastic in the beginning, have lost interest due to these problems, and it will take some time before their interest can be revived completely. We continue to work with the farmers to achieve this difficult task.

This year, a total of 2 rearing houses were completed during the year. A total of 33 eri houses have been constructed until now.

During this year, cocoon rearing was conducted by 30 farmers in 13 villages. 2000 dfl eri worms were reared by 27 farmers in 12 villages, and 200 dfl muga worms were reared by 3 farmers in 1 village.

#### Total production of cocoons

Eri cocoons	283 kg
Muga	939 Nos.

It is hoped that once we can demonstrate full income generating potential of this activity through substantial earnings of a few farmers, we would be able to upscale this activity to an extent that the entire requirement of the textile enterprise can be met through local production.

## 5. EDUCATION SUPPORT

An informal education support program through individual donations of friends and well wishers of AVANI is being run for past few years. At present 36 girls from 19 villages are being supported as part of this program. We have also tried to connect these children with scholarship schemes for them to study in existing schools in this area. This year 2 girls were provided support by Himalayan Education Foundation to study in the Himalayan Public school of Chowkori.

A primary school run by the Jyoti Shikshan Sansthan in Balta village of Almora district is also supported through these donations. We are coordinating with the Sri Aurobindo Education Society to train teachers in child friendly learning practices and the teachers of this school have already gone through one round of training.

This program has helped young girls to continue their schooling and some of the girls have taken vocational training after completing their schooling. In most cases, the marriage age has increased due to this intervention.

This year we started the Abhivyakti School based on child friendly learning methodology. Seven children between the ages of 3 and 5 were enrolled in Abhivyakti. This school was started at the campus in Tripuradevi. Sri Aurobindo Education Society is helping us train teachers for this school. This year, teachers participated in 3 trainings Conducted by Sri Aurobindo Education Society at Madhuban, Ramgarh. Many other volunteers contributed to developing curriculum, and teaching at Abhivyakti.

## **6. COMMUNITY HEALTH**

### **6.1 Health Insurance**

We continue to work with the office of the Development Commissioner Handicrafts, for the health insurance of the artisans. This year we insured 43 artisans under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana. Now these artisans have cashless cards for treatment in accredited hospitals.

Existing life insurance cover, Health and personal accident insurance cover for entire AVANI team have also been continued.

### **6.2 Dai Training and baseline survey**

The scheduled Dai training had to be postponed until next year due to last minute emergency situation with the trainers from SEVA, Ahemdabad. However, the survey data was analyzed. A summary of the analysis is given below:

- Most of the villages are not in the road heads. Though they were aware about ambulance service but unable to use in emergency cases.
- Most of the deliveries occurred in the villages
- Due to cultural and social taboos, obtaining information about family planning and maternal health was limited

## **7. AVANI CAMPUS**

The AVANI campus is completely run on electricity from solar energy and pine needles. However, due to increasing power requirements, some houses for AVANI staff have been connected to the grid.

We continue to harvest rainwater for community living though it has to be supplemented by water that is transported from another source. We added another 45,000 liters of rainwater storage this year, increasing the total storage capacity to 4 lakh liters.

We also continue to recycle our waste water for irrigation. Though the farm at AVANI has not been very productive due to monkeys raiding the vegetable

crops, we continue to grow some vegetables for our kitchen. Due to persistence of monkey problem, we have been planning to shift vegetable cultivation to cultivation of dye yielding plants, and efforts in this direction have already been mentioned in the section on income generating activities.

The community kitchen continues to feed resident staff and all the visitors here with love and care.

## 8. WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

We were able to present the work of AVANI in various forums and addressed a large diversity of audience. This has generated a lot of interest and positive support for the organization. During the past year we made presentations at the following places:

Date	Title/Purpose	Organisers
April 2011	Rajnish talked at the conclave on organic value chain scheduled for 29th and 30th April 2011 at Dehradun	Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board, UOCB
July 2011	Rajnish Talked at the Crafts sector sensitization seminar for probationers (in-service IAS officers) about the potential and challenges of the crafts sector	Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussourie
July 2011	Rajendra Joshi participated in IDDS organized at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana	MIT, Boston
October 2011	fashion industry trade show dedicated to sustainable sourcing, Showcasing of AVANI products in an exhibition of Ethical Textiles in London	Ethical Fashion Forum London, is the industry body dedicated to a sustainable future for fashion
November 2011	Future Fabrics Expo, Showcasing more than 400 textiles with very low environmental impact to buyers	The Sustainable Angle, London College of Fashion
January 2012	Rashmi gave acceptance speech at the Janaki Devi Bajaj Award Ceremony in Mumbai	Indian Merchants and Commerce, Ladies wing, Mumbai
March 2012	Rajendra Joshi participated in Discussion on offering distance learning courses for vocational training (in this case weaving) through collaboration with organizations like AVANI	Uttarakhand open University, Haldwani
March 2012	Rashmi gave a Lecture Titled: "Sustaining Colors Naturally in the Kumaon Himalayas" - at the IInd International Symposium of Hallstat Textiles	Museum of Natural History, Vienna

## 9. Awards and Press

After working quietly for many years in this remote mountainous location, our work was recognized at several forums during the year:

- Rashmi was conferred with the prestigious Jankidevi Bajaj Award 2011 for rural entrepreneurship, for creating rural employment in order to sustain rural life styles and strengthen local economy through revival of traditional craft.
- AVANI's project on electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles has received recognition on many platforms this year. *Spark The Rise*, a platform propelling innovation, entrepreneurship and positive change, gave us the second round winner award and the jury chose us finalist for the grand finale.
- Rajnish was given the Amazing Indians Award by Times Now, a national television channel, for our work on this project.
- AVANI also won Wantrapreneur 2011. The idea of Wantrapreneur is to identify enterprises with market ready solutions in start up or early growth stage that can positively impact rural lives, and our project on electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles won the award.
- AVANI won round 2 of *Spark The Rise*.
- AVANI was also given outstanding achievement award in energy conservation for 2011.
- AVANI was featured in English and Hindi national edition of the prestigious daily, The Hindustan Times. The article covered the work on revival of traditional craft of spinning and weaving as well as work with natural dyes extensively.
- Lok Satta, a Marathi daily featured AVANI and its work on developing livelihood opportunities in this area.
- The Entrepreneur, a magazine reporting on Enterprise, featured Rashmi as the social entrepreneur.
- The Alternative, an e-magazine carried articles on electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles in the rural innovation series, 'Turning Thorns into an Opportunity'.
- Amar Ujala, the Hindi daily with wide circulation in North India, featured the story of Jankidevi Bajaj Award conferred on Rashmi in its front page headlines.
- Times Now TV channel carried the story of generating electricity and cooking charcoal from pine needles in the Amazing Indians program.



**10. STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS AT AVANI**

	Indian	Foreign	Total
Visitors	45	14	59
Volunteers	9	22	31
Students School/college	100	4	104
Govt. officials	5	-	5
Diploma students	2	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>201</b>

**11. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING THIS YEAR**

National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad  
 Grassroutes, New Delhi  
 iVolunteer  
 ICICI Foundation  
 National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi  
 Mahindra Rise  
 Aarohi, Nainital  
 The People Tree, Delhi  
 The Weaver's Wheel Network, Goa  
 AIACA, New Delhi  
 Dastakar, Delhi  
 Department of Sericulture, Dehradun and Haldwani  
 Friends of Tilonia, USA  
 IDDS and D-lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA  
 Shri Gujarat Mahila lok Swasthya Sewa Sahakari Mandali, Gujrat  
 Grassroots, Ranikhet  
 Villgro  
 Indian Merchants Chamber, Ladies Wing  
 GLEN - Europe  
 University of St. Gallan, Switzerland  
 Museum of Natural History, Vienna  
 Times Now

**12. OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS**

1. IIE New Delhi
2. IMC ladies wing
3. Mahendra Rise

**13. INDIVIDUAL DONORS 2011-12**

Name	Contribution in Rupees
Ms. Uri Shasha, Pune	58,000
Ms. Pushplatha	10,913
Ms. Tara Sinha and Mr. Sidharth Sinha, Ahemedabad	10,000
Mr. Daljeet Singh, Pune	51,00
Mr. Parnel Dekhana, Pune	500
Mr. Sacrin Shirodkar, Pune	500
Mr. Vinayak Jadhaw, Pune	500
Mr. Ketan Shah, Pune	500
Mr. Tapan Basu, Pune	5,000
Sanskriti Club, Pune	5,000
Ms. Anita Ahir	2001
Ms. Rashmi Yogesh	5,000
Nichola Harrison	44,693
Mr. Amar Seth, Delhi	5,000
Swadeshi Joy, Goa	1500
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,17,562</b>

**14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT BY INDIVIDUALS**

Ms. Tara Sinha and Mr. Siddharth Sinha  
 Shri Mangesh Hoskote  
 Mr. Adhiraj Vable  
 Ms. Margret Redpath and Mr. David Redpath

## 15. Governing Body

Name	Address	Designation
Ms. Pamela Chatterjee	Village Bagarijauna, Kausani Distt Bageshwar UA	President
Mr. Rajnish Jain	PO Tripuradevi, via Berinag, Distt Pithoragarh, UA 262531	Secretary
Mr. Yogeshwar Kumar	53- Rajouri Appartments, Opposite Govt. Press Mayapuri, New Delhi-110064	Treasurer
Mr. Keshav Desiraju	A 5, Tehri House Officers' Colony, Rajpur Road, Dehradun - 248009	Member
Dr. Smita Vora	A-3, Rahul Terrace Meera nagar, Koregaon Park, Pune-411001	Member
Dr Sushil Sharma	Village Satoli, PO Peora via Mukteshwar Distt. Nainital, UA-263138	Member
Mr. Giri Raj Sinh	At. PO Godhar West, Taluka Santrampur, Dist. Panchmahals, Gujrat 289230	Member

## 16. General Body

Name	Address
Mr. Jasod singh	Village – Bhanyun, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Balram singh	Village – Bhanyun, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Fakir Ram	Village - Chantola, Distt. Bageshwar
Mr. Rajendra Joshi	Village – Dewal Bichral Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Hema Agri	Village – Beladagar, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Jagdish Dhapola	Village – Silingya, Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Kamla Rathoure	Village – Simgarhi, Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Radhuli Bora	Village – Digoli, Distt. Bageshwar
Mr. Govind Singh Bora	Village – Golti, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Anand Ballabh Pant	Village – Bana, Distt. Pithoragarh
Ms. Kamla Bhaisoda	Village – Rawalgaon. Distt. Pithoragarh
Ms. Lalita Panchpal	Village – Saukyura, Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Kamla Bora	Village – Chankana, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. kumud Pant	Village – Bana, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Mahesh Ram	Village - Chantola, Distt. Bageshwar
Mr. Verma Ram	Village – Golti, Distt. Pithoragarh
Mr. Deep pant	Village – Bana, Distt. Pithoragarh
Ms. Rewati Bora	Village – Digoli, Distt. Bageshwar
Mr. Heera singh Dharmshaktu	Village – Dharamghar, Distt. Bageshwar
Mr. Pan singh Mahara	Village – Mehrodi, Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Shanti Bora	Village – Digoli, Distt. Bageshwar
Ms. Rashmi Bharti	AVANI, Tripuradevi, Distt. Pithoragarh

**17. Summarized Financial Results (2011-2012)**

<b><u>Income &amp; Expenditure</u></b>	In Rupees
<b><u>Unutilized Opening Balance (Pr.Yr.)</u></b>	
FCRA	293,295.82
Local	534,577.00
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
<b><u>Local</u></b>	
Sales	
Grants	
Donation	
Awards- Local	
Closing Stock	3,312,282.88
<b><u>FCRA</u></b>	
Grants	
Donation	
Interest FCRA	345,891.20
<b><u>Grant/Donation Receivable</u></b>	
Local	3,756.00
FCRA	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,489,802.90</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
<b><u>Local</u></b>	
Opening Stock	
Purchase	
Grants	
Donation	
Other Expenses (Net)	
Depreciation	4,009,800.05
<b><u>FCRA</u></b>	
Grants	
Donation	222,040.00
<b><u>Unutilised Grants/Donation</u></b>	
Local	8,743.00

FCRA	390,069.02
Interest FCRA	27,078.00
Income for the year	(167,927.17)

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,489,802.90</b>
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**Balance Sheet**

**Sources of Funds**

Capital Fund	8,861,287.47
Utilised Grants for Fixed Assets	14,397,619.00
Unutilised Grants/Donation	786,684.67
Current Liabilities	1,602,532.04

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,648,123.18</b>
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**Application of funds**

Fixed Assets	17,390,730.85
Cash/Bank	2,075,652.78
Grant/Donation Receivables	7,027.00
Closing Stock	1,011,063.00
Other Current Assets	5,163,649.55

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,648,123.18</b>
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