



# UBA NEWSLETTER

## Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

**2020-2021**



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# EMPLOYMENT

## Installation of Paper Cup Machine

Mahatma Gandhi stated, "The position of women in the society is an index of its civilization. Train a man, and you train an individual, train a woman, and you build a nation". Women are a vital part of the Indian Economy, both at the national and the household levels. Women's participation in the labor market also determines the household structure and the relationship within the family, which are prime movers of the small family norms.

Today, in India, Self Help Groups (SHGs) represent a unique approach to financial intermediation and socio-economic empowerment of the women. SHGs are the major resource of inspiration for new generation women's welfare. The SHGs are characterized by focused attention on providing employment opportunities by imparting training to generate income and employment.



Aimed at increasing employment generation opportunities in the times of Covid-19, the unit has been successfully set up on 1st September 2020 with financial support from Khadi Gramodyog, Roorkee. The Paper Cup Production Unit was inaugurated by Tulsi, IIT Roorkee-based Self-Help Group in village Chharba.



**IMPACT:** The unit is expected to incur a profit of INR 20,000 per month and will be instrumental in making women and their families financially independent and empowered. It helps the economically vulnerable women become self-reliant and start earning by finding livelihood, better educating their children, and improving their sense of well-being.

By effectively ensuring social and economic betterment of rural women through this initiative, Team UBA continuously strives to create a positive impact in the society. The team definitely hopes to benefit many such SHGs as Tulsi.

# Kisan Vikas- Organic Farming Initiative

Organic farming is a technique that involves the cultivation of plants and rearing animals in natural ways. This process consists of biological materials, avoiding synthetic substances to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance, thereby minimizing pollution and wastage. It relies on ecologically balanced agricultural principles like crop rotation, green manure, organic waste, biological pest control, mineral and rock additives.

Organic production offers clean and green production methods without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and it achieves a premium price in the marketplace.



In Chharba, the livelihood of almost 60% of the population is agriculture. Out of which, only 10% of the farmers practice organic farming. The primary reasons for such a low percentage were found to be: lack of awareness/knowledge regarding this technique and how to practice it; small land; feeling of risk to adopt new methods.

To tackle these issues, the team came up with the Kisan Vikas initiative to encourage farmers to adopt Organic Farming techniques—(1) by providing training and (2) connecting them directly to the consumers to ensure that they get a fair price for their produce.

Under this initiative:

- 1) The team made a group of few enthusiastic farmers from village Chharba.
- 2) The team then briefly explained to the farmers about organic farming and its benefits.
- 3) The team collaborated with UOCB (Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board), Dehradun, to provide farmers the required training in organic farming.
- 4) On 10th February 2021, the master trainer (an organic farming professional) from UOCB met the targeted group of farmers at Santoshi Mata Mandir, Chharba, for the first training session. The session was focused on enlightening the farmers with the technical know-how of organic farming in detail.



The first training session was successfully completed, and according to the feedback, the farmers were greatly benefitted.

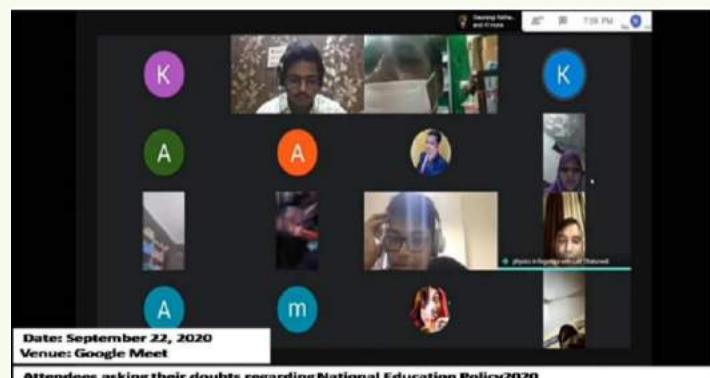
The team now gears up for conducting the next part of training sessions very soon, this time hoping to include a few more farmers in.



# EDUCATION

## National Education Policy

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent of them survive. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." Change is an inevitable part of life. It constantly occurs throughout one's life. Amid the ongoing pandemic, the central government announced a transformation in the National Education Policy.



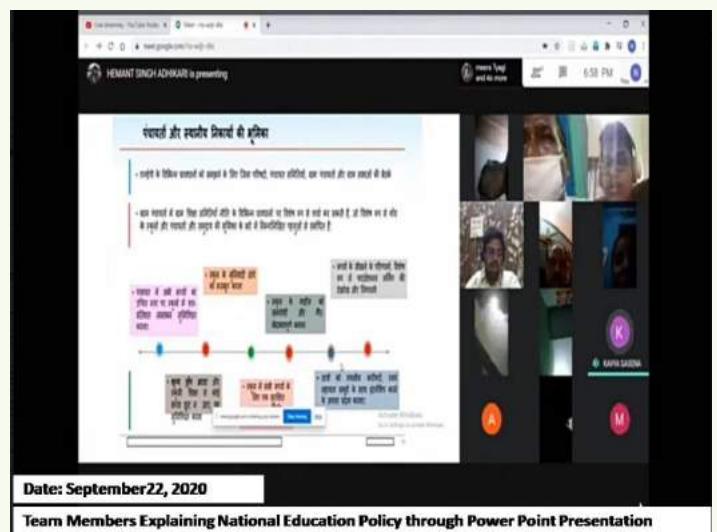
The announcement of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 confused the student community. With very little knowledge about the policy, students and parents were worried about new changes taking place.

Team UBA decided to help out students in rural areas to make them aware about NEP 2020. Two webinars were conducted through Google meet to make village students and teachers aware about the NEP 2020. The event was also live-streamed on youtube through Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT Roorkee channel.

One hundred ten people attended the webinar; 50 people joined the first webinar and around 60 people in the second. The UBA Volunteers sensitized the audience through a presentation on National Educational Policy 2020.

Then the teachers who attended the session were invited to speak a few words regarding NEP 2020. The session went quite interactive, and attendees' doubts regarding the new education policy were also discussed and clarified.

Team also shared booklets and posters among the villagers with the aim of sensitization of NEP 2020.



# Public Library Setup

Knowledge is an integral part of one's life and youth being the future, needs to be well educated for our country to develop. There are quite a sizeable number of students living in rural areas who cannot afford to buy even basic books, periodicals and magazines, and schools in the village are also unable to cater to such needs.

These problems dampen their reading spirit and passion. So our team decided to set up a Public Library, to serve the needs of the people in the village Chharba, Dehradun.

An organization named "GOONJ" helped us in this initiative by providing us with books to be kept in the library. There are around 220 books of various domains including:



- 1) Class 8-12th text-books (Hindi)
- 2) Competitive exam books for SSC, NDA, JEE, NEET, Civil services (Hindi)
- 3) Reference books for class 11th and 12th (Hindi)
- 4) Bank and teaching job books (Hindi)
- 5) Basic English, Hindi, GK, Aptitude books
- 6) Novels and magazines (preferably Hindi)

The library would be set up at Government Inter College (GIC), Chharba, Dehradun, and would be taken care of by the principal and other staff of the school. The books have been collected and are kept at Government Inter College (GIC). After making proper arrangements, the library would be soon made public to other people as well.



# Competitive Exam Brochure Initiative

"It was not lack of ability that limited the people, but lack of opportunity."

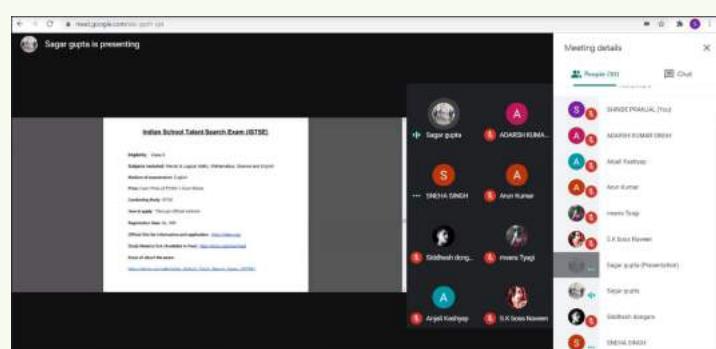
- Nelson Mandela

UBA Puranpur team understood that almost all students of the village are unaware about the competitive exams conducted by the government or the private bodies, thus the initiative started. Team made brochures for all classes which contained about 20 - 21 exams with their information like :

1. Eligibility - Who is eligible for that exam.
2. Subjects - Subjects included in the exam.
3. Medium of examination - In which language/s exam is being conducted.
4. Prize - How winners will be benefited.
5. Conducting body - Who is conducting the exam.
6. How to apply - Procedure to apply for exam via online or offline mode.
7. Registration fees
8. Official Site link - For information and application.
9. Study Material link - Link to study material (Free of cost).
10. Know all about the exam - Link containing all information about the exam.

Brochure has been shared among all the students through the whatsapp group of their school.

This helps students to recognize which exams they might face in higher classes and helps them in advance, also they could find links to access free study material.



# Digital Library

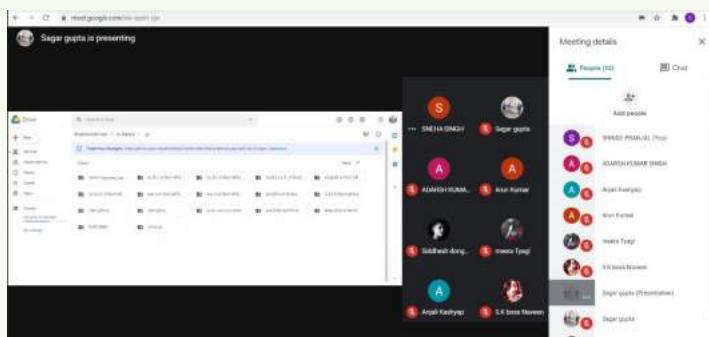
"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library" said Albert Einstein.

With a stringent lockdown in place, which hampered students' access to useful resources and their education significantly, there was an urgent need to rectify the situation.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Team Chharba came up with the innovative idea of setting up a 'Digital Library' or 'E-library', a one stop link which would cater to all the needs of students.

Students could now access important resources like Reference books, previous year question papers at the touch of a link! An effort was made to upload as many books and resources as possible on the link by all members of the team. The link included:

1. NCERT books and reference books for classes tenth and twelfth.
2. Books pertaining to Competitive exams.
3. General knowledge, Reasoning and Basic English books.
4. Previous year question papers.
5. Books for preparing for Banking exams and SSC.
6. Hindi and English novels.
7. Previous year question papers of competitive exams like JEE, SSC and NDA.



The initiative significantly improved the lives of students and now they can access a plethora of books right from their homes.



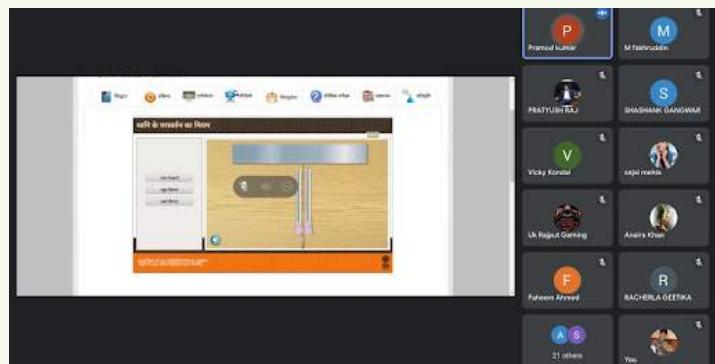
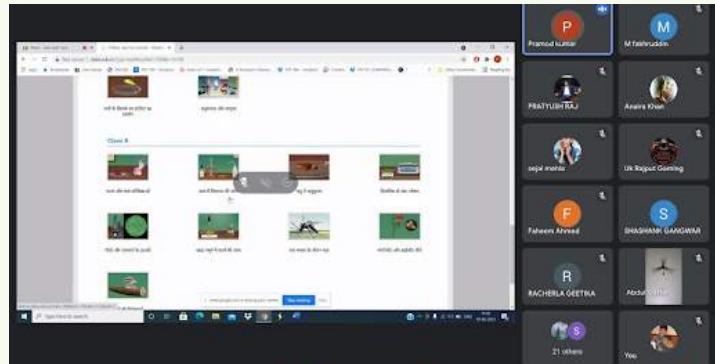
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan's efforts were widely acknowledged by the students as well as the faculty members of the Government Inter College (GIC) Chharba. Moreover, Mr. Vinod Kumar Pathak, a maths teacher at the school released a video thanking the team for their nonstop efforts and conveyed the gratitude of the students and teachers.

The initiative, which did not even cost a penny has inspired Unnat Bharat Abhiyan to do more, despite the difficulties of an online semester! The link is regularly updated to keep the students in touch with the happenings around the world and diversify the digital library.

# Virtual Labs Initiative

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

The Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily halted the world, causing unprecedented challenges with communities and economies affected everywhere. It has wreaked havoc on millions of families directly or indirectly. Its significant impact can be seen in the education sector as well. With schools, colleges, and universities shut down, education has wholly transformed to online platforms, due to which students aren't able to gain any practical knowledge.



So, knowing these impacts of the pandemic on education, the UBA team of Chharba village organized "Virtual Labs" for 2 hours on June 19, 2021, for students of Government Inter College (GIC) and local madrasa school, and demonstrated various science experiments to the students through google meet. Hence, the initiative was successful as this small effort to gain practical knowledge through online platforms was sustained amidst the pandemic. We hope the situation gets normal soon.

# JNV Enrollment

"A quality education grants us the ability to fight the war on ignorance and poverty."

The quality of education an individual gets is a determining factor in one's progress. The inadequate facilities and lack of infrastructure in the schools of Chandpur-Horawala have always been a matter of concern for team UBA.

Most of the students, and their parents, lack proper knowledge about government educational institutes like JNVs. JNVs are fully residential schools that provide good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from rural areas.

To make parents aware of the benefits of enrolling their ward in JNV, Team UBA first met with the School's principal in Chandpur, followed by a meeting with parents. The parents were encouraged to utilize this opportunity of excellent quality education provided at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and motivate their wards to appear in its entrance test and get enrolled there. The team put a lot of effort, and as a result, the students were encouraged to study and enroll in higher classes.

## Action Plan for Autumn Semester 2020-21

Following is the datewise tentative action plan for team Chandpur for Autumn Semester 2021-22.

### 1. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are fully residential, co-educational schools affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi having classes up to 12 standard. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous Organization under the ministry of HRD, Government of India, manages these Vidyalayas. Admission to these Vidyalayas is through a test called JNVST to Class VI. Children are predominantly from rural areas and there is 30% reservation for girls. Quality modern education with a strong component of culture, promotion of National Integration

Date	Activity
September 8, 2021	Collected information about JNV through internet and contact Shrashtika Singh regarding what problems she face when working on this initiative last year.
September 15, 2021	Contact school teachers to collect information of class 5 <sup>th</sup> students.
September 22, 2021	Contact class 5 <sup>th</sup> students and parents and make them aware about JNVs and how they work and provide them necessary studying material.
September 29, 2021	Allot mentors to promising students.
October 30, 2021	Take weekly feedback from students and mentors.

# TECHNOLOGY

## Computer Installation

As in the present world without technology, education is incomplete. Students should know and understand the technology for matching up with the world.

Technology helps make teaching and learning more meaningful and fun. The famous educator David Warlick said, "We need technology in every classroom and every teacher and student's hand as it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of the world."



So understanding the need for technology and experiencing the lack of facilities in the Meerpur village high school, Team UBA started working to provide them the facilities.

The team contacted different departments on the IIT campus and asked them to give the outdated or unused computers to the team for installing them in the village schools so that the students of the village can use the technology for learning. The team collected the required data about the school and students through the village school's staff members and arranged the necessary things and furniture for computers.



After arranging all the required things and checking all the computers, the team finally installed eight computers in the Meerpur Highschool with the staff members' cooperation.

Team UBA hopes that this step will help the students in their studies and provide them with a better view and opportunities to make their future bright.

# AWAWARENESS

## Public Policy Awareness

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world":-  
Mahatma Gandhi



'Gram Swarajya,' the idea of Mahatma Gandhi, finds itself increasingly relevant in India of the 21st century.

For that dream of 'Swarajya' to be realized, the village needs to be aware of its potential and the various ways to capitalize it.

With this goal in view, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan IIT Roorkee undertook a public policy awareness campaign to aware villagers of several public policies like e-Sanjeevani OPD, DEDS scheme, etc.

The videos created by the team were also forwarded to the villagers' WhatsApp groups, for an even more significant impact. UBA IIT Roorkee envisages empowered rural lives, and team hopes that it would shape many lives for the better, through this small step in a gentle way.



# NDA Exam Session

Team Chharba, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan conducted an online counselling and guidance seminar for students of Government Inter College (GIC), Chharba, who wish to pursue a career in the armed forces and pass the coveted NDA Entrance Exam.



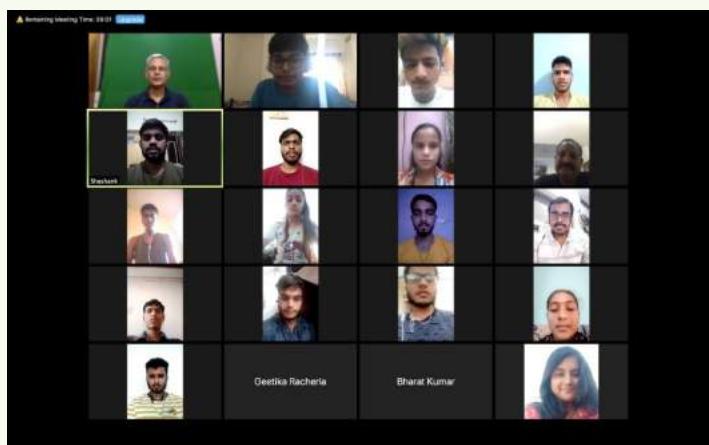
The students were mentored by Col. Mani Mohan Nehru (Retd.), a distinguished military man with a vast experience. Moreover, he has also served as a member of the Interview Panel of NDA SSB. He himself trains and guides thousands of students to clear the NDA Entrance Exam.

He not only debunked several myths, but also shared his experience with the students. In addition to this, he trained them to design an apt time table to prepare hard for the exam.

He suggested appropriate reference materials and books that could prove helpful. His inspiring words motivated several students and he clarified a number of doubts posed by the attendees.

Students wholeheartedly appreciated the webinar and requested the team to conduct similar sessions on Career Counselling. The event was witnessed by at least twenty participants.

A few teachers from the school also attended the event and acknowledged the efforts put in by the team and asked to conduct many more seminars.



# Festive season Covid19 Awareness

Diwali brings a wave of celebration and festivity throughout the country. But while indulging in the pleasures of undisputedly the biggest Hindu festival, the existence of a pandemic in our midst can easily be overlooked.

To dissipate relevant information & precautions among the villagers to be taken during the festive season, the team carried out a short awareness drive & the poster was circulated across all the village WhatsApp groups.

Both the awareness drive and poster were in hindi to reach a broader audience and have an increased impact.

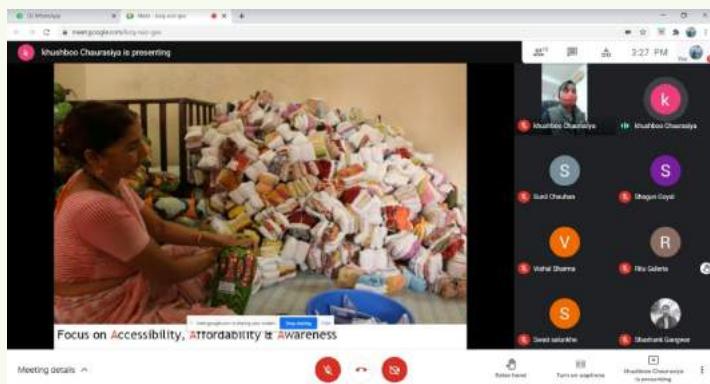
Precautions such as remembering to wear masks while socialising, preventing outside eatables, and minimizing the use of crackers especially in view of recovering patients were mentioned, among others.

This helped the villagers celebrate a safer Diwali and enjoy to the fullest while keeping themselves safe from the pandemic.



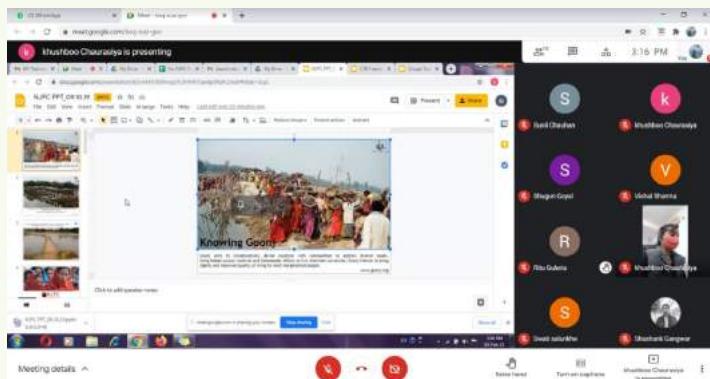
# "Not just a piece of Cloth" - Initiative

Globally, at least 500 million women and girls lack proper access to menstrual hygiene facilities. Several factors influence difficult experiences with menstruation, including inadequate facilities and materials, menstrual pain, fear of disclosure, and inadequate knowledge about the menstrual cycle.



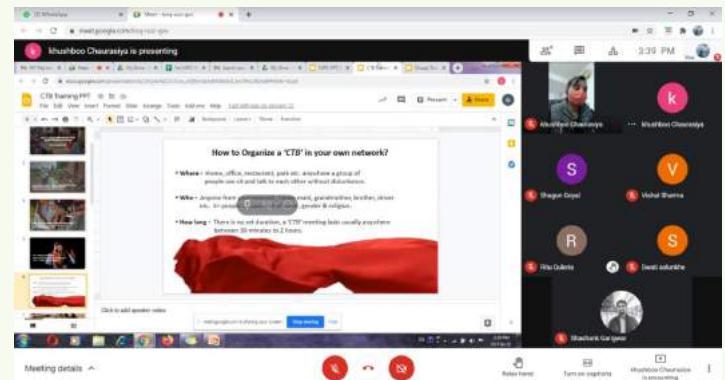
Menstrual Hygiene is vital to the empowerment and well-being of women and girls worldwide. It is about more than just access to sanitary pads and appropriate toilets though those are important.

It is also about ensuring women and girls live in an environment that values and supports their ability to manage their menstruation with dignity.



We were looking for NGOs to teach women about menstrual hygiene. Then we found an NGO (Goonj) which is implementing the 'Not Just a Piece of Cloth' initiative. We organized a webinar on menstruation in Chharba village in collaboration with the Goonj organization.

Ms Khushboo organised the session on behalf of the Goonj organization. She taught them how to make clothes pads in a very simple way but how to improve the level of cleanliness.

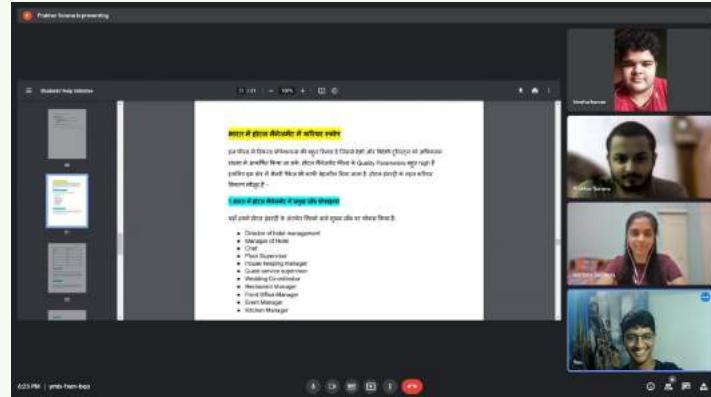
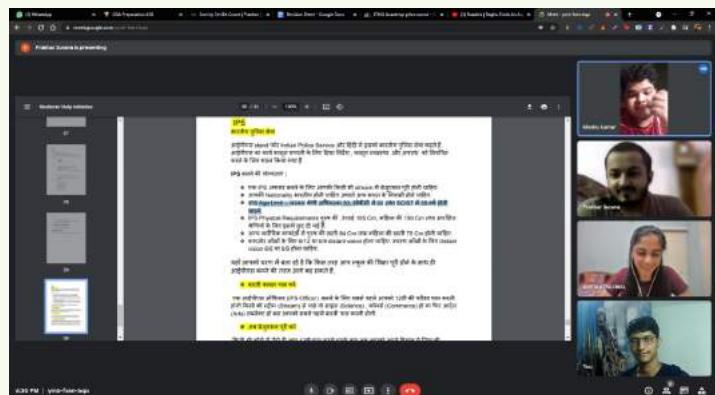
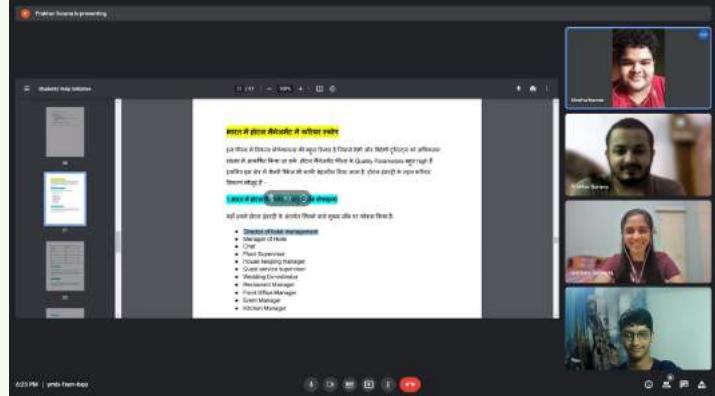


Since cotton fabric is easily available anywhere to make the pads, so the women of the village can easily make it. The sessions were interactive with women. Now they will not buy the pads anymore because they know how to make them.

# Student Help Initiative

"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future."

Today we live in a highly competitive era, and it becomes crucial to decide what career choices to make for the future. With the growing importance of career choices, one cannot overlook the need for proper career guidance and counseling. Often, many students from rural backgrounds don't get appropriate advice and guidance regarding their careers, creating numerous obstacles. Also, in this pandemic, the transition towards online learning has been challenging to the students and made them hopeless. To assess the education status in rural areas UBA, IIT Roorkee surveyed villages Chandpur and Horawala. The students were confused about the streams to choose for further studies and were consistently losing interest due to irregularity in classes from the last year.



To cope with this problem, UBA conducted a 'Student help initiative' by providing online career counseling through video calls and phone calls to cope with this problem. The team members contacted each of the students individually and addressed their queries and confusions. Overall, the initiative was successful. The session provided the students with good exposure to relevant career opportunities and better clarity to make appropriate career choices.



# EVENTS

## Guest Lectures

During the prevailing pandemic, despite the difficulty in managing the state of affairs, UBA IIT Roorkee made use of the online medium to continue working for the welfare and upliftment of the rural society.

A talk was delivered by Ms Anuradha Kapoor, the founder and director of 'Swayam', former member of UN Women Multi-country office of Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives and key advocate for passing of 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act', 2005. Her talk revolved around the idea that violence against women in an ongoing pandemic, and during COVID-19, it has only exaggerated.

A guest lecture by Mrs Archana Garodia Gupta, former President of FLO (Women's Wing of FICCI), renowned author, quizzer, ex-chair of FICCI National MSME Committee and an expert panelist in 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. Her talk revolved around the topic of impact technical institutions and students can deliver on the ground through intervention in the e-Com sector. Her talk focused on letting the rural women have their wings of freedom, through technical assistance leading them into the mainstream.



A guest lecture was organised in which Mr Naveen Kumar Chandra shared his journey from IAS officer through two major academic institutes IIT Roorkee and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). Mr Naveen talked about his project MAGIC for the women empowerment which they lead in the District Malda. The Project MAGIC aims to develop vocational education skills in women. The project received a great response from the women and continues to reach every women to get those skills in today's world.

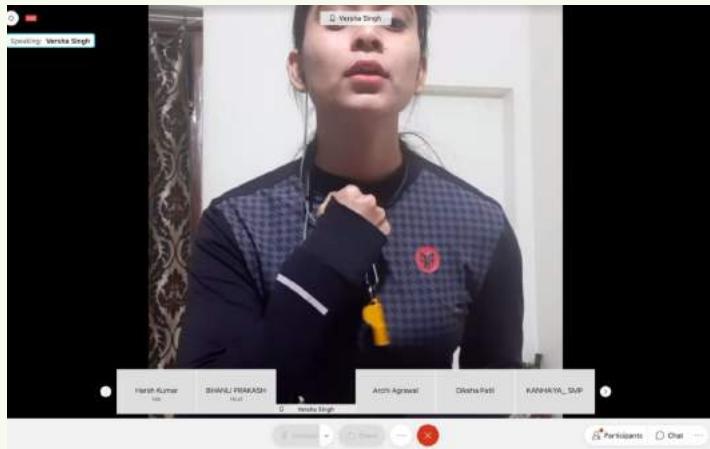


The events, combined, served as a good exercise in raising the morale, awareness and confidence among the rural women who participated in the same.

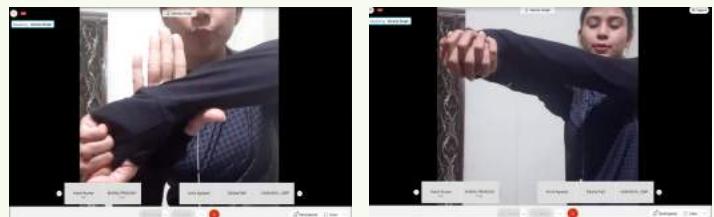
# Online Self Defence Camp

Team UBA organised an online Self-defence camp for girls. It was an interactive event addressed by Ms. Varsha Singh, Blackbelt in Taekwondo.

She has been 5th Commonwealth Taekwondo Championship Silver medalist and has received 3 gold, 5 silver and a bronze medal in Nationals.



Ms. Varsha illustrated some basic self defence techniques and also highlighted its importance for girls. This camp ignited an interest in the girls for learning self defence techniques.



The event was attended by girls from all the villages adopted by UBA and from several NGOs across the country.

# Sociothon

Sociothon, a social case competition conducted by team Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT Roorkee between December 29, 2020 to January 03, 2021 aims to nurture and foster critical thinking skills in order to weed out various social ills.

Under Sponsorship of Srijan Ka Sankalp (iShaksham), participants were called from first year undergraduates in teams comprising of three to four students. Teams were given a problem statement describing the social menace.

**Problem solving by problem finding**

- The perception of science being something "abstract" and useless, which leads to loss of motivation amongst the students, can be tackled with connecting it to their daily lives.
- There are instances /problems pertaining to science everywhere in a village setting. These can be easily utilized for gauging the students' interest in practical education. For eg: knowledge about various bacteria present in soil, harmful effects of insecticides/pesticides, use of manure as energy, other energy sources, etc. Contests like best out of waste can further motivate engagement in practical.

Competition consisted of two rounds the preliminary round and the final round. Teams registered formed by approximately 500 students were called to submit a one pager abstract of their solution of case study in preliminary round.

The final round was a live presentation before judge Shashwat Gangwal (founder of iShaksham). Total 8 teams were selected for final round after short out from more than 100 teams by a panelist team.

Three winner teams were shortlisted by judge in final round of the event which are as follows:

3rd: Socio-ARKS

2nd: Abhyuday

1st: White Tiger



Winner teams were awarded with cash prizes and an internship offer for each member of winning teams from iShaksham.

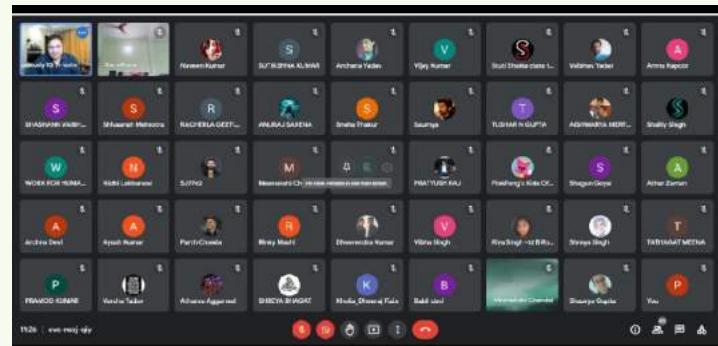


# Webinar on “Opportunities in Online Education”

‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’

~Nelson Mandela

In COVID-19 time when the whole world got disturbed, a lot of people passed away. There must be several challenges to each one continuously fighting against this pandemic. At this stage, the first thing that comes to one's mind is, "What about the future of the nation that is students? ". In this situation, authorities came up with a solution for Online Education. But the problem is still there" How to use Online Education effectively?"



For this big question, UBA, IIT Roorkee made a small step by Organizing a webinar on "Effective use of Online Education" for the students of Government Intercollege (GIC) Chharba to help them tackle the challenges.

This initiative proved to be a success by the efforts of the team members, Dr Gaurav Garg, and the active participation of the students.