

# **AVANI**

## **Annual Report**

### **2007 - 2008**

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## INTRODUCTION

We have been working in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, for the past eleven years with creation of rural livelihood opportunities through traditional craft, appropriate technology and farm based activities. The conservation of resources, both human and natural is a core value of our work. At present, Avani is working in 82 villages of Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts in Kumaon.

During the year, a waste water recycling system for cold areas has been successfully commissioned and is now providing clean water for growing organic vegetables at our campus. As this system uses entire grey and black water including the refuse from natural dyeing center, this is another landmark in the use of clean technology for production and consumption systems, and makes the silk and wool textiles even more green by establishing an almost zero waste cycle. This will also serve as a prototype for conserving water for reuse in an area which is being increasingly threatened with severe water scarcity.

The past year, apart from learning and growing as a team, has also been an year of reflecting on the past and planning for the future. This was made possible by organising a strategic planning workshop with key members of AVANI team, which was facilitated by Basic Needs of England. Outcome of this workshop is a roadmap for the next 5 years, which focusses on consolidating the work we have done so far with new inputs in health sector in the current geographical area and disseminating our experience through training other willing partners.

As part of this roadmap, a critical area that has emerged is the proposal for real life application of pine needle gasifier system for meeting cooking energy needs of rural community and exploring the possibility of selling surplus energy in the form of electricity, as a means of income generation for rural poor. This has the potential of regenerating our precious biodiversity while addressing rural energy and livelihood issues. The coming year should see some concrete action in this direction.

Through World Mountain People Association, we are proposing to set up a resource centre that will focus on natural dyes and appropriate technology. This is one among many that are being proposed to be set up across the Himalayas by various organisations in their regions and will help consolidate our work in functional areas

while providing a platform for documentation and dissemination of this work.

A friend, musician and documentary film maker, Chinmaya Dunster, made two short films on Avani that have been uploaded on Youtube. These films continue to have great reviews and are generating a lot more interest in our work.

We continue to work through six village centres, each centre coordinating all the activities undertaken in the nearby villages. All these centers, except two (Chanjana and Gadtir), have buildings of their own built on land donated by community members. There is a proposal to join the remaining two centers and the building for this combined center is now under construction at village Lingurani, which is in the middle of Chankana and Gadtir and where Mr Hayat Singh Bora has donated land for this village centre. The table on the next page provides a summary of the work being coordinated by each of these centers.



S. N	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installations	Sericultu	SHG Savings and Credit	SHGs working with IGP	Vermi-Compostin	Biogas	Girl Child Education	Adult Literacy	Pine Needle Collectio	Rain Water Harvestin
	<b>DHARAMGHAR CENTRE</b>											
1	Simgarhi	3	3		3	3	3		3			3
2	Saukyura	3	3									3
3	Dharamghar	3	3		3	3						
4	Mehrodi		3	3	3	3	3		3			3
5	Lamgingra		3		3	3	3					
6	Karala	3										
7	Dasoli	3										
8	Thuma	3										
9	Dhura	3										
10	Darati	3										
11	Basti			3	3							
12	Dudila				3							
13	Airari				3							
	<b>DIGOLI CENTRE</b>											
1	Mana	3	3	3	3	3	3		3			
2	Digoli	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3
3	Dhoulani	3	3	3	3	3	3					
4	Matkoli	3	3	3	3	3	3		3			
5	Kaligar	3										
6	Nayal	3										
7	Dana		3	3		3	3					
8	Raitoli			3								
9	Dewal		3						3			
10	Silingya		3		3	3						
11	Chantola		3	3	3	3	3					3
12	Aulani	3	3		3	3			3			
13	Simayal	3	3		3	3						3
14	Thanga	3	3	3	3	3	3					
15	Rawatsera		3									
16	Bhanyun		3					3				
17	Nargoli			3								
18	Devlet					3						
	<b>TRIPURADEVI CENTRE</b>											
1	Tripuradevi	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	Bhandari gaon	3										
3	Raiagar	3										3
4	Bana	3			3	3						
5	Manipur	3										
6	Hasyuri	3				3					3	
7	Borakhet	3										
8	Mungraon	3			3	3						
9	Berinag	3			3							
10	Sera Pahar				3	3						
11	Rawalgaon				3	3	3					
12	Sela				3							
13	Kanurpani				3							
14	Julagaon				3							
15	Pipli				3							
16	Jakheri				3							
17	Syalve											
18	Varsayat											
19	Hipa											

S No.	Name of Village	Textiles	Solar Installations	Sericultur	SHG Savings and Credit	SHGs working with IGP	Vermi-Composting	BioGas	Girl Child Education	Adult Literacy	Pine Needle Collection	Rain Water Harvesting
20	Gadera											
21	Busail											
22	Salan											
23	Gurena Rajwar			3								
24	Bahilkote			3								
25	Seragada			3								
26	Falarao Kharchour		3	3								
27	Rai			3								
28	Byati		3	3								
29	Bhingari		3	3								
30	Balta		3	3	3							
31	Sainikhet		3	3								
32	Musalgar		3									
	<b>Chankana Centre</b>											
1	Chankana	3		3	3	3	3			3		
2	Muni	3										
3	Goda	3										
4	Pungarkholi	3										
	<b>Sukna Centre</b>											
1	Ghangal	3	3					3				
2	Baneni				3							
3	Rammandir	3										
4	Dhaulani	3										
5	Gwal			3								
6	Golti		3	3								
7	Chak			3	3							
8	Okharani				3							
	<b>Gadtir Centre</b>											
1	Gadtir	3										
2	Bhanelgaon	3										
3	Puring	3										
4	Patoli	3										
5	Belkote			3			3					
6	Puranathal			3								
7	Dangigaon			3								

Following are the details of the activities undertaken by Avani during the year 2007 - 2008:

## 2. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

### 2.1 Solar Photovoltaics

We have been working with the dissemination of solar technology in the villages of Kumaon since 1997 and has taken solar lighting to 1650 families in more than 238 hamlets and villages in these eleven years.



This program continues to be managed through a network of 23 village level solar committees that are self-reliant financially and have trained technicians to repair and maintain the installed systems.

Our work in solar energy has received encouragement from people and organisations working in the field of rural technology. Avani had applied for the Ashden Award, that is given for innovative work in appropriate technologies. Our application was given a consolation prize of 1,000 pounds for the promotion of our work.

In order to make solar energy affordable for poor families who can not access governmental subsidies, we have focussed on developing LED based solar lighting systems.

### **A. Dissemination**

- This year, Avani has installed 83 solar home lighting systems (SHS) in five villages.
- 16 of these SHS were purchased by villagers at subsidised cost. Loans were made available from the technology fund at Avani.
- Avani has sold 28 LED based solar torches in the villages. We have also installed three LED based street lights in Nainital district at the Ramakrishna Sharda Mission, Pangote and at Majhkhali, Ranikhet.
- An 800 watt solar power plant was installed at the Dharamghar centre and another one of 600 watt capacity was installed at the Sukna centre for lighting and running computers.

Other highlights of this program are:

- The samitis have provided credit facility to poor families to purchase solar lighting systems. A loan of Rs 10,90,180 has been extended to 182 families so far. Out of this, Rs 7,96,190 has already been recovered during the past five years.
- A loan of Rs 74,700 was also provided from the technology fund for installation of solar powered charkhas and lighting systems. Out of this Rs 20,600 has already been recovered during the last year.
- The total maintenance fund collected in 23 village samitis until 2008 is Rs 32,21,074.
- Seven batteries have been replaced from this maintenance fund. These solar systems were installed some years ago.
- The samitis have contributed Rs 91,280 towards the salary of the solar technicians during this year.

- The solar workshop at AVANI has nine technicians including 4 women. During this year, they have made 146 field visits in all, out of which women technicians have made 55 visits.
- The details of the fund collected in these samitis are given in table 1 and table 2

Table 1

Name of the Village Samiti	Maintenance Fund collected in 2007-08	Total Fund collected until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2008	Credit given in year 07-08	Total Credit assistance given until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 08	Recovery of the loan until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 08	Contribution from Samiti towards Salary of Solar Technician 07-08
Dewal-A	1,180	92,324	0	11,980	7,100	0
Dewal-B	0	6,270	0	0	0	1,000
Saukyura	0	37,635	0	41,930	22,500	0
Silingya	1,830	1,19,918	0	1,01,830	39,650	820
Mana	1,330	1,14,664	0	95,840	74,280	1,700
Mehrodi	6,200	20,4,446	0	3,77,370	3,45,100	0
Thanga	1,420	26,6,126	0	2,33,610	1,87,700	0
Uderiya	0	71,315	0	0	0	0
Rawatsera	1,250	84,238	0	5,990	3,900	1,750
Bhanyun	0	1,73,838	0	0	0	0
Chantola	2,710	1,45,926	0	47,920	26,940	0
Simgarhi	0	1,63,130	0	1,25,790	44,800	0
Udiyari	0	50,602	0	0	0	0
Dharamghar	0	9,028	0	0	0	0
Koirali	0	8,206	0	0	0	0
Simayal	0	1,74,748	0	47,920	44,220	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,920</b>	<b>17,22,414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,90,180</b>	<b>7,96,190</b>	<b>5,270</b>

Table 2

Villages covered under Rural Electrification	Maintenance Fund collected during the year	Total Fund collected until	Contribution towards Salary of Solar Technician from the
--	--	----------------------------	--

Scheme	2007-08	2008	Samiti
Busail	4,200	2,97,900	4,200
Gurna Rajwar	5,000	52,880	5,000
Bahilkote	0	49,440	0
Hipa	33,300	2,74,200	23,300
Golti	19,410	4,03,110	19,410
Seragada	17,000	2,99,400	17,000
Falrao Kharchor	7,100	1,21,730	17,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,010</b>	<b>14,98,660</b>	<b>86,010</b>

The details of the items manufactured by the solar workshop are given in Table 3.

Table 3

Item	Manufactured	Sold
Lantern 12 volt	17	13
Lantern 6 volt	80	44
<b>Total Lanterns</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>57</b>
SHS	37	26
Solar Torch		28
Batteries		50

<b>Income from Sale of Lanterns</b>	1,46,020
<b>Income from sale of accessories</b>	81,741
<b>Income from repair</b>	14,913
<b>Income from Sale of SHS</b>	5,22,670
<b>Income from Sale of Torch</b>	7,875
<b>Income from Sale of Batteries</b>	67,555
<b>Other Income</b>	10,087
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,50,861</b>

## B. Building

## Capacity

In this year, five youth from the villages of Mehrodi, Thanga, Simayal, Hipa and Busail were trained as solar technicians. Two technicians were trained in arc welding and in the operation of the pine needle gasifier. Two trainees from SWRC Sikkim, were trained in both solar technology and solar water heater fabrication at Tripuradevi.

Two of our technicians participated in a training for fabrication of parabolic solar cookers at the SWRC Tilonia, Rajasthan.

The details of the trainings are given in Table 4.

Table 4

Name of Village/Organisation	No of Trainees	Subject	Duration
SWRC Sikkim	2	Solar /Mechanical	30-4-07 to 22-07-07
Mehrodi	1	Solar Technician	12-04-07 to 12 -10-07
Thanga	1	Solar Technician	27-05-07 to 27-11-07
Simayal	1	Solar Technician	27-06-07 to 27-12-07
Hipa	1	Solar Technician	25-07-07 to 25-1-08
Busail	1	Solar Technician	28-09-07 to 13-11-07
Raiagar	1	Gasifier/Arc Welding	Ongoing
Thanga	1	Gasifier Arc Welding	Ongoing
Bana and Mana	2	Parabolic Solar Cooker (at SWRC Tilonia)	8-01-08 to 28-03-08

## 2.2 Solar Thermal Appliances

### **A. Solar Water Heaters**

The installation and fabrication of solar water heaters continues.

To enable the users to have hot water on rainy days as well, we have attached a wood based Bukhari to the solar water heaters.

Four solar water heaters have been installed this year.

The total income from the sale of solar water heaters is Rs 2,26,300.

The details of the installations are given in table 5.

Table 5

		Capacity of	
--	--	-------------	--

Institution	Location	Solar Water Heaters	Quantity
Residence	Nainital	500 ltr	1
Residence	Nainital	100 ltr	1
Residence	Ranikhet	100 ltr.	2

## Design Improvement of the SWHs

We continue to focus on improving the efficiency of the water heaters.

The main improvements this year are:

- Use of a heat exchange mechanism in the insulated tank to maintain the temperature in winter. It also prevents the freezing and bursting of the pipes in very cold weather.
- Use of stainless steel sheets in the storage tank to increase the life of the tank.
- Hybrid system using wood stoves for rainy and cloudy days.

## B. Solar Driers

This year, we have worked on the improvement of the solar driers as well. We are trying to make them more efficient, compact and affordable.

The two solar driers installed for the women's self help groups at the villages of Mana and Digoli are being used for drying and processing of spices and dye material. This year the women processed 83.75 kg of dye material in the solar driers. The total income generated in these two villages through the processing of dye material is Rs 37,324.

We have installed one solar drier at UDWDP, Dehradun during the year. The income from the sale of the drier is Rs 25,000.

## 2.3 Mechanical Workshop (MW)

The mechanical workshop at Tripuradevi, alongwith manufacturing solar water heaters, has completed the plumbing and gas connection fittings for the new field centres and natural dyeing center of Avani.

The technicians have also completed the painting of the roof of the office and the community centre at Tripuradevi.

The workshop has fabricated roof trusses, dormers, staircases, railings, purlions, window frames etc.

The list of items manufactured by the mechanical workshop is given in tables 6 and 7.

Table 6

Other Items	Total
Roof Trusses	1
Street Light Stand	8
Window Shades	4
Solar Panel Stand	1
Bukhari	3
Window Frames	2
Door Frames	1
Power Plant Stand	2
Solar Drier	1
Bunk Bed	2
Net welding in Window	13
Water Recycling Tank Cover	12
Curtain Rod Hook	70
<b>Total items made</b>	<b>121</b>

Table 7

Items Made for Solar Water Heaters	Total
Collector Panels	18
Tank stand	2
Auto cut tank	2
Insulated tanks	1
Collector Box	15

The workshop has also earned Rs 11,370 in the past year, by providing 94.5 hours of electricity for the calendaring machine for textile processing.

Total Income of the Mechanical workshop	
Fabrication	Rs 90,242
Sale of Solar Drier	Rs 25,000
Sale and installation of Solar Water Heaters	Rs 2,48,060
Calendaring	Rs 11,370
Service charge	Rs 40,555
Income from training	Rs 30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 4,45,227</b>

## 2.4 Pine Needle Gasifier

The pine needle gasifier installed at the Avani centre has been functional for almost two years now. Considering the potential of using this idea for reducing forest fires and consequent regeneration of biodiversity, we

were invited to make a presentation to the Conservator's Conference where senior forest officials of Uttarakhand state interacted with us to learn about the technology and economic feasibility of pine needle gasification system.

We are now in the process of drafting a proposal for a pilot program of pine needle gasification system which would involve three hamlets of one gram sabha. The idea is to meet cooking energy needs of these villages and sell surplus energy in the form of electricity as a means of income generation for rural poor. Following the presentation at Conservator's Conference, we have been working with the forest department to prepare this plan and the department has promised to actively participate in the implementation of this program. The coming year should see some concrete action in this direction.

## **2.5 Biogas**

In our efforts on popularising the use of biogas for domestic cooking needs only one bio gas plant of two cubic mtr capacity, has been constructed at Sani Udiyar this year. However, we continue to hope to create more enthusiasm for this technology which can have far reaching impact on women's empowerment and saving the forests.

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

AVANI has been working with the promotion and preservation of traditional craft for eight years now. Our work has largely benefitted the traditional women artisans of the Bora Kuthalia community. We have achieved our objective of using traditional skills to create marketable, contemporary products to establish a self reliant business managed by a rural team of managers trained at Avani. Decentralised production is continuously managed by 6 field centers.

345 artisans from 39 villages and hamlets have participated in this program during the year. 90.72 per cent of these beneficiaries are women. Out of these 39 villages, we work intensively in 20 and in the rest of the 19 villages we work with individual artisans.

A total of Rs 5,17,045 was generated as wages through this program this year. Most artisans devote part time to spinning and weaving. Therefore, the earnings from these activities are mostly supplementary.

The market base of our naturally dyed and hand made textiles is now quite stable. We have explored

opportunities for export and participated in the New York International Gift Fair with the financial support of Friends of Tilonia. This has helped us to form linkages with designers and have a first hand response to our products.

Two of our products have received the UNESCO Seal of Excellence that is given for excellence, uniqueness and eco friendliness for the second consecutive year. Our products were also sent to be exhibited at the Equit Expo in Paris in October 2007 through Academie Fratellini and Textures in France.

The list of villages associated with the textile program is given in Table 8

Table 8

	Name of Centre and Associated Villages					
S No.	Dharamghar Dist Bageshwar	Digoli Dist Bageshwar	Tripuradevi Dist. Pithoragarh	Chankana Dist. Pithoragarh	Sukna Dist. Pithoragarh	Gadtir Dist. Pithoragarh
1.	Simgarhi	Mana	Mehrodi	Chankana	Sukna	Gadtir
2.	Saukyura	Digoli	Bhandarigaon	Muni	Ghanghal	Bhanelgaon
3.	Dhura	Dhaulani	Rai Agar	Goda	Dhaulani	Puriag
4.	Dharamghar	Matkholi	Bana	Pungarkholi	Ram Mandir	Patoli
5.	Thuma	Nayal	Tripuradevi			
6.		Thanga	Mungraon			
7.		Aulani	Manipur			
8.		Simayal	Hasyuri			
9.		Kaligar	Borakhet			
10.		Devlet	Berinag			
11.			Darati (Munsiari)			
12.			Bankote			

The details of the artisans, wages and sales are given in Table 9.

Table 9

Artisan Skill	2005-2006	2006-07	2007-2008
Spinners	167	197	211
Weavers	144	51	45



Knitters	30	18	12
Tailors	8	5	7
Pashmina Sorters	9	2	0
Natural Dyers	9	6	6
Knitters and Spinners	213	34	2
Knitters and Weavers	4	8	0
Weavers and Spinners	5	1	5
Weaver, Spinner & Knitter	7	0	0
Pashmina Sorter & Knitter	32	2	0
Pashmina Sorter & Spinner	7	0	0
Spinner and Dye material collector	0	18	16
Weaver, Knitter and Dye material collector	0	5	0
Spinner, Knitter and Dye material collectors	0	5	0
Total Artisans Trained and Traditional	635	352	304
Trainees	-	10	20
Dye Material Collectors	39	26	21
<b>Total No. of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>345</b>
<b>Total no. of Villages</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total Income Generated (wages generated + stipend)</b>	<b>Rs 6,67,206</b>	<b>Rs 5,01,017</b>	<b>Rs 5,17,045</b>
<b>Total Sale</b>	<b>Rs 27,99,887</b>	<b>Rs 23,46,153</b>	<b>Rs 27,64,590</b>

The artisan's collective, Kumaon Earthcraft Cooperative is gradually gaining strength. It now has 54 shareholders and has taken over some part of the production (spinning of silk) and export sales. The Cooperative had also acquired its CST, PAN no and export license. During this year, the cooperative has produced 73.55 kg of spun yarn that has generated Rs 40,441 as wages.

The Cooperative has also earned Rs 35,633 through the export of Avani's products to USA and France.

The community wise breakup of artisans is given in table 10:

Table 10

	Women	Men	Total
<b>Shaukas (ST)</b>	19	1	<b>20</b>
<b>Bora Kuthalia (OBC)</b>	245	25	<b>270</b>
<b>Scheduled Castes</b>	31	5	<b>36</b>
<b>General</b>	18	1	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>345</b>

No new looms were installed this year. The 12 solar charkhas installed last year are being used part time. The details of production are given in table 11 and table 12.

Table 11

Item and Material	Production 2005-2006	Production 2006-2007	Production 2007-2008
<b>Shawls</b> (wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	657	165	445
<b>Stoles</b> (wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	592	523	941
<b>Mufflers</b> (pashmina, wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	860	750	843
<b>Fabric</b> (wool, silk & wool, pure silk)	907.46 m	629	293.23
<b>Ponchos</b>	-	69	15
<b>Capes finished on loom</b>	17	-	-
<b>Sarees (5.5m)</b>	18	6	15
<b>Jackets Adults and kids</b> (Tibetan tweed, Merino and silk and wool)	619	332	142
<b>Tailored Capes</b>	130	36	-
<b>Sweaters and Caps</b>	57	3	64

<b>Socks</b>			17 pairs
<b>Durries</b>	35	13	5
<b>Merino Blankets</b>	120	0	-
<b>Thulma and Chutka</b>	26	45	67
<b>Scarves</b>	-	48	-
<b>Cushion Covers</b>	-	25	73
<b>Asans - small hand knotted carpets</b>	-	64	8
<b>Tea Cozy</b>	-	42	53
<b>Namada</b>	-	6	-
<b>Bed Spread</b>	-	3	-
<b>Short Tops</b>			8
<b>Kurta</b>			5
<b>Trousers</b>			2
<b>Capichon</b>			16
<b>Long Coat</b>			13
<b>Bolero</b>			1
<b>Tibetan Wool Blanket</b>			3

Table 12

<b>Spinning</b>	
<b>Particular</b>	<b>Qty Kg</b>
Spun wool	529
Spun silk	73.55
Spun Pashmina	0
Spun Cotton	2.615
<b>Total</b>	<b>605.165 kg</b>

### **Capacity Buiding**

In continuation of our work of developing capable human resource for the producers' cooperative, we organize intensive trainings for the supervisory team. This group

of supervisors have been trained in the management of the enterprise, both technical and financial. Some of them are not traditional weavers and therefore a continuous process of training and skill upgradation is essential. These trainings focus on the technical aspects of the looms, weaving and quality control. Detailed discussions are also held on the problems faced in different aspects of the work and are resolved collectively.

In this year, four rural youth were integrated in the supervisory training, three of which are women. Two women who have completed their training have been placed at the Chankana and Tripuradevi centres. The other two will be placed at the Sukna and Digoli centres once the training is complete.

As a result of good support mechanisms that were established during the past two years, the documentation, information management and stock management have improved considerably. Our systems are now well in place and are functioning smoothly.

The details of the trainings are given in Table 13 and Table 14:

Table 13

#### **Skill Development**

<b>S.No .</b>	<b>Subject of Training</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Trainees</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
1	Accounts	1-4-07 to 31-4-08	AVANI Centre Tripuradevi	Diwan Ram	Deepa Tej
2	Stock Keeping	Ongoing from 26 Sep 07	AVANI Centre	Shankar Pant	Rajnish Pant
3	Stock keeping Finished goods	26-11-07 ongoing	AVANI Centre Tripuradevi	Munni Tamta	Kamla Rawat
4	Stock Keeping	15-5-07 to Aug	AVANI Centre Tripuradevi	Basanti	Santoshi Dhapola
5.	Stock Keeping	6-9-07 to Jan 08	AVANI Centre Tripuradevi	Sarita Bora	Santoshi Dhapola
6.	Stock Keeping	Nov 07 to Jan 08	AVANI Centre Tripuradevi	Kanti Chanyal	Santoshi Dhapola

Table 14

**Issue Based Trainings**

S. N.	Subject	Duration	Venue	Participants	Resource Person/Organisation
1	Adult Literacy	23-5-07 to 27-5-07	Tripuradevi	Lata , Seeta, Sobha, Babita, Joyti, Sobha 2, Kamla, Devi	Mr. Kamal, Allaripu
2	Health Care	18-6-07 to 28-6-07	Aarohi, Village Satoli, Distt. Nainital	Kamla Devi	Dr. Basu
3	Development issues and role of NGO	16-05-07 to 17-05-07	Nirmala convent School Kathgodam	Rajendra Joshi	
4	Rural Health Insurance	27-7-07 to 28-07-07	Tripuradevi	AVANI Team and Participants from villages of Mehrodi, Sela, Banani Rawalgaon and Pahar	Sangita Ben, Jyoti Ben, SEWA Ahmedabad
5	Organizational Development Workshop	4-02-08 to 7-02-08	Konark	AVANI team	Chris Underhill, Subrat Mishra, Vandana Bedi and Ben Dixon
6	Village level meeting of WMPA	29-02-08	Tripuradevi Centre	88 Participants from 16 villages	Rajendra Jagdish Lalita
7	Follow up of Organizational Development Workshop	3-3-08	Tripuradevi Centre	AVANI Team	

The details of the skill based trainings of the artisans are given in Table 15:

Table 15

S.N.	Subject	Duration	Venue	Participants	Resource Person/Organisation
1	Tailoring	13-06-07 to 13-10-07	Tripuradevi Centre	Rekha, Pushpa and Geeta	Shobha Arya
2	Dyeing		Tripuradevi Centre	Neeru and Renu	Dheeraj Pant
3	Tailoring	17-10-07	Tripuradevi	Parwati, Geeta,	Kito and Eliette,

		to 28-10-07	Centre	Bharat, Sabjeet and Jeewanti	France Fashion Designers
4	Shibori Dyeing and Printing	26-11-07 to 10-01-08	Tripuradevi Centre	Dheeraj, Jagdish, Renu, Hansha, Sita and Hema	Beatrice Derval, France Industrial Designer
5	Weaving Supervision	Ongoing from 1 Dec 07	Digoli centre	Lalita Bora	Harish Pant
6	Weaving Supervision	Ongoing from 15 Dec 07	Sukna centre	Vinod Upadhaya	Harish Tamta
7	Weaving	Ongoing from sep07	Dharamghar centre	Kamla, Deepa, Ganga	Kamla Rathour

8	Weaving	Ongoing from Aug 07	Digoli centre	Anita, Anita Devi, Heera Devi, Kavita Devi	Harish Pant
9	Weaving	Ongoing from Jan 08	Chankana centre	Vandana, Dolly, Reshmi and Chandrakala	Kamla Bora
10	Silk Spinning	1-04-07 to 15-05-07	Gadtir centre	Meera Bora Kamla Bora	Aan Singh Bora
11	Silk Spinning	1-11-07 to 31-1-08	Gadtir centre	Himani Bora Seema Bora	Aan Singh Bora

### **3.2 Product Design**

During this year, designers from USA and France have created new product designs.

- We worked together with designers from Aid to Artisans to upgrade and distill a collection from our product line to be showcased at the New York Gift Fair. They also created cushions with recycled fabrics that were very well received. The collection was much appreciated in the New York Gift Fair as well as at the Delhi Gift Fair.
- A French designer, Eliette Couston volunteered to work with our team of rural tailors to develop five styles of garments. The workshop was a great success and the capichon especially was very well received in India as well as in France.
- Ms Kito, who is a connoisseur of textiles and has been organising exhibitions of handmade products in France for more than twenty years, helped with the design workshop as well and is supporting the marketing of our products in France.
- An industrial designer from France volunteered to train our natural dyeing unit in shibori and

printing techniques. We have made a small collection of shawls and stoles with the Shibori technique.

## **Waste Material Recycling**

For the past three years, we have been recycling our waste materials into new products.

- The waste yarn from the loom continues to be recarded, respun and rewoven into fabric to make one of a kind products.
- The left over fabric from the tailoring section has been made into tie dye cushion covers that were well received at the New York Gift Fair.

## **3.3 Marketing and Branding**

We have expanded our market base in the export market in Canada, US and France. We are now working largely with orders so that we don't block our capital in building inventory. This has meant a plateau in our sales but we feel it is a more sustainable way of working.

- AVANI has participated in 12 exhibitions in India this year.
- Avani has also participated in exhibitions abroad including the New York Gift Fair and a small show with Friends of Tilonia. Our products were also exhibited at the Equit Expo through Textures, a design group in France.
- We have been selling our products through some retail stores as well.
- Our total sales this year are Rs 27,64,590.
- This year two signature Avani products have been awarded the UNESCO Seal of Excellence. The awarded products are: eri and wool stole and eri and muga stole. Our products continue to carry the Silk Mark and Craft Mark.

The details of the exhibitions as well as the retail stores are given in Table 16:

Table 16

<b>Participation in Exhibitions</b>	<b>Export Buyers</b>	<b>Domestic Retail stores</b>
Aakruti Vastra 2007 Hyderabad	Maiwa Handprints, Canada	People Tree, Delhi
CCI, Hotel Chola Sheraton Chennai	Friends of Tilonia, USA	Osho World, Delhi
Saras Bazaar, Dehradun	Dosa, USA	Nature Shop, Aarohi

Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur	Le Passeur, France	CCIC, New Delhi
Ladies wing IMC Mumbai	Textures, France	Shilpi Sharanya, Chennai
CCIC New Delhi		Amethyst Chennai
KARKAMAL Deharadun		Kamla Shop, New Delhi
Asian Heritage Foundation, New Delhi		
Equit Expo - Textures, Paris		
Nature Bazar Delhi Haat		
Concern India, Chandigarh		
Lotus Bazaar, Rishikesh		
Trade show Indian Expo Mart, Noida		
New York Gift Fair, USA		

### 3.4 Natural Dyeing

All textiles produced at AVANI are hand dyed in natural dyes at the AVANI centre. The dye materials are grown, collected in the wild and hand pounded by the women's groups. The total income generated by the women's groups through processing of dye material is Rs. 9,910.

The dyeing facility uses solar heated water for preheating for dyeing and all waste water is recycled after treatment for growing vegetables.

The details of the yarn dyed in the dyeing workshop are given in Table 17.

Table 17

Natural Dyeing		
Particulars	Qty Kg	Shibori
Merino yarn	288.35	
Tibetan yarn	244.15	
Silk (tussar, eri, mulberry)	286.96	
Pashmina	2	
<b>Total Dyed Yarn</b>	<b>821.46</b>	



Mufflers	66	3
Shawls	2	12
Stole and Scarves	4	7

- **Research and Development**

Research and development of new shades continues and has been well documented. We are now researching two local plants that might yield blue color. We have also grown polygonum (for blue color) at our centre successfully and will now try to cultivate it in a larger quantity next year.

- **Natural Colors for Painting**

We continue to produce a range of natural colors for painting that are non toxic, safe for the children and are plant based. The colors are extracted from turmeric, myrobolan, pomegranate and walnut rind that are grown or collected by women's groups thereby providing income in the villages. This year we sold five litres of natural colors for Rs 2,750. We are still finalising the packaging of the colors.

- **Organic Kumkum**

Kumkum is made traditionally in our hills. It is used during religious ceremonies and on auspicious occasions. The traditional recipe uses turmeric and therefore kumkum has a lot of medicinal properties.

Unfortunately, the traditional Kumkum has been replaced by chemical alternatives that use mercury, and are very harmful for the body. We are training women's groups to make kumkum and to revive this tradition. This year we have produced 14.6 kg of organic kumkum and test marketed it at different exhibitions. We have sold kumkum worth Rs 3,265 in the past year and hope to increase this market.

- **Linkage with other dyers**

We plan to upgrade our existing natural dyeing unit to a documentation, research and training centre. We would also like to have exchanges and training programs with dyers from other parts of India.

We intend to cultivate dye plants at the Avani centre as well as with the farmers as a livelihood option. We plan to set up a dye extraction facility for value addition to the dye plants. To begin with, we are looking at extracting dye from a local weed that is abundantly available. The dye extraction machine will be set up by the next year.

### 3.5 Appropriate Technology in Textile Processing

We use rainwater for natural dyeing and washing of the textiles. This water is pre heated in solar water heaters upto 60 deg celsius thereby conserving fuel. We use soapnut for all our washing and all the waste water is recycled for irrigation.

## 4. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### 4.1 Self Help Groups

#### 4.1.1 Micro Credit

AVANI is now working with 37 women's groups. Eight new groups have been organised in the villages of Balta, Chak, Basti, Dudila, Okharani, Airari and Jakheri. These groups continue to have regular savings and provide loans amongst the members.

The details of the savings and credit activity of the women's groups are given in tables 18 and 19:

Table 18

Name of group	No. of Members	Meetings held	No. of women	Deposit up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 07	Deposit in 07-08	Total Deposit	Loan given last year	Loan given in 07 - 08	Loan refund
Lamjhingra	16	11	135	31,416	3,980	35,396	11,000	8,000	2,800
Chantola	15	0	0	10,029	3,990	14,019	0	0	0
Simayal	17	5	49	11,880	4,080	15,960	0	2,000	0
Mana	12	5	45	26,577	4,279	30,856	18,000	9,000	3,000
Dhoulani	17	6	75	13,115	3,400	16,515	0	12,000	5,000
Mehrodi	14	11	119	10,652	3,420	14,072	6,000	6,000	0
Simgarhi	12	11	135	7,107	4,015	11,122	0	500	500
Tripuradevi	16	12	153	11,385	10,730	22,115	7,000	11,500	7,000
Digoli	18	5	68	11,451	9,180	20,631	0	0	0
Matkoli	9	4	32	5,365	1,150	6,515	0	0	0
Dharamghar	6	12	92	4,118	2,100	6,218	1,500	0	560
Berinag	23	12	100	23,980	7,175	31,155	9,000	11,000	9,500
Chankana	11	12	100	5,182	1,930	7,112	3,000	0	3,000

Thanga	14	5	46	23,496	2,260	25,756	33,000	0	1,000
Sukna	11	11	105	18,803	2,400	21,203	0	0	0
Silingya	17	12	141	2,792	3,310	6,102	0	0	0
Gadtir	9	12	82	1,320	8,50	2,170	0	0	0
Mungraon	21	11	145	5,345	3,490	8,835	0	0	0
Hasyuri	8	12	74	1,435	1,745	3,180	0	0	0
Rawalgaon	18	12	138	3,029	4,420	7,449	0	0	0
Bana bend	17	11	115	1,923	3,480	5,403	0	0	0
Sera Pahar	9	12	104	1,400	2,160	3,560	0	0	0
Bana	12	11	73	1,620	2,640	4,260	0	0	0
Sela	14	12	132	2,210	3,370	5,580	0	0	0
Kanurpani	10	12	105	1,160	2,400	3,560	0	0	0
Jula	15	12	140	1,140	3,966	5,106	0	0	0
Banari	8	12	87	580	1,790	2,370	0	0	0
Aulani	12	7	76	900	2,640	3,540	0	0	0

Pipli	15	12	148	780	3,680	4,460	0	0	0
Jyoti group Balta	11	12	103	0	2,663	2,663	0	0	0
Pragatisheel group Balta	11	12	107	0	1,624	1,624	0	1,000	0
Chak	13	8	78	0	2,140	2,140	0	0	0
Basti	7	7	48	0	1,740	1,740	0	0	0
Dudila	23	7	99	0	1,740	1,740	0	0	0
Okharani	9	5	40	0	840	840	0	0	0
Airari	17	3	30	0	1,020	1,020	0	0	0
Jakheri	12	3	39	0	720	720	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>3358</b>	<b>2,40,190</b>	<b>1,16,517</b>	<b>3,56,707</b>	<b>88,500</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>46,360</b>

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007 - 2008
<b>Total Groups</b>	19	29	37
<b>Total Members</b>	275	403	499

<b>No. of meetings held</b>	103	156	339
<b>No. of women present</b>	1022	1555	3358
<b>Total Deposit in the year</b>	Rs 27,456	Rs 75,922	Rs 1,16,517
<b>Total collection of groups</b>	Rs 1,72,209	Rs 2,43,131	Rs 3,56,707
<b>Credit given</b>	Rs 46,270	Rs 88,500	Rs 61,000
<b>Recovery of the loan given by the groups</b>	Rs 13,000	Rs 32,100	Rs 46,360
<b>Total credit given by the groups in the last three years</b>		Rs 1,52,770	Rs 1,95,770

Table 19

#### 4.1.2 Income Generating activities with the Self Help Groups

In order to link the micro credit groups to productive activities, some income generation activities with appropriate technology inputs were initiated with them. Several training programmes were organized that were divided into two parts:

- Cash crop cultivation, bee keeping, fruit processing, collection of natural dyes.
- Supporting technologies like solar driers, biogas, poly house construction, vermi compost pit construction etc.

The details of the training programs are given in table 20.

Table 20

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Participating group</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Resource person</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
1	Polyhouse construction and cultivation techniques	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	AVANI community workers and farmers	4-11-07 to 5-11-07	Mr. Shambhu Kandpal, Kasar Trust, Bageshwar	6
2	Drip irrigation	AVANI centre Tripuradevi	AVANI community worker and village farmer	20-02-08 to 21-02-08	Mr. Satendra Mishra and Rajesh Kumar, IDE Lucknow	12
<b>Total no. of Participants</b>						<b>18</b>

The women's groups continue to cultivate improved variety of seeds from Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan in Almora.

- 51 kg of high yielding organic paddy was sown in five self help groups.
- A total of 287 kg turmeric was sown by 42 members of self help groups in 6 villages.
- 40 kg of turmeric was sown at the AVANI centre at Tripuradevi.
- 84 kg of turmeric has been purchased by AVANI for making Kumkum. The income of the member is Rs 2,520.
- 56 kg of turmeric was also purchased from the AVANI farm.

#### **4.2 Girl Child Education**

We continue to support the education of girls from very poor families where they would have been taken out of the school due to financial constraints. This endeavour is supported entirely by individual donations.

At present, we are supporting eleven girls from eight villages. We are also supporting a school in Balta village in Almora district through these donations.

<b>Donations received during the year 2007-08</b>	<b>Rs</b>
<b>1,025</b>	

<b>Total expenses on books, dress and tuition fees</b>	<b>Rs</b>
<b>35,440</b>	
<b>(including the expenses of running the school at Balta village)</b>	

#### **4.3 Adult Literacy**

Adult literacy classes continue in the villages. A training program for the teachers was organized with ALLARIPU for curriculum development. During the training, the teachers developed teaching and learning materials as well.

Rural libraries have been set up in the villages of Digoli, Chankana, Sukna and Tripuradevi. We have also subscribed to magazines like Pitara and Uttara that are for neo literates.

Computers have been installed in the centres of Digoli, Sukna and Dharamghar. A trainer will be sent to these centres to teach the supervisors and young people from the village to work on the computer.

The Gadtir literacy centre was closed down due to some problems.

Details of the literacy centres are given in tables 21 and 22.

**Table 21**

Name of centre	No. of students	Age group			
		5-10	11-19	20-40	41-50
Chankana	10	-	-	10	-
Gadtir	-	-	-	-	-
Digoli	9	-	-	9	-
Tripuradevi	6	-	-	4	2
Sukna	8	-	-	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>

**Table 22**

Name of centre	No. of students	Progress of students				
		Story Reading	Easy paragraph	Words	Alphabets	To learn alphabets
Chankana	10	-	3	3	2	2
Gadtir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digoli	9	-	3	-	3	3
Tripuradevi	6	-	-	4	1	1
Sukna	8	-	-	2	-	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	-	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>

#### **4.4. Children's Play House**

The construction of a playhouse for children was initiated at the Tripuradevi centre. This playhouse is being constructed with local materials like wood, bamboo, grass and mud. It will provide a safe place for the children to play together and to learn to work in a group.

### **5. RAINWATER HARVESTING AND WASTE WATER RECYCLING**

The use of rainwater for domestic use, decreases the workload on women substantially. We have been working to demonstrate the efficacy of this system for past many years.

To begin with, we demonstrated the use of rainwater at the Avani centre. All daily needs of 35 people, a community kitchen, natural dyeing and washing of all textiles and a small kitchen garden are met with stored rainwater for seven months in a year. The three field centres of Avani also have rain water tanks. The 22,000 litre tank at Digoli is now complete. The details of these tanks are given in table 23.

**Table 23**

RWH Tanks at the AVANI Centre	Qty 2005-06	Qty 2006-07	Qty 2007-2008

Total No. of Tanks	3	4	4
Total storage capacity	2,70,000	3,25,000	3,25,000 litres
Total stored water during the monsoon	6,15,000 litres	7,60,000 litres	12,00,000 litres
Daily consumption of water	5,000 litres	5,000 litres	5,000 litres
No. of days rain water was used	130 days	152 days	240 days
Saving in terms of expenses in bringing water by truck from 5 kms	Rs 20,418	Rs 38,000	Rs 60,000

Subsequently, this technology was taken to the villages and rainwater tanks were constructed in schools for common use for children. We hope that the households will slowly start constructing small tanks when they build their house.

### • Waste Water Recycling

Looking at the perpetual water scarcity in our region, we decided to look into the possibility of reusing the water, once used for normal household functions and vegetable dyeing, for irrigation. A waste water recycling system for cold regions was designed and constructed, which treats the entire grey and black water as well as refuse from natural dyeing center. This treated water is then used for growing organic vegetables at our center.

## 6. ORGANIC FARMING

To demonstrate different methods of organic farming, the small farm at Avani has been working with the use of biogas slurry, vermicomposting and other methods of regenerating the soil.

During this year, 165 farmers made vermicompost pits in their land. 28 farmers were able to produce 3,960 kg of vermicompost last year.

Three vermicompost pits were also made at the Avani centre at Tripuradevi that produced 2,000 kg of compost. The vermicompost and the recycling of wastewater allowed us to grow more vegetables this year. The total income from the farm was Rs 21,920.

The details of production of the farm and dairy are given in tables 24 and 25.

Table 24

		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008	
Particular	Seed cost Rs	Production	Income Rs	Production	Income Rs	Production	Income Rs
Ugal	12	8 bunches	40	23 bunches	115	26 bunches	156
Methi	75	81 bunches	405	50 bunches	300	207 bunches	1449
French Beans	25	33 kg	806	34.23 kg	785	5 kg	112
Garlic	100	7.5 kg	450	2.5 kg	100	1.4 kg	112
Tomato	25			32.5	975	12.5 kg	306
Banana	0	102 pieces	204	151 pieces	302	106 pieces	306
Radish	150	Leaves 43 bunches Root 12 kg	334	Leaves 257 Bunches Root 17.55 kg	1,438	Leaves 168 bunches Root 20.4 kg	1452
Ladyfinger	30	14 kg	277	-	-	4.85 kg	110
Capsicum	10			-	-	-	-
Cucumber	20	80 kg	1600	22.35 kg	344	15 kg	300
Green Chilly	10	6 kg	180	8.9 kg	362	2.45kg	98
Pumpkin	20	Local 97.5kg Hybrid 19.5 kg	980 207	131.75 kg	1,748	78.7 kg	1102
Maize	10			66 no.s	330	90	300
Ginger	300	23 kg	1380	17.85 kg	714	20 kg	800

Arbi	200	16 kg	256	Leaves 4 bunches root 37 kg	615	Leaves 25 bunches Root 26.4 kg	623
Gourd	10	66 kg	10560	0	0	73	1164
Turmeric	500	12 kg	480	0	0	119.4	3752
Sweet Karela	10			0	0	0	0
Coriander	100	494 bunches	988	Leaves 303 bunches	750	784 bunches	3001
Lai	105	121 bunches	615	Leaves 206 bunches	1,648	451 bunches	2743



Spinach	130	183 bunches	1098	Leaves 101 bunches	606	330 bunches	2092
Malta	-	-	-	50 no.s	100	294	588
Citrus	-	-	-	25 no.s	125	107	505
Torai	10	-	-	8.45 kg	228	0.5kg	12
Peas	50	-	-	0.9 kg	16	25.75kg	545
Brinjal	10	-	-	1 kg	24		0
Geethi						2kg	40
Halan	5					12 bunches	72
Gobhi	50					10 kg	140
Saljam	30					2.5 kg	40
<b>Total</b>			<b>11,356</b>		<b>11,625</b>		<b>17917</b>

Table 25

Particular	Qty	Rate Rs	Income Rs
Milk (Lt)	737	16	11,792
Vermicompost(kg)	2,000	8	16,000
Biogas slurry(Basket)	360	3	1,080
<b>Total Income from production of above items</b>			<b>Rs 28,872</b>
<b>Expenditure on Khali and grass</b>			<b>Rs 4,725</b>

## 7. SERICULTURE - CULTIVATION OF WILD SILKS OF ERI AND MUGA

We continue to integrate new farmers in the cultivation of eri and muga silks despite the fact that the support from the Department of Sericulture did not come through in 2007 - 08. The cultivation of wild silks like eri and muga has been taken up in eight more villages this year. We have also introduced the rearing of oak tussar in the village of Basti. This silk is a temperate tussar. The adoption of silk rearing by more families is a positive indication that we will slowly have a strong local raw material base for the silk.

During this year, 79 new farmers in 11 villages planted 40 acres of muga food plants (Litchia polyantha and

Michelis bombacina) and 19.5 acres of Eri food plant (Castor).

Nine farmers have established 12 nursery beds in Chankana and Sukna. Two nurseries were established at the AVANI centre as well. These beds will provide about 2,000 saplings for plantation in the year 08-09.

A total of 4 rearing houses have been constructed this year. Rearing continues in the 12 rearing houses constructed last year.

Table 26

Name of the village	No. of Farmers		Area covered		Total Farmers	Total Area (Acre)
	Eri	Muga	Eri	Muga		
Sanikhet	5	0	2.5	0	5	2.5
Musalgar	3	0	1.5	0	3	1.5
Rai	1	1	.5	1	2	1.5
Mehrodi	1	4	.5	4	5	4.5
Nargoli	2	0	1	0	2	1
Mana Digoli	11	0	5.5	0	11	5.5
Bayati	1	0	.5	0	1	.5
Varsayat	1	0	.5	0	1	.5
Saylve	2	6	1	6	8	7
Chak	0	8	0	8	8	8
Bhingari	0	2	0	2	2	2
Belkote	2	0	1	0	2	1
Chantola	10	16	5	16	26	21
Chankana	0	3	0	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>59.5</b>

## 7.1 Training and Cocoon Rearing

This year training and rearing was conducted with 22 farmers in 11 villages. 150 DFL Eri worms were reared with 20 farmers in nine villages and 50 DFL muga worms were reared in two villages with two farmers. In our cocoon rearing efforts, we are still struggling with initial problems of reliable egg supply, scattered natural plantation in case of muga and inexperience of working with cocoon rearing. As a reliable egg supply

chain is established and consolidated new plantations mature for cocoon rearing, our team as well as the farmers would gain more confidence in cocoon rearing to convert it into a real income generating activity.

#### **Total Production of cocoons**

Eri cocoons	71.1 kg
Muga cocoons	1136 cocoons

**Total income generated through cocoon production   Rs  
5,544**

During this year, we also promoted the cultivation of Oak Tussar. Training for Oak tussar rearing was conducted in Basti village where 50 DFL oak tussar worms were reared. This crop was supposed to yield about 1500 cocoons, but due to disease and unexpected rains, most of the worms died. The farmers could only produce 308 cocoons during this training.

Table 27

	2006-07	2007-08
Total Farmers - Eri	50	39
Total Farmers - Muga	63	40
No. of nursery beds established		14
Total Area of Plantation	75.6 Acres	59.5 Acres
Total Income	Rs 3,670	Rs 5,544

## **8. HEALTH CARE**

### **8.1 Health Insurance**

A lack of reliable health care is a major problem in remote rural areas. Another aspect of this issue is the frail economic status of the families that prevents them from accessing health care facilities that are far from their village. To address this problem, we took the initiative to discuss the benefits of rural health insurance in the villages. This program would be taken up in collaboration with SEWA, Ahmedabad and ICICI, Lombard.

We also conducted a training program with trainers from SEWA to talk about their successful experience in this

field. Detailed discussions were held with the village groups to explain this program, but despite our best efforts, the families were not convinced of the future benefits of such a program. They wanted more immediate benefits. In view of this, we decided to withdraw from this program as the community did not feel its need at this moment.

Another similar insurance scheme that was launched at the same time by the office of the Development Commissioner Handicrafts, also had a bearing on the lukewarm response of the community to the health insurance program as the insurance amount was much higher with a subsidized premium.

## 8.2 Health Camps

In continuation of our small initiative with health care, we had two health camps with two doctors this year. The purpose of these camps was to provide treatment for common ailments in remote villages and also to understand the prevalent health problems in the area.

We also intend to work together with another organization Aarohi, to set up a community health initiative that would address the health problems of remote villages. We hope to formalize the outline of this program within the next year.

Table 28

S.N.	Duration	Venue	Doctor	No. of Patients examined
1	4-6-07 to 6-6-07	Village Digoli Distt- Bageshwar Uttarakhand	Dr. Sushil Sharma AAROH Village Satoli Distt. Nainital	45
2	22-11-07-23-11-07	AVANI Tripuradevi	Dr. S. Srinivasan Indraprasth Apollo Clinic, New Delhi	42
	<b>Total</b>			<b>87</b>

## 9. WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **WMPA meeting at Kathmandu**

The regional meeting of the World Mountain People Association was held at Kathmandu, on March 31st and April 1st, 2008. 25 participants from India and Nepal participated in this event. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the formulation of the proposal for regional resource centres. Avani will

submit a proposal for setting up a centre that will work with natural dyes and appropriate technology.

- A presentation of Avani's work was made at The India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, on 27th April 2008, on invitation from the Craft Revival Trust, New Delhi.
- Avani's work on Natural Dyes was presented at a conference on Natural Dyes organised by the Central Cottage Industries in April, 2008, at the Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan, New Delhi.
- This year we also participated in the New York International Gift Fair in August 2007 and displayed our products at the booth of Aid to Artisans, USA. This visit allowed us to meet some buyers directly and to meet senior designers in New York.
- A presentation of Avani's work was made to the faculty of the Parson's School of Design, affiliated to the New School University in New York.
- We also presented our work at the University of Texas, Austin, under the aegis of AID, Austin.
- We were also invited by the Himalayan Club, New Delhi to present our work at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on the 12th December, 2007.

## **10. STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Six students and three volunteers from different institutions spent time at our centre. The students were from the following institutions:

University of Twente, Netherlands

Free University of Brussels, Belgium

Sri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi

National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

We were also part of the ivolunteer program that places students for short periods at different organisations. All the volunteers were given short assignments that they duly completed.

## **11. VISITORS AT AVANI DURING 07-08**

During this year as well, we had visitors from all walks of life. This is very refreshing for all of us. A total of 61 people visited Avani during the past year.

	Indian	Foreign	Total
Visitors	14	15	29
Volunteers	4	9	13
Students			

<b>School/college</b>	10	-	<b>10</b>
<b>Govt. officials</b>	8	-	<b>8</b>
<b>Diploma students</b>	1	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>61</b>

## 12. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan  
 Hunnarshala, Gujarat  
 National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad  
 Kumaon Artisans Guild, Ranikhet  
 Aarohi, Nainital  
 Ascent, Baroda  
 Vivekanand Krishi Anusandhanshala, Hawalbagh  
 Pant Nagar Agricultural University, Pant Nagar  
 Craft Revival Trust, New Delhi  
 Crafts Council of India, Chennai  
 Crafts Council of India, Delhi  
 Crafts Council of India, Hyderabad  
 Central Cottage Industries Emporium, New Delhi  
 Self Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad  
 ALARIPU, Delhi  
 UREDA, Dehradun  
 Shramik Bharti, Kanpur  
 AIACA, New Delhi  
 Silk Mark Organisation of India, Bombay  
 Dastakar, Delhi  
 Rural Volunteers Centre, Assam  
 The Gandhigram Trust, Tamil Nadu  
 The Central Silk Board, Bangalore  
 Department of Sericulture, Dehradun and Haldwani  
 Friends of Tilonia, USA  
 The Earth Network, Japan  
 The World Mountain People Association, France  
 Aid to Artisans, USA  
 Association de Couleur Garance, Lauris, France  
 Textures, France  
 Le Passeur, Decoration, France

## 13. OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

The Volkart Vision India, Switzerland  
 The Ford Foundation, New Delhi  
 The Central Silk Board, Bangalore  
 The Department of Sericulture, Dehradun and Haldwani  
 Uttaranchal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Dehradun  
 The World Mountain People's Association, Paris  
 Ashden Awards, England  
 Restoration of Natural Capital, USA

## 14. INDIVIDUAL DONORS FROM 2003-08

1. Ma Prem Usha, Pune
2. Late Dr Bhagwan Das Jain
3. Mr. Sunil Dahiya, Delhi

4. Ms. Moena Ray, Dehradun
5. Ms. Lakshmi Ray, Kausani
6. Ms. Jennifer Pinto, Bangalore
7. Ms. Pamela Chatterjee, Kausani
8. Mr. Suresh Kumar Jain, Gharounda
9. Mr. Gopalram, Pune
10. Mr. Dev Raj Verma, Delhi
11. Mr. Anand Kumar Gupta, Sonapat
12. Mr. Kishan Gopal Tyagi, Gannaur
13. Ms Pamela Topley, Pune
14. Dr. Smita Vora, Pune
15. Ms. Catherine Confino, Kausani
16. Ms. Sutika
17. Mr. Kishan Vora, Pune
18. Mr. Kailash Nath, Pune
19. Mr. Arun Kumar Vora, Pune
20. Mr. Sailash Kumar, Pune
21. Ms. Jain Mati Jain, Delhi
22. Ms. Hiroko Ishii, Japan
23. Mr. Chris Flynn Jones
24. Mr. Prahalad Rath, Pune
25. Mr. Amar Seth, Delhi
26. Ms. Radha Gopal, Pune
27. Ms. Sameera Balay, USA

## 15. CASE STUDIES

The main emphasis in these case studies is the empowerment that happens when people have the opportunity and space to grow.

Even people who have not had the chance to study, take charge of their lives when they get the opportunity. To empower people from remote, disadvantaged families to explore their talents and then to stand on their feet has been a great learning for all of us in this journey.

We have only mentioned a few case studies, but there are many that are worthy of note.

### Case Study 1

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Deepa Bora	8 <sup>th</sup> standard	2004	Weaving Trainee	Skilled weaver of shawls in silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver  Is helping other trainees to learn. Takes care of technical aspects of weaving in the absence of the supervisor.  Capability of warping, drafting and weaving of almora pattern design



Deepa Bora belongs to a very poor family of village Chankana that is 3 kms from Berinag. Her family works with spinning and weaving of wool. Due to financial constraints she was not sent to school after 8<sup>th</sup> standard. But Deepa wanted to be financially independent to support her family. When she heard about the weaving training centre that was being established at Chankana village, she joined the training and within a few months was one of the most hard working



and good weavers of the centre. She also taught herself warping and drafting of typical Almora pattern shawls. Deepa has been working as a skilled weaver for the past four years and earns almost Rs 2,000 per month. She is not only earning her living but is also taking a lot of responsibility in her house hold. She has helped her family financially in many ways:

- Contributed Rs 5,000 from her earnings to make an additional room in her home.
- Did the electricity fittings in her home from her earnings. expenses of electricity fitting in her house.
- Purchased of a music system for her house
- Made gold ornaments worth Rs 6,000 for herself.

Besides this, she gives Rs 400 to 500 to her mother every month, to meet the expenses. She also has a savings account in the post office where she deposits Rs 200 per month. This way she has a small amount saved at the bank as well.

## Case Study 2

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Anita Devi	Non Literate	2005	Spinner	Skilled Spinner and weaver's assistant	Has learnt the spinning and bobbin filling of silk

Anita Devi belongs to Matkholi village that is 3 hours walk from the nearest road head. She is from a very poor family that works with weaving and spinning of wool. She was married at the age of 22 and soon after, her husband took another wife and abandoned her. She came back to her parent's house and was taken care of by them. Her father made a one-room house for Anita separately, but lack of livelihood opportunities was a big problem. She felt that the only way to lead her life with dignity was to have a source of livelihood, but how and where were the questions.



During a meeting of the women's SHG in her village, she met the Avani team and heard about the work being done at

the Digoli centre. She joined the training program at Digoli, but due to poor eyesight, she was unable to weave. She was then trained to fill bobbins and in silk spinning. As her confidence grew, Anita also joined the adult literacy classes where she has learnt to write the alphabet and her name. Now, she is working as a weaving support artisan as well as a spinner in her own village. She is able to support herself to a large extent but needs to increase her earnings further.

Last year, when we were in the process of installation of solar powered charkhas with lighting systems, Anita expressed her desire for the same. Despite the government subsidy on this solar unit, Anita was still unable to pay the beneficiary contribution. A soft loan was therefore provided to Anuli by Avani. In this way she installed a solar power unit in her house to run the solar powered charkha for spinning and also lights in her home. Now Anita is not using kerosene any more for lighting. She is paying back the loan in small installments.

### Case Study 3

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Meena Rathore	12 <sup>th</sup> standard	2006	Weaving trainee	Skilled weaver of silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool.



Meena belongs to Simgarhi village in Bageshwar district. Her father passed away when she was very young, so Meena was brought up by her mother. There being no source of income in the family it was difficult for her mother to continue Meena's education after the 7<sup>th</sup> standard. From then on, Meena's education was supported by Avani, until she completed her 12<sup>th</sup> standard. She got support for books, dress and tuition fees.

During her school days Meena spent her spare time to learn the basics of weaving at the Dharamghar centre. After completion of 12<sup>th</sup> standard she joined the Dharamghar centre as a permanent weaver. Now she is

working as a skilled weaver and earns Rs. 1,500 to 2,000 per month. Meena's elder sister is married and her brother works at Shimla. Meena stays with her mother and takes most of the social and economic responsibility of the household. Her dream is to make an additional room in her house for which she has applied for a grant to the government but it has not been approved yet. She is determined to make this room anyway, so she is saving regularly and has an account in the bank. After meeting all household expenses and taking care of her mother and herself, she has a saving of Rs. 8,000 in her bank account.

#### Case Study 4

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Rekha Bora	8 <sup>th</sup> std	2004	Weaving trainees	Skilled weaver of silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver  Is helping other trainees to learn. absence of supervisor. weaving of almora pattern design



Rekha Bora belongs to Sukna village of Distt. Pithoragarh, that is 40 minutes walk from the nearest road head. She is from a very poor family where her father is a daily wage laborer. She was married at the age of 16, to a man who ignored her all the time and put her through a lot of mental agony. She stayed

with her husband for two years, until one day when Rekha was visiting her parents for a few days, she heard that her husband is going to get married a second time, the same day. Rekha was stunned. She went straight to the marriage venue with her father and opposed the marriage. But it was too late. She was compelled to take a compensation of Rs 50,000 for leaving her husband's home and for allowing him to have a second marriage. Rekha compromised and went back to her parent's house. After that she felt that the only way to lead her life with dignity was to have a source of livelihood, but didn't know how.

In the meantime, she met Kamla Bora, the supervisor of Chankana field centre who informed her about the weaving training at the Sukna centre. Co-incidentally, Kamla was placed at the Sukna centre for two months as a supervisor. Rekha then joined the training and invited Kamla to stay with her while she was at Sukna. With the help of Kamla, she became a skilled weaver in three months and was able to weave Almora pattern shawls. Now she is earning almost Rs 1,500 to 1,800 per month and supports her parents to bear the expenses of the household. Rekha has also helped to train two boys as weavers, from the same village.

### Case Study 5

Name	Educational Qualifications	Year of Joining Avani	Started work as	Presently Working as	Acquired Skills
Jeewanti Devi	2 <sup>nd</sup> Std	2006	Weaving trainee	Skilled weaver of silk and wool	Has learnt the weaving of silk and wool and has become a skilled weaver



Jeewanti Devi belongs to village Matkholi, that is 3 hours walk from the nearest road head. She is from a very poor family. Her father is an unskilled mason. Due to financial constraints, she was not sent to school after the 2<sup>nd</sup> standard. Jeewanti got married at the age of 19. Her married life was not pleasant. She was able to stay only three months in her husband's house in very bitter circumstances. Her husband and in-laws always ignored her. Finally, she took the firm decision of moving back to her parent's house. Initially, she had hoped that her husband would come to take her back, but he didn't. Jeewanti was determined to be financially independent. She met the AVANI team during a women's SHG meeting in her village and expressed her desire to do something to earn her living. She was immediately invited to join the weaving training programme at the Digoli centre. Now she is working as a skilled weaver and can weave silk and wool. This year she was also trained in Thulma weaving, which is being done for the first time in her centre. When the literacy programme was initiated, Jeewanti joined the classes. She has learnt word formation until now.

## 16. SUMMARISED FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented below is the summarised financial report of Avani for the year 2007-2008.

### Summarised Financial Results

#### Income & Expenditure

##### Income

Sales	38,50,766.00
Other Income	8,29,424.15
Grants (Indian)	13,71,663.00
Closing Stock	46,15,433.00
FCRA Grants	59,57,281.16

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,66,24,567.31</b>
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##### Expenditure

Opening Stock	30,27,144.00
Grant & Other Expenses	46,04,170.42
FCRA Expenditure	46,94,381.00

<u>Unutilised Grants</u>	
Local	9,94,315.00
FCRA	12,62,987.16
Income for the year	20,41,569.73

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,66,24,567.31</b>
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#### Balance Sheet

##### Sources of Funds

Capital Fund	8,859,792.32
Utilised Grants for Fixed Assets	11,897,144.00
Unutilised Grants	2,471,481.73
Current Liabilities	1,382,830.44

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,611,248.49</b>
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##### Application of funds

Fixed Assets	13,834,005.14
Cash/Bank	3,207,183.47
Grant Receivables	695,978.08
Closing Stock	4,615,433.00
Other Current Assets	2,258,648.80

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,611,248.49</b>
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