

# JOURNEY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Disha Social Organisation

Empowering the Powerless



Disha is a grassroots NGO based in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, dedicated to advancing social justice and gender equality for over four decades. With a deep-rooted presence across three districts in western Uttar Pradesh and two in Uttarakhand, Disha has been a catalyst for transformative change, uplifting marginalised communities, particularly women, girls, minorities and indigenous groups, through sustainable rural development initiatives and rights-based advocacy.

## **Vision**

To create a society free of gender, class, religion and caste discrimination

## **Mission**

To dismantle systemic barriers and empower disadvantaged individuals, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to realise their full potential.

# Quantifying Our Legacy of Impact

When Disha was established in 1984, Saharanpur suffered from poor development indicators, leaving women, girls, and labourers particularly disadvantaged. The organisation initially concentrated on three core pillars: health, education and economic security. However, as community engagement deepened, a fourth pillar emerged naturally: the urgent need to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Today Disha empowers communities across underserved regions of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to overcome poverty, gender discrimination and mounting threats to rural livelihoods. Built on trust and commitment to social equity, the organisation tackles systemic barriers by encouraging grassroots solutions. It remains a driving force for dignity, inclusion and equal opportunity.

Disha comprehensively addresses issues like gender-based violence, girls' education, women's financial independence and land rights for women farmers. Furthermore the organisation promotes social harmony, environmental adaptability and access to state benefits while actively defending constitutional values. Through its participation in global initiatives, crisis response efforts and ongoing policy advocacy Disha continues to champion the rights of marginalised groups.

Through innovative approaches like women's self-help groups, non-formal education and focused health interventions, Disha has transformed countless lives over the years. Yet as the organisation steps into its fifth decade of community service, a compelling question frequently arose: could this vast number of uplifted individuals be quantified?

To find out a comprehensive exercise was launched in late 2025. Archival records were examined, past reports reviewed and recollections gathered from long-standing members. The resulting figures are detailed in the pages that follow. Please note that while these numbers are approximations, they powerfully illustrate the true scale of people whose lives the organisation has meaningfully touched.

— **KN Tiwari**, *Director*

# Key Milestones

- |      |                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1984 |    | Education, Health, Livelihood - Baan workers                             |
| 1986 |    | Mahila Jagriti Samitis, Folk Media                                       |
| 1989 |    | Mahila Samakhya, Equal Wages Struggle, Education for Adolescent Girls    |
| 1990 |    | International Women's Day, Morcha Sammelan                               |
| 1991 |    | Uttarkashi Earthquake Relief, Legal Aid, Land Reforms, Social Harmony    |
| 1992 |    | Training Centre Construction                                             |
| 1993 |    | Anti-Liquor Movement                                                     |
| 1995 |    | Self-Help Groups, Uttarkashi Training Centre                             |
| 1996 |    | Ringal Artisans, Watershed Development, Joint Forest Management          |
| 1999 |   | UPDASP, Saharanpur, Moradabad and Rampur                                 |
| 2000 |  | Women Cell, Nari Adalats, Government Entitlements                        |
| 2002 |  | Sustainable Agriculture, Mother & Child Healthcare, Elementary Education |
| 2004 |  | We Can Campaign                                                          |
| 2006 |  | Aaroh Campaign                                                           |
| 2006 |  | Aarohan Project                                                          |
| 2013 |  | Uttarkashi Flood Relief, OBR Campaign                                    |
| 2022 |  | GROW Project                                                             |
| 2023 |  | Constitutional Values Project                                            |

# Foundation

- 1 **Baan Workers (1984-1994):** Supported and organised 40,000 baan workers to ensure fair amount of bhabhar grass and improve their overall livelihoods.
- 2 **Child Education (1984-1990):** Established and managed education centres to provide learning opportunities to 150 children from underprivileged communities.
- 3 **Health Outreach (1984-2025):** Conducted health outreach programmes that directly benefited 9,700 individuals through medical camps and essential health awareness drives.
- 4 **Labour Education (1984-1998):** Provided specialised labour education to 400 workers, empowering them with critical knowledge regarding their workplace rights and safety protocols.
- 5 **Vikas Volunteer Vahini (1985-1990):** Mobilised 1,000 people under the Vikas Volunteer Vahini initiative to educate the people for development through credit.
- 6 **Land Reforms (1991-1996):** Facilitated land reform initiatives that successfully secured legal land rights and agricultural resources for 500 vulnerable families.
- 7 **Legal Aid (1991-2000):** Provided essential legal aid in 900 cases, ensuring equitable access to justice for marginalised individuals. *For figures beyond 2000, see Women Cell and Nari Adalat.*
- 8 **Total Literacy Campaign (1995-1998):** Engaged 2,000 participants in a comprehensive total literacy campaign aimed at eradicating adult illiteracy in the targeted regions.



# Women's Awakening

- 1 Mahila Jagriti Samiti (1986-1989):** Organised and empowered 300 women through the Mahila Jagriti Samiti initiatives to promote local leadership and community development.
- 2 Mahila Samakhya (1989-1993):** Engaged 6,000 women in the Mahila Samakhya programme, focusing on education and the realisation of their fundamental rights.
- 3 Equal Wages Struggle (1989-1994):** Advocated for fair and equitable wages for women, indirectly benefitting over 5,000 individuals.
- 4 Anti-Liquor Movement (1993-1996):** Supported the grassroots anti-liquor movement, bringing indirect positive impacts to 5,000 community members.
- 5 Local Self-Governance (1995-2004):** Trained and mentored 6,000 women leaders to actively participate and govern effectively within local self-governance institutions.



# Disaster Relief and NRM

- 1 **Uttarkashi Earthquake Relief (1991-1995):** Provided essential relief materials and rehabilitation services to 1,000 individuals severely impacted by the Uttarkashi earthquake.
- 2 **Ringal Artisans (1996-1999):** Supported 50 traditional Ringal artisans by helping them organise into cooperatives and expand their market reach to sustain their livelihoods.
- 3 **Watershed Development (1996-2002):** Implemented sustainable watershed development projects, mobilising 1,500 community members to improve local water and soil conservation.
- 4 **Joint Forest Management (1998-2001):** Facilitated joint forest management initiatives with 1,500 participants to protect local ecosystems and promote sustainable resource utilisation.
- 5 **Tehri Earthquake Relief (1999-2001):** Delivered emergency aid and crucial livelihood support to 500 survivors affected by the Tehri earthquake.
- 6 **Uttarkashi Flood Relief (2013):** Organised timely emergency flood relief operations, distributing vital supplies and assistance to 200 affected residents in Uttarkashi.



# Advocacy and Campaigns

- 1 **International Women's Day (1990-Cont.):** Hosted large-scale events on International Women's Day engaging 12,000 participants in crucial dialogues about gender equality.
- 2 **Annual Sammelan (1990-Cont.):** Mobilised a massive Annual Sammelan, bringing together 60,000 participants to collectively advocate for systemic social changes and structural reforms.
- 3 **Holi Milan, Roza Iftari, Id Milan (1991-Cont.):** Organised cultural and interfaith harmony gatherings, promoting unity, peace and communal brotherhood among 15,000 attendees.
- 4 **We Can Campaign (2004-2006):** Supported the 'We Can' campaign to end violence against women, indirectly reaching 30,000 individuals through awareness and sensitisation efforts.
- 5 **Aaroh Campaign (2006-2017):** Championed the Aaroh Campaign to promote land rights for women, indirectly empowering 25,000 community members.
- 6 **One Billion Rising (2013-Cont.):** Joined the global One Billion Rising movement, indirectly inspiring 4,800 individuals to stand against violence.
- 7 **16 Days of Activism (2014-Cont.):** Participated in the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, generating awareness that indirectly impacted 1,100 people.
- 8 **Single Women Right-Based Campaign (2014):** Organised a targeted, right-based campaign for single women, directly assisting 600 individuals in claiming their rights.



# Contemporary Interventions

- 1 **Women Cell and Nari Adalat (2000-Cont.):** Established Women Cell and started Nari Adalats, enabling 3,125 women to seek informal justice and effectively resolve local disputes.
- 2 **Advocacy for Women Rights (2000-Cont.):** Conducted extensive advocacy campaigns for women's rights, directly empowering 7,500 individuals to assert their rights.
- 3 **Education for Adolescent Girls (1989-Cont.):** An ongoing initiative that supports 4,680 girls, equipping them with knowledge and life skills.
- 4 **Self-Help Groups (1995-Cont.):** Formed 2,270 self-help groups with 29,000 members across various projects to foster economic independence, with 400 groups and 6,000 members currently active.
- 5 **Livelihood (1994-Cont.):** Promoted sustainable livelihood programmes directly supporting 9,500 community members, indirectly 47,500 benefitting people.
- 6 **Sustainable Agriculture (2000-Cont.):** Trained and assisted 500 local farmers in adopting sustainable agriculture practices.
- 7 **Constitutional Values Project (2023-Cont.):** Implemented a constitutional values project, educating 1,500 participants on their fundamental democratic rights and civic responsibilities.
- 8 **Communication via Folk Media (1985-Cont.):** Utilised traditional folk media performances to successfully reach 60,000 people.
- 9 **Government Entitlements (2000-Cont.):** Directly assisted 25,000 citizens and brought indirect relief and support to 125,000 dependents.



# Miscellaneous Interventions

- 1 **Electronics for Women (1991-1994):** Conducted specialised vocational training in electronics for 30 women, equipping them with technical skills to enhance their employability.
- 2 **Support to Small NGOs (1996-1999):** Provided support to smaller NGOs, which indirectly benefited 1,890 community members through strengthened grassroots interventions.
- 3 **Elementary Education (2002-2005):** Facilitated elementary education initiatives for 300 students to improve foundational learning and boost local school attendance.
- 4 **Farmers' Clubs (2008-2011):** Established 560 farmers' clubs to promote agricultural best practices and foster cooperative support among local cultivators.
- 5 **Eye Checkup Camps (2014-2017):** Organised 1,000 eye check-up camps to provide essential vision care and free medical screenings to local communities.
- 6 **Miscellaneous (Various):** Executed a variety of supplementary community development and welfare activities that collectively reached and assisted 20,000 people.





## Total Outreach

**2,47,735** people directly

**3,60,290** people indirectly

*At the end of 2025*

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our communities, partners and donors whose unwavering support makes our mission possible. Your trust and generosity prompt us to advance gender equality and strengthen social justice initiatives. Each contribution, whether time, resources, or encouragement, fuels our collective journey of change. Together, we have built bridges of hope, ensuring dignity and opportunity for those most in need. We remain inspired by your solidarity and look forward to continuing this shared path of compassion and transformation. With deep appreciation, we thank you all sincerely.

***Together, let's continue shaping futures.***

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