## GANPATI EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2024



## SUPPORT IN ALANKAR MAHOTSAV, KUNIHAR

Ganpati Educational Society received an invitation from the Block Development Officer of Kunihar Block, Solan District, Himachal Pradesh, to participate in planning the upcoming Alkankar Mahotsav, scheduled for August 9, 2024. At a comprehensive planning meeting attended by all block-level officers, the society contributed valuable suggestions for the local festival. The event will showcase the talents and products of local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through dedicated stalls and performance platforms. The festival's program includes sports competitions like Kabaddi, as well as various cultural activities, highlighting the community's diverse skills and traditions.

In a noteworthy development, SHGs were encouraged to consider contributing to Ganpati Educational Society's initiatives for special children, fostering a spirit of community support and social responsibility. This collaborative approach to event planning demonstrates the strong partnership between local government bodies and non-governmental organizations in promoting cultural heritage and community welfare in rural Himachal Pradesh.

## MEETING WITH UKKHU VILLAGE ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Ganpati Educational Society, as part of the Nandini Project funded by Vardhman Industries' CSR initiative, organized an adolescent and women's group meeting on July 23, 2024, in Ukkhu Village, Lagadaghat Panchayat of Nalagarh Block. The event, held at the local Anganwadi Centre, brought together 23 females, including Anganwadi workers and helpers, to address critical issues surrounding menstrual hygiene.

Dr. Roshan Lal, Director of Ganpati Educational Society, along with Supervisor Mr. Balak Ram and Trainer Ms. Anjana, led the program. Dr. Lal outlined the project's background and objectives, emphasizing its role in the broader Nandini Project. Ms. Anjana provided comprehensive information on menstrual health for women aged 13-49 and addressed common menopausal issues.

The event featured Dr. Daman Ahuja, a renowned public health expert with three decades of experience working with organizations like UNICEF and the National Health Mission. Dr. Ahuja introduced the innovative concept of "Mindful Menstrual Health," incorporating a 10-minute meditation session and blending spiritual wisdom with scientific knowledge. His approach effectively conveyed the scientific aspects of menstrual health, resonating strongly with participants.

This initiative aligns with recent findings from a 2022 Himachal Pradesh study, which highlighted that 62% of rural women lack proper menstrual hygiene awareness. The Nandini Project, through such community-based interventions, aims to bridge this knowledge gap and promote better menstrual health practices in the region.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the local Lady Panchayat Member, marking another successful step in the Nandini Project's mission to improve menstrual health awareness and practices in rural Himachal Pradesh.



District Collector, Solan honoured Director, Ganpati Educational Society .

Dr. Roshan Lal, Director of Ganpati Educational Society, was invited by the Principal of the District Institute for Educational Training (DIET), Solan, to attend a ceremony distributing assistive devices (clippers) to children with special needs (CWSN). As a district member of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016) committee, the society has consistently advocated for quality products for individuals with disabilities.

During the event, Dr. Lal proposed that ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, should assume responsibility for the regular maintenance of these devices. This suggestion aimed to address the common issue of equipment becoming unusable or redundant due to lack of upkeep, thereby ensuring long-term benefits for the recipients. The society's proactive approach and valuable contributions were recognized at the ceremony, with the District Collector of Solan honoring Dr. Lal for his commitment to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in the region.