



Training for Community-based Responsible Tourism

Development Alternatives collaborated with NotOnMap (NOM) to organise comprehensive training module sessions for reviving eco-tourism in the country as part of the programme by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS). This involved a set of 12 modules for training the rural communities working on tourism in Himachal Pradesh. The training materials were aimed towards creating a sustainable and responsible tourism model that will inculcate the ethics of “Travel with Impact” not just into the minds of the travelers but will also be able to create a vivid understanding of how community-based responsible tourism can bring a positive impact.

NotonMap developed training material with guidance from experts from the UN, World Bank, UNWTO, WTM, Tourism Directors from Ministry of Tourism and Ayush Ministry among others, who have contributed their vast experience to formulate these documents. The 65 training sessions were divided into two parts: combined and village-based. The various training sessions include extremely pertinent topics such as sustainability, hospitality, comprehensive waste management programmes, traveler as a transformer, village life experience, and meals with the locals. The training is being delivered to the 4 village communities of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh namely: Thatta, Lagshal, Kalang, and Bhanuthi+ Shikari.

This training project aimed to equip the village community with the concept of Community Based Responsible Tourism and also create a basic understanding of how “Travel with Impact” will assist in the generation of alternative economics, preservation of cultural heritage, and in the long run have an all-round buoyant impact on their community.

DA along with NotonMap has successfully conducted a few of the village training sessions in the Lagshal Community Village and the waste management training session in Thatta village. The training provided a great cross-learning experience between trainer and trainee as the community members showed that how a commune-based lifestyle has been the key to their flourishing and vibrant lives. In Thatta almost

30 people were present during the session and in Lagshal, the little community which resides only in 15 households were all involved during the training process.