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A fashion designer by training, I co-founded a startup, Valka Lifestyles while still in college in 2009. Valka, bring an avant garde brand in Home Decor sector, gave me the opportunity to travel, interact, up-skill and collaborate with weavers, craftsmen and artisans in different parts of India like Sanganer, Chanderi, Varanasi, Thrissur, Bhagalpur, Bhadohi, Madhubani etc. Having served as Valka's chief functionary till 2014, I decided to follow my passion of social service and serve community in distress. Over next year & half, I travelled all over the country and volunteered across sectors like women empowerment, livelihood development, education, rural health, organization building, grassroots leadership development, rehabilitation of prisoners etc. For last 5 years, I have been leading the holistic community development initiatives of Sewa International.

Presentation Summary

Sustainable Community Livelihood Development

Based on our first hand experience of Holistic community development initiatives of Sewa International in the Indian Himalayan Region of Uttarakhand, this presentation briefly reflects the various principles of the same. It focuses upon the essential pillars of sustainable community development, the right approach and how participatory initiatives can be conceptualized with active involvement of community and beneficiaries. Also, once the micro-implementation plan is being developed, what are the key aspects that should be kept in consideration for the project to fulfill its objective of developing self-reliant models?