



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (NAB) HP STATE BRANCH

WINNER OF HIMACHAL GAURAV PURASKAR 2025

NATIONAL AWARD FOR CHILD WELFARE OF WOMEN & CHILDREN
DEVELOPMENT YEAR 2005

[.HTTPS://NABHIMACHALORG/](https://nabhimachal.org/)

“Alone we can do so little; together we can
do so much.”

Hellen Keller



The National Association for the Blind (NAB), Himachal Pradesh State Branch, established in 1997, works for the education, rehabilitation, and empowerment of persons with visual impairment across the state. Guided by the vision of creating equal opportunities and promoting independence, the organization provides services in the areas of special education, inclusive education, residential care, skill development, and digital inclusion.

NAB HP operates a Special School that provides foundational education and prepares children with visual impairment for mainstream schooling through structured academic and resource support. The organization also runs a residential hostel under Mission Vatsalya, ensuring safe care and holistic development of children.

With a strong focus on assistive technology and digital learning, NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch continues to work in collaboration with government departments, partners, and donors to promote inclusive education and independent living for persons with visual impairment.

Our Vision

A world where blindness is not a barrier but a unique perspective, and every visually impaired individual is empowered to lead a life of dignity, independence, and opportunity.

Strengthening Systems | Building Capacity | Enabling Inclusion

Our Objectives

- Provide quality education and residential care to children with visual impairment, ensuring a safe, supportive, and enabling environment for holistic development.
- Promote inclusive education by supporting the integration of visually impaired children into mainstream schools and strengthening inclusive learning systems.
- Enhance access to digital and assistive technologies to enable independent learning, communication, and future employment opportunities.
- Strengthen the capacities of teachers, parents, and community stakeholders through training and awareness programmes that foster supportive learning environments.
- Identify and bring visually impaired children out of isolation by reaching underserved communities and enabling their participation in education and social life.
- Facilitate integration into mainstream society, empowering children to lead independent, confident, and dignified lives.





Our Work at a Glance

Residential Hostel for Children with Visual Impairment (Mission Vatsalya)

Under the Mission Vatsalya framework, NAB HP operated a safe and nurturing residential hostel facility for children with visual impairment, particularly those from remote and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The hostel provides accommodation, nutritious meals, healthcare support, life-skills training, and a structured environment that enables children to pursue education without barriers posed by geography or poverty.

Special School for Children with Visual Impairment

The Special School delivers tailored educational support through Braille instruction, tactile learning methods, assistive devices, and individualized academic plans. The curriculum aligns with state education standards while incorporating specialized pedagogical approaches to address the unique learning needs of visually impaired students.

Inclusive Education Support in Government Schools

NAB HP extends resource support to visually impaired students enrolled in mainstream government schools. This includes Braille textbooks, scribes, mobility training, academic mentoring, and coordination with school authorities to ensure inclusive classroom participation and equal learning opportunities.

Production of Accessible Educational Materials

To support inclusive learning, NAB HP develops and distributes accessible educational resources such as Braille textbooks, tactile diagrams, large-print materials, audio lessons, and accessible digital content. These materials enable students to engage with the curriculum independently and keep pace with their peers.



Our Work at a Glance

Digital Inclusion and Accessible Learning

Recognizing the growing importance of technology in education, NAB HP promotes digital accessibility by providing training in screen readers, accessible software, digital Braille tools, and adaptive learning platforms. This initiative bridges the digital divide and equips students with skills essential for higher education and future employment.

Examination Support through Digital Platforms

To ensure fair assessment opportunities, NAB HP facilitates examination support through accessible exam formats, trained scribes, assistive technology integration, and coordination with examination authorities, enabling students to appear for board and competitive examinations with confidence and equity.

Capacity Building and Trainings

The organization conducts regular training programmes for teachers, caregivers, government educators, and community stakeholders. These sessions focus on inclusive teaching methods, disability rights awareness, assistive technologies, and rehabilitation practices, strengthening the broader ecosystem of support.

Advocacy, Awareness, and Outreach

NAB HP actively promotes awareness about visual impairment, early intervention, and inclusive education through community outreach programmes, camps, awareness drives, and collaboration with government departments. Advocacy efforts aim to reduce stigma, improve access to services, and ensure that the rights of persons with visual impairment are upheld.

Knowledge Support

Expanding Access to Knowledge

218 Students NAB HP has ensured free education, secure residential facilities, accessible learning materials, and essential care for visually impaired children from across the state enabling them to learn, grow, and aspire with dignity.

54 Visually impaired individuals gained access to global accessible libraries through Bookshare

58 Visually impaired individuals gained access to global accessible libraries through Sugamaya Pustakalaya

Statewide Capacity Expansion

118 Teachers NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch conducted multiple online and offline capacity-building programs to strengthen inclusive education for students with visual impairment.

71 Educators Trained at Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Shimla State-level training focused on digital literacy, assistive technology, and inclusive classroom practices.

47 Educators trained at an Intensive district-level program strengthening implementation of digital and inclusive teaching strategies



Digital Impact

From Dependence to Digital Independence

75% Students in the Special School are taking notes digitally and appearing in examinations independently using assistive technology without the need for scribes.

94% Students studying in inclusive schools are using devices inside classrooms for note-taking and accessing accessible books online.

55% Students successfully appeared in their SA-1 examinations digitally on laptops marking a significant shift toward independent assessment.

Strengthening Digital Access

77 Accessible Devices 28 accessible Android devices, 30 desktops, and 19 laptops deployed to empower visually impaired students with assistive technology and digital learning opportunities.



Emotional Support

From Dependence to Digital Independence

- 102 Individual Counselling Sessions conducted to support emotional resilience and personal development.
- 62 Group Counselling Sessions facilitated to build peer support, confidence, and social skills.
- 12 Occupational Therapy Sessions to strengthen functional independence.
- 6 Psychological Assessments conducted to ensure structured, need-based intervention.



These interventions contributed to creating a **safe, supportive, and awareness-driven environment** where children with visual impairment develop confidence, self-worth, and emotional stability.

Transforming lives

Digital Integration Outcomes

33

Alumni in Government Services

- 4 Alumni joined government services in 2025

Community Integration & Adult Rehabilitation

15

Married Visually Impaired Individuals are leading stable family lives with complete rehabilitation support, reflecting successful long-term community integration.

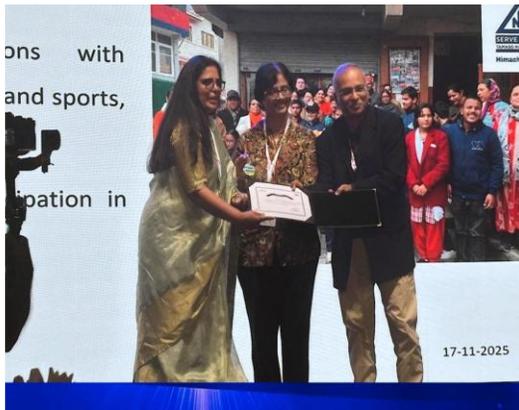
Alternative Career Pathways Music Excellence

- 5 Professional Singers nurtured through NAB HP's support system.
- Ms. Payal, an alumna, was a finalist on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa (national music platform).
- Ms. Muskan, alumna, is currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Music.

These achievements highlight the expansion of career pathways beyond conventional employment, enabling creative and professional success.

Institutional Strength & Governance

The organization received the “Solution of Solutions” recognition from Enable India.



In 2025, the Secretary was conferred the Himachal Gaurav Award



The branch was honored with a National Award by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India (2005).



NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch continues to be recognized for its leadership and innovation in inclusive education and rehabilitation

Some of our Alumni



MUSKAN
Assistant Professor



SANTOSH
Multi-task worker Education
department



DHANESH
Junior Assistant Electricity
department



INDER DEV
Revenue department



KUSHAM LATA
Railway department

Alumni achievements demonstrate that NAB HP's model ensures long-term independence, mainstream participation, and dignified livelihoods — validating the effectiveness of its inclusive and digital rehabilitation approach

Shalini Vats

Secretary, NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch

Mrs. Shalini Vats Kimta serves as the Secretary of NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch, leading the organization's mission to advance inclusive education, digital empowerment, and rehabilitation for persons with visual impairment across the state.

With a deep commitment to accessibility and systemic inclusion, she has played a pivotal role in strengthening digital transformation initiatives, expanding residential educational support, and building statewide capacity among educators working with children with visual impairment.

Under her leadership, the organization has advanced technology-enabled learning models, strengthened mainstream school integration, and enhanced institutional credibility through state and national recognition. In 2025, she was conferred the *Himachal Gaurav Award* in recognition of her contribution to the empowerment of persons with disabilities in Himachal Pradesh.

Her vision focuses on sustainable independence, dignity, and equal opportunity — ensuring that children with visual impairment are not only educated but empowered to participate confidently in society.



Organisation Reg. details: Registered under the Societies Act, 1860

CSR Reg. No. CSR00037249

12A Certificate No. AAATH2216DE20214

80g Certificate No. AAATH2216DF20211

NGO DARPAN ID HP/2016/0111430

PAN No. AAATH2216D

Thank you!

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