

SOPHIA

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF
HIMALAYAN INDIGENOUS
ACTIVITIES



Van Gujjar Mariam, 2009. © Michael Benanav



Villagers from Kot, Uttarkashi, 2013

SOPHIA is a small N. Indian charity that works with the Van Gujjars, nomadic buffalo herders & villages in the Himalaya region for:

- **EMPOWERMENT:** To support the reinforcement of the Van Gujjars' socio-political platform.
- **LIVELIHOODS:** To support traditional, Himalayan modes of production.

Sustainability ← **PROJECTS** → Rights Based Approach

1. **FOREST RIGHTS:** Aids the Van Gujjars and village communities to claim their forest rights under the 2006 Forest Rights Act.
2. **DOMICILE RIGHTS:** Through claiming domicile rights the Van Gujjars may gain the right to vote and access state welfare.
3. **MILK MARKETING:** Intervenes in the milk market so that the Van Gujjars may sell their buffalo milk for fair prices.

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