



ABHIVYAKTI हलचल

APRIL TO JUNE 2019





हलचल MEANS ACTIVITY!

We are pleased to say that two of our main programmes have been great learning opportunities for us. Our programme on using community video to foster change in the community, and action research as a tool to empower young rural girls have led to different possibilities where people have the option to look at many opportunities to change the scenario for their own good. People's active engagement in their own affairs is a positive dimension of the development narrative, and we are glad we are in it. It is creating interest in others and they are reaching out to us to know more. We too are excited to share our learnings and experiences.

We are happy to share a few glimpses of our varied activities through yet another edition of Hulchal. Hope it encourages you to take interest and provides an opportunity to dialogue with us. Needless to add we look forward to your views.



GENDER WORKSHOP FOR RURAL YOUNG MEN

While working with young rural girls, one of the requests from the girls would be to work with boys on the issue of gender! We also were in tune with the suggestion and are now working with the young men in few villages where the Shodhini are active. We started with a four days workshop on Gender as the main theme. Twenty young men from four villages of Ganeshgoan, Hirdi, Velunje and Kochargoan took part with lot of enthusiasm. We covered topics such as understanding the concept of gender, how it works, its impact on girls and society, issues of power and violence, and how to become sensitive and support young girls in fulfilling their potential. The workshop was a great learning experience for all of us especially for the young men who showed immense understanding and maturity to participate with open sharing of their views and experiences.

LEARNING TO CLICK

Shodhini had expressed their desire to learn photography, so we organised a two-days workshop on basic photography at Nirmal Gram in Nashik. Twenty-five girls from the ten villages participated. The workshop was facilitated by Indrajit Khambe who is well known for his photographs. It took a while for the girls to understand the theory, however, they enjoyed the practical lessons. They clicked many photographs and took active part in listening to the feedback provided by the facilitator. Later, the girls documented their understanding of village life through photographs. These photographs became part of the exhibition which was on display in villages of Ganeshgoan, Hirdi, Boripada, Velunje, Dahegoan and Kochargoan. The photographs from the girls perspective attracted attention from the village elders who viewed it with surprise, appreciation and amusement. For the girls it was another notable achievement!



WORKSHOPS

As one of our key activities, we are regularly organising workshops or accepting invitations to facilitate. Here is the glimpse of a few –



BASIC COMPUTER LITERACY



From last year, we have been organising 4-days workshop on the basics of knowing computers for the rural audience. This quarter, we organised two such workshops for rural young men and women separately at the Leslie Sawhny Centre, Deolali. The focus was on learning the key concepts by working on the computers. The facilitator made the learning easy and enjoyable.

PRI LEADERSHIP

We also continued with organising workshops on PRI leadership for rural community members. We organised two such workshops in the month of May and June at the Leslie Sawhny Centre. One was exclusively for women PRI leaders of Nashik, Vidharba and Marathwada region. The workshop dealt with understanding of Panchayat Raj functioning, how to deal with issues, practical tips and basics of leadership. The information provided on PRI functioning is empowering for the rural community members as they feel better informed.



CREATING POSTERS



A two-days workshop on making posters was facilitated for the youth of tribal communities of Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, Chattisgarh, M.P and Maharashtra in the month of June. It was organised around the theme of 'Sangarsh aur Nirman' by Sarvahara Sanghatana who were one of the organisers at the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University in the second week of June. About 15 youth participated and learnt the basics of making posters. The posters on social issues were put on display for others to see.

MEDIA AWARENESS

The training Centre of the local MSEB office wanted their Public Relations Officer to undergo a media awareness session and invited our team to facilitate. The one-day workshop introduced the officers to various aspects of media and encouraged them to share their experiences of using the media to communicate with the public. The interaction with the officers was intense and challenging as well.



CREATING GROUP MEDIA

We also organised and facilitated a workshop on creating different media for the Resource Group of Gram Panchayat of Sonewadi, in Dharangoan Talulka of Jalgoan district. The reason for organising the workshop was to encourage the use of low-cost media to spread awareness about different issues of the village. 15 members attended the workshop and created posters, Flash cards and Flannel stories on the issues of water conservation, health and education of the girl child. The media was then used as a tool for dialogue to communicate with different section of the villagers. The health awareness was on the issue of polio as the villagers do not take the disease seriously.

MADHYAMDOOT



We are very keen to promote the diploma course on media and development as it is one of its kind with lot of emphasis on peer learning and practical application. The fourth batch of students are nearing completion of their course and were busy in their project work. Two modules on script writing and editing were on the menu and the students enjoyed savouring its flavour, particularly the hands-on application. We believe practice is necessary for honing the skills and that's why provide many opportunities to the students to develop their skills.

DIGITAL MEDIA COURSE



We facilitated three modules on Social Development, Visual Literacy and elements of Sound for first year students of the KVN Naik College of Arts, Nashik. We taught them the basics of development and media with emphasis on learning the skills. The students also applied the skills in making few short films, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



HAPPENINGS

- One of our young Shodhini, Sanjana Shinde from village spoke of her experiences of doing research on girls education in the 'Women Deliver' conference organised by IDRC in and other organisations on issues facing women and girls in Vancouver, Canada. She was accompanied by Kajal.
- Priyanka participated in a week-long workshop on gender and sexuality organised by 'Nirantar' in Delhi in April.
- The third issue of Shodhini newsletter was published on the issue of marriage faced by the young rural girls.
- Ranjit Gadgil attended a three-days conference on 'Community Media' in Melbourne in June organised by Deakins University where he presented our experiences of community video in creating social change.
- Jitendra and Ranjeet participated in 'Visualising Social Stories' workshop organised by Robert (Rights Exposure) and Kevin (Invisible Photographer Asia) in Delhi.
- Nitin and Bhila participated in the 'Indian Multiversity Alliance Gathering at Deer Park at Bir, Himachal Pradesh.
- Summer time is for interns to come to Abhivyakti for learning different aspects of their course. This time, we organised a two-days workshop on media especially for the interns to develop their perspective on media and its impact on our society.

BEFORE
WE SAY
GOODBYE



Are we becoming slaves of technology, we often wonder? Has our time taken over by devices? Most of our waking hours, we are either on our phones, computers or watching content designed to capture our mind space. In conversations, in meetings, meal times or at work we are constantly checking messages, likes and other such 'virtual' content. This has taken over our 'real time' freedom and connections. Virtual connections matter more and that is something we need to really think about? This is a matter of concern, and we need to contemplate its cost... What would its impact be on us as individuals, on our relationships and on our society?

What do you think? Do you feel our face to face connections and human exchange is under threat? If you have similar experiences, please share with us.