



# ABHIVYAKTI हल चल

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019



[www.abhivyakti.org.in](http://www.abhivyakti.org.in)



This quarter has been hectic. Most of the planned activities were implemented. For us too there were simultaneous activities happening at different places. Workshops, film shooting, screenings, awareness camps, travel to distant field sites along with organising our regular staff meetings became an exercise in testing our coordination. NGO functioning is always about maximising outcomes with minimum resources including staff having to juggle several roles! However, the process is engaging and full of learning!

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.





## Strengthening research capacities of rural young Men

After an intense workshop on gender with rural boys in the Shodhini project, the same group of boys attended a 4-day workshop on action research. The aim being to strengthen our resolve to enhance the process of Shodhini work in villages with addition of boys who would understand the nature of action research and join the girls team in searching for answers to some of the pressing issues facing villages near Nashik. 16 boys from four villages of Hirdi, Velunje, Ganeshgoan and Kochargoan attended the workshop. After the workshop, boys felt confident about their role and work in their villages.





## Exploring Livelihoods for rural youth

One of the critical issues we face while working with youth is their need for right livelihood. Otherwise, they are forced to become labourers in farm fields or in nearby industries. The 4-day workshop gave inputs on e-seva centre, eco-friendly products, Opportunities in Panchayat Raj Institution, designing sanitary Cloth pads and Environment-related enterprises. The participants from ten villages were mix of boys and girls who were interested in initiating social enterprises in their villages. Discussions were also held on other aspects of starting a business like market, finances and running an enterprise. The young participants were motivated to start something which excited them.



## Workshops

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



## Organisational Development

The four-day workshop on understanding social organisations and their functioning was held at the Leslie Sawhny Centre, Deolali in the last week of July. Most of the participants were from the development sector representing NGOs, CBOs, Unions and grassroots groups. The topics covered were Identities of NGO and problems associated with it, understanding the context, its functioning, legal matters, current issues and struggle, financial aspect among other practical issues facing the NGO sector. The sessions were facilitated by the Abhivyakti team, while the legal and compliance session was facilitated by a member of FMSF team, New Delhi. Participants got a sense of OD matters while they shared their difficulties in running a NGO.



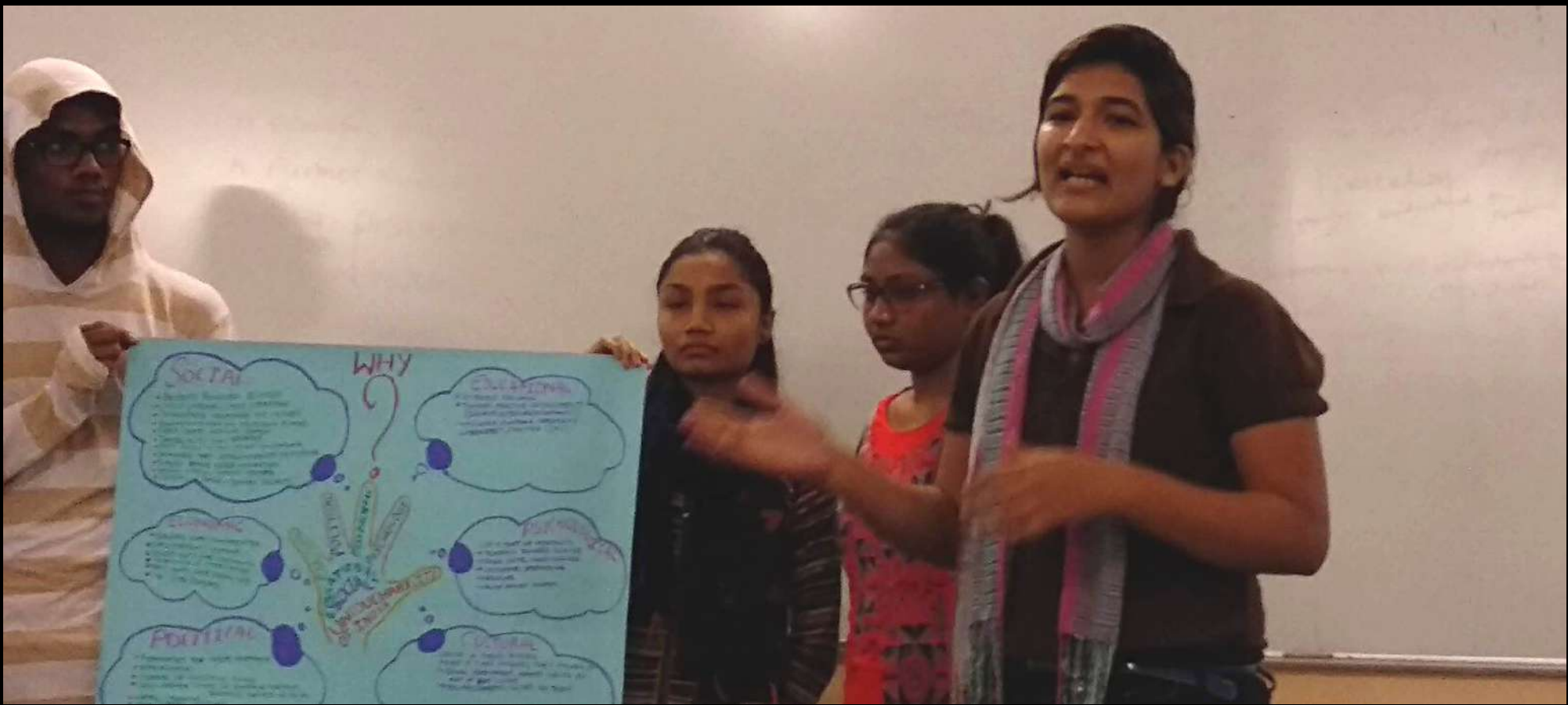






## Trainer Effectiveness

The five-day trainer effectiveness workshop was organised at the end of September. The aim of the workshop was to equip the participants with the different aspects of organising and facilitating a training workshop and how to make it participative and enable learning. The sessions were intense and interesting. There were 20 participants from different parts of Maharashtra who were interested in strengthening their training perspective and skills. Participants designed a two-day training module based on their interest. The sessions were facilitated by senior Abhivyakti team at the Leslie Sawhny Centre.



## Orientation for new Fellows of PUKAR

PUKAR, an organisation working with Youth in Mumbai invited us to facilitate a two-day session on understanding social reality in the first week of August. The youth had joined the research fellowship programme and the two days was an orientation to understand the programme. The youth participated with enthusiasm and curiosity about the dynamics of the social reality they face and the problems they encounter. The issue of their identity, complexities involved and understanding a few social issues formed the content of the two days.





## Producing a Video Film on Nutritious Garden

For the past six months, our production team was engaged in making a video film on the nutritious Gardens run and managed by the Anganwadis (pre-school centre) to promote healthy and nutritious diet for the pre-school children. The idea was developed by Reliance Foundation who wanted to document their experiment in Maharashtra and also promote its benefits to a wider audience. The video film is now complete.





## Researching for a Film on Panchayat Raj

In continuation of our earlier efforts in collaboration with RSCD in producing series of video films on different issues of making Panchayat Raj effective (we have already made five films), we have started work on a new video production. This time we are researching the wide spread practice of men who continue to hold power and functioning as PRI Sarpanch even when they no longer hold the position. However, they continue in the name of their wives who have been elected as the Sarpanch. This practice needs to stop while allowing the women to experience and learn from their leadership role in the Gram Panchayat.





## Madhyam Sakhi Project

The Madhyam Sakhi project is in a critical phase. The field coordinators are now conducting various activities to create awareness about Panchayat Raj Institutions and its functioning so that the benefits reach the most marginalised communities in the villages. The activities include screening of PRI films, organising 'Mahila Sabha', developing more media material on new issues that come up. The screening of the film 'Mahila Sabha' has been around in many villages followed by dialogue on importance of making womens issues part of the Gram Sabha. Short duration workshops on media skills have also been organised. Overall, a very busy quarter.



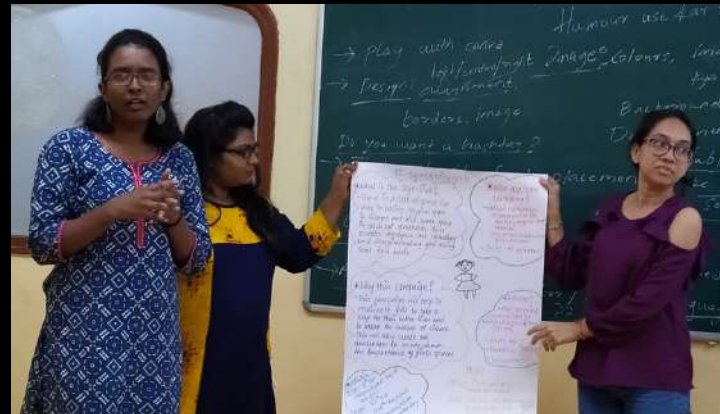


## Starting new Libraries

We are happy to see our initiative in starting small public libraries in remote villages growing. We have added four more such libraries which have come up with the help of local authorities and communities. The four new libraries have been started in villages of Ahir and Bhomardi near Sonwat in Jalgaon, and in villages of Srikhed and Bhogra near Shahada in Nandurbar. The response is slow but we have created an access to books for specially girls and women in such remote places.







## Happenings

- Avinash participated in a three weeks learning exchange supported by Ecoversities. He became part of a Leadership programme organised by a Buddhist network in Thailand.
- The Madhyamdoot course is nearing completion as the students are fully engrossed in completing their video projects.
- Nitin attended a learning journey in Delhi visiting organisations involved in deepening Non-traditional Livelihoods. The learning journey was In the first week of August and was organised by Azad Foundation, Delhi. Later, in the first week of September, he attended the General Body meeting of the NTL network in Ahmedabad.
- Nitin also attended the graduation event of 8th batch of Khojis of Swaraj University in Tapovan near Udaipur in the second week of September.
- Kajal and Sandip attended a workshop on 'Making Media Work for You' phase 2 organised by Point of View at Mumbai.



Soon, we will be celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji. What does Gandhiji's various practices of non-violence, peaceful resistance, and especially 'Swaraj' mean to us? The concept of Swaraj, we believe is critical to not only our society but for the entire world. Swaraj means self-rule and is an important part of any democratic system. It is a process of understanding ourselves, our role in community building, understanding our needs and behaviour in tune with others and environment. The state of self-reliance, learning to governing our lives, our organisations and that of our communities is something that we need to evolve and practice to see its impact. Undoubtedly, there would be challenges but time to embrace such practices is now!

What do you think? Do you have any experiences and practices of Swaraj. Do share. Let's learn from each other. Please write to -