

ABHIVYAKTI

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

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MEANS ACTIVITY

This quarter saw two Public events which are an important part of Abhivyakti's strategy to create space in the public arena to share dialogue and celebrate important and critical concerns related to socio-cultural issues. One was the 'Day of the Girl' and the other was organising Ankur film festival for the young film-makers. Both the events also became an occasion to listen to what the people from diverse backgrounds express. We are happy to share a few glimpses of our varied activities through yet another edition of Hulchal. Hope it provides an opportunity to dialogue with us. Needless to add we look forward to your views.

Celebrating Day of the Girl



This is the third year in row that we are organising this event on 11th October in Nashik. The theme of this year was sharing the Demands of 'Shodhini' (Community Researchers) which was based on the research the rural girls had completed in their villages on education, health, agency and livelihood. Ritu Saini, acid-attack survivor from Delhi and Indavi Tulpule, social activist from Murbad were the guest on the occasion who spoke of their struggle and experiences in dealing with challenges that came their way. It was inspiring to listen to them. People from varied background attended the programme and shared their appreciation, reflections and questions.





Organising 8th 'Ankur' Film Festival

The 8th Ankur film festival was organised in the first week of December at Kusumagraj Pratishthan, Nashik. The festival was opened with the screening of the documentary-feature 'Rubaroo Roshani' by Svati Bhatkal on forgiveness and was followed by Svati talking about her experiences with the audience. Dr Arun Gadre also screened his film 'Ek MR ki maut' and answered many questions that were raised on ethical standards, practices related to medicine. The festivals closing event was a documentary film 'Coral Woman' by Priya Thuvassury on the theme of Coral and its preservation. The festival was well attended and was bubbling with lot of activities related to documentaries.



Workshops at Ankur festival

The response to our workshops related to film-making is much appreciated. This time we organised two workshops. One was on Advertisement film-making and was facilitated by Savin Tuscano from Mumbai, while the other was on Film-editing by Prashant Naik. The workshops were lively, provided lot of inputs and insights which were based on the long experiences of the facilitators. They showed film clips to make the presentation interesting. The participants enjoyed the process and went back with lot of learning.

Workshops

Communication and Leadership for Youth

As one of our key activities, we are regularly organising workshops or accepting invitations to facilitate. Here is the glimpse of a few workshops we organised at the Leslie Sawhney Centre, Deolali -



A four day workshop on personal effectiveness and leadership was facilitated by Abhivyakti in October for youth who came from the villages of Trimbakeshwar, Dindori and Nashik Blocks. There were 31 youth of which three were women. The youth discussed their issues, problems they faced and the lack of opportunities at the village level for them to express their leadership.



There was a huge demand to organise this workshop as the NGO sector is increasingly feeling this need to strengthen their human resources in documentation. A four-day workshop was organised in November. There were eleven men and nine women who attended and were from different NGOs from Mumbai, Jalgoan, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Dhule, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Sangamner, Sangola and Ahmednagar. The focus was on understanding the need of documentation, different tools of documentation and their advantages were discussed. Demonstration of a few handy media was also offered.

Livelihood and Life Skills for Youth



Again this workshop was designed keeping in mind the needs of rural youth for learning the skills of entrepreneurship. A four day workshop was organised in December. A total of 17 participants attended out of which nine were women. Youth from Trimbakeshwar, Dindori, Nashik and a few old participants who had tried their hands in setting up business in their villages participated with enthusiasm. Participants learnt the basics of entrepreneurship, how to set up business, information on government schemes, and positive and negative factors of doing business in villages among other issues. A field-visit to learn Agro business was also organised and lot of emphasis was on peer exchange and sharing of experiences.

Workshop on Invitation

We were invited by other organisations, Institutions and Groups to facilitate training on different themes. We present a few that we facilitated –



Leadership and Communication

A two days workshop on leadership and communication was organised by My Choices in Hyderabad in the second week of October for their youth. About 25 youth from different colleges of Hyderabad participated with lot of energy and personal sharing. The emphasis of the workshop was on sharing and learning based on participation in an activity, exchange, reflection and sharing.



Leadership for Youth



A two days workshop on leadership and development was organised for community youth and field staff from Mumbai who were associated with 'SNEHA', a NGO working in Mumbai for the empowerment of Youth. Again, the workshop focussed on making the youth share their views after participating in an activity and reflecting on their experiences and what they learnt. About 45 youth participated in this workshop.

Shodhini Project



The Shodhini (community researchers) who have completed research on different social issues in their ten villages were ready to learn the data analysis skills. They were very eager to know what the data revealed. We organised three workshops of four days duration in this period. Two workshops were for young girls and one was for the young men. The workshops were on understanding data analysis which included compiling data, making tables, relating it with lived reality, writing analysis, and understanding graphics. The participants learnt to organise the data collected from their villages and analysing it to understand their reality better. Their own experiences of lived reality and reflections helped them to see the data in a new light.

Madhyam Sakhi Project



a) One important event was the planning and shooting of the video film on the theme of 'Sarpanch Pati' which is rampant in most villages. The issue of how husbands of elected women representatives still control local governance is a critical one and needs urgent attention in making women realise their potential and assume leadership in the local governance. The shooting of the film was completed which was based on real-life stories shared by many women. The film is in the editing stage now.

b) As the project is now in the last phase we have started giving emphasis on creating awareness on the role of Gram Panchayat (Local Council) and its functioning through media dissemination and dialogue. Disseminations through video screenings have started in right earnest with focus on PRI related issues like Ration, health, education especially of young girls. Mahila Sabha have been organised in many villages with focus on discussing womens issues and bringing it into governance agenda. Our women "Madhyam Sakhi" also visited libraries to promote reading and meetings in the space to discuss mutually significant issues.

Audio-Visual Skills for College Youth



For the second year, we have been facilitating classes for the graduate students of the Digital Media Course of local K. V. N. Naik College. Regular classes were held on the topic of audio visual productions including learning video shooting.

Happenings



- Three members of Shodhini project participated in the regional meeting organised by ASPBAE in Bangkok in October on girls education and ways to promote it in other countries. Shodhini experiences were shared with others especially the research conducted by the young girls in their villages.
- Abhivyakti facilitated a half-day workshop on community media for the participants. Participants made Flannel story and used photos to narrate a story. It was fun-filled learning process where media was used to convey a social issue.
- Bhikan participated in 'Basic leadership development course' organised by ASPABAE in November 2019 at Bogor, Indonesia
- A two-day meeting was organised jointly by RSCD and Abhivyakti in the month of December in Nashik to learn from each others experiences of working in the field. It was very fruitful exchange by the members of both the organisations.
- Four young community leaders from 'Creative Adda', New Delhi participated in the Ankur film festival with the aim of learning from organising a film festival. They also helped in the documenting the festival activities.

Before
we say
Goodbye



One of the biggest problems humanity face today is related to our mental health. Nearly eight percent of our population face some form of mental illness, that is a staggering number. However, there is hardly any substantial support system available to deal with it. Even today, people suffer silently rather than seek help. Emotional intelligence has received big boost but it is not part of any education programme. Efforts to develop emotional capacities of students is the urgent need of today. Even adults need this so that it would lead to better social environment be it home, office, or even in public spaces. Our well-being is vital and creating healthy spaces to openly dialogue on such matters is necessary. What do you think? If you have any practices, ideas to develop our emotional well-being do share.